

Chapter 42: The past

"Have you finally gone mad, Beth?" Her partner asked with his brows creased.

"Why would Tony ever think of supporting you? You kidnapped his lover, remember? The man probably wants to kill you." He said but Evelyn shook her head.

"He hates me, that's for sure. But, he hates the idea of not being with Harriet more." She smirked evilly.

"The man is in love with Harriet and will do anything to be with her. That, my love is what I plan on using." She said and things were finally starting to make sense to him.

"Don't tell me your plan is to-"

"You're finally thinking!" She patted his head and let out a loud laughter.

"My plan is pretty simple. He wants Harriett, I want Damien... his wealth and name to be precise but, you know what I mean. We both want the same thing so why not team up and get what we both want. It might take some time but, I'm sure he'll come around." She finished up with a kiss on his lips and danced happily to her room.

Little did she know that Tony was the same man from Ten years ago.

A past she didn't want to remember.

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TEN YEARS AGO

"I know a doctor who can help, Bethany." The young brown haired boy said to Bethany as she paced around her small studio apartment, her body shaking unconditionally from the effect of the drug she had taken.

"I don't need a fucking doctor! I'll be fine after one more tablet so hand it over!" She screamed, throwing a can of beer at him.

"Fuck! Beth! You need help. I'll tell my dad. He has the money to help

you and if-if I explain things to him, I'm sure he'll help out." The brown haired boy said, genuinely worried about his girlfriend who had been drowning herself in drugs.

She was only eighteen years old but had been exposed to drugs. After meeting her at an interschool party, he immediately took a liking to her and soon, they started dating only for him to find out that she was a drug addict. To make things worse, it was killing her.

One week later, he managed to convince her into visiting a doctor. When they went there, they were met with a young doctor who didn't look like he was that much older than them.

"What your friend needs is rehab. I don't think there's much I can do for her." The doctor replied after running a test on her.

The next day, she showed up at the hospital without her boyfriend under the pretext of wanting medication but as soon as the room emptied out, she approached the doctor and started talking about how she had fallen in love with him.

At first, the young doctor thought it was just her teenage hormones messing with her mind but months passed and it developed into an unhealthy obsession as she began stalking him and even paying him countless visits to the hospital.

"Tony Martinez. So, that's your full name, Dr. Tony. I like it." She smiled as she stared at his picture with a psychotic grin. She ended up masturbating to the thought of him and soon, that became a regular thing.

"Why can't you see that I love you?!" She cried on the floor of his office, gripping her hair out of frustration.

"I- I have even stopped taking the drugs as you instructed. I'm getting better. I want to get better so that we can be happy together." She smiled, holding Tony's leg as she pleaded with him to accept her love but Tony didn't love her.

But, he cared for her nonetheless. He was a doctor after all. It was his duty to care for his patients.

"I'm sorry, Bethany. I can't love you. Besides, you have a boyfriend who

loves you." He explained to her but she shook her head.

"I don't want him, Tony. He'll understand. I'll make him understand." She begged but the doctor wasn't going to change his mind as it was wrong in every way.

Bethany was unable to take the constant rejection from Tony so, she decided to use force.

One faithful night, she showed up at his house while he was away as she had secretly duplicated his keys and hid in his bedroom. The minute he got out, she showed up with a gun and threatened to kill him if he refused to date her.

Tony who thought that she was only bluffing tried to attack her and take the gun away but he was too late as she fired the shot, the bullet almost hitting his chest.

His blood filled the room and she was convinced he was dead and tried to run away with his body but the gunshot had alerted the police so, they came running to his house.

She immediately fled the scene, thinking that she had escaped only to wake up to her face being plastered all around the Internet and on TV for murdering a doctor.

She later discovered that there was a CCTV camera which she had not been aware of. With her face now exposed and the police out to get her, she quickly ran away from the city and moved to England, changing her name, appearance and even her fingerprints with money that she had stolen from her rich boyfriend.

Tony Martinez was lucky. He had barely survived the gunshot but to avoid anymore troubles, he immediately left New York and joined his parents in Paris, hoping to start over.

It also didn't help matters that despite his explanations, most people accused of having intimate relations with an eighteen year old even in his place of work.

This made it impossible for him to stay in New York as people stayed away from him just because of that rumor.

Bethany Howell had ruined his life.

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PRESENT

Tony's phone rang and he immediately rushed to pick it up as he thought that it could be Harriett. But, his hopes were shattered as he saw that it was an unknown number. He was in no mood to take calls but after much deliberation, he answered the call.

"Tony Martinez speaking. How may I help you?" He said nonchalantly and Evelyn felt her heart stop beating for a few seconds as her body immediately went cold.

She had always said that Harriet's lover looked familiar but brushed it off as he didn't really matter to her. Even if he had the same name as the man from her past, there was no way it could be him.

To her, Tony Martinez died Ten years ago.

She killed him.

Chapter 43: A new beginning

"You have no say in this, Damien. You're staying with us until you're fully recovered and that's final." Stacy said.

The doctors had discharged Damien from the hospital, although he still had a bandage wrapped around his chest because of his wound. No matter how much Harriett wanted him to stay until his wound was fully healed, the man wouldn't listen as his body itched to get back to work.

Damien knew that there was no need fighting with his mother on the topic as her mind had already been made up. But, an idea came to his mind.

"Fine. I'll come with you... on one condition." He said with a corkscrew smile as his eyes drifted to Harriett who was standing by the side.

"Harriett spends the weekend with the kids." He said, secretly crossing his fingers and praying that she would agree.

"W-what?" Harriett's eyes widened and her cheeks reddened. She couldn't imagine spending the weekend with Damien and his family. It would bring back old memories that she had worked so hard to forget.

"I-I don't think I can." Harriett fumbled with her fingers, shaking her head nervously.

"Of course. You can, my dear." Stacy jumped in, loving the idea of Harriett coming over with the children. She knew that it would be the start of something new.

A new beginning.

"Please, Harriett." Damien pleaded, forcing her to look at him.

"I'll let my parents know." She said after a short while, giving in. A wide grin immediately appeared on both Damien and Stacy's face at her reply.

"Weekend starts tomorrow so, we better leave now to make the necessary preparations. Come on, Damien." Stacy said happily as they both said their goodbyes to Harriett and left the hospital.

As Harriett arrived at her parent's house, her father was the first to

notice the nervousness on her face.

"Is everything alright?" He asked, genuinely worried about her but she only shook her head and took a seat beside him.

"Damien got discharged today." She announced just as her mother walked out of the kitchen with a tray full of cupcakes.

"Well, that's good to hear, my dear. I'm sure he'll recover faster at the comfort of his house." Ha Young replied with a smile.

All through the time Damien was at the hospital, Harriet's parents had been kind to him. It was as though taking a bullet in place of their daughter had gotten rid of their hatred for him. All they wished for was his quick recovery.

"Uhhh..." Harriett started, confused on how to break the news to her parents. She remained quiet for a few seconds, only staring at them but after a while, she decided to get it over with.

"I'll be spending the weekend at Damien's house.... His parent's house to be precise. It won't just be me, the kids too." She said in one breath.

She was expecting that she would need a little convincing for them to let her go but when she finished talking, she was shocked to find a smile on their faces instead.

"You.. you don't seem surprised. Why?" She asked and her mother chuckled.

"Stacy informed me a few minutes ago.. You needed to hear how desperate she sounded. We had no choice but to give her our word that you'll be there." Ha Young revealed.

"Oh." Harriett blushed.

"I think it's time we get over the past. Don't you agree, Jake?" She said but her husband shifted in his seat. He was still unsure about letting his daughter get back with Damien.

"I don't know, my love. I really don't." He confessed and Harriett took it as her cue to leave them as she wasn't prepared for the conversation that was on the way.

It was going to be hard for her but she planned on taking things slowly

with Damien. Of course, she won't be able to trust him fully yet.

He'd have to earn that.

"I should go. We'll be leaving first thing tomorrow morning. Goodnight mum, dad." She kissed them both on the cheek and walked to her children's room.

They were both fast asleep when she got in and guilt washed over. She had been spending time at the hospital that she had barely had time for her children.

"Mummy is sorry, my loves." She placed a kiss on their foreheads before going to her bathroom for a long bathe. When she was done and feeling refreshed, she carried her blanket and went to her children's room to sleep beside them.

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"Goodbye, Granny!" Adrian screamed happily as she waved at his grand parents while Addison kissed Jake before running back to her mother.

Harriett had announced to the twins that they would be spending the weekend at their paternal grandparent's house. Adrian who had been missing his father was happy with the news and had been on cloud nine since the start of the day.

They said their goodbyes and got into Harriett's Range Rover. When they left the house, it was only 7am as Stacy had implored her to come before breakfast so that they could spend the time together.

Thirty minutes later, Harriett arrived at the Damien's mansion and they were warmly welcomed by Stacy and Thomas who had been waiting for them.

"You came just in time. Breakfast just got ready." Stacy smiled, unable to control her happiness as she led them to the breakfast. Harriett replied with a curt nod as she sat down.

A few minutes later, Damien appeared at the table and took a seat beside Harriett while Stacy made the twins sit beside her.

Harriett sucked in a breath as she felt his presence beside her. He

smelt like a mixture of honey and vanilla. She took a slight peek at him and a blush crept up her cheek.

How was she to spend a weekend with this man and still control herself? She had also stayed celibate for four whole years and now, as she sat beside him, she felt her hormones awaken.

She wasn't sure of her feelings anymore as this past week with him has made her heart waver beyond understanding.

Clearing her throat, she turned her attention to the breakfast table to avoid getting caught by Damien.

The breakfast table was filled with pancakes, waffles, sausages, eggs, bacon, fruits and healthy juices. The aroma made Harriett's stomach rumble and a smile appeared on her face.

They said their prayers and dugged into their food. Harriett found the scene awkward as it had been four years since she last had a dinner with them.

They seemed like a happy family.

"Harriett, darling. Thank you so much for agreeing to spend the weekend. I know how tough the decision must have been for you." Stacy said with a pout.

Harriett chuckled awkwardly, shifting her gaze to Damien who had been watching her all along.

"It's nothing, mother. I'm happy we'll be spending time together. It's about time I let go of the past."