

Chapter 170

Alexander's POV

I entered the meeting room and there were too many people there. At the back of the room, several employees were sitting in chairs that had been lined up in rows. I recognized each one of them, including the directors of accounting, sales, operations, and administration. I already knew they were all participating in Johnson's fraud scheme.

On the opposite side, in a chair by the table, was the employee we had thought of using to catch the others red-handed. But with the kidnapping of Peter and Catherine, we skipped steps in the audit. He had made a mistake and started flaunting a luxurious lifestyle that clashed with the position he held in the company. He was ambitious, careless, and talked too much. We caught him because of that and knew he was the weak link in the group.

In addition to the employees, Alan and Larson were also in the room, along with three employees from Alan's team. The chief detective was investigating my parents' death, with the head of the anti-fraud police station, accompanied by five police officers. There were a lot of people inside that room.

"Did you call for me, Alan?" I asked as soon as I entered.

"Yes, Alexander. We're wrapping up here, and I just want to make sure what you want to do," Alan replied.

"What do I want to do about what?" I asked, a little confused.

"Besides Johnson, the four directors are involved in the fraud, as we already knew, plus twenty employees. They are the ones present here.

Mr. Reynold Perry here," Alan placed his hand a little more forcefully on the man sitting across from the others, "has decided to be cooperative. So I want to know if you want them all arrested and prosecuted, and if you'll agree to any benefit for Mr. Perry. The chief detective agrees with knowing your opinion."

"I want them all arrested. I'm going to sue them until I get back every last paperclip they stole from my company," I said, disgusted with those people who had betrayed my trust. "You've all worked here for at least fifteen years. You didn't just betray me, but also my father, who was benevolent and trusted you. You bit the hand that fed you."

"Mr. Miller, please accept the deal. I'll tell you everything," Reynold started to say. "I only got into this because my son was sick. I needed money to pay the doctors and the hospital. After that, I couldn't get out. They wouldn't let me."

"And you thought it was easier to steal than to talk to me?" I gave a sarcastic laugh. "You better have some really good information to give us, because we already know a lot. So if your information isn't very useful, forget the deal."

"I guarantee I will be useful," Reynold stated.

"Okay, you can make the deal with this piece of trash, Alan, but I want him out of my company." I made it clear he would not be reinstated.

"Mr. Miller, please, I also want to make a deal," Gilbert from accounting hastened to say.

"Is that right, Gilbert? And what do you have to tell us that Reynold doesn't know?" I asked sarcastically.

"I know where Johnson went," Gilbert shouted.

I looked at that slippery thief and walked over to him. He repeated what he had said. I grabbed him by the lapel of his suit jacket until he was face to face with me.

"You better not be lying," I stared into his eyes. "Officer, can we keep this crook here until we know what he has to say?"

"Of course, Mr. Miller. We've already taken statements from everyone, and my team is here to escort them. They can take the others, and another one of my men and I will wait for the outcome with this thief," the officer from the anti-fraud department signaled. "I think it's good because I also need to share information with the anti-kidnapping officer. He's in your office, isn't he?"

"Yes, he is, officer. So we can proceed. And if this shitty little thief here gives us something worthwhile, we can make a deal with him."

"Well then, officer, you can escort everyone," Alan signaled to the officer from the anti-fraud department.

"Great, my men are already waiting downstairs. Can you allow them entry?" the officer asked, and Alan nodded. "As for Mr. Perry, he will be escorted and will stay in the department's cell waiting for the judge to approve the agreement. He should be out in less than twenty-four hours."
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Alan allowed the officers to enter. When they arrived, they quickly handcuffed the detainees in pairs and escorted them out of the building. I felt a mixture of relief and disappointment—relief for finally putting an end to this and disappointment for being betrayed so vilely by people who had worked with me for so long.

"And now, Alan?" I asked, not knowing what the next step would be. "We need to restructure the company."

"Yes, we do. I need to finalize the audit and make the final report. Then I will release the employees who worked with us so far, and you can do your restructuring. It will take some time, but the court will return to you everything possible from your embezzled assets," Alan explained what would happen.

"What about the clients who were taken to Johnson's front companies?" I asked, hoping for an idea.

"I've already thought about that. The company will be dismantled, so I thought we could have a meeting with these clients as soon as possible and explain the situation. If you agree, I can make the arrangements." Alan thought very quickly and was very skilled in business.

"Go ahead," I agreed. "But don't dismiss the audit staff yet. Keep everyone until I talk to you as soon as this madness is over." I had an idea and hoped Alan would agree.

"Alright. I'll wait for your guidance," Alan agreed. "Until then, I'll call your lawyer to deal with this, he has more experience than the company's legal department in this area. Virginia, dear, do you mind helping me collect everything here and pass the information on to the lawyer?"

"It will be a pleasure, Mr. Alan." Virginia attended to him with a smile.

"Alan, my friend, I am impressed with the work you have done here," Larson, who had been silent since I arrived, finally spoke up. "You have become the greatest professional specialized in corporate auditing that I have ever known."

"You know what I went through, I blindly trusted people, I learned a lot after that and thanks to Catherine, who supported and encouraged me. She recommended several courses I took. She's a remarkable girl," Alan was grateful to Catherine for helping him when he went bankrupt.

"Catherine is very special," Larson agreed. "By the way, have she and Peter arrived yet, Alexander? I would like to see them."

"Yes, they have. I left them in Patrick's room, please make yourself at home, Larson," I said with a smile.

When I returned to my office, accompanied by the fraud squad detective, a police officer, and Gilbert, the day was already dawning. Everyone there was still looking for Johnson, who seemed to have been swallowed by the earth.

I made the introductions and was informed of how the situation was, I listened carefully to everything they told me. Then it was time to hear what Gilbert had to say.

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