

Everything is Going Down

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Tristin

"I heard you met Ethan earlier." I say as she stops beside the car and turns to face me.

Her eyes widen, and lower to my chest, a nervous look flashing across her face. I clench my jaw, mask the anger behind a hurt look, and keep my eyes on her.

After witnessing her almost jumping down from that building, I have been doing my best to remain composed in front of her. One tick—one wrong move from me, and she might start climbing the railings again.

She doesn't say anything to me and slips inside the car, taking her spot in the passenger seat.

I glance at Luca who is standing beside another black car, watching me. He nods in my direction and knocks on the window of the car, instructing the two men inside about what needs to be done.

I will have to come back after I send her home, but the guards must remain outside the penthouse and ensure that Ethan doesn't catch her off guard again.

After I am satisfied with the arrangement, I slide beside her and start the engine.

"I—" She starts, in a low voice. "I was waiting for Luca and Ethan just showed out of nowhere."

My grip tightens over the steering wheel. He didn't just show up. Luca told me about the photos he showed her.

The question is...

Why is she not asking me about them?

Does she believe him? I shoot her lowered head a side glance and shake my head.

It seems she believed every word he said.

A vein throbs in my neck as I pull the car out of the driveway and focus on that.

I already took care of my so-called cousin for attempting to ruin my family and shipped him off to the other corner of the world so he can suffer for a lifetime and reflect on what he did.

The older Whitlocks can follow him there and pay for what they did.

But the matter of Lily Whitlock is still undecided. I don't want her to die without serving her purpose.

Perhaps, it's time to take Lily out and have the mad dog do the rest of the work. If he is not around, he won't be able to get to Grace again.

But...

I look at her once more, to find her engrossed in thoughts while she stares down at her hands.

What do I do about her now?



I wanted to tell her everything myself, but it doesn't matter anymore.

She knows. And she is planning something already.

" It will get...better. " Grace whispers all of a sudden, making me stiffen.

" What? "

" Everything...will be better. " She repeats, picking her head and fixing her gaze on the side of my face. " so don't worry and don't make that face. "

I look at my knuckles which are turning white before loosening my grip around the steering wheel.

" Is that what you are worried about? " I wonder, my heartbeat picking its pace.

You are worried about me instead of about yourself when you know I lied?

If I had seen her do something like this for Ethan, I would say she is too foolish for her own good but...when she acts like this towards me, what do I say to her?

" After seeing how serious the situation is...I can't help it. " She whispers, still staring at me.

I take my eyes off the road for a moment and look her way, my heart missing a quick beat.

She has a soft look in her eyes, a subtle look of sympathy and understanding that makes me turn away faster than I wanted.

" You know, don't you? " I swallow and mumble.

" What? " She whispers, her voice dropping even more.

I stop the car in front of the tower and stare out of the windshield. There is something Sebastian said when I found out about Mom.

' You can't keep humans in a cage. Because they might stay imprisoned physically but their mind will still wander, their hearts will still waver, and their soul will yearn to be someplace else, with someone else. No matter how you try to keep them, they will always slip away. '

Treating them like humans is important when you want someone to be on your side. Making sure that their mind, heart, and soul stay in one place with their body is what helps keep people by one's side.

" I was impatient. Your ill-fated relationship was bound to end but it was taking you so long to get over it...to finally understand that you have no place in his life. " I tell her honestly.

I don't look at her, knowing what she must be thinking. Even when we didn't know each other like we do now, she asked me not to lie to her. But I had already lied.

She even gave me a chance to tell her about it, but I didn't. Even after knowing what pain she must endure, I kept using her to get what I wanted and kept lying endlessly.

I could have come clean when she was leaving and maybe, she would have taken that time to get over it like she did with all other things...

But I didn't.

There was no way she would forgive me now, right?

"Ethan was not with Lily...and he didn't want your assets. He was only ...getting played by Lily while he was confused about his feelings towards you." Here it is, the truth.

Now, I can only expect her to run back to Ethan. He didn't cheat on her. He didn't want to use her for his gain like I did. All his emotions—his anger, his love, his pain—all of it was real from the start while it took me too long to realize what she meant to me and what I was doing wrong.

She knows that now.

She asked if I would let her go if she wanted to leave me.

The answer is...yes.

Against what my mind and heart keep telling me, I will let her go. But not back to Ethan. I will let not him hurt her again.

If she wants out, she can find a man better than me, and not lose herself to someone like him again.

"I was not...expecting this. I thought there were no lies between us." She mumbles before I hear the door open and sense her getting

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down.

"What now?" I blurt before I can stop myself, but I don't dare look at her.

"Now you should face what you did, Tristin." She replies and closes the door harshly.

I close my eyes and sigh before looking in her direction. She is strolling inside, her hunched shoulders grabbing my attention.

I shouldn't have been a part of her suffering. I curl my fingers around the steering wheel and watch her until she disappears behind the glass entrance.

My phone starts ringing. I pick it up and hear Luca's voice from the other side.

"Ms. Roberto is out of control again. Madam wants you to come here, Boss."

I hang up after listening to him and drop my phone on the seat beside me.

Everything is...going down...

And despite holding all the power in the world, I can not fix any of it. I can not change Ania's heart or appease Grace's anger.

But I can make sure that no one hurts them again. My eyes burn as I dial Luca's number.

He picks up on the first ring.

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" Let Lily go and make sure...Ethan gets to know about it. " 1

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