

## Chapter 198

### Alexander's POV

It had been two days since I received the call from Moreno informing me about the siege on Johnson and his visit to Caroline Johnson. I told Catherine that the police were closing in. She was quite bored from having to stay in bed until the end of her pregnancy. It had been over two weeks since she'd been confined to bed rest. Her belly now seemed bigger every day and she didn't have much energy. I started working from home as much as possible, to not leave her alone. And our friends were here every day.

It was already mid-afternoon and I needed to go to the company. I gave my wife a kiss, one on her belly, and another on my beautiful son lying next to his mother who assured me that he would take good care of her. Peter was a smart, happy boy and I was increasingly enchanted by how intelligent and well-behaved he was.

I arrived at the company, took care of everything, and was having coffee with Patrick when my phone rang. It was Flavian.

"Hey, Detective Moreno. To what do I owe the honor?" I answered in good humor, but my mood plummeted with what he told me. I listened carefully to all his instructions and assured him that I would gather everyone and break the news.

"What is it, Alexander? From your face, it's not good," Patrick asked.

"It's terrible, Patrick," I replied. "Fred was attacked. He was found near the company where he works, unconscious. He took a horrible beating and is on his way to the hospital. His condition is serious. We need to gather everyone and go to Henry's company. I'll give Mel the news



personally. There's no way this can reach Catherine's ears, at least not now."

That's when I remembered the cell phone. I called Lygia and asked her to be quick.

"Lygia, run to the bedroom and see how Cat is doing. Hide her cell phone and don't let her answer the phone under any circumstances. I'll explain later. Go, I'll wait on the line." Lygia assured me that Catherine and Peter were sleeping. She removed the cell phone and tablet from the room and told me to rest easy.

I left Mari and Alan aware of everything and taking care of the company. I gathered Sam, Manu, Virginia, and Rick, and we headed to Lynx World. On the way, I informed Henry and asked him to call Tess that we were arriving.

"You came to ask for a job, clown?" Melissa mocked right away. She still didn't know anything.

"Ah, crazy girl, I came to hire your boss!" I smiled at her.

"What is it, Miller? What's going on?" Shit! She was too observant and already knew me well.

"Let's go to Henry's office, Mel." She was already nervous.

In Henry's office, I explained everything and asked her what she wanted to do, if she wanted me to get Catherine. Melissa was devastated. She said that Catherine couldn't know, she would get sick and put the babies and herself at risk. We all rushed to the hospital. On the way, I called Molina, who had already given the news to his brother. I immediately asked him to inform his brother that my private jet would pick them up.



When we arrived at the hospital, we were informed that Fred's condition was serious and he was in surgery. There were fractured ribs, a punctured lung, a broken arm and leg, and bleeding in the brain. Melissa was in terrible shape, but still maintaining control, despite crying a lot.

"Alexander, go home to be with Cat and don't tell her anything," Melissa ordered.

"I've already called and asked Lydia to let her know I'll be arriving later. I'm not leaving here without news about Fred. Afterwards, Dr. Molina will come with me and I'll tell her everything. She'll want to be by your side and I won't stop her," I said calmly.

"Alexander, she's going to get sick..." Melissa insisted.

"That's exactly why I'm going with him, dear. To make sure Cat and the babies are okay. But Alexander is right, you can't hide this from her, she wouldn't forgive you," Dr. Molina reassured Mel.

"And when Fred is discharged from the hospital, you two are moving into our house until he recovers! And you, you're moving there today!" I said, holding Melissa's hands.

The parents of Fred arrived, accompanied by the parents of Melissa, Catherine, and Patrick, and his mother was very downcast and tearful. It had been several hours since he had been in surgery, and when it finally ended, the doctors came to give information. He was stable but not out of danger. He would remain under observation in the ICU, and they allowed the parents, uncle, and Melissa to enter one at a time to see him. Melissa left the ICU devastated.

"Well, let's all go to my house. I already have rooms ready to receive you. Mel, you too. My driver will be at your disposal. At my house, you will be



safe and comfortable. And I have already arranged with Bonfim and Moreno, they will stop by with information."

We arrived home and Dr. Molina and I went to talk to Catherine. As expected, she was very shaken, and her blood pressure began to rise. Molina medicated her and asked her to stay quiet. She said she wanted to go downstairs and be with her friends. I carried her and laid her on the couch. She and Melissa hugged and cried a lot, and she tried to console her friend. Doctor Molina checked my wife's blood pressure, heart rate, and oxygenation again, and everything was under control. I asked Lygia to take care of Peter and keep him away from there; the atmosphere was very tense. And finally, the detectives arrived.

"Look, the news is not good," Flavian began to speak. "We got footage from security cameras at the place where Fred was attacked. We identified the two attackers and have already arrested them. They are two cruel animals with extensive records and were fugitives. One of them collaborated and said it was on Johnson's orders. He said that Johnson told them that Fred's mother needed to learn not to pry into what was none of her business. It can only be because of her help in Peter's case."

"Certainly. And that demon must have found out about it through the informant he has in my company," I said irritably.

"Probably. It was not information disclosed to the press," Bonfim replied.

Catherine lamented from the sofa and felt guilty, as did I.

"Daughter, I would do it all again! I don't regret it and it wasn't your fault. My Fred will be fine, I have faith!" Fred's mother consoled my wife and once again showed herself to be a strong woman.

"And you still haven't discovered who the informant is..." Bonfim



conjectured. "You all need protection."

"Great, I want everyone living here," I informed them, unwilling to negotiate on this.

"Let's do it this way, you receive the parents and Mel here. Our friends will go to my house. Henry, that includes you and you too, Moreno. Let's not make it easy. The condominium is very secure and it's easier for us to protect ourselves being close."

"That works for me. I'll bring Mari and Alan here too." We defined everything and no one questioned it, everyone was worried and the girls were frightened. I called Mathias and reinforced the security at my house, at Patrick's, and at the company. Henry did the same. We would work from home as much as possible and no one would leave without notifying and much less without security and a driver.

The next day, the doctor informed us that Fred would recover, but it would be a slow recovery and he would need a lot of help. He would still stay in the hospital for a while.



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