

### Matteo's pov.

"Matteo, did you get Mia's ring size?" Mrs Leonardi asked me.

"Yes Mrs Leonardi, Xavier secretly took her ring size and gave it to me." I replied.

Xavier gave Mia's ring size secretly without letting her know and we gave that size to the sales girl. After looking through hundreds of rings, finally we settled on a heart-shaped 10 carat diamond ring which would show Xavier's feelings and love for Mia. He wanted everything to be perfect for his proposal.

Anna didn't seem to be interested in selecting the ring. Mrs. Leonardi was asking her repetitively so many times but she shrugged her off by saying some excuses. So, I took initiative and I helped Mrs. Leonardi and gave my suggestion for selecting a ring for Mia though I had little knowledge about it.

After selecting the ring, Mrs. Leonardi was looking for some other jewellery. So I looked around the shop and found Anna was sitting in a corner with a frown on her face and looking bored as always. I took the opportunity to talk about her problems.

"Hey Anna, I've never met a girl who is not interested in jewellery," I said in my humorous tone.

"Then you haven't met me because I am not interested in these stupid things," She said, scowling.

I was amused to hear that. Because Anna, the girl I knew in my teenage years, was not like her. I still had no idea what happened to her.

She used to be very cheerful and one of the most popular girls at school. Almost every guy in our school had a crush on her and was ready to do anything to ask her out.

I never got a chance because, as much as I wanted to ask her for a date, I couldn't because of Xavier.

He was very protective of Anna. He considered her his real sister rather than a cousin.

They were both very close. I still remember that he used to agree to Anna's every demand.

"Matteo!" Mrs Leonardi called my name, making me come out of my memory lane.

"I am done. If you want, you can go back to work," she said.

"Then I'll take your leave. If you need any assistance, you can call me anytime." I said and glanced briefly at Anna. She was still busy on her phone. I left for the office. I had some pending work to complete till the end of the day.

through the mail and files. I worked here as chief executive officer ,the CEO, and was one of the members of the board of directors. I was also Xavier's right hand in his Mafia Empire.

Xavier trusted me as his brother and I worked really hard to fulfill his expectations. I never failed to accomplish any job given to me. I worked for this company on my own. I worked to pay back Xavier for all the favour he ever did to me. My job paid me well. Now I could afford anything. But something was still missing in my life. I didn't get any peace after getting everything my heart desired, like a missing piece of my heart was still to be found.

By the time I finished all the work it was late at night. Looking for some fun, I decided to go to a club. If it was any other day, Xavier would be accompanying me. But now he was no fun. He wanted to spend all his time after work with Mia. So I had to go alone. Maybe I'll get laid tonight.

Hell !

I needed to release some stress.

As soon as I reached the club, I looked around through the crowd to find a chick and my gaze went towards the bar. I found a familiar silhouette.

Curiously, I went near and found Anna was taking shot after shot and I frowned to see that she had a row of empty shot glasses in front of her. What the hell did she want to do with herself? Why was she drowning herself in alcohol?

“ Anna?” I called to her in a stern voice and snatched the shot glass that she picked up in her hand.

“What the hell are you doing? You already had this much alcohol. Are you planning to kill yourself tonight?” I frowned.

She pushed me. But, of course, I didn't move an inch because she was no match for my strength.

“Go away. Who the hell are you to tell me what I should do? Get the fuc.k lost.” And her dirty mouth again started spitting.

“No , I won't leave you alone like this, Anna.” I said and motioned the bartender to give me her bill.

“Why do you care?” She asked, staring into my eyes. I saw her eyes showed some emotion. “Because I am Xavier's cousin and you work for him, right?” Her eyes again turned cold.

friends back then in highschool." I tried to be composed as many emotions started rising in my heart because of her question.

"Liar! You are all liars. You are all opportunity seekers . That's why I hate people like you." She said with disgust in her eyes and I frowned to think about what I ever did wrong to her. She said this with so much hatred. It made me think why she was demeaning me.

"What do you mean by people like me?" I asked her, raising my eyebrows. She tried to stand up and stumbled. When I tried to support her, she flinched at my touch like it burned her skin.

"Don't try to touch me. I hate you, Matteo Romano. I hate you for breaking my heart."

**Matteo's pov.**

"Don't try to touch me. I hate you, Matteo Romano. I hate you for breaking my heart."

She yelled and I was shocked. I stood frozen and my mind was still processing the words that came out of her mouth.

"Anna? What do you mean by that?" I asked her, holding her elbow and turning her to face me.

But she jerked her hand away from my grip.

She started to walk away. I went in front of her. I couldn't let her just go away without giving me an answer.

"What do you mean by I broke your heart? Because I can never do that intentionally. Not in my entire life." I shook my head and said with honesty.

Her lips curled up to a corner and she smiled at me mockingly.

"Yeah, Mr Romano, it wasn't your fault. It's me who believed that you liked me. But you are only using me to be close to Xavier. So that you can get this position with money and power." She said, poking her finger at my chest.

I shook my head furrowing. What the hell was she talking about? I didn't have any clue who told her all these things and who filled her brain up with wrong information.

"Who told you all these things? These are all wrong blames. I never did that. I am not a man to use a girl to get money and position. I made it with my hard work." I tried to explain to her. But I guessed she wasn't listening, because number one, she was drunk, and and number two, she was very angry and yelling at me.

"I was so an i\*\*\*\*t to believe in you." And she started crying. Her tears rolling down from her eyes burned my heart. "You and your kind are the same. You all only want money and sex." She said, sobbing. I had never handled a situation like this, so I was very nervous and clueless about how to handle a crying girl who was drunk too.

"You are wrong, Anna. Not everyone is like this." I tried again.

"No, you gold diggers are the same. I have seen how Xavier was heartbroken when Diva cheated on him. Because his love was not enough for her." She wiped her eyes from the back of her palm and sniffed.

"...and so you did. You f\*\*\*\*d Sienna just because she was more beautiful and richer than me." And I had no clue who she was talking about. Now my head has started spinning. I didn't even remember Sienna.



gave her in the past and I tried to remember that girl, Sienna, but I couldn't. I actually never remembered the name of any girl after fuc.king them.

"Don't call me that. You lost your right to call me by that name." She snapped at me, hitting my chest.

I was okay with that. I could handle anything. I just needed her to calm down.

I looked around and everyone was watching us. If she kept behaving like this, it would be tomorrow's news headline. Because Anna was a billionaire. Everything she speaks or does would be news for the world.

So I started thinking about leaving this place and, of course, taking her with me.

"Anna, let's leave this place. If you keep behaving like that when everyone notices you being drunk and yelling at me, it will get you in trouble." I requested her

"No, I won't go anywhere with you." She stubbornly said.

"Please sugar, try and understand. We need to leave this place, OK." I said again, trying to reach for her hand, but she backed away.

"No. I said I wouldn't go anywhere. If you want, you can leave." She again shouted at me.

I sighed and said, "OK, if you don't want to come with me. I have no choice but to call Xavier. Because I can't leave you alone here in this state being over drunk. He will come and pick you up." I took out my phone from my pocket.

"Wait, don't call him." Anna said, holding my phone. Her hand was covering mine and I felt goosebumps rising on my skin.

I licked my dry lips before speaking, "So, are you ready to come with me?"

She left my hand and turned on her back, crossing her arms over her chest. God! She was a rich spoiled brat.

I cleared the bill and led her towards the parking lot.

I opened the passenger seat door for her. She slowly slid in. I fixed her safety belt.

Rounding the car, I came towards the driving seat and started the ignition. I looked from the corner of my eyes at her. She remained silent throughout the drive, looking outside through the window, staring into the dark. She looked lost and fragile sitting there.

First of all, I thought of dropping her home but I wanted some answers. I turned the car towards my place.

When I switched off the engine, she looked outside to take in the surroundings.

again and I swear she really had a dirty mouth. She used to curse every time.

Without replying to her, I opened the door and stepped down. I went towards her side and opened the passenger seat door. I slightly pulled her out of the car.

"Leave me ,you pervert." She said, slapping my hand.

"No sugar, until I get my answers." I said and dragged her towards my apartment. I lived in a plush complex where only the wealthiest people could afford to have a house. The surroundings were very quiet and nobody was paying attention to others' business.

I gently pushed her inside the elevator and pressed my floor button. She kept slapping my hand and cursing me with her dirty mouth.

When we reached my apartment, I quickly punched the security passcode and opened the door. I led her in. When the door was closed, I left her hand.

"You jerk. You pervert. How dare you bring me here forcefully?"

She again shouted at me, rubbing her wrist, which one I grabbed a moment earlier.

"Listen Anna. You accused me of being a gold digger and cheater, which is completely false. I just wanted you to clarify that I am nothing like that and I have no idea where you got this information." I said, shrugging my shoulders helplessly.

"False accusation? No Mr Romano. I am a hundred percent sure because I have seen everything with my own eyes," I said, with a disgusted voice.

My eyes widened in shock. What did she mean by seeing everything from her eyes?

"What have you seen , Anna? Tell me, dammit." Being impatient and irritated by her, I yelled at her and felt instantly sorry when I saw her cowering and shivering.

"I am sorry. I am really sorry. I didn't mean that." I took steps forward to soothe her, but she moved backward. I sighed. Why was she behaving as if I had some contagious illness and she would die when she came closer?

"Tell me what you have seen... please." I pleaded in a low and soft voice. I had to know why she hated me.

"When I came back home from college on my 18th birthday, I wanted to surprise you. I went directly to your apartment and I knew the passcode ,remember?" She said, looking at me.

I nodded. She knew everything about me and back then she had come so many times with Xavier to hangout at my place. We used to party and drink all night. Xavier always thought that bringing her to my place was the safest way to party with her whenever she pressed him not

"I opened the door and went inside. I heard a strange voice coming from your bedroom. With a pounding heart when I slowly opened the door of your bedroom, I saw you banging Sienna." She said, looking straight into my eyes.

Then I remembered that Sienna was our high school's most popular girl and every boy wanted to be with her and when she asked me to take her to my place I couldn't deny her. But I had no idea that this would hurt Anna so much. Otherwise, I would never have done that.

"This broke my heart into tiny pieces that never got fixed." Tears started streaming down her cheeks and her voice came out trembling.

"I really liked you, Matteo Romano. You were my first crush. I thought that I loved you because when I came to confess my feelings to you, and I found you with another girl. It broke me so deeply that nothing can get me fixed. I am still broke, Matteo. I'm trying to trust a man but can not. Just because of you." She sobbed, covering her face in her hands.

I stood there dumbfounded, still processing what just happened. God! She said she liked me. No. She loved me? And I had no idea about it. I was so blind and stupid not to see that beyond her sweet smile and friendship. Or I was afraid to face reality.

Because I was also scared of my feelings for her. I used to fuck random girls just to suppress my feelings for her. I didn't even care about my image as a player. I was so indulged in my dirty lifestyle that I couldn't see an innocent girl having a crush on me. While I had caught her so many times staring at me and blushing. I thought it was just hormones and my handsome face that made every girl look at me. God! I was so screwed.

I went forward and held her hands, removing them from her face. I needed to see her. But she punched me on my torso and I slightly dodged back.

"Why Matteo? Why?" She punched me again. I deserved this. I was ready to get hurt if it lessened her pain.

"Why did you show that you care for me? Why did you look at me like you had some feelings for me? Why did you act protective towards me like you owned me? Why did you give me all the false signals making me fall for you so hard that I had no turning back from there." She kept punching and shouting at me.

"Anna, listen to me. Listen to me once for God's sake." I tried to speak again but she was not ready to listen.

"Why did you come back to my life? Just go away. I don't want to see your face ever in my life. I hate you, Matteo Romano. I hate you more than anything in this world and it will never



She kept crying and sobbing. Not ready to listen to any of my words. She went towards the couch and sat down.

She kept cursing me and crying breathlessly. She rested her head on the armrest and closed her eyes. Tears were still coming out of her closed eyes.

After some time, I noticed her breathing became smooth and even. She stopped sobbing. She slept.

I picked her up in my arms and took her towards my bedroom, placing her down on my bed.

I pulled a cover over her. I kept standing there and staring at her beautiful tear-stained face. I sighed at thinking that tonight I had to sleep on the couch in my living room.



### Matteo's pov.

In the morning, I made two cups of coffee and went to wake up Anna. When I entered my bedroom, she was already up.

I cleared my throat.

"Good morning , sugar. Coffee for you." I extended the coffee mug towards her. She held the mug and took a sip without saying a word. I took a sip of my coffee.

I licked my lips, forming some words in my throat. I wanted to start a conversation about last night.

"Ummm... do you want to talk about last night?" I saw her stiffen.

She placed the coffee mug on the bedside table.

"No Mr. Romano. I don't want to talk about the past." She said, looking at me indifferently.

I nodded in understanding. Maybe she needed time.

"And.... I want you to forget whatever I said last night. Because I was drunk and I didn't really mean that. You mean nothing to me. Don't you ever think high of yourself that you can affect me and my life. No. No-one can control me. I will never give that right to anyone... Again." She said with a cold voice which made me wince.

"Though you were drunk , sugar. But everything you said.... you really meant that and I knew it because I have seen your tear filled eyes when you were pouring the feelings of your heart in front of me." I said, staring into her eyes and she averted her gaze.

"But this will not change anything between us. I really hate you and I feel nothing other than hatred for you. So it will be better for you to keep yourself at a distance and try not to come in front of me." She said between her gritting teeth.

"I will try Anna. I will try to stay away from you. If this makes you happy," I said and stood up.

"You freshen up and get ready. I will drop you at home." I said, walking towards the door.

I knew that she was too stubborn to listen to anything and she was not ready to remove the walls she had formed around her heart.

This made me feel more guilty because a sweet and cheerful girl became so cold and heartless just because of me. Was it really my fault? Because I was feeling the same pain as her.

x-----x

I woke up and found the most beautiful grey eyes staring at me.

"Hey, you woke up." I asked Xavier and got a kiss in reply.

"Yes, my love. Why did you wake up? I was enjoying watching you sleep." He said while showering sloppy kisses on my face.

"When did you become a pervert?" I asked, giggling.

He wrapped his arms around me, gripped me tight and said, "I am a pervert only for you, baby girl."

I tried to push him as he was attacking my neck with his hot and warm lips.

"Wait... wait... aren't you getting late for your office? Oh..." I asked while moaning when he nipped the soft skin of my neck.

"No, I don't have to go to the office today. I have a day off." He said, inhaling in the crook of my neck.

"Really? And what is the occasion?" I asked, massaging his scalp.

"We have to attend a party in the evening." He said casually.

"What kind of a party?" I asked curiously, because he had never taken a day off for a party.

"It's a very special party and we have to make an appearance." He said, staring onto my lips and not looking into my eyes. I found it awkwardly weird. He was avoiding looking into my eyes.

"Ok then. What will you do for the whole day at home?" I asked, stroking my finger on his stubble jaw.

"I will spend my whole day with you." He grinned like he had won the lottery.

"Oh, no... no... no... I have to go to school. I can't miss classes as my exams are going to start in a few days." I refused his idea.

His mouth fell open like he didn't believe that I could refuse him.

"Come on baby girl. Can't you miss your classes for me?" He asked so sweetly.

"No, because I want to study for my test. I can't afford my grades to fall." I told him.

"Angel, don't worry about it. I will speak to your dean and he will be arranging a special test for you." Now it was my time of gaping at him.

"No, you won't do anything like that. I want it to be fair to everyone, because every student works so hard to get marks in exams and why should I get any extra favour? Just because I am your wife. Shouldn't I be supposed to study like a normal student?" I argued.

with his smug voice. I pushed him slightly and he didn't budge.

"You are so conceited," I said, and he laughed shamelessly.

"Of course I am. Because I have reached where this whole world wants to reach." He said with a smirk and I knew what he meant.

I have seen him working hard to grow and maintain his position and wealth.

"OK, I'll take a day off for you. But please don't ask any favours from me. I will work hard to get grades in the tests. You need not to do anything or ask any favours from the teachers." He nodded and I took a breath in relief.

To my surprise, Xavier cooked for me. He dismissed all the cooks and made breakfast for us. He made a heart shaped pancake and a heart shaped omelette for me. I was amused to see how he became a love sick man who was ready to do anything to please his beloved.

He made my favourite strawberry milkshake and I was really very happy to be pampered by my darling husband.

Xavier had arranged a stylist and makeup artist for tonight's party. He had chosen a white gown for me and he was going to wear a black tuxedo.

"Why have you selected a white gown for me?" I asked when the makeup artist was giving the final touch and Xavier was standing in a corner staring at me.

"Because I want you to wear that gown for me," he said, smiling.

"What kind of party would it be and who else is coming? You are not giving me any information. How will I prepare myself for that party?" I complained.

"You don't need to worry about yourself. Because when you are at a party everyone should be focused on you. You are so beautiful, my baby girl. You're hard to be unnoticed." He said, making me shy.

"You know very well how to convince me of anything," I sighed. The makeup artist also left after doing his work perfectly.

"Ok. If you are ready, can we leave." He came closer, leaning only a breath away from my lips.

"Yes." My voice came out breathlessly.

He teasingly kissed the corner of my mouth and pulled away, stretching his hand to offer me. I curled my arms around his elbow and we proceeded towards the parking lot.

When we reached the party venue I was surprised to see that all the media were present

was still not used to facing the media. I hid my face slightly on Xavier's chest as he proceeded towards the inside.

Inside I saw Xavier's parents, my dad, Andrea, and Kara were also present. Xavier's uncle, aunt and his cousins were also there.

Matteo came grinning. "Welcome to the party Mia. I hope you like the decorations."

I glanced around and nodded in agreement.

He took us towards a corner.

"Baby girl, get ready for tonight's surprise." Xavier said, making me gasp.



### **Xavier's pov.**

"Baby girl , get ready for tonight's surprise." I said smiling, not able to hide my excitement. I watched Mia's expression carefully.

Mia gasped and her eyes widened as she swallowed.

"Surprise?" She asked, frowning. "But you said that we were going to attend a party?"

"Yes baby girl. But you need to wait for what comes next." I said and, holding her hand, took her towards the centre.

I stopped a waiter and picked up a glass.

I clinked the glass to divert everyone's attention.

When everyone gathered around us, I threw my glance over the crowd. I saw my family and Mia's family were also there, including all our business partners and important personalities who were present at our wedding back then, also came today to witness this occasion.

All the media was ready to cover every moment of this occasion.

I cleared my throat before speaking.

"Good evening everyone and thank you for joining us. You must be thinking why I suddenly planned this party." I paused and looked towards Mia . She was watching me with her curious eyes.

"I want to share this precious moment with you all and the whole world. I never thought that I would ever meet a girl that would make me change completely, that I would ever be able to trust someone. I never thought that I would ever be swooned over by a girl who I never knew before. But it happened and it really happened on the very first day when I saw her. Her beautiful innocent blue eyes stole my heart, which I never knew I had under my rib cage."

I held Mia's hand and brought her forward, making her face the camera. This event was telecast live. She was still watching me with a surprised expression on her face. I continued speaking.

"She made me feel alive again. I never believed in love." I chuckled thinking about the old me.

"I never thought that I could fall in love. But it happened and this miracle girl made all the impossible things possible. Though she is my wife, I never got a chance to ask her officially."

I went on my knees. Mia gasped, covering her mouth, her eyes widened and her eyebrows shot up.

Because I love you so much, Mia Xavier Leonardi, and I won't believe that I can have a life without you. Because you are my life. Believe me that no one can love you more than me and I will make sure of it," I said and she giggled in spite of her eyes becoming wet. I said further, "will you be my wife and mother of my children not only for this life, but every time we take birth I only want you as my wife and my better half."

I stayed there waiting for her response.

She slowly nodded her head and whispered "Yes, Mr. Leonardi, I will marry you again and I love you too."

I took out the ring box from my pocket and picked up the heart shaped diamond ring and slid it on Mia's finger.

Everyone around us started clapping and shouting congratulations.

I was feeling so many mixed emotions swirling in my heart and I couldn't hold myself. I took Mia in my arms and I kissed her.

I again had an announcement to make. So I faced the crowd and gestured to them to be silent for my next announcement.

"I would like to happily announce that..." I looked into Mia's eyes and she was looking at me smiling so sweetly. It made me forget about the announcement for a second. I kissed her forehead and proceeded to announce it further.

"...we are expecting our first child."

And with this announcement everyone again clapped and greeted congratulations. The media were asking about the date and gender of the baby. But I shrugged them off, saying that it was too soon to reveal anything.

People kept coming to us to congratulate us personally. After meeting each and every person, we headed towards our parents.

Mia's father was also there. As soon as he saw Mia, he came forward.

"How are you Mia? Are you taking proper care of yourself? Otherwise, I will take you home to keep you in front of my eyes throughout your whole pregnancy."

Though he was facing Mia, I knew that he had said more to me as a warning. I didn't like it when he wanted to prove that I was not good enough for Mia. But I couldn't offend him. Because last time we fought, it caused Mia to be stressed and upset. Though she didn't say anything, I knew it affected her. I couldn't take any chance to make my Mia sad, even if I had to

"What? You already knew about her pregnancy and you didn't tell me." Andrea complained to her husband. I sometimes didn't get what her problem was.

I could feel the change in Antonio and Andrea's relationship. Something was really off. But I thought it might be something in their relationship. Because every marriage has ups and downs.

"I was about to tell you, Andrea. Because I want to bring Mia home for the rest of her pregnancy. She needs her family." Antonio replied to his wife.

"You don't need to worry about it, Antonio. Because we are now her family and I am personally taking care of Mia and trust me, she will be fine with us rather than at your house. Because we all knew how you treated her before her marriage."

My mum replied to Antonio, making him red from embarrassment. I wanted to scream in happiness that I was proud of my mum. She made him shut his mouth. I understood his concern that he was Mia's father. But every time he behaved like he cared for her more than me, it got on my nerves.

My mum hugged Mia. "I am so happy, my dear. You came into my son's life like sunshine. I am so happy that Xavier is married to you. And the new addition to our family needs a real celebration." My mum said and motioned to a crew member and they brought a huge cake on a trolley. This was also a surprise for me. I looked at Matteo and he was grinning. So he knew about this surprise. He was now on mom's team.

The cake was half pink and half blue and consisted of three tall tiers.

Holding Mia's hand, I cut the cake and picked up a small piece. I fed her. She also picked up a piece and fed me by pushing the piece into my mouth. I caught her fingers between my lips and licked them clean .

She blushed, becoming shy , making me laugh. She was still not used to my PDA.

Anna came to congratulate me.

"Xavier , this cake was Anna's idea." My mum revealed the secret.

"That's really sweet , Anna. I appreciate it." Saying, I hugged her and kissed her on the top of her head. I knew she tried to be strong and cold in front of everyone. But inside she still had fear in her heart of being betrayed by people. She wanted to shut herself away from everyone in fear of getting hurt again.

"Thank you, Anna, for making this day special for me." Mia thanked Anna.



smile to his face." She said, being indifferent towards Mia.

"Anna, have you forgotten your manners? If Mia thanked you, you have to show some manners. No, I don't want you to ever speak to my wife like that. If you really respect and love me, I expect you to give the same love and respect to my wife." I said to her. She glared at me for a long moment before she nodded her head and left without saying anything.

"Are you OK, baby girl? If you are feeling tired, we can go back home or you can rest here also." I asked Mia when I saw her smile fade.

"No, I am alright and I am really enjoying this party." She replied with a bright smile appearing again on her face.

"OK, then let's have some food you have been hungry for so long and it's so unusual of you." I said with humour in it.

"You stop calling me a foodie. It's your baby who makes me feel hungry all the time. So I have to munch on something for the whole day." She pouted.

"Alright." I placed my hand on her stomach

"Baby, stop bothering your mum. We both can't afford to anger her." I whispered near her stomach and she slapped my arm, giggling.

I was so happy. Finally, I could have my own family with the love of my life. I felt like the luckiest man in this world. After having Mia, I got everything in my life which I always craved for. Her love was enough to make me feel the richest man in this world. She was my hope, my sunshine. I will never let her go, not even for a moment away from me.



## Andrea's pov

When I came to this party, I had no idea that Xavier was going to propose to Mia again. This wasn't in my plan. I thought that Xavier would make her life hell and when he gave her divorce, she would be more broken and nearly dead and that would give me immense satisfaction.

But everything went the opposite of my plan. He was going to marry her again and they were expecting a child together. I couldn't see her family growing. How could it be possible that she managed to carry Xavier's child?

And on the top of this, Antonio knew about this and he didn't tell me. Nowadays, he had become something different and I still can't get it.

I looked at Mia. She was glowing, radiant and smiling cheekily. It increased the hatred for her in my heart a hundred times more. If I had known that this would be going to happen in the future, I would never have told Kara to back away from marrying Xavier.

Though what happened in the past could not be reversed. But I can decide their future.

"You have seen Xavier propose and confess his love for Mia ,mum. Now what will you do? What are you going to say about it? If you didn't stop me that day , I would have created problems in Mia's life and Xavier would have been proposing to me." Kara came to me fuming in anger and said out of jealousy. This stupid girl sometimes talked without thinking. I sometimes doubt that she was my daughter if I hadn't given birth to her. She didn't have any patience.

"Shut up, Kara. I am also not happy with that news. I am already angry. Don't put oil in it. Or else you have to deal with my anger." I said, glaring at her. Then I saw Diva Rossi watching the couple with her envious eyes.

This sight made me feel good and my mood brightened up. I got the pawn I needed to play my game.

Mia didn't deserve this happiness. I would make Antonio believe that Mia was nothing less than a piece of s\*\*t and also the Valerio Empire did not belong to her. Mia had to give all the things back she didn't deserve to possess. Valerie Empire did belong to my daughter. I couldn't see her happy with Xavier. I would make him leave Mia and throw her out of his life like crap, when I would show him and prove that she wasn't worth his love.

A plan instantly came into my mind and I headed towards Diva Rossi.

"Hello my dear. Let me introduce myself. I am Andrea Valerio, stepmother of Mia Valerio."

She took my hand and nodded, saying, "yes, I know you, Mrs Valerio. I am Diva Rossi."

I nodded my head.

"So, are you happy to hear that they are going to marry again?" I wanted to get the reaction out of her.

She rolled her eyes with a scowl on her face. She spat like poison, "Do I look like I'm happy with the news? I haven't even gone to them to congratulate them. Because I don't have the heart to give my love to other women. If I hadn't made a mistake in the past, he would be mine." She said with a sigh.

"It's never too late, my dear. You can still have Xavier. You just need to go according to a plan." I smirked and said to her.

"What do you mean?" She asked, raising her eyebrows. I leaned closer and moved my eyes around to check whether anyone was closer to hearing us.

"I have a plan. If you want, I can help you. But I want help in return." I made a proposition.

She frowned. "Why the hell do you want to help me and why should I trust you?"

"I told you that I want something in return and you can trust me because you have no other choice." I stated the fact which she could not see, that only I could help her to get Xavier back.

"Ok, tell me what you have in your head?" Diva asked, crossing her arms over her chest.

"Not here." I gestured my eyes towards the people around us and she nodded in understanding. Anyone could us and I didn't afford to take a chance. I had to do something quickly otherwise everything would slip out of my hand and I would be left with nothing but to mourn, to see Mia happy with her family.

"I want a commitment that you won't back out from your words and will help me to get what I want, if I help you to get Xavier back in your life." I said, as I needed assurance that she would be with me throughout all the execution of my plan and she agreed.

We left the party and went to a local restaurant where no one from rich and renowned families used to come. We can discuss here peacefully about our next step to reach the goal.

"I cheated on Xavjjer and I regret this for my whole life. He will never forgive me. I don't have any idea what I will do to make him forget all the things and accept me again." Diva kept blabbering her story in which I was not even interested. But I had to seem to pay attention and show some sympathy if I wanted her in my team.

to see your love and he is blind not to see your beauty beyond Mia's ugly face. He will realise his mistake one day and then he will accept you wholeheartedly. But you can't sit and wait to grow old until that day. So you have to work on a plan to make him realise his mistake by rejecting you. You have to make him realise what he is missing by not accepting your love." I showed some concern and she fell for it.

"Yes, I think you are right. I have to do something. I can't sit back and see that shitty girl having my Xavier. He was always mine. I will get him back. No matter if I have to go to extreme limits." She said, seemed to think about something and gritted her teeth.

And I had the reaction which I wanted to get out of her. I wanted to make her feel the anger and passion to take revenge and she was going very well according to my plan.

"But I couldn't understand why you want to help me and what do you want me to do in return?" She asked me.

*Oh dear! You can never know my real intention.*

But I had to give her a reason. So I said,

"Because I know Mia very well. She is just like her mother. She is not right for Xavier and she is not worth having those privileges which she is getting by being Xavier's wife. She doesn't deserve to be an heiress of the Valerio Empire." I paused to see Diva's reaction and I saw hatred for Mia in her eyes.

"She is very smart and manipulates everyone. So that they fall for her innocent face. Because of her, my daughter is also not going to get anything from the Valerio property. She also convinced her father, my husband, to give everything to her that belongs to my daughter, Kara. I want her to suffer and die." I finished my sentence and I saw Diva gasp.

"What do you mean by that? You must not be serious, right? She is pregnant and carrying Xavier's child. If you think of causing harm to her, Xavier won't leave you alive. You know, he is very dangerous and heartless when it comes to his enemies," she said, and it made my blood boil in anger. Here I was trying to help that dumb girl and she was threatening me instead of helping me to think of a plan.

"This is why I need your help, Diva. Trust me, you are not helping by giving me a warning about Xavier. You are supposed to help me rather than make me scared." I said, glaring at her. She was really trying my patience.

"I am sorry. I am just scared and you should not go against Xavier. He is ruthless and kills without thinking for a moment. I know him very well." She spat the gutter again and I was

**"Listen, if you are not ready to fight for your love, I cannot help you. I don't want to waste my time by thinking of foolish assumptions," I said, and was about to leave the cafe.**

**Then she said, "Ok.. ok.. I am ready to help you if you promise me to get my Xavier back. Tell me , what's your plan?"**

**That's it. Now she said what I wanted to hear. I smiled at her and leaned closer to tell her about my plan.**



**Xavier's pov.**

After the party, everyone came to our place. My mum wanted to spend some more time with Mia and so my dad had to come with her. Matteo also came because he said that he had something to discuss with me.

After chatting for hours, my mum said to Mia, "You need to rest now , my dear. Come, I'll take you to your room."

I also stood up and was ready to go to my room but my mum stopped me.

"Where are you going, Xavier?"

"I am also going to my room, Mum. I need to rest too." I said, shrugging my shoulders.

"Oh, no... no.." She shook her head and clicked her tongue. "You stay here, my boy, because she needs to rest after a long and tiring party and I know if you are in the room, she won't get to rest." My mum said bluntly, making me blush. Mia giggled.

My mum and Mia both went towards the bedroom.

My dad was in the bar having some drinks with Matteo. He usually didn't talk to me.

I walked to them .

"Matteo! You wanted to discuss something. Tell me." I said, looking at Matteo and completely ignoring my father.

"Yeah, Xavier..." He said and seemed to hesitate for a minute. I understood that he wanted to talk in private.

"Let's go to my study," I offered.

And excusing himself to my father , he followed me to my study. I let him in and closed the door.

"So tell me, what do you want to discuss that cannot wait till morning?" I asked him, offering a seat.

"Did you know about Anna?" He asked and I furrowed.

" What about Anna? " I asked back.

He sighed and said, "Did you know that she had a crush on me?"

*Oh s\*\*t.*

I never wanted to talk about that . Not with Matteo.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Matteo's pov.**

everything.

"Tell me, Xavier. Did you know about that?" I pressed.

Xavier stood and walked a few feet away, facing his back to me. He wasn't looking into my eyes. This meant that he knew everything but he didn't tell me.

"You knew about it and you didn't tell me. Why Xavier? Do you not trust me enough to share this information with me which is also related to me?" I went in front of him to look into his eyes.

"What do you want to hear, Matteo? That after knowing my cousin had a heart break because of you, why didn't I confront you? Because if Anna is my sister, you are a brother to me and I know that it wasn't your fault. She had one-sided love which ultimately would have resulted in heartbreak." He said, throwing his hands to his sides.

My mouth fell open. For how long did he know about it?

"But still you were supposed to come to me and talk to me. I could not sleep since Anna told me everything. Because I feel guilty for making her feel so bad and broken. Can't you see that she still hasn't come out of it?" I complained.

"Anna talked to you?" He asked in disbelief and I nodded.

"Trust me, I tried to talk to her so many times. In fact, I tried to fix her and to set her to date so many gentlemen. But she is not interested in relationships and I really don't have any idea how to convince her. I think she still needs time to recover, to get over her heartbreak." He kept explaining himself. But it didn't justify that he hid something so important from me which would have also turned my life if I had known that on time. Anna and I would have been together.

"Still Xavier, I didn't expect this from you. You needed to come and tell me about this. I should have known that. Because of me, a lively girl was sad and became indifferent," I retorted.

"I don't blame you for this. It wasn't your intention. That's all..." He raked his hand in his hair and continued, "...That's all our fate."

"But Xavier, maybe if I had known that she liked me. Then it would be different. Our life would have been different." I yelled in frustration.

"What are you saying, Matteo? I have known you for a long time. You are not a man made for a relationship. You never considered any girl serious in your life. How could I expect you to be with my sister? While I know that you are a player," He shouted and paused, closing his

"And you are saying this! Have you forgotten that you were also like me a few months ago , before your marriage? But you have changed for Mia , haven't you? Then why can't you expect a change in me?" I fought back.

"I have been in a relationship before and you know that. But you have never been in a relationship. You never wanted to. You only look for fun and never want to settle down in your life. What will you expect from me if I come to you and beg her to please accept my sister? No Matteo, I can never do that." He said, making me hate myself. My best friend, my brother, had this opinion about me.

"And what about Anna? How will you fix her because she was too deeply broken to be fixed, Xavier? You don't understand. If you had come to me , I would have helped you to handle the situation better and maybe we would have found some solution to this and Anna would not have been like this." I said in a defeated voice.

"No Matteo, I can never force anything on you. It's your life and you have the full right to live it as you wish. I could never have forced my sister on you , just because you're my best friend. You don't owe me anything and don't worry, I never blamed you for this . OK?" He patted my shoulder.

I knew that he really meant all this that he said. I knew that he loved me as his brother. He had done so many things for me. But he still didn't understand me very well and I didn't blame him. Because I didn't know myself so well. I never wanted to be in a relationship. I always wanted to live like a free soul. But after Anna confessed her love for me. I wanted to go back into my past and restart my life by being committed to her.

Fu.ck

What's wrong with me? I was happy in my life and had no complaints. Then why did I suddenly feel like I never wanted to live the life that I had lived until now?

I felt as if everything was meaningless without having her in my life. Why did she suddenly become so important to me?

"I think making her busy is the only solution to make her forget about her past. As you know, she has always been a very sensitive girl. I wanted to get some medical assistance to cure her mental health. But she is not ready for that." He said, making me shocked.

"What do you mean that she needs medical assistance for her mental health?" I asked, holding my breath.

"She had been in depression and was suicidal after her heartbreak. Enzo and Lorenzo



being intentionally guilty.

A happy- go- lucky , cheerful girl went into depression and I had no idea. I really wanted to do anything to make her happy again, to make her forget her pain and suffering. But I had no clue how I would do that.

“Xavier, please tell me, I want to help.” I pleaded with him because it would also help me to come out of my guilt .

“It's OK, Matteo. You don't have to worry about her. She is my sister and I can take care of her. Uncle Francesco is expanding his business in Rome and I suggested he let Anna lead his business in Rome.” Xavier stated. “This will also help her to forget everything when she will be busy handling a new growing business.”

“You mean she will move to Rome?” I asked stupidly . Of course you douche. It was clear from Xavier's words that he wanted her to stay away from me. But still I wanted to hear it from Xavier and he nodded in reply.

Hearing that she was leaving Florence and I wouldn't be able to see her again , made my heart feel stinging pain and sorrow. I was screwed. Because, without any valid reason why, I had a feeling like if she left I would never see her again. Why did my stupid heart want her to stop? Why did I feel like if I couldn't tell her my feelings right now, I could never confess?