

Mr. Chairman's Devious Wife by Brey Mitchylle

Chapter 6-10

Chapter 6

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"Is there anything else?" Alexander asked; his brown eyes met hers. "Anything that you wanted to add?"

However, before Sofia could say a word, her phone vibrated for the second time since she met Alexander in this quaint restaurant she did not even know existed near her office.

"Hey, sorry. I am currently in a meeting," Sofia said as she answered her phone. The caller was none other than Daniel. She had already declined his call earlier. Why was he calling her again?

"How about we have dinner together? After the meeting, of course," Daniel said on the other line.

"Daniel, look-"

"Sorry. I was just..." There was a pause on the other line. "I missed you."

ended "Let's talk later. My client is here," Sofia said before she ended the call.

"Client?" Alexander chuckled. "I didn't know my younger brother could be very clingy, considering he had been treating you like a fool for two years now."

"Why am I not surprised that you were already aware of how long he's been treating me this way yet did nothing to bring this matter to my attention?" she snapped.

"I don't see why it is any of my business," Alexander answered almost immediately.

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This answer seemed to choke all the words that she wanted to say. Prior to their meeting a few days ago, she had only met him once. There were times that they had seen each other at events, but they would only nod at each other. He does not owe her anything.

“Why now, then?” she asked, curious.

“Don’t you already know the answer to your question?” he retorted.

Why was this man so hateful? Her delicate brows frowned. It seems that other than his appearance, there is truly nothing good about this tyrant.

After his proposal, she was quick to do her research and found out that the Beaumont Empire was currently very chaotic. Just a while ago, Alexander kicked his own father from the board and claimed the chairman position. This, of course, met a few raised eyebrows from the older generation.

To stabilize his position, he needed someone like her.

She glared at his smiling face before she lowered her gaze and read the agreement for the second time. There are rules in this marriage that she expected such as cohabitation, signing a prenuptial, and keeping this marriage a secret until both of them are ready to reveal it.

However, she never expected the first clause.

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Physical intimacy is permitted, but consent is a must. Consent was highlighted ; it was emphasized.

To be honest, she never thought about this clause at all. Despite being together for years, Daniel and she still lived in separate flats. While he wanted to move in together a long time ago, Sofia found it rather hard to balance being with

him in the same house and working with her designs. She thought being so near him would be a distraction.

Luckily, Daniel did not force her to do so. She thought this was because he always travels for his job. Now, she was suspecting this was because of

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Charlotte.

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Right now, she was forced to face something that she initially dismissed as a mere formality. Sofia simply thought that this was nothing but a marriage on paper. However, now that she had the time to sit down and carefully analyze the situation, she realized a few things.

Both of them are adults, so it should not be an issue for them to talk about intimacy. She lifted her gaze and stared at him. He was wearing a perennial black suit- as always. His hair was brushed up, making him look more mature than his age. His tall legs were crossed, only adding to the elegant yet subtly intimidating feeling that he was giving her- and everyone else.

“Satisfied?” he asked with that infuriating playful smirk.

Almost immediately, her gaze turned sharp. She could feel the embarrassment of being caught settled in her gut. Was she praising this devil inside her head? Was she damn blushing? She should not be!

“I appreciate your thoroughness about this matter,” she voiced out, trying to maintain the calmness in her voice.

“Hmmm...” he nodded.

Once again, silence and the smell of freshly brewed coffee filled the room.

“Let’s do it,” Sofia said after a few minutes of silence.

His lips lifted into a smile as he watched Sofia sign the agreement.

“It seems that the timing is perfect. The officiant is here,” he mused.

“Officiant?”

“Are we not saying our vows?”

In the end, everything happened just as he wanted. With two witnesses, they were able to sign a marriage contract, and just like that, the wedding was done.

She was now a married woman.

After everything, Sofia felt a little dizzy. She had dreamed of a grand wedding. She wanted to walk down the aisle with her stepfather and see the crying groom at the end of the red carpet. What happened just now was the exact opposite.

This time, she was unable to stop herself from laughing a burst of self-deprecating laughter. The whirlwind nature of their marriage echoed in the back of her mind, both a bewildering mistake and an oddly right decision.

“You are certain you wanted to go to my house to celebrate?” Alexander’s question brought her out of her stupor. She met his gaze, her green eyes sparkling with newfound confidence.

“Is there a problem with going to my new husband’s house?” she countered with a mischievous smirk playing on her pink lips.

“You just had two glasses of wine,” he said matter-of-factly. His scrutiny did not escape her notice as his sharp brown eyes examined her appearance.

“I can handle myself very well, Mr. Beaumont. You should stop underestimating your wife.”

“Wife...” he smirked. The corner of his lips lifted in a smirk as he

shamelessly allowed his gaze to travel down her form, lingering on the crisp lines of her black pencil skirt that tastefully hugged her curves. “I like the sound of that.”

“Satisfied?” she repeated the words that he asked her earlier.

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“Where are you? I have been waiting in your office for almost an hour now!” a sharp **voice** of a woman blared against her ears, jolting her awake. She snapped to her senses, her gaze turning alert.

“I-

” Sofia grimaced, her hand slowly massaging her temple. “Sorry, I overslept.”

“Are you alright?” the voice on the other line softened. “Do you need me to go to your flat? Coffee?” concern laced the woman’s voice. This woman was none

other than Sofia’s sister, Charlotte. Sofia immediately tried to recall if she had an appointment with her sister that day but could not recall anything.

“Is there anything that you need?” Sofia asked, unable to hide the irritation in her voice.

“Are you sick? You sound sick. Do you want me to come get you?” Charlotte asked.

“No, I’m fine. I just needed to finish something last night.”

“Was Father trying to overwork you again?”

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“No...” Sofia shook her head. “Look, I’ll be there soon.” She ended the call without waiting for the woman on the other line to answer her. She did not bother checking the messages on her phone as she glanced around the room; the details of the room began to remind her of what happened **last** night.

Sofia’s eyes darted nervously around the room. If she was right, this **is** Alexander’s room. Last night, in a haze of alcohol-induced confusion, she had ended up here, in his large King-size bed.

Just

the reminder of what she did made her want to explode from embarrassment. What the hell happened to her?

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The subdued elegance of black and white, the lingering scent of his cologne, and the neatly arranged decor immediately brought back the memories of the previous night. She cringed.

Quickly, she got out of bed and was thankful that she was still fully clothed.

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“I asked Josef to buy clothes for you...” a voice interrupted her. She froze before slowly turning towards the door where a shirtless Alexander was leaning. He sported gray sweatpants, and his damp hair hinted *at* a recent shower. She immediately turned her head away, scolding herself inwardly for noticing the defined lines of his muscles.

She immediately convinced herself that it was only natural for her to stare after all; she was an artist. It **is** normal to appreciate pretty things.

“Same brand as your clothes... should be the same size too,” he added.

Sofia turned towards the paper bags by the bed.

“Sorry about last night,” Sofia said.

“Hmmm...” he nodded, a subtle hint of a smirk playing on his lips.

Seeing that he was not planning to mention how she cried like a baby in his arms, Sofia let out a sigh of relief. She tried to maintain a calm demeanor. “Thank you for the clothes.”

“Bathroom’s that way... I currently do not have any feminine products, so I asked Josef to buy you one. Tell me if you need anything more.”

“No, I—

Thank you... That should **be** enough.” Why was this man acting so considerate? She looked at him, her gaze full of suspicion. Did he take the wrong medicine today?

Out of habit, she shifted her attention to the bed, intending to straighten it. However, she inexplicably **froze** halfway as thoughts of the previous.

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night crossed her mind. Did he and she....

As if reading her thoughts, he said, “I slept in the guest room...”

For some reason, she could feel her face turn hotter. Was she blushing? “No. That’s not what I- I mean- I meant it’s alright,” she stuttered. “I mean... I do not mind.” How come it still came out wrong?

“You would have preferred it if I slept next to you?”

“What?” her gaze snapped back at him.

He chuckled. “I’ll keep that in mind.”

“I-

” She frowned. There is nothing wrong with sleeping next to each other, right?

Seeing her flushed face, he quickly changed the topic. “Ah, give Josef a list of the things that you need so he can buy them ahead of time.”

“Sure...” she answered. Then she stilled. However, she quickly thought of the contract and realized that they would be living under the same roof soon. There is nothing wrong with buying some toiletries for each other. She immediately made a mental note to ask his Secretary Josef for Alexander’s preferences so she could keep them inside her own flat.

After quickly escaping to the bathroom, Sofia let out another sigh of relief. She looked at her reflection in the mirror and was greeted by a green—

eyed monster with large panda eyes. Obviously, this monster was her and her hideous appearance. She immediately thought of how she got so drunk to the point of crying and smearing her mascara all over his suit and pillows!

How embarrassing!

Sofia was very confident about her alcohol tolerance, but last night, she was not able to control herself. All emotions that she had been trying to control since she discovered the betrayal came crashing down on her like.

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a large boulder. After composing herself, she immediately took a quick bath and applied some makeup then wore the clothes that he had gotten for her.

After making herself presentable, she went out of the room and descended into a sleek staircase that seamlessly connected to the living room and dining area. Almost immediately, her gaze landed on the panoramic view that the large wall-to-ceiling glass windows offered. It was the view of the busy city of Springfield.

She looked around the living room which boasted plush furnishings and muted tones. The space was clean and minimalist, the perfect place for a bachelor. She immediately thought about the news that she heard about Alexander in the past. There were a few rumors about him being in a relationship with a famous model, but no one was able to confirm it.

“Breakfast?” she almost jumped when she heard his voice, her green eyes meeting his intense brown gaze.

“Why **are** you acting like a thief?” he asked, a playful spark in his eyes.

“I am not,” she glared at him. Her gaze landed on the freshly cooked breakfast on the table.

“Sandwiches and milk...”

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“I prefer coffee... thank you.” Why milk? Does she look like someone who drinks milk?

“Hmmm...”

He approached the coffee maker nearby.

“You are alone?” she asked, wondering if he made everything.

“Yes. A cleaning lady comes twice a week.”

Sofia nodded, not intending to prolong the conversation. “Look... about

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last night.”

“I would prefer it if you do not cry for other men,

again.”

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Sofia met his brown eyes. She blinked, unable to process what he just said. “I That was

“I believe Daniel is not worth it,” he handed her a coffee in a tumbler, their fingers brushing in a subtle, charged moment. “For the road.”

“Oh...” She was unable to respond as she watched him wrap the sandwiches too. “Your car is in the parking lot 15. I asked Josef to bring it here.”

Sofia did not know what to **say**. Her brain seemed to have short-circuited. What’s with this change of attitude? Did... something happen last night?

The ringing in her phone snapped her back to her senses. She awkwardly accepted the coffee and sandwiches before literally running out of his penthouse. She thought he heard him chuckle behind her, but she did.

not care.

The moment she arrived in her car, her phone rang again. This time, she answered it.

“Hey...” Sofia said. Was it a coincidence that Daniel called her just minutes after Charlotte did? Sofia chuckled inwardly, her gaze turning colder by the minute.

“Hey babe... where are you? Do you want me to bring you breakfast?” Daniel asked, his voice as soft and accommodating as ever,...

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“I am on my way to the office,” Sofia said as she started her car. “I can’t talk now.”

“Oh, then I am going to bring some lunch later. How does that sound?” Daniel asked. Sofia sneered inwardly. In the past, she would have had no problems with this. Now, she realized that Daniel would only volunteer to bring something during office hours when Charlotte was there.

Was Sofia actually this dumb?

No. She had been busy with everything else. She simply had no time to think about small things. “Of course,” Sofia hid the anger in her voice.

“Alright, love you. I’ll see you later.”

“Right,” Sofia ended the call and held the steering wheel, her grip tight. She did not even realize how that call affected her until she saw her white knuckles.

It took her a few minutes to completely calm herself down to drive to LH DESIGN.

Located in Springfield, Illinois, LH DESIGN is only one of the subsidiary companies of LH GROUP.

Just two months ago, the CEO of LH DESIGN suffered a major health problem and is still in the hospital to this very day. Because of this, the board decided to have an Interim CEO, someone who would provide leadership during LH DESIGN's critical time.

And Sofia was chosen to lead the company.

This was not a random choice or something born out of the fact that she was the heir of LH Group. This was because she was currently the Creative Director of the company and had so much experience in both

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management and the production aspect of LH DESIGN itself.

When this decision was made, not one of the board members of LH Group refused. Since then, Sofia's schedule has been very hectic. Since she became the Interim CEO, she had not had any date night with Daniel, and he would only drop by her office with gifts from his travels.

Sofia never thought that there was anything wrong with this. She liked those gifts and even had a wall in her flat with just those various gifts from all over the world. She made a mental note to immediately start a renovation next week. She could simply use that as a reason to remove those things from her wall.

"Good Morning, Miss Lockhart," Sofia was greeted by Miss Amores the moment she walked inside LH DESIGN, located on the top floor of the building.

"Morning, Miss Amores. I already had coffee," Sofia smiled when Miss Amores handed her a cup of coffee. "And breakfast," she eyed the sandwich in Miss Amores's hand.

"Of course," Miss Amores nodded. "Miss Charlotte is in your office. She has been here for about an hour... she wanted me to call you."

"you."

“Hmmm,” Sofia nodded. Yesterday, she instructed Miss Amores not to disturb her unless someone died. She had been working under Sofia for years and knew that Sofia would do something like this if she was designing something. “Schedule?”

“You have a strategic planning after lunch and a briefing at three in the afternoon. I have all the things that you need to sign. Shall I give it to you now?”

“Yes,” Sofia nodded as she walked inside her office. The bland black and white office greeted her. However, despite liking it, her mood was ruined when she saw the smiling Charlotte.

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“Sister!” Charlotte immediately pouted. “How dare you make me wait?”

“Sorry... I had something...” Sofia tried to stop herself from acting awkward but knew it was useless. Her facial expression said it all. Moreover, unlike Charlotte, Sofia was not an actress.

Immediately realizing that something was wrong, Charlotte blinked her large beautiful eyes. Today, Charlotte was wearing an all-white frilly dress that already made her look like an angel. Coupled with her pitiful eyes, the normal Sofia would have immediately smiled and assured her that

nothing was wrong.

However, instead of calming her sister, Sofia walked past her and sat on her chair. She accepted the papers that Miss Amores handed her and started reading their details. It was not her intention to ignore Charlotte, but a part of her was trying to control herself.

She was tempted to ask the woman why she betrayed her. What the hell was she doing pretending to be good only to stab her in the back? However, this was not the time for that.

“Sister, did something happen?” Charlotte asked.

“No. However... the annual meeting is coming, and the winter collection needs to be finalized. I have yet to have a good night’s sleep for a few days now,” Sofia faked a smile as she started signing some of the papers in her hand.

“Is it that bad?” Charlotte asked.

Since Charlotte is not exactly a Lockhart, she has no right in the company. She also chose not to involve herself with LH Group when she decided to pursue acting.

Sofia lifted her gaze and stared at Charlotte’s angelic face. How could someone look so kind and beautiful on the outside yet have that rotting heart on the inside? Sofia smiled. “This **is** the first year that I am managing*

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the company as its CEO and creative director at the same time.”

“Oh... right... I forgot about that.”

Again, Sofia focused on the documents in her hand. “Hmmm... you just got back from your taping?”

“Yes. I arrived last night and I immediately tried to call you.”

“I had to finish **some** designs,” Sofia lied without batting an eyelid. Everyone knew that she would sometimes turn her phone off just to avoid distraction while making her designs. “Oh. Sorry...” she once again stared at Charlotte. “Did you come here for something? I- Miss Amores, did you forget to tell me about any appointment today?”

“No, Miss, Miss Charlotte did not set an appointment in advance.”

“Right,” Sofia turned her gaze towards Charlotte. Her words just now had a very **clear** meaning. Why was Charlotte here without setting an appointment to see her?

Charlotte immediately understood her meaning. “I actually forgot to call Miss Amores.”

“It’s not a problem. However, It would be best to call ahead of time. I do not want you completely wasting your time by coming in here while I am away having meetings,” Sofia said, her voice completely cold. For a few seconds, Charlotte stared at her as if she could not believe what she just heard.

Sofia only dared to act like this because of the upcoming Annual Shareholder’s Meeting. “Ah, yes. Do you need something?” Sofia asked.

Charlotte hesitated. She looked at Miss Amores, who was standing next to Sofia helping her out with the documents.

“Ah, you need Miss Amores to leave? Miss Amores, please leave us for a

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few minutes. I will call you when I need your help.”

“Yes, Miss Lockhart.”

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After Miss Amores left, Sofia immediately looked at Charlotte waiting for her to speak. Under that gaze, Charlotte could not help but frown. “I did not know that father is overworking you like this. If I had known... I would not have asked you to write that song for me.” She pouted like a child who just lost her candy.

Hearing her words, Sofia sneered inwardly. She already had suspicions as to why Charlotte would come here and would wait for her for more than an hour.

In the past, Charlotte would only do something like this when she needed something. It seems that this woman would never change.

If this was in the past, Sofia would comfort Charlotte and tell her that this was not her fault. Then she would tell her not to worry and that she would send the new song tonight.

However, Sofia was no longer the woman that Charlotte and everyone else liked to fool. She was no longer that naive ghostwriter who agreed to write songs for Charlotte to help her career in music. "Song?" Sofia blinked, and then her eyes widened. Then, she made a dramatic gasp. "Are you talking about the song for your next album?"

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Charlotte immediately paled. "Please don't tell me you forgot about it."

Sofia immediately frowned. "I- "her face reddened. "I completely forgot about it."

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How could a human be capable of having so many expressions in a matter of seconds?

Sofia had never thought this was possible until she saw the woman's face turn from pale to red. Sofia observed Charlotte's changing expression. Her **face** contorted, and Sofia spotted various expressions from irritation to anger, then to fright, and finally into something that could only be called a calm expression.

"I thought **you** still had about three months before you had to submit the album to your publisher?" Sofia looked confused as she acted as if she did not notice those expressions just now.

"Do you have problems with your publishers?" The publishers were the ones helping Charlotte with licensing her music. "Did something happen? Were they rushing you? Was it your fans?"

Charlotte hadn't started her career because of her talent in acting but because she could sing. Her voice, while not the best, was perfect for sad and lonely songs. With the support of LH Group, her first song immediately rose the chart

s and ended in the top 10 most-listened songs of the year. She even won some awards, and from there, she started releasing more songs.

However, what the masses did not know was the fact that Charlotte could not write songs. The first song that she released, called "Sunflower Love," was written by Sofia when she was in high school. It was something that she wrote while bored. Charlotte found it, thought it was cute, and the rest is history.

Since the song became popular, Charlotte had asked her to write songs until she was able to write 12 songs and even release an album. No one knew that she wrote those songs. To them, Charlotte was a genius songwriter and singer. Sofia did not ask Charlotte to credit her name as

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well because they were sisters. Moreover, Sofia believed that she did not need all that money and recognition. After all, she was the heir of LH Group.

Looking back, Sofia was extremely dumb to let Charlotte use all those songs and claim them as hers. "Oh, nothing like that. However, I only have a few weeks to submit the first draft of the songs. So I thought you would be ready by then."

"Charlotte, do you know about the winter collection, right?" Sofia frowned. Seeing Charlotte nod, Sofia smiled. "I know you would understand me. You are my sister, after all."

"Of course," Charlotte said with a sad smile on her face. "I have been wanting to tell them that I am planning to rest this **year** and the next. I cannot exactly handle both singing and acting at the same time. So...perhaps I can just cancel the album and focus on acting."

Sofia sneered inwardly. How could she not know that Charlotte was currently trying to manipulate her? “Well, since I have been very busy, why not **find** someone to write the songs for now? I am certain you can find some ghostwriter willing to work for money, right?”

Charlotte blinked. She hesitated, then she told her that she would talk to her lawyer and manager about it. Sofia only smiled and nodded in response. In truth, she no longer wanted to be taken advantage of. Gone were the days when she would do everything to cater to Charlotte’s moods and needs. She was not her slave, and obviously, she was not her sister.

Their conversation, however, was interrupted by a knock on Sofia’s door. Then, the glass door opened, and Daniel walked in with a large bouquet of beautiful red roses and a large smile on his face.

“Surprise?” Daniel beamed. As always, he was wearing a sharp black suit that complemented his tall, well-built frame. His hair was neatly styled to the side, adding an extra touch of sophistication to his appearance. The

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suit exuded a sense of tailored elegance, accentuating Daniel’s confident and polished presence in the room.

“Daniel,” Sofia tried her best to sound enthusiastic, but how could she easily fool Daniel? “How come you are here?”

“Am I disturbing anything?” Daniel asked, staring at Sofia before turning his gaze to Charlotte. “Hey, Char... please don’t tell me I am disturbing some sister bonding time?”

“Oh, no, please... Charlotte got up. “I am about to leave anyway.”

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“Leave?” Sofia frowned. “Why would you leave? Daniel brought lunch. Shall we enjoy it together?” Sofia asked. Now that she thought about it, Charlotte would

Id always try to leave when Daniel arrived, but it was Sofia who would always stop her from leaving and ‘force’ her to spend time with them.

Just as Sofia expected, Charlotte simply agreed without raising any fuss. After a few minutes, two men arrived with the food that Daniel ordered.

“Sweet and sour chicken, beef stroganoff, and some doughnuts from your favorite shop,” Daniel said.

Charlotte Sofia smiled. “Look at that, you even bought some of Charlotte’s favorite Steak Frites, Escargot, and creme brulee... you remembered it well.”

“I was craving for some. I didn’t know Charlotte liked it too...” Daniel was quick to answer. In response, Sofia only nodded.

“Did something happen?” Daniel asked.

“No. I just forgot to write the songs for Charri’s next Album.” Sofia calmly said. She was already starting to eat her sweet and sour chicken and decided to ignore the two who were stealing glances at each other. She already knew where this was going, and she **was** willing to bet that this man would soon start convincing her to write those songs.

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“Hm?” Daniel looked at Charlotte. Now that Sofia thought about it, Daniel was a very good actor too. Did he perhaps go to an acting school in high school? “I thought you already started writing those songs?” Daniel casually asked Sofia. The only people who knew about the fact that it was Sofia who wrote those songs were Sofia and Charlotte. However, it was Charlotte who told Daniel about it, saying that she felt guilty lying to her future ‘brother-in-law’. Charlotte decided to come clean and told Daniel about the ghostwriting. Naturally, Daniel only said kind words and even appreciated the fact that Charlotte had been honest about this whole thing.

“I did not like them,” Sofia shrugged. “I thought they were a little... familiar.”

“You already wrote some songs?” Charlotte could not help but ask Sofia. Almost immediately, Sofia saw that little hope flashed in Charlotte’s eyes.

“Just a few stanzas. They were nothing special. I chose not to continue writing them.”

“Oh,” Charlotte nodded. Again, there was disappointment in her eyes. Seeing this, Daniel immediately cleared his throat.

“Babe, why not show her those songs? Maybe she will like it?” Daniel asked.

“How could I show her something unfinished?” Sofia frowned as if the mere thought of giving Charlotte an ugly piece was truly making her

upset.

“It’s alright Daniel. It’s not a big deal. Sister has been busy with the company and the winter collection. Moreover, the Annual Shareholder’s Meeting is coming. It’s not a big deal.” Charlotte said. Seeing this, Sofia almost laughed out loud. Did they truly think she was that stupid?

Sofia had the urge to laugh like a lunatic at the show that she was given. It had been years that these two had been playing her head like a ball! They liked messing with her, acting like they were helpless, and using her

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emotions to manipulate her.

These two betrayed her. Luckily, her secretary came in just in time to inform her that a phone call was waiting for her on line one.

“Hello?” Sofia said.

“I sent flowers...” a deep sexy voice answered her. “It’s not as tacky as the one that you have now.”

Sofia raised an eyebrow, her gaze landed on the twelve red roses that Daniel had just given her. Then a mischievous smile appeared on her face. “Was it enough to surprise me?” she asked.

She had been on a roller coaster of emotions right now, she was about to explode from anger. His call felt like an anchor, the one that was preventing her from committing crimes at this very moment.

There was a brief silence on the other line before he said. “I hope...”

Sofia smiled. Then she heard him say, “Turn around.”

She did not hesitate. She immediately turned around and let out a surprised gasp.

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Sofia’s eyes widened with amazement.

Before her, the skies seemed to be raining flowers—petals of vibrant colors gently cascading like a soft, fragrant shower. It was a breathtaking

scene.

Through the floor-to-ceiling glass windows of her office, she watched as the petals danced in the air—creating a magical atmosphere that momentarily lifted the weight of her anger. The vibrant hues contrasted against the backdrop of the cityscape, turning the scene into a dreamlike

panorama.

Sofia never thought that a gesture like this would somehow melt away her anger, but it did—she felt the tension and frustration of the day melt away. With each petal that gracefully twirled in the air.

“I already sent people to clean it all up, so there is no need to worry about garbage.”

Sofia blinked when she heard his voice, then she smiled. The fact that she was an environmentalist and had some charities that did recycling of trash was not a secret inside the company. However, she did not like to put all this in news and magazines. “Thank you.”

“Who would do something so senseless?” Sofia heard Daniel’s voice not far away from her. “Aren’t they just throwing money?”

“Perhaps a billionaire just got married?” Charlotte chimed in. “It was a romantic gesture.”

“A college trust fund baby showing off...” Daniel muttered before he turned towards his food once again.

Hearing this, Sofia had to stop herself from chuckling.

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“I will talk to you later,” Sofia said.

“Hmmm... I will come get you at five.”

“I” She was about to say that she would probably stay up late—as always, but he interrupted her.

“You just got married...” It was a reminder, an awkward one. After all, they were only married on paper. “I am taking you to meet someone.”

“Right...” Sofia nodded. She was immediately reminded that she was supposed to visit her mother very soon. “Later then.”

She quickly cut the call and went back to eating her chicken.

“Business?” Daniel asked.

“Hmmm...” Sofia said without elaborating. The anger that she felt earlier was now completely gone. However, she still could not stop her chest from feeling heavy. The thought of the betrayal still gnawed at her like a persistent ache.

Sofia took a deep breath, trying to shake off the remnants of the heaviness that lingered within her as the petals continued their gentle descent outside her window, creating a serene ambiance that contrasted with the storm of emotions inside her.

Finally, lunch ended. When Charlotte told her that she was going to leave, Sofia did not stop her. However, she was not surprised when Daniel also told her that he needed to leave for another meeting. However, he promised to take her on a date after work. Sofia immediately refused this invitation.

Luckily, Daniel did not force her to, as he understood how busy she was because of the company.

Alone in her office, Sofia immediately shifted her focus to the things that

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she needed to do. She could not just let her emotions ruin her.

“Miss, Miss Karina Harmon is here.”

“Send her in...” Sofia immediately got up. She eyed the time and realized it was already a quarter past four. Time truly flies when one is busy. She straightened her pencil skirt and looked at the woman who walked inside her office.

“You look like a mess,” these were Karina’s words as she stepped inside.

Karina’s presence immediately brought a certain order into the room. For some reason, this felt like a stark contrast to the emotional turbulence Sofia was experiencing. Karina’s sharp, observant eyes took in the scene, and with a sigh, she closed the door behind her.

“I swear, Sofia, you attract chaos like a magnet,” Karina remarked with a wry smile as she approached her and pulled her into a hug. Then she placed her black bag on Sofia’s table and made herself comfortable on the chair. She then crossed her arms, her suit jacket impeccably tailored to fit

her frame.

“What is it this time? Did you and Daniel had another **fight**? I told you to leave that jerk, already.”

Sofia sighed. She shook her head and walked towards the small bar. “Wine?”

“You drink while still working?” Karina asked. “Did you hit your head somewhere?”

“I need it,” Sofia calmly spoke. Karina and she had been friends since high school. They were tight but because of how busy their lives were, they had seldom seen **each** other in the past two months. “Want one?”

Karina eyed her, and then she nodded. “What happened?”

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Sofia said nothing. She then handed her a **glass** of wine. “You were right.”

Karina arched her eyebrow. “I thought I was always right?”

Sofia stared at her brown-eyed, brunette best friend as she leaned against her table. Then she let out a sigh. “Charlotte and Daniel just betrayed me.”

Almost immediately, Karina’s expression changed. She went from that professional yet languid woman in her last year of law school to the woman she once was when they were younger. “You- What did you just –
“She was about to get up, but Sofia already knew this would happen, so she immediately held the woman’s shoulder and pushed her back down the chair.

“Calm down...” Sofia said.

“Calm down?” Once again, Karina tried to stand up, but Sofia pushed her down. “You want me to calm down? Only seeing them in a hospital bed would calm me down! Those two-”

“I am planning on making them suffer,” Sofia’s words caught Karina off guard. The two had been friends for too long, and Karina knew that Sofia rarely uttered words like that.

younger.

The two had always been opposites since they were younger. Karina was the fiery troublemaker while Sofia was the calm one who preferred books and drawings over **gossip**.

At one point, she wondered how they became friends.

“I will help you!” Karina immediately said. “What do you need? Shall I give you the number of a friend? I promise he doesn’t kill people.”

Sofia shook her head. She was tempted to knock some sense into this woman’s brain. How could someone who was about to graduate top of her class and was working as a paralegal in the top firm in Springfield say something like this? However, she was not surprised to hear Karina say those words.

“What?” Karin frowned.

“I need it to be slow and painful...” Sofia said before she finished the wine in her wine glass. She knew this was going to be a very long game, but Sofia was prepared to gamble everything just to make those people pay.

Karina’s expression turned serious. She pursed her lips as her eyes met Sofia’s. “What do you need me to do?” Karina asked.