

### Chapter 73: Disbelief

"Welcome, mother." Harriet hugged Stacy as soon as she opened the door. She arrived at the house exactly one hour after the phone call. If it wasn't for the regular New York traffic, she would have been there earlier.

"Hello, my dear. Is everything alright with you guys?" Stacy had no intentions of beating around the bush. She knew that something was wrong, and she was determined to find out.

Harriet gave no reply, but she led her to the living room where Damien was waiting. Immediately Stacy saw him, a scream left her lips and she rushed to him, holding his head as she accessed the bandage on his head.

"What happened to you?" She asked while trying to fight off the tears that were already brimming in her eyes.

"We uh...we have something to tell you, mother." Harriet said and sat directly opposite them, rubbing her arms nervously.

"You should. It is very obvious that something is wrong," Stacy wiped her tears and turned to Harriet. "Who did this to my son?" She balled her fist in anger, waiting for Harriet to give her a name.

"Adrian. He did that to Damien." Harriet said with a cold expression and Stacy's face twisted in confusion.

"What? What are you saying, Harriet? Adrian would never-"

"It's true, mother. You might not believe us, but Adrian is not who he claims to be. He's a monster!" Damien raised his voice, grabbing his mother's arm.

"No! My son is not a monster. I know him better than anyone else. You...you are lying." She said and Damien chuckled, letting go of her arm.

"I knew you wouldn't believe me. Your love for him has blinded you so much that you cannot see the truth. Adrian is a killer, mother. He almost killed his own brother!" He yelled, his eyes begging her to believe him, but, Stacy kept shaking her head.

"It's true, mother. We have no reason to lie to you. Adrian was my friend and I would never have believed it either if Damien had not confirmed it." Harriet moved to Stacy and squatted so that she could see her at eye level.

"He is the mastermind behind everything and has been plotting everything for a long time. He is also working with Evelyn and was the actual person who fabricated those pictures that led to our divorce." Harriet revealed and Stacy's eyes widened out of pure shock.

"That's not all, mother. He was behind my kidnap and has been meeting up with a few shareholders to kick Damien out of the company. He also helped Evelyn escape from jail and was housing her until Damien found out. The injury to his head was caused by Adrian, who hit a glass vase on his head in an attempt to knock him out. He almost got him killed, mother!" Harriet cried, attempting to hold Stacy's hand, but she quickly pushed her away.

"What proof do you have? I'm sorry, Harriet. I really want to believe you, but this is my son we are talking about, and I did not raise a monster." She replied.

Deep down, she knew that Harriet and Damien wouldn't lie to her. They had no reason to but, she didn't want to believe that her son was capable of doing all the things they mentioned.

Damien chuckled sadly and made her look at him. He stared at her for a few seconds before taking his hand to his head and began unwrapping the bandage.

"Damien? What are you doing?" Harriet asked, but he ignored her. His gaze on his mother was cold, and he made sure she was watching him.

"Stop! It could get infected." Harriet begged, rushing to his side to try stopping him, but, he pushed her hand away and continued until the bandage was completely removed. When he finished, he turned around for her to see the bare wound.

"Oh My!" Stacy exclaimed, her hands going up to her mouth and Harriet followed suit. She had also not seen how severe the injury was. The hair around the area was completely drenched in blood, and they could also see how deep the cut was.

"Is this proof enough, mother?" He asked and Stacy began to cry loudly, her hand touching the clean hair on his head.

"How could he do this to you?" She cried. It was as though a weight had been put on her chest.

To Stacy, she had failed as a parent.

"What did I ever do to deserve this? I did my best to raise him. I really did." She continued and Harriet rushed to get a new set of bandages for Damien so that he could cover up his wound and avoid getting infected.

When she returned, she brought the first aid box with her and helped him dress the wound.

"It's not your fault, mother. He was envious of his brother and decided to go this far. Now, he will pay for his actions," Harriet said with gritted teeth.

Stacy shivered at the thought of her son in jail or, even worse, dead.

"Where is he now?" She asked and Damien shook his head, leaning on the couch.

"He escaped with Evelyn but, we will find him soon." He assured her, and she nodded, closing her eyes in pain.

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The next day, Damien and Eric began searching for them, using all the power and influence they had. The only thing they didn't do was officially involve the police.

News about Adrian helping Evelyn escape from prison could cause harm to the company as he was still an executive. Damien needed to kick him out of the company before proceeding with involving the police.

"I don't think they are in New York. We would have found them already if they were." Eric shook his head and slumped on his car seat.

"It's only been a day. How can you give up already?" Damien replied from beside him. They had just returned from the NYPD and scanned

through all the CCTV footage from the day of the escape, but it was as though they had both disappeared from the face of the earth.

"Why don't we wait? If they are after you, they'll come out on their own." Eric suggested, but Damien disagreed.

"We'll be giving them a chance to strike when we least expect. I am not putting my family in danger once again. I will find them." He said.

Eric sighed and ignited the car engine. He opted to drive Damien around since the drugs he was taking to heal the wound were taking a toll on him.

When Damien arrived home, the house was completely empty as Harriet had gone to her office while the children were at school. Knowing that their enemies were still alive and probably watching them, he no longer felt comfortable with his family being away from his side, so, he placed a call to his assistant.

"I want twenty-four hours of security for Harriet and the twins immediately." He ordered.

Harriet's parents were also at risk because they could be kidnapped and used to blackmail her, but he knew that Jake was a wealthy man who wouldn't appreciate him hiring security guards for his family.

The only way was to inform him of what was going on and how serious it was.

"Hello, Jake. It's Damien." He said as soon as the call went through and explained everything to him. Thankfully, Jake was a wise man, and he valued his family more than anything, so, he made preparations for extra protection.

As Damien kept his phone and was about to take a short nap, his phone rang. It was a call from his mother.

"D-damien! I got a text from Adrian."

### Chapter 74: I'll keep them safe

"Damien! I got a text from Adrian." Stacy said, pacing around the kitchen. When she got the text from Adrian, she wanted to call him, but after giving it some thought, she decided to call Damien. Thankfully, he had gotten a new phone and retrieved his old number.

"What did it say? You know what? Just forward the text to me." Damien said and Stacy immediately did as she was told.

"I'll call you back, mum." He said and hung up. As he opened the text, a smirk appeared on his lips.

'Hey, mum. I'll be out of the country for a few days. Don't let Damien or anyone know about this and don't look for me.'

Damien didn't want to believe that Adrian sent that message because he had just made things easier for him. One thing was certain now. He wasn't out of the country. The fact that he told his mother about this meant that he was either passing a message to Damien through him or he wasn't the one who sent the message.

No matter how close Adrian was to his mother, he never informed her of his travels before leaving. It was always after. That means someone else sent the text using his phone.

Evelyn!

Damien wasted no time in calling Eric. The call rang five times before Eric's tired voice came alive.

"I just got home, dude. What is it this time?" He groaned, but Damien was not going to miss this opportunity.

"Adrian texted." He said immediately and all Eric's tiredness flew out the window.

"He texted you?" He asked and Damien shook his head even though Eric could not see him.

"Not me. He texted mum but, I think Evelyn used his phone to send the text." He said.

"Why would Evelyn do that? Wait! That means the person that was

shot is... Adrian? Fuck!" Eric exclaimed, and Damien felt his heart tremble.

He didn't want to believe that he had killed his own brother. It might all just be a misunderstanding. It was also possible that no one got shot.

"Adrian isn't dead. I'm sure of it. He won't die so easily." Damien said, a part of him praying that he was right.

He hated Adrian for all the evil things he had done, but, it didn't mean that he wanted him dead, especially by his hands. Evil or not, they still shared the same blood.

"We have the number he used to text mother so, our next step will be tracking it. This time around, we're taking the police with us when we confirm their location."

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"Are they going to be here all day?" Collin asked, staring warily at the dangerous looking bodyguards Damien had hired to protect Harriet.

"I think so." Harriet smiled awkwardly. When Damien called to inform her about it, she had no problem with it because she thought they were going to protect her from a distance but, an hour later, she was being followed around by four bodyguards who were pretty much like robots as they never engaged in small talk no matter how much she tried.

The only place they didn't follow her to was the restroom. She understood the importance of them being with her, but it was draining.

Collin sighed and dropped the reports on her table before leaving. Not so long after he left, he returned.

"Alexa is here to see you. Just give me the word and I will send her away." Collin said, obviously annoyed by Alexa's presence.

"Don't be mean, Collin. Let her in." Harriet chuckled and Collin huffed before leaving to let Alexa in.

As usual, there was a scowl on her face when she entered Harriet's office. Her eyes went up to the bodyguards who were beside Harriet, and she rolled her eyes.

"Is there a problem, Alexa?" Harriet asked, and she peeled her eyes away from the men and focused on Harriet,

"Yes, Miss Edward. Your bodyguards here are causing a distraction at the company as the workers can't seem to focus on their work because of THEIR presence." She says, motioning her right hand towards them with a cold look on her face.

"Excuse me? That makes no sense. If the workers cannot focus on their work because of the presence of four bodyguards who have not said a word or disrupted the work flow since their arrival, then, I think those workers in question need to be fired. It shows that they are easily distracted and will not be efficient enough." She replied, giving Alexa a cold glare.

"If you are among them, you can hand in your resignation letter and leave." She said and Alexa's eyes widened in disbelief.

"I understand." She said with a nod and left Harriet's office. Alexa was more infuriated with Harriet. If she could, she would report her to the chairman but, he was Harriet's father. So, she decided to take up the matter herself.

She was going to kick Harriet out of the company without anyone knowing she was behind it.

"That nepo baby is going to learn how harsh the world can be." She said with gritted teeth and walked away.

Once Alexa was gone, Harriet called Damien.

"Your bodyguards are drawing attention to me. Attention that I do not want." She complained, massaging her forehead.

"We don't have a choice, Harriet. Adrian and Evelyn are still on the loose. As a matter of fact, mother received a text from Adrian a few hours ago," Damien said, and explained everything to Harriet, letting her know of his plan to involve the police.

Harriet sighed and looked at her calendar, not sure if it was the right time to let him know about the event that would be coming up. But, if she didn't tell him now, she didn't know when next she would get the chance to tell him about everything that was happening.

She waited until he was done talking before she spoke up.

"Uhh... Do you remember when I told you that the twin's birthday would be coming up this week?" She asked, and the line went silent before she heard Damien mutter a silent 'fuck'.

"It's on Saturday, Damien. With all this trouble, I think we should just mark it quietly for them. What do you think?" She asked, crossing her fingers as she hoped that he would agree with her.

"Harriet, this is the first time I'll be present for their birthday. Do you know how long I have waited for this?" He said in a quiet tone and Harriet nodded.

She knew he was going to say that, and she completely understood. It was every father's dream to celebrate their children's birthdays, and he was absent for the first few years, so it was only right that he'd want to make up with this year's birthday.

"I know, Damien. I know, but we cannot put ourselves and our children at risk. We can celebrate the next one, please." She begged.

"I'll hire every single bodyguard in the world and every military person if I have to. I am not depriving my children of anything because of that bastard." He said, and Harriet sighed in defeat.

"Start with the preparations while I focus on finding Adrian and his lover," he said.

"I'll keep my family safe, Harriet. I promise."