## Alexander's POV:

I was tense as hell that day, as I knew it would be crucial to all my plans for Tess to be released. And although I was confident, obviously deep down, I was worried that a lot of things in that plan could go wrong. But I tried to keep the positive thinking for her sake.

I was still waiting when around 8:30 a.m. I received a call from an unknown number on my burner phone.

"This is Thorn-Ramsey. Go." I said when I answered the phone.

"Sir, it's done," Jameson said on the other side of the line.

"Oh, great!" I said and let out a breath I didn't even know I was holding. It was a relief to know that everything had worked out. "And where is she now?" I asked Jameson.

"Our driver is taking her to the meeting point, and from there you can go on," Jameson told me.

"Great," I muttered. "Stick to the plan," I told him

and I killed the call. I knew that if I got a call like that it was a sign that everything had worked out and soon I would see Tess again. I just didn't know if after the escape they managed to lose whoever was after her. I needed a new insight into the police, but Jameson wasn't going to do it. He was already nervous enough. So, I decided to call another acquaintance of mine inside the police station that Jameson didn't even know I knew, but unfortunately, the call went to voicemail.

I knew it would be difficult to get information at that moment, as the station must have been in a huge uproar, after all, a prisoner had escaped. The fact that my partner hadn't answered the phone meant he was busy at the station, and the story of Tess's escape wasn't over yet.

The meeting point Tess would be sent to was out of town at a private airstrip owned by a friend of mine whom I had met playing cards. I had spent the night on his property, so I was already there. Our bags were all packed and there wasn't much to do before Tess arrived and we could leave.

Approximately two hours later, a discreet car arrived at the property. There was nothing in the car to call attention to. That was a good thing. The driver opened his own door and then opened the

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back door, and Tess got out of the car looking as pretty as she could in that jail uniform.

"Hi, love," I told her, reaching over and lightly kissing her on the lips.

"Oh honey, thank you so much for saving me," she

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told me after the kiss. "I don't even know how to thank you for putting such a plan into practice in such a short time!" she exclaimed.

"Well, you can thank me by staying out of jail," I told her, and we both chuckled. Then we kiss again.

And then, we were interrupted by the pilot of the plane I had hired: "Sir, we are ready. We can live whenever you want."

I looked at Tess and at the driver who had brought her and asked, "Do you believe you were followed?"

Tess had a proud smile on her lips as she said,
"No way. The element of surprise was so effective
that by the time the cops left the station, we were
already far enough away to avoid a chase. I
believe that we have about an hour or two until
they find this place," she told me.

"Well then, we don't have a second to waste. Let's go," I told Tess. So I took her hand to lead her to the plane.

I was climbing the ladder of the private jet behind Tess when I turned around and saw that the getaway driver was also coming with us. "Can I help you?" I asked him to realize that this was an escape for two and not for three.

"Sir, they will find me. I can't stay here!" he exclaimed.

"Well, that's not my problem, is it?" I asked him. "I think I paid you enough money to keep you off the radar for a few months. Good luck," I said as I

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reached the top of the stairs to the plane. So I got into the private jet and closed the door behind me, ignoring the driver's muffled protests on the other side of the door.

There was no in-flight service on that small plane, but I couldn't take a glass of champagne to celebrate with my love. "This is for a successful escape," I told her as I opened the bottle of crystal.

"Oh dear! You thought of everything!" she exclaimed. "I missed those things so much... I missed being pampered. You know I wasn't born to suffer, right?" she told me.

"Well, sure, I know what you want out of life," I told her, and we made a toast.

\*

The flight was just a stopover to an isolated hideout near the border, where I intended to keep Tess until the dust settled and she was able to travel farther. My idea was to send Tess to Europe, and while I haven't mentioned it to her yet, I think she'd be okay with it.

Tess was fast asleep on the seat next to mine, probably exhausted from what had happened the last couple of days. So a few hours later, I shook Tess by the shoulders and said, "Baby, we're here."

Chapter 199, it is what it is.

"Oh, and where are we?" Tess looked at me confused and asked me sleepily.

"We've made it inland, honey. We're close to the border," I told her.

"Close to the border? You brought me to the end of the world?" Tess complained to me.

"I brought you to safety, honey," I told her sternly.

"And did you need to bring me to the end of the world to make me safe?" She insisted irritably.

I shrugged at her and mumbled, "Well, it is what it is."

There was no one waiting for us on the landing strip, just a car that had been left with the keys for us to continue our escape. I thanked the pilot and off we went.

I drove for another 40 minutes or so until we reached our final destination: an isolated hut near the border. It looked like one of those spring and summer hunting lodges, so probably no one would suspect there was a police fugitive hiding in that area during winter.

"And we're staying here?" Tess asked me incredulously.

"Unfortunately, only you will be left here, dear. I

need to get back to town as soon as possible," I told her.

"And why is that?" She asked me irritably.

"Well, isn't it obvious? So that I stay free and people don't think I helped you to escape," I told her.

"And what's your alibi for the escape time?" She crossed her arms and asked me.

"Well, some time ago I found a doppelganger who I hired to go through some strategic corridors in my building last night and left home later today, so trust me, I have an alibi," I told her. "I paid him good money to look like I stayed in my apartment all night and left after the escape," I explained to her.

"Damn it! But are you really going to leave me here alone, Alexander?" Tess protested. I knew she was super pissed because she didn't call me Alex, she called me Alexander.

"Honey, the cabin is stocked, and that's just for a few days," I told her. "Like I said, when the dust settles, this won't be your final destination. We're getting out of here. Both of us. When I've finally disposed of Ethan and his company, we're free to go. And my personal choice is Europe," I told her.

"Damn, this looks like it's going to take a long time," Tess grumbled.

"But I thought you were all in for taking as long as it took for us to get revenge on the Brown family," I told her.

"Yes, I was. But now things have changed, Alex.

Now I don't have all the time in the world anymore.

I need answers. I need resolutions," she told me.

"Look, there are some supplies here for you and I'll leave a rental car in someone else's name so if you want to go out, you can get around. The nearest town is 30 miles from here," I told her.

"30 miles? Are you crazy?" she asked me.

"That was about as remote as I could get, Tess," I told her.

"Damn it, Alex! You're leaving me with no way out!"

She grumbled again.

I shrugged, "Well, that's the best I could do
Otherwise, you'd be at your custody hearing right
now. Or worse, you'd already be in jail again
because according to your lawyer, your chances of
freedom were slim."," I told her sternly.

"Okay, fine. I'll wait for you," she said.

"I also left you some disposable phones and

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please, do not do any suspicious research!" I exclaimed to her. "A hacker tampered with the computer so you could use it, but not all the

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security in the world can guarantee that you won't eventually get caught if you do something stupid,"

I stressed to her as much as I could.

"Damn, it's fine. I'll try to behave myself," she told me pouting.

\*

I spent the night with Tess, because it was late,

and man... I'm speechless. She looked wild. Maybe it was all the adrenaline from the escape, I don't know, but she was pretty responsive. Since I knew it wasn't always like this, I jumped at the chance. So, the next day, I went back to town, pretending I didn't know anything, and that everything was as normal as possible.

At least the first phase of the plan was complete.



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