Chapter 9 REVELATION

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SOPHIA STARED AT the tons of clothes in front of her, trying to pick out which one to wear. There was a party and well, Chase, his cousins and fiancée had been invited but then, typical Chase had insisted that she followed them and there was no way she would have gone against him. So, there she was thinking of what clothes to wear.

She wasn't the party type. Not even in high school when the school jocks threw parties did she ever attend. The only party that she had attended throughout her life except for the ones her dad used to throw for her on her birthdays, was the high school prom party. Nothing else. Not even the ones her dad used to throw with his friends and business associates as he claimed she was still too little to attend such parties. He used to say she wouldn't understand those types of parties until she grew up.

Her dad. She hadn't realized that a lone tear had cascaded down her cheeks until she felt it rolling down her chin, and she quickly wiped it off.

She was broken out of her thoughts when she heard a light knock on the door and she slowly walked towards the door to open it. Valerie was standing there, dressed in an off-shoulder mid-thigh, red dress that hugged her perfect body in all the right places. Her dark hair was pulled into a tight bun revealing the beautiful shape of her pretty face. She had silver jewelry on and was holding a black clutch while her legs were strapped in a pair of stilettos.

Sophia blinked her eyes away from Valerie's dress when she heard her gasp, and she gave her a confusing look.

"You aren't dressed up yet! Don is going to be mad,"

Sophia shrugged lightly and released the door before turning her back and walking back to her bed. On cue, Valerie followed her in.

"Your bed is a mess," Valerie dropped her clutch on the bedside table and accessed the whole room. "Don't tell me you don't know what to wear,"

"I don't," Sophia said and sat on the bed. "I'm not exactly the party type and well haven't attended parties in my life except the ones Papa used to throw for me when he was still alive and the one I attended for high-school prom,"

"Okay then," Valerie began to fiddle among the clothes on the bed. "Why don't you go and have your bath while I use that time to help you find clothes to wear? By the time we'll be back home, the maids will have taken care of the mess in your room,"

Sophia nodded. "Okay,"

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Chase lit his cigar and slipped the lighter into his pocket as he dragged in smoke from the cigar between his lips.

"Haa!" Luciano's cheerful voice reached his ears. "She's finally here,"

Chase turned his face towards the staircase, and true to his cousin's words, Sophia was walking down the stairs shyly with a confident Valerie beside her.

She was putting on an ankle-length maroon dress. It was simple yet elegant on her. It was round-necked and sleeveless, showing off the smooth and flawless skin of her arm and upper part of her neck up to her collarbone. She had a stud earring and her hair was pulled into a bun while a few strands fell at either side of her face with loose curls, kissing her soft, delicate cheeks.

Chase was sure he heard Lucas snicker at her appearance beside him and that seemed to pull him out of his trance. He turned away, trying hard not to let anyone see the pure lust he was feeling at that moment in his eyes. He had been celibate for a long time, so reacting like that was bound to happen.

"Can we leave now?" Valerie asked.

Everyone nodded, and they made their way out of the mansion where there were many cars lined up waiting for them with Chase's men settled in.

Before Sophia could enter the car she was to leave in with Valerie, she managed to peek at Chase, who was about to get into another car through her eyelashes.

As usual, he was dressed in a black button-up shirt, waistcoat, and suit coat. His hair was sleeked backward and he managed to look hot like that with his expensive Rolex wristwatch wrapped around his wrist and those stainless rings on each of his fingers. As if feeling her shy gaze on him, Chase looked up at her and they locked eyes.

Damn. He silently sucked in a deep breath. He was already trying hard to recover from the raging erection in his pants and her eyes had suddenly made his condition worse. Her eyes were innocent, gullible, and pure of anything sinful. He wanted to taint her. To taint that innocence and make sure she didn't only look at him with innocence. There should be the same lust he was feeling in her eyes too.

Chase watched as Valerie tugged on her arms, and she turned away from him, then entered the car they were leaving in.

"Don," Lucas called from beside him. "We should leave. It's getting late,"

Chase nodded. "Hmm,"

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The chattering, giggles of sophisticated ladies, laughs of men, and clicking of glasses, in the hall went dead silent as a graveyard the moment they stepped into the hall. Courtesy of Chase's presence which evoked silence wherever he went. The air was still and everyone there had their breaths stuck in their throats.

"For a moment, I was thinking you wouldn't come, "The host of the party chuckled as he stood by the entrance talking to Chase with his wife beaming beside him. She shouldn't be beaming. Not in Chase's presence but then, she had to do it for her husband. They all wanted to impress Chase one wanted to be in his bad books.

Chase ignored his remark and brought out his cigar and lighter from his pocket to light it.

"You seem to have an extra person here tonight with you, "The man said running his gaze over Sophia who was standing beside Valerie but cowered behind her at his gaze. He returned his gaze to an indifferent Chase. "I'd love to know where you got her from. Pretty innocent, quiet, smallish, perfectly submissive,"

Chase finally looked at him dead in the eyes. "I think you're suddenly interested in being in my bad books,"

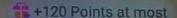The man cowered and gulped lowly with his flushed wife.

Fucking set of cowards. Chase resisted the urge to sneer at them. "Let's get this party done with, Ricardo,"

"S-sure," The man stuttered. "Come in,"

Soon, Chase and the rest were guided into the hall to their round table. Chase sat between Lucas and Saige while Sophia sat between Luciano who was beside Lucas and Valerie who was seated beside Saige. That technically meant she was opposite Chase.

Sophia couldn't help but wonder why the hall suddenly became silent in their presence. She was sure it was Chase who only had the right to make that happen, almost like he was the one who controlled everyone's minds from the way she saw the host cowering when Chase said something to him by the entrance and it was beginning to claw at her mind what kind of business they were all running. She knew it was illegal but it just didn't fall into place in her mind.

Something about the whole party seemed off. The people in the party didn't look like normal high-class people. Their smiles and everything about them were fake, dangerous, and sinister. Most of the men were dressed in black and from what she had

studied so far, they had guns in their trouser holsters just like Lucas, Luciano, and Valerie had when she had seen them for the first time. Heck, she had also noticed the guns with Lucas and Luciano as they made their way to the hall earlier. That was enough to make her wonder if Valerie had one with her too.

"Are you okay? You look flushed," Valerie whispered to her.

Sophia blinked her eyes suddenly feeling Chase's intense stare on her and turned to Valerie. "I-I'm not used to crowds like this, "She whispered back and wiped her clammy palms on her dress. "Can you show me the bathroom please?"

Valerie looked at Chase, then back at Sophia. "Okay, come with me," Valerie stood up and Sophia did the same too. "Excuse us, " She tipped them all a small smile.

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"Thanks, I'll find my way out," Sophia said to Valerie and disappeared into the bathroom.

She heard Valerie's distant footsteps and she confirmed that she had gone. She then rested her head against the door and breathed out air through her lips. As if to calm her beating heart down, she placed her palm against her chest.

She flinched when she heard a knock on the door and she called out. "I'm almost out. I'm sorry,"

The person outside the door didn't seem to get the memo and opened the door, then walked in and slammed her back against the door before locking it in place.

The scent of sandalwood hitting her nose was enough to tell Sophia who it was. "Chase,"

"Gattina,"

{"Kitten"}

"I-this is the female bathroom. You shouldn't be here,"

Chase gritted his teeth and leaned in to stare into her eyes but she was staring at the ground. "I know. I'm not dumb,"

"Then-," She pressed her head against the door to avoid body contact with him. "Why-Why are you here?"

"You", He replied. "I'm here for you, Gattina," He inhaled the coconut scent of the shampoo on her hair. "I came here to tell you how much I can't wait to shred this dress out of you," One of his palms pressed against her curvy waist and he left it there. She wasn't as curvy as Valerie and Saige, but she was still curvy. Chase knew it was because she was still growing. He was sure that when she would completely grow up into a full woman, her curves would be more prominent and he was ready to be with her till that time so he'd be able to be the only man to explore her body. But too bad, fucking her wouldn't wait till that time because seeing her like that had crushed every bit of self-control he had mustered and he was going to completely claim her once they get home.

{"Kitten"}

"You-," Sophia placed her palms on his clothed chest to push him away. "I-You have a fiancée. What you're doing is wrong,"

"Nothing about me is right, Gattina. Therefore, I'm coming to take what mine when we get back home,"

{"Kitten"}

"Please no," a tear fell down her cheek. "I-I don't want this. We can't do this,"

Chase's other hand slowly pulled off the pin holding her hair, and he wrapped her soft locks around his palm, then tugged on her hair till her neck was exposed to him. "You won't tell me no ever again, hmm?"

Sophia whimpered and curled his suit lapel in her fist. "Please, "

He tugged on her hair harder. "Answer me. You won't tell me no ever again, hmm?" When she didn't reply to him, he tugged her hair harder. "Hmmm? Answer me!"

"Y-", She whispered. "Yes. I-", She shut her eyes tight. "I won't ever tell you no again,"

"Good girl," Chase let go of her hair and massaged her scalp where he was sure would hurt her. "If we go home, all you have to do is wait for me in your room,"

Sophia gave a meek nod.

Suddenly, the sound of a gunshot echoed in the whole building, and she flinched. Sophia looked at Chase's face for any frightened expression but found none other than a blank one.

Who was she kidding? He was used to things like that so he wouldn't be moved by in even the slightest way.

She jumped in her place again when another gunshot sound echoed, followed by screams, obviously from the women out there.

"Dammit," Chase grunted. "Look at me, Gattina," He caressed her cheeks softly. "You'll be okay, wait for me here. This should be the only safest place here. I'll go and check what's going on, and I'll be back for you,"

{"Kitten"}

Sophia nodded, and he pulled away from her.

"Lock the door once I'm gone and don't open it unless it's either me, Lucas, or Luciano that comes for you,"

"V-Valerie?" Tears pooled in her eyes, and her voice quivered. "Will she be okay?"

"Valerie knows how to take care of herself. Don't worry about her. Take care," He then unlocked the door and turned to her. "Don't forget to lock the door once I leave,"

Sophia nodded at him, and once he left, she did as she was told. She locked the door.

Once she did that, she slumped to the ground and hugged her knees, knowing her life was at risk and might end up being snatched from her that night. All she had to pray for was that she should be left to live.

After twenty to twenty-five minutes of loud gunshots and screams, there was a dead silence everywhere, and Sophia visibly relaxed. She was safe.

Suddenly, there was a loud, frightening bang on the bathroom door and she stood up from the floor quickly, walking backward till her back hit the sink. The bangs became impatient and Sophia's body trembled badly until the door fell with a loud thud on the floor, then the intruder marched towards her.

"Ahh!" She whimpered when a rough hand gripped her arm tightly. "Let go of me!"

"Shut the fuck up!" The person roared and she recognized the voice instantly. It was the man from earlier. The host. "Now come with me,"
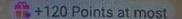
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It was a trap. A well-laid trap to end his and his cousins' lives and then, end his empire once and for all. Chase knew that, and decided to play along with Ricardo to make him think he was succeeding in his plan, just so he would crush everything at the last minute. He just didn't expect the bastard to act upon his plan that quickly because Sophia was there with them.

"Where's Ricardo?" He asked Lucas, once he was sure Valerie and Saige were safe in the car with his men after the bloodbath that just happened. "He can't die now,"

They were the only ones left in the hall. Everyone was dead on the floor in the pool of their blood.

Luciano gripped his wounded arm to stop the blood from flowing before they would be able to go home and remove the

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bullet. He then grunted out in pain through gritted teeth. "I saw the bustard running towards the bathroom,"

The bathroom.

That was where Sophia was. Chase wouldn't allow anything to happen to her. "Lucas, Luciano, go home. Leave this place with everyone. I'm going to bring the bastard home myself,"

"Don," Lucas interjected immediately. "I'll stay with you,"

"No," Chase said."Voglio farlo da solo. Questo riguarda entrambi',

{"I want to do this alone. This is between the both of us. "}

"Okay, Don," Lucas nodded and helped his brother out of the hall.

Immediately, Chase pulled out his gun from his trousers holster and rushed towards the same bathroom he'd left Sophia in.

Once he got there, he heard her whimpers, followed by someone roaring, and that instant, he knew it was the old bastard, Ricardo. His blood boiled, and he marched towards them

Sophia's eyes widened when she caught sight of Chase walking towards them. Ricardo hadn't seen him yet because his back was facing Chase, and she was grateful for that.

"What the fuck are you staring at? "Ricardo yelled and

tightened his grip on her arm. "Come with me!",

He turned to look at where Sophia was staring at but he froze when he felt the sharp edge of a knife slicing through the flesh at the back of his neck.

He instantly knew who it was. His body twisted in pain and his grip on her loosened. The loud sounds of gunshots were heard as Chase emptied all the bullets in his gun inside Ricardo's skull.

Sophia's eyes rolled at the sight and her knees buckled. She went toppling down the floor but Chase didn't let her reach the ground because he wrapped his arm around her body and pulled her into his chest.

A whimper escaped her lips and she strained her neck to look at Ricardo's body but Chase held her tighter. "Don't look, Gattina. Don't look",

{"Kitten"}