

Mr. Chairman's Devious Wife by Brey Mitchylle

Chapter 81-83

Chapter 81

Sotia reclined into the plush leather we meeting The phone in her perseve she recognized it as

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With trembling fingers, she ans

This is Dr Lee from St Jude's Hips grandmother

het car a strange emptiness uning at her despite the seemingly successful

istently, pulling her out of her contemplative ate Clancing at the caller ID

of apprehension tightening in her storrsachs

A voice, tight with barely suppressed emotion, filled the car "Ms Lockha e need you to come down to the emergency room immediately. 10x about your

The world seemed to hit on its ass. The voice continued, but Sofia barely registered the words, her mind reeling with the chilling announcement Helicopter crash missing critical condition

Sofia felt as it a cold bucket of water had been poured inside her soul, the world around her seemed to narrow. Tears welled up in her eyes, blurring her vision. Grief sharp and unexpected, slammed into her like a physical blow, stealing the air from her lungs. Her carefully constructed facade from the meeting crumbled, leaving behind a raw vulnerability

"Miss Miss Amores immediately asked when she noticed her reaction.

"Bring me to St. Jude's Sofia said as the phone slipped from her hand and hit the car floor. She fumbled as she tried to pick it up. "Yes I am still here. I will come as soon as possible. Sofia wiped the tears from her eyes and forced herself to calm down

Just as the call ended, she received another call. This time, it was from Alexander.

"I will see you at the hospital," he told her when she said that she already knew about the accident. Traveling from the company to the hospital took at least forty minutes and, to Sofia, this felt like forever.

The moment she arrived at the hospital, she immediately went to the emergency room where she saw Alexander along with Josef. Unable to stop herself, she crumbled into his arms. In the car, Sofia did not have the chance to show her emotions. She forced herself to calm down to think, to analyze the situation.

She did not have the time to be vulnerable.

At the sight of Alexander, all the tears that she was trying to control flowed like streams. In response, Alexander held her and sobbed in his embrace. The familiar scent of his cologne offered a brief sense of comfort amidst the

influx of emotions. The weight of the day, the tension from the meeting, and the sudden news of her brother's accident all came crashing down upon her.

A muffled sob echoed in the sterile hospital corridor, a stark contrast to the composed image she had projected only minutes ago. Tears stained her cheeks, smudging her carefully applied makeup, a physical manifestation of the emotional turmoil within.

As her cries subsided into hiccups, she pulled away from Alexander, wiping her eyes with the back of her hand. Shame pricked at her, a flicker of self-consciousness at displaying such vulnerability.

"I'm sorry," she mumbled, her voice rough with emotion. "I just

"Miss Lockhart?" an older man that Sofia had met in the past called out. "I am Dr. Lee...we have met before? I checked your mother's condition in the past.

Sofia nodded, shaking the doctor's hand. "Dr. Lee

"Shall we talk privately?" the Doctor glanced at Alexander. Sofia nodded but she did not let go of Alexander's hand.

“He’s my husband,” Sofia said. The Doctor simply nodded in response. Dr. Lee then led them to a small, quiet room off the main corridor. His face was etched with concern as he spoke, his voice gentle yet firm. “Ms. Lockhart, Funderstand this is an

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Chapter

incredibly time forget to be up and bene

He paused his gaze flickering bites and Alexander “There was a helicopter crash earlier today Your grandmother unfortunately, was one of the passengers Thankfully, the skate was located after several hours of searching

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Sofa breath hitched, and wines

sanders hand tighter

“However, the x tuation

Lee contmed “We managed to locate Fulanda, but she sustained severe head trauma and multiple injuries

He explained in simple terms avoiding overly technical language the extent of her injures “Medically speaking she has suffered a traumatic brain injure. While she is still technically alive and showing minimal brain activity, the chance of her regaining consciousness is unfortunately, very slum

mind reeled. The words “brain dead hung heavy in the air, unspoken yet deeply understood. Tears welled up in her eyes again, blurning her vision. She clung to Alexander for support, his presence a lifeline amidst the storm of emotions.

“We are doing everything we can to keep her comfortable and provide the best possible care. Dr. Lee assured them. “But I want to be realistic with you. Ms Lockhart: The next few days will be crucial

“Where did it happen?” Soña asked. She knew that her grandmother had been traveling a lot, but she did not have any specifics of where she was All she knew was she left the US a few days after her birthday.

She had been busy as everything had been chaotic lately, but they had been calling and texting each other. Their relationship had gone from zero to texting each other every single day. She started sending her funny images, and her grandmother started sending her images of her travels, swimming pools, the moon, flowers, and various other things

And just as she thought everything was going well, her grandmother would

Unable to stop herself. Sofia started crying in Alexander’s arms once again. The room blurred as Sofia’s sobs echoed once more Alexander held her close. his silent support a source of comfort in the face of overwhelming grief. Dr. Lee, watching them with understanding answered her question softly.

The crash occurred in a remote area of Alaska,” he explained. The dense forest and challenging terrain made the search and rescue operation incredibly difficult. It took several agonizing hours before they located the wreckage.

down Sofia’s spine. Images of her grandmother, vibrant and full of life. flashed in her mind. But what was she ? Sofia thought she was in Europe?

ally. Dr. Lee continued, his voice a gentle thread of hope. rescue teams were able to identify your grandmother the debris. They immediately prioritized her transportation back to Chicago, where she could receive the best care. Don’t worry, we will do our best to take care of Eulunda”

wiped her tears, a flicker of gratitude breaking through the fog of grief. Even in that moment of overwhelming iness, she clung to the knowledge that her grandmother wasn’t alone, that she had received prompt medical attention.

We understand this is a lot to process. Dr. Lee said, his voice filled with empathy. Do you have any questions, or would you like some time alone?”

Sofia leaned into Alexander's embrace as she looked at the doctor with tear-filled eyes. "Can we see her?" she asked, her voice barely a whisper.

Dr. Lee nodded gently. "Of course. We'll take you to her room after the forty-eight-hour observation period. However, please be prepared. The sight may be difficult..

Sofia nodded. She knew that her grandmother was hiding a lot of things from her.

"Then... I will leave now." Dr. Lee said and promptly left the room.

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Chapter 8

A wave of confusion washed over Sofia as Dr. Lee exited the room. The news of her grandmother's accident had brought a torrent of emotions, leaving her feeling overwhelmed and disoriented. But one question grew at the edge of her mind, refusing to be silenced.

"Alexander, she began, her voice a whisper. Why was Grandma in Alaska! I thought she was in Europe.

"We will find out once this is over. Let me take you outside."

you need a change of clothing already asked Josef to buy clothes and food.

Sofia nodded without saying another word. Her grandmother told her that she was investigating the death of Sofia's grandfather, but aside from that, she refused to give Sofia any details whatsoever. The woman had simply too many secrets, Sofia didn't know where to start.

The moment they got out of the room, a familiar person immediately caught her attention. "What are you doing here?" Sofia asked LAWRENCE.

"I immediately came when I heard

“You are not welcome here Sofia decided to drop the facade. She only acted cordially for the sake of the shareholders. Now that they were alone. Sofia was once again acting coldly towards Lawrence. She did not see any point in faking it

anymore.

“Sofia please.” As usual. Lawrence looked like a hurt puppy. Sofi immediately wanted to scream at the man. She wanted to blame him for everything! First, he took away the chance for Sofa to be closer to Eulanda. Then he poisoned her mother. Now, he wanted to take the company away from her

Yet, this man was the first one who came when he heard about Ealanda’s accident’ Was he trying to provoke her? Was he trying to watch her suffer?

For a while, she was tempted to slap him in the face.

“I suggest that you leave now, before I make you.” Alexander’s voice was chilly.

“Mr. Beaumont. I don’t think this is something that you-”

“Do not me say it again.” Alexander frowned.

ed at Alexander and then towards Sofia. “Very well” he uttered “Since you are forcing me to leave then I will However we need to issue a statement and immediately hold another meeting,” Lawrence suddenly smiled at

e cannot actually let the media know that our Chairwoman is dead, right?”

not dead! Sofia wanted to scream, but Alexander held her closer as if reminding her that losing her composure now not going to benefit her.

I guess I will be seeing you later for the emergency meeting?” Lawrence smirked before he walked away, leaving the fuming Sofia and Alexander alone.

Chapter 82

“If this goes on, the one that will suffer the most will be you,” Karina said. With Eulanda out of the picture, the next capable person to become the chairman might just be Lawrence.

Right now, people inside and probably outside the company trusted Lawrence the most. Sofia was simply too young to rule

conglomerate, and many businessmen might see it like this.

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Sofia looked at Karina. Right now, her grandmother's physician is still monitoring her condition. This meant that she needed to wait before she could see Eulanda. First, it was her mother. Then it was Eulanda.

"I need all the specifics that you could find out about the accident," she answered. Right now, her concern was her grandmother's well-being. However, she also understood that she was in a very delicate situation right now.

"Mr. Beaumont already stopped the media from releasing the news..." Karina said. "But we cannot hold it for too long. Adam said that someone would probably leak it, and... "The stocks will definitely go down." Sofia felt a surge of anger towards

Lawrence.

This was already expected from the man, but how dare he use her grandmother's condition to his advantage? She knew he was hungry for power, and this was his chance to take control of the company. But Sofia wouldn't let him win. She had to be strong, for her grandmother, for the company, and for herself.

"I won't let him take everything away from me," Sofia said, her voice filled with determination. "I will find out what happened to Grandma, and I will make sure the company is in good hands" Karina nodded in agreement.

"We'll get through this together, Sofia. But for now, you need to rest. You can't help anyone if you're exhausted."

Sofia knew Karina was right. She had been crying for hours, and her body was starting to ache. However, she refused to leave the hospital. "It seems that they are still having a hard time knowing the reason for the accident," Alexander suddenly chimed in. He just walked in after a phone call with Josef. "My people are already working on it. However... I agree with Karina. You need rest."

“I don’t want to leave my grandmother,” Sofia was foolish enough to let Lawrence hurt Eunice- her mother. Now, Sofia would never let him do something to harm her grandmother. “I already arranged security to secure this place. You need to rest,” Alexander uttered.

“He is right, Sof...” Karina said. “Don’t worry, I will stay here for a few more hours and I will call you if anything comes up but right now, you need to go home. You have a company to run. Staying here and crying... wouldn’t do you any good— or your company any good.”

Again, Sofia knew that her friend was right. Taking a deep breath, Sofia finally conceded. The weight of her responsibilities settled heavily on her shoulders. Tears welled up again, blurring her vision. “Alright,” she choked out, her voice thick with emotion. “I’ll go home and get some rest. But promise me you’ll call the moment there’s any news about Grandma?”

Karina squeezed her hand gently, her eyes filled with concern. “Of course, Sofia. I won’t leave your side until you’re back.” Alexander, ever the pragmatist, offered his arm. “Let’s go, Sofia. We can come back later, once you’ve had some rest.” Sofia nodded, leaning into Alexander’s supportive hold as they left the hospital room.

As they walked down the sterile hallway, a wave of exhaustion washed over her. Grief, worry, and the weight of the company’s future were a heavy burden to bear. But amidst the storm of emotions, a tiny flicker of hope remained. At least, she was not alone. Alexander and Karina were still with her.

Alexander then drove her back to his place, which was just minutes away from the hospital. Sofia barely registered them entering the building, her mind still swimming with a million worries. Alexander, sensing her state, took charge gently.

He led her inside, the warm air and soft lighting a welcome contrast to the stark hospital environment. A pot of chamomile tea steamed on the table, a sweet aroma filling the air.

“Sit down, Sofia,” Alexander said softly. “I’ll get you the tea.” He then poured the tea into a mug with a reassuringly thick handle. Sofia observed him, a strange sense of calm washing over her. His movements were deliberate, not hurried.

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At this moment, amidst the chaos, she felt safe. "Thank you," she whispered, accepting the mug. They sat in comfortable silence, sipping the calming tea. As the warmth spread through her, Sofia's eyelids began to feel heavy.

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Alexander, sensing her fading energy, spoke up. "Why don't you get to bed now or if you prefer you can shower..." his voice trailed off before he added. "I'll be here when you wake up." Sofia nodded, the idea of sleep surprisingly appealing.

"Then I'll just sleep." Not too long after, Sofia found herself in the comfort of Alexander's King-size bed. Alexander pulled the covers up over her, his touch gentle but firm. He tucked her in like a child, a small, almost forgotten memory surfacing in Sofia's mind. Her mother used to tuck her in like this, humming a soft lullaby.

"I'll be here," Alexander promised, his voice a low murmur before he kissed her forehead. "Thank you..." Sofia said. He responded with a low hum. With a heavy sigh, Sofia closed her eyes.

Seeing her breathing slowly turn calmer and slower, Alexander got up and made sure that the blinds were closed before he turned the light of the bedside table off, only leaving a small light nearby. Then he made his way into his office.

As Alexander entered his office, his secretary Josef looked up, concern etched on his face. "Is everything alright, Mr. Beaumont?" Alexander sighed, the weariness from the day evident in his eyes. "It's been a rough one, Josef," he admitted, removing his jacket and draping it over a chair.

He gestured to the documents in Josef's hand. "What have we got?" Josef set the folders down on the desk.

"The usual reports, sir. Market analysis, upcoming negotiations, and a few urgent matters that require your immediate attention." He hesitated, then

added, "But perhaps these can wait until the morning? You look like you could use some rest."

"Do we have anything about the accident?" he asked. "Unfortunately, that place is known for its rain. According to our people, it would be hard to go into that place- especially at night. They are waiting for the weather to clear up early in the morning so they can start searching for the debris to find out what caused the accident." Josef answered.

Alaska was well known for its snow. However, there are also areas in Alaska that were simply well-known for having so much rain! Eulanda and her team crashed in an area where it rains more than 200 days a year! The weather was simply unpredictable. Sadly, no one seemed to know why Eulanda would go to that place.

"Alright. You should go home or... go to the guest room and sleep," Alexander said, his eyes already on

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Chapter 83

"We were able to stop any reports as of now, but Mr. Beaumont said anything could happen in the next 24 hours," Miss Amores said as she handed Sofia her report. Sofia already expected that the media would soon find out what happened. However, she was still thankful for Alexander's help.

She nodded in response before walking towards the boardroom where the shareholders were going to have their meeting to decide the future of the company now that Eulanda was no longer capable of being the chairman.

"Sofia..."

Sofia stopped walking when she heard a woman's voice behind her. "Miss Paine..." Sofia said.

"How is she?" Miss Paine did not beat around the bush. Right now, all major shareholders are aware of the accident.

"The doctors are currently observing her..." Sofia said. "We are hopeful." However, she was made aware just this morning when she woke up that even

if Eulanda woke up, it would be impossible for her to become the woman she once was.

This was because of her age. She's already in her seventies, and she was lucky to have even survived the accident!

"I hope that everything will go well..." Miss Paine said; her face was devoid of any makeup. It was also obvious that she decided to dress in a simple manner, opposite to what she used to dress in the past. "Your grandmother and I... are friends."

"I know," Sofia nodded. "Shall we go inside?"

"Of course."

The two women then walked inside the boardroom, and just as expected, the others were already there, waiting for them.

"Sofia..." Lawrence said concern etched across his face. "How are you holding up?" he asked as he approached her.

"I am fine... thank you," Sofia found her seat. She could feel everyone's gaze on her but chose to ignore the pressure that came along with it. "Is everyone here?"

"Yes..." Mr. Lee said. Just like Miss Paine, the others seemed to have somber expressions on their faces.

"Then let me start the meeting..." Lawrence got up. "Yesterday... our Chairman Eulanda Lockhart was involved in an accident. She's currently in the hospital. I am certain that most of you are aware of her current state?"

As always, Lawrence looked and sounded professional. He was calm and collected, not an iota of excitement could be seen in his eyes. This man was good-too good!

Sofia noticed murmurs rippling through the room as Lawrence finished his statement. Mr. Lee cleared his throat, his voice

raspy.

“Mr. Lockhart, with all due respect, the board needs to know the full extent of Mrs. Lockhart’s condition. How long is she expected to be out? Can you give us a timeframe?”

Sofia narrowed her eyes. It seems that Mr. Lee wanted her to tell everyone that her grandmother might not be waking up and if she will, there is no way for her to work as the chairman!

Lawrence’s lips formed a thin line. “The doctors are still evaluating. However, they’ve made it clear that Mrs. Lockhart’s recovery, if any, will be a lengthy process.”

“We understand the delicate situation, Mr. Lockhart. But the company needs stability. We need someone to step in and lead us through this uncertain time,” Miss Paine said.

“Exactly. We need an interim CEO, someone who can handle the day-to-day operations until Mrs. Lockhart recovers, or...” Mr. Anderson trailed off, his gaze landing towards Sofia.

Sofia sighed inwardly. While she understood that business is business, these people seemed very enthusiastic to change her grandmother, right? These people knew Eulanda and Eunice for decades yet at the sign of trouble, they immediately turn

their back on them.

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Chapter 83

Isn’t this comical?

Sadly, this was reality. After all, this is a dog-eat-dog world.

As the silence stretched on, Lawrence finally spoke, his voice calm and measured. “I understand your concerns. And while I believe Mrs. Lockhart would eventually resume her position, the board’s right to appoint an interim CEO is undeniable.”

He paused, letting his words sink in before continuing. “Therefore, after careful consideration, and with the sole purpose of ensuring the company’s

continued success, I am willing to take on the role of interim CEO until Mrs. Lockhart's return."

Immediately, murmurs washed over the room. However, Sofia remained calm. This was already within her expectations. Today, she did not come here to create more chaos. She came here to witness this event so she could etch Lawrence's reaction inside her head.

One by one, the shareholders voiced their agreement. Miss Paine, Mr. Lee, and even Mr. Anderson, all nodded in approval. Sofia felt a cold wave of anger wash over her. To be honest, she expected one of them to voice out their concerns. But then again, Lawrence was indeed perfect in his job.

This man must have been waiting for this to happen for such a long time. He played everyone so well—really well.

Right now, Sofia knew that there were no other options but to make this man the Interim CEO. Why, you ask? It was because of Lawrence's exemplary performance. He played the role of a good husband, a good father, and a stepfather. He never showed greed around the shareholders and the numbers were adding up.

He was good at his job, and as much as Sofia hated this man, numbers don't lie. Sadly, the people inside these rooms only cared about the numbers.

Soon enough, the discussion turned to public relations (PR). Miss Paine, known for her sharp marketing instincts, emphasized the importance of crafting a carefully worded public statement about Eulanda's accident. A collective nod of agreement followed.

Sofia knew Lawrence's polished image and impressive track record would be crucial in maintaining investor confidence during this turbulent time.

Finally, they delved into the specific content of the public statement. Hours flew by as they meticulously deliberated each word, ensuring it conveyed the right message without revealing sensitive details.

By the time the meeting concluded, exhaustion settled over the room. Sofia, however, felt a different kind of weight. While she acknowledged Lawrence's capabilities, the power shift left a bitter taste in her mouth.

“Sofia?” Lawrence’s voice interrupted her stupor just as she got up to leave the room. The others already started leaving, and she found no reason to stay in this place. “Do you have a minute?”

Sofia looked at Lawrence. “Is there something that you need?”

“I know there have been a few misunderstandings but... I would like to let you know that I am here... in case you need someone to talk to.” Lawrence said, making sure that the others heard his words.

Sofia’s lips thinned, but she did not say another word. She was tempted to simply slap this two-faced man but she didn’t. “Thank you,” she said. “I will keep that in mind.” At the end of the day, her image matters. Currently, she is not just Sofia Lockhart. She is the only Lockhart who stands in between Lawrence and the power that he wants.

However, the moment the other shareholders left, Lawrence’s facade also fell. The kindness in his face vanished. “Aren’t you going to congratulate me?” he asked.

“Congratulate you for what?” Sofia asked. Isn’t this just an Interim CEO? A temporary position?

“Don’t tell me you still hoped that Eulanda would survive? I mean... I meant no disrespect, but the woman has been around for decades. Isn’t it time for her to meet the creator?”

“You-”

“Go on...” Lawrence smirked, “Slap me,” he said in a challenging tone.

Sofia narrowed her eyes. This man was provoking her. She must have wanted to show everyone that Sofia could not handle stress and therefore not suited to lead. “You will regret this,” Sofia said. “I promise you to make you regret everything that you did to me, to my mother and my family!”

With that, Sofia turned around and strode out of the room.

A/N: I have done a lot of research and it turns out something like this is quite common in the business world. Shareholders will devour you. People will smile at you and stab you in the back. However, you cannot even do anything about it if they are doing their job well. T.T

