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Sage added, "We can't keep giving them money, can we?"

Marco replied, "There's no rush. We'll deal with it later. If they dare to blackmail us, we'll send them straight to hell. The problem is, they have families. If we kill them to keep them quiet, we'd have to get rid of their families too—otherwise, someone might go to the police. It's safer to stage an accident; otherwise, we'll be the first suspects."

Noel and Sage agreed with Marco. If they wanted to eliminate Shiloh's brothers and their families, there could be no loose ends.

Kathryn cursed in her heart. They're ruthless.

Shiloh's two brothers thought they could squeeze money out of Marco and live comfortably. They had no idea they were walking straight into disaster—for themselves and their families.

What the Janzen brothers didn't realize was that Shiloh's biological brother had just been coerced into making that statement.

They hadn't left yet. They couldn't. The police had them under control.

The cops had instructed them to say those words, ensuring they wouldn't tip off the criminals too soon.

Meanwhile, Pedro—whom Marco claimed was away on a business trip and wouldn't return for half a month—came storming in, leading a group of officers.

Pedro had called the police long ago.

Now, he was charging in with backup.

Even the dumbest among them could see that tonight had been a setup—Kathryn's setup.

She was brutal.

She wasn't afraid to risk her own life, using herself as bait to trap them all in one fell swoop.

They had kidnapped her.

And they had succeeded.

Maybe they wouldn't get the death penalty, but there was no escaping prison.

Kathryn's bodyguards and drivers had fought well earlier, but after her abduction, they suddenly seemed useless. Beaten, bruised, and bloodied, they had all been taken away by ambulance.

The charges were severe—kidnapping and aggravated assault. The punishment could range anywhere from three to ten years, or possibly more.

Cold steel cuffs snapped around Shiloh's two brothers and the gang members they had hired for a few bucks.

They were shoved into police cars.

Now, they could only pray Kathryn survived. If she died, their crimes would carry an even harsher sentence.

Kidnapping and assault meant prison time, but murder? That was a death sentence.

Kathryn had no way to contact Pedro.

But she had a small tracking device on her.

That was how Pedro found her.

Marco and his brothers had taken Kathryn straight to a remote beach, where a small boat was waiting.

It was meant for dumping her body.

When they arrived, they stopped the car.

Noel and Sage worked together to drag Kathryn out. Marco grabbed a rope. They untied the sack around her, and under the harsh glow of the headlights, her face came into view—

bruised, swollen, with blood smeared at the corners of her mouth and nose. She wiped at it, but it wouldn't come off completely.

Blood still stained her lips and philtrum.

Noel and Sage hauled her up while Marco swiftly tied her legs, then bound her hands behind her back.

"Brother," Kathryn said, her voice trembling. "Are you throwing me into the sea to feed the fish?"

The sound of crashing waves and the cold ocean breeze sent a shiver through her.

She didn't try to stand.

She just lay there, motionless.