

The Devil's Fire by Mariam El-Hafi Chapter 91 - 100

Damiano

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The beautiful green eyes that shined brightly looked up at me, her eyes narrowing a bit as she smiled with a hint of

amusement on her face.

“Do you really have no idea how happy you make me?” She asked, taking my hand in hers.

“I want to make sure.” I told her honestly. I could see she was happy but now that she was pregnant, she would always be tied to me in that way. I was well aware of it, but her mother pointed out several times to her that being with me would always make her a target for my enemies. And of course there was nothing I wouldn't do to make sure she would be safe. Even with someone like me.

Things were going to be different as there would be a child involved. It constantly crept into my mind that she would soon realize she couldn't be happy with someone like me and that the life I was living was going to be too overwhelming for her. It was one of the reasons why her mother left her father, to protect her from the brutality that comes with living this life.

“I guess it's my fault for not telling you enough then.” Althaia chuckled, making me smile at the sound. It was like a sweet melody to my ears whenever I heard her laugh, making it my favorite sound in the world. So joyful and so innocent like her entire self.

“I wouldn't mind if you told me from time to time.” I gave her a

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half-smile.

“Is my big bad Mafia Boss feeling a little insecure?” She said quietly in a teasing tone, only for me to hear. She bit down on her lip, trying not to burst out laughing. I scoffed and pulled her closer to me.

“Are you calling my ass insecure again?” I raised a brow. I loved how bold she had gotten with me. Teasing me and always calling me out on things. Her fiery personality and her sharp tongue definitely made her a person who could not be tamed and would give you hell for it if you tried.

From the first moment, I knew she would make me crazy and in a such short time, she had already made me test my sanity quite a few times. But I loved every single bit of it. She was my breath of fresh air and made me feel alive in a whole different

way.

“Maybe... What are you going to do about it?” She gave me that one smile that made her go from looking so innocent and calm to looking incredibly wild and sexy.

“Fuck... Althaia, not here.” I let out a groan. My hands on her waist tightened as I instantly felt the blood rush down. She wasn’t even touching me. It was one fucking look and she made me hard this fast. Her eyes widened a little when she felt my hard length against her.

“There you are! We have been looking for you.” Arianna’s -voice rang out.

“Fucking hell!” I muttered under my breath as the others were nearing us. I closed my eyes, trying to calm down so I wouldn’t be flashing everyone my fucking hard-on.

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Althaia turned around but made sure to stand in front of me to give me time to sort out my situation.

“We were doing our own little shopping. Look what Damiano found.” She said happily and showed them the ridiculously small baby shoes that couldn’t even cover the palm of my hand.

“Are those baby shoes?” Rafaele asked, looking at the shoes confused. Althaia let out a sigh and looked behind her shoulder at me.

“You didn’t tell him?”

“Why should I?” I half-shrugged at her. I never shared much with anyone but they would all eventually know when she would start to show. I had made sure to only tell those who needed to know to make sure they would be extra attentive to her.

Althaia’s eyes narrowed and shook her head a little before she turned to face him again.

“We’re having a baby.” Rafaelle went quiet. Dead quiet and he was like that for a while. This was the longest I have ever seen him silent. I frowned, wondering why the fuck he was being this quiet about the news.

As if he read my thoughts, he suddenly jumped forward and embraced her tightly and lifting her in the process as he yelled out in happiness. I had to stop myself from grabbing her out of his arms and remind myself that it was just Rafaelle. Arianna had gotten pissed at me and said my possessiveness knew no boundaries when I got annoyed that Lorenzo hugged her.

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Brother or not, I didn’t like other men touching her.

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“Holy shit, you’re going to be parents!” He said when he let go of her, barely believing the news.

“Congrats, man! I’m really happy for you.” He slapped my back to congratulate me. Then he went back to her mother and put his arm around her shoulders. Jacinta took a deep breath as it was obvious she was done dealing with his shit today.

“Can you believe our daughter is going to have a baby?” Rafaelle smiled big at her. She rolled her eyes and tried to get away but he held her firmly.

“If you don’t let go of me right now, I will smack you.”

“La mia bella rosa, you know me so well already. I like to be smacked.” He wiggled his brows, making me close my eyes and pinch the bridge of my nose. I had no idea what his game was but he told me to trust him when he came. He better have a good plan for all the shit he was doing and it wasn’t him trying to flirt with her.

“Oh, my God, Rafaele! Stop being disgusting and leave my mom alone!” Althaia went over to him, coming to her mother’s rescue, and pushed him away. Arianna came to stand next to me as Rafaele continued to annoy the shit out of them, chasing them away from us.

I looked at Lorenzo, signaling him to follow them with Cara to leave us alone.

“What did you find out?” I asked once they were out of hearing distance.

“Turns out her parents had an arranged marriage. She got

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married off as her father didn’t have a male heir to take over, which you know what that means.” I nodded as we walked slowly..

Her grandfather from her mother’s side was some kind of a mob boss too, meaning she knew this world way better than I thought she did. I had briefly read the file of Althaia’s family history on her mother’s side the moment I learned she was alive. However, since they were a small family and all were deceased, I had no interest in them as they weren’t a threat.

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“She admitted they never loved each other but had to make it work for the sake of their families.”

“I see. Anything else?” I looked at her when she hesitated, making me frown.

“What is it?”

“... Althaia knows you were engaged.” My body tensed as I turned to look at her. The rage within me boiled at what she said.

“Did you fucking tell her?” I growled out as I clenched my fists.

“Do you take me for an idiot?! I was just as surprised as you are!” Arianna hissed out.

“How does she know? Does she know anything else?” My breathing was coming out faster as I looked at her. I was trying to calm down my anger but knowing Althaia knew about that part of my life made it difficult.

"I don't know... She caught me off guard and I had to be careful because she started to get suspicious. She's getting good at it, by the way." She slightly nodded, impressed.

"Arianna." I said sternly, making her roll her eyes at me.

"Relax! She only knows that you were engaged and doesn't know about Sienna." She tried to reassure me. I rolled my neck to lessen my tense muscles.

"She said she has known for a while, Damiano." Arianna continued. My frown deepened as I tried to think of how she could have gotten that information. But nothing came to mind. If she had known for a while, then it couldn't have been

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her mother who told her. It couldn't have been Luca or

Giovanni because they knew I would have their heads if they ever opened their mouth about it.

"Don't you think it's time for you to tell her?" She asked softly, almost carefully.

"No." I said immediately.

"You don't have to tell her every single detail. Just tell her that you were engaged and that's it." I let out a humorless laugh. She didn't know Althaia the way I did. She was too curious not to ask any more questions about it, and I didn't want to go down that road with her.

"No. I can't risk it." I turned away from her and started walking again. I heard Arianna sigh as she came up next to me again.

"Do I have to remind you what happened when you didn't tell Althaia about Sofia?"

"That's not the same." I glared at her to mind her own business but she wasn't fazed by it.

"Damiano, listen to me." She grabbed my arm to stop me. I looked at her firm expression.

“She has known for a while now and you don’t know who told her. Her mother knows about Sienna, and the possibility of her mother will tell her is still here. It’s better if it comes from you than from anyone else. You love her, and if she truly loves you too, she will understand.” Arianna gave me a small smile. I stared at her for a long time without saying anything.

“Are you an expert in relationships now?” I raised a brow.

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“What can I say? I give the best relationship advice yet remain single.” She sighed and I put my arm around her shoulders as we walked again.

“I know you’re with Dom even though I told you to end it.” I gave her a wicked smile when she looked shocked.

“How did you find out?” She breathed out and I clicked my tongue at her naiveness.

“You don’t think I know what’s going on with my men?”

“I thought I did a good job hiding it...” Arianna groaned out before quickly looking at me again.

“I will get so pissed at you if you hurt him!”

“If I wanted to hurt him, he would already have been at the bottom of the sea.” I pointed out.

“I’m not marrying him if that’s what you’re hinting at!” She crossed her arms as she continued to look straight ahead.

“I will only marry him if you get married.” She gave a smug smile as I knew why she had said that. She knew I had no intention of getting married after what had happened in the past, but she didn’t know Althaia had changed that.

I wanted her in every single way.

“I asked Althaia to marry me.” I said after a while of silence. Arianna was too stunned to form any words.

“Are you serious?!”

“She turned me down.” I frowned when I said that, but it left her even more shocked to hear that.

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“She wants to take it slow and have the baby first.” I explained. I would wait for Althaia for however long it took her to be ready to marry me. But the more time I was spending with her, the more I was getting impatient. I wanted her to be my wife already. To have my name with hers.

Arianna had gone quiet, still in shock as she was trying to process everything I had said. Even though I didn't share much with anyone, once in a while, Arianna somehow always made sure we would have slightly deeper conversations. I would never say it to her face but she had saved my ass a couple of times when my mind went too dark.

“She has changed you a lot.” Arianna said quietly when we had almost caught up with the others.

“But for the better. I have never seen you this happy before and after so long... I finally feel like I have gotten my brother back.” Her voice cracked and she hid her face in her hands as

she broke down.

“Arianna...” I chuckled at her and pulled her into me. I rubbed her back while she sobbed into my chest. She was always tough and I often forgot she had seen me at my worst and had been affected by it too.

We were close enough to the others that they noticed Arianna was crying. Lorenzo looked at her and then at me, frowning. He was about to make his way toward us, but I shook my head at him, letting him know everything was okay.

She didn't cry for long and leaned back a little to wipe her tears away. Suddenly, all I saw was my vulnerable baby sister that didn't know any better instead of the tough twenty-six-year-old woman she had grown up to be.

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"I know I've been fucked up for a long time but don't you dare spill your tears because of a man. Not even for your brother. Understand?" I put my hands on her cheeks. I talked to her softly but in a firm tone. She nodded and took a deep breath.

"You know what would make me feel better?" She asked once she had calmed down.

"Tell me."

"The jewelry store is right there." Arianna pointed somewhere behind me. I shook my head in amusement but still reached for my wallet to hand her my card. She happily snatched it out of my hand before walking fast towards the store.

"Hove you! You're my favorite brother!" She yelled out. Lorenzo scoffed while giving her a displeased look.

"Don't even try to compete with me, brother. I always win." I smirked as I made my way to my beautiful green-eyed woman, desperate to have her in my arms again.

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Althaia

I let out a small yawn and leaned into Damiano, almost closing my eyes as I felt myself getting more to the point I needed a

nap.

"Tired?" He asked and I nodded tiredly. We have been

shopping for what felt like hours now. Well, at least Arianna and Cara were doing most of the shopping, dragging us from shop to shop as they couldn't get enough.

My mother had gone home once she was done shopping. I was also pretty sure she was eager to leave and get as far away as possible from Rafaele who wouldn't leave her alone. He for sure knew how to drive one crazy.

“Want to go home?”

“Actually, I was thinking if it would be okay to ditch the others for a bit... And go to your hotel room?” I asked. As much as I had missed the others, I was craving some alone time with him even though it had only been one night we didn’t spend together.

Damiano didn’t even respond and immediately led me in the direction of his car

“Don’t you think we should tell them we’re leaving?”

“No. They will figure it out at some point.” I let out a laugh at how Damiano picked up his speed. He was such an impatient man, eager to have me for himself too.

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The thought of being off my feet made me happy. These days I was starting to feel more and more tired because of the pregnancy. And the downside of it, besides constant nausea and throwing up, was the lack of caffeine. It definitely played a role since I couldn’t consume too much of it.

I slowly opened my eyes as I felt a different kind of movement. I blinked a few times, realizing I fell asleep in the car and Damiano was carrying me in his arms as he walked down the hotel corridor. I didn’t bother to move as I was too

comfortable and just kept my head resting on his shoulder until we reached the room.

Damiano laid me down on the bed, only now seeing I was awake but neither of us said anything as he took off my shoes. But he didn’t stop there and continued to undress me completely, knowing I liked to sleep in little to nothing.

The sun hadn’t set yet but the room was dark thanks to the thick curtains, yet I could see his golden irises clearly. They seemed to shine even with no light as he looked at me.

I smiled softly and sat up, my hands went to undress him too. He stayed silent. watching me unbuttoning his shirt. I slowly slid off his dress shirt and

his impressive tattoos came into view. I trailed my hands around his body, feeling his hard muscles as I did. I slid my hands down to his firm chest and down to his rippled stomach before coming to a stop when I reached his pants. I leaned in closer to him, stealing soft kisses from him.

“Althaia...” He said against my lips, gently brushing his fingers through my long hair.

Dividing into pages now

“Damiano...” I whispered back to him. Whatever he was about to say, he decided against it and laid me on my back with him on top of me.

My whole body was craving him as our lips claimed each other. Sweetly and passionately, touching and exploring each other’s bodies, spreading warmth through my body which was only growing bigger and more wild like fire as he touched

Damiano went down to my breasts, playing with them with his tongue and having me let out soft moans as I caressed his hair. He trailed kisses down my stomach until he reached my underwear. This time, he took time to slide them off me instead of ripping them like he loved to do.

My breathing was already quickening as I felt his breath so close to my most intimate part.

My entire body shivered in pleasure as his tongue moved around effortlessly, building up heat and pleasure, having my body tingle at the pleasurable pressure. I spread my legs even more for him as the fire within me grew stronger and wilder. My hips bucked when he gently sucked and moved his tongue fast on my clit.

“Oh, fuck!” I gasped and grabbed the sheet in my hands as my body spasmed as my climax rippled through me so intensely that I tried to squeeze my legs shut. But Damiano held my legs firmly, making sure they couldn’t close as he continued to stroke me with his tongue.

“Damiano... Ple-please...” My mind was hazy as my eyes rolled to the back of my head as my body trembled in immense pleasure

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I let out a breath when he finally gave me a chance to calm down when he got on his feet. He took his time undressing the last piece of clothing he had on while his eyes never left

His eyes were dark with that devilish smirk on his lips.

“On

your

hands and knees.” Damiano grabbed my hips and moved me to the edge of the bed when I wasn’t fast enough. to his liking.

“Perfect.” I let out a noise of surprise when he slapped my ass before he slammed his thick length inside of me.

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I woke up from my slumber, stretching the best I would as arms held me tightly. I fell asleep once again as Damiano had managed to, well, fuck me to sleep.

I turned to look at him, seeing his face close to mine. His breathing was slow and steady, letting me know that he was asleep. I took the opportunity to just admire him as he slept. so peacefully with a few strands of hair falling to his eyes.

It was rare that I ever got to see him sleep, and I couldn’t help but smile at how he looked almost boyish with his hair like that. He looked...cute, and I almost let out a chuckle at the word. Never would I have thought I would have used such a word about him. He was a walking sex bomb, but right now, he truly looked cute.

“What are you laughing at?” Damiano’s voice was hoarse from sleep, making it even deeper as he spoke. His eyes were still closed, and I realized that my body had been shaking a little while I tried not to laugh.

“You. You look cute.” This time I did let out a small chuckle and he scoffed at my choice of word. Suddenly, his eyes snapped open as the loudest growl could be heard.

Coming right from my stomach,

I looked at him with wide eyes, my cheeks heating in embarrassment at the loud noise.

“Looks like my baby is hungry.” He gave me a playful smile and caressed my stomach.

“Famished.” I laughed. I didn’t know if he talked about me or the actual baby, but either way, we were very hungry.

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I ran a bath while he ordered food. I had created a mountain of bubbles that filled the bathtub, giving the bathroom a flowery scent that smelled amazing. I slipped down into the hot water, sighing at how good it felt.

“Take a bath with me.” I said to Damiano and moved so he could sit behind me. It was ridiculous how big the bathtub was because we both could fit inside comfortably, even with his long legs.

“You don’t have to wash me, I can do it myself.” I was resting against him, not planning on moving anytime soon as I enjoyed the way his hands were working on my body.

“You’re tired and I want to.” I let him continue with his smooth.

touches as we bathed in silence.

“Althaia?”

“Hmm?”

“We’re leaving the day after tomorrow.” He said, making me snap my eyes open to look at him.

“Already?” I didn’t even try to hide my disappointment. I had somehow hoped he would stay here until the wedding, but I knew he couldn’t stay this long and had to go back.

“You’re coming back with me.” Damiano’s tone was firm as he spoke. I shook my head.

“I thought we had already talked about it. I’m coming a week before the wedding. I can’t leave so soon when I have barely been home.” I tried to explain to him, but he just frowned.

“You think I’m going to leave you here when you’re pregnant?”

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I wanted to roll my eyes.

“Calm down, you’re talking as if I’m in the middle of a war zone! I will be fine. Plus Luca will be here.” Since Damiano and the rest were here, I was happy that he had gotten Luca some time off after playing my babysitter.

Giovanni apparently thought he might as well make a small vacation out of his trip to Portugal since he had to make sure Laila would be safe. Luckily, she kept her promise and updated me whenever she could. She was finally reunited with her family and promised she would get all the help she needed.

I turned around to face him, straddling his lap, and wrapped my arms around him, giving him a sweet smile.

“It’s only two weeks, and I will be there.” He didn’t say anything as he gazed at me intently, visibly unhappy about it. I had spent two months away from my mother and I barely felt like I have been home.

“Permanently.” Damiano said after a while.

“You’re coming back permanently. We will find a home for us and our baby.”

“You’re expecting me to leave everything behind in two weeks’ time?” I raised my brows in surprise.

“Yes.” His expression told me he was dead serious about it. I loved the idea of living with him, but two weeks was no time at all.

“How about we have this conversation another time? I’m too tired and too hungry to have this conversation with you.” I

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tried to move away to get out of the tub, but he held onto my waist and stopped me.

“It’s not up for discussion but fine. Another time.” He gave me a quick kiss before he let me go and I rolled my eyes at his stubbornness.

I had rummaged through Damiano’s bag to find something to wear and found a tank top. It was obviously big on me and the neckline went down quite a bit, barely covering my breasts. But since it was only the two of us here, I decided to keep it

I was still in the bathroom, brushing my hair when I heard our food had arrived.

“Good evening, Mr. Bellavia. Are you still enjoying your stay with us?” I stopped brushing my hair at the voice of a woman, trying to talk in a seductive tone.

“Yes, is there anything we can do for your stay to be more... satisfying?” My jaw dropped open when I heard another

woman.

Were they seriously trying to flirt with him? With my man?!

Furious, I walked out of the bathroom and across the bedroom to get to the lounge area. I stood by the doorway, watching the scenario in front of me. My blood boiled even more at the sight of the hungry women with their tops unbuttoned, showing their cleavages.

“I’m fine.” Damiano replied coldly, not sparing them a look as he was busy with something on his phone. I clenched my jaw

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when I saw how he was dressed. Shirtless and in grey sweats.

It almost felt like smoke was coming out of my ears in anger at the sight. Damiano was completely unaware of their eyes on him, hungrily drinking him on as their eyes went down, resting on his bulge that was quite visible in his grey sweats.

I took a step back to calm down before plastering a sweet smile on my lips.

I was about to commit my first murder.

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Althaia

“Maybe we should have gotten me a change of clothes before coming here.” I said as I walked out to them while looking down at the tank top, pretending to be fixing it. I was actually fixing it just a little bit because my nipples were almost showing.

Damiano looked up from his phone, his eyes slowly trailed down my body and his gaze stopped at my barely covered breasts. Whatever he was doing on his phone could wait as he carelessly tossed his phone to the side and onto the couch. He gave me a lazy smirk in the process and motioned for me to come closer to him. Damiano wrapped his arms around my waist and pressed me up against him as he leaned down and kissed me, making my body flutter at the action.

“What’s the need for clothes when I plan to have you naked the entire time?” He said with a mischievous grin on his lips. His words had me blushing as I didn’t expect him to say this loud enough for the two women to hear. He then looked at them with a frown on his face.

“What are you still doing here? Get out.” He said coldly. They had been taking their sweet time setting the dishes on the table, thinking it was only him here. But now that they had seen me, they kept their eyes down and hurried.

I grabbed his wallet from the table to tip them. He was always generous when he tipped so I made sure to grab the usual amount he would give. Unlike me, Damiano always carried a shitload of cash on him, and I had even seen the impressive

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ouchers

stacks of dollars in his bag.

“Is there anything else we can get for you?” One of them asked once they were done.

“No, thank you.” I walked up to them with a smile and handed them the money. Before she could take it, I pulled my hand slightly back as I talked in a low tone, only for them to hear.

“Oh, and don’t worry... I am making sure he is more than just satisfied. And I don’t want to see you two here again.” I dropped my smile, giving them a cold stare as I handed them the money. I felt satisfied when they looked ashamed and avoided looking at me as they hurried out.

I shut the door and spun around to glare at Damiano.

“What the hell were you thinking?!” I snapped at him, feeling the anger rise in me. He raised a brow at me at my sudden outburst and tilted his head in confusion.

“What do you mean?”

“You seriously think it’s okay for you to be dressed like that in front of other women?” I hissed at him.

“Shirtless and wearing grey sweatpants!”

“What’s wrong with grey sweatpants?” He looked down at his sweats.

“You’ve got to be kidding me right now? Everything is visible!” I said angrily and pointed to his crotch where it was visible to see his quite impressive length. Also, he wasn’t wearing any underwear, and his sweats were hanging low on his hips, which only infuriated me more that they had seen this much

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of him.

He dared to look at me amused while I was practically yelling at him.

“Oh, so you think this is funny? How about I just pop outside like this for men to see!” I turned around and opened the door. I had barely opened it before his hand slammed the door shut and grabbed me away from the door. He turned me around to face him, now glaring at me while I just smiled innocently.

“Do that, and I promise I will kill every single one who dares to look at you.” Damiano’s voice was full of promise as he gave me his death stare.

“You see what I mean? It’s not funny.” I scoffed and crossed my arms, now frowning at him. Damiano clicked his tongue in annoyance as he stared me down.

“Don’t play that game with me, Althaia.” I leaned into him and jabbed my finger into his chest.

“You started it. I was about to commit my first murder.” I said, deadly serious. He blinked a couple of times before letting out a playful smile at my words.

“Hot.” He cupped my chin, leaning down, his face so close to mine.

“Your eyes are so green right now. Green with jealousy.” He laughed when I smacked his chest.

“You are seriously unbelievable.” I moved past him but didn’t get far when he grabbed me again and sat us down on the couch with me on his lap.

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“I’m sorry, baby.” He kissed my cheek, making me a little less angry with him.

“I’m going to burn your pants, just so you know. You’re not allowed to wear grey sweatpants around others. Your dick was showing and it’s for my eyes only.” I gave him one last firm look to make sure he got the message.

II

“And for your pussy.”

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The Baby(2)

288 (Vouchers

“Oh, my God, just stop talking.” I grabbed some bread and shoved it in his mouth as I felt my cheeks getting flushed. When he talked like that, it always sounded so much more explicit when. and so erotic. Still, it made me a little hot with excitement.

Damiano finally stopped teasing me so I could eat in peace. As we sat quietly and ate, I thought back to the one question I had asked at the beginning of our relationship. It had me even more curious now that I had witnessed some stuff, having me

turn to look at him.

“How many have you actually killed?” I asked. Damiano gave me a blank stare but I ignored him as I continued.

“I remember asking you if you had killed like five or thirty people, but I have witnessed you kill a few people now. I know you’ve killed two from the amusement park, the guy who attacked me, and that one scumbag so that’s four...” I was thinking out loud while counting on my fingers as if I was trying to solve a math problem.

“Didn’t I tell you not to go down that road with me?” He said sternly but I just gave a dismissive wave.

“That was like the beginning of our relationship but I have seen stuff now. Besides, I already know what you’re capable of, so...” I trailed off, grinning. Damiano didn’t like it one bit as he ignored me.

“Then at least tell me what it feels like to ki- Okay, I will shut up now.” I clamped my mouth shut at Damiano’s terrifying look. He stared at me for a long time with a warning look, letting me know I had crossed the line. He kept staring at me before letting out a sigh and leaning back on the couch.

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“I don’t like you asking these kinds of questions. It’s not something that you need to know.”

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“I’m just curious.” I sighed tiredly and leaned into him. I had eaten too much as he had kept feeding me, and now I was ready to fall into a food coma. I really shouldn’t have gotten out of bed today since all I wanted was to sleep...

“You’re curious about the wrong things.” He rubbed my back, making those smooth circles that would send me right to sleep.

“It’s all dark and so secretive, of course, I would be curious about it. And you’re apart if it, making me wonder how it all works.” I explained, and he shook his head.

“Don’t wonder about it.” He ended the conversation, having me look at him amused. But I knew I wouldn’t get any juicy information out of him this time, and silently accepted my defeat.

“You should eat more.”

“I will burst if I eat more. I have eaten twice as much as you, which shouldn’t even be possible.” It was ridiculous how much I could eat compared to him. Damiano was practically built like a beast, and I was half his size yet I ate like there was no tomorrow.

“You’re making a baby, I’m not.” He chuckled.

“I could still eat more than you before that, but I’m fine with that excuse. Then no one can comment on how much I’m eating.” I chuckled tiredly. My eyes landed on the delicious piece of chocolate cake, and even though I was full to the brim, I still had a small taste.

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I would devour it later.

I patted my stomach, satisfied, and snuggled into his chest as I listened to his deep, soothing voice as he talked.

I woke up in the middle of the night, feeling incredibly hot. I ripped the blanket away from me and my entire body was covered in sweat. My body felt incredibly heavy, and I bit down on my lip to not let out a groan as I felt nauseous, ready to throw up.

I quietly got up from the bed, trying my best not to disturb Damiano, who was sleeping peacefully. It felt like forever before I reached the bathroom and closed the door behind me. I was bent forward as I walked with my hand on my stomach as it cramped. I took a couple of deep breaths to ease the pain but it wasn't helping.

I stood by the toilet, feeling like I had to throw up but nothing was coming out. I let out a small groan, panting as I got down on my knees as the stomach pain only got worse, and my entire body was hot and aching.

I lay down in a fetal position and closed my eyes. I didn't care that I was on the bathroom floor, the cold tiles felt too good on my hot skin.

A continuous sound made me open my eyes, realizing I had dozed off.

"...Althaia." I heard the handle being pulled down but the door didn't open. I tried to get up but a groan escaped my lips as the stomach pain only seemed to get worse.

"I don't feel too good..." My breathing was heavy. I wanted to get up to open the door but my aching body didn't allow me

"Are you near the door?"

"No." I moaned out in pain, squeezing my eyes shut. The door burst open with such force it banged loudly against the wall. Damiano searched for me, quickly making his way to me once he found me lying on the floor.

"What's wrong? Did you fall? Where does it hurt?" He helped me up into a sitting position but I felt so weak, my body was almost completely limp against his.

"Shit, you're burning." My eyes were barely open when I saw him looking at me with furrowed brows.

"Something's wrong, Damiano... It hurts too much." I

whimpered with my arms around my stomach. Then nausea came at me with full force and I moved just in time to throw up in the toilet.

It felt like it went on forever as I continued to empty my stomach, not once giving me a break as everything kept coming up. Tears went down my cheeks from straining myself so much and my stomach kept cramping.

Damiano wiped my face with a wet and cold towel, making me moan in relief at the cold feeling. I was too tired, too dizzy, and too much in pain to understand what was going on as he carried me back to the room. He dressed me in pair of boxers and his large shirt before wrapping me in a blanket and carrying me again, heading towards the elevator at a fast pace.

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I heard Damiano ordering someone around, and I opened my eyes to see what was going on. Bright lights and white walls were what I could see. I turned my head to see a woman in a white coat approach us and hurriedly lead us to a room while Damiano tried his best to explain what was wrong with me with what he had observed.

The doctor examined me as I lay on the hospital bed, having

me groaning in pain but this time from her sticking a needle in my arm to draw blood.

really hated needles.

“You have food poisoning.” The doctor said once she was back and I looked at her dumbfounded.

“I feel like dying and it’s just food poisoning?” I asked, half- expecting her to say ‘just kidding’ before giving me the real

answer.

“But we had the same food... How come you’re not sick? Maybe it was something I ate for breakfast?” I wondered out loud as I looked at Damiano. He was standing by my side, caressing my hair. I turned to look at Lorenzo who had come with us and driven us to the hospital.

“Is Cara sick?” But he shook his head, making me now wonder why I was sick if no one was.

“When you’re pregnant, your immune system is weaker than usual, making it more difficult for your body to fight off bacteria.” The doctor explained, making me raise my brows slightly as I hadn’t thought about that.

“Most of your energy goes to your body’s primary job of growing the baby. You need to be careful about what you eat

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and how it’s prepared because the baby’s immune system is underdeveloped. If you get food poisoning, it can be

dangerous and lead to a miscarriage.” I took a sharp intake of breath and my heart started to beat like crazy at her words. I held Damiano’s hand tightly in mine, his body tensing too at the information.

“We’re going to check if everything is okay.” She said while she got the ultrasound machine ready.

“Have you experienced any spotting?”

“No, I don’t think so...” I said nervously. I felt scared and closed my eyes when I felt the cool gel on my stomach and the transducer moving around.

Please be okay.

”

—

I kept saying in my mind as I felt my throat tighten and my eyes burn with unshed tears.

“There you go. Everything is as it should be.” I opened my eyes to see the doctor smiling and turned the screen for us to see. The tears escaped and ran down the side of my face, a little sob escaping my lips as I looked at the tiny circle.

Relief washed over me and I was overwhelmed with feelings the more I looked at the screen, seeing the tiny fetus and making me forget about all pain in my body.

I looked up at Damiano, who continued to look at the screen as his expression softened. He then looked at me, a swirl of emotions visible in his eyes as he smiled lovingly before leaning down and kissing me on the forehead.

“Would you like a picture?” The doctor asked and I nodded

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immediately.

“Yes, please.”

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? Views, Released on February 11, 2024

Althaia

“Watching you suffer like this is making me wonder if it’s really worth it to be pregnant.” Cara said. She was sitting on the couch in front of me while I carefully sipped my water to rehydrate. I was sweating my tits off as I fought off the food poisoning.

Thankfully, it wasn’t anything critical. We were able to leave once the doctor had explained what I should be careful with and I should make sure to drink lots of water since I had

thrown up so much and sweating like crazy.

Cara came to check up on me when we came back since Lorenzo had left in a hurry, leaving her confused and worried for me. I had seen a different side of Lorenzo tonight. I had witnessed him actually being worried about me. And once he saw my tiny fetus on the screen, I saw him visibly relax too. It made me feel emotional to see how they all were so caring and happy about my pregnancy.

“One look at this, and it’s making me forget about everything else.” I handed her the ultrasound picture and rested my head on Damiano’s shoulder as I rubbed my stomach, which was still cramping but not as much as before.

“Funny how it’s the size of a pea and it can make you feel like that.” Cara smiled at the picture, making me look at her with a straight face.

“Yes, so funny. I’m laughing so hard right now.” I said

sarcastically. Lorenzo took the picture out of her hand to take

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a closer look at it. I looked back and forth between them before smirking a little.

“Hey, Lorenzo.” He looked up at me and I let out a grin.

“Keep your aim sharp. My baby is going to need a BFF soon.” I winked and he gave me a half-smirk before turning to look at Cara, who slowly looked up at him with a blank look.

“No.”

“It’s going to happen.” Lorenzo kept looking at her with a playful expression.

“Do you want me to suffer like this?” She pointed at me with her brow raised.

“I have food poisoning.” I pointed out.

“Which you wouldn’t have gotten. But since your immune system is weak due to the pregnancy, you did! I can only think of downsides; you get nausea, you throw up, you get back pains...” She kept on with her list, making me glare at her.

“You are being a real fucking delight right now.”

“...And don’t get me started when you have to give birth.” She ignored me as she continued with her arguments.

“I saw a birthing video once, and it ain’t pretty. I am traumatized for life.”

“Why?” I asked. She moved to the edge of the couch to explain, looking all serious.

“You’re pushing a whole freaking human out of you. And not only that, your vagina gets all teared up and your butthole

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explodes.” I blinked at her a few times before sitting up straight.

“I’m sorry, what?” I shook my head a little in confusion, hoping I heard wrong.

“Yup. It gets all fucked up and they have to stitch your vagina and your butthole.” I dropped my jaw open and she gave me an ‘mhmm’ as she leaned back on the couch.

I turned to look at Damiano with a terrified look on my face.

“What have you done to me?” It came out in a scared whisper, and for once, I think he was lost for words by what he heard.

“I’m sure she’s exaggerating.” He gave her a cold glare but she shook her head.

“I’m not! I will even send you the video so you can see it for yourself.”

“I don’t want to see that! Why would you even tell me all of that.” I groaned and rubbed my stomach as I felt slightly

nauseous.

“I thought you knew... But I’m sure it won’t happen to you.” Cara tried to cheer me up, which only made me glare at her

even more.

“Lorenzo, go make her pregnant right now. I’m not going to suffer alone!” He actually stood up and went to grab her hand to which Cara smacked his hand away like a fly.

“Uh, no, thank you.” She leaned all the way back in an attempt to get away from him.

“Let’s go, she needs to rest.” Lorenzo grabbed her waist and

picked her up like she weighed nothing. He carried her on his shoulder and made his way out.

“I don’t want my butthole to explode! Look what you’ve done, Thaja!” She hissed at me and tried to wiggle out of his grasp. I just snickered at her, hoping he would get her pregnant after all the things she had said.

“How are you feeling now?” Damiano asked once they had left.

“Exhausted, and I feel disgusting with how much I’m sweating. But better.” I sighed and groaned when I moved to get up as my entire body was weak and aching. I held onto Damiano as I slowly made my way to the bathroom.

“What did you do to the door?” The door was barely hanging onto its hinges.

“I kicked it.”

“How hard did you just kick it?” I chuckled.

“It’s a shitty door, I barely touched it.” He shrugged. I shook my head and stepped into the bathroom. I pulled down the boxers I was wearing, my heart beating just a little faster as I looked on the inside to see any trace of blood. I breathed out a sigh of relief when there wasn’t anything and felt myself relax.

I sat down on the toilet, almost relieving myself but stopped. I looked at Damiano, who was still in the bathroom with me, watching me.

“Ehm, excuse me sir, but you’re kind of hovering.” I gestured for him to get out. I was not about to pee in front of him. He

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let out a laugh, having me smile at the sound before he turned around and got out. Since the door was broken, he went into the other room to give me just a little more privacy.

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? Views, Released on February 11, 2024

“So, you’re leaving tomorrow?” I asked as I went back to bed, snuggling into his chest while he rubbed my back.

“You’re too sick to travel. It will have to wait until you get better.”

“Damiano...” I sighed tiredly that we were about to have that conversation again.

“I told you I’m not going with you yet. I want to spend more time with my mother before the wedding.” Damiano gently held my chin to make me look at him, his expression serious as he spoke.

“I can’t let you out of my sight, not after tonight. We could have lost...” He didn’t want to finish the sentence. Instead, he held me tightly and let out a sigh. Even though he didn’t show it, I knew it scared him just as much as it had scared me.

“I know... But I will be careful and make sure I only have home-cooked meals from now on. It’s going to suck but I’m not taking the chance with anything else.” I tried to reassure him.

“Althaia, baby, listen to me.” He cupped my face and lightly caressed my cheek with his thumb.

“I can’t leave you alone. I will go fucking crazy if I can’t have you close to me where I can make sure you’re safe.”

“I understand you’re worried, I really do. But I won’t be alone. I have my mother and Luca is here too. I know you have to leave because your phone has been going off like crazy and you have been trying to work from here. Whatever it is, sounds like it needs your presence.” I pointed out. If there was one thing I had noticed, it was the number of text messages and phone calls he had been getting. And whenever he was

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on the phone, he got annoyed or angry and kept giving out orders.

“Have you been eavesdropping on my phone calls?” Damiano raised a brow but it didn’t look like he was bothered by it. He actually looked slightly amused by it.

“No. Well... Okay, just a little but I didn’t understand much. Turns out my Italian sucks.” I hadn’t used the language in years but I still understood most of it. Well, at least I thought I did until I heard him speak and there were a bunch of words I couldn’t understand.

“You just found out?” He gave me a teasing smile, making me give him a sour look.

“You think I suck, too? Damn... I didn’t know it was that bad.” I mumbled grumpily, feeling a little embarrassed by it.

“Considering you haven’t spoken the language in years, I would say it’s pretty good.” He tried to cheer me up.

“Maybe I should speak Italian to you so you can improve?” He suggested when he saw my expression.

“I guess. But speak slowly! I swear it sounds like Eminem rapping in Italian whenever you speak.” I said seriously, making him laugh at me.

“You always surprise me with your choice of words.” I chuckled along with him

“You will be ready when I take you to visit my family in Italy.” I looked at him in surprise, seeing him smiling softly..

“Really? I would love to meet your family!” I beamed. The

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thought of meeting his family had me excited, and I wanted to see what kind of people they were. Getting to know Arianna and Rafaele, I had no idea what to expect because their personalities were nothing I had expected when coming from a powerful Mafia Family.

“I know. You will love my grandmother. She’s going to give me hell for not telling her I have found someone. And even more for getting you pregnant

before marriage... But she will be happy about it nonetheless. She's been nagging about babies for years." He scoffed, and I could just imagine how his grandmother kept pressuring him to give her some babies.

"I can't wait to meet her." I was already imagining what our future together would look like. So far, I was liking what I had created in my mind and rubbed my stomach in happiness.

We were going to be a family.

"How about you find a few places for us to choose before I come?" A crease appeared between his brows, and I continued before he dismiss the idea.

"I just need some time and explain everything to my mother, you know. I can't just drop everything and say 'see ya, I'm moving out.' Two weeks from now on and I promise I'm by your side for good." We lay in complete silence as he didn't say anything. I closed my eyes, ready to fall asleep because I knew he needed some time to think about it.

+just hoped it was enough to convince him.

Damiano extended his stay as he spent the next two days taking care of me. I was already feeling a lot better, but my

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body was a little sore due to staying in bed all the time and sleeping. He never once left my side unless to get food. I found out from Arianna when she came to check on me that Damiano would go to the hotel's kitchen and watch them like a hawk as they prepared my food. And I was pretty sure he had threatened them a little in the process, too.

"I'm heading over to Cara's room to borrow some clothes." I said as I slipped on a rope as I was only wearing his t-shirt. I didn't know how, but I had finally, somehow, convinced him to go back without me. It wasn't easy as we had gone back and forth about it but he sort of agreed when I kept reminding him Lūca was here, and Giovanni would come soon as well.

I also kept telling him how he should find us a place, and I think that made him agree in the end.

“I’ll go with you.” We made our way down the corridor as their room was a few doors down. I had texted Cara a while ago and she left the door unlocked so I could just come whenever

I felt like it.

Coming to a stop in front of their room, Damiano pulled down the handle and swung the door open. He shut the door immediately and I dropped my jaw, my entire face was burning hot at the sight I had witnessed.

Lorenzo was butt naked, his back to the door as he was furiously pounding inside of Cara, who was bent over the armchair.

I put a hand up to my mouth, and what started as a giggle, turned into a full-on laughter fit, making me barely breathe and with tears blurring my sight. Damiano, on the other hand, had his eyes closed and pinched the bridge of his nose.

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“I guess we should expect pregnancy news soon.” I managed to get out between laughs as I tried to calm down and wiped the tears away. Suddenly, the door opened and clothes were thrown at us before it got slammed shut, and this time, we heard it lock.

“Keep it sharp, my brother!” I yelled to Lorenzo through the door. Damiano shook his head at me before grabbing my hand.

“I need to wash my eyes...” Damiano said with a scowl on his face with a mix of disgust. And I burst out laughing again at the sight.

Chapter 100

Post Views: 8

? Views, Released on February 11, 2024

Damiano

After Althaia had said her goodbyes to the others, I drove her back to her house. I walked with her into the house, not ready to let her go just yet. She

had greeted her mother and she got a short nod from me as we made our way to her bedroom.

“What time are you leaving?” Althaia stepped in between my legs when I took a seat on her bed. She wrapped her arms around my neck and I wrapped mine around her waist, holding her tightly into my body.

“Once the others are ready, we will leave.” It came out as a sigh. She gave a small nod before moving to straddle my lap and leaning in to kiss me.

Her soft lips pressed against mine made me pull her close to me as possible, and I couldn't help myself but hungrily kiss her back. I didn't want to let her go and I had no idea how the fuck she had convinced me to leave without her. The only thing that was keeping me sane was knowing Antonio would be here as well, keeping an eye on them both.

The way her tongue was trying to claim mine and a soft moan escaped her lips were getting me worked up fast, and I knew she could feel me getting hard.

“Althaia...” I said against her lips and stopped her hands from trying to pull my shirt off.

“Why not?” She frowned and leaned slightly back to look at

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“You're still sick.” I replied to which she only rolled her eyes at me in annoyance.

“It's not contagious if that's what you're afraid of.”

“No. I meant that you're tired and recovering, you should rest.” Even though she had gotten better, she was still not fully recovered. Her body was still weak and she would get out of breath easily.

“I won't be seeing you for a while. Stop treating me like I'm fragile and let me have you.” She pushed me on the chest, making me lay flat on my back. She leaned down with a teasing smile.

“See, if I was sick I wouldn't have been able to do that.”

“Don’t make it hard for me.” It was already difficult to keep my hands to myself, but the way she was looking at me made me want to take her right now, hard and fast.

“I believe it’s already hard.” She winked as she started to rub my hard length from the outside of my pants. She knew I was

weak when it came to her.

“You are one dangerous woman...” I grabbed her and flipped us over to be on top, and hungrily claimed her lips.

Althaia rested her head on my chest as I played with a strand of hair while she caught her breath. Just as I had expected she was still not well enough. She was breathing heavily and her body was slightly sweaty even though I made sure to go easy on her.

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“Are you feeling okay?” She moved to look at me, giving me a loving smile.

“I’m feeling more than okay.” I kissed her on the forehead, closing my eyes and enjoying the feeling of her in my arms before I had to leave

I had to force myself to leave. Althaia walked me to the door and I hated every step the closer we got, only reminding me that I wouldn’t be close to her for two fucking weeks.

I turned to look at her once we came to a stop and pulled her into a tight hug. The thought of kidnapping her was tempting...

“Be careful and stay safe. Luca will be with you at all times and Giovanni will be here tomorrow. If you get sick, call me and I will come right away.” I put my hands on her cheeks, looking at her, memorizing her face and her beautiful green eyes.

“Don’t meddle in people’s business, or so help me God, I will be so fucking pissed at you.” I sternly said to her to which she grinned at me.

“If you say don’t do it only makes me want to do it.”

“Althaia.” I warned with a frown. She poked her tongue before chuckling at her own joke.

“I’m kidding, I will mind my own business. I’ve learned my lesson.” She smiled.

“Good.” I let out a small sigh of relief and pulled her into a kiss.

“I love you.” Too much to leave her here. But I wanted to make her happy, and if it meant she would be after settling things

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with her mother, then so be it. Even if I didn’t agree with one single bit of it. I couldn’t care less what her mother thought but Althaia did.

“And I love you. Here, take the picture with you so you don’t miss us too much.” She handed me the ultrasound picture, and a smile formed on my lips.

“I will be back to get you.” I caressed her hair and she wrapped her arms around me for one more hug. I looked up to see her mother had made an appearance.

“Keep them safe.” I told her. Even though I didn’t trust her until I find out what her game was, I knew she would protect her daughter.

That was one thing we had in common.

Jacinta’s eyes softened at my words and gave a nod.

I gave Althaia one more kiss, embracing her tightly once more before getting back to my car. My body started to tense with every step I took away from her, and something was telling me I shouldn’t leave her alone.

I hesitated before getting inside the car and turned around to look at her, seeing her smiling at me and giving me a small

wave.

Soon.

I reminded myself. Soon, we wouldn’t have to do this and I would wake up with her by my side every day for the rest of my life.

With one last wave, I was on my way back to the hotel.

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