

Royal Contract 301

Chapter 301 - Smile And Be Worry-free

"Hey!" Alex greeted her with a smile as soon as she entered the car.

She was already waiting outside the lobby when he parked to pick her up. He wanted to come earlier to accompany her while waiting for the result of Ethan's surgery, but his meetings took longer as expected.

By the time he finished, it was already late. All he could do was drop by the hospital to fetch Dani. But at least he still had time to see Dani tonight. He knew she would want some company.

"Hi!" Dani leaned forward to Alex to give him a quick peck on the lips before buckling herself in her seat. He started the engine again and moved the car in the direction of his home.

Lately, she had stayed in his apartment more than she had been in her home. It had been more convenient for her to stay at his place, in comparison, to go from one apartment to the other.

She did not mind since she loved his place and his company. Although, she did sometimes miss her apartment and Jacky's company.

"How was Ethan's surgery?" Alex glanced at her before focusing his eyes again on the road.

She texted him earlier about the success of Ethan's surgery. But he was in the middle of a meeting, so he was not able to call back. Based on her message, Ethan would stay overnight in the recovery room until he was stable enough to move in his room by tomorrow morning.

"The doctors assured us that the surgery was a success. All we can do now is wait." She informed him as she stared at the window outside. "The doctors advised Mom and me to get some rest home and come back in the morning."

The sky was dark, lacking any source of light since the stars and the moon were missing. The only light she saw came from the street and the buildings that they passed by.

She did not want to think that it was any indication of a bad omen. She had faith that everything went smoothly as the way it should be with his father's condition.

"I'm sure that the doctors knew more what would be best. Let us listen to their advice." Alex recommended as they neared his apartment.

He had some of his bodyguards escort Laura back to her house. Dani had offered to stay with her tonight, but she refused. Her mom did not want to disturb her any more than necessary.

"Anyway, how was your day? I hope everything went smoothly with the board." She knew all of her father's board members. Some of them were also closed to her.

She was aware that most of the board was a bit conservative. On the other hand, Alex's ways were a bit on the borderline high risk and way too liberal approach.

She just hoped that Alex found a way to charm them to believe in his new vision for the company. She might not be a business expert, but she could see the potential in Alex's plans.

"I told you that you have nothing to worry about." He assured her as he started parking his car on his spot. "Anyway, will you mind if I entice you tonight with a small surprise?"

It was a last-minute idea that he had before leaving his new office. He did not have much time to plan for more. For now, it would have to do.

"What is the occasion?" She did not expect that he had time to plan something for them for tonight.

After the event, the operation, his new work, her piling up work. It felt like going on dates and having some alone time was a distant dream for them in the meantime.

"I felt like we both deserve a treat. We just got engaged and your dad's successful operation." He enumerated the reason for the surprise. "Most importantly, I just miss you."

He unbuckled himself from his seat and leaned forward in her direction. He did the same with her seatbelt. Instead of getting out of the car, he pulled her with him.

She ended up with her palms flat on his chest, staring into his eyes. "What do you think are you doing?" But she did not push him away. On the contrary, she wrapped her hands around his neck instead and pulled him closer to her.

Now, she locked herself in his embrace, with faces only inches away from each other. She closed the distance that separated their lips until all she felt was the softness of his red flesh on hers.

She had thought of him all day, wanting him at her side. She had hoped to feel his strong arms around her when the doctors came to take her father and when they returned to give them the good news.

"Hey, wait a second. You have to stop. It is not exactly my surprise yet." He teased her with tiny kisses on her lips.

Eventually, he pulled away, putting a couple of feet distance between them. There was nothing more he would like to do than to continue with what they were doing. But he believed his fiancé deserved more than kisses tonight.

"So, what else do you have in mind?" She asked, puzzled with the secrecy once again.

She always thought that she might someday get tired of his ways, but so far, all she felt was excitement every time he tried to pull a stunt on her.

Maybe, he would still probably do this even after twenty years of being married to her. Although it would seem childish, she was starting to look forward to more years of this kind of life with him.

"I need you to cover your eyes with this," He loosened his tie and handed it to her. "Let me help you." He made her turn away from him as he fastened the necktie on her eyes.

"Are you sure you know what you are doing?" She was a bit skeptical since this was the first time he was guiding her blind towards his surprise.

"Of course. You have to trust me." Alex inspected his handiwork, double-checking that it was not too tight and not loose either that she might be able to peek.

Upon full inspection, he ushered her out of the car and into the elevator. Instead of going down on his apartment, he allowed the lift to go further up on the top floor.

"I do trust you, but it is killing me." She could sense her excitement as she anticipated what would happen once the elevator opened.

She could only assume that they were going on the top floor, probably the rooftop. It was the only possible explanation for the surprise.

She could only guess what else might happen in the surprise. But she was hoping that dinner was one of them. She had barely eaten all day. She was now feeling her stomach growling in an attempt to notify her of her lack of food.

"Ok. Since your stomach is already begging for it, I included a delicious meal in the mix." He finally conceded to tell her as the elevator door's dinged and opened.

He guided her outside as a soft breeze caressed her skin. Her assumption that they were going to the top floor was correct. She could feel the open air and hear the unusual sound of silence as their background.

Although she had never seen this particular floor before, most of what she had seen of this building that her father owned was the lobby and Alex's apartment.

"Do I still have to wear this tie?" She walked with him further into the open space, still unaware of what she would find after removing her blindfold.

She trusted Alex that he would not allow any harm to befall her. She would let him lead her anywhere, believing that her best interest would always be his priority.

"Yes. Just a few more steps, and then I will take it off myself." He assured her as he continued to assist her on her every step.

He was happy he found someone like her who never doubted him and never tried to question every decision that he made. Although she did not blindly follow him, she always showed him the benefit of the doubt.

"Are you sure that I am going to love this?" She asked as she tried to foresee what would happen next. She could always make her assumptions, a blind guess.

"When did I ever disappoint you?" He answered her with another question. "I'm sure my record will show that I only aim to please." He added as he finally pulled her to a stop.

"I guess you are right. I am always satisfied with all you have done for me so far." She could not think of any time that he did disappoint her with a promise or a surprise.

"Now, you can open your eyes." He finally pulled the cloth blocking her vision, revealing his grand master plan for the night.

In the middle of the open floor, a white made shift canopy structure awaited them, surrounded by beautiful white roses and sparkly lights, arranged for their dinner date.

"When did you get the time to arrange for all of this?" It was a beautiful surprise that she genuinely appreciated in a time like this.

Until now, she was amazed at Alex's ability to compartmentalize his personal life against his many other obligations. On the other hand, she felt like she was already drowning in her dilemmas.

She looked at the arrangement. It was not that extravagant, but the effort, she could see very clearly. It would seem done hastily, but she could feel the love exuding from the man beside her.

Alex did not do any of this to gain anything for himself.. He only wanted to see her smile and be worry-free.

Chapter 302 - Escaping The Future

"You know you did not have to go to all this trouble." She pointed to the dinner that he had arranged for them. "I could have prepared a simple dinner back at the apartment for us."

Although she did appreciate the valiant effort, she knew that he also had tons of things to do besides entertaining her. She did not want him to feel obligated to care for all her needs when she was more than capable of doing that for herself.

"I like doing these simple things for you. Besides, it was not much of a trouble. Don't you like my surprise?" Alex asked as he assisted her on the empty chairs by the table.

A few seconds later, a server appeared from the corner of her eye, carrying a bottle of wine in a chiller bucket. He immediately served them a glass as he took their order.

"I do. You know I always enjoyed your surprises. I only am preventing you from overdoing things." She answered him as soon as they were alone again, not wanting to hurt his feelings.

"I assure you that spending dinner with you tonight is the only thing that I looked forward to during the entire day." Alex pulled her hand from her lap and peppered it with kisses.

Trying not to think about Dani during his meetings had been hard enough. He could not focus for too long on his obligations without wanting to call her and assured himself that she was doing just fine.

Now that she was sitting right across from her, he would make sure that he would be devoting his undivided attention only to her welfare.

"I think handling your business, together with my father and the empire, can't be that easy. I don't want to add up to your burden." Dani stared at their entwined hands, understanding what he was trying to convey to her.

However, she still could not help but worry about him too. She believed that what he had placed himself into was a difficult position. But she already realized that he did all this because of her.

"I admit that handling all these businesses is not a walk in the park, but I know what I am getting into when I accepted the position, so stop worrying about this," Alex admitted to her.

He already figured beforehand that taking on this position as head of one of the biggest multi-billion companies would be challenging. But he had no plan to back out from it at the first sign of difficulty. He was not conceding to defeat that easily.

"Fine. I trust that you know what you are doing." She finally conceded, knowing that Alex would always have some excuse to get away with what he wanted.

"Here is the deal. Let me feed you and take care of you tonight. Then, in exchange, I will let you have one limited edition magic wish." He dangled in front of her an imaginary object.

"Before I agree to that, explain to me first about this magic wish?" She folded her arms across her chest as she waited for him to elaborate more.

Although she knew that it was just another of his silly games, she enjoyed this little playtime that they do on the side whenever they were together. It just added to the spice of their relationship, making it more fun.

"You see this." He pointed to his empty hand, pretending that he was holding on to something very significant. "It can give you the power to wish for anything from me. In return, I will do my best to grant the fulfillment of that wish."

"Be careful of what you are offering. You are not a genie who could easily grant wishes." She warned him, knowing that she could wish for everything and anything, but there was no guarantee of its coming true.

Alex might be a prince who almost had everything, but, in reality, finding the attainment of wishes was never easy whether one possessed all the power and wealth of the world.

"Whether you wish it or not, I already swear to you, to your father, and the world that I will fulfill all your dreams. I will do my best to make you happy." Alex would have liked to kiss her more, but they were interrupted by the server.

Dani ordered only a veggie salad dish despite his suggestion that she should also have a steak. She had insisted that she was not hungry.

"Are you sure that you don't want a steak? I assure you that this is quite delicious." Alex enticed her with the appealing look of the steak on his plate, compared to her green leafy veggie on her plate.

"Well, it does look tempting." Dani suddenly felt hungry upon inhaling the savory aroma the steak emitted in the air. "But I think I will stick with my salad." She grabbed her fork and started picking on her food.

"Are you sure?" He questioned her as he furrowed his brow on her. "You look like you need some protein in your body and not just some salad."

He sliced a nice piece of the steak he ordered and offered her the first bite. "Come on. Just taste it." He moved the fork closer to her closed mouth, not moving until she opened up and took his bait.

If he could feed her to alleviate the hunger he could see in her eyes, then he would. He would not allow her stubbornness to starve her to death.

He could already sense that she barely ate anything as she waited outside the operating room. Now, he would not allow her to get sick because she was neglecting to feed herself.

"Oh..." She could not stop the moan that came out of her mouth upon tasting the luscious flavors of the piece of meat that almost melted in her mouth. "That is delicious." She uttered after swallowing the last bit on her mouth.

"I told you." He fed her again another piece. Then, he continued to do so until she had almost eaten half of the big chunk of red meat on his plate.

He did not mind since he already had an early dinner with one of his meetings. But he also did take a few bites of the meat, enjoying sharing the delicious dish with this beautiful woman in front of him.

"You are already spoiling me too much." She complained, but she still kept eating what he was giving her.

She had forgotten all about her salad, suddenly feeling the satisfaction of feeding her earlier hunger. If Alex did not insist on giving her the steak, she would have settled with the leafy vegetable for dinner.

Sometimes, she wondered how Alex knew what her body needed more than her. He always had a better opinion on what was best for her.

"I barely gave you anything yet." He told her as he stared into her eyes. "I wish I could give you the world."

If only their situation could be as simple as this date. But Alex knew that nothing about their life could be simple, plain, and uncomplicated. They could deny their fate, but it would always catch up with them.

They could always keep running away from their destiny but escaping the future already set for them would never, ever be that simple.

Chapter 303 - The Different Bonds

Dani stood at the railing of the rooftop. It had sufficient allowance from the edge of the building, making it relatively safe to stand on its side. She stared at the scenery before her, marveling at the view at her vantage point.

For someone who grew up in this city, she never found it tiring to stare at the beautiful skyscrapers that grace the dark backdrop of the New York skyline.

"How did you discover this place?" She asked as she felt Alex stand behind her.

When she finished the last bite of her dessert, she excused herself and stood up to check on the view. She felt like her stomach was about to explode as Alex continued to feed her. She needed time for a light stretch.

She knew she would need a few runs this week to burn all the calories she had consumed tonight, or else it might all convert into fat, which would be harder to burn eventually.

"Your dad mentioned it to me in one of our conversations. I decided to check it out and found it perfect. I immediately thought that you might like this place." He explained as he handed her a glass of wine.

He only recently discovered this place, and he agreed with Ethan that it did have enticing charisma. It had its unique appeal that only people who loved the city life could appreciate.

After a few minutes of gazing at the sky, he felt the wind was starting to pick up. He also noticed Dani was slightly trembling, so he immediately took off his coat and placed it on her shoulders to protect her from the cold.

"I do love it. It reminded me of why I always love this place." She spoke up louder as the wind carried her voice with it. Her hair moved sideways, dancing with the steady breeze that was starting to pick up its speed.

"I can see the appeal in it." Alex acknowledged, despite the city, having the highest crime rate. He could see why it was still considered one of the greatest cities in the world.

A puzzle to many tourists and the likes but something a true new yorker knew by heart. It was the spirit of the city that never sleeps. It was the constant blinking of lights and horns on the streets. It was the people who were always on the go.

"It just brings up a lot of childhood memories of Dad showing me why he could never leave this city." She told him as her mind toured her back to memory lane.

"But I think we should move back to the apartment. I don't want you to catch a cold with this wind." He could already slightly feel the chill in the air.

He wished to enjoy a few more moments with her outside. He could listen to her stories about her childhood in this beautiful and wild city all night. But he did not want to risk her health and safety.

"Yeah, you are right. It is getting colder, and we both could not afford to get sick." She could see that his thin shirt was not enough to protect him from the cold weather. She did not want him to catch the flu too.

He guided her back to the elevator, leaving their dinner to the people in charge to clean up. As soon as the door closed, he could only think of one way to warm them up.

He pulled her closer to him, but since they were alone in the lift, he was able to wrap her up in his arms in one swift movement. He continued to stand behind her as he started nuzzling her nose on her neck.

Savoring the sweet scent of her perfume that mixed with her natural scent, he continued to drop a few kisses on her exposed skin. "What are you doing?" He heard her whisper as he never stopped with his administrations.

"Just warming you up from the chill outside." He knew that it was more than that. But he never felt her resistance. On the contrary, it appeared that she welcomed his advances.

It was a short trip. Once the door opened, Alex immediately pulled her up from her feet and carried her bridal style to his apartment. He could not wait anymore to have her in his arms again.

But he was not going to expose her to the cameras that littered the entire hallway and elevators. He could still wait until they were in the safety and privacy of his apartment before he had his ways on her and vice versa.

"What's the hurry?" She asked, smiling at the way he was speeding up in the hallway.

"Because I..." He stopped as he opened the door and secured it once they were inside. "I need to do this." He dropped her by the door and pinned her body against it and in his.

He locked eyes with her, stopping whatever witty remark she was about to say. He lowered his head, claiming her lips in one passionate kiss.

He abandoned her lips to give her time to recover her breathing. His lips traveled down her neck, continuing where he left off earlier. Then, his hands began roaming her hips, down her thighs, and around her butt.

It gave him more control of her body as he played her like a musical instrument, making a rhythm that only produced quality sounds. She moaned in precision with his ministrations.

"What do you want me to do?" He asked her as she writhed in his arms, unable to control her lust-filled eyes from showing her innermost desires.

"Anything and everything?" She was indecisive, unable to voice out what she wanted from him.

Acting out what she wanted in their sexual relationship was never easy for her but verbally telling him what she expected from it was far worse.

She might have started exploring her sexuality with him, but she was still far from completely being comfortable with the entire sex experimentation.

"You know that you need to be able to tell me someday specifically what you want. I want you to be able to express yourself sexually to me without any inhibitions." He encouraged her by pulling her chin up and making her stare into his eyes.

"I am trying, but it is not that easy." She knew that she could trust Alex with her life, with all her secrets. But when it came to sex, she was still trying hard to learn more.

Maybe she needed to read more about how she could unleash her sexuality. Maybe there was a simple way she could obliterate her inhibitions regarding the different sexual positions.

Because she also wanted to give us much pleasure to him, the way he had provided her the best sexual experience of her life. She wanted to be able to return the favor.

"I need you to be able to trust me completely with your mind, your body, and your heart for our relationship to work and last long." He whispered to her as they both stood still by the door, unable to move.

He believed that marriage was not just having a strong emotional connection for it to succeed. It was only one component.. The rest was a combination of the different bonds they had to learn to form and strengthen.

Chapter 304 - One Fateful Night

"Jacky, I'm going out on a jog. Maybe this time, you would like to join me." Dani shouted outside her door, but all she heard was a muffled sound and a loud thud behind the closed door.

She had opted to come home last night to her apartment after a tiring day at the office and the hospital, while Alex had a very late meeting and decided to crash on his apartment. She did not mind a night without him.

As the saying went, absence made the heart go fonder. So, a few moments without Alex by her side would not hurt. Anyway, once she married him, it was more likely that they would be inseparable.

"Fine, I'll see you later." She shouted again before leaving the apartment without waiting for a reply from her friend.

Although she saw Jacky every day at the office, she did miss her friend. It had been a long time since they were able to spend some time together, just the two of them.

She was already halfway through the lobby when someone shouted at her back, stopping her in her tracks. "Dani, wait for me." She quickly turned around, stunned to hear a familiar voice.

"What are you doing, Jacky?" Dani asked once her friend caught up with her on her way out of the building. She had to burrow her brows, believing that her friend might be sick.

It was the first time that she saw her friend in exercise clothes. She was not even aware that Jacky owned such clothing. Jacky hated anything to do with sweat and strenuous activities.

Finding Jacky running after her, dressed up and ready to get her body sweaty, was the last thing on her mind. Dani was only teasing her when she knocked on her room earlier and invited her to join.

"What? I miss you. I never get to spend some time with you." Jacky spoke up defensively as she tried to catch her breath after rushing to get dressed and running after her friend. "I thought I might join you today on your run."

Jacky never felt the need to run to get the figure that she wanted. She was satisfied with her body and the way it curved in the right places.

Besides, she never liked looking and smelling sweaty in front of other people. It ruined the image she portrayed of herself. Anyway, she could not see the purpose of it.

"Well, you are always welcome to join me in all my runs." She offered to her as she pulled Jacky outside the building and into the open air.

She guided Jacky towards the path that she had taken since she started jogging this park. She would like to take advantage of having her friend with her at this moment.

The possibility of this repeating twice in this lifetime was unlikely to happen again. Dani could already foresee Jacky regretting joining her in this jog. She might even blame her for dragging her into this.

"So, are we running all the way?" Jacky asked after a few minutes of trying to catch up with Dani. "Or, can we just walk a bit?" She held on to Dani's shoulder as she tried to stop her from going any further.

"We barely made a dent on our running path," Dani complained to her friend, who was already ready to give up. "Come on, a few more stretch." She tried to encourage her.

Although, it was already a stretch that Jacky was running with her this morning. She appreciated her friend more for the effort, though Dani slowed down her pace for her.

Jacky could get away with eating anything and not get anything sticking on her body, unlike Dani, who had to work hard to burn those extra calories.

"Are you serious? Why do you have to torture yourself in this way?" Jacky complained some more, but she pushed herself to run alongside her.

"I'm not as lucky as you are, remember?" Dani reminded her about the time where she neglected exercising. It caused her to gain a few extra pounds that she had to put on additional workouts to get rid of it.

"Fine, but we need to stop before I collapse due to lack of oxygen," Jacky held out her hand to her, stopping Dani from running any further.

She quickly grabbed a vacant bench and slumped down on it as she inhaled deeply. She could feel her lungs were burning up from the lack of the necessary air, and her vision was spinning probably from the lack of oxygen in her brain.

Dani quickly grabbed the bottled water on her side and handed it to her friend, who was ready to pass out. Jacky immediately took a huge chugged of water into her mouth, not caring if she made a mess.

"So, are you going to marry Alex?" Jacky asked her friend, who seemed to be on cloud nine since the proposal.

She could not blame Dani for wanting to marry Alex. He was a great catch. Anyone would be lucky to marry a guy like him. She might not know him that much. But from the few times that she was with him, she had seen his genuine character.

"Yes. I can't wait to be married to Alex." Dani sat right next to her friend as she also breathed heavily. "I think he is the right one. My soulmate."

She never believed much about soulmates and destinies, but ever since she fell for Alex and the circumstances of their meeting, she started to think that maybe they were meant to be.

"I am happy for you," Jacky agreed with her, also thinking of the same thing.

"What about you?" Dani turned to her friend, using this time to question her dating life. "Are you and Lance finally together?"

She knew that Lance had to return home quickly after the issue with Prince Edward, but based on Alex, it was just a temporary thing. Lance was returning soon to continue his training under Alex.

"We had an entire night to talk about us. He explained his situation, and I told him mine. But we never had time to act on it since he had to fly back home the next day." Jacky explained to her friend her complicated affair with the elusive prince.

"You mean?" Dani was about to ask her friend, but she interrupted her before she could finish. She could only speculate about what was going on with her friend.

"I mean." Jacky stopped her. "Nothing happened. We are still one big question mark."

Jacky was neither happy nor disappointed with the way things turned out between her and Lance. She did not mind if Lance decided not to return and forget all about her.

It had always been her plan in the first place. She did not presume much from this relationship because she always felt it was doomed even before it had begun.

But if Lance decided he wished to return and continued with where they left off, maybe she might give him a chance. But it would all depend on Lance and his intentions. Jacky could only wait and see.

"Are you sure you are, ok?" Dani asked, studying her friend for any telltale sign that she was heartbroken once again.

But from the smile on her face, Dani could see that she was handling the situation quite well. Jacky did not appear like she was having a difficult time now that Lance had left her again.

"I'm great." She was not that affected by Lance's sudden disappearance again. "I guess I am not in a hurry to be in any relationship anymore." She told her what she felt.

"Then, I am happy to see that you are happy with your decision." Dani would support her friend as long as it was what she needed.

"But I will feel much better if you get married soon. Do you already have a date?" Jacky asked her friend, changing the topic of conversation.

They started moving again back in the direction of the apartment. Dani slowed down her pace a bit more to accommodate her friend. She could already see Jacky struggling in every step she made as she tried to keep up with her.

Dani decided that it was the last time that she would drag her friend into this activity. It was one thing that they could never share, and she had to learn to accept that.

"We are already discussing it," Dani told her friend excitedly. "Honestly, I can't wait to marry him." She confided to her friend.

They rode the elevator back to the apartment with Dani on a high while Jacky was dragging herself to keep up. But Jacky was happy for her friend. She, too, could not wait to see her friend married to the man of her dreams.

Dani still could not believe that her initial charade to marry the prince would eventually turn into reality.. The man she thought was just a figment of her imagination one fateful night would turn out to be her future husband.

Chapter 305 - Two To Tango

"I'm sorry, but Ms. Hamilton has a full schedule today. If you wish to make an appointment, I can probably squeeze you in by Thursday next week." Jacky informed the person on the other line of the phone.

She was not lying since Dani had been juggling between her work, pro bono cases, her wedding, and visiting her father in the hospital. She hardly had time for herself and her.

Jacky suddenly remembered the jogging early that morning that almost crippled her today. She could barely move her thighs from the strain it endured with the long run they did.

If Dani wanted to spend time with her from now on, it would be on her term. She would not fall for that trick again. She did not need that kind of torture to be with her friend.

"Jacky, can you get me the files for the next meeting?" She heard Dani shout by the door.

"Sure, I'll just get it in the file room," Jacky answered her before leaving her table to check on those files. She was limping as she moved in the corridor to get to her destination.

When she returned to her table, she noticed that a man was standing by her table. She still recognized that broad shoulder anywhere, despite wishing to forget all about him.

Instead of stopping by her table, she went straight to Dani's room to drop the files she asked for before proceeding to her table to confront her visitor.

"What can I do for you?" She greeted him politely as she returned to her seat. Since she was in an office setting, she felt obligated to give him respect as a client.

But if she had bumped into him on the street or any other place, she would make sure to give him what he deserved, and that did not include her respect.

"Jacky, I did not want to disturb Dani, but I have some files for her to sign," Marcus said hesitantly, unsure of how to act around her. He remained standing in front of her table, waiting for a response.

After all that happened to them, Marcus had avoided any encounter with her, not wanting to fuel the anger she still might have for him. Although it had been a while, it would still be better to give her space.

But time had already passed. Marcus was hoping that somehow, Jacky had moved on and they could put aside the issues they had with their past.

"Fine. Just leave the files on the table, and I will have them signed later and sent back to you as soon as possible." Jacky indicated that he should place the files on the top of the table and leave.

She was in no obligation to entertain him. She could handle seeing him around the office and talking to him civilly, but that was the extent of what she was willing to do.

"Ok. Thanks, Jacky." Marcus followed Jacky's instructions and was about to turn around when he stopped.

He walked back to the front of the table and faced Jacky, staring at her face in the process. "I know this had been long overdue. But for what is it worth, I am truly sorry for what I did to you."

He could keep saying sorry to her for the hundredth time, but it would never be enough for her to forgive him. Even he would not forgive himself for what he did to Jacky.

But as they all said, regret comes after committing an unforgivable crime. Marcus wished he could turn back time. So, he could redo what he did, but that was not how life works.

Jacky could only look at him in utter shock. She did not expect that he would be asking her for forgiveness after all this time. She was so convinced that Marcus was beyond redemption. He was already incapable of remorse.

"If this is just another one of your games, please do it somewhere else. I have no time for this." Jacky shut him down, thinking that it was another one of his silly bad jokes.

Until now, she could still see how he had behaved when she told him that she wanted commitment. She could still hear his laughter when she informed him that she loved him.

It was like being slapped multiple times on the face to hear what he thought of her emotions. But she was not subjecting herself to the same humiliation again.

"I get it that you might not believe me. I deserved it. After what I did to you, I should not even be standing in your presence. But I have to say it even if you don't believe me. I have to try." Marcus confessed to her.

It was not easy for him to express his feelings or show any indication of weaknesses in her character. Telling sorry had never been part of his vocabulary because it questions his decisions.

It meant that he was accepting his mistake, something that he rarely admitted in his lifetime. It was hard for him to acknowledge making a wrong decision because he rarely did make one.

"Well, you already said your piece. I heard it. Then, you can leave." Jacky returned to her work, typing away on her keyboard and staring into the computer screen.

She did not want to give him any more of her time. She was not falling pawn again into his mind games. She had enough of him playing with her emotions.

"Thanks again for at least hearing me out." Marcus stepped back away from her table, afraid to worsen their situation.

He was satisfied that he was able to express his apology to her. He was not expecting to do that when he came here to bring the papers to Dani. But at least, he was able to do what he always wanted to do.

He said it before to her, but he knew that he was insincere back then. Compared to now, that he genuinely felt sorry for his wrong actions.

"Marcus, I'm sorry too for putting you on the spot, knowing that you were not ready for it." Jacky suddenly felt she had to say that to him.

She felt like she did pressure Marcus on something that he was not prepared to handle. Maybe the entire thing was not solely Marcus' fault.

"No. You should never apologize to me ever." Marcus stopped her from blaming herself for what happened to them. He would always think that it was his selfishness that brought their good relationship to an end.

He was not asking for her to take him back. He could not be that lucky, but he just wanted a slightly clear conscience, knowing he had asked for forgiveness.

"Hey, it is ok. I could not keep blaming you. I know that I am partially to blame for some of it. Although, I still think you are an ass and douchebag." She added the last part as an afterthought. "But I still have not forgiven you for the things you did."

She finally admitted to having her faults in the circumstances of their breakup. She could not keep playing the victim in their relationship.. As the saying went, it took two to tango.

Chapter 306 - Change For The Better

"I need to see Mr. Princeton." She kept insisting on the receptionist assigned at the lobby of the building.

She had come to see him today, but without an appointment, it would seem to be an impossible task. She already told the woman her reason for wanting to meet with him was of great significance.

But she would not simply give her a pass to his office unless she could come up with something clever to catch his attention. But she could not tell just anyone her real intention for coming here.

"I'm sorry, but you will need to book an appointment with his secretary. Would you like to leave your name and number, and I will get back to you?" The receptionist sounded a bit irritated.

She could not blame her when she had been bugging her for almost an hour now, demanding a few minutes of their boss's time. But she was not giving up just yet as she remained where she stood.

She came here to see Mr. Alexander Princeton, and she was not leaving until she had accomplished what she came here today. She was going to finish this insanity once and for all.

"If you don't mind, I will wait till he is available to see me anytime today." She informed the woman behind the counter. "I will appreciate it if you can find a way to squeeze me in his schedule."

"Suit yourself. But I am telling you that Mr. Princeton had a full schedule today until next week. You will be waiting for a long time." The receptionist warned her with a bit of indifference, shrugging her shoulders on her.

She had no idea of who this woman was and what she wanted from the new head of this company. But she was not going to be intimidated to let her in without going through the proper protocol.

"I'll take my chance." She answered her, not caring if her presence was not welcome. She was not doing anything wrong, so she could not be forced to leave the premises.

She moved to the waiting area in the lobby and looked around for a familiar face that might help her get an appointment for today. If not, she would settle to ambushing Mr. Princeton once he left the building.

"Just don't make any scene if you don't want our security to escort you out of the building." The receptionist warned her again.

"Of course." She responded to the woman who still did not recognize who she was.

She did use to work in this building under Mr. Hamilton. But most of the people who she had worked with did not want anything to do with her. Her association with Nick branded her as a traitor, just like him.

She settled herself on the corner where she would have a good view of the layout of the building, so she would not miss seeing her target if he happened to come down from his tower.

As she waited for her opportunity to talk to Alex, her mind wandered back to the recent events that led her to this moment. She looked at the wide window outside, but all she saw was Nick's betrayal.

She stared at the recent text she received. She was back at her apartment. On the screen was Nick's name, telling her that he decided that it would be better for her to lay low.

For the past couple of days, Nick had been avoiding her. Making some excuses about his busy schedule, but she knew better when things were getting sour.

"Did he think that he could easily set me aside?" Cassie said with contempt as Nick decided not to include her in his plans.

He was not getting rid of her that easily because she also had a few tricks on her sleeves. Nick could not use her and then dispose of her if he believed she had no more value to his plans.

She heard from a friend, someone working closely with him. He had been meeting with his new partner against Ethan and Alex. If that was the case, it meant that he was losing interest in her.

"I thought you said that you and Nick are over." The man next to her uttered in surprise as he heard what she said. "Was that all a lie?"

He deduced that she was referring to Nick from her tone and how she was fuming on her phone.

"I am ending it with him soon, Troy. I promise." She knew her slipped up might have caused her relationship with Troy.

Troy was already at his limit. She had never seen him like this before, but she wished he would still give her a chance. She called him earlier to explain to him her situation, but she believed she only had made it worse.

"I'm sorry, Cassie. I thought when I came here. You are ready to give up everything for me. But I guess I am mistaken." Troy voiced out his disappointment with her.

He only strengthened his resolve to leave her and continued with his life without her. He now realized that there was no future for the two of them.

"But you love me. You can't just leave me." Cassie once again appealed to his emotion, hoping that she could still manipulate his heart.

"I'm sorry. I don't think I love you that way anymore." Troy grabbed her by the shoulder and kissed her in the cheeks. "You will always have a special place in my heart. I hope that someday you will realize that you are more than this bitter person that you have become."

He turned away from him, and without looking back, he walked out of her life for good, leaving her in her apartment alone again. He could not tolerate her wrongdoing anymore.

She had to realize on her own that revenge would not give her the justice that she was looking for, and instead, it would only produce misery.

"Hey, I think I know you." Someone interrupted her thoughts as he stood in front of her.

He recognized her from the few times he had seen her with Alex's enemy, Nick. He was puzzled to find her waiting in their lobby. Was she waiting for someone? Was Nick in the vicinity?

"Yeah, Cassie. I think I also remember you. Marcus, right? You are a friend of Alexander Princeton." She extended her hand to him, hoping that he would be her ticket to the top floor.

"What are you doing here?" He asked, cautious not to be caught in a trap. Where Nick was concerned, he knew better to let his guard down.

"I was hoping to catch a word with your boss and friend, Alex. I have a piece of valuable information I wish to share with him." Cassie stated as she stood up from her seat to be at eye level with Marcus.

She had to convince him that she was not the enemy but someone who could help them against Nick. After what Nick did and Troy leaving, she realized the error of her ways.

She had to correct her mistakes, hoping to salvage what else she could with her life. Troy was right. She still could turn her life around if she wanted to. She could still change for the better.

Chapter 307 - Kiss Goodbye

Marcus stared at the girl who claimed to have valuable information for Alex. He contemplated whether he should believe her or not. After all, he still considered her as the enemy because of her close association with Nick.

However, there was no harm in listening to what she might have to say. Alex could decide later if there was a significant truth to what she might be telling them.

"Give me a few minutes to see if Alex has a spare time. Can you wait for me here?" Marcus asked Cassie, who looked quite anxious.

He could not simply believe her, knowing that she had been quite a good actress, fooling the people around her with her lies. But he could not ignore her either.

She might suddenly grow a conscience and decide to have a change of heart. It was not very unlikely to happen. Even the worse people could find themselves thinking of changing.

"Sure. I'll wait for as long as it takes." She sat back down on the chair, showing Marcus that she was not going anywhere.

She would endure whatever punishment she deserved for all her wrongdoings, especially to Dani, who had only been good to her since she first met her.

As for Ethan, maybe it was time that she buried whatever hatred she had for the man. After all, all evidence she gathered against him regarding his involvement with her father's downfall was purely circumstantial.

What if she was accusing the wrong person? Or she made the mistake of tying the evidence and pinpointing it to Ethan. Until now, she still felt a slight doubt in her accusation, the reason why she could not proceed with her plans.

Marcus left her to proceed at Alex's new office. He still needed to get used to their new headquarters. Although they still use their old office, Alex preferred to stay here more often because he had more access to Ethan's businesses.

Marcus found Alex preparing for the next meeting. He interrupted him, informing him of Cassie's presence downstairs. Although he thought that meeting with Cassie was worth the risk, he was still leaving the final decision to Alex.

"I will just finish my last meeting this morning, then we can check on Cassie's reason for coming here," Alex informed Marcus, instructing him to have Cassie brought to one of the vacant conference rooms where she could wait.

Alex was also surprised to learn that he had a visitor. He was not expecting her to come here and wished to talk to him. Whatever she had to say, Alex was willing to listen. Although, he was putting some benefit of the doubt on her words.

Marcus immediately asked his secretary to handle Cassie and make her wait comfortably. He could only hope that she was here for their benefit and not to spy against them.

After an hour, Alex's meeting concluded, and he was free to check on Cassie. Marcus was already waiting for him at his office, ready for his next instruction.

"I think it is time to check on Cassie." Alex had his secretary arrange for Cassie to come to join them in his office. She had waited long enough.

"Do you think she had something to say that would help us against Nick?" Marcus asked Alex, still skeptical of Cassie's sudden appearance.

"We would know once we talk to her. See if she had something valuable to tell us." Alex could only speculate as of the moment. Until he heard her reason for showing her face in his office, there was no way for him to understand her intention.

He did not know Cassie personally, except for the things Dani had told him about her and from the little details he gathered in his investigation. But he had not centered any of his resources on her, not finding her much of a threat.

After a few more minutes, Cassie finally walked into his office, carrying herself very well. There was no sign that she was agitated or nervous in his presence.

But Alex already knew that she could act very well. She had managed to fool Ethan and Dani for a long time. There was a very likelihood that she might be here under pretenses.

She was now double-crossing Nick with her meeting with him. Could he also believe that she was here due to her intention to help him? Or was this another game that Nick had her play for his benefit?

"Please come in." Alex offered once his secretary ushered Cassie inside his office.

Alex could see that this woman was not plain and simple. She carried herself with grace and power. If his assessment was correct, Cassie was never a pushover.

Nick might appear to be using her, but he could see that she used him as well. Whatever happened to their relationship for her to betray Nick, he hoped it would be their gain.

"Please sit down." Marcus offered the seat next to him while Alex sat behind his table.

"Thanks." Cassie immediately took the offered seat and waited for the two gentlemen to ask her a question. She did not want to rush things by saying the wrong words.

She wanted their attention and cooperation if she was going to pull this off. Once Nick found out about her betrayal, she knew she would need some help to ward Nick off her back.

"Marcus told me that you have something you wish to say. We are listening. Don't worry about Marcus' presence. I don't keep secrets from him." Alex opened up the conversation, hoping that Cassie would start speaking.

"Yes. Thanks again for seeing me without an appointment. You're probably wondering why I am here." Cassie started to say as she made herself more comfortable in her seat.

She had rehearsed what she wanted to divulge to Alex since last night, but it was not easy to do it than think about doing it. There was still a slight hesitation in her mind if she was doing the right thing.

Once she spilled all she knew about Nick's plans, there was no more turning back. Her plans of revenge would also go down the drain.. She could kiss goodbye her relationship with Nick.

Chapter 308 - A Trap

"Anytime you are ready." Marcus shifted his position so that he was facing her. He was indeed handsome, just like his friend, Alex. But she already had enough of good-looking men.

Once this was over, she was moving on and taking a break from relationships. Pursuing after Troy was out of the question, Cassie could not face him anymore after what she had done.

"You are probably aware of my past and my association with Nick. Lately, I realized that I made a mistake of letting Nick use my anger to ruin the Hamilton family." She began to explain her participation with Nick's plans to ruin Ethan, his family, and his businesses.

"But what Nick did not foresee was your sudden appearance in the picture. He already had set up an elaborate plan to ruin Ethan and Dani. But you showed up and ruined everything." Cassie continued to narrate to him.

"Does he still have a new ammunition against the Hamilton family?" Alex had to know if he should prepare for another problem where Nick was concerned." Alex asked her.

"Yes, he still has many things under his belt that he could use against Ethan. Most of them came from me." She informed him of the possible arsenal that Nick could still use at them at any moment.

"Why are you doing this? Why are you turning your back on Nick?" Alex had to be sure that she was not playing him and Nick at the same time.

He had to know if she was genuinely remorseful of her past actions and would like to reform. Or, she was using them to get what she wanted, which was revenge against Dani and her father?

"Because I already lost the one person that I truly cared about because of my obsession to get even with Ethan. He made me realize that there was more to life than this." Cassie could still see the disappointment in Troy's eyes.

If she could find a way to turn back time, she would have stopped her insanity and moved on with Troy long before she found herself lost in her anger.

But there was no way to return to the past and change what was already over and done. All she could do now was remedy her situation and correct what she could to alleviate her sins.

"We will need some proof of your claims. We could not simply take your word for it." Alex could see some sense of some of the things she revealed to him. But without concrete evidence, it would still be a high risk that he was not comfortable taking at face value.

"Of course. I knew that you would be asking for it. I will send it to you as soon as I can arrange it."

She already had prepared it, but she opted not to bring it today to him. In case things did not work out. She would still need her leverage against Nick.

"Then, we are looking forward to seeing what else you want to offer. In exchange for all of this, what do you want?" Alex knew that information like this did not come free.

"I am already a rich woman. Money is not my objective here. But I want to be able to start fresh without always looking behind my shoulder. I know Nick would come after me after he realized that I betrayed him." Cassie explained to him.

She knew Nick would not take her betrayal lightly, and he would probably retaliate to get back at her. She needed Alex to guarantee her safety against him.

"Let me handle that." Alex understood what she was asking of him. He could provide her protection as long as all her information did check out.

"For what is it worth. Can you tell Dani that I am truly sorry for all the things I did to her?" She had screwed her despite being a good friend to her. It was one of the things she regretted losing in this lifetime.

In a way, she felt like she saved Dani from the clutches of Nick when she sent those incriminating photos of her and Nick to Ethan. Her intentions might not be as pure then, but it did stop her wedding from Nick.

At least she prevented Dani from a life of misery if she ended up marrying him. Nick was not a man for a good-hearted girl like Dani. Nick was a monster who never learned how to love.

"I'm sure Dani will be glad to hear that you have a change of heart. Regarding your request for assistance from us. I will make sure that you will be safe to start over again." Alex answered her.

He might still have some reservations about Cassie's revelations, but he could see the sincerity in her eyes when she told him about how sorry she was for her wrongdoings.

"Well, I won't take much of your time. I will make sure to keep in touch." Cassie stood from her chair and shook their hands.

She was aware she made the right choice of coming to Alex and shifting her alliance. She could not keep up being the villain in their story. She was not as bad as Nick or his new partner.

As far as she was concerned, they both could rot in hell, but they were not taking her along with them. She had enough of this life, and she was running away as far as she could.

"Thanks for coming to us about this." Alex showed her to the door as she promised to send her evidence.

"What do you think?" Marcus asked Alex as soon as he returned to his seat.

Marcus was a good reader of people. Based on his observation, he thought that she might be telling them the truth.

"I think we should wait for the proof before we jump into any conclusion." Alex pointed out. "She might be telling us the truth, but we still needed all the information to be black and white and not just hearsay."

Although, it was already a big help to get a glimpse of Nick's plans. They could already use some of the things Cassie told them if they were sure of its reliability.

However, he could not see any reason for her to make up a story like this. She had nothing to gain and more to lose. Unless again, Nick had put her up to this.. It was all a trap.

Chapter 309 - Borderline Corny

"What's bothering you? You are quiet today." Dani asked Alex as soon as they were inside the apartment.

Although he had been accommodating to her needs since he picked her up from the office, she could still sense that his mind was preoccupied with something else.

"Well, I was going to discuss this with you after dinner, but I don't want to keep you waiting." Alex placed his bag on the side of the entrance while Dani continued to stroll to the living room and slumped down on the couch.

Alex rolled up his sleeves, walked over to her, and sat down next to her. He pulled her feet to his lap and started massaging them. He usually did this when he knew that she had been busy at the office.

"Why don't we order in for tonight instead of preparing a meal? I think we are both too tired to move a muscle." Dani suggested, seeing the tiredness on his expression.

He could keep denying his physical state, but his face and eyes could not lie to her. She could easily read the telltale sign if he was too exhausted and would not admit it.

"What do you feel like eating?" Alex asked, agreeing with her suggestion. He did not feel like cooking too.

He could think of several dishes, but he was too tired to move a muscle, and Dani was right with her assessment. His mind was busy processing the information he did learn earlier.

"What about pizza? I am craving something different today." She had been craving all afternoon on an ad she saw with those creamy cheese and an assortment of toppings on them.

She could also eat some other meal, but she would appreciate a simple slice of pizza for the night. She looked forward to the use of her fingers and tongue in licking its juicy goodness.

"An excellent choice. Let me order first before I continue massaging your feet." Alex stood from his position and took his phone from the jacket he had disposed of earlier when they arrived.

After calling the pizza shop, he decided to take two glasses from the kitchen and a bottle of red wine. Then, he returned to his seat beside Dani and handed her a glass of wine, half full.

"So, what was bothering you earlier?" She quickly asked the question before she forgot all about it again as she sipped on her wine and waited for his answer.

She tucked her legs under her so that he could not distract her with his touch and divert her attention to something else. She liked to be privy to what was happening to him, most importantly, if it would concern her in the end.

"Well, several things." He admitted to her as he finished his first glass of wine. "Let me break it down for you. First, our wedding. We have barely been able to discuss it."

Alex felt it was time that they should talk about it. They could not keep putting it aside because they were very busy with their career. If they were serious about marriage, then they should make time for it.

"Maybe we could skip the entire ceremony and drive to Vegas and elope," Alex said jokingly, but his eyes were quite serious about his intention.

He would settle for the fastest marriage ever and marry Dani in the quickest way possible. All he wanted anyway was for her to belong only to him, and the same went with him.

But he knew he could not deprive her and their families of the traditional wedding that everyone was expecting from them. That would include all the trimmings and the glitters.

"That is what I also want, to be married to you as soon as possible. I think our parents also have the same idea anyway." Dani also expressed her extreme wish to be his wife.

She moved closer to him and lowered her head on his shoulder, wanting to feel his body against her. She sometimes questioned her decision to rush things. But marrying him felt so right.

"Then, maybe we could move it up in the calendar because I don't think I can still wait for a couple of months more." He shifted in his position until he was facing her.

He grabbed her face on both of her cheeks and stared into her eyes. He could see the impatience in them. He was not sure if it was related to the wedding or something else on her mind.

But one thing he guaranteed, he wanted another ring on her finger as soon as possible. It was the only way to secure their future together, and he had no plan to let her slip away from him.

"Then, we should discuss this with Katherine and my mom." Dani felt excited that they were finally discussing the wedding.

He was setting a schedule soon, and the wedding was on its way. She could not wait for the actual day to happen. But she could almost feel it in the air, seeing the same excitement coursing through his eyes.

He lowered his head until his lips were almost touching hers. "I will tell them the good news in the morning." He whispered in between his small kisses.

But she was tired of his teasing, so she grabbed the back of his neck and trapped him into one persuasive kiss. She dueled with his tongue for dominance, but not to overpower the other, but only to make the kiss more intense.

But before they could do more, the bell ringing reminded them of dinner, making them stop on their tracks. He had to pull himself reluctantly away from her to answer the door.

"I'll be back later for the continuance." He promised as he stood from his seat to answer the door.

As expected, one big box of pizza was waiting for him by the door. After paying and giving the young man a nice tip, he quickly closed the door and served the mouthwatering Italian dish in front of Dani.

Dani quickly picked the lid off and grabbed a slice, not caring if the creamy cheese was messing up the table and the floor. She scooped up the dripping delicious sticky yellowish cream with her hand and shot it in her mouth.

"Hey, leave some for me." Alex teased her as he also followed her and grabbed a slice for himself. "Want to see a neat trick?" He asked her as he positioned the pizza in front of his face.

He could not pass up a chance to impress her with another of his neat tricks. One thing he liked about her was that she was not hard to please. Simple things could easily make her smile.

"Ok. I know you will not stop until you show me this one." She jokingly said, but she was looking forward to what he had planned to make her smile.

It was like he had made it his mission to entertain her and wiped out all her troubles.. She appreciated the effort and made sure to laugh at his jokes, even if it was borderline corny at times.

Chapter 310 - Motivated By Love

He placed the pizza near his mouth and swallowed a large piece in one bite. But there was nothing extraordinary with what he did. Dani kept waiting for the next act, but nothing followed. He only continued to munch on the remaining portion.

"Where is the trick?" She asked, perplexed with his dramatics.

She had been waiting for the spectacular show, but nothing happened. She stared at Alex as he licked his fingers off the juices that remained on it.

"That is the trick. I made you stop eating as you kept watching me eat." He replied to her query, then he grabbed another slice and did the same thing to it.

"You and your stupid tricks." She punched him lightly on the arm before she continued to eat what remained of her pizza in her hand.

But she was indeed fooled again to believe that he was about to perform a trick. She was thinking something like eating the entire piece in one mouthful. She had seen it done in some movies by comedians.

"But admit it. I made you anticipate for it." He insisted that it was a neat trick.

"Fine. But this is a good pizza. Never had this brand before." She savored the different toppings on it and the delicious assorted cheese that covered the top.

"It is one of the best pizza downtowns. The shop is not that famous, but they do make incredible dishes down there." He had been patronizing that diner for years now.

"You should take me there one of these days. I like to try their other dishes." She picked a big slice again from the box and caught all the toppings, dropping them on the sides, immediately placing them inside her mouth.

"I will love too. I am sure that you will like the cozy feel of the place. It is a family diner, run by an Italian family who migrated in this country more than thirty years ago." He remembered interviewing the father of the family who invented the recipe back then.

"Anyway, you said you have several thoughts on your mind. What are the others?" She suddenly remembered asking him. They only discussed the wedding, so what else could have bothered him during their car ride home.

"Cassie. She went to the office today. She said she was turning a new leaf in her life for the better." He started relating to her what Cassie discussed between him and Marcus.

He did not leave anything out, especially the last part where Cassie asked for Dani's forgiveness. It would be up to Dani if she could find it in her heart to forgive someone who deeply wronged her.

"Oh. I was not expecting that Cassie would ever do that. I knew how deep her hatred ran for my father and me." She was slightly unable to produce a coherent thought as her mind tried to process the new information.

She still could not believe that Cassie would turn back on her revenge. But she knew that it was only a matter of time before Cassie turned her back on Nick.

Cassie had always been intelligent. Dani believed that her twisted judgment of the past clouded her ability to see the truth. Maybe there was some truth in what she was saying, but there could also be a reasonable explanation for them.

Once her father was strong enough, she intended to talk to him about the past. She wanted some clarifications for the issues that almost ruined their family.

"I think she is genuinely remorseful about it. But we will see once all her information checks out." He was still putting a few more doubts in her words, not trusting everything she said until he had concrete proof.

"But I am happy that she finally came to her senses and left Nick. She had no future with him." Dani could only feel glad that her friend was finally on the right path again. She could only hope that it continued to be in that way.

There were still two pieces of pizza left on the box, but both were already too full to finish the leftover. "I guess I'll place this in the refrigerator." She concluded after holding on to her fully packed stomach.

"I think we will have some room for that later after we burn this excess energy." He pried the box away from her hand, pulled her back to the sofa, pinning her on the soft cushion.

"Oh! Is that so?" She giggled when his fingers grazed the side of his ribcage, tickling her in the process.

"Well, the last thing that was bothering me today is this." He moved on top of her until he was in a more comfortable position.

He held her underneath him, unable to escape his plans.

"So, what is it?" She asked, anxious to hear what he had to say. She was growing impatient in every second that he was withholding his information.

"I was thinking of kids, our future kids. How they would look as adorable as you?" He told her as he stared into her face, observing if she would freak out.

But instead of seeing fear in her eyes, all he read in them were happiness. She looked excited about the idea of them having kids. He was not expecting that kind of reaction from her. But he was glad.

"Are you set on having many kids?" She suddenly remembered the argument they had about having around six kids.

"I could settle with two or three if possible." He retracted his previous idea of how many kids they should have, thinking of her safety.

"I think I can handle two. But three is negotiable, depending on the first two." She smiled at him, seeing that her answer lighted his face with so much gladness.

"You are one amazing woman. Do you know that?" He nuzzled his nose on her hair, enjoying the smell of his shampoo on her hair. He started grazing his lips on the side of her neck, savoring the feel of her soft skin against his lips.

"You are also an amazing boyfriend and fiancé." She responded in between her moans as he continued with the onslaught of his mouth on her exposed skin.

His hands traveled from her shoulder down on the contour of her body. His fingers traced the curves that drove him with desire all this time.

He slowly removed every article of their clothing, savoring every feel of her skin on his hands. He could never get enough of her despite how many times he claimed her body as his.

She started following his lead and helped him remove the clothes that covered his body. She was doing it in a hurry, so when one of the buttons of his shirt would not come off, she decided to rip it apart, sending the button flying in the air.

"Hey, careful now." He assisted her with the remaining of his clothes.

Just like him, he could see the lust in her eyes reflecting exactly how he felt.

But he knew that what they felt for each other ran deeper than desire.. It was motivated by love and fueled by the craving to satisfy one another.