

THE BILLIONAIRE'S SURROGATE

A PREGNANCY ROMANCE

PROLOGUE

For contract worth millions, Gianna McKenna became a surrogate to the States most wealthy family, Alexandre 'Andres' De Marco was the States demi God, the heir and chief executive of an empire while she was a middle class born.

With father's business falling into crisis, she was forced by her adoptive mother and her sister into surrogacy.

Having spent one night with the States demi God, she was confirmed pregnant and the ultra-scan showed a set of male twins.

Giving birth to her sons, the older was healthier while the younger one wasn't breathing, the older son was taken to his father while the younger was saved by a miracle, she took the boy and with her father's help, they erased every data concerning her saved son.

She was rewarded with a huge monetary sum and then she disappeared with her son.

Eight year later, he was still the cold and high-profile president of his company, but when he came in contact with her again by sheer luck, he was eager not to let her go again.

Seeing her son, he was shocked that the child resemblance to his son was too much "Woman you took my son, you stole my seed and now you'll have to pay." She became his woman regardless of the fact his grandfather had already chosen his fiancé.

He was unwilling to let another man look at her or even take her, therefore becoming a possessive lover. He'll protect her with the whole world.

THE BILLIONAIRE'S SURROGATE

CHAPTER 1

STOLEN IDENTITY

In Washburn Orphanage, a little girl of about eight to nine years was seen surrounded by other children her age, with a pitiful look on her beautiful face, she seemed to be crying,

"I didn't steal it, it's mine, you stole it from me." She pointed at the girl in front of her, almost the same age like her but the latter was chubby with the crying girl was so skinny but beautiful,

"It's a lie, our Jasmine isn't a thief and she won't steal your jade." A young girl from the crowd yelled,

"I'm not lying, the jade is mine, my mama had given it to me before she...."
"You're a liar and a thief, our princess Jasmine is no thief like you." Another child yelled,

The girl who was accused didn't utter any word, she just stood by and watch the other kids defend her against the crying one, with a wicked look on her face, she seemed satisfied watching the skinny child cry.

" Thief!"

"Thief!"

"Thief" The kids sang mockingly at the skinny child, she tried defending herself but none was paying attention to her,

"Gianna!" An older voice called; the other children kept quiet at the appearance of the young lady who was one of their teachers.

"I didn't steal it, it's mine." Gianna stammered but no one was ready to give her a listening ear,

"Gianna and Jasmine, come with me." She ordered, the two girls followed her while the rest kids kept murmuring as some went in suite, then others went back to play.

When they got to the director's office, the two girls were asked to wait for the director of the orphanage to come out,

"Jasmine, are you sure it's your?" Miss Lena asked again to be sure, the girl nodded while Gianna couldn't say anything,
No one ever listens to her.

Thanks director finally came out, an older man in his early forties, he was kind of average height and has a potbelly, with salt and pepper hair and strands of it falling over his rough face,

"What's the matter here?" He asked Miss Lena immediately he sat down,

"Jasmine reported to me this morning that Gianna here was fighting with her for this piece of jade, she claims it to be hers but Jas here said it belongs to her." The young woman explained to the man, he took out his glasses, cleaned it and wore it again adjusting it to the bridge of his nose.

"Ashcan you explain to me what happened?" He asked her lovingly casting an angry look at Gianna,

"I saw my jade on Gianna bed and I took it, she came this morning and stated accusing me of stealing her jade." The girl said,

"It's a l..." One look from the director, the crying girl couldn't finish her word, tears were just streaming down her eyes,

The director turned to Gianna with an angry face, not giving her the chance to explain,

"You little thief, how can you steal from your fellow kids," He scolded her, her tears knew no bound,

How can she be accused and not given the chance to explain herself.

This is so unfair

"It's mine, she stole it..." Infuriated at her lies, the director gave her a sounding slap, the other child smiled while she wailed,

"Take her to the lock up room, no food for her today and tomorrow." He ordered, Miss Lena forcefully dragged her from the office,

"I didn't do it, I didn't steal the jade, its mine." Her cross fell on deaf ear, No one can save her now.

A WEEK LATER

"Kids, remember to behave yourselves when he comes, one of you would be lucky to get adopted by the De Marco's today." The director told the kids as they sat on their seat,

"Remember what I told you last night, anyone that doesn't stay good would stay in the lock up room for the night, who wants that?" He asked the kids,

"Not me!"

"Not me!"

"Not me!" They all chorused, except one child, Gianna. She sat alone, no friends and no one to talk to, secretly hoping that a nice and loving family would just take her away from here forever.

"Now you all stay here and be good, they'll be arriving here any time soon." The kids nodded and the director left with the few teachers working with them at the orphanage.

Immediately they left, the kids turned to themselves, talking or doing one thing or the other in their various group.

Awhile later, the long-awaited Mr. De Marco came, actually he's the great master of the De Marco's and he's come to look for something precious.

His lost daughter's child, recently he got a report the child was at this orphanage, so he'd come to get her and take her to their mansion to live as the young mistress of his grandson Alexandre.

"Master, welcome sir." The director greeted the old man,

"Hmmm... where are the kids?" He asked not having time to reply his greeting, what he really wanted was the girl.

"They're at the playground, Sir what child do you want to adopt?" The director asked the man,

"I got wind that the young mistress from my family's herb, so I've come to get her." He brought out a jade from his pocket,

"The child has something of this sort." Showing the jade to the man, something struck his memory, Jasmine has a pair of this jade. Is she the De Marcos young mistress?" He asked himself,

"Sir if it's so, then I'll have to go get the girl, she's here." With great assurance, he ran to the playground, "Jasmine!" He called out to the young girl who was busy chatting with her friends, "Jasmine, come here." With the realization she has been called, the girl stood up and went to the man,

"You called me?" She asked the man smiling, he nodded,

"Follow me." She followed the man not asking any questions. When they got to his office, the old man was still sitting down looking at the piece of jade in his hands.

"Sir, here's the girl." The director pushed Jasmine to the man, whose gaze fell on her neck, revealing the piece of jade.

"Young girl, who gave those to you?" Mr. De Marco asked the girl, who seemed confused but had a perfect answer,

"My mom...." Before she could finish, the man pulled her into his embrace.

"My long-lost daughter is back." When he left her, he made her remove the jade, putting it and the one he was holding, the two pair matched, he turned to his assistant.

"Send message home, I've found Katerina's daughter." Pulling the girl close, he couldn't let her off his embrace, like she would disappear if he does that and he's going to have a lot of problem finding her like what happened to her mom.

He did every necessary formality and transferred a huge sum of money to the director's account,

"This is for taking care of my young Katerina for me, I'll take my leave now." He took the girls hands and they went into the car, driving away quickly like when they came.

CHAPTER 2

SIGNING THE CONTRACT

Gianna and her adoptive mother walked into the hospital, she was so nervous as they walked down the hall and some of the nurses threw glances at her.

"Should I borrow you my legs so you can walk fast?" Her adoptive mother asked angrily,

"MA, I'm...." She couldn't finish her statement cause the woman's glare shut her up.

"You don't have to say anything, just go in there and do as I've told you okay, I won't tolerate any nonsense from you." The woman scolded; she couldn't say anything rather she followed the woman like a sheep heading for the slaughter house.

When they went inside the office, the secretary was already there waiting,

"What took you so long?" The woman asked the duo when they entered the office,

"Sorry, I had to put something in order before we start coming." Carol replied, smiling. The secretary nodded and gestured for Gianna to follow the doctor,

"The boss said you should run some few more tests to be sure you're healthy before signing the contract." Gianna nodded and followed the doctor not uttering any word for the fear of being reprimanded by her adoptive mother.

After running the test, she came out and sat down while the doctors facilitate the test results,

"Here it is, she's healthy and fit." The doctor replied handing the results to the secretary,

"I'll confer the result to the boss, then we'll sign the contract thereafter." She said to Carol, taking the result and leaving the office.

"Let's go home, make sure you don't utter any word of this to my husband, okay." She nodded; Carol don't need to tell her the consequence of telling the man.

"Yes Ma. She replied the woman and they turned to leave, Carol turned to the doctor,

" Thank you, sir." The doctor nodded and she dragged Gianna from the room.

Nine years ago, Gianna was adopted by the McKenna's, the couple already had a seven-year-old daughter but they wanted a son, since the man's sick, he couldn't father one, so they opted for adoption.

Tony McKenna was walking around the Washburn Orphanage with his wife, when he saw a young girl of about eight years, she was sitting alone in one corner of the playground, not paying any interest in what's going on around her.

The girl seemed to be sad and very quiet, when his wife went to play with some kids, he walked to the young girl and squat in front of her.

"The girl was so lost in her world she didn't notice the man in front of her,

" Hmm hmm" He cleared his throat and seem to jerk they girl from her illusion,

"Young girl, what's your name?" He asked the girl,

"I didn't steal it, it's mine, she stole it from me." The girl's tiny voice mumbled, it was evident from her face, she has been crying a lot.

"I didn't..."

"I'm not a thief, don't take me to the cops." Moved by her pleas, he placed his hands on her shoulder,

"I know you didn't steal it, I believe you."

"You do?" The man nodded,

"You're too cute to be stealing, I trust you." He said, she nodded as he wiped the tears in her eyes and took her with him.

"Director, I want this child." Tony said to the director, the man looked up and saw Tony with Gianna, he sighed at the sight of the girl.

"Are you sure?" Tony nodded,

"Honey, who's she?" Carol came immediately, she didn't see any child that fell in the category she wanted.

"I want to adopt her." He answered his wife, smiling at the little girl.

Carol wasn't happy at all; she and her husband had decided they wanted a five years old boy now he's changing plan because of this girl.

"Sir, you're sure you want to adopt her?" The director asked,

"Why do you ask?" Carol asked, waiting for the man to say something bad the girl, so her husband would forget about her.

The director cleared his throat,

"This girl elm, what's her name again" He massaged his temple, thinking of the girl's name.

"Gianna. Well, last week she stole her friend's piece of jade and she seems like she unwell, she behaves autistic and all, always keep to herself, cries and night and refuses food." Carol was happy, she strode to her husband,

"Honey, would you want to adopt a thief into our house, I don't want her to come and corrupt my little princess." She tried to talk him out,

"I didn't steal it, I'm not a thief." Gianna said in a tiny voice,

"Shut up kid!" Carol yelled, feeling irritated at the girl already,

"Well Mr. Director, I want to adopt Gianna." He said firmly,

"Honey?" Carol called but the man was adamant, he wants the girl and no one else.

"Okay, if you say so." He brought out some files from the drawer and opened it.

Filling the necessary formalities and signing legal documents, Tony took Gianna home as his daughter even when his wife and daughter refused to accept the girl as their family.

He loved Gianna so much and was willing to give her anything she wanted.

Now nine years has past and Tony still doted on Gianna, he loves her even more than his daughter and thus make Carol and her daughter unhappy.

They mistreat Gianna whenever Tony isn't around calling her all sort of names but she never for once told Tony about it.

She wouldn't want to cause any ruckus or be the reason why the family isn't at peace.

When Tony's business started having crisis, Carol was the one who forced Gianna into the surrogacy contract.

She'd seen the advert, since they were in need of money, she forced Gianna into it telling her she has to show appreciation to the family for saving her nine years ago.

The young adult couldn't do anything than comply with the condition, she has to show appreciation to the man now the family's business isn't blooming, so this is the only way she can do that.

The next morning, the secretary called Carol,

"The boss said you can send the girl over, the boss has signed the contract, she's fit for the process." Carol shrieked with happiness; this is a he only news she needs.

Her daughter ran outside to know what's the problem,

"Mom, what the problem? Why did you cry?" She asked sitting beside the woman,

She gestured for her daughter to keep quiet, she's on call. The girl nodded,

"When is he transferring the advance payment?" Carol asked, the only thing she's after is just the advance payment that would be given to her, the payment after the contract belongs to Gianna.

"Well, very soon but make sure you send the girl over, the boss's order." The secretary hung up, this woman's so greedy, Who in her right sense would force her eighteen-year-old daughter into something like this?

"Ma, what happened?" The young girl sat beside her mom,

"Camille, they've accepted her." She said joyously,

"Accept who?" The girl asked dumbly, Carol hit her playfully on her thighs while the girl winced

"That wrench of course, they be accepted her for the surrogacy." The woman said whispering, because she wouldn't want her husband to hear them talking about this.

"So, when are they sending the advanced payment?" The girl asked scratching her thigh,

"Soon." The woman replied, making a mental list on how she would spend the one million dollars coming her way soon whilst the daughter was also making her own list of things she would demand from her mom once the money comes.

CHAPTER 3

QUARANTINE.

For the next one month, Gianna was like a pawn to the secretary and her so called boss, she hadn't seen him but he has been giving orders on what she should be and what not to do,

*No phone: She can't contact to anyone, no family or friends, in fact, no connection to the outside world.

*No outing: She isn't permitted to go out unless she's going out with the secretary which is very rare case.

*Eat whatever you're given: She's to eat whatever is being prepared, her diet's being controlled by a dietician and the gynecologist comes in every week to check on her.

She's to abide by all this rules because the boss won't want an unhealthy child.

"Can I ask for a favor?" She asked the secretary, the woman she has gotten accustomed to seeing every morning for the past one month,

"What is it?" The woman's tone was flat, she can't do anything from the ordinary,

"Can I see my father?" The woman looked at her,
She's going to say no but I need to persuade her to allow me go.
I haven't seen him for almost a month and the worst is that he has no idea where I am now.
He must be so worried about me.

"Why do you think I'll grant you your wish?" The woman asked her,

"Ma'am.",

"I've told you to address me with my name, Lilian." She reprimanded; Gianna nodded.

"Lilian, I just want to see him and talk to him so he'll know I'm fine, I know he must be worried about me just leaving home and not returning for almost a month now." She explained, the older woman was so sympathetic,

"Okay I'll allow you but this should be out little secret and it'll definitely not be today." The girl frowned,

"But why?" She asked with a frown,

"The boss is coming today, so you'll need all the strength you can get to meet him, so I won't want you have an emotional breakdown when he's meeting you." She said making specific airs on the 'meeting' and that really embarrassed Gianna,

" You don't need to feel embarrassed, its normal." The woman mouthed; Gianna frowned

Who wouldn't be embarrassed at this shit she's into?

Getting laid by a man who haven't seen and the worst of it is that you'll have to do it with your eyes close or probably blindfolded.

You aren't permitted to touch him or kiss him and he won't do same to you.

What if she gets clumsy? She has never had any boyfriend and has never been into all this intimate and kissing shit.

Seeing herself having sex is a wild thought she has never pondered on and now, she'll be doing it with a complete stranger.

She heard he's the wealthiest in the State and no one knows his net worth but that isn't her business.

Her only problem now is how to get done with this contract, get paid the remaining five million dollars as the first one million has been paid to her adoptive mother.

She intended on transferring the money to her father's account because she'd come here for him not for herself.

Watching how she has been well taken care of in the past one month, she couldn't help but laugh,

'Surrogacy, hmp.'

She's more of a quarantine patient than a surrogate mother, everything she takes is being checklist by someone or some group of professionals.

Ham, bacon and other healthy food were served to her three times daily, less sugary food and more fruit and veggies.

Though she looks younger and has frail body but one could tell that she's under a good diet, most of her bony sides have been covered by flesh now.

All this for a healthy and fit baby.

How ironical, she couldn't even remember series of things from her childhood, not like she had an accident that wiped out her childhood

No.

Far from it, she had done a self-induce memory loss.

She'd made herself lock up things from her past cause they don't matter to her.

Now, someone out there's going through all this, spending millions of dollars just to have a healthy baby.

And it became much more ironical when she, the girl with the rough childhood had to be the mother of this fit baby.

She was the chosen one.

The girl in a million.

A surrogate mother at eighteen.

"Okay Lilian." She nodded,

"And also, you'll be going to the Auston Villa tonight, that were the boss would be meeting you." She nodded,

It just like every other order she had taken in the past month.

Lilian once told her that the boss fiancé, the young mistress has congenial infertility and cannot birth any child, so the great master had opted for a surrogate to secure his progeny.

That evening as the limo pulled at the Villa, she slides down the windows, allowing fresh air from the sea side grasp her.

“You love the view?” Lilian asked her, she nodded but didn’t smile. All her life, she’d only seen thing like this on TV and haven’t been privileged to be in one but now she’s in one.

When the limo parked, she got out and so did the secretary,

“Follow me please.” The woman said, she followed her not asking any question.

Every time Lilian looks at Gianna, she sees the daughter she couldn’t have, she couldn’t help but pity the young girl.

When kids are age are busy whipping up from parties and enjoying their early adulthood, she’s busy being a surrogate to save her family from being poor.

Gianna is an extremely beautiful girl with very frail and fragile body, with an almond shaped eyes and a rosy lip, men couldn’t stand a chance in her beauty.

She was the girl every man would want to keep, with beauty and brain, she was certainly a rare gem.

She’s more of a petite brunette with good curves and good body, she was flawless.

Taking another look at the young girl walking behind her, she couldn’t help but pray the boss goes gentle with her.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE OBSCURE NIGHT

Gianna was led into the Villa by Lilian; she looks so exceptional calm as they went inside but inside her she knows she was far from calm; she was in turmoil.

"Are you alright?" Lilian asked as they walked upstairs, she nodded.

"Here's your room, you'll be staying here from now on." Lilian said as she opened the door revealing the excellently well-furnished and luxurious bedroom,

"I'll be downstairs, if you need anything call me with the land phone, she pointed to the phone on the antique bedside drawer.

"Okay." Before she turned, Lilian had rushed downstairs.

Gianna took a deep breathe, she wasn't in the mood to appreciate the beautiful sea side, she tugged her luggage and went inside the room.

Night fell, in the luxurious room, the curtains were drawn to block all lights.

Within the silent room, she took her bath in the jacuzzi tub, making sure she spent enough time in the tub scrubbing her silk long hair and her body.

Luckily, everything she needed was right inside the bathroom.

Coming out from the bathroom, she'd only a night robe on, so she lay on the king size bed silently.

She was requested to wear a blindfold, so she took the blindfold that Lilian had brought for her, she took it and wore it.

Now, she has lost her sense of sight but her sense of hearing was greatly enhanced.

From a far distance, she heard the sound of a running engine getting louder as it approached the Villa.

The vehicle stopped right in front of the Villa and a young man stepped out of the Rolls Royce Phantom, the guards bowed as he walked past them.

The man was wearing an elegant black Armani suit, with a black shoe, the watch on his wrist was a very expensive one.

He walked elegantly like an aristocratic king and went inside the Villa.

Gianna usually calm heart tightened as she felt an unprecedented nervousness and restlessness.

She strained her ear to hear a steady footstep, as it grew louder, she knew the person was coming upstairs.

The door opened and someone walked in, then close the door behind him. She moved from the center of the bed and coiled up herself by the headboard.

Is he, my employer?

Is he here already?

With all this running question she could help but worry.

The person sat on the extreme of the bed removing his shoes, he climbed the bed.

Gianna couldn't make out any details from the silhouette but her heart was beating helplessly.

Although she couldn't see his face, she was able to sense his strong overwhelming presence especially his cold line of sight.

He has an air of aggressiveness, unique to a ruler and he seemed like an arrogant and proud aristocratic Lord.

He moved closer to her to get a better look at her and was really encouraged by what he saw.

Whilst her, sensing his looming presence, she coils up like a ball,

"Please.... tell me who you're, I'm scared." She panicked but he didn't say word, only his even breathing and heartbeat could be heard.

Looking at the woman in front of him, he loosened the robe and pulled it up, her soft and milky white skin was exposed to the air, not waiting for her reaction, he delved.

"Please wait, can I see your face. Its dark and I'm very scared." She cried like a helpless kitten; he stopped and furrowed his brow.

"There's nothing you should be scared of now, lay still." He ordered like the arrogant king he is.

It took her just a few minutes to finally absorb the mess she has put herself into.

The man pried her legs open; it was so soft and straight, he felt an impulse to continue holding her leg,

No, women are meant for one thing, to be used and tossed away.

Since his mom passed away, he has had an indifferent attitude towards women.

They're all nothing but liabilities and pawns to be used and he's never had time for them.

The only thing he is after now is being made the head of the De Marcos and been handed the staff of authority.

But looking at the girl before him, she pure and so naive...

She's just like an innocent prey while he's the ruthless predator.

"Please be easy on me, I don't want to get hurt." She said, her voice was light music to his ears.

No, when did I start having such feeling towards women. He sighed,

"You've been paid and would be handsomely rewarded, your pain should be taken care of, now it isn't my problem." He said arrogantly,

Gianna obeyed and lay still for the fear of being ruthlessly hurt by this man.

He unbuckled his belt and let the trouser fall to the floor, taking off his suit and shirt, he was almost naked if not for the designers' underpants he was putting on.

"Spread your legs." He ordered her, she quietly did as she was told but deep down, she was so heartbroken.

He lay on her and pinned her body to his,
There's no need for any foreplay, he's just going to get this done and leave when he's sure he has done enough to sire a child.

But something caught his attention as he wanted to lay her.
It was her lips
He has never kissed any woman before and this woman here, is going to steal his first kiss.

They were like rose petal against the wind, whimpering like a child that's about to cry, he bent over and took her lips full on his.

He kissed her lips then forced her mouth open with his then he ravaged her mouth, sucking her lips and her tongue.

Gianna was shocked by this action,
Hadn't Lilian told her that there won't be any kissing or extreme touches?
Why is the boss breaching the contract?

When he kissed her, she didn't kiss him back, she just allowed him do what he wanted and a few times he clumsily bit her lip.

She was no good in kissing and so was he. She hadn't had any boyfriend so wasn't a fan of intimacy and romance.

When he'd kissed her to his heart content, he played with her lips.

Looking at her, she was so pure, her slender waist can be held by his one arm, he was still playing with her lips when he whispered to her ear

"Just close your eyes." His voice was unlike before; this wasn't an order like the other. It was a request.

His fingertips were moist and chilly but when he touches her already lukewarm body, warmth filled her. He touched every part of her body and she couldn't help but feel humiliated.

Shame, guilt and humiliation filled her, she almost pushed his hands away but like he knew her thoughts, he held her hands.

Forcefully prying her flaccid legs opened, he delves into her,

" Ah!" she shrieked; the pain was so much.

"Shhh" he said, she forcefully took her hand and pushed his chest but he was so strong she couldn't push him off her.

His thrusting was so intense she thought she would pass out; his thrusting was so violent.

She wasn't a sex person but knew that sex wasn't to be as painful as this.

Is this his all? If it is, I can't withstand his all. I can't withstand his everything.

"No... please...don't," She cried, he stopped,

"This was what you wanted uh?" He asked,

"You should know what you're supposed to do when you came here or don't you know?" He asked her.

"I...know..." She stammered,

"Now keep shut." He ordered and continued with his dealings.

Now, she regretted ever taking this contract.

Viewing it, she thought it was an easy task, bearing a child and get paid but it turned out to be a visit to hell for her.

Of all options, she has crossed to the main depth of sin.

She'd thought of many ways to get money for the family but she never thought she'll have to sell her body one day to earn money.

She has gone through this part, now she'll have to go through it till the end.

CHAPTER 5

Gianna was finally slipping into unconsciousness when the man finished, the pain between her thighs was so excruciating, she couldn't move.

When the man finished, he got up from the bed and walked into the washroom to wash himself. The room reeked of sex, pleasure and lust.

Still wanting to fill his sexual urges, he took another look at the girl, she has lost so much energy and needs rest.

"I thought she had been fed when, why get tired after three rounds?" He sighed.

Coming back to her, she vaguely saw his handsome face, since her blindfold had gone off.

He leans forward and kissed her full on the lips before he left the room. Immediately he left, she allowed sleep to get the best of her.

When she woke up later that morning, the room was empty, she tried to get up but her legs couldn't hold her, like she was rammed by a truck.

Using the little energy she has left, she kicked the blanket from her lower body and moved from the spot she was lying.

Climbing down the bed, she looked at the bed cloth, the place she'd slept had a blood stain on the white sheet making it look like a Japanese flag.

The door opened and Lilian into the room, she was holding a set of new clothes,

“The boss sends this for you.” She said,

“How are you feeling?” She asked Gianna,
I’m feeling like I had just been rammed by a truck, she wanted to yell in pain but the words couldn’t come out.

Look like her lips had been glued after the strenuous affair, she had with the boss last night.

The door burst opened and another young lady walked into the room, looking so enraged and furious like she was going to explode soon.

“Are you the so-called surrogate?” She asked Gianna,
Innocently the girl nodded and a tight slap followed the reply, Gianna felt so humiliated by the slap,

“Don’t ever think that you can get close to Andre with this contract cause he’s, my fiancée.” She said in a demeaning rage,

“And do make sure you get pregnant after this cause Andre won’t ever touch you again. In the near future don’t even try to use this child as an excuse to....”

“Miss, you don’t need to worry, I know the rules of the contract and I won’t breach them, so your relationship with Sir is secured.” Gianna mouthed stopping the other woman before she says more things to humiliate her.

“You better be sure to know that.” She hissed, pushing Gianna before she left, the latter fell to the floor,

“Gianna stands up, your health is the most priority.” Lilian helped the young girl up,

“Take this, go and freshen up, I’ll ask someone to change the sheet, then breakfast would be served right after you freshen up.” Lilian said handing the clothes to her,

Gianna nodded, took the clothes and went into the washroom to freshen herself up.

Whilst she was in the bathtub, memories of last night came flooding in her mind, she sat on the tub filled with water motionlessly,

Taking another look at herself, she felt she was filthy, taking the body wash and sponge, she scrubbed her body thoroughly, tears filled her eyes as she scrubbed with great intensity.

I'm a whore.

I'm a slut, selling my body for money.

Wonder how my father's going to react when I tell him what I've done.

After almost scrubbing the first layer of her skin, she sat down there, losing track of every other thing happening around her, she lost track of time.

It wasn't until Lilian slowly opened the bathroom door and saw her lying there motionlessly, the older woman rushed to her thinking the worst has happened to the girl.

But surprisingly when she got close, she saw the young girl shedding tears, she squats beside her,

"Gigi, what's the matter?" She asked the girl moved with pity for the young adult,

"Lilian, if I were your daughter would you accept me after you find out I did what I'm doing now?" She asked not looking at the woman.

Lillian's heart tightened, all her life she hasn't seen anyone as selfless as Gianna, doing this for her family.

The worst is that, they're not even her real family rather they're her adoptive parents.

"Gigi it's going to be rightsowner or later." She consoled,

When kids her age are busy enjoying their early adulthood and getting wasted, she's here sacrificing her happiness to make someone else happy and yet the ruthless woman hadn't called yet to ask after her.

Gianna looked at her, tears filled the girls' eyes and the sight hurt Lilian so much,

"Will my father ever forgive me?" She asked the woman,

"Yes, if you explain everything to him, I bet he'll understand and forgive you." The woman said,

"Now you'll have to come out of the tub before you catch a cold." She helped the girl out of the tub, got her wrapped by a towel then got her dressed up.

Seven weeks later, Gianna and Lilian were at the De Marcos private hospital waiting for the test result.

The girl seemed nervous, she leaned on the woman, who stroke her hair.

Deep down, she prayed the test will be positive, so couldn't go through the same ordeal with the boss like she did some weeks back.

The doctor came out awhile later, awhile that seemed like ages to Gianna,

"Here's the result." He handed the wrapped result to Lilian who took it and glanced at Gianna.

Opening it, she zeroed her focus on a particular word,

'Positive.'

She's pregnant.

She showed the result to Gianna, who nodded at the words written in it,

She was seven weeks gone

Deep down, she thanked God, at least she won't have to sleep with the man again.

Now, the next thing in hers and Lilian schedule was seeing her father.

Tony had been dead worried; he hadn't seen his daughter and his wife and younger daughter weren't making thing easy at all.

"That ungrateful wretch, she must have run away with one of her numerous lovers." Carol jested anytime she sees him worrying about the girl.

"Shut up woman, my Gigi isn't like that." He has always defended her until one day he got a call from an unknown woman, asking him to meet them somewhere.

Tony had been worried sitting in an expensive restaurant, he waited for the woman to come with his daughter.

"Sir, would you mind anything?" One waitress came to him, he shook his head,

"No, I'm just waiting for someone..."

"Don't worry, the boss has asked us to serve you whatever you want when you arrive, so please make your order." The waitress said showing him their menu book.

Tony scan through it and ordered for a cup of mocha coffee and pumpkin slice (a special cake made with pumpkin).

The waitress took his order and left coming awhile later with his order.

"Here you go Sir, please make yourself comfortable as ever." With this he left while Tony took a slice from the cake and a sip of his mocha.
This taste great.

After waiting for almost extra twenty minutes, Gianna arrived.

She was wearing a loosed gown to hide her pregnancy while Lilian, dressed corporate as ever went in front of her.

Tony stood up immediately he saw his daughter and went to hug her,

"Gigi, how've you been? I've been so worried about you." Not minding the third party there, he hugged his daughter and kissed her cheeks
Gianna seemed to be adding on flesh lately,

"Father I'm so sorry, I couldn't let you know before I left..."

"Left where? Where have you been? Is what Carol and Camilla saying about you true? He asked,
Her father has really lost a lot of weight lately.
He doesn't look like himself anymore.

" Father I'm so sorry, I didn't know you to tell you this..."

"Tell me what? GiGi, you can talk to me, daddy's here." He told the girl. Lilian just stood by and watch, there was actually nothing she can do now.

"Daddy, I'm now a su...ro....gate." She let the last word come out slowly but Tony caught it and what followed next was a really tight slap across Gianna's face, the girl staggered.

Lilian made an attempt to come help her but she signaled the woman to stand back.

"Is this what I taught you? How can you do this to your father." Tony was so enraged he yelled at her for the first time in her life.

"I never expected this from you." Not giving her the chance to explain, he walked out of the restaurant.

Thank God, they were no body there, Lilian had used Alexandre's name to but the place for the time being.

Gianna broke down and began to cry, Lilian rushed to her to console the girl.
"He hates me now, he's the only family I have left and now he hates me." Lilian could do nothing but console the girl.

"He doesn't hate you, he's just angry at you for the time being, he'll come around after some time." She said consoling the girl while her heart wept for the young girl.

CHAPTER SIX

MALE TWINS

True to Lillian's words, Tony came around after a week, he called Lilian and asked whether he could see his daughter, so Lilian gave him the Villa's location and he came there.

Gianna was downstairs when he came,

"Father!" She stood up and rushed to him, Tony spread his arms in a warm embrace to hug his daughter,

"Father, I'm so sorry for...."

"Shhh, I'm the one in the wrong. I failed to appreciate the virtuous and selfless daughter I've got." He said,

"Daddy's very sorry, will Gigi forgive him?" He asked making his cutest face at her.

Tony might have advanced in years and the financial crisis might have made him look older but he was sure the most handsome man Gianna had ever acknowledged.

"Gigi forgives daddy and also ask daddy to forgive her, she's super sorry." Tears were streaming down her eyes as she spoke.

"Hmmm." The man nodded and pecked her forehead since he was almost a head taller than her.

Lilian stood by the side and watched the lovely scene played by this father and daughter duo.

Even though Gianna isn't his biological daughter, Tony had treated her like she was his blood, he never for once treated her like an outside unlike how Carol and Camille treat her.

He loves her more than he does his daughter and this made the latter angry, seeing Gianna as a wretch that came to steal her father from her.

Unlike Gianna who was a straight 'A' student, Camille was more of a dullard, getting bad grades and failing school tests and exams.

The only thing Camille did better was on vain things, like how to look beautiful and get the best and expensive clothes regardless of the financial problems in the family.

While Gianna was the more conservative and an economist, she manages whatever comes her way and isn't after vain thing like her sister.

Even with her flawless body and nice curves, she still wasn't interested in looking good and that the most reason why she doesn't have any friend except Janine, her high school girlfriend and the boy of them are in the same college.

Janine was from a wealthy family but she's more like Gianna and that's what attracted the both of them to be friends.

She's selfless and really beautiful but Gianna is and will always be the fairest among them.

The both girls are like two hands, they're always willing to help each other.

* * * *

After the first trimester of the pregnancy, an ultra-scan was carried out and the scan showed Gianna was pregnant with a pair of male twins.

Alexandre was so happy with the news but didn't show it.

He was still keeping his aloof profile when the secretary told him.

"So, you said it a twin?" He asked the woman again to be sure,

"Yes Sir," She brought out the scan result and showed it to him, he took it from her.

I'm going to be a father to two soldiers, he was so elated with the new but didn't make it visible but like the observant person she's,

Lilian noticed the trace of happiness in his eyes when he first got the news and like flash, he replaced it with his cold demeanor.

"How's she feeling?" He asked,

Ever since that night, he hadn't been able to get her off his head, he sees her everywhere.

Secretly wishing, he could make her his but he knew he couldn't, his grandfather had already chosen his bride for him.

Jasmine. How he hates the sight of that girl.

She was like an eyesore to him, the only reason he's agreeing to this alliance was that his grandfather really wished it and since Jasmine was his adoptive aunt's daughter, he can't make his grandfather change his mind.

Years ago, Colin De Marco had adopted eighteen-year-old Katerina as his daughter. She was a very beautiful entertainer and Andre's father Alejandro and his two step brothers were madly in love with her.

Seeing the rift this was about to cause amongst his sons, he decided to adopt Katerina.

He doted on her to the extent he started having feelings for the girl.

He already has three wives that had borne him three sons, so getting Katerina as his fourth wife was no big problem to him but he knows his wives and sons won't support him.

So, he decided to keep the girl as his forever but thing changed when Katerina was discovered to be pregnant for another man.

When Colin found out, he sent people to investigate the bastard that got her pregnant.

Lo and behold, it was a man from the lower class, he ruthlessly wiped the man's family and forced Katerina to abort the baby.

She'd refused and fled from home with her pregnancy. Katerina took refuge in her friend's house till she gave birth to her twin, a boy and a girl.

Meanwhile in the States, Colin had turn everywhere upside down in search of his daughter but to no avail.

The search continued for almost eight years later till when Katerina was spotted by one of his spies.

They went after the woman and unfortunately in the car chase the woman's car crashed and got burnt, only one death body was found in the crash but three people were in the car before it crashed.

The corpses they found was Katerina's but her children were nowhere to be found.

Colin was so heartbroken; he came so sick right after the funeral.

Colin instigated a search in the next few months and it was discovered that one of the children is in Washburn Orphanage.

From the initial, he wanted to get rid of the two bastards but upon Katerina's death, he wanted nothing than to bring in the kids into the mansion to enjoy the wealth of the De Marcos.

When he finally found the girl twin, Jasmine.
He got her betrothed to his grandson Alexandre.

The alliance was accepted by the elders of the family but not Alexandre. He hated Jasmine from that day onwards.

* * * *

Eight months in the pregnancy, Gianna felt like a bloated maggot.

She ate like hell but the smell of sweet and sour pork which was her favorite makes her feel nauseated, Lilian which explained all this to her was so privileged to be able to teach a youngster about pregnancy since she could have one.

One morning, while Gianna was having her normal morning exercise,

"Gigi, don't you think you've gone too far already?" Lilian asked as they jogged.

She wasn't tired but she felt Gianna should be tired cause they're very far from the Villa and since she's pregnant, Lilian expected her to be tired but it was the opposite.

"Don't you think we should start heading back to the Villa now, I'll call the driver to come get..."

"Ah!" Gianna yelled, she felt a sharp pain on her waist and immediately after that, her water broke, Lilian rushed to her,

"You're having those Braxton Hicks again?" She asked, thinking it was the fake contraction she often has but when she saw the water flowing down Gianna's thigh, she was shocked.

But she's due in five weeks' time.

"No..these are real contrac.....,it really hurts." She cried, Lilian placed her arm around Gianna and held her up.

"Can you walk?" She fearfully asked, holding the girl gentle so as not to hurt her.

Since they were far from the Villa and it might take the chauffeur up to thirty minutes to come there due to the morning jam.

Lilian got a cab and asked the driver to get them to the nearest hospital.

The driver helped her in and drove as fast as he could.

In the next fifteen minutes they were in the hospital, the doctors hurried out and took Gianna into the labor room.

Lilian brought out her phone and called Tony first,

"Sir please can you come to..." She turned to the nurse,

"Please what's the name of this hospital?" she held the phone with one hand as she asked the nurse,

"Brooklyn Specialist Hos..."

Lilian turned to her phone,

"Brooklyn Specialist Hospital." She relayed to Tony and hung up after the man told her he's on the way there.

When Tony arrived, Lilian was still outside the labor room waiting for the doctor to come out.

"How's Gianna?" He asked immediately he came close, cold beads of sweat formed on her forehead making the man worried,

"No news yet." She managed to say.

Inside, Gianna cries filled the room,

"Miss push harder please, the head is almost out." The matron told her.

"Take a deep breath and push." She said, Gianna took a deep breath then pushed harder,

"His head's out, just one more push and..." Before the woman could finish, she pushed and the baby came out,

"It's a boy!" She exclaimed, given the baby to the third nurse,

"Now for the second one, you just have to push again, so he'll go through the same passage as his brother." A younger nurse said,

"I can't do this..." Gianna cried; she was already in pain.

Gosh, I never knew childbirth is as painful as this.

"You just have to, one more push." Gathering the little strength, she has left, she pushed.

The baby came out but unlike his brother, this one isn't crying.

"It's a boy...but...he isn't breathing." The matron said taking the boy from Gianna's blossom.

Gianna froze at the word 'Not Breathing.'

"Nurse what happened to him?" She asked seeing the disappointed look in the nurse's face.

"Sorry Miss, your son is still born." She said,

"What? Why?" She cried weakly,

"The older one seems to have greater access to nutrition and oxygen while the younger one seemed to be in short of it, we're sorry."

Gianna was so tired but she felt very heartbroken,
Her first pregnancy and she lost one of her boys.

Though the kids weren't hers immediately they were born but she really felt the pain.

Lilian was still outside when the matron came out with a sad look on her face.

"What happened? How's Gianna and the babies?" She asked, Tony stood up and walked up to nurse,

"How's my daughter?" He asked the nurse,

"Well, she's fine but we lost one of the babies." She said, Lilian face fell,

She excused them and place a call to the boss, yelling him of the tragedy.

Andres ordered that the living baby should be brought over to the De Marco's Private Hospital immediately and his order was carried out with immediately effect.

But something miraculous happened, immediately the older boy was taken by Lilian out of the hospital.

The nurse who was admiring the dead baby noticed something,

“This baby’s showing faint sign of life!” She yelled, attracting the doctor’s attention.

They took the baby from her and placed him on a life machine to boost his chances of survival.

After spending almost three weeks in the hospital, baby Reid was a bit fit to go home with Gianna,

Tony had asked the doctor who had become his friend over the past three weeks erase all data concerning the boy’s survival so no one would know about his existence.

Since they were friends, the doctor did it and a few weeks later when Andre sent some representatives to the hospital for his son’s corpses.

They told him that the corpses have been well taken care of, this left him sad.

Actually, the main reason he came was to get information to contacting Gianna but as fate could have it, she has disappeared from the face of the earth.

Having lost her and his second son, he poured his devotion to the first son Justin De Marco.

Though his grandfather opposed the name saying it too modern and it doesn’t sound like a De Marco’s name but Andre refused to change it.

His mother has a soft personality and would love such name. This were always his though whenever he looks at his son.

CHAPTER SEVEN

EIGHT YEARS LATER

" MOMMY'S SWEETHEART"

A young boy of about seven years was staring at an expensive control car in the mall when a shop attendant walked to him,

"Hey you! What are you looking at that for?" He yelled at the boy rudely, the little boy turned to the direction of the young man talking to him and he sighed, then turned back to the expensive toy car he was admiring,

This jerk doesn't know who I am.

"Hey punk, I'm talking to you and you..." He rushed over to hit the boy but the boy's mom came out,

"Reid!" She called, the boy's serious face melted into a dazzling smile,

"Mommy," He called and ran to the woman sticking his tongue at the man, who was surprised by the boy's change of expression under seconds.

"Sir, what happened?" Gianna politely asked, having witnessed the man almost hitting her son.

"Miss, I came here and saw your son looking at that toy car mischievously, I asked him politely..."

"Liar, liar, Mommy he's telling lies." The boy protested and this attracted other customers' attention.

"How can you call me a liar?" The man asked, infuriated at the young child's humiliating words.

"Cause you're a liar, mommy said it bad to lie and you're lying." Reid said looking at his mom who was more confused than ever.

"Mommy, you know how much Reid like car toys?" He asked his mom, putting his cutest and charming smile,

She nodded,

"I was just admiring the car when his bad uncle came and scolded me." The boy explained, Gianna nodded and turned to the man,

"Sir, did you see him put the boy in his bag?" She asked the man, there was no funny looks on her face,

"No but..." She cut him,

"So, what made you feel he was looking at it mischievously?" She asked him. If there's one thing, she hates is someone picking on her child.

Reid most times is really full of mischief but he can never take what isn't his.

"I'm sorry ma'am." He apologized being his head, she sighed.

"You don't have to apologize to me, apologize to my son." She pulled the boy from behind her to her front.

The man looked at the boy in disdain,

"But he was rude to me." The man complained,

Gianna looked at her son, he looks so sweet and innocent, Reid can never be rude to anyone, he's the sweetest child ever.

"Well Sir, I believe in my son and Reid isn't a rude child." She said proudly,

"Mommy, leave him if he doesn't want to apologize, it's nothing." The boy said to his mom,

She sighed at the man and smiled at her son,

“Reid, do you want the car?” She asked the boy going through her bag for any other money left.

“No mommy, I don’t want it.” He said but deep down, he was crying the opposite, he really wanted the toy car but he knows his Mommy’s money isn’t enough to get it,

“You sure?” She asked, she might use her credit card to get it,

“No mommy, Reid has lots of toy cars at home, he doesn’t need this one.” He said, taking his hands they walked to the counter and paid for the stuffs they bought then the land ft the shop together.

They had just gone to the shop to get grocery for the house and for grandpa’s house cause today’s Friday and every Friday they go to grandpa’s house for family dinner.

* * * *

When Gianna returned from the hospital, five million dollars was transferred to her account by the De Marco’s Empire, she quickly transferred the money to her father, who paid all his business debt and filed for bankruptcy, closing the company.

After that they moved from the mansion to a smaller condominium in the outskirts of the city.

While Carol and her daughter did nothing than to cause more havoc in the family, Gianna went back to college to continue her education while taking two jobs to cater for her father and her son.

It was really a tough one for her them including the fact that her son Reid was a very sickly child.

The boy literarily grew up spending most of his days at the hospital, she then battles to and fro to cater for his needs.

After a while, she almost gave up, thinking it was a bad idea to have taken the child. Whenever she feels like she’s losing everything and things are slipping from her, just a look at her son’s smiling face is enough to make her want to fight back.

Just like the old saying 'The pain of childbirth will vanish after seeing the child.'

This was a true saying with her, she loves her son Reid so much that she wouldn't want to see him hurt, during their most stay at the hospital, she'll just look at him in pain and wished she was the one sick and not her son.

When she returned to school, rumors started spreading all around that she has a bastard son.

She knows Camille was the one behind it, Camille and her mother never liked her, claiming she was a wretch that came to steal her father from her.

The appearance of Reid infuriated them more, "A bastard born to a father but acknowledged to none." They'd jested her and her son.

When she was sure she'd enough money to cater for a new apartment, she moved out of the condominium, got her own apartment and moved in with her son.

Tony never liked the arrangement; he wanted her to stay and let him watch his grandson grow but she's bluntly refused and he knew it was for the best.

So, Gianna and Reid got their own apartment but that doesn't stop her from going back to her father's every Friday night for family dinner.

With the rumors spreading in the college, she got expelled, Tony tried to talk to the school heads but they refused,

Even though Gianna was a star student, they couldn't allow her stay in the school, so as not blacklist the college from the States.

She accepted the school's verdict when her father told her what they said.

But later on, there seemed to be a change, the school called her back and she was asked to continue her education but now as a part timer.

She gladly accepted it and went back to school, having Tony take care of Reid when she was juggling school and two jobs.

It was really a tough one but she made it through, graduated after a few years then went in search of a good paying job, being able to take care of herself and her son, Gianna was contented with everything.

Mommy! Mommy!!” She turned back to the boy, he was walking slowly and looked so pale, she hurriedly rushed to him,

“What’s the matter son?” The doctor had warned that since the boy wasn’t strong, he should be put in stressful conditions,

“Reid’s so tired.” He feigned,

“He wants mommy to carry him.” A sly smile formed on his lips, she understands.

He wants her to carry him. She bent in front of him and smiled,

“Okay, hop in.” With these three words the boy hopped onto her back and she stood up with him,

Since he was so lightweight, carrying him isn’t a big deal for her.

She picked the shopping bags on the floor and walked down the street.

By the other side of the road, a young boy about eight to nine years sat in the passenger’s seat of a fully air-conditioned Aston Martin.

He was so engrossed looking at the mother and son duo with a smiling face but a jealous heart, he didn’t hear the body guard open the door,

“Don’t you know how to knock before opening the door?” He scolded the man; his face was so cold one can mistake it for an adult’s and his voice was terrific like his father’s.

“I’m sorry young master,” The man brought out a wrapped bag and handed it to him,

“This is the Royal Scoop you ordered.” The boy looked at the bag with an uninterested look,

"Throw it away, I don't need it anymore." His order was like authority, as much as the man wanted to keep the ice cream, he can't dare offend the young master cause his father would behead him.

"Get in the car and drive me home, I want to go rest." He said, his eyes never left the mother and son duo that could be seen laughing at some silly jokes as they went farther and farther down the street, he could see them no more.

The boy turned to the driver,

"I said drive me back home." He ordered, the driver fumbled with the key and started the engine,

With the boy rightly strapped, he zoomed off.

CHAPTER EIGHT

TELEPATHY

Justin walked unto the mansion with a cold face, Jasmine and Colin were sitting at the gazebo when he walked past them without showing any respect to the elders,

"Justin! Come back here." Colin called, he might be older and has greatly advanced in years but his cold aura and fierceness is still in fact, he still us the most ruthless man in the De Marco's family so far,

The boy walked to them,

"Grandpa, mommy good afternoon." He greeted, not waiting their reply he turned back and left.

"He must be in a bad mood grandpa, don't scold him." Jasmine said to the older man when she noticed he was going to call the boy back,

"That doesn't mean he should disrespect his elders; Alex would have to start disciplining the boy before he grows wild." The man muttered,

"Grandpa, I'll talk to him when he gets back but for now concentrate on your health and finish up these herbs, they'll help you recuperate faster." She handed the unfinished herbal concoction in a bowl to the man, who drank it quickly.

Justin was already asleep when his father came home, the man took the elevator up to his son's room, opened the door and got inside.

The boy was soundly asleep, so he didn't want to wake him up, he kissed the boy's furrowed brows and turned to leave when the boy muttered something in his sleep,

"Mommy wait." Andres turned to the boy, he sat by the bed and caress his cheek,

When Justin was younger, he'd dreams.

Dreams where he saw a woman calling on to him but he couldn't get to her because they great distance between them.

The woman is always with a younger boy who looks exactly like himself and most times in his dream, he'll try to go after them but he had never caught up with them, they are always far from his reach.

Most times after running for ages, he'll only continue to see them go farther and farther till they're out of sight.

Often after having such dreams, the boy wakes up with high fever or heartache.

So many doctors have been asked to know what the problem was but they all came up with one word

'Telepathy.'

It's a connection between two people, they tend to feel each other's presence even if they aren't close.

But what bothered Andre was this,

How can one have telepathy to his dead twins?

That's the question, those renown doctors and physicians couldn't answer.

Since nothing was said to be wrong with the boy, the matter was put at rest.

Meanwhile, Gianna and Reid had just arrived at Tony's house, the happy grandfather was waiting for them at the corridor,

At the sight of his grandfather, Reid left his mom's hand and ran to the man throwing his lightweight body at the man who caught him joyously,

"How's my favorite grandson doing?" The man asked, smiling at him,

"Grandpa, Reid did very well in school and the teacher gave him five stars." The boy announced, showing his star book to his grandfather,

"Woo...OH, Reid's a very intelligent boy, grandpa will treat you to lots of chocolates after dinner." The man said proudly, just then Gianna walked up to them.

Looking at how happy her son and her father is makes her joyous,

"Good evening father." She greeted the man, he bent over and pecked her forehead,

"How're you Gigi?" He asked his daughter, the woman smiled,

"Doing good and you?" He nodded then led them inside, keeping the boy in the living room, he followed his daughter to the kitchen.

"So how are things going over at work?" He asked her, she nodded not looking at him but her concentration was on the pork she'd gotten,

"Where's mom and my sister?" She asked him,

Even though those two hadn't accepted her and treat her like family, she made it a duty to ask after them whenever she came around,

"Camille's out on her usuals while Carol went to get something down the street." He'd reply,

Looking at his daughter, he felt so dissatisfied, she looks thinner than ever,

“GiGi, are you okay?” He asked her again, she nodded, this time took a glance at him,

“Yes, I’m fine dad, you worry too much.” She assured,

Actually, she isn’t fine at all, she was drowning in worries,

The house rent is due.

She’ll have to pay her tax soon.

Reid’s medications are almost finished and she needs to refill them.

And so many other things she needs to do but has not enough resources to do it.

But like the sensible person she is, she isn’t going to cry to her father or let her son see her vulnerability, she acts like she’s got everything under control but deep down, she’s really lost.

Reid cried jerked her from her memory road, she ran to the living room to know what’s wrong but heard Carol’s yelling voice,

“Stop calling me grandma you bastard.” The woman cursed her son,

This isn’t the first time and wouldn’t be the last,

Carol and Camille had the habit of making sure her son and herself are in pain.

The boy ran beside his mom,

“Mommy, grandma’s mad at me again but Reid did nothing.” He cried, she tugged him closer,

“Reid go to my room, I’ll be right there.” She said to the boy,

As the boy turned to leave, he bumped into Camille, the latter gave him a tight slap that sent the boy falling back to Gianna’s arm.

Immediately, Justin who asleep woke up with a great cry,

Andre who was in his study ran to the boy's room, seeing his son like this really hurts him.

He sat beside the boy,

"Another nightmare?" He asked putting his arm around the boy, who nodded with fear still visible on his face,

"Your brother again?" He asked, the boy nodded,

"Someone pushed him and I didn't see him again." The boy said making it sound real.

Andre pulled the boy to himself,

"Don't worry, he's safe." He said, the boy looked at him,

"Father, do you think he's real?" His lips trembled as he asked,

"I wish he is." With this, he laid the boy back to the bed,

"Go to sleep, remember you have practice with your tutor tomorrow." He coerced the boy to sleep while he lay there and watched him sleep.

When Justin was three, he was sent to Boot Camp.

Boot Camp is a type of training for kids from the age of seven and above but the De Marcos attend this camp when they're three.

Andre had agreed with his grandfather, saying the boy should be sent there, he'd gone to the camp and so had his father and grandfather, so his son was no different.

The Camp lasted for the whole summer and he'd expected Justin to run back home but the boy proved to be willful, he stayed till the end.

The boy proved to be strong when for the next four consecutive years, he made his father send him there to practice.

Now almost eight, Justin can assemble any fire arms or war weapon under seconds,

He knows the great art of fighting and has mastered the art of shooting and archery.

Even though he lagged behind at his studies, he was a real fighter making Andre proud of him.

When kids his age are busy with cartoons and toys, he was busy assembling guns and firearms or training in his archery spot.

CHAPTER NINE

CAUSING TROUBLE

Seeing Camille slap her son infuriated Gianna, she slapped her back,

“Don’t you ever lay your filthy hands on my son again.” She roared and for the first time ever, Camille and Carol got pretty scared of her.

The fierceness and furiousness at which the slap landed made Camille lip bled,

Carol seeing this got really scared,

“Mommy’s okay, don’t fight with aunt.” Reid said but from his mother’s blind spot, he was sticking his tongue out at Camille who stood like she was going to cry.

Tony who stood by didn’t do a thing other than walking to Gianna to calm her down.

Deep down, he loved the fact that she fought back at Camille,

“Let’s not spoil the evening mood GI, let’s go prepare dinner,” He took her arm then turned to the boy,

"Reid stay in Mommy's room, gran...."

"But grandpa, I want to stay in the living room." The boy protested,

Gianna turned to him and immediately she did, he smiled and obediently walked to the room still sticking his tongue at Camille.

Do you think you can hurt me and mommy will let you go?

Camille and Carol didn't come out for dinner, even though Gianna knocked on their door twice to invite them, they didn't come out.

"Allow them to wallow in sorrow, I'd love what you did earlier," Tony said to Gianna as they did the dishes together,

"You need to start standing up for yourself and Reid now. Fighting back doesn't mean you're evil or bad, rather it means you're brave and courageous and that's what I want you my daughter to be." He patted her shoulder with a wet hand,

Smiling, she nodded.

"That's good," He turned to the boy,

"Hey chap, take care of your mom okay, don't let anyone whosoever bully her." The boy nodded, without him telling him,

He already knew that he was born to protect his mom since she can't protect herself.

And that's why he's doing what he's into now.

As for grandma and aunt Camille, he's going to deal with them later not now.

"Grandpa, I know that. No one can bully my mom and go scot free." Gianna could have taken that as a child's promise but to Reid it wasn't,

He meant every word of it.

His sweet side is reserved for his mommy but bad side was for those who'll bully her.

He'll protect her, since his daddy isn't here to do that.

Since he was a little kid, he'd asked her of his father and she has never given him a good reason why he doesn't have a father,

To him the man must have hurt his mommy so much that she doesn't talk about him and isn't willing to talk about him with him.

As he grew up, the little space he'd created for his father faded and his mommy took over, she's his father and his mother, literarily his whole world.

He doesn't need father or anyone else, he has his mommy and he wants it to be only the two of them forever.

Camille was so angry at the slap Gianna gave her,

"Mother that bitch had the nerve to lay her hands on me." She cried, checking her swollen cheek and bleeding lips,

"I'm so sorry I couldn't do anything, it was because of your father, he was supporting those outcasts." Carol sympathized with her daughter,

She pulled out an ointment from her purse and started applying it on the girl's cheek,

"This'll help the swell reduce." She said still applying the ointment,

"Wuu...wuuu, it hurt, mother be careful." She cried louder as the pain continued,

"I'll teach her a lesson that she'll never forget in her entire life for hurting you, my princess." Carol cajoled her daughter to stop crying,

"Mother, it's because she feels she's earning more money than us that's why she hurt me." The girl began

"Now I'll make her lose her job and she won't have enough money to feed herself and her son." She added, Carol just nodded,

"Yes, you'll do just that. I want you to show her place, she belongs to the floor and that's where I'll put her." Camille stood up from the bed and walked away from the room.

The next week when Gianna went to work things were going fine but unknown to her, Camille and Carol had lay out a perfect plan to taint her image at work or worst make her lose her job.

Gianna had just gone out to submit a proposal to their department head immediately after lunch break,

As soon as she stepped out, some aimless youth dressed as hooligans boldly injured the security guards and they barged into her department,

They flung a row of tables and shouted her name loudly,

"Gianna where are you?"

"Get yourself out of there and come face us."

Their intrusion frightened everyone, a few noticed the way they are dressed and the tattoo on their bodies and cowered to the corner,

Rumors had it that these men were the most dangerous ruffians in the city and they'd a very powerful backer

'What had Gianna done to offend them? 'They couldn't help but wonder at the frightened state.

When Gianna returned, she was shocked by what she saw but regained her composure,

Once one of the ruffians saw her, he recognized her and they all approached her dragging her by the arm outside the office.

One appeared to be their leader came out and slapped her,

"So, you're that bitch's sister?" He asked, mere looking at him one could say he was evidently vexed,

Hearing the word batches knew who they were referring to,

What had Camille don't to offend this people? She asked herself as the pain of the slap continue to sting her cheek.

" Do you know how much your sister owes me?" The man asked as he sized her up from head to toe, she couldn't help but feel irritated at his stare,

Cradling her cheeks which still hurt from the pain, she finally understood everything

Calling her sister by mind, the latter must have incurred this huge debt while she was out having fun,

Her family's financial condition wasn't good and she doesn't have any money to pay off her debt,

She must have given them her work address to come take the money from her instead.

Gianna was so regretful, feeling her father would meet setback, she'd left her company address with them, how on earth could she imagine that something like this would ever happen.

However, she was unwilling to summit to these hoodlums. The debt was so much for her to pay,

Her unwillingness is not from her back bone but rather from her financial strain, If she pays Camille's debt, she might not be able to pay Reid tuition fees for next semester and to do other necessary things

Having stayed mute, one of the hoodlums poked her,

"Are you mute you can't speak, pay up..." The leader who was now enraged grabbed her shirt collar, she looked at them and mouthed,

"I don't have any money on me, so I can't pay." Her voice was firm but her heart wasn't

"Okay, since you don't have money, they are so many ways to pay up." Another said,

"You look very pretty mind playing with us for a while?" The leader asked while the rest eyed her with clearly written malicious intentions,

"Speak with respect," she stood up to leave but they pulled her back,

"Why owe someone and still refuse to pay them." He said to them, she still looked at them in disdain.

Seeing her vile intention, she deep her hands into her pocket and brought out her phone, the leader slapped her hands and the phone fell, he smashed it with his boot,

"What?" She yelled with agitated eyes

"You want to call the cops?" He asked her, she didn't say a thing,

"Never thought you'll be that smart,"

"Master, didn't that bitch say she has a child and he's in the middle school uh?"
Hearing them talk about her child make her scared,

"Please don't go to Reid's school please," She pleaded, the men seeing they've finally gotten her, smiled to themselves,

"I'll give you the money but please don't hurt my son." She pleaded with the gang,

She's always rational when it comes to her son.

Gianna went inside and out her ATM card with trembling hands and reddened eyes.

CHAPTER TEN

FINALLY MEETING HER AGAIN

Gianna took out her ATM card from her bag with trembling hands, going outside the thugs were still waiting for her.

She went to the nearest bank and withdrew the little thousands of dollars she has there,

Giving it to them, they counted it with a fierce stare,
Seeing it was complete, they strutted away not causing any more trouble.

Back to the company, the manager summoned her and fired her for 'bringing massive troubled and loss to the company.'

While with those thugs earlier she hadn't been much scared but now with the realization she was about to lose her job, fear gripped her and her eyes reddened.

She can't lose this job, she has Reid to take care of and the bills at home are almost due,

"Sir please give me a second...." She pleaded but no avail.
The law came from the directors not him.

Even though he pitied her, he could do little to nothing to save her from this.

Gianna was a very good worker and during the short period she has worked with them, she has proven to be the best worker they've got so far.

Knowing she has a son to take care of, out of his benevolence, he promised to send for the advance of five months payment to her account with the company's approval.

Gianna couldn't do much about it, so she went back to the office, packed her few belongings in a box and she headed for the door.

A handful of the workers were sympathetic with her, promising her that they'll help look for a good job for her while the rest were excited,

To them, she was the main roadblock to their being promoted, she was stealing their limelight, now she out things are about to get easier for them.

One of the persons rejoicings was Ruth, she was Gianna's coworker but despise the girl, feeling she's acting like she's too perfect and therefore making everyone like her including their department head favors her.

Gianna's annual bonus was far greater than theirs.

Ruth had never liked Gianna, so her leaving was a blessing to her.

While she left the office, she was in tears

"What am I going to do now?" She asked herself,

"How am I going to take care of Reid?"
This is way too much for her to handle

The feeling of not being able to take care of her son is what's hurting her the most.

Reid was a very intelligence kid, while kid his age still count with their fingers and toes, the boy was wise enough to finish any given math's in seconds.

The teacher at his daycare were so surprised at the boy's IQ,

He loves to read and knows how to operate a computer; he knows the major and minor components of a computer and can fix it perfectly well.

"He's so smart and was blessed with a godly and handsomely cute face." One of his teachers had said to Gianna during a Parent Teacher Meeting,

"Most times, I wish I could just take him home and have him be my son." The parents of one of his classmates had said to his mother having meeting the boy often,

"Well, you can't, cause I'm just my Mommy's son." Reid had said rudely but in his cute face that no one noticed the disrespect in his tone.

He was so well organized and smart that the girls in his class struggle to sit close to him,

This is the part that annoys him most.

Most times when he comes back home, Gianna would see series of flowers and love letters in his bag, unknown to him, kids slip these things into his bags without his knowledge.

'Secret Admirers.' Gianna had explained to him when he sees these things and get angry.

Meanwhile, In the De Marco Group, The office of the chief executive officer (CEO)

Entering one's sight were luxurious fixtures, elegant and extravagant to the core.

A man stood by the window, his vigorous figure tall and slender with towering heights about 1.89 meters, his presence was overbearing.

He was looking out through the window to the buzzing city when the door opened,

A young lady walked into the office, when he turned and saw the person, his frown became deeper,

"Jasmine what do you want?" He asked,

The man was matured and really handsome, he is Alexandre De Marco, the heir to the De Marco's Group and Empire.

The woman lip formed an arc as she sat down,

"Andre are you busy?" She asked, his frowning face was evident he doesn't want to see her.

They've been engaged for years by his grandfather's wish but to him, he was his fiancée by name.

He doesn't love her one bit.

Why's this man away cold and indifferent towards me? She asked herself,

The only time she has seen him smile is if he's with his son Justin but with others, he just cold and aloof.

She has tried to get on his good side but no way, she even tried being loving and caring to the boy to get his father's attention but no,

The boy's also a replica of his father, cold and indifferent toward everybody.

He might see her as his mother and calls her 'Mommy 'but doesn't treat her so, he treats her like his father's mistress.

"What do you want?" He asked in a very high and displeased tone,

"Grandfather said he wants you to come home for..." His looks stop her from talking,

"Tell him I'm busy and won't make it." He stood up, took his jacket which hung on the seat arm and put it on.

"I have a meeting to attend now, you go ahead and tell him I won't come, then next time if you're coming here, try dress decently." He said to her casting a hateful glance at her clothes.

Mere looking at her infuriates him, he hated her for the fact that his grandfather had forced him to get married to her.

For almost eight years, he'd continued to postpone the wedding date because he can't even imagine himself getting married to her.

He walked out of the office without turning back at her.

Jasmine was so angry, she looked at the skimpy clothes she was putting on,

For years she has tried to seduce this man who calls himself her fiancée but each time she gets humiliated.

How can a man resist her charming body and an invitation to make love to her.

Slowly she started doubting his potency but when she looks at Justin, her doubts faded away.

He's the replica of his father, like they were both casted from the same mold.

Since, she was confirmed to be infertile, Andre treats her like an abomination, he can't even stand her presence in same room with him.

Andre and his driver were driving to Denver Tower for a meeting.

Denver Tower was the biggest production house in the States and the De Marcos owned seventy percent share of the company's asset.

So, any movie that was going to be produced or directed there would have to go through his approval before being contemplated on.

His family owned most of the State's biggest companies that nothing goes on without their knowledge.

The De Marcos excels in both legal and underworld business making them famous and respected.

They've got shares in World Finance Market, so no country can stand against this single family.

Their coastlines spread across Europe, Asia and North and South America making them a very strong Empire.

Andre being the first grandson of the family handles every affair going on in his grandfather's stead.

Since the man is old and just a few years from his death, he handed every affair of the company to his favorite and most reliable grandson and under Andre's supervision, the Empire continue to grow stronger and wealthier by the day.

His ruthless and cold behavior made people scared of him, he's the demi God of the States.

Many had heard his name but few had been privileged to see his face.

Going to the Denver Tower, they're about to work on a new movie, so his approval is needed before any other thing.

Gianna was just walking down the street with her box and tears in her eyes, she was at lost on what to do.

"Soon it would be school over and I'll have to go get Reid from school." She thought,

"How do I manage from here?" She asked herself, her thought was running wild she didn't notice the car coming from behind her.

Before she could get away, the car brushed her down scattering her files all over the road.

She fell down with great impact and bruised her knee.

Not knowing whether it was the pain or her problem, she sat on the floor with her head facing down, moisture filled her eyes.

As a kid she was met to face tough conditions, since no one wanted her, she began early to fend for herself till Tony finally brought her home.

She's not the type of girl to give up easily but now with the event of things,

Paying up Camille's debt and losing her job, she gave up and that brought great tears to her eyes, making her cry heartbreakingly,

Not far from her, the engine of the Porsche stopped running, the door opened and an exquisite and expensive leather shoe touched the floor,

Looking at the girl in front of him, Andre felt a tinge of familiarity towards her,

Do I know her before?

She looks like a twenty- or twenty-two-year-old wearing simple office outfit but a stunning beautiful body.

Even though her outfit looks bedraggled and cheap, it accentuated her beautiful body the more.

The little exposed part of her skin was so fair and flawless, Andre looked at her with great desire but it was masked with a cold profile.

Seeing her bruised knee, he dipped his hands into his pocket and brought out his wallet,

Shoving some dollar bills to her hands, she was still crying but didn't touch the money,

This woman is so greedy, he brought out a lot more bills and shoved it again, she didn't touch it.

Rather his rude attitude infuriated her the more.

Since he was young, he learnt something,
'Money can solve every problem.'

Seeing her refuse his money made him angrier, he took out his checkbook and wrote a blank cheque then handed it to her to fill it up with the amount she wants,

She took it and stood up,

Greedy woman, his head told him,

Facing him, he was shocked to see her,

'This is the same woman that did the surrogacy eight years ago. 'He was shocked to see her,

After that obscure night years ago, he couldn't forget her face, so beautiful and charming and her voice so soothing like music.

She tore the cheque into pieces and threw it at him,

"I might be poor but hate to be degraded, your money means absolutely nothing to me." She let the few dollar bills fall to the floor, then she gathered her files and limped away.

If it was to be any other person, he'll let them pay but looking at her, he was so astounded to see her again, he didn't get angered at her insult.

He stood there for like five minutes, watching her leave before he turned to his car.

But something caught his attention, she'd forgotten her ID card on the floor,

He bent and picked it up, putting it into his pocket, he walked back into his car, leaving the money there for some peasants to come and pick, he drove away.

Placing a call to his manager immediately,

"Aaron, I'm sending you some something now, I want you to gather information on the person from now till evening." He ordered, the man replied him and he hung up.

Now he has found her, he isn't going to let her slip away.