



74 She Shouldn't Cross Me

"So, is she really related to Jason Sanson?"

Amelie lifted her eyes from the computer screen, fixing them on Anna, who had just entered her office at the Emerald Hotel. Anna took a seat across from her boss's desk and placed a printed profile of Penelope Sanson in front of Amelie. 1

"Yes, she is, Mrs. Ashford," Anna replied, waiting for her boss to review the girl's profile before continuing. "Penelope Sanson is Jason Sanson's niece. She was accepted to the Brownstone Academy last month and will be studying there for the next three years.

According to the information I managed to find, she is quite a bright young lady. Her parents own a chain of restaurants, so it is Mr. Sanson who pays for her studies. It was thanks to his connections that she was invited to join this year's cotillion. His late aunt was a member of the DDS, and after her coming-of-age ceremony, she will be staying with him until she graduates from the academy."



Amelie listened to Anna while her eyes slowly scanned the girl's appearance in the photo attached to the profile.

'She is sixteen but she looks rather young for her age... I guess it's that slight chubbiness that makes her look somewhat innocent and cute. Yes, she looks nothing like Jason Sanson, that's something she should be thankful for.'

A light smile appeared on the woman's lips as she made up her mind.

"Send a response to the DDS board, please. Tell them that I chose Penelope Sanson to be my protege for the upcoming debutante ball."

Although Anna was already feeling somewhat surprised about Amelie's interest in Penelope, hearing that she wanted to take her as her protege was definitely more than just unorthodox.

"Mrs. Ashford, I am sorry if this is none of my business, but do you really want to get involved with the Sansons by taking this girl as your protege? Jason Sanson is connected to that woman, after all."

Anna's words were more than just reasonable and Amelie understood her assistant's concern. However, with Samantha's newfound arrogance and unconcealed plotting nature, she was now forced to take cautionary steps.

If that woman had the audacity to bare her teeth at her, Amelie had to show her that she could do the same.

"After personally meeting Jason Sanson, I realized that their connection has more to it than meets the eye. Penelope is my hidden ace card. I want Samantha to feel threatened because I can get closer to people who know more about her. I want that woman to be nervous too. This will be my warning to her; she shouldn't cross me." 1

Samantha marched through the half-empty hall of the restaurant and slammed her bag on top of the table, making Jason drop his spoon.

"Why the hell did you ask me to meet again? I have already given you the money just a few days ago! Do you think I am your personal cash machine or something?"



Jason frowned as he looked at the spoon that was now under the table and jerked his head, ordering Samantha to take a seat and calm down.

Once the waitress replaced his dropped spoon with a new one, he returned to eating his cold soup while offering Samantha a nonchalant reply.

"You shouldn't be acting so recklessly, Sam. I called you here today because I wanted to help you."

"Help me?" Samantha couldn't help but snark at him. "How exactly can you help me right now?"

Ignoring the woman's unnecessary arrogance, Jason wiped his mouth with a napkin and smiled. "My niece, Penelope, is going to attend this year's cotillion sponsored by the Daughters of Dignified Standing organization."

"So?" Samantha replied carelessly and the man's lips stretched wider. "So? Are you really that stupid? Amelie Ashford is a member of the DDS. She has chosen Penelope as her protege. This means she will be in close contact with her for quite some time and you know... My niece is



quite a big fan of Amelie's, if that woman asks her to give her a kidney, she will gladly do so." 1

Samantha's entire body shivered. She had met Penelope before on numerous occasions; that girl, despite her young age and innocent appearance despised women like her and never missed a chance to insult them. 1

But the biggest issue was, of course, the fact that Penelope knew about Samantha's relationship with William and the existence of the child she tried to blackmail him with.

"I don't think you asked to meet with me just to tell me that, right?" She offered him an annoyed expression but Jason could only laugh. "Of course not! I came here to warn you and that, as you know, counts as me helping you. Got any cash to pay for my services? You know they ain't free!"

Samantha opened her wallet, pulled out several bills, and threw them on the table in front of the grinning man. Although that gesture was filled with disrespect, Jason only cared for the numbers written on the bills.

"You should be grateful that you have someone



like me, Samantha," the man said as he hid the money in the pocket of his pants. "If it weren't for me, who knows what this entire situation could have turned into!"

Not willing to hear her response to his words, Jason gestured for the waiter to approach his table and said before leaving, "Pay for my lunch too. I'm sure it's only peanuts for you now."

Samantha watched the man disappear behind the restaurant's door and once the waiter left her with the check, she bit her thumb nail while her nervous thoughts flooded her already restless mind.

'It's one thing to have a rumor about me being a prostitute to circle around. It can be easily dismissed as people getting jealous of me, especially since there is no concrete evidence to prove it. But with Penelope being yet another person knowing my secret... If I don't take care of this, she will definitely reveal the truth to Amelie.'

