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Steven returned to Bella's side after finishing his duties.

"Are you planning to let Ms. Hoffman off the hook, Ms. Bella? That's too nice of you."

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Steven watched with a doting and helpless smile as Bella knocked things over with her stilettos. He went and tucked her heels under the table.

Bella was gaming to take her mind off things, slaughtering many in the virtual world.

Her character, Lucifer, had reached god-level in the eyes of players. Thousands tuned in to watch every time she streamed her gaming

live.

"What are you thinking? Let her off the hook? I'm a charitable entrepreneur, not Mother Theresa. I'm not going after Zoe now because I don't have solid evidence to put her away. She made Bethany a scapegoat, so all suspicions about Zoe are circumstantial. My hands are tied for now.

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"I don't think that's the last we'll hear of Ms. Hoffman." Steven added angrily, "Instead of showing remorse, she glared at you before storming out.

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Bella narrowed her eyes dangerously. "Hunter is Bethany's get-out-of- jail-free pass."
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"Hunter is cutthroat, contributing to his success as a defense
attorney for over a decade. He won't allow himself to fail. He will give Bethany a clean state by any means necessary."
Asher gave Bella the heads-up. "If I were Hunter, I would start with the journalist, Bella. She is the top witness to testify against Bethany.
"I get what you're trying to say, Ash, but Xena Gordon is not with me. Justin is holding her captive."
Bella took a deep breath to pull herself together. "I'll handle it. You, and especially Axel, should stay out of it. He works for the government. He can't be caught engaging in misconduct while helping me. That will just play into the hands of those wishing us harm."
The mood was heavy at the end of the phone call.
Bella never took a small fry like Bethany seriously because Shannon was the big fish she was after.
She was worried that the news would upset Steven. The silly boy w highly sensitive and heavily bound by a sense of duty. He might ju come to her in tears again.
Lost in her thoughts, Bella made her way to her office.
"Bella."

The husky voice caused her to halt her footsteps. Feeling a pit in her stomach, she looked back.
There was no one behind her.
Bella shook her head and kneaded her temples, attributing the sound to her sleep deprivation.