

Chapter 179

Alexander's POV

The night before, I'd received a message from Detective Bonfim informing me that Johnson had not yet been found, that we needed to be on the alert, and that as soon as I could, I should get in touch with him. But I was with Catherine and let it go at that moment. However, this morning, I had already taken some precautionary measures.

I asked Danilo to send a team of six men of absolute trust to my apartment, instructed to secure my family. It didn't take long, and the men Danilo sent arrived, and he assured me that he had checked their backgrounds again and made sure of how they were hired.

I introduced the security guards to everyone and asked them not to leave with Peter. I asked Catherine not to go out without taking three of the men accompanying her, and she agreed without arguing. I went to the company to solve some things, and there I would meet the guys. When I arrived at the company, I called Detective Bonfim, who answered quickly.

"Detective, good morning! Sorry for not getting back to you sooner."

"No problem, Miller. I imagine you were exhausted."

"Very much so. But what luck for Johnson. Patrick told me he left the place just before you arrived."

"I don't think it's luck, Miller. I think there's still a traitor in your company. One that not even Johnson's cronies know about. Johnson knew we were on our way."

"But that's not possible. I've been surrounded by rats for years and still can't get rid of the plague?" I said, feeling tired of it all. "But do you have



any clue as to who it might be?"

"No, I have no idea. But look for someone who goes unnoticed. Someone who has access to many sectors of the company. Someone observant and who speaks little."

"I see. Well, I'll figure it out. As soon as I know who it is, I'll let you know."
"

"Be careful. Johnson has already shown that he's capable of anything. One more thing, this Claude, he was Catherine's boyfriend, wasn't he?"

"Yes, about three years ago. They dated for a long time until she found out he was cheating on her with her cousin."

"Hmm. An ordinary scoundrel indeed. Well, he said in his statement that he had known Johnson for more than three years. Does Catherine know anything about it?"

"I don't think so, Detective. She was quite surprised when she found out about his involvement in Peter's kidnapping."

"I figured she didn't, but I have to ask. And speaking of Catherine, when could I get her statement? She can come here, or I can come to the company, whichever is better."

"Detective, can this be done on Monday, here at the company?"

"Sure, I'll stop by on Monday afternoon and talk to her. Well, Miller, any news, I'll call you back."

"Thank you very much, detective."

After ending the call with the detective, I needed to contact Alan to ask



him to investigate who would still be in the company helping Johnson. I had told him to take a break until Monday, but he said he had a lot to do and would rather work. He quickly arrived at my office accompanied by Mari.

I explained the situation and that we needed to find the traitor quickly, as he was putting Johnson one step ahead of me. Alan agreed and assured me that he would start the search immediately. He would comb through all the employees.

"Great, Alan, I trust you. But there's one more thing. You've become a remarkable auditor and you're a great businessman too. I really liked the team you put together, and you made a difference here in the company. You helped me solve not only the fraud issue but many other things. That said, I want you to continue being my eyes and ears around the company independently as you have been until now, but working during the day and not at night as you've been doing, of course. And I would also very much like to count on your business advice. What do you think?"

"Are you offering me a position in your company, Alexander?" Alan asked, surprised.

"More than that, Alan. I want the audit to be a department in the company and for it to be run by you independently and freely. I'm offering you a position as director and advisor," I explained better.

"This is a big surprise. I... I don't know what to say. When I went bankrupt, I was discredited. If it weren't for the Larsons and Catherine, I would have sunk into despair. When you called asking for my help, it surprised me a lot, and I confess it massaged my ego. This audit boosted my morale and made me feel like a useful man again. Receiving this invitation from you is unexpected. I was thinking of moving to London to be close to Mari, you understand, right?!" Alan was truly surprised.



"No way! I don't want you in London," Mari hastened to say, leaving Alan crestfallen.

"Alan, accept my proposal. I really need you!" I spoke with conviction, as Alan had really proven himself necessary. "Besides, I've already hired your assistant and she's thrilled to work with you."

"Noo! You stole Virginia from Martin? That girl is a prodigy!" Alan asked me excitedly.

"The one and only!" I replied, smiling.

"Then I really can't refuse. I'm very happy to accept your proposal, Alexander. Count me in!" Alan broke into a big grin.

"Excellent! Prepare a list for me of all the employees and salaries. Can you get it to me by Monday?" I asked, and he said yes.

"Alexander, I also want to talk to you," Mari rushed in, and from her expression I got worried. "I want to come back. I didn't adapt to London, my daughters have their lives very well organized there, and here I have you and Alan. Besides, you have the financial director position vacant and I would like to apply for it."

Hearing what Mari was saying, I broke into a big smile and Alan an even bigger one. Having Mari back was wonderful. When she left, I only allowed it because she had already arranged it with my father and she wanted to be close to her daughters. But I stalled as much as I could. Until Catherine showed up all competent and Mari went to London. But I missed having her around, bringing her back was too good to be true, especially in a position where I needed someone I could trust.

"Mari, you know you can stay wherever you want in this company. I just



need to find someone to replace you..." I ended up being interrupted by Mari.

"You don't have to worry about that. John, who is assisting me there, is more than qualified for the position. The branch will be in excellent hands. I don't even need to go back to London."

"Then it's decided. You are our new financial director and on Monday we'll have a video conference with John. He really is very competent," I said happily. "Mari, you can't imagine how happy I am to have you back!"

At that moment the guys started coming into the room and I gave them the good news, which got them very excited. We talked a little more until Mari and Alan said they had to go. As I said goodbye, I confirmed with them if they were coming to dinner.

"Of course we're going. I wouldn't miss it for the world! See you tonight, guys." Mariana said as she got up and walked to the door. "Alexander, don't forget to go to the bank to pick up the engagement ring and wedding bands."

"How do you know?" I asked, astonished.

"I know you so well, boy!" Mariana blew me a kiss from the door.

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