

The Devil's Fire by Mariam El-Hafi Chapter 151 - 160

Damiano

"We'll isolate them and keep them awake. They will talk when exhaustion hit them." Antonio reported to me.

"Good." I replied over the phone. I sat down on the couch in the living room as I didn't want to disturb Althaia, who was asleep. I flipped open the sketchbook she had on the coffee table, curious to see what that mind of hers had created.

"You should get some sleep. You're a pain in the ass when you're sleep-deprived." Antonio commented. Before I could tell him off, I heard Rafaelle in the background.

"Is that Damiano? Let me talk to him real quick." I heard some rustling before he got on the phone.

"Damiano! Damiano, please, just please listen to me!"

"What do you want?"

"Please, get laid!" He cried out desperately.

"You've got too much pent-up sexual frustration, and all kinds of frustrations there exist. So please, for the love of God, get laid! I'm tired! I am so tired! I haven't worked this much in my life, and you have been up in everyone's ass, not giving us a break. I want a break! So, please, stay there for a week, have lots of sex and sleep, and come back happy. I'm begging you on behalf of everyone!" He continued, making me chuckle at him for being dramatic.

"I'm fine."

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"He's laughing! Guys, he's laughing! My man got laid!" He shouted in happiness, making me shake my head at him.

“Shut up. You can all take a break until I come back.” It sounded like Rafaelle cried out in relief at my words as he continued to shout to the others in pure contentment.

“Tell Althaia I say thank you. She has some serious power over you, and I’m going to kiss her feet in gratitude.”

“Fuck off.” I hung up, only to get a message that Arianna would be here soon.

I went outside just in time to see her pull with two of my men. I had assigned security to everyone to be on the safe side.

“You could at least have put a shirt on.” Arianna scrunched up her face but it slowly faded away when she saw my expression.

“You have some fucking nerve.” I sneered at her. She crossed her arms in defense and frowned.

“You had no business in coming here, and telling her to stay away.” I gritted my teeth, trying to contain my anger. I didn’t want to raise my voice and wake up Althaia.

“I wasn’t about to have you keep suffering. She hurt you and left you alone!” I stepped closer, towering over her.

“You don’t know what the fuck is going on. If you think I was suffering, then how the fuck do you think she feels? She was the one who was pregnant. She went through physical pain as well when it happened, blaming herself for losing the baby. So no, you had no business in meddling in my relationship, understood?” I talked to her firmly with a glare. Arianna

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looked away from me, knowing she was in the wrong.

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“Don’t think I will turn a blind eye to this because you’re my sister. From today, you will be trapping the streets.” Arianna turned to look at me in disbelief.

“You can’t be serious?! Do you know how humiliating that is?”

“Good.” I looked over to my men.

“Make sure she does her job.”

“Yes, Boss.” I turned around and went inside, not sparing her another look.

I tossed my phone on the couch, resuming to the sketchbook, and flipped the pages to see what Althaia had created. She was very talented when it came to drawing, and it showed as I looked at the sunsets, and many different drawings of her kitten playing around with toys. I stopped when I came across a particular drawing, having me smile.

It was a drawing of me.

I kept going through the pages, seeing more drawings of me. I was impressed with every single detail she had managed to put on paper, even my tattoos were perfectly drawn. I came across a small drawing, running my thumb over it as I looked at it. The loss was still painful. My chest always tightened whenever I thought about it, and I couldn't imagine what it must have been for her. I should have told her from the beginning, to reassure her that it was in no way her fault. It could never have been.

I looked at the drawing of a tiny baby curled up with small angel wings. On the paper were a couple of dried spots. She

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cried when she drew this.

I let out a sigh as I closed the sketchbook, thinking how it was possible to love something so fast, only to be gone in a blink of an eye.

“Damiano?” Althaia called out for me, her tone in a panic, and I quickly made my way to the bedroom. I saw her sitting up on the bed, visibly relaxing when she saw me.

“What’s wrong?” I took a quick scan around the room as I approached her.

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“Oh, nothing...” She said, almost embarrassed, and started to blush.

“I just thought you left me.” She mumbled, now obviously feeling embarrassed. I smiled as I got in bed, pulling her close to me as she snuggled into my chest.

“I’m here.” I placed a kiss on top of her head as she relaxed in my arms.

“I was on the phone with Antonio and I didn’t want to wake you up.”

“Have I been asleep for long?”

“No, just an hour. Go back to sleep.”

“In a bit, I want to watch the sunrise.” Althaia got out of bed, her movements a bit slow as I watched her.

“Is it bad?” I asked, still watching her as she grabbed some clothes. I knew she was sore as I had to go easy on her after the first time.

“Nothing I can’t handle.” She winked, having me look at her amused. She got dressed and called after Kiara to get out. I got dressed too and followed her out to the back porch to watch the sunrise with her.

Althaia was not a morning person and definitely loved her sleep. It did surprise me when Ava and Cecilia reported that they would see her early in the morning every day to watch the sunrise. She was still my innocent Althaia but I felt she had changed in a way, and not in a bad way.

She had become a much stronger person.

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The sun was slowly making an appearance on the horizon, and I watched Althaia run after her kitten on the beach. She was laughing as she played with her, and then they switched roles, the kitten ran as fast as its tiny paws could after her.

My gaze never left her, smiling as I admired how carefree and happy she looked right now. I hadn’t even spent a whole day with her, and she had already managed to get rid of all the tension in my body.

Shit, she has me fucking whipped.

And I fucking loved it.

Althaia was crouched down, giving pets and scratches to Kiara, who was purring in joy. She straightened up when she saw me coming, giving me a loving smile when I wrapped my arms around her. I saw just how bright and green her eyes were with the sun's streams shining on her face, making her look even more breathtaking than she already was.

"I am so out of shape." She said a little out of breath. Her head was on my chest as we faced the water.

"You're in better shape than you think." I looked at her as she raised a brow.

"How so?" I softly cupped her chin, leaning down to her with a smirk on my lips.

"The way you rode my dick earlier says it all." Her face instantly got flushed, looking at me with wide eyes. She was too stunned to speak before she lightly smacked repeatedly as I laughed at her.

my chest

"Why would you even say that?" She looked cute as she

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scowled at me, trying to fight through the embarrassment I had caused her with my words.

"My innocent Althaia, nothing to be embarrassed about." I laughed.

"Did you have to say it like that?!"

"Say it like what? That you ride my dick good?" I continued to tease her, watching her drop her jaw as her face got even more flushed.

"You are seriously too much!" She exclaimed and tried to get away from me. I held her in place, wrapping my arms around her and promising to stop teasing her. For now, at least.

It was peaceful as we watched the sunrise, bright colors filling the sky and the sound of waves filling the silence. I kept stealing glances at her, seeing her with a soft look on her face and smiling.

“You like it here.” I said and she faced me.

“I do.”

“We can stay for a few days if you want?”

“Really? We don’t need to go back right away?”

“No. Besides, I was told to stay away for a few days.” I was more than fine staying here with her with no interruption.

“I’m guessing it was Rafaelle.” Althaia chuckled and I nodded.

“Who else. He’s the only one who loves to complain.” I sighed. He was an annoying piece of shit and even though he was my cousin, I have never wanted to shoot someone as many times

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as I have wanted with him. One day it was going to happen if he kept annoying me.

“He sure does.” She said amused before letting out a blissful sigh.

“You know, I never thought I would like a beach house this much.”

“Let’s get one.” I told her. She raised her brows in surprise.

“For you and me.” And when we were ready, for our children too.

Children.

Fuck yeah, I would want more than one with her. I wanted to see her and our children running around on the beach, laughing and being happy like I had witnessed her doing with Kiara.

"I would love that." She smiled as I caressed her cheek before looking at the water again.

"I have a question." Althaia broke the silence after a while.

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"I'm listening."

"I'm just curious... You're not with me because I look like Sienna, or resemble her in any way? Because that's fucked up, and makes me feel like I'm Ana from Fifty Shades of Grey." I turned her around to face me, raising a brow in amusement.

"No, you're nothing alike. Not in appearance or personality- wise." I said and she seemed to relax by my words.

"She had short hair, brown eyes, and was the quiet type. She ever only spoke when spoken to and was very obedient. And you? You are one fucking chaotic woman, who never listens and loves to drive me fucking insane. So no, you're far from alike."

"That's such an exaggeration! I'm not chaotic and I do listen!" Althaia looked at me offended and I gave her a blank look.

"Okay, I sometimes listen..." She trailed off.

"I don't recall any moments where you've followed my order." My hands slid down to her ass and lifted her, making her wrap her legs around me.

"Hmm, I do tend to do the opposite when I get ordered around

so that's on you. Don't order me around and I might just listen to you." She grinned as I walked towards the water.

"You have no idea how strong my urge gets to punish you for not listening." I said quietly, taking her lip between my teeth, and slightly pulling it before letting go.

“Punish me, how?” Her breath quickened as she looked at me

with excitement and lust. The blood rushed down at the look she was giving me, and I wanted nothing more than to tie her up right now and fuck her senseless.

“You will see.” I gave her a playful grin when she heard the splashing sounds of me walking into the cold water. Her smile dropped and tightened her hold on me.

“What are you doing?” She eyed me suspiciously. I continued walking deeper into the water until it reached my waistband.

“You don’t want to go for a swim?”

“No! The water is ice cold!”

“Sounds like a problem. For you.” I gave her a devilish smirk and removed my hands. Althaia let out a squeal and disappeared under the water. I made my way out and turned around to look at her when she returned to the surface.

“I-I’m gonna kill you!” She shouted at me, her teeth chattering and her body shivering from the cold.

“I would like to see you try.” She was half my size, and the only real physical damage she could ever cause me was kicking me right in the balls.

“Get back here so I can drown you!” I watched her as she tried to run out of the water, only to trip and fall right back into the water, face first. I laughed out loud at the amusing sight, and she looked angrier with every step as she ran toward me. I didn’t move, waiting for her to come closer, and I grabbed her by the waist to carry her when she was close.

“No! You better not throw me in the water again!” She

squirmed in my hold, trying to get out but I held her tightly

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into me.

“You managed to do that perfectly on your own.” I teased and she glared at me. She shivered against my body as I walked back with her to the house.

“Why w-would you do th-that.” She struggled to talk with her teeth chattering. I chuckled and she gave me a sour look in

return.

“Part of your punishment. Now, let me get you warmed up and fuck you to sleep.”

I made my way to my office to give Althaia and Cara some privacy to catch up. We had stayed at the beach house for a few days, tangled up in each other’s arms before returning to the manor.

“Someone’s looking quite relaxed.” Rafaelle snickered when I entered the office. I shot him a blank look as he continued making jokes.

“Are you done?”

“Yeah, I’m saving some for Althaia later.” He said and he sprawled out on the couch.

“Did she tell you why she was at the Luxe Palace?” Antonio asked once Lorenzo came in.

“She did. She went to talk to Alexei Vasiliev.” Rafaelle sat up straight, letting out a whistling noise.

“Yo, she got some balls of steel!”

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“For what reason?” Lorenzo frowned, sounding suspicious.

“Turns out her mother had a romantic history with him.” I started to tell them everything she told me about Jacinta and Alexei Vasiliev.

“Could he be the one who was after her mother?” Rafaelle

wondered when I was done.

“It’s a possibility, but I don’t think it’s him.” I then explained what I have been thinking the minute I learned about their history.

“...I want whatever needs to be gathered to see if it’s a match.” I finished, getting a nod from them.

“We can do that at the wedding with no suspicion and get the results immediately.” Antonio added.

“This shit is getting crazier...” Rafaelle commented as he scratched his head.

“Does she know?”

“No, and not a word about it to anyone, I want to be sure first.” I said firmly before dismissing them.

I walked to the balcony doors, looking out and seeing Althaia walking around with Cara in the garden.

“Any new reports about her?” I asked Antonio as he stayed behind.

“Some improvements but it’s a slow process.” I nodded and he came to stand next to me, also watching her.

“If it turns out to be true -”

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“I don’t care.” I interrupted him.

“She belongs to me, and there’s no way in hell I will ever let her go.”

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Althaia

“I’m sorry for leaving you like that... I know it was hard for you too and I haven’t been the most considerate person.” I said to Cara as we took a walk around the garden.

“Don’t worry about it.” She smiled softly.

"It didn't come as much of a surprise to me. You've always been that person that needed to isolate whenever you were upset."

"I know, but it wasn't right of me to do that. I was a complete bitch and abandoned all of you, especially Damiano." I sighed. I had always been the type that needed to be alone whenever I was upset to handle my thoughts, and feelings at my own pace, without having people trying to breathe down my neck.

"No, you weren't. You went through a lot and needed to get away. Trust me, I know what that feels like... Besides, Lorenzo helped me a lot and never once left my side." Cara said and I flinched a little at her words, guilt eating me alive for not being here for her at all.

"If you apologize one more time, I will hit you." She glared at me when I was about to apologize again.

"Sorry – I didn't mean it! It just came out." I said quickly when she was about to smack my head.

"Sounds like it's still going great with Lorenzo?" We continued our stroll in the garden, watching Kiara explore the new territory. There was so much space for her to run around, and

I had to keep a close eye on her so she didn't suddenly disappear.

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"It is. He's really the best man I've ever been with." Her whole face brightened up when she talked about him, and it was easy to see she loved him as her eyes twinkled. I gave her hand a small squeeze as I smiled, feeling happy for her and my chest warming for her to finally be able to be happy.

"Weren't you scared when you first saw him? All I could think about was how scary Tank Man looked." I would never forget when I gathered the courage to go for a handshake, and he left me hanging for a good minute before deciding to shake my hand.

"You still call him Tank Man?" Cara laughed and shook her head.

"He's literally the size of a tank!" I exclaimed.

“Oh, he sure is.” She gave me a cheeky smile and a wink, and I groaned, rolling my eyes.

“I didn’t need to hear that...”

“But to answer your question, I guess I was scared. The first time I saw him was from a distance, and all I could think of was, if that man hits me, one blow and I’m good as dead. Then I got to see him up close and it made me realize just how huge he was, and then I thought of how I wanted to climb him.” She bit her lip, wiggling her brows at me. I stopped walking to look at her, blinking a few times as I let the words sink in before I burst out in laughter.

“Only you, Cara.” I managed to get out in between laughing as she chuckled as well.

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“But I’m happy for you, and soon you will be a Mrs. Bellavia.”

“I can’t wait for that. To get a new name, a new start, and just leave that shitty name behind for good. No offense.”

“None taken.” I gave her a dismissive wave. I would have felt the same if I had gotten abused by my father too. There was nothing positive she could put to the name.

“It wasn’t always like that, you know. I gave Lorenzo a lot of hell in the beginning. I didn’t want this engagement and tried to get out of it by being a psycho bitch to him. But, I guess along the way I just fell for him.” Cara chuckled to herself, which had me smiling.

“You being a psycho bitch to Lorenzo? I would pay to see that!” I laughed along with her.

“You know, when Damiano visited me back home, he asked me to marry him.” I decided to tell her.

“He what?” Cara gaped at me and her eyes were wide in shock.

“And you said no?” she asked, barely believing her own two ears.

"I didn't say no, just not now because I had barely wrapped my head around that I was, uh... pregnant." I kept my gaze down, taking a deep breath as I still felt it was difficult to talk about. I had gotten better at it but it was still painful. Cara wrapped her arm around my shoulders to comfort me, and I gave her a small smile to let her know I was okay.

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"I was overwhelmed and felt like everything was going too fast. I wanted us to take one thing at a time, take it slow

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because why should we rush?" I continued.

"But?"

"With everything that has happened, it made me realize more than ever there is no one else I would rather be with than him, so why wait?" My future was with him and I wanted to start a family with him, to have a bunch of kids and watch them as we grew old together. I wanted that life with him.

"Sounds like it will be a yes when he asks." She smiled, and couldn't help but smile big at the thought. My eyes went to the manor when I felt eyes on me. I found him immediately as he stood on the balcony, watching me. My entire body fluttered at the sight of him, and my heart beat just a little faster too. I gave a small wave to which he returned, seeing a smile on his lips.

"Definitely."

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I walked back inside the manor, now in search of Luca. I felt like I owed everyone an apology, and there was some tension between us that I wanted to fix. He was mad at me for leaving and pissed at me for drugging his girlfriend. Yeah, it was not exactly helping my case but I hoped he would soften up to me a little. He was like a brother to me, and he was there for me when I told him I was pregnant. He was even excited while he was trying to calm me down as I had freaked out.

I made my way to the kitchen when I heard voices coming from there, but I was only met with Ava and Rafaelle. Who was busy flirting with her.

“... I know you like it wild, baby. I can rock your world.” Rafaelle was standing close to Ava while she was leaning against the counter with a brow raised at him in amusement. They haven’t noticed that I was standing here, and I put a hand up to my mouth to not let out a laugh at Rafaelle’s so-called seductive voice. I thought about leaving them alone but I wanted to see how he played his game. Just for the fun of it.

“I don’t do small dicks.” Ava gave a teasing smile.

“Nothing small about me, and you know that. You can even check for yourself, now if you want.” He caged her in between his arms and gave a playful smirk.

“I will.” Her hands went down his waistband and pulled it towards her as she took a look down.

“Impressive.” Ava commented, and Rafaelle’s smirk widened at her words.

“I know, and your mouth will look so good wrapped around my cock -”

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“Uh, this is a common area.” I said, making them snap their head toward me. They seemed unfazed that I had caught them like this, but my cheeks were starting to flush at how straightforward he was.

“Althaia!” Rafaelle groaned at me when Ava stepped aside with a chuckle.

“You cock-blocked me!”

“How did I cock-block you? Were you seriously about to do it in the kitchen with so many people in the house?” I said to him with my face scrunched in disgust.

“You think I care? I was about to dip it!” He said, almost childish. I half expected him to stomp his foot too.

“Now you’re definitely not going to dip it.” Ava rolled her eyes and he let out another groan. He had an annoyed expression as he looked at me.

“What did I ever do to you to deserve this? I’ve never cock- blocked you. In fact, I made sure no one would disturb you at the safe-house so you and Damiano could fuck.’

“Excuse me?” I gaped at him, feeling my face getting warmer by the second.

“You are excused, now go so I can get back to business.” He looked back at Ava, his flirty expression was back on but she just opened a bag of chips, and started to munch on them, not looking impressed with him at the moment.

“Sorry, you’ve missed your chance.” She said with a smirk and made her way out of the kitchen.

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“Playing hard to get? Okay, I see you, no worries! I can work hard.”

“I’m really not, but better luck next time.” She sang and disappeared from our view.

“Wait! So I do have a chance?!” He shouted after her but got no response.

“Wow, Rafaelle, could you sound any more desperate?” I shook my head at him and he gave me one annoyed glare.

“I am desperate! You have no idea of what kind of torture Damiano has put me through, keeping me busy all the time and not once giving me a break, and not once being able to bust a nut.”

“I really don’t need to hear about all that...” I trailed off but he ignored me as he continued.

“Do you know how painful it is for a man to have blue balls, and not be able to get a release? It’s fucking painful and you ruined it for me.” He huffed out as awkwardly stood and listened to him.

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“My goodness, just use your hands if you’re in that much of a need!” I turned around and walked out of the kitchen, eager to escape the conversation.

“It’s not the same!” He yelled out as he followed me.

"You should offer me something, that's the least you can do." I stopped in my tracks, turning around to face him, and saw him grinning at me.

"Have you lost your mind?"

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smile to let her know I was okay. "I was overwhelmed and felt like everything was going too fast. I wanted us to take one thing at a time, take it slow because why should we rush?" I continued. "But?" "With everything that has happened, it made me realize more than ever there is no one else I would rather be with than him, so why wait?" My

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Damiano

"If it turns out to be true, then we can go ahead with our plan as we wanted from the beginning. We know he wants access to the weaponry, like that wasn't fucking obvious, and we now know his connections, how he works... I say let us just go ahead and kill him like we always wanted, and take over his territories. He's a bastard but, damn, he knows how to make money, and make an even bigger demand for the products." Rafaelle kept talking. We

were in the car on our way to the storage facility along with Luca and Giovanni.

“It’s not that simple anymore.” I told him. I leaned back in my seat, closing my eyes. Not because I was tired, but to calm myself down completely to interrogate the scumbags, and not kill them as soon as I see them.

“Oh right, Althaia. Maybe she doesn’t care?”

“Are

you

that fucking dumb?” Giovanni looked at him to see if he was serious.

“We know Cara won’t care.” Rafaele said, thinking he made a valid point.

“Cara was abused, almost beaten to death. Althaia wasn’t.” I reminded him.

We knew Cara was abused before even getting to know her. All it took was one glimpse of her, seeing the bruises she thought were covered up. They were slowly fading but they were still quite visible. Her body language when she stood next to her father was

just another confirmation, and when I cut his tongue out, satisfaction showed in her eyes.

Cara was eager to get away, not caring that it was purely for business benefits. Just like Gaetano was using her to try to gain access to my weaponry, I was taking advantage of it as well, making him believe that he could.

I wanted to know the infrastructure of his organization, and then take him down completely. He was recruiting more people on his side, slowly expanding more and more. I couldn’t have that happening. I wanted to get rid of him before he could become a serious threat to my organization.

It was a game I enjoyed, killing them and taking over what they’ve spent their lives to achieve.

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Cara was free to leave wherever she wanted when it was over. She was just another puzzle in my game but turned out that Cara and Lorenzo took a liking to each other. It wasn't an issue and meant she was completely under our protection while we carried out our plan.

Then I fell for Althaia, putting the plan on hold.

“Even if it is true, he’s still the only father figure she has known in her life. I already have enough reasons for her to hate me, I’m not going to give her another by killing him like that.” I said.

“Maybe that was why her mother left?” Luca commented, trying to come up with a clue as well.

“It’s a possibility.” Until I had gotten the results, anything was possible at the moment. Althaia might not even be the daughter of either of them, and the chance that there was a third person in this mess was possible. Maybe that was why she decided to disappear

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to make sure Alexei Vasiliev wouldn’t know about it since they had something going on.

“Whatever it is, I hope we will figure it out soon. I feel like I’ve aged ten years already.” Rafaelle groaned out and slumped forward, resting his head on the driver’s seat. Then he suddenly straightened up and looked at me with a mischievous grin.

“By the way, does Althaia know you hid cameras in her hotel room?”

“No.” I glared at him as his grin widened.

“I bet she was naked a lot. So, did you jack off to the footage?”

“I will beat the shit out of you again if you don’t shut the fuck up.”

“About that, why did you go for the face? My face hurts and I can’t have it bruised. I need to stay pretty.” He rubbed his jaw where I had punched him.

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“I will kill you if I hear you talk like that to her again.” I warned him.

“I just need to get laid.” He sighed and leaned back in his seat.

“I gave you time off. You have enough money to pay for someone.” I raised a brow while he gave me a sour look.

“No, can’t do that. I’m trying to get Ava. Have you seen her? She’s beautiful and wild in every way. I want her.” Everyone turned to look at Rafaelle.

“What?” He asked, confused as to why the attention was on him. I shared a look with the others before shaking my head and getting out of the car.

“You are crushing hard on her.” Luca grinned, saying what we were

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all thinking. He ever only called women hot or sexy whenever he wanted to get them to bed. He has no problem in getting a woman to satisfy his needs, and he has been trying to shoot his shot at Ava ever since she returned from the safe-house.

Ava was a close friend of Cecilia and she had gotten herself in some deep shit that I helped her get out of. Since then, she had been loyal to the family. Ava returned the favor by keeping an eye on Althaia since I needed people she wouldn’t recognize. I keep underestimating her because it turned out she was already onto them from day one. She was a fast learner and already knew what to look out for in her surroundings.

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“I mean she’s fun and doesn’t shy away.” Rafaelle shrugged, trying to cover up his actual feelings for her.

“You’re not fooling anyone, we know you like her. You haven’t fucked anyone since she showed up.” I said as we made our way down to the underground passage.

“Shit, explains why I’m in so much pain...” He muttered.

“I will wait because I know she will be worth it. I just hope it’s soon.” I glanced at him, definitely seeing how he wanted her more than just for one night. It will do him good to settle down and not cause me any more headaches.

I opened the door to The Chamber of Torture, seeing the two bastards tied up in the chair, beat up, and groaning when Antonio threw water at them to keep them awake. Out of the group that was at the Luxe Palace, they seemed to hold a higher position than the rest as the others turned to look at them when I showed up. It turned into a blood bath as I got rid of the others. I spilled every single drop of their blood for everything they had done.

“Still don’t want to talk?” I tilted my head. One of them started to speak in Korean and shook his head vigorously.

“They barely know any English words. He tried to say something earlier but nothing made sense. We need someone to translate.” Antonio said.

“We need to find someone reliable right now.” Rafaelle went into thinking mode. I turned around when Luca cleared his throat.

“We already have someone who can speak Korean. Althaia.” I glared at him for even bringing her up, knowing damn well I didn’t want to involve her in this part of it.

“I agree.” Antonio said, approving of the idea.

“Think about it, we can get her here to translate and be out again. in five minutes.”

I didn’t say anything as I stared at the scumbags, rubbing my jaw as I thought about it. It was the safest and fastest solution, and I needed to know who was behind this. I just hated the idea of her being here, fearing I would scare her.

“Fine. I will get her.” I decided. I didn’t want to waste any more time on this.

I made my way to my bedroom where I knew she would be. It was late and she would be asleep by now. I carefully opened the door to not make much noise, only to find the room dimly lit. My gaze immediately landed on a pair of green eyes, seeing her sitting on the bed with her sketchbook.

“That didn’t take long.” She smiled. I walked up to her, taking a seat on the bed.

“I told you not to wait up. It’s late.” I caressed her cheek and thought about ditching the whole idea of her helping us out.

“It’s not that late, and I wanted to wait for you. I sleep better when you’re here anyway.” She gave a half-shrug, smiling as I noticed her cheeks reddening a little. I smiled as I couldn’t stop admiring just how beautiful she was looking right now with her long hair around her in waves.

“You look beautiful.”

“Thank you.” She said shyly as she let out a small chuckle. She

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moved and wrapped her arms around my neck before pressing her lips to mine. Fuck, there was no way I would want her to do this but she was our only choice now.

“Are you okay?” Althaia looked around my face, her brows slightly furrowing when I let out a sigh.

“I am. I need your help.” She looked at me in surprise, which only lasted a second before panic showed in her eyes and her hands started to feel around my body.

“Are you hurt somewhere?” I chuckled and stopped her from trying to pull my shirt off to see.

“I’m not hurt.” I reassured. She relaxed again, letting out a breath of relief.

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“What can I possibly help you with?” Her curiosity was back on and I just hoped this wouldn’t fuck her up.

“You know Korean, right?”

“Yes...?”

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“The ones we caught only speak Korean, and we need a translator.”

“Me?” She pointed to herself and I nodded.

“You don’t have to if you don’t want to.” I said firmly.

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“Wait, wait. You are asking me for help?” She pointed at me before pointing at herself again.

“Yes.” I raised a brow when she suddenly looked excited.

“Well, what are we waiting for? Let’s go!” Althaia rolled out of bed in a hurry and almost ran to the door.

“My love.” I called after her, making her stop to turn around and face me.

“Change first.” She looked down, realizing she was only in her nightgown.

“Oh, right. I’ll be ready in a minute!” She ran to the closet and I chuckled at her excitement.

This woman was really something else.

Post Views: 8

? Views, Released on February 11, 2024

288 Vouchers

I held her hand while she looked around in the underground passage. We came to a stop in front of the door, and I turned her to look at me.

“You don’t have to do this, I can still find someone else.” I asked her one last time to make sure she was truly fine with it.

“I want to.” Althaia said, looking determined to help.

“This is not a normal room. We call it The Chamber of Torture and you will see all sorts of weapons and tools present.” I observed her facial expression but she gave a small nod, not showing any sign of discomfort.

“Okay.”

“Althaia, if you get the slightest uncomfortable, you’ll tell me right away.” I told her firmly.

“Don’t worry, I will.” She gave me a reassuring smile, and I let out a sigh before kissing the top of her head.

I opened the door, making sure I held her close to me to give her a sense of comfort. My men gave her a nod in greeting, and she took a look around before her gaze landed on the two tied up in the chair. Althaia looked at me and I gave her a nod. I already explained to her on the way what I wanted to get out of them.

Althaia started to speak to them and they eyed her as she spoke in their language. One even let out a grin and said something back to her. I watched closely her facial expression, noticing how she was slightly frowning at what he said.

“What did he say?” I asked her when she rolled her eyes at him.

‘... He called me a bitch.’

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288 Vouchers

“That piece of shit.” I gave a nod to Gio, who was ready with the aluminum bat. I wanted to keep it lowkey with her present.

“Althaia, don’t look.”

“No, I want to watch.” She continued to stare at him with a fierce gaze. Gio swung the bat with full force into the bastard’s kneecap. The room filled with his cries of pain, and he jerked around in the chair in agony. I looked at her, seeing the corner of her mouth. turned slightly upwards. I couldn’t help but smirk at her reaction, knowing she was enjoying it as much as I was.

She started to speak to the other one.

“He’s saying why should we tell you anything when we know we’re dying either way? I offered him a quick and painless death, or torture days.” I was impressed that she was taking control and negotiating with them. He looked in thought and I decided to let her take full control.

“We don’t care. We have already been prepared for this and have been paid handsomely for our silence. We have nothing to lose.”

“Nothing, you say?” I raised a brow and gave a nod to Luca, who took out his phone and showed them a video.

“What is it?” Althaia asked me quietly.

“A video of their families.” I said, watching the color drain from their faces the longer the video played.

Althaia continued to talk to them, her voice firm and clear, not showing any kind of weakness. Her head was held high and her demeanor let them know that she was not one to fuck around with, and pride filled my body as I watched her.

26.34%

“The one who hired us got killed in the woods. We don’t know who ordered the kill, but it’s someone not Korean and has a lot of power. Everything went via untraceable calls. We were sent phone and were instructed on how to use it to create a setup...” He was talking fast and her hands turned into fists the more she listened to him.

It made sense now with the phone call Jacinta received. She never answered the call as it only rang for five seconds before it got disconnected, but it was enough time for Rafaella to find their location. They knew we were keeping an eye on her. They used it to their advantage to lead us away from them so we wouldn’t be able to get to them in time.

“They were told to specifically target my mom, and that they could do whatever they pleased with me... once my pregnancy had been terminated.”

“That motherfucker!” Gio was ready to swing the bat again but Althaia stopped him. She stepped closer, leaning slightly down, and talked quietly to them. She smiled, and whatever she had said was enough to make them jerk forward to get her.

I pulled her back and kicked one of them in the face hard that he went flying back to the ground.

“Please give them a long and painful death. They deserve to suffer as much as possible.” Althaia walked out of the door. I shared a look with the others, surprised by her order before I let out a wicked smile.

“You heard her.” I left the room to follow her, seeing she was waiting for me. I immediately pulled her into me, holding her tightly.

“Are you okay?” I placed my hands on her cheeks to make her look

53.89%

at me.

“I am.” She gave me a small smile. I looked around her face to see if she was lying, but she was fine.

“What did you say to them?”

“Just that the time was ticking before their loved ones would die if they didn’t start speaking up. I may have said they could see them one last time if they gave me something valuable. Once I made sure they told me everything they knew, I said they would suffer for what they had done... for killing my mom and our baby.” Her eyes were filled with satisfaction, and a smirk on her lips. I couldn’t be any more proud of her.

I was going to make sure they would suffer for killing our baby.

I softly grabbed her chin and kissed her, and she responded hungrily as our tongues moved.

“Good girl.” I said quietly against her lips, watching her blush at my words.

“My innocent Althaia, welcome to The Darkside.” I smirked and she let out a grin.

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Post Views: 8

? Views, Released on February 11, 2024

Althaia

I didn’t feel bad about it. In fact, I felt quite satisfied and proud of myself for how I handled that, and I hoped they would truly make them suffer for what they had done. Not just to me but to us.

They had brutally taken my mother away from me and poisoned me to lose our baby. I was pissed they had succeeded in taking away the life we had created inside of me and taking away the one person who had been by my

side my entire life. Their blood deserved to be spilled more than ever and I hoped they all would rot in hell.

“Althaia.” Damiano pulled me out of my thoughts, now realizing we had made it out of the underground passage. He looked at me, concerned, and took my hand in his as I had unconsciously clutched it on my stomach.

“I’m okay.” I gave his hand a small squeeze, taking a deep breath of the fresh night breeze.

“Talk to me, what’s on your mind.”

“It’s just that... now that they confirmed they wanted to make me lose our baby...” I couldn’t even finish the sentence, clenching my jaw as anger fumed inside of me, and pain pierced my heart.

“I know, baby, I know. I promise you, we will get them all and make them pay for it. Whatever you want, I will do it. You call the shots.” He spoke softly to me yet his expression was deadly serious.

“Does that make me your boss now?” I joked and he cracked a smile. Damiano pulled me into him, and I placed my hands on his

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chest as I looked at him with a teasing smile.

“If only you knew just how much power you hold over me.” He gave me one of his beautiful smiles as he lightly caressed my cheek.

“Oh, is it a good idea to actually tell me that?” I grinned.

“Why not? Are you planning on crushing me?” He said quietly and leaned closer to me, our faces only inches apart. My body tingled with how close he was.

“Hmm, no, because who will be pissed at me for doing something reckless and stupid then?” I said, pretending to think about it.

“You mean to punish you?” Damiano’s voice went extremely low and somehow deeper. He gave me that devilish smirk that made him look like the sexiest Devil alive, and my body immediately reacted to his words, sending a wave of excitement to the pit of my stomach.

“Perhaps... I do happen to like it when you tie me up.” I slid my hands slowly down from his chest, feeling his rock-hard body and stopping right when my hand landed on his crotch. I smirked when I felt him getting excited too. I licked my lip before pulling it between my teeth, and he exhaled a small grunt when I slightly palmed him outside of his pants.

“You are one addicting problem.” He grabbed the back of my neck before roughly crashing his lips on mine. Forgetting about everything else, I responded to his kiss, my hands wandering around his body as he let out a soft groan at my touches.

His kiss was rough and wild, making me fist my hands on his shirt, wanting to rip it off him. I wanted to feel all of him. His warm skin, his muscular shoulders, and the way he would move inside of me. I was getting hot. Too hot, and he was wearing way too many

clothes now.

He bit down on my lip and a moan escaped me as my hands wandered under his shirt, feeling the ripples of his abs.

“This just proves my point that psychos attract psychos. They got all horny after sentencing those dickheads to death.” I heard Rafaelle say, making me pull away and face him with a glare, seeing he was talking to Antonio and Luca.

“Now, who’s being the cock-blocker?” I scowled, annoyed that they had disturbed us. If they hadn’t appeared, I might have just dragged Damiano to the car to have my way with him.

“Payback is a bitch, isn’t it?” He said with a smug grin.

“Not really, I’m still going to get some either way. So, tell me again, when was the last time you got to ‘bust a nut’?” I crossed my arms with a playful smirk, watching his smug grin disappear from his face and glaring at me instead.

“That is such a low blow, Althaia. To make fun of a man’s suffering.” Rafaelle shook his head and looked offended.

“I’m not making fun, just stating facts. A piece of advice, take it or leave it, maybe don’t say ‘your mouth will look good wrapped around my cock’, and you might get some.”

“Dude.” Luca looked at Rafaelle in disbelief, and Antonio shook his head in pure disappointment at him.

“I really don’t like you right now.” Rafaelle huffed out and I just shrugged, giving an innocent smile.

“I’m just saying it wouldn’t kill you to try and be a little romantic. Women like that. If you don’t know how to be romantic, ask

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around! You’re surrounded by people who are in a relationship.” I gestured to Antonio and Luca. Rafaelle looked like he was thinking about it before he glanced at Damiano.

“I want to know what Damiano said to you because I still have a hard time believing he can be romantic.” I blinked at him a few times, feeling my face getting hot before facing Damiano. He looked to be amused and tilted his head, waiting to hear what I had

to say.

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Chapter 160

Post Views: 9

? Views, Released on February 11, 2024

“That’s private.” I decided to say. I crossed my arms, facing away from them as I tried to hide my flushed cheeks. Damiano didn’t exactly say anything. We barely exchanged any words, and he went straight to finger me in the bathroom.

Not that I was complaining. He definitely has some pretty good finger skills and left me satisfied...

“Why are you blushing? Oh, don’t tell me you fucked the minute you saw each other?” Rafaelle said loudly before laughing his head off.

“No!” I scowled, feeling my face getting hotter by the second.

“That came out a bit too fast, didn’t it?” Antonio commented with a smile, making the others agree with him.

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“We didn’t! And you know what? It’s none of your business anyway.” I turned around to face Damiano, who looked like he was having fun with the conversation and had no plans of saving my ass from it.

“What did I say to you?” He raised his brow with a teasing smile on his lips.

“They don’t need to know.” I hissed out lowly to him, trying to signal that he damn well knew why.

“Hmm, If I remember it correctly...” He softly cupped my chin, leaning closer to my face.

“I called you beautiful, and then you were definitely struggling not to scream my name.” He let out a chuckle as he stepped away. I heard the others laugh while I was helplessly blushing. I stared at him in shock, words refused to come out of my mouth as I dropped my jaw.

“I don’t blame you, Althaia.” Rafaelle laughed and wrapped his arm around my shoulders.

“Damiano is one hell of a sexy man, and I would immediately spread my legs for him too.” He wiggled his brows at me and I gave him a blank stare. I pushed his arm away from me, cleared my throat, and looked at Damiano with my head held high.

“You know that’s not entirely true. But all right, if that’s how you want to play with me, then fine! Just know I definitely won’t be spreading my legs for you, and you can join Rafaelle in having blue balls.” I huffed out and Damiano frowned, clicking his tongue at

“Pussy power for the win!” Rafaelle shouted.

“Rafaelle, if you don’t shut up I will cut your dick off, and shove it down your throat.” I glared at him and made my way to the car. I was so done with their teasing. They had totally ganged up on me, even Damiano joined with that stupid joke of his. He was so not getting some tonight, and I inwardly groaned because I was still hot and bothered, and wanted to rip his clothes off.

“She’s low-key scary...” Rafaelle mumbled as they followed me to the car.

“That’s my girl.” I could hear the pride in Damiano’s voice and a small smile appeared on my lip at his words. I looked over my shoulder, seeing his gaze was already on me, and he winked. I rolled my eyes before facing straight ahead again to hide the fact his wink had me blushing. It even sent a wave of butterflies in my stomach.

It had me reconsider my decision of not letting him get some...

I let out a small yawn when we pulled up to the manor. It was late and I had dozed off a few times in the car, ready to get in bed and under the soft covers. I leaned into Damiano when we got out of the car and I was tempted to ask him to carry me.

"Damiano." We stopped and looked in the direction where Arianna also just had pulled up.

"Go to bed, I will be up in a bit." He kissed my head before I went ahead to walk inside, completely ignoring Arianna when she came. up to talk to him. I was still hurt by the things she said to men, and it was not like she was attempting to talk to me either.

"Wait, did we just forget Giovanni?" I asked Antonio. I looked around, only now realizing he was missing.

"No, he kicked us out as he wanted to have them for himself."

"Why?" Antonio gave me a small smile.

"Believe it or not, but he had lost it when he came back and found out what happened to you. He wouldn't leave the hospital and stayed close to you to make sure you would be okay." I was shocked. Too stunned to say anything.

The Grumpy Giovanni who had more than once threatened to throw me out of the car if I didn't stop singing? The one who thought of me as a pain in the ass, and scowled at me for being my assigned babysitter? That Giovanni?

"Are we talking about the same person?" I looked at him confused because I sure as hell didn't recognize the person he was talking about.

"Trust me, we were all surprised."

"Awh, he cares about me! I am so going to tease him with that." I grinned as I rubbed my hands together, already planning on how to annoy the shit out of him with the new information I have.

"Of course you are, I wouldn't have expected anything else." He shook his head at me with a smile, making me chuckle. It made me realize just how well they all knew me, and I was forever grateful to have them all in my life.

They were my family.

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