

Mr. Chairman's Devious Wife by Brey Mitchylle

Chapter 71-75

Chapter 71

"Mr. Beaumont, Leandro seemed at a loss for words when he saw Alexander. Do you two know each other?"

Instead of answering, Alexander looked at Sofia, "Shall we?" He held his hand towards her. This time, she accepted it without saying another word.

As they stepped onto the dance floor, the music took control of their movements. They swayed together, the world around them fading. Sofia could feel the gazes from everyone, some curious, others judgmental as if they had just seen a

deme

1. But she didn't care.

cy glided across the floor, the soft melody creating a bubble of intimacy around them. Sofia lifted her gaze to his calm and reassuring eyes. For a moment, they were alone, the opulence of the room and the prying

floor became their haven, movements choreographed by the music. As they swayed, Alexander spoke, his words giving a subtle tension to the atmosphere. "You look beautiful."

"I didn't think you would come," she smiled.

"I promised you. I would come. Didn't I?"

"You were busy," she uttered.

"You are a priority."

Their bodies moved in sync with the music.

"Busy doesn't mean uninterested," Alexander whispered, his breath sending a shiver down Sofia's spine.

She blushed. What was that supposed to mean? And why does her face feel so hot? She wanted to bury her face in Alexander's chest but stopped herself; after all, they were in a public space.

Luckily, there were no reporters around as they were not allowed to go inside the venue.

"It seems that there were many young gentlemen around you who wanted to 'build' connections, he muttered as he twirled her around the dance floor.

"What do you mean?" she asked.

"I knew that many wanted to know you better when they heard about your engagement with Daniel, but I never expected them to be this many, he smirked. "Sadly, you are already married."

"Oh, it was grandmother's friends," Sofia noticed this the moment she arrived at the venue. She did not know if her grandmother did this on purpose, but most of the people she invited were allowed a plus one, and most of them brought their bachelor grandson.

The moment they arrived, Eulanda immediately started introducing her to everyone. However, she ignored them as she found everything comical.

Her grandmother knew that she was already married. While Eulanda did not say anything else aside from that one time when she warned her about being with a Beaumont, she never showed any signs that she was against this marriage.

Eulanda knew that all the proper procedures had been done. Sofa and Alexander both signed a prenuptial agreement, and none of them would lose a fortune once they divorced.

"I don't know what was thinking," Sofia smiled.

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"Perhaps to make me aware that you are one of the most sought after women in Illinois?" he chuckled at that.

“Says the man who could practically have any woman that he wanted,” she said.

“I am already a married man”

“Of course, Sofia smiled at that.

“I apologize for being late. There were some problems in the company,” he said after a few minutes of silence.

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“You don’t have to apologize,” she quickly responded. For some reason, his serious tone made her heart race. What exactly is happening right now? She immediately pushed all of her thoughts out of her head.

Luckily, the music ended, and now they had to go back to where Eulanda and the others were.

“Mr. Beaumont Eulanda beamed. “I am so glad that you were able to come.”

“Please Eul

Die Alexander. Hello, Mr. Rames.”

“Alexander, Mr Lames enthusiastically greeted. Sofia already knew that Alexander was well-known in the business industry. but she never expected him to attract this much attention!

For some reason, this made her think that coming in late was intentional on his part as he did not want to take the attention away from her. She looked at Alexander’s side profile as he interacted with Mr. Rames and a few other businessmen who decided to greet him as well.

Seeing him in front of many people somehow gave a warm feeling in her chest.

“Look at them,” Karina mumbled next to him. “I’m sure they are going to start talking about business again.”

“Where is Adam? Sofia asked. Earlier, Adam arrived and took Karina away.

She did not know where the two went and simply assumed it had something to do with a case that they were handling together.

“How would I know that?” Karina asked.

“Really?” Sofia lifted an eyebrow, her tone teasing.

However, instead of getting flustered, Karina only smiled. “How about you and that man? I saw what was happening earlier.”

“What do you mean?” Sofia asked.

“Stop feigning innocence. I saw it.”

“What did you see?” Sofia accepted the champagne that Karina handed her.

“How he held you?”

“We were dancing, Karina of course, he would hold me.” Sofia was tempted to roll her eyes.

“That man likes you.”

“Right.”

“You don’t believe me?” Karina asked.

“Of course not.”

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He wouldn’t marry you if he doesn’t like you”

Sofia pursed her lips Right. Of course.

Actually, it is easier to think that Alexander would not marry her if he didn’t like her. However, the fact that their marriage was simply a deal-a contract was not going away anytime soon

There was just something about the two of them... something that seemed to be stopping them from stepping into the next stage of their relationship. But hey! They are cordial! They are friends, and he takes care of her. Moreover, she was thankful that they were not enemies.

"How about you? Karina asked.

"What about me?"

"Don't you like him?"

Sofia stopp

Does she like him? "What's not to like?" she responded. He is perfect and kind."

"Kind!" Karma |__uttet. You really are calling him kind?"

"He is kind"

"Maybe to you. But that's only because he cares about you."

Sofia finished her champagne and said nothing.

To be honest, everything has been very chaotic lately, and she was not able to have the time to think about her personal feelings.

Perhaps, one day she would take some time to really sit down and analyze why he married her, but that time is not now.

"Huh...interesting," Karina said. Almost immediately, Sofia turned her head only to see Alexander with none other than Zoe Smith! "Isn't that Z Smith? The pianist Your mom likes her a lot, right? Why was she here? You didn't tell me she would be invited."

"I didn't know," Sofia looked at her grandmother, who was still talking to some other businessmen. She could not understand why her grandmother would suddenly invite Zoe on Sofia's birthday as Zoe and Sofia were not friends at all.

Moreover, Sofia checked the guest list and knew that Zoe was not one of them. Again, Sofia's gaze landed on Zoe. Unlike Sofia, who was wearing a red embroidered dress, Zoe was actually wearing a golden dress that

reminded Sofia of the dresses that Greek gods and goddesses would wear. It hugged Zoe's body, accentuating her curves.

To be honest, Zoe looked really good standing next to Alexander who was wearing a black suit. Actually, the two looked good together.

Something about her train of thought seemed to create some chaos inside her chest. Just as she thought Alexander would agree to Zoe's request for a dance, the latter simply walked away

"Eh?" Karina blinked. "Did he just..."

"He walked away." Sofia mumbled. However, something about Alexander's actions made her happy.

"That's Z Smith. She is very available, and I heard from the grapevine that her ailing grandfather wanted her to marry

someone."

"Oh? Was it because of Adam?" Sofia smiled.

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"Well, they had a blind date once. Adam was late because of our client."

"And

"He was late for two hours, so....."

"He- two hours?" That man made 7. Smith wait for two freaking hours? Sofia did not know what to say!

However, now Alexander just walked out when Zoe asked him to dance with her. Isn't this an insult? The poor girl did nothing wrong

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However, this was no longer Sofia's business. Tonight was her birthday, so instead of delving into the matter, she chose to get another champagne while

talking to Karma and other guests. It took her a couple more minutes when she noticed that Alexander was no longer in the hail

“He might be at 11 balcony was

rina said. Hearing this, Sofia immediately made her way to the back of the hall where a quiet

“Hey, Sofia said when she saw Alexander smoking on the balcony. I didn’t know you smoke, she uttered.

“I hate smoking” he said, crushing the cigarette under his foot. The embers flickered and died as he ground it into the floor She turned her head towards the night sky that stretched before them. Since this balcony was located at the back part of the building it does not have any lights and this immediately made the view better.

“If you are tired. why not.”

Did someone tell you how beautiful you look tonight? he interrupted her.

Her gaze sprang back to his as she smiled. This is the second time that you asked me that question. Many told her how beautiful she was tonight but for some reason, she thought those were mere empty words.

“Then let me say it again, you look perfect

She smiled. “Thank you” She wanted to ask him if this was the reason why he was hiding here but chose not to. Instead, she chose to simply enjoy the atmosphere with him.

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For a while, the two of them gazed at the stars without saying another word. The cold air of Chicago made its presence known, causing Sofia to shiver. Almost immediately, she felt his coat around her.

“Thank you” she said, looking at him before adding, “For everything

He said nothing in response. Instead, he merely stared at her, his gaze unreadable. For a moment, the world around them seemed to stop, and her heartbeat grew louder as it drummed against her chest.

The air crackled with unspoken tension. Their eyes locked, and a magnetic pull seemed to draw them closer. Sofia felt a tingling sensation, a subtle electricity that charged the space between them. The silence held a promise, and the intensity of their gaze spoke volumes.

Without breaking eye contact, he leaned in slowly, closing the distance between them. The moment hung in the air,

suspended in anticipation,

shared connection.

Sofia's breath caught, and the cold night seemed to ignite with a warmth that radiated from their

lips as they met.

Well, that didn't actually happen.

Just as she closed her eyes, she heard someone clear their throat behind them. Almost immediately, the tension around the

air broke.

It was as if a cold bucket of water was poured into her soul as she realized what was about to happen.

They were about to kiss!

"Chairman..." It was Josef. Thankfully, it was only Josef! "Young Master Daniel- Before he could finish his words, someone suddenly pushed him to the side.

To Sofia's surprise, the perpetrator was none other than Daniel.

Daniel's eyes narrowed into icy slits. The anger that had simmered beneath the surface for weeks, fueled by the sting of rejection and the sight of Sofia with another man, erupted in an instant.

He whipped his head around, his voice sharp as a knife. "Josef," he hissed, the single word dripping with venom. "Get lost."

Josef, taken aback by the sudden hostility, stammered, "B-but Young Master-

Daniel cut him off before he could finish. "I said, get lost! This doesn't concern you." His voice boomed.

Sofia watched in stunned silence as Daniel turned back to her. What is this man doing here?

"And you," he turned his harsh gaze toward Alexander, his voice laced with barely contained rage, "what do you think you're doing with my fiance?"

Alexander, surprised by the audacity of the accusation, smirked. You mean ex-fiance, don't you?" he pointed out.

"What are you doing here, Daniel?" Sofia asked. "I don't remember sending you an invite."

Daniel ignored her, his full attention fixated on Alexander.

"I always knew you were out to hurt me. You already took everything away from me, and now.... you wanted Sofia too?"

"Josef, call security. Have them escort Daniel out," Sofia said. Luckily, Josef immediately made a move.

Daniel snorted in response. "So, the reason why you refuse to even talk to me was because of this man?"

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"Isn't it funny how you can easily turn things around?" Sofia hed. "It was you who cheated on my sister How dare you drag Alex into the trouble that you made yourself?"

"Alex?" Daniel uttered, his gaze dark. He had warned her not to dill him Alex!

"We're done, Daniel. I don't want you ruining my birthday party Please leave now."

“Done? You can’t just throw away years like that, Sofia! We were meant to be together!”

“That was until you cheated on me Sofia’s voice shook. At the end of the day, it wasn’t her who threw away the years they

spent together. It was him!

And yet, he really has the audacity to act like she did something wrong?

“It was you...” Daniels are focused on Alexander “You did this didn’t you?” Daniel’s face contorted. Before Alexander- could say another

word, Daniel suddenly approached them and grabbed Sofia’s wrist. “Let’s go... let’s talk in private. This

man-

“Let me go

“Let’s-”

“Let her go!” Alexander hissed

Before Sofia could react. Daniel suddenly lunged towards his brother, his fist clenched tight. But Alexander was faster. He sidestepped the blow with ease, twisting Daniel’s arm behind his back. A surprised yelp escaped Daniel’s lips as he struggled against the hold.

“Let go of me!” he roared, his face contorted i

“Not until you calm down,” Alexander said calmly, his voice firm but steady. He wasn’t trying to hurt Daniel, just to prevent him from hurting anyone else.

Just then, the balcony door swung open with a bang. Two security guards rushed in with Josef.

“Take him with you,” Alexander said as he pushed Daniel toward the guards. “Call the police. We will be pressing charges.”

“What the heck, Alexander!?” Daniel hissed as he held the arm that Alexander twisted.

“Get him out of here,” Sofia spat, her voice shaking slightly. She had been with Daniel for the past few years, yet she had never seen him that violent! Sadly, it seemed that the commotion already gathered the attention of a few people as she could see a few of them standing by the door.

This time, Alexander held her hand. He met her gaze. “Let’s go.. he uttered, However, before she could say a word, Alexander suddenly carried her like a princess in his arms.

She let out a surprised gasp.

What is this man doing? Then he strode out of the balcony and walked towards the venue. Under everyone’s gaze. Alexander carried her out of the place and took her into his car.

“No news of this will go out...” Alexander said as he looked at Josef.

“Yes, sir.” Josef nodded.

Seeing this, Alexander drove away from the venue with the dazel Sofia next to him.

For a while, none of them spoke a word, and to be honest, Sofia preferred it like this. Just as she thought they would stay like

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this forever, she felt something cold hit her face.

Confused, she looked around, only to realize the familiar sensation of wind whipping through her hair. She glanced up, a gasp escaping her lips. The roof of the car, previously a solid shield against the night air, was now gently folding back. transforming the previously enclosed space into an open-air convertible

She turned to him and saw him give her a gentle smile. “Let me take you somewhere...” he uttered, his voice deep.

Where?" she asked.

He didn't respond for a few minutes before he smiled and said, "A secret."

Sofia arched an eyebrow. Then her eyes turned towards the road. A smile appeared on her face.

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COMMENT

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"Happy birthday," Alexander said as they stood on the Skydeck of Willis Tower. He stood beside her, his arms around her waist as they stared at the beautiful view of Chicago.

The wind whipped playfully at their hair as they gazed out at the sprawling cityscape below. The vastness of it all took their breath away, a seemingly endless sea of buildings stretching out in all directions. Directly below, like tiny ants scurrying about, cars moved along the intricate web of streets, their headlights twinkling like scattered stars.

In the distance, the inky darkness of Lake Michigan met the star-studded sky, making it hard to tell where one ended and the other began. The cool night air carried the faint hum of the city below, a constant lullaby beneath the vast, glittering spectacle.

"This is beau peaceful this p

"Open it," he said.

I said, smiling. She never thought that he would take her to this place. However, she liked how s. She looked at him and noticed a small velvet box in his hand.

She accepted the box and immediately opened it. Almost immediately, her eyes widened. "This is. It was a ring- a simple yet elegant pink diamond ring. For some reason, this ring made her think about how far she had come. From

being with Daniel and Charlotte to being alone. At one point, she used to tell herself that living alone without her sister and boyfriend would not be possible.

But here she is.

Alive and well.

And she is with someone like Alexander.

“Thank you,” she smiled. “May I wear this now?”

“Of course,” suddenly, he took the ring from the velvet box and placed it on the middle finger of her left hand. “It suits you.”

“Thank you,” Sofia lifted her head and met his eyes. This man really made her birthday a little more special.

“You should stop that.”

“Stop what?” she blinked, confused.

“Staring at me like that.”

“Huh? What is there something wrong?” she asked.

For a few seconds, Alexander just stared at her, maintaining his silence. However, before the atmosphere turned awkward, he said, “It is making me want to kiss you.”

Sofia’s heart almost jumped out of her chest. Almost immediately, her heart started racing, and her face turned hot. However, for some unknown reason, she did not turn her head away. Instead, she stared at his eyes. Her grandmother’s warning echoed inside her head. “Are you asking permission to kiss me?” she asked.

“I wouldn’t kiss a vulnerable, broken-hearted woman who is only looking for a quick rebound.” His answer came without even batting an eyelid.

“Who told you that I am looking for a rebound?” she just got married for crying out loud! “I-” Sofia was not able to finish her words when his lips came crashing against hers. She immediately stilled, her heart drumming so loud against her chest.

The world around them seemed to fade away as Alexander's lips met hers. The unexpectedness of it stole her breath for a

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moment, leaving her frozen, His kiss was firm, insistent, yet surprisingly gentle, sending a jolt through her that left her knees

weak.

Sofia felt a flicker of something she hadn't experienced in months- a spark of desire, a yearning she thought she'd buried. deep within. Her initial shock gave way to a hesitant response, her lips parting slightly as if in surprise, then meeting his in a tentative touch

The kiss deepened, a silent conversation unfolding between their lips. It was a dance of exploration, a testing of boundaries..

His touch ignited a warmth inside her, a slow burn that spread through her body, chasing away the lingering chill of her

past heartbreak.

Her senses were heightened. The scent of his cologne, fresh and clean, filled her head. She could feel the warmth of his body pressed against hers, the subtle rise and fall of his chest with each breath. Each touch, each brush of their lips, sent a new wave of shivers down her spine, leaving her breathless and wanting more.

Despite his h

olds, the way he was holding her, the urgency in his kiss, all spoke a different story.

And she liked it.

This just made her realize how much she liked him.

Sofia's arms snaked around his neck as his hand held her waist firmly.

She did not know how long the kiss lasted. All she knew was how good it felt.

When the kiss ended, Sofia immediately tried to catch her breath. Her lips felt... swollen. Yet something about it made her want to laugh

Damn it.

When was the last time she had kissed someone so passionately

Daniel and she were both busy. They seldom saw each other, and when they did, she would invite Charlotte with them. Daniel never complained, so she thought he liked that setup. However, this also meant that they did not have the time to be intimate with each other. She knew it was silly, but she was content with that arrangement.

She thought this would change once they got married.

Well....

“Can we stay in this place a little longer?” she asked.

“Of course,” he responded before kissing the top of her head.

Sofia leaned into his side, a content sigh escaping her lips. The city lights twinkled below them, a million tiny stars against the velvet night sky. The earlier turmoil in her heart had faded, replaced by a warmth that spread through her like sunshine.

This was unexpected, a spark in the midst of a whirlwind. But as she glanced up at him, a soft smile playing on his lips, she couldn't help but embrace the feeling. Maybe, just maybe, this wasn't a mistake after all.

The rest of the night unfolded in stolen moments of laughter and whispered conversations.

However, this interaction immediately gave her a problem the moment they arrived at his place.

“You take a bath first.” Alexander said.

In response, Sofia blinked. Her already calm heart once again started beating as if it wanted to jump out of her chest. “Right.” she quickly turned around and thought she heard him chuckle, but she ignored it as she made her way into the bathroom.

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They had been staying in the same place the same room and sleeping in the same bed test of the tune but they had yet

most to do anything sexual

They agreed to let all happen when u happened. This was a part of the rule. There would always be comers in this relationships and Alexander was pretty good at enforcing those les

However, alter that kiss

Soña could not help but wonder if something would happen tonight Just the thought of it somehow made her nervoud Why the b

acting like a virgin? She bit her hiss as she stared at her selection

and decided to check her phone to tell her grandmother that she was already home Then she sent a elling her not to worry as she was still alive After laughing at her own silly text, she turned her phone

cher hair. Then she turned the water on the rub

ater cascaded into the porcelain tub ailling the room with a comforting steam Sofia dimmed the lights, creating ting glow. Reaching for a scented bath bomb, she tossed it into the water, watching as it tizz

nd swirled releasing a calming lavender aroma.

he stripped off her ches the lingering warmth of the city might lingering on her skin. As she stepped into the tub, a sigh of pure contentment escaped her lips The hot water enveloped her, washing away the day's stresses and leaving her muscles pleasantly relaxed

She leaned back against the cool tile, closing her eyes and letting out another deep breath. Her mmd drifted back to the kiss, the memone

emory sending a pleasant tingle down her spine. Maybe, just maybe, this new chapter in her lite held more promise than she initially thought

A smile played on her hips as she reached for a scented bath oil ready to indulge in a moment of pure self-care. As she smoothed the oil onto her skin,

she couldn't help but feel a thicker of anticipation for what the night might hold. This new chapter was just beginning, and Sofia was ready to embrace it, one relaxing bath at a time.

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Sota awoke facing integrand red. Despite the smile adorned her face emptying to stretch she frowned upon

Stoicat.

unworthy Mentions of the bathroom incident, which occurred after her bath, TOURTANTS SUB Snecouids – help bir tane her face under the blanke

be

Feste & till allee in the tub? In the end he had to check on her and that was when it happened

TADE covers, diet crews pounting semuirter hair unkempt and sleep clinging to his eyes, leaned

ting in bed wasn

sent shivers down her spine.

something more primal. The memory of last night.

the safest way to spend the night

her voice barely a whisper

Saybe you should let me tuck you in tonight” he

curtains. It must be late. Once again, she was late

For was a low for word Tempted

pre bemenet he ended up not saying another word simply pursing her lips.

The pingin enters se ter jo rough Sea She couldn't deny the allure of staying tangled in the

About really great for her she mumbled the words etching in her

The propped himself up on the low gaze still holding hers. Wri

mured his voice husky with a hint of

Sneath tinted. The air cued with unspoken desire the playful hunter morphing into something more intimate like a delicious awareness a bare raging between responsibility and a yearning she couldn't quite

of the moment of Greatness brewed coffee wafted into the room, snapping the tension-fed silence. Alexander's smile

Cocultured turned worshipping the back of his neck. I already made breakfast Care to join me before you head out to

matter mile She did to actually notice the smell of coffee when she woke up! How ridiculous!

Tangerine he found himself in the inches with the stunner Alexander, only in his pajamas, fabric clinging to his

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Sofia felt a wave of warmth wash over her. Sunlight streamed through the window, illuminating Alexander, who stood shirtless at the counter. He turned, a playful grin spreading across his face.

He gestured towards a plate piled high with golden brown pancakes, crispy bacon, and fluffy scrambled eggs. Beside it sat a steaming mug of coffee and a delectable-looking Monte Cristo sandwich cut in half

Sofia's stomach rumbled, betraying her earlier denial of the enticing aroma. The sight of the breakfast spread, with its mix of comforting classics and a touch of indulgence, made her smile widen

Wow, she breathed, stepping closer. This looks amazing

He winked. "Thought something hearty was in order after last night's adventures."

His words sent a blush creeping up her neck. "Coffee?" he asked.

“Yes, please this. “You

umbled, “Make it black. No sugar.” She needed the bitterness of the coffee to make her wake up from all

tell anyone that you made breakfast for me, they probably won’t believe me.” She smiled.

This man was feared in the business world! No one would believe that he had the habit of making breakfast for a woman.

“I don’t usually inake breakfast for anyone.

Taking a tentative bite of the fluffy pancakes, Sofia savored the sweet, buttery flavor. This is seriously good.” she mumbled through a mouthful.

“I and taking that as a compliment.”

Sofia smiled. This was not the first time that she tried his cooking but it still amazes her every time. To be honest, just the fact that he is a very good cook was something that she would not associate with his persona in the business world.

“It’s already noon...” he said. “Are you still planning to work? You can call Miss Amores and have your files sent here.”

“No. There’s no need. I have a meeting in the afternoon with the board,” Sofia said. “How about you?”

“I can have my meeting in the office.”

“Oh...” Sofia nodded before she took a sip of her coffee. As expected, the bitterness jolted her awake. It was like a kick in the, head- a good kick, of course.

“I received a call that Daniel wanted to get inside the building last night. I asked the security not to let him in a few weeks ago. I believe he realized that we are still together and wanted to come.”

To Sofia’s surprise, the mention of Daniel’s name did not immediately ruin her mood. In fact, she felt like this was but a casual conversation about an acquaintance. She lifted her head and looked at him. “Are you going to tell me why you actually decided to offer me marriage?”

“What do you mean?”

“I meant...” Sofia composed herself. To her, the best time to talk about crucial issues is while both of them are in a good mood! “You can get my shares without marrying me.”

“I just wanted to keep you safe. I don’t want you suddenly changing your mind and marrying my brother instead.”

“That’s it?” she asked. She refused to believe that he did not have some sort of mysterious reason for marrying her.

“That and....

you are my fiancée.

“Huh?”

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“Your grandmother did not tell you.” he chuckled. “I am only claiming what’s mine, to begin with”

“What-What are you talking about?”

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“How about you come with me?” he asked “After breakfast, of course.

Sofia could only nod in response. She thought about the past, trying her best to recall if she was engaged when she was younger, but she couldn’t remember anything

After

breakfast. Daniel took her to Jenny Thomas's house, where he showed her images of their parents whose were images of Sofia's father and Alexander's mother

at-"Sofia was unable to say a word.

ids not really lovers he chuckled "However, they agreed to have their children marry each other."

how this

cause of me. Jenn

Sofia asked.

ed inside the study with a tray of snacks. "His mother used to say that your father was really smart and it would be nice for his child to marry hers. I told her she was stupid. Jenny rolled her eyes. "However, we lost contact with your father when he went to Europe

Jenny made a deliberate pause. The next thing we knew, he- he already passed. It took us a long time to realize that he had a daughter.

-So-

"I told Alexander about you when I heard that you were Daniel's girlfriend." Jenny said. "Naturally. I did not want Daniel to marry you instead." Jenny pointed at another image of her. Alexander's mother, and Sofia's father together.

Who would have thought that they actually knew each other?

Sofia would never have thought about this! However, everything was really clear. There was even a yearbook of them! It seems that they went to the same high school and became friends:

The thought of her father somehow made her chest a little heavy. She wondered what life would be if her mother did not marry Lawrence. If she was still with Sofia's father.

Surely, her mother would be alive and well.

“Can you tell me about my father?” Sofia asked. Sadly, she doesn’t know anything about the man because her mother did not say much about him. When Sofia was big enough to understand, she already accepted Lawrence as her new father.

“Of course.” Jenny smiled and started talking about Sofia’s father

After hours of laughter, Sofia and Alexander left Jenny’s house with a smile on their faces. Sofia actually spent the rest of the day at Jenny’s house! However, she was able to casually do it without guilt as she was also there for another business.

Sofia wanted Jenny to become the new ambassador of LH Design, and Jenny agreed without asking any questions.

“Thank you...” Sofia smiled as Alexander drove back to his place.

“For what?”

“For everything...” Sofia said, Alexander did not need to tell her why he did not tell her about their parents’ connection when they met. She understood that the man wanted to save her from Daniel, and what better way to do it than to show her Daniel’s true colors?

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Knowing about her Tatler, despite the bittersweet nature of it, bought a sense of closure. It wasn’t just about filling the gaps. it was about understanding her own story, the one that had shaped her into the woman she is today.

As Alexander drove the familiar streets of Springfield seemed diferent, imbued with a new layer of meaning They held not just memories but also a connection to her heritage, a thread that stretched back in time and intertwined with the man beside her.

A soft smile tugged at her lips as she turned and stared at his side profile. However, this smile did not last too long when she saw two police officers waiting for them in the lobby of their place.

“Are you Miss Sofia Lockhart?”

“Yes,” Sofia frowned, her heart already racing against her chest.

“Then please come with us to the hospital. the police officer said. “We are here investigating a woman that we found this afternoon, and we have reasons to believe that the woman is someone that you know very well

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The sterile scent of disinfectant greeted Solta room, casting an unsettlingly cold blue glow sheet with bodies lying beneath

she entered the morgue. Harsh fluorescent lights illuminated the Stainless steel tables lined the center, each one draped in a white

A tremor ran through Soha as Alexander tightened his grip around her arm. She couldn't tear her eyes away from the figure on the closest table.

“It is her,” she tried to maintain composure but was unable to. Fortunately, Alexander was already holding her in his arms. “It is Mrs. Phelps.” she mumbled, a wave of nausea washing over her

“Are you sure?” one of the officers asked.

She nodded gently as Alexander rubbed her back.

“Unfortunately, we cannot tell you anything right now. We are trying to contact Mrs. Phelps family.”

“My secretary will provide you with everything that you need,” Sofia said. She had already called Miss Amores and even

Karina

“Shall we leave this place?” Alexander said. In response, Sofia looked at the officers who escorted them outside.

“Thank you so much for your help, Miss Lockhart. We found your calling card on Mrs. Phelps clothing, so we immediately called you. Please expect another visit from us in the next few days.” the officers said

Sofia could only nod in response. She and Alexander then went back to his place.

A heavy silence clung to them as they entered the apartment. The warmth and familiarity of the space did little to dispel the chill of grief and suspicion that hung over Sofia.

Sinking onto the couch, she ran a hand through her hair, her mind a whirlwind of thoughts. Mrs. Phelps death felt like yet another cruel twist in the complex web she was caught in, a web spun by deceit and manipulation.

“It has to be Lawrence,” she finally broke the silence, her voice low and laced with anger. ‘Or maybe Mr. Oh. He has been too convenient in all of this.’”

Alexander sat beside her, his hand resting on hers, offering silent support.

“I have already discreetly begun investigating, he assured her, his voice firm. “My people are digging deeper into Mrs. Phelps past, her connections, and anything that might shed light on what happened. I also did an in-depth investigation of

Mr. Oh

Sofia appreciated his efforts, but a knot of worry remained in her stomach. “Finding out who killed her won’t bring her back.” she said softly. “But it will it will make sure they don’t get away with it. Her voice trembled slightly as she recalled her last conversation with Mrs. Phelps.

At that time, she asked her to gather evidence that could harm Mr. Oh. Sofia wanted something concrete against Mr. Oh, and Mrs. Phelps would have been the perfect pawn

She never expected this to happen. Sadly, she doesn’t have any specifics about Mrs. Phelps’ death, and she could only wait for the police to come up with something.

The very next day, the news of Mrs. Phelps' demise had already spread inside the office. Sofia could not help but frown the moment she walked into her office

Last night, she did not have that much sleep as she thought about Mrs. Phelps' death. In the end, she felt like a walking

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Of course I do. & Ms. P

1. Zhelps the

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fe as her empl

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We belime Mr. Phelps may have been bred Special Agent started her tone serious but not scary She was added as a perice of in

major counterfering and hugging mg

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Chapter 7

operating here in Illinois-

Sofia's mind reeled. The pieces just weren't biting.

This meant that everything was actual

"Then let me be honest with you."S "This was something that I found out Those are the documents that Alexand She handed it to Agent Emily

han she originally thought!

er expression serious as she got up and took a folder from her locked drawer. ago... I wanted to talk to Mrs. Phelps about it but I never had the chance to." gave her about Mrs. Phelps' involvement in counterfeiting LH Design's products.

"Many of my designs have been sold on various websites even before we launched them. This prompted me to investigate. and this is what I found out." Sofia added.

"And you have yet to confront her about this?" Special Agent Marcus asked.

"No. Not yet. I wanted to but... I have been very busy in the past few days. As you know. I just became the CEO of the company. My birthday was just a few days ago, and we encountered a few problems along the way."

"Then may I ask where you were two days ago?" Special Agent Emily asked.

"It was my birthday two days ago. Agent Parker, I had more than twenty people with me at an event with my grandmother. As for where I spent the night...I was with Mr. Alexander Beaumont. In his flat. Just the two of us." Sofia smiled.

Agent Parker and Agent Reynolds exchanged a brief glance, a silent conversation passing between them.

Thank you for your honesty, Ms. Lockhart," Agent Parker said finally. "We appreciate you coming forward with this information. The documents you provided will be included in our investigation."

Sofia nodded.

"Besides these documents, did you notice anything strange about her lately?" Special Agent Parker asked.

“Nothing really. Before I became the CEO, we used to interact a lot as she was the production manager; however, it was not on a personal level. I have been busy with my work, and since I was not overseeing everything at the time, I didn’t notice any problems in the company.”

The two agents nodded.

“Ms. Lockhart,” Agent Reynolds began, leaning forward slightly. You mentioned you weren’t close to Mrs. Phelps on a personal level. However, as the CEO and someone who recently uncovered evidence of potential wrongdoing within LH Design, we find it curious that you wouldn’t confide in your production manager, especially someone who’d been with the company for over two decades.”

“Perhaps,” Agent Parker added. “You could shed some light on your current relationship with Mrs. Phelps. Were there any recent disagreements or conflicts you’d like to share!”

“Of course, I told her about my concerns. In fact, I believe this was the reason why it took me a long time to discover the problem,” Sofia said. “As I mentioned earlier, our interactions were primarily professional. While I had no reason to distrust her, I also wouldn’t consider her a confidante in personal matters. When I discovered that she was involved, I stopped communicating my worries, and at that time, it seemed like a logical move as I just transitioned into my new role.”

“However, Sofia continued. “I did notice a change in her behavior recently. She seemed stressed and worked late more often. But I didn’t think much of it at the

time. If you have questions... feel free to ask anyone else in the company. I know a few people who have been working with her for more than ten years now.”

The two agents quickly thanked her. “One last thing...” Special Agent Parker said. “May I know the people who you sent to investigate Mrs. Phelps?”

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Chapter

Sofia already expected that the agent would ask something like the So she smiled and handed her a card Mr. Beaumont M. ander Beaumont of the Beaumont Empire. His connections are rather vast Asking for his help seas a very logical thing to do.”

Agath, the two agents looked at each any thing important, please don't h
you

so much for your cooperation. If you remember anything else, Special Agent Parker handed Softa her card.

Thank you” Soha said. In response
arker nodded.

Right another question”

“What is it?” Soña asked.

“Do you know who Dr. Mulach is?”