

Chapter 118: Francesco Ianello.

Hannah's POV:

"What do you mean when you say that this story isn't over mom?" I asked her, but apparently she

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wasn't in any condition to answer my question at the moment. She was trembling and crying as if she had just heard that some tragedy just happened.

Officer Corvin exchange my mom's coffee for a glass of water and she took a moment to catch

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her breath again. When she was calmer, she started to tell us what she knew. "Because, although this couldn't be as far from the truth as possible, Ianello believes that he's connected to you somehow. He simply doesn't believe in me," She told us.

"I don't understand mom why and how are you connected to this guy? I mean, he's from the mafia right?" I asked her, while I was fearing her answer.

"He's not just from the mafia, he is the personification of the mafia in this country, Hannah," my brother told us seriously. That made my mom cry even more profusely.

"So, what kind of relationship this guy thinks that he has with me?" I asked my mom again. She was making me worried because she couldn't stop crying and I didn't want to see her suffering.

"He... he thinks that he's your father Hannah," she confessed, and hid her face from us with her hands. She was still crying a lot when she said "Oh, my God! Now I know why you were kidnapped when you were a toddler. And I was right that I should keep blaming myself for your k*****g honey, because I wasn't able to convince a bad guy that he wasn't your father. I'm so sorry!" she told me and came to give me a hug.

"What?" I asked her astonished, but I couldn't believe what she just said to me. "How in this world is possible that a guy like Francesco Ianello would believe that I was his daughter?" I demanded.

"Ma'am, if you have any connections with the mafia I must advise you that I need to report you to the authorities," Officer Corvin told her cautiously.

My mom shook her head and mumbled "I didn't know at the time that he was connected to the mafia. To me he was just a rich guy interested in having a good marriage. I wasn't even aware of his activities because he passed as a businessman, so at that time I didn't know that something was wrong with him. But I didn't give him much of my time because I met him right about the same time that I met your father, and everybody knows that it was love at first sight with your father", she told us.

"Yeah, yeah, everybody knows that it was love at first sight with Hannah's father but what the hell were you doing with a mafia boss mom?" Timothy asked her.

My mom took a deep breath as if gathering forces from heaven, looked at us and said: "Because I

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told you that I didn't know he was from the mafia. He was a businessman and one of my suitors", she explained again. "We had a brief romance, and as you can imagine, we slept together a few times, but I realized that he was too controlling, and you all know that I wanted to make my own way, so I left him for your father," she explained.

"I eloped with your father a few weeks later, and I had you quickly after that. When it was published in the newspaper that I had a little girl, Francesco got nuts. He came after me to find out if I had his daughter. By that time, the scandal about his involvement with the mafia was out in the open, and I told him that you were not his daughter, but apparently, he had plans for his heiress, and he didn't believe in what I said," she continued.

"But are you sure that I am not his daughter?" I asked her cautiously. Deep down, I was panicked for thinking that he might actually be my father.

"Of course I am, honey," she told me, and I sighed in relief.

"And what happened next?" I asked her.

"He came after me several times asking, or better, demanding to see you, and time after time I told him that he couldn't see you, because he wasn't

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your father. He even claimed the absurd that you had his eyes," she told me.

I sighed and said: "Well, it wouldn't be the first time that someone thinks that I look like someone else. As I used to say, I have a pretty common face," I told them.

"No, you don't, darling. You are a Chesterfield from head to toe. Only someone not paying attention would think the opposite," she told me.

"And then, what happened, ma'am?" Officer Corvin demanded.

My mom sighed. "Well, the tension escalated to the point that I had to hide from him. My husband claimed by that time that he couldn't hide for such a long time, so we went along with a nanny to our old beach house. The one that I couldn't stand and sold after you were taken," my mom told looking at me.

I nodded and encouraged her to continue saying "please, go on with the story, mom."

She nodded at me as if she was appreciating my encouragement and said: "Ianello's stalking got worse after we went to the beach house."

"Really? How so?" Timothy asked.

"He had his people watching our movements and used to send me pictures of you and the nanny playing at the beach or in our house's backyard, for example. I went abroad with you trying to hide you from him, and there was still someone chasing us. He was threatening me, saying that he would even kill your nanny or even me if I didn't give you to him," she told us.

"Sickening bastard," Timothy whispered. All that I did was stare at my mom in astonishment.

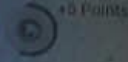
"Why didn't you call the police, Ma'am?" Corvin asked her.

"Because, as you know very well, Ianello has his people in the police. A lot of cops and detectives told me that he was a hard man to catch, that there weren't enough accusations to arrest him, and all that bullshit, when the truth was that the officers weren't willing to catch him just for the money that he gave them to be free from any accusations," she told Corvin. Her eyes were hard when she accused the police of being taken by the mafia.

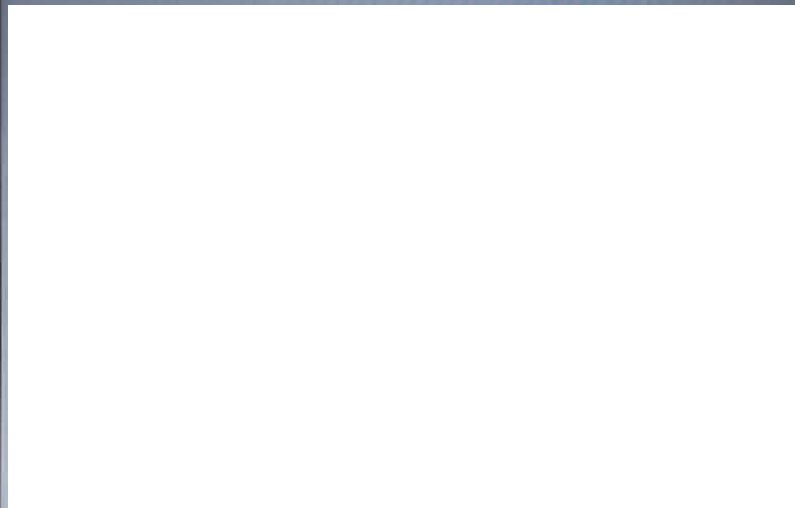
Corvin nodded at her and murmured: "you are completely right, Ma'am. I'm sorry I asked."

"And what happened then?" I asked her.

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"Then I ran away with you to the beach house again. I thought that I had lost his people, but I was wrong. Our old beach house was away from the city, almost isolated. The nanny was taking



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care of you at the beach, and my phone rang. That was the sign.

I thought that we were safe. My husband had hired a small security team, but nothing was enough to stop Ianello's will to have you. His men killed two of the guys in the security team and injured the other one. And then, someone hit your nanny on the head so hard that she fainted, and finally, he

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took you from me. The nanny wasn't able to see who it was, so we didn't have a witness.

The call was a distraction, and I fell just like he planned. When I came back to the beach, all that I found was the nanny laying on the sand and you were gone. I got desperate.

At that time, I thought that it could be him, so I went to talk to him and ask, or better, demand that he would return my Estella, but he hadn't you. I never found you and his people left that beach without a trace, so I never could prove that it was him, and went back to square one on my search for you," my mom told me.

"What you didn't know was about Morisson. He was a third person with one responsibility, but wasn't connected to the case, so you wouldn't think that he was the responsible for your daughter's kidnapping," Corvin told my mom.

"And he is also a hell of a good actor. When I went to him searching for you he seemed as devastated as I was, so I didn't suspect further of him," my mom told us.

"And then, Morisson lost you in this pitiful small town. I found you and I hid you at the orphanage. And the idiot didn't know how to look for you

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without raising any suspicions, so he gave up, ran away, and made an excuse for losing you," Corvin told us. "By the time you entered the system, you had grown a little and was losing that regular toddlers features, so they could never find you," he said.

"But how is Ianello the reason why you live in this piece of land that has been forgotten by God?"

Timothy asked Corvin.

"Because he tracked your sister's lead back to town, and since he couldn't find her, he came after the cop who found her," Corvin explained.

"As I felt that something was wrong with the people that were looking for you, I decided not to tell them anything. That made Ianello so upset that he came to town personally. That night, he killed my son and wife. And when I was about to give in and die along the rest of my family, a small squad from the police station came up and saved me from him. He managed to escape that night, but we killed his cousin. So, now he had two reasons to come after me. That was when I decided to enter the witness protection program. After that, I was alone and hidden, so don't you blame me for acting awkwardly," Corvin told us.

"You're a victim of this story as much as we are,"

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my mom mumbled to him.

"Yeah, I'm sorry, sir. I judged you badly. It's not your fault at all," Timothy told him.

Corvin humped and nodded, but didn't say a thing.

"Sir, I would like to apologize for all the trouble that me and my family have brought to your life. At the same time, I would like to thank you for protecting me when I was so vulnerable. There are no words that could express my gratitude," I told him.

Corvin looked at me with unfathomable eyes for a minute or two until he said: "I protected a little girl back on that day. I'm glad that I can see that she is a grown woman now. It was worth it," he told me, but I wasn't so sure about that. I was the responsible for the death of his wife and son. There was always a price when you get involved with mafia. And I would always have this in my consciousness: two lives were taken because of me.

I nodded at him with tears in my eyes and murmured: "thank you, officer Corvin."

"To serve and protect, right?" Corvin mumbled at me.

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From that moment on, I decided that I would do whatever I could to help him to be free from Ianello again.



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