

## Chapter 22

"Isla!" Cara muttered, her name taking a step back, bumping into one of Keith's friends while the host of the party greeted Isla and invited her inside.

Cara quickly turned in the other direction, trying to hide herself.

Isla watched her disappearing into the crowd from the corner of her eyes and smirked. "Run. Cara.

Run! I'll make sure you run all your life!" She smirked evilly and mingled with her friends. Cara rushed to look everywhere to find Keith, and she finally spotted him at the bar with his friends. They were enjoying having a fun conversation when

Cara reached him. But before she could open her mouth, Keith snaked his arm around her waist and pulled her close to him.

Cara widened her eyes, looking at him blankly.

"Guys, this is my girlfriend, Cara!" He smiled and introduced her to his friends and she just stared at him for a couple of seconds, momentarily forgetting why she was looking for him before smiling at his friends briefly.

"So she is the one Natalie was talking about!" His friend whistled. "But don't you think she is quite young for you?" He laughed and Keith rolled his eyes. "And too gorgeous for you?" The other said.

"Hello, Cara! Nice to finally meet you," His friend stretched out his hand in her direction.

"Hello," She said softly, shaking hands with him. "I hope this asshole is treating you right!"

"Well, I sincerely hope he is treating you better than me!" Natalie appeared and Keith's smile dropped, his hold on Cara's waist tightened. She gave a slightly pained expression but endure it.

Natalie gave an up and down look to Cara's cheap and baggy dress and smirked. "But I doubt!" She lifted an eyebrow.

Ignoring her words, Cara turned to Keith. "We need

to talk!" She smiled, slowly removing his hold on her and the conscience seems to hit Keith.

"No talking! Let's dance guys!" Janet appeared with Milo.

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Aries was at the famous bar in New Orleans with a glass of whiskey in his hand. His mind drifted back to the meeting he had with Shane Glazier a day before his brutal car accident four years back in which he died, but the memories were still fresh.

Shane Glazier was a visionary man. A man with big dreams like him, but more grounded than him.

They planned a venture together for the youth of their country and he mentioned that he'd want his daughter to step into this partnership with Aries, as he thought Aries would be the best person to teach her the changing dynamics of the business world. Aries still remembered his words.

"Aries, my daughter is naïve, she doesn't understand how this world works. I don't know who will look after her if something happened to me someday! Though her mother takes good care of her and is always there for her. But I'm still afraid how will she survive alone?"

"Don't worry, Mr Glazier! She has got the two best

mentors. I'll teach her how to fly and you'll teach her how to stay grounded." Aries smiled. "But to make her entry into this business world smooth, we better start working on this venture as soon as possible."

"Ah... you don't need to hurry, Aries!" Shane Glazier shrugged. "We still got three years from now!"

But little did they know it was their first and last official meeting. Shane Glazier died on the night of his daughter's birthday and all his dreams shattered into pieces. Aries decided not to go ahead with Shane Glazier's dream project, as he was more interested in making profits than doing

charity.

Aries sighed, closing his eyes and finished his drink. He picked up his phone from the bar counter and looked at Isla's pictures. He searched through her social media handles and he found the brunette enjoying her life to the fullest. And she didn't appear to be the girl her father mentioned to him. Isla looked bold, confident, and arrogant.

"Time changes everyone!" Aries looked more into her profile to gather information and all he could understand was she was a party girl who prefer to end her night drunk at some club while her mother tries to polish her image.

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The couples were dancing near the pool area, they looked much in love except for the one couple.

Cara and Keith. They were avoiding eye contact and seemed conflicted about something. Cara feared the news of her fake relationship with Keith reaching Isla and the Glazier family. She looked up at Keith and decided to clear her head.

"What's going on, Keith?" Cara asked, and his eyes settled on her. "You introduced me as your girlfriend to your ex-girlfriend that day. I understood you were frustrated! But why are you introducing me to your friends?"



"I know I'm sorry! I didn't intend to do it, but they were bugging me with questions. I got irritated!"

He said. "I promise I won't drag you into my mess again."

Cara nodded when her eyes fell on Isla behind Keith and she clutched his shoulder. "I was thinking, can we go h..." Before she could complete it, Keith took out his phone to check a message and it was from none other than Natalie.

"Your eyes still linger on me like before. I know you want me back, baby! Stop playing games."

Keith's nostrils flared up in anger. He shove the phone back in his pocket, and sauntered away,

leaving Cara stranded between the unknown people. She took a step forward to follow him, but Natalie appeared out of nowhere.

“Stay away from Keith!” She growled in her face, pushing her back.

Cara looked at her index finger on her chest and her hazel eyes travelled back to Natalie. “Keith isn’t interested in you! Why don’t you get the message and back off?” Cara asked.

“You bloody lowlife!” Natalie took an aggressive step in her direction and Cara took a step back, edging close to the swimming pool, gulping nervously, cursing herself for opening her mouth.

"Its..... I think g-good for y-you and K-Keith?" Cara was intimidated as Natalie inched closer to her and she glanced at the blue water behind her.

"Babe, if you tried to get in my way, I'll wreak havoc in your life! Just fuck off!" Natalie pushed her into the swimming pool.

"Keith!!!" Cara shouted before right before she hit the water and everyone turned to her. She composed herself, standing in the middle of the water, blinking her eyes and everyone was laughing at her. She shivered as the cool breeze hit her skin and turned embarrassed at her situation.

"You're born to become a butt of jokes, Cara!" She

pressed her lips in a straight line, her heart was thumping against her chest watching everyone laughing at her for apparently no reason, and not a single one of them came forward to help her.

Isla and Natalie smirked at her pity state, "This girl has zero confidence and she thinks she can beat me!" Natalie shook her head and turned to walk away when her eyes fell on Keith, who removed his white t-shirt, his sculpted body was on the show as he stepped into the water.

All the hooting, whistling and laughing came to a halt as Keith reached Cara in the middle of the swimming pool and his electrifying blue eyes

glared at Natalie before turning soft to Cara who was shivering in the cold water.

"I am sorry! Are you okay?" He asked cupping her cheek, his eyes dancing between her hazel eyes and pink plump lips. The loose caramel colour dress she was wearing was now dripping wet and exposing her curves perfectly.

She continued to gaze at Keith. Her heart was pounding because of their close proximity and her cheeks flushed red when Keith pulled her close and his lips touched her delicate lips. Adrenaline rushed through Cara. She clutched his broad shoulder as she felt her skin flame into a tiny little

burst of fire when he kissed her lips.

The crowd standing on the deck around the swimming pool whistled, but it was a shocker for Natalie and Isla. They were flaring in anger, watching them so close to each other. Lost in each other, Keith snaked his arm around her waist and pulled her against his body, their mouth not disconnecting for once, but Cara pushed his chest to stop him. She was panting to calm her racing heart as Keith looked deep into her eyes and then turned to Natalie.

"She is my girlfriend and you better stay away from her if you don't want to get into trouble!" He

announced loudly and the same crowd who was making fun of Cara a moment ago was now clapping for the couple, while Cara was stunned by Keith's sudden outburst.

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"Oh, why the fuck did you send Isla to that party?"

Alfred Doyle appeared upset and confronted Cynthia.

"She got to know Cara is appearing with her boyfriend! So I asked her to check if they are really into love or if Cara is playing some game with us!"

Cynthia sneered.

"You know Isla has a big mouth! She won't just stand in a corner and observe everything. She will definitely try to knock some sense into Cara and it can turn out dangerous. What if she told everything to Keith? And we still don't know how she is related to Aries!" Alfred Doyle paced back and forth, holding his face. "Fuck! What should I do now?"

"Calm down! I warned Isla not to talk to Cara!" Cynthia said, taking a sip of her coffee and sitting comfortably in her recliner.

Alfred Doyle turned to her. "And you think Isla is going to listen to you?" He cocked an eyebrow. "I



don't recall if she was ever an obedient one!"

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"I am so sorry!" A woman said and handed a fresh blue bodycon dress to Cara, who was clattering her teeth. "You can change into this."

"Thank you!" Cara took the dress and walk into the bathroom to change. She looked at herself in the mirror and her finger moved to her swollen lips, recalling the kiss again. Her lips slightly parted as she took a deep breath.

"What's going on?" Her mind was frenzy with everything. She changed into the dress, blow-dried

her hair and walked out of the bathroom, only to find Isla sitting on the foot of the bed. Her face dropped, and she gulped nervously.

"Drop the act, Cara!" Isla smiled slyly. "I know you don't fear me!"

"W-what do you want?" Cara stuttered, taking a step back, and Isla drew a deep breath, walking in her direction.

"What would I want from a beggar?" She sneered.

"You are looking much better than the last time we met. Your boyfriend is taking good care of you."

Cara gulped as she watched Isla's hand setting her

hair, and the next moment she pulled her hair back.

"Ahh!" Cara yelled in pain and tried to free her hair from her grasp, but Isla only tortured her more.

"Do you think you can fight against the Glaziers? How dare you forget your place!" She growled in her face.

"Isla, leave me please!" Cara's eyes welled up as Isla applied pressure.

"You think you can change the world if you have Aries and Keith?" She sneered, laughing evilly.

"I don't know what you're talking about?" Cara choked. It was not hard to push Isla and slap her

for behaving rudely, but something was stopping Cara, and she only begged to be released.

“Beg me more!!” Isla gripped her throat, and it was too much pain for Cara to take in as she struggled to breathe.

“If you don’t leave me alone, I’ll tell everything to Keith!” Cara said, and Isla quickly left her. Cara coughed badly and slowly composed herself. She glanced back at Isla, who was glaring at her. “I’ll tell him about all the adversities I’ve suffered because of the Glazier family!” She said. A little confidence in her voice seems to affect Isla.

“He will get me justice, punishing you all!” Cara

**smirked.**

