

Royal Contract 121

Chapter 121 - New Enemy

"Hi, babe! Did you miss me?" Cassie asked as she walked into his office without any notice that she was coming.

"What are you doing here?" He asked as he continued to work on the papers in front of him.

He never liked surprises, especially when he was busy. He was currently facing some problems in his business. And Cassie's unannounced visit was not something he appreciated as of the moment. She was a distraction he did not need.

"Am I not welcome to visit you anymore?" She made herself sound as if she felt hurt by the way she was dismissing her presence.

"It is not that, but I am busy today." He did not need her drama today.

He just learned that a few individuals were buying a few blocks of stocks of his company shares under his nose. His people discovered an anomaly and started to notice a pattern.

It was not some random clients wanting a part in his company, but a possible hostile takeover. They were not sure yet, but it was better to be careful before it became too late for them to recover.

This entity was slowly acquiring stocks to gain access to his company, and he needed to find out who it was soon before it was too late. He did not come this far, only to lose because someone was able to dupe him. He was more cunning than whoever was trying to ruin what he had built.

"I heard that your ex just got engaged." She announced, observing him from where she was standing. She wanted to see how he would react to the news.

"What are you talking about?" Not fully grasping what she said as his mind was still in his problems, but only wanting Cassie out of his office soon enough. He required his full attention to focus on the issue at hand.

Cassie was a good partner in bed and his other schemes. But when it came to business, she was dumb as a rock. As of now, he had no use for her because she could not help him with his business.

"Daniella Hamilton is getting married. I just saw the news of her engagement with the man we saw at the party. Did you know that Alexander Princeton was a prince?" Cassie stated, making her statement clearer to avoid misunderstanding as she narrated what she heard in the news.

Cassie was amazed at the way her ex-friend found another lover, a prince at that. Although, she would not qualify what Nick and Dani had as anything sexual. Nick only wanted Dani for her money and not her body as far as she was concerned.

"What?" He was not sure of what he just heard. "My Dani is getting married to that man." He shouted as he stopped looking at the papers in front of him and directed his attention to Cassie, who was still pacing on his office floor. The news finally sunk in his brain.

Nick was still planning on marrying Dani eventually. It was part of his master plans. He just needed to find some leverage he could use against her so she would agree to such an arrangement.

But that would not happen if she was to marry that man, a prince, as Cassie told him. It would entirely affect all his plans. He ran his fingers through his hair, feeling frustrated that another problem just came up.

"First of all, she is not your Dani anymore, Nick." Cassie pointed out angrily at him, jealous that he still wanted Dani, despite having her on his side. "Next, yes, he is going to marry that man. Unlike you, he is a real live prince." She emphasized the last part, hating the man in front of her.

She had stuck by his side, hoping that he would finally take notice of her. After Nick and Dani separated, she was sure that he would be putting his full attention on her, but it would seem that she was still sharing it with his ex.

Cassie stormed out of his office after hearing that he once again claimed Dani was and would always be his. She hated that Nick still had not moved on from her. But she would show him that she was better than her in many ways.

"Cassie, come back here." He immediately stood up from his seat and ran after her. "I'm sorry, I did not mean that. Sometimes, it just slipped my tongue because I used to call her that." He knew that was not an excuse, but he had to try.

He made a mistake again, but if he did not need Cassie in his plans, he would have let go of her a long time ago. But as of now, he had to play his cards right. He should be more careful in handling her.

"But you two are already over for a long time. I sometimes feel that you are only using me, but you did not care about me at all." She did like Nick, but just like him. Cassie was also using him for her agendas.

But in some way, she hated when he usually compared her to Dani because they were two different people. She wanted Nick to herself because she loved him, but she also needed him to execute her plans against Dani.

"I love you, Cassie. How can you say that?" Nick declared, but in truth, he was not sure if he even knew the meaning of the word. He needed her, that was for sure, but love was something he only used for his propaganda.

"You know I only wanted to get her back because of her money. We need it so that we can exact our revenge against them." Nick continued to explain to her. "You are the most important person in my life." He started caressing her shoulders, showing her some affection.

"Then show me." She turned around and moved towards Nick, who pulled her back to his office, locking the door behind him.

Sex between them was explosive. Nick had to admit that. It was one of the things that were a bonus in their relationship. But he still wanted Dani more. She was the key to his dreams.

He was expecting that he could still find a way to make her marry him. But he guessed that would be impossible now. Hearing that Dani was now engaged to his new enemy was a big blow to his plans unless he could find another way.

Chapter 122 - The Only Queen

"I'll do much more." He answered Cassie as he pulled her towards him, making her sit on his lap as he started kissing her from her lips down to her exposed neck and shoulders.

"Then stop making me feel that you don't need me anymore." She whispered as she succumbed to his advances, letting him get rid of her clothes one by one.

She also started removing his tie and then his shirt, feeling his skin against hers. She knew that loving Nick could be her downfall. He was a scumbag, and he would betray her.

She was taking what he was willing to give for the meantime until she, too, achieved what she wanted in this arrangement. She would get what she could from this relationship. Until she was rich enough to stay away from him, at the same time ruining Daniella in the process.

"Do you want me?" He asked her, placing her on top of the table.

Wild sex was what would make Cassie shut up and comply with his every word. He had no problem in giving her that. It was like hitting two birds with one stone. He got satisfied by giving in to what she wanted. At the same time, he also got her to obey his every wish.

"Yes, I want you." She answered wantonly, as she let him do what he wished with her body.

She pulled him closer to her, not wanting to wait any longer until they were savagely gratifying their need for the flesh. Both, wanting to fight for control, but Nick did win the upper hand.

He would never allow Cassie to take over their relationship. He knew that she could also be cunning, but she would never win against him. He would make sure to get rid of her once he was done with her before she even caused any more problems for him.

He showered her once again with kisses, assuring her that he valued her presence in his life. "You know I can't live without you." He whispered in her ears. "But I need to get back to work." Looking at the time.

"Ok, fine." She slowly stepped away from him, putting back her clothes as he did the same.

"Thank you, my love." Saying those endearments was not hard for him since he did not mean any of it, but it was what was needed to make her cooperate with his plans.

"I'll see you tonight at my place," Cassie stated. After that, she finally left his office happy and satiated for the moment. That was until Cassie found something to complain about again.

But she also had her plans that she needed to alter, knowing that things were changing drastically around her.

"I'll see you then." He promised, but he was not sure if he would make it. With the recent problems that he was having, he had no time for her. He would make up with her at another time.

He was once again alone in his office, but this time, he was not thinking of his business but the news he just learned. He was not happy to hear that Dani was getting married.

He did plan to marry Dani. If things worked out the way he had arranged, she should be married to him by now. But her father, Ethan, learned of his plans. He was not sure how he had discovered it, but he did. He even found out that he was sleeping with Cassie.

He still remembered what he said to him one morning. "If you don't leave my daughter alone, I would make sure that you would not see the light of day. But if you agreed to what I want, I would make sure to compensate you generously for your sacrifice."

If Ethan did not discover his plans to use his daughter to get to his good grace, and he got to marry Dani, then he would be sitting prettily as the right hand of Ethan. He would have been the one next in line to his fortune.

Instead, he had to settle for his generous offer to stay away from his daughter in exchange for a meager amount compared to what he lost. He was not ready then to take Ethan and his threats. So, he had no choice but to take the money and ran.

"I will find out whoever tried to ruin me. I will get what I want." He swore to himself.

He always wondered what happened that day because everything was going smoothly according to his plan. Daniella already agreed to marry him. Ethan already treated him like the son he never had, showing him the ropes of the business.

They were playing nicely in the palm of his hands, like puppets he was controlling with his fingers. But that morning, someone betrayed him and told them his plans. They even had pictures of him and Cassie together intimately.

They planned it carefully, discrediting him to the eyes of Ethan and Dani. He never had a chance to explain to them as both hated him.

"I'm coming back, and this time, I am taking what is mine." Nick declared in front of his reflection on frame in front of him, looking at the picture of him and Dani that he just pulled out from his drawer.

He already invested so much of his life in Dani and her father. He was not going to allow that to go to waste. He was not finished with them, not yet.

"You will be mine again, Dani." Nick looked at her picture.

He looked again at the pile of papers in front of him. It was when he missed Dani. He could count on her to solve some of his problems. She had helped him in many ways in his business because of his natural ability to run an empire. Something that she had inherited from her father.

But the problem with her was that. She was too intelligent, and at the same time, too righteous. She would never agree to the way he wanted to run his business. He had seen her fight her father over that.

Still, he wanted to marry her because he believed that she was the only queen suitable to sit beside him when he took over her father's kingdom.

Chapter 123 - True Love

Being alone as Alex and Dani had planned seemed to be impossible at the moment as their parents once again planned some family picnic, inviting everyone to attend. Meaning it was not a request but more of a command.

After breakfast with their family, the organizers assigned respective vehicles to each member of the family and the guests that would transport them to their destination. Everyone had an hour to prepare before their departure.

"You know we can still get out of this if you want." Alex offered to Dani when they were back in their room to change and packed for an overnight stay at one of their vacation homes.

Alex was a bit concerned that she was still recovering and not yet fit for strenuous activities. He could use that as an excuse for them not to join the activities.

He was also looking forward to spending some time with her alone today. These past few days had been fun, but he wanted more. A chance for him to show her who he was and to find out more about her.

"As much as I want to, I know I will not hear the end of it from my father. Besides, it sounded fun." She told Alex, knowing that her parents would want to spend some time with them.

She was sure that her getting sick had prevented their parents from spending more time with the two of them. This event was a way for them to catch up with lost time.

"Yeah, you are right. Better agree with our parents and enjoy the rest of the day." Alex agreed to her statement since he was expecting the same case with his parents.

Alex was the one who finished first again, using the bathroom, while Dani took her time dressing inside the walk-in closet. A setup they both agreed upon so that they could both co-exist in the same room without finding it awkward.

As she looked at herself in the mirror, she was expecting to lose a bit of weight. But Alex managed to take care of her, making sure that she ate adequately, drink her medicine on time, and sleep tightly.

He never left her side until convinced that she would not need anything more.

"Are you done?" He asked just outside the closet, waiting for her.

He was used to waiting for Tyra for hours when they were still together. Tyra never left the mirror until she looked perfect as far as he remembered.

"Yes, I'm coming out." She wore a simple dress with flat doll shoes, carrying a small overnight bag.

"Oh, that was fast." He was surprised to see her finished preparing for the trip in just a few minutes. She even packed very light. "Are you sure this is all you need?" He took the small bag from her hands to carry it for her.

If Tyra were in her position right now, she would be carrying at least three large bags for the trip. Her shoes alone could already fill one of the bags. But he was glad that Dani was different from her. He liked that she lived her simple life, as shown by how she dressed and her lifestyle.

"What else would I need?" She knew what he must be thinking. Maybe if these were more than ten years ago, when she was still young, she would be acting differently from what she was today.

She would be like the rest of her previous friends.

Assuming they were privileged to live a more comfortable life compared to the others because of their wealth. But that was not her anymore. She had a long time ago abandoned that belief.

"Nothing. You already look perfect." He could not stop the compliment from slipping from his lips. But why would he even think of preventing himself from telling the truth? It was about time that he showered her with all the compliments that she deserved.

"Stop that. I'm hardly perfect." She quickly looked away from him, not wanting him to see the effect of his words on her.

"But you are to me." He produced something from his back. "I want you to have this." He said as he handed her a hat. "Wear that at all times when you are under the sun. We don't want you to get sick again." He reminded her.

"Thanks." She took the hat from him, holding it in her hand.

Simple gestures like that were what made him so irresistible to her. He did not need to make bold statements or give her flashy gifts to make her feel how much he cared.

She believed that he was quite different from the rest of the men she knew. She already felt it the first time she saw him that night, a long time ago. Something that she would never forget for the rest of her life.

"Shall we join them?" He asked her, offering his arm for her to hold as he assisted her out of their room.

"I guess so." She could not think of anything else that would stop them from pushing forward to their next destination.

She feared that if he kept doing that, showing her that she was exceptionally special to him, she would easily give in to his wishes. She would eventually agree to become her girlfriend.

Although she felt that was what she also wanted, she supposed he was right. She had to carefully study and make sure that she was not rushing into this.

There were so many aspects of her life that she needed to consider before going into a relationship. There was her family, her career, and most importantly, her heart.

"Are you alright?" He asked, noticing that she had become quiet.

"I'm fine. I was thinking of where Jacky might be." She quickly made an excuse, not wanting him to figure out what she had in her mind.

She felt a strong attraction for him, and she also developed some affection for the man walking beside him. Would that be enough for her to risk her everything to be with him?

Alex was no ordinary man. Getting involved with him now, with all the things that he was going through in his life, would mean complications that she was not sure she was ready to accept in her life.

"Tell me if you need anything or if you feel sick." Clearly showing his concern for her safety and wellbeing.

"Of course, I will notify you immediately." She assured him.

Although she believed that Alex was different from Nick, she was still unsure if a relationship with him would be full of rainbows and butterflies. On the other hand, it would seem that it was more likely to be surrounded by rough storms and weeds with thorns.

She had avoided relationships precisely because of these reasons. She was afraid that those difficulties would hinder what she wanted in her life. Would she be able to handle the problems that were attached to this kind of romantic intimacy?

Then again, was she ready to get hurt once this relationship did not work in the end? Because there was no guarantee that they would last forever or if what they had was true love.

Chapter 124 - A Selfish And Entitled Man

"Hey, can I help you with your things?" A man behind her asked.

"No. I can carry my things, thank you." She recognized that voice even with her eyes closed. So, there was no point for her to turn around and looked at him.

She was looking forward to another adventure but not the part that she would be sharing the same transportation with him. Although Alex and Dani would be with them, she would still rather not have him around her as much as possible.

"Come on, Jacky. How many times do I need to say I am sorry for what I did?" He asked, a bit exasperated with the idea of him groveling at her feet.

He never did this before with any other girl or woman, so it was news to him why he was doing it now. But he could not stop himself from seeking her out. Every day that she would not talk to him was torture to him.

"There is no need for you to say sorry because there is just no point for me to forgive you." She told him, continuing to walk toward the main entrance of the palace at her slow pace.

"Please, don't say that. Remember that we are still friends." He tried to appeal to her. He was sure that their times together might still have some meaning to her.

She stopped in her tracks when she heard what he just said. It made her blood boiled, using her friendship so casually as if it meant so little to him. What they shared meant so much to her. For him to tell her that was an insult to her.

"No friend of mine would do what you did to me." She could not stop her outburst. She started stabbing her index fingers at his chest, hating the man in front of him.

Then, she took a deep breath to calm herself down. Marcus was just not worth her time and energy. She calmly walked away from him.

She saw no point in walking fast because she knew that she could never outrun him if he intended to follow her. So it would be better to take her leisure walk and ignore his existence. Unfortunately, he continued to walk not far behind her.

"Good morning, Jacky." She was surprised to see a familiar face waiting for her outside, just below the marbled steps. He quickly climbed up the steps to greet her when he saw her.

"Lance, what are you doing here?" Jacky asked as soon as he was close to her.

"I thought maybe you would want some company. Alex invited me to come along." He offered his explanation.

"Oh, that is so nice of Alex." She suddenly felt glad that Alex invited a friendly face on the trip. She did not have to suffer from the man behind her anymore.

"Hi! I'm Lance." Offering his hand to the man, who quickly stood next to Jacky. He suddenly felt awkward offering his presence to Jacky, thinking that she was already with someone else.

"Marcus." He accepted Lance's hand for a shake while assessing the man. He had already seen him before at the party, dancing with Jacky, and the other day, when he took her home from their date.

"I'm sorry, Jacky, but I did not know that you already have company." Lance apologized for his intrusion and was about to walk away.

"No, he is not with me." Jacky suddenly announced, moving away from Marcus and closer to Lance. "I am actually looking forward to your company," Jacky told Lance loudly, hoping to make it known to everyone around what she just said.

"That's great then. Can I help you with your things?" Lance offered, extending his hands to get her things.

But Marcus decided to butt in. "Don't bother. She is more than capable of carrying her things. She is a feminist." Marcus stated before walking ahead of them, moving away from the two, bringing his sour attitude.

"What's wrong with him?" Lance, of course, noticed the sarcasm in his words.

"Don't mind him. He is just in a foul mood. Somebody recently dumped him." She did not want to go to the details. "Come on. We don't want to be late." She allowed him to carry her things.

He offered his other available arm for her to hold as they walked together to their meeting area.

"Honestly, tell me. Is Marcus the man that left you at the party?" Lance knew that he should not be nosy, but he did not like to walk in a room, not knowing what surprise awaited inside.

He liked Jacky. He wanted to get to know her more. But if she was in a relationship or just came out of a relationship, he still wanted to know. So, he would know what to expect and how to manage the situation.

"Yes, he was my date that day. But we are not in a serious and committed relationship." She tried to explain, but she knew that it was not easy to tell him the extent of her relationship with him. Or her feelings for him.

"Ok. You don't have to tell me more, but if you want to talk about it. Remember, I am just here to listen." Lance offered, knowing that getting out of a relationship was not easy.

He had been in that kind of situation more than once in his life. But he was willing to listen and help her get over him if she would let him.

"Thanks. For now, let us leave it at that. Marcus was a past that I need to forget." Jacky stated, wanting to end the conversation about Marcus.

"Ok. Then it is the end of that. Shall we talk about something else?" He placed a chaste kiss on her hand, trying to comfort her.

Because, as of the moment, he was seriously contemplating if he should start courting her. She was the main reason that he gave up his race today to be here. He wanted to find out if he should pursue her before she left and went back to her home.

His loss would be his gain. He believed that Jacky deserved more than to be treated that way. He was not about to let Jacky suffer another heartache because of a selfish and entitled man like Marcus.

Chapter 125 - Not To Play With Fire

Two helicopters were waiting for them at the clearing on the other side of the palace. One could accommodate at most six passengers while the other one was smaller with a capacity of only four passengers, not including the pilots.

The duke and the duchess, together with Dani's parents, already went ahead of them. They rode the other one that left a few minutes ago.

The remaining two would take the remaining guests to their picnic destination somewhere on an isolated island owned by the Royal Empire.

"Wait!" She halted on her steps when she saw something that she was not expecting.

"Is there a problem?" Lance asked, slightly alarmed as he also stopped walking.

He looked at where her eyes were gazing and wondered what she was thinking. He was worried that it had something to do with Marcus, who was walking ahead of them.

"Yes!" She stated as if it was a big concern. "Are we riding that thing?" Jacky could not take her eyes off the intimidating flying machines in the open grassy lawn of the palace grounds.

Going to this country was her first time riding a plane, so it had been an exciting experience. It was something that she was looking forward to when she learned of their trip. And during that time, Marcus occupied her mind, making her forget that she was flying.

But being on the air again in that small thing was a different story.

She suddenly felt anxious, having never been on a chopper before.

"Yes." He answered, curious with her tone. "What's wrong?" Seeing her face as it started to pale.

He could not believe that Jacky, which he had learned from their short time together to have a strong personality, had a fear of something, maybe flying or heights. He would not have guessed it from the way he drove his race car.

"I don't know." She said honestly. "I guess I am afraid to ride that monstrosity." She admitted, giving the chopper its nickname.

Flying on a plane, which had two wings and many safety features, in her opinion, was safer than going on a single blade, one engine chopper.

Besides, it looked like a thin can that the wind could blow at any moment while they were in the air. That was what Jacky imagined would happen while the chopper was flying.

"Don't tell me you're afraid of flying?" Lance gave Jacky his incredulous look. "I won't believe it after you made my car flew in the race track." He jokingly said, trying to calm her down.

"That is different. We never actually left the ground." She stated as if that would explain her sudden fear of flying. "I was not expecting that we would be flying. I thought that we would be traveling by land."

"Let me assure you that nothing bad will happen to us. You are in good hands because two of the best pilots will fly that monstrosity you called it." He pulled her closer to him, removing a few strands of her hair away from her face. Keeping it behind her ears as the wind blew it continuously out of place.

"Are you sure?" She tried to read his face and eyes if there was any sign that he was making fun of her fear. But all she saw was his sincerity.

"Do you trust me?" He locked his eyes with hers, moving a bit closer to her that their bodies were almost touching.

"Of course, I do." She automatically answered him, looking directly into his eyes. She had no reasons not to, she thought.

She was able to drive his car without any fear. So, riding this piece of flying metal should not be a problem, especially when he was around.

Not far away from them, another set of eyes were watching them, fuming at what he was witnessing. He could not believe that Jacky was moving on with another man. Although he was the one who insisted that they were not exclusive, he could not stop what he felt, seeing Jacky in another man's arms.

Then again, he was angrier with himself for feeling that way. He should not be acting in this manner as if he was a love-sick fool. He refused to believe that he was jealous because he was not. What he was feeling was more like an insult to his masculinity, that Jacky was parading his new fuck buddy in front of him.

"Jacky!" Someone from her back shouted, calling out her name. It suddenly broke their moment, making her realized that she was staring at him. She was not sure what she was waiting to happen or expecting he would do. But whatever it was, she was waiting for it.

She immediately turned around to look at her friend, who was walking in her direction. She waved her hand to acknowledge her presence. Unsure if she appreciated her sudden interruption.

"Dani, I'm so glad that you're finally feeling well." Jacky greeted and hugged her friend. "Hello, Alex." She also said beside her.

"Hi, Jacky." He also acknowledged her. "Hi, Lance. I'm glad you can join us. I thought you would be racing today." Alex turned to his childhood friend and distant cousin.

"Oh, your race was today," Jacky stated, feeling disappointed that he was not able to join. He was practicing for it for months.

"Don't worry about it. I can still join the next one." He assured her.

"Well, at least we could spend some time together. I miss you, Lance." Alex said to his friend.

Alex was unsure who Jacky went out with during the party, but seeing them together now, confirmed his earlier assumption. He wondered if Lance dating Jacky would be a problem with Marcus. But that was not his problem anymore.

When he looked up, his eyes observed Marcus, who was staring at Jacky with a look that could only mean one thing. If a look could kill, his friend would probably face jail time.

Now, he wondered if Marcus would be able to handle the heat. But from his look, he might eventually self-combust. Alex thought, feeling sorry for his friend. Well, he had warned his friend not to play with fire, but he did not heed his warning.

Chapter 126 - About To Die

"This is Dani. My friend, and of course, Alex's fiancé." Jacky introduced her friend to Lance. "Dani, this is Lance. My new friend."

"Oh, it is nice to put a face on a name." Dani extended her hand to Lance.

"Yes, I already saw you on the engagement but did not have the chance to get introduced." Lance picked up her hand and gave it a gentle kiss.

From his viewpoint at the party, she was lovelier now with the morning light and at close up. Alex was lucky to have her if her face matched a wonderful personality. But if she was the same as her friend, Jacky, he believed that Alex found a good match for him.

"Things were a bit chaotic that day. I'm sorry that we did not have time to talk. But I'm happy that the two of you met," Alex stated, glad that Jacky landed with his cousin and not the other guests who were more or less like Marcus.

Marcus was his bestfriend, but he would never approve of his ways when it came to his relationship with a woman or lack of it. But if Marcus wanted Jacky, he would have a competition with Lance. He believed that Lance was a better man than him.

"Shall we go?" Lance pointed to the chopper not far from them.

"I think we should. The others might be wondering what is taking us too long." Alex was directing his words to Marcus, who kept looking in their direction.

They walked towards the rest of the party that was going with them on this trip. Alex decided that the other six guests of his parents would be riding the other chopper, while the five of them would take the other one.

"Marcus, have you met my cousin, Lance." Alex introduced the two, assessing how Marcus would react to his cousin's presence.

He could see the hostility in his gaze, but he hid it very well that very few might even notice it. But as his long-time friend, he was used to reading him.

"We have met earlier." Marcus gave the group a friendly smile as if they were his clients that he needed to please.

If he needed to act civil to get through the remaining days of their vacation, he would do that. He moved further away from them for a moment. He just needed time to be alone.

However, he planned to watch Jacky and Lance like a hawk. He did not trust this new guy around Jacky. He was not letting them out of his sight.

"Oh, shit!" He suddenly had a realization. What was he thinking? He was suddenly confused with the way his mind was working. He was confused about what to think of his behavior.

But his mind was insisting on something. He could not let Jacky go, not yet. It kept on insisting not to leave her without a fight. He was not sure if he was going insane or it was this place that making him think crazily.

When they reached the chopper, Alex went to talk to the uniformed men, checking the engines. Lance and Marcus placed all their things in the luggage compartment.

When Alex returned to them, the two uniformed men started moving away from the chopper. "Aren't we leaving yet?" Dani asked as Alex assisted her into the helicopter. "Where are they going?" Pointing to the two men.

"We are, so better buckle up." He helped her in her seat just behind the pilot side. "Wear this." He placed a headset on her head. Then, securing the seatbelt around her.

At the other side of Dani, Lance was helping Jacky in her seat and with her belt. Just like what Alex did with Dani, he also assisted Jacky with the headset. "We can talk using this during the flight. So, you have nothing to worry about." He assured Jacky.

Marcus had no choice but to sit at the rear area of the chopper, located just behind Jacky's seat.

"Anybody wants to buckle me up." He jokingly said to Alex, who only smirked at his friend.

"By the way, who is flying this thing?" Dani finally asked, seeing that the pilots were nowhere in sight.

Alex and Lance started positioning themselves in the front seats of the chopper, which made the two girls looked at them in terror. Marcus was not surprised anymore since he had known about Alex's ability to fly a plane and a chopper.

"Please tell me that you two are joking." Dani partially yelled out of fright.

"This is not a nice joke." Jacky also seconded Dani's statement. Her fear of flying doubled, seeing that the two were starting to operate the machine.

"Don't worry, girls. Trust us. We know what we are doing." Alex looked behind her to assure Dani that she was safe in his hands.

"Are you sure? Maybe we can call back the two pilots to take over." Dani insisted as her hands started to shake in fright.

"Don't you remember that I do not do things without carefully considering everything? I will never put your life in danger. Remember that." Alex assured her as he started the engine.

The machine roared to life, and the blades started rotating in a steady rhythm, increasing every second. Same as the anxiety of the two passengers who could not believe what they were witnessing.

It was different to play with their lives on the ground but up in the air. It was not just the same. They were not sure if they were ready to risk their lives and put them in the hands of these two men.

"I told you that two best pilots would be flying this chopper. Don't you remember?" Lance talked to his mouthpiece so that Jacky would hear him clearly over the noise of the blades.

"We assure you that we do this all the time." Alex turned around and took Dani's hand, and kissed it. He was not sure if that would help, but he wanted to do it.

"Don't worry. Alex is a certified pilot." Marcus assured the two, verifying his friend's credentials. He was just not sure about Lance. He was not about to vouch for the man.

"Ok." The two girls finally acknowledged, but in their minds, one thing was forming. They were about to die.

Chapter 127 - On The Same Page

As they flew in the air, Alex and Lance tried to entertain their passengers by giving them a tour of their surroundings. They pointed out interesting and important historical sites that they passed through on their way to the island.

"Hey, if you look over there on your right, that was where my ancestors were born and raised. He pointed on an old ruined castle located on an isolated land at the far edge of a cliff.

"Oh, it looks bigger than the one we visited." Dani looked at the one Alex was pointing at, quite interested to know more about his heritage. For her, his history was more interesting, intriguing, and colorful compared to hers.

Her earlier fear of him piloting this machine dissipated eventually as he skillfully flew them in the air. Just like the way he handled the motorbike, he had shown mastery in his ability to operate this flying vehicle.

"Yes, it is twice the size of the one we went to, but this is twice as old as that one and quite very far from the other castles," Alex explained.

"Are we still far?" Jacky interjected in the conversation, not particularly interested in the topic of the conversation. She wanted to know more about when they were going to land.

She could not even open her eyes to look outside. In truth, she felt like throwing up whenever she felt the chopper move from side to side.

"Just a few more minutes. Just relax. Remember, I would not let anything happen to you." Lance assured her, speaking softly over the headset to make sure to comfort her.

"Come on, Jacky. I'm right here." Dani also held her hand, wanting her friend to relax. "Open your eyes and enjoy the view."

"Ok," She felt a bit better after hearing Lance's voice and feeling Dani's hand on hers. She slowly opened her eyes and peered at the window, seeing the clear blue sky and slight scattering of white clouds. She finally released the breath that she was holding and took in another fresh set of air.

"Feeling better," Lance spoke again on the headset, hearing her breath heavily on the mike.

"I think so. Thanks," Jacky said, but she still avoided looking at the ground. She was not still that confident that she could handle the height.

Marcus hated it every time Lance tried to reassure Jacky that everything would be ok and they were in good hands. He could not help but make faces, sitting quietly all alone at the back of the chopper.

Watching Jacky squirmed in her seat in every twist and turn of the helicopter in the air made him think of wanting to hold her in his arms. He wanted to be the one to comfort her and tell her that everything was going to be alright.

That he was there for her, but he knew that she would only shut him down. But Alex's words finally made him realized what he did wrong. It felt like a brick hit him in the head and made him see the error of his ways.

Now, he wondered how he could make amends. Or, was he too late to make it up with Jacky, seeing how she was growing attached to Lance.

"Marcus, are you alright back there?" At first, he did not notice that Alex was already talking to him, with his mind busy thinking of what he did wrong with Jacky.

But after several calls of his name, he finally looked up and saw that Alex kept turning his head at him. "Sorry, my mind was elsewhere. What do you want?"

He also noticed that Jacky had her head turned to her. For a moment, he knew that she saw a bit of concern on her face, but it was quickly replaced with indifference when she saw that he looked in her direction.

"Nothing, you were quiet, so I was wondering what was happening to you." But Alex knew that his friend found the situation a bit awkward, with Jacky and Lance in the same place.

"I'm good, just enjoying the view." He tried to make the situation light.

"What about the two of you? Are you enjoying our services?" Alex directed his question to Dani, who smiled at him.

"Of course, we are. I think you are an excellent pilot." Dani spoke up on the mike, and then she leaned forward until she could reach his shoulder, giving it a gentle tap.

Dani knew she was slightly flirting with him. It was something that she had never done for a long time.

Dani was not even sure if she was doing it right. But she wanted him to know that she appreciated what he was doing for them. She even saw her friend Jacky slowly enjoying watching the scene below her.

"Thanks, Dani." He liked this side of her. The one that was being bold and showing some form of affection. He just hoped that she continued to stay that way throughout their vacation.

"I hope everyone enjoyed the flight because we are about to land soon. Make sure that all buckles are secured tightly." Lance told them as the helicopter started its slow descent.

When they landed, and Lance immediately helped Jacky with her belt, making her hugged him tightly. "Thanks for landing us safely back to the ground."

"I hope next time, you won't feel so anxious about flying again," Lance said to her as he held her close enough.

"I think after that, I could fly anytime and anywhere," Jacky said, more confident this time after experiencing it for the first time, without anything untoward happening to them.

"Then, maybe I can show you around next time," Lance whispered for her ears only.

"Well, we will see," Jacky answered back.

She knew she liked Lance because he seemed very sweet and genuinely a good guy. But as she mentioned earlier, she wanted to take it easy with men. She did not want to rush into a relationship and only ended up broken. This time, she would like to enter a committed relationship where both were on the same page.

Chapter 128 - Share More Than A Bed

There were five medium-sized villas on the island located on the beachside and one main house in the center. Most of the guests would be staying at the main house, while Alex chose to take one of the villas farthest from the main house.

It was the only way they could avoid the scrutiny of their parents during their stay here. Besides, it is just for one night, he thought. He assisted Dani to the awaiting jeep they would use to go to their chosen accommodation.

The rest of their companions took the other vehicles that would take them to the main house.

"What about Jacky? Where is she staying?" She asked when she was securely fastened in her seat while Alex started the engine. She just learned that they would be staying away from the rest of their family and friends.

"Don't worry about her. I think Lance would be there to provide her assistance. If not, Marcus would be there to the rescue." He was unsure if his assessment was accurate, but he thought that Marcus was jealous of Lance showing interest in Jacky.

He just hoped that this trip did not end up in a disaster. But that was not his problem to solve. He also had a situation that needed his attention. He wondered if Dani was able to think of what he told her earlier.

"By the way, I haven't seen Evan and David anywhere. What happened to them?" She had been wondering about her boss and her job.

It had been a while since she updated herself with her cases. She had been too preoccupied with what was happening here. She had forgotten about the other world she lived in and her real problems.

"They left yesterday because of some clients demanding their attention. But don't worry, they understand your situation. They assured me that they would take care of your cases while you are here." Alex looked at her.

He knew that her dedication to her work was one thing that had pushed her to make a deal with him. One of the things that attracted him to her was her devotion to helping people. The way she fought for equality and justice.

Most people he knew who were in their social circle would never lift a finger to help the poor. But Dani was different. She was willing to sacrifice herself to give other people a chance to defend themselves.

"Oh! Thanks for talking to them on my behalf." As much as she wanted to enjoy her stay on this island with Alex. She could not stop her mind from thinking about the cases she had left behind.

But she was happy to hear that her bosses had promised to take care of them while she was away. She felt assured that her clients were in good hands.

"No need to thank me. I am the reason why you are here in the first place. It is part of my obligation to take care of you." He told her as he continued to drive to their destination.

"Of course." She felt a bit confused why she did not like the word he used. It felt like everything he was doing was part of the contract they signed.

She suddenly wondered if what he told her earlier was just another part of making their lives more comfortable because of their arrangement, or was it something else. She hoped it was the latter.

She knew that what she felt for him was beyond physical attraction. She was hoping that he also felt the same way with her. In truth, she was looking forward to trying a real relationship with him.

The only thing that was still stopping her was the complication connected to it. Was she ready for all of that?

"We are here." He finally announced after the long silence that befell them.

He wondered what she thought while she gazed at the view outside, but he was also preoccupied with his own. He knew that if he wanted a relationship with her, this moment would be the perfect time to do it while they were on the island.

He should not wait till they got back to the city where she was in her elements. He might never find the chance again. She might never agree to him by then.

"Oh, this place is beautiful." She uttered softly upon noticing the beautiful wooden villa in front of them. She immediately went down from the jeep, not waiting for Alex to assist her.

She walked to the wooden steps and climbed up on the front door, checking it was open. She noticed that Alex was already at her side before she even opened the door.

"I'm glad you like it." He followed her inside the house and let her explore her surroundings. He enjoyed watching her as she appreciated the decorations of the villa. "Would you like to see the ocean?"

He walked ahead of her and opened the sliding glass doors, revealing the beautiful ocean behind him. "What do you think?"

"Oh my. It is so beautiful." She roamed her eyes and feasted on the beautiful view of nature around her.

Although this was not her first time enjoying the beach, it had been a long time since she visited one. She promised that she was going to take advantage of her time here to enjoy this moment.

"I'll show you more later," Alex told her. "First, let me get our things and placed them in our room. Are you hungry? I can prepare a snack if you want." He offered before moving to the door.

He opted not to have an assistant in their villa since he did not want anyone checking on them. He was sure that they could manage together overnight on their own.

"Our room?" It was those words that caught her attention.

"Well, the downside of staying in this place was it only had one room and one bed. I assumed that since we already shared a room and a bed back in the palace, it would not be a problem if we did it again here." In all honesty, he did not think that it would be an issue anymore.

"I guess you are right." She did see his point. "Would you like some help?"

"No need. I can take care of this. Just relax and enjoy the view. In an hour, we need to go back to the main house to join the picnic with our family." He declined her offer to help.

He took their things placed them inside the room. Then, he decided to make them a sandwich in the mini kitchen. He watched her settled on the lounge chair by the patio as he worked in the kitchen.

He could not help but guess what was going through her mind right now. But there was only one thing that was bothering him at the moment. He was trying to figure out how he would stop himself from pursuing her if she did not want to be in a relationship with him.

Dani was oblivious that Alex was watching her as she sat alone on the patio. She let the sea breeze blew her hair in all directions, wanting it to clear her mind of her thoughts of him.

He had been a perfect gentleman so far. Sharing a room with him was not the problem, and she had no plan of making a big deal out of it. But there was one issue that was bothering her. Was she ready to share more than a bed?

Chapter 129 - Never Want Anything Else

"Dani, come on, join us. We are going to the beach." Jacky called to her as soon as she saw her walked into the house with Alex at her side.

"I'll just change and will follow you soon." She replied to her friend, accompanied by Lance.

She wondered what was happening with Marcus. She noticed that he was a bit silent earlier. Her spider-sense was telling her that something was not right. But she still could not figure out what was the deal between Marcus and Jacky.

She was so preoccupied with her issues that she rarely had a chance to talk to Jacky. She got herself thinking if Jacky was using Lance to make Marcus jealous or she was genuinely working on moving on as far away from Marcus as possible.

"Ok. Don't take too long," Jacky shouted back at her as she continued to walk towards the exit, giving her a wink and a wave before she was out of sight.

"Ok." She answered back, but she doubted if Jacky ever heard her response as she continued to walk away with Lance. She just hoped that Jacky knew what she was doing, and she did not end up more hurt.

"Let's go see our parents first before we changed into my room," Alex told her, guiding her to the receiving room where their parents were having some tea time.

He knew that her mother would never approve that he changed his plans to join them in the house, but he knew that it would be better to keep their distance from their family until they sorted out what was happening between them.

He never wanted any other woman as he craved Dani's attention. He wanted her by his side at all times. He felt she belonged with him. However, he was not sure if Dani felt the same way with him.

"That's a good idea." She agreed with him.

She did not want her mother to worry about her, especially after being sick these last few days. But she was glad that Alex decided to move them into the villa. It would give her the space she needed to figure out if she was ready to accept Alex into her life.

"Good morning, Dad." She greeted her dad, who was the first one to see them when they entered the room.

"Good morning, Princess. I trust that you had a good flight." Her dad raised one of his brows, indicating that it was a question.

"Yes, it was. Alex is a good pilot, Dad. You did not need to worry." She assured him. She figured that her dad had heard about Alex's stunt of flying the helicopter.

"I'm sure that Alex will never put our daughter's life in danger." Laura intervened in the conversation, not wanting her husband to make a big deal out of it. Besides, she liked Alex for their daughter.

"I assure you that my son had learned from the best. He could even fly a fighter jet if needed." Fred spoke up, proud of his son's capabilities.

"Well, enough about me. I hope everyone is enjoying the day so far." Alex directed his statement to his mother and Dani's mom. He wanted the attention out of him.

"I think this is the best vacation I have had so far," Laura spoke up, smiling happily at Alex.

She was glad that they took this vacation. It had been a long time since they were together with their Dani, even if just for a few moments. She was also happy to see that their daughter looked so happy and in love. She could only hope that Alex would be able to make her happy when they were finally married.

"Well, I hope you won't mind if we make our excuses. We like to hit the beach and get some tan." Alex told both of their parents, dragging Dani away from the room.

"You owe me one," Alex whispered when they were out of their parents' earshot.

"No, I don't." She looked at him, wondering if he was joking. When he smiled at her, she could not help but smile too. "Ok, fine." She finally conceded that she was glad to be out of her parent's sight.

"I will collect my payment later." He led her to the second floor on the far side of the house. When he opened the door, he allowed her to enter first. "This has been my room since we started coming here." He told her.

"This is a nice room. Too girlish for my taste, but it suits you." She teased him. But she wondered why the room did not look like a bachelor's pad.

"Ha. Ha. Ha. That's very funny. My mom decorated the place. I don't have the heart to change it. Besides, I was rarely here." He explained why the decorations were a bit feminine.

"I was joking, but I like it. It looks comfortable and relaxing. I could sleep easily in this room." She walked further inside the room and came closer to the window.

Looking outside, she could easily see the quaint garden. It was a very majestic view to look at from their angle. She would never mind staying in this room, she thought. It was a beautiful room.

"This is my favorite part of the house. You have the view of the garden and the ocean on the other side." He walked to the double doors on the other side and opened them to a balcony.

He waved his hands to follow him outside so that he could show her the magnificent view of the beach and the ocean.

"It does look beautiful here." She said as she stood beside him, looking onto the vast ocean that spread before them.

She continued to gaze at her surrounding, feasting her eyes to the color of nature. Enjoying the morning breeze at it blew on her face. She wanted to take advantage of this moment. Because once she was back in the city, she would never feel this again.

"Nothing is as beautiful as you." She did not realize that he was already standing very close beside her. But instead of looking at the ocean, his gaze fixed on her.

She was more beautiful than anything he had ever seen. If only he could have her, he would never want anything else.

Chapter 130 - The Next Level

He moved closer to her, trapping her between him and the balcony. He did not want her to get away from him, not at this moment. There was one thing that was going through his mind, Dani belonged in his arms. He believed that

"I don't know what you mean." She could play dumb with him, but she knew what he meant by that.

She was aware of what his intentions were as she sensed him moved behind her. Her body recognized his presence and his closeness. It was looking forward to what he was about to do next.

He held her arms with both of his hands and started turning her until she was facing him. "This is what I mean." He uttered in his low charming voice as he stared into her eyes.

He knew that he had lost the fight as soon as she stood beside him. Looking at her with the sunlight shining upon her was like a homing beacon, telling him that he had to acquire the target.

"What are you doing?" She asked as he felt him moved closer to her. She was not afraid of him, but she was terrified of what would happen after. She wanted him but was she ready to accept their fate.

"Something that I should have done a long time ago." He finally admitted not only to her but also to himself, what he wanted all this time since he saw her again. Then, he did not wait for her to respond with words as he claimed what he thought was rightfully his.

She could not stop him even if she wanted to because her body welcomed it like it was what it had been waiting for all this time. She was tired of fighting against what her body desired.

When his lips touched hers, it felt like fireworks exploded around them. It was like the sun disappeared, and all she saw were the dancing lights around them. The moment was magical, and she did not want to break the spell.

He cradled her body in his arms as he deepened the kiss, letting their bodies mold into one. He savored her delicious taste as her tongue started playing with his. He allowed her a bit of control. For him, it was better if they were equal once in a while.

There were no words that could describe how they felt after giving in to their cravings. But was the kiss enough as they continued to satiate their longing for each other.

Alex knew that he would never be satisfied with just a kiss. He desired something more.

When his hands started moving down her body, down on her thighs, it suddenly woke Dani from her trance. "Wait!" She slightly pushed herself away from him, but it only gave her a bit of space because Alex was not yet ready to let her go.

"What's wrong?" Alex was slightly puzzled why she would want to stop. He was sure that she wanted his advances too. Her responses were evidence that she enjoyed it too.

"I..." Although she could still feel the thrill of his skin against hers, she had to stop him before it went beyond her control. She needed more time to think this through.

It was not that simple as just giving in to her desire. If something happened to them, it would not be just sex for her. She knew that she would not be able to stop her heart from getting involved too.

"I'm sorry if..." He suddenly felt like he did something wrong. He realized that he might have pushed her to do something she did not want or was ready to do.

"No, don't apologize. I like it when you kiss me." She looked into his eyes once more, wanting him to see how much she liked his kiss.

She did not want him to blame himself for something that was not his fault. He did not force himself on her. She responded wantonly with his kiss too.

"Then, why did you stop us?" He asked, smiling back at her, feeling a bit relieved that he did not do anything wrong, glad that she did like it too. But a bit confused with her mixed reactions.

"Because I want us to take things a bit slower this time." She had no idea how to explain how she felt with him, but she had to try.

"What do you mean?" He had to be sure of what she wanted. He could not keep guessing, and he also did not want to make the mistake of assuming things.

"I believe we started on the wrong foot. We already had sex even before we even had the chance to know our names. This time, I want it to be different." She knew she was mumbling nonsense to him, but she hoped he did get her point, lowering her face.

"Ok. I think I understand. Slower, no sex but a lot of kissing." He looked at her with a teasing smile. He lifted her chin until she was looking at his eyes.

He agreed with her logic. They did start wrong in this relationship. They made it worse by putting the contract in between them. Now, they were in the middle of a situation that was very complicated. So, he understood how she might be confused about their current condition.

"Stop joking around. I am serious." She started hitting him in the chest with her fist, but she knew it was hardly hurting him at all.

"Ok. I am ok with that. We can take things slow." He took her hands in his and kept them in his chest while watching her reaction. "Can I kiss you again now?" He asked, and when she nodded, he took that as a yes.

He lowered himself again into her face until he claimed her lips once more for a very passionate kiss. This time, he was not holding back. He wanted her to feel how much he had longed to have her in his arms again. And to have her lips on his.

He agreed to take this slow, but it did not mean that he was not taking this to the next level.

