

## Royal Contract 331

### Chapter 331 - Back To The Grind

"Mom, I'm sorry, but something happened with the communications while we were on the island. They were not able to fix it immediately." She answered her mother as she scoured through her files on the table.

She had been explaining to her mother the reason why she was not able to return their calls. She only learned that she was looking for her when they had landed on the tarmac since she forgot to charge her phone.

She only realized it when Marcus called Alex and informed them of the situation. But it was too late to call her parents, considering that they might be already sleeping at that hour.

"But you should..." Laura was about to make another argument, but she immediately cut her off.

"Mom, there was nothing I could do." She said exasperatedly. "Just tell Dad..." She tried to think of a compromise. "I will just visit him this weekend."

She did feel guilty that she did not make time for her father, who was still recovering from his illness. In her defense, she had been overwhelmed by her work.

Alex did not mean to fly her off on an island without communications. He only was thinking of helping her relieve her pent-up stress.

"The weekend? Can you at least make it in a couple of days?" Her mother used a pleading tone to send her message across. "Your father is turning to an ogre every passing day that passes by without seeing you and Alex."

"But, Mom. I am now at work and swamped with files. I can't just pack up and leave." She blurted out, frustrated with her situation. "I'll in the middle of the week." Settling with her mother.

She could hear the desperation in her mother's voice. It was something she could not ignore. She had been through a lot. If she could do something to help, she would do it.

"Thank you, my princess. I think that will be a great help." Laura conceded, knowing Dani already was on edge.

She knew that when Dani started using that tone, she had already made up her mind. There was nothing she could do to change it. She could not blame her daughter when she was in between her job, her wedding, and everything in between.

She could not add up to her worries. But she could not also ignore Ethan's plea to see his daughter and her fiancé. It was the least she could do to help him speed up his recovery.

"How is your, Dad?" Jacky asked when Dani finally ended the call, seeing the stress lines on her expression.

"Fine, but demanding as usual," Dani responded with a sigh. "Do you need anything?" She asked, finding Jacky's presence in her disconcerting.

Jacky appeared to be acting a bit strange as she stood in front of her desk with an unreadable expression. "Spill it," Dani said, impatient with what was bothering her friend.

"I miss you," Jacky uttered with a forced smile. "I barely see you anymore. Soon, you will probably move in permanently with Alex." She paused, looking down at her hands, unsure of what she wanted to say.

She could still remember her worry when she was not able to contact her friend. Not knowing where she was and the possibility that she might lose her was a wake-up call.

It was like a sign that Dani would eventually leave her, especially now that she would officially marry Alex. It was inevitable, and she was learning to accept it.

"I miss you too, Jacky." She understood what her friend was trying to say. "I'm sorry if I have been neglecting you."

Although they worked together every day, it was different when they bonded together at home or out on a gimmick. She had been barely home lately as she frequently stayed at Alex's place.

"That is ok. I understand your situation. I think I am just being sentimental." Jacky finally sat on the chair across from her. "Do you think we can go out?"

She just needed a friend because lately, she was feeling down. She could not explain why. Maybe it was because Lance left and Dani had barely had time for her.

She wondered if she was lonely. Then, the thought of Marcus came again through her mind, nagging on her subconsciousness. She did not want to make a big deal of the truce they had on the weekend.

"Sure. I will very much like that." She had thought about that for a while, but her busy schedule usually forced her to postpone her plans. But this time, she would make sure to prioritize her friend for a change.

She could sense that her friend was going through another dilemma, but she could not force her to tell her until she was ready. But she was hoping she was wrong, that Jacky only wanted to party.

"That is great," Jacky shouted with excitement, with a smile that reached her eyes. "Thanks for being such a good friend. I will leave you now to your work."

She stood and strode out of the room, happy that she would be spending some time again with her best friend. She needed her company in times like this.

Dani hardly returned to her papers when Jacky peeked again in her room. "I'm sorry, but I came to your office to tell you that Gerald wanted you to report to him when you are available."

She smacked her forehead to indicate that she forgot to tell her the reason why she even entered her room in the first place. She gave her a crooked smile, silently apologizing for her mishap.

"Hey, Jacky. Can you call him back? Tell him that I will be there in an hour." Checking on her schedule once again. "Show my next appointment in as soon as he arrives."

She still had one appointment that morning before she could be free to handle her work with Gerald. She could not ignore her other responsibilities to the company and her pro bono just for one case.

Even though it was a priority case that the partners cleared her to work on, she still would like to balance her time with her other obligations.

"Sure. I will." Jacky acknowledged her direction. She quickly returned to her seat and busied herself with her work.

Dani was once again on her own in her office, thinking of her busy schedule. She noted on her calendar to squeeze in a time to visit her father on the weekend and checked when she could finally go out with Jacky for their date.

She was glad that she was able to unwind a bit on their getaway. Although physically, she did not get much rest with Alex around, her mind did at least have some time to relax and enjoy.

Now, she needed to get back on the saddle and work her ass out, but it would mean more late nights. She suddenly remembered the last time she was in her office.

But she quickly shoved the thought away. It was an isolated situation where she let her imagination take over her reason. She had to focus her attention again on her case so that she could give it her hundred percent.

She was once again back to the grind.

### **Chapter 332 - Dirty Tactics**

"Are you sure that Cassie did not leave any message to where she is now?" Alex asked again, confusion written all over his face. He slightly loosened his tie, relieving the slight tension he was feeling.

Cassie promised to contact him immediately once she found and settled on a safe place. But until now, they had not heard from her. He began to wonder if something did happen to her.

Marcus also received the package she sent last weekend. It was the reason why he was adamant about finding Alex. He wanted to show him the content of the files. The evidence she promised them.

"As I said before, she did not try to call me. I was wondering if she contacted you." Marcus reiterated his earlier statement. "What if she did call you, but your phone was unreachable?"

He shifted in his seat, finding a more comfortable

It was not a farfetched scenario. Cassie might have tried to reach out to him. However, with his condition last weekend, she could not connect with him.

"You are probably right. Why don't you have our investigator check on her place if they could find a clue to where she went." Alex instructed.

He wanted an assurance that nothing went wrong with their plans. He promised to keep Cassie safe in exchange for her information. He planned to keep his word.

He began to regret not insisting on his offer to have his bodyguards escort her to her destination. But she did not want Nick to figure out her plans. She had to get away from Nick without him knowing it.

"Ok. Anything else." Marcus had foreseen his plans, so he had one of their investigators already standing by for further instructions.

Marcus and Alex had been friends and partners for a long time. He already knew how Alex's minds work. He could easily guess his next move like Alex could also do the same with him.

But as his boss, he did not want to presume what he would do. He would only decide without him if the urgency demanded it. As of now, he still did not see any life-threatening situation.

"We will wait for a couple of more days before we take drastic measures. Let us give Cassie time to contact us. But if the investigator finds any foul play, inform me immediately." Alex concluded the topic, ready to move on to the next subject.

He could not dwell on Cassie's whereabouts with the other pending situations he needed to deal with at the moment. He would worry about her if there was a sufficient reason for it.

He checked the files that Marcus handed to him. It was the evidence Cassie was talking about in their last conversation. He looked at it and saw its great value. She did deliver on her promise.

"If all written on that file is true, it can be damaging to the company. We are lucky to get these files before it falls into the hands of their enemies, especially Nick and Edward." Marcus stated with concern.

He felt that Alex was fortunate that Cassie had a change of heart. If she continued with her initial plan to act on her revenge, it would cause them a scandal that could cost millions to repair.

That was the less problematic possible scenario. But the worse could destroy the company if they could not control the issue from blowing over.

"I want you to have the information verified discreetly. Contact Mr. Stockholm if necessary." Alex had to use extreme measures to safeguard this knowledge. In the wrong hands, it could mean a huge problem for them.

He could not afford a shakedown in the company, not while he was still trying to earn the trust of the board and the stockholders. He could not fail Ethan at a time like this.

Mr. Stockholm was the best in the business that he had encountered so far. He was also highly recommended by Ethan. He believed the investigator was the best choice for this problem.

"Then, I will contact him immediately," Marcus stated, but slightly skeptical with his plans.

He had yet to meet this investigator. He had heard from Alex of his credentials, but he still did not know much about him. He might be the best in the business, but where did his loyalty lie.

He would find out soon enough once he met him, face to face. He hoped that he was on their side. Else, it would be another problem they would have to deal with amid their still shaky takeover.

"Thanks, Marcus. I will be lost if not for your help." Alex acknowledged the tremendous contribution that his friend had given him.

He would have a hard time building his company if not for his assistance. Then, taking over Ethan's company was not a piece of cake, but it became more tolerable because of his help.

Now, another storm was brewing and about to destroy the company that Ethan built for Dani. He could not allow that to happen. He would stop it before it could create any damages.

"Well, if you don't need anything else. I think I better start mobilizing our people." Marcus had a lot of work to do, so thus, Alex.

He had a lot of things he would like to talk about with his friend. He did miss hanging out with him in a casual setting and with their friends.

But they could not sit down and chat because they had to prepare for war. It was better to be more than one step forward than to be left behind in the dust.

"Go on. I still have another meeting I need to attend to," Alex nodded to his friend, who waved goodbye to him before walking out of his office.

He immediately gathered the files Marcus left to him and checked the contents. The information seemed legit, but there might be more to the story than met the eye.

Alex could not believe that Ethan might be involved in this. He had high respect for the man and looked up to him. Would this affect the way he saw him?

"Alona, buzz me five minutes before the meeting." He told his secretary. He still had almost half an hour before the meeting. He would like to use it to think of his strategies.

He could not take this situation lightly. Not when the board was still testing his administration. Ethan depended on him to make the board happy, and he planned to do just that.

Ethan would have been the best person to verify the veracities of these files. But with his delicate condition, he could not afford to cause undue stress.

Ethan would be his last resort if the need arose. But for now, he would deal with it himself until he could find answers to this new development.

"What could be the real story behind this?" He mumbled to himself as he returned the files on its confinement and walked towards his vault, securing it away from prying eyes.

He could not be a hundred percent assured that all his employees were loyal to him or Ethan. There might be spies lurking around, trying to gather data against them.

It was a common practice that everybody used to get ahead of their competition. Even Alex used such a ploy if necessary.. Only a fool would never use dirty tactics in this business.

### **Chapter 333 - Checkmate**

"Is it true that she tried to leave you?" The man who just walked into his office said with a wicked smile and comfortably sat on the sofa located on the side of his office.

His visitor seemed to feel like he owned the place as he made himself comfortable without waiting for an invitation. He could only shake his head, unable to do anything about it.

He was now his partner in his fight against his mortal enemy. Sharing the same nemesis had bonded them together. He believed that with his help, he might finally get what he wanted from the start.

"No, where did you even hear that?" He denied it, not wanting him to find any weakness in his plans.

He just confirmed that his new friend had someone spying on him, and he seemed not to care if he found out. He wondered what game he was playing at, but he knew it was about power.

He had allied with him, believing that he would become an asset in his plans. Presently, he still could see potential in their partnership. He just had to be careful with his dealing with him.

"From the grapevine." He answered him vaguely, making sure that his new partner would know that he could never double-cross him in this business venture.

His title depended on the success of his plans. He could not lose the money he had invested in his company. At the same time, he shared the same passion for bringing Alex down.

"Edward, let us cut to the bullshit. You don't need to spy on me. I am not hiding anything from you. We are partners, and we are in this together." Nick could already guess that the prince was not buying his bullshit.

But for the sake of partnership, they were trying to be amicable with each other. After all, Nick and Edward were after the same thing. But Nick still felt that he had to thread wisely around him.

"In these times of troubles, we can never be too careful. Now that Alex had Ethan's company at his disposal, we are facing a bigger fish in the sea." Edward reminded his new ally.

Edward placed all his eggs in this basket. If it failed, then his chances of being crowned would go with it. He would make sure that Nick would not ruin everything with his arrogance and stupidity.

If the rumors were correct, that bitch was playing Nick in her hands while he was clueless about her plans. He had to look into this before all their ideas backfired on them.

"But I am already on top of it," Nick assured him. Edward had nothing to worry about, except if he tried to do something to jeopardize their situation.

In truth, he still was working on it. Cassie was still withholding the evidence from him. Although, she appeared to be back to her old self. She still would not reveal where she had hidden the files.

She was still twisting him underneath the palm of her hands, making him dance in her tune. He was giving her the benefit of the doubt for the long friendship they shared.

"Are you?" Edward questioned him with skepticism in his voice. He rubbed his stubbles with his fingers, looking at the man still sitting on his desk.

He learned that Nick was a ruthless man, but when it came to the woman named Cassie, he was a little softie. It would seem she was his Achilles heels.

"Would you like something to drink?" He quickly changed the subject, knowing that they would only be going in circles.

He could deal with his meddling with their partnership, but Edward had no business with his relationship. Cassie was a great partner, in bed and with his plans. He wanted to believe that was still the case.

If not, he would not hesitate to end her if he discovered that she had broken his trust. He might like her to indulge her whims from now and then, but he was the devil himself if he felt threatened.

But he could feel that his patience was slowly slipping. He would soon want every evidence she had, and if she still refused to give it to him soon. Then, there was nothing else he could do.

"Sure. I think you already know what I like." Edward flicked his fingers on his dark suit as if he was removing an invisible lint on the surface.

But he was only showing Nick, who was running this show. It was not only him but the two of them. He did not like being kept in the dark about matters that involved their plans.

He had been away for a few days, but now he was back. He wanted all the details of what happened while he was not around. But if he still refused to share it with him, he had his other ways.

"Our plans are still on the right track. We have acquired a few more shares of Alex's company." Nick started recounting the actions they had taken.

He knew that it was not what he wanted to hear, but he wanted to see how much his informant had already told him. He could not allow a snitch to roam around freely in his business.

"Alex's company is old news. He could lose it without even flinching because he now has the biggest company in the city." Edward did not like how Nick was withholding information from him, but he would let it slide for now.

"Yes, you are right about that. But it still has some sentimental value to Alex. We could still use it as a stepping stone to our plans." Nick was trying to convince Edward that it was the right move.

He was slightly aware that Edward was not of the same caliber as Alex when it came to intelligence in running a business. He was still a newbie who he could manipulate easily with the use of some of his tricks.

Edward would never know what hit him once he was through with him. Unlike Alex, who had always been a step ahead of him in his every move. But he would find his weaknesses and an opportunity to use them against him.

"Yeah, you are right. Alex has always been a sentimental fool." Edward finally had agreed with Nick. He recalled the way Alex's parents brought him up.

He also remembered how Alex was favored by the King and Queen, their grandparents, even if he was the rightful heir. He hated him so much for always thinking that he was better than him.

Alex should be bowing to him, kneeling and begging for his approval, and not the other way around. But the duke, with the help of the Council, made Alex believe he had a right to what was his.

"We can use that to our advantage. Besides, we had already set up a few traps for our common enemy. Once baited, we can go for the kill." Nick wanted to rile him up. Use his anger to his advantage.

The wicked glint in the prince's eyes told him that his plan was working. He knew he could use the prince and his resources to his advantage if he could play his cards right.

Edward was a cunning man in his territory, but he was playing on a different battlefield. In this part of the world, he owned him. He could destroy Edward if he made a wrong move against him.

He could not afford to lower his guard down when he already had the chess pieces in line with his goals. A few more moves, he would have the other prince at his mercy, defeated.

Checkmate.

### **Chapter 334 - Smoking Gun**

"I'm sorry if I am making you work late, but we are on a bit of a deadline." Gerald looked up from the papers he was working on to check on Dani, who sat across from him in one of the conference rooms.

For the first time, it was just the two of them going through the files tonight. They had to present their case the next day through the courts, and they still had a few wrinkles to iron out.

Usually, Andrew, one of the associates, and a paralegal worked with them. But they were working on something else, leaving Gerald and Dani to take on most of the bulk of the job.

"I don't mind. I am used to this. The sooner we finished this case, the better." She smiled at her boss, assuring him that she was ok with their situation.

She focused her attention back on her work. She took some notes on the documents she was reading, transcribing the relevant facts of the case.

"Do you like Chinese? I thought of having a working dinner to save time." Gerald told her, grabbing the phone to order.

He could see that it was past dinner time, and they still had a few more things before they could call it a night. The least he could do was treat her to a nice meal, not that Chinese was his best choice.

But this was not a date. Gerald was not doing this to impress her, not yet anyway. If he wanted to make a move on her, it would not be in such a lame way.

"Yes, but you don't have to do that. I can always eat at home." She was not hungry anyway. She was still hoping that she could finish soon so she could have a late dinner with Alex.

"No, I can't do that. I can't starve you when I am working you like a slave." He reasoned as he dropped down his pen and moved towards the door. "I am getting myself a coffee. Will you like one?"

He could not help but glance at her whenever he had the chance. She was everything he ever imagined she would be from the first day he had met her. Any man would be lucky to be with her. Alex was a lucky man to be marrying her.

He needed caffeine in his system if he would survive this night. He required his focus on the files in front of him and not the girl sitting across from him.

"I guess you are right." She smiled at him, agreeing with his assessment. "I deserve a little treat for all my hard work." She kidded with him, enjoying their casual interaction.



She was finally starting to be comfortable around him after the few weeks they had been working on their case. She always thought that he might be stuffy with his reputation, but she realized that he did have a good sense of humor.

"What about that coffee?" He asked as he kept waiting by the door. The mini kitchen on this floor was just a few meters away. It would be a good idea for him to take a break to divert his mind from thinking about her.

She had been a distraction all night. He had barely done much work since she came into the room. It was the reason why it was taking them some time to finish their work.

"Ok. I will have one. Can you put some cream and sugar on it?" She was grateful for his offer. He saved her from a trip to the coffee room.

Caffeine could help her sharpen her mind and concentrate again on her work. She was starting to feel the exhaustion, not physically, but more from processing too much information.

"Coffee, with sugar and cream, coming up." He saluted in her direction before leaving her in the room.

He wondered how long he would feel this attraction he had for her. He knew that he did not have a chance with her now that she was engaged. But he could not stop the way he felt about her.

He could probably keep admiring her from afar, just like he was doing right now. But, he contemplated if that would be enough. Would he settle not having her for himself?

After a few more minutes, he returned, carrying the hot cups in his hand. "One delicious coffee for you." He gave the one with the cream and kept the black one in his hand.

He barely moved from his place when the delivery guy arrived with their food. He took care of the payment and brought the food back to the desk.

"Thanks. I badly need it," Dani took it in both of her hands, careful not to have her fingers scorched by the hot mug.

After one sip, she immediately helped him with the food. She cleared a portion of the table from their files while he took out the different Chinese dishes from the brown paper bag.

"I do love the smell of Chinese food." Gerald sniffed on the delicious aroma coming from the packaging as he watched Dani's reaction.

He still had a lot of things he did not know about her. He always felt that she might share a lot of the same interests as him. One thing was for sure, their love and passion for the law already bonded them together.

"I also do." Again, she evoked a memory of when she was starting her career in her old office where she could smell the delicious food in the restaurant just outside her window.

"Well, it would seem that we have some common interests after all." He concluded as he started picking his food with the chopsticks in his hands.

He felt satisfied, knowing that he had discovered a new thing about her. But he wished he would get the opportunity to do more. He dreamt of taking her on a date, but he could not simply ask her out.

As he leaned forward to get a dumpling on the table, his fingers accidentally bumped with hers when they ended up going after the same thing.

"You go first," He gentlemanly offered as he pulled his hands away. He could still feel the excitement that coursed through his skin when he felt their connection. It might be a short one, but to him, it told him what he needed to know.

"Ok. Thanks." She took one piece before retracting her hands as she continued to eat her meal.

She remained unaware of his true feelings for her. She was oblivious to his watchful stare. She never had a clue that her boss, working with her, already had feelings for her.

They continued to work while eating their food, discussing the case in front of them. Finally, both found a rhythm, forming a system to work together.

"I want you to see something in this file." She kept reading the file to make sure that she was not mistaken.

She found a discrepancy in the two files she was looking at and figured one could be a falsified document. It could be a smoking gun that they could use against their opposing team.

### **Chapter 335 - Green-eyed Monster**

He moved towards her side of the table and stood beside her. He sat on the chair next to her and leaned forward on the table. He examined the papers that she held in her hands before nodding his head.

"This is good work." Gerald praised her upon reviewing the find she made.

He could not believe that she was that good. Most rookies would have skipped those fine details, but she was able to catch them just in time.

Her discovery could be good evidence that they could use with their case. A few more of those, and maybe they could tie up a few more loose ends.

"Thanks. I am sure that anybody could have seen it easily." She could not take all the credit. She could vouch that Gerald had done more than his fair share to win this case.

She pointed a few more irregularities in the last days she went over through those papers. She was sure that they could use those to their advantage.

She could not wait for the McKinley and Coopers Enterprise to pay for their crimes. The big insurance company robbed their clients of their savings, promising them a tremendous gain, only to end up with nothing.

The aggrieved party deserved justice. They also needed to be compensated for their losses and an additional payment for their sufferings.

"Maybe." But he was doubtful. He believed that Dani was quite different from the rest of them. "I am glad that I decided to take you on in this case."

He could smell her perfume as he sat near beside her. He never felt this kind of attraction with anyone else. Maybe it had something to do with her overall package. To him, she was perfection.

However, he was careful not to be too forthcoming with his feelings. He knew that Dani had already committed herself with someone else. He did not want to drive her away.

"I am thankful that you gave me this chance to help." She realized that she had not expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to work with him.

In the few weeks, she had already learned a handful by being under his wings. The experience and wisdom he imparted with her were invaluable.

"Then, let this be a start of a good partnership. I think you are doing a great job. Sooner or later, you might even exceed my expectations." He complimented her hard work.

He shifted in his position to have a better look at her. He could only see one side of her face from his angle. He wanted to know more about her as his curiosity kept nagging at him.

She was indeed a beautiful woman. From all the things he heard about her, he wondered how much of those were true. Based on their interaction, he could honestly conclude that she was a great person.

"Thank you." She turned to him, only to find him staring at her. "I will take that as a compliment." She smiled at him, glad that he noticed her work.

She was not seeking his approval or anyone else's, but she wanted to improve her skills. The only way she could do that was by learning from the best in the business.

His validation of her work indicated that she was on the right track.

It would mean that in time, she would be able to help more people. She could finally win more cases.

"I better get back to my work. If you find any more of those hidden gems, just let me know." He reluctantly stood up from the chair and moved back to his work.

He had his share of a female company. He was not a player, but he was no saint either. Currently, he was not involved in any form of relationship. He had been busy with his profession to commit to anything serious.

"Sure, boss. I will." She suddenly sensed a change in him, but her mind was too busy to process the situation. She returned her attention to her files, determined to finish soon.

She did not notice the way he kept glancing in her direction. She was unaware of the desire in his eyes. All she could think about was that he was a great mentor, and she would like to keep working with him.

They worked for another hour before he finally called it a day. It was getting very late, and they were presenting their first argument in the morning.

"I think we have enough for now." He stretched his neck and shoulders to relieve the tension in his muscles.

He was satisfied with the progress they were making. Dani had been a tremendous help in this case. He believed that he had sufficient enough evidence for tomorrow.

"Do you think we can win this case?" She hoped so, but a case like this could always turn sideways, especially when they were up against another reputable law firm.

It was not enough to have a good lead, pieces of evidence to support their claims. It also required a reliable team to defend their case.

Sometimes, a good team of lawyers could still win a case even if the odds were against them. So, they could never be too complacent even if they thought that their chances were high.

"We don't assume, but we prepare." He answered her, giving her what he thought would be a bit of good advice.

He had been in this arena for a while. More than a handful of his cases, he won in the courtroom. While most, he preferred to settle in an agreement.

Going to court could be exciting and thrilling for a beginner, but it could be tedious, expensive, and the possibilities of winning through a jury were a fifty-fifty chance.

"I guess that is true." She acknowledged his words. In any case, anything could happen. "Well, it has been a good day." She started clearing up their files, giving the needed documents to him.

Then, she gathered her things, which she had already brought with her, so she did not need to go to her office. She still remembered the scary experience she had the last time she went home late.

Although she was not usually easily scared, she still could imagine the stare and see that shadow that lurked that night. It felt so real that it was hard to believe it was just a fabrication of her mind.

"Let me walk you to your car." He offered as they both left the room.

He walked alongside her towards the elevator.

He wished that this night was not about to end. He still felt the need to be with her. He could only hope that the case would take longer so that he could spend more time with her.

He still had to earn her trust before he could make her move. He could not simply blurt out his feelings because that would mean instant rejection.

"Thanks, but you don't have to." She did not want to impose on him.

"I insist. It is already late, and I don't want anything to happen to you while you are working late with me." He reasoned, continuing to follow her.

It was the least he could do by making her work this late. Besides, he was enjoying her company. He welcomed spending a few more minutes with her.

"Ok." She did not want to argue with her boss, thinking it was better to have company, seeing the empty hallways and offices around her.

As she continued to walk, almost reaching the elevator, she failed to notice the wire stretched on the floor. The janitor was still working on the other side of the building, leaving the machine cord he was using lying on the cold surface.

Her heels caught on the line and forced her to lean forward. It happened fast, and she had no chance to recover from the fall. She felt the cold tiles on her hands as she broke her fall, but her knees still felt the sting of the hard floor when it made an impact.

"Are you ok?" Gerald was down on the floor, checking up on her.

He wanted to grab her when he realized what was happening, but he was too late. His hands missed her arms by an inch, and he could not stop her from falling.

He knelt in front of her as she recovered from the shock of her accident. He held her shoulders as he assessed her for any injuries. She appeared to be physically ok, but he was sure that her knees would have bruises by morning.

"Yeah, I think I am." She accepted the help he offered, grabbing his hands to assist her up, back on her feet.

Exactly, at that point, she noticed that the door of the elevator suddenly opened. Inside stood Alex, looking at her and then in her hands entwined with her boss.

His eyes locked on them as he strode out of the box in her direction. She quickly pulled her hands away from her boss. "Thanks, but I am ok." She could only imagine the scene that he witnessed a few seconds ago.

She wondered what he might be thinking when he saw her with him.

She looked into his eyes, but his expression remained blank. She could not fathom his reaction, but she would soon find out.

She remembered his attitude to Troy before. Would he react the same way to this incident? She wondered if the green-eyed monster would show its ugly head?

### **Chapter 336 - Loyalty And Love**

He was expecting that Dani would be the first to go home. A late meeting with Marcus and his legal team prevented him from leaving the office sooner.

But when she texted him that she was still working by the time he left the office. Instead of going home, he decided to check on Dani at her office.

He would wait for her for how long it would take him as long as he was sure of her safety. "Is Dani still upstairs?" He checked on Ben. When he got the confirmation, he proceeded to the building.

After inquiries at the lobby, he quickly rode the elevator to the said floor. He did notice that the building was almost empty of its employees. He could only guess that Dani and her colleagues might be the few left in the building.

The lift seemed to climb up slowly to the said floor as he watched the numbers change on every floor. He was not worried about her safety, knowing that she was working with a group.

He was just anxious to see her after an entire day of missing her. He looked at his watch, hoping that she would soon finish up. He was planning to take her to a late-night dinner.

Where to take her? He thought, searching his brain for a nice quiet restaurant. A ding reverberated inside, bringing him back to the present. It finally indicated that the door was about to open.

When the doors did open, Alex looked straight ahead, only to be surprised to see Dani standing in the hallway. He was a bit taken aback, seeing her holding hands with Gerald.

He did see her look up when she noticed the elevator opened. He saw how her eyes enlarged upon seeing his presence. He also watched her pull her hands away from his as if electrocuted.

"Alex, what are you doing here?" Dani could not believe the impeccable timing of Alex to find her in a compromising position again.

But she did not want to feel guilty since she had done nothing wrong. She was also confident that Alex would listen to reason, just like the time with Troy. She had nothing to worry about because they trusted each other completely.

"I finish early, so when I learn that you are still here, I decided to fetch you and invite you for a late dinner." He answered her question calmly, not wanting his inner turmoil to show.

He was not sure what to feel about what he saw, but he wanted to give her a chance to explain. He guaranteed to himself that she had a valid reason for what he witnessed a few seconds ago.

"Alex, nice to see you again." Gerald quickly realized her sudden reaction, learning of their unexpected visitor.

He recovered from the sudden awkward situation, welcoming Alex into their company. He could not help but think of what he might have thought of what he saw.

Was he able to make him feel jealous? He could not tell. His face maintained an impassive expression as if it did not affect him at all. But his instinct was telling him to be careful.

"Gerald," Alex acknowledged him with a nod, nothing more. "Are you two already on your way out?" He looked from Gerald to Dani, directing his question to both of them.

He kept reminding himself that he could trust Dani. Just like what happened with Troy, he just saw a misunderstanding. It was nothing that he should be concerned about Dani.

But now, he was starting to doubt if he could trust Gerald with her. All those late nights of working together. He looked around and did not see anyone else.

"Yes, we just finished," Dani answered him as she moved to his side and gave him a quick peck on the cheeks. "Shall we go?" She hooked her hand on his arm.

"If you are sure you are through here?" Alex looked at Gerald when he asked the question. He knew he wanted to see his reaction.

Gerald had his back on him when he arrived. He was not able to observe his expression when he was holding her hand. He had to know if he had any ill intentions with his fiancée.

But so far, he could not find any fault in his movements. His face remained calm as if he had not done anything wrong. He maintained a friendly smile as he looked him in the eye.

"I'm sorry if it took us this late, but I am sure we are good for the night. I'll see you tomorrow." Gerald nodded at Dani, walked towards the open elevator, and waved goodbye before the door closed.

He left them, not waiting for them to ride with him in the small box. He believed it was for the best. He did not want Alex to sniff something that might stink.

He still was not sure of what he had planned for Dani. If pursuing her was even a good idea. But every day he was around her, it was getting harder and harder to stay away.

She tilted her head until she was facing Alex face to face. "Hey, about what you saw." She started, seeing that they were alone again.

She was aware that even though he appeared calm and collected, the thought of her and Gerald was still running in his mind. She had to correct that before it pestered and made him doubt their relationship.

She did not want him to presume that something was going on between her or her boss. Or if not that, he did not want him to think that her boss had a thing for her.

She still wanted to continue working with Gerald on this case without Alex constantly questioning her working relationship with Gerald.

"Can we talk about this over dinner? I am sure that you are tired and hungry." He stared at her eyes, reading the slight hesitation in her eyes.

He wondered what the reason was behind it. As if Dani was feeling guilty about something.. He tried to scratch the thought away, not wanting to doubt her loyalty and love.

### **Chapter 337 - Jealous As Hell**

"I already ate. Gerald treated me with a working dinner." She was a bit hesitant, but she did not want to keep secrets from him. "Can we head home instead?" She did feel exhausted, the caffeine had long worn off, and her knees still hurt from the fall.

She looked at his face and observed a slight change in his eyes. But it was instantly masked by a smile as if she only imagined it. She decided to erase the idea that he might be jealous.

There was no reason to be anyway. Dani had to stop being paranoid because she did nothing wrong. She had an accident, and Gerald happened to be present to help her.

"Of course, we can." He assisted her inside the empty lift and pressed the ground floor.

If he was being honest, he was still confused by what he witnessed. However, he had complete trust in Dani. He did not want to taint their relationship by starting to doubt her without enough evidence to back it up.

What happened earlier might have a good explanation, and he would hear her first before he made any judgment. Jumping to a conclusion would not resolve anything, but hence, create a rift in their relationship.

"Wait, what about you? Have you eaten?" She asked, realizing that he might not have dinner yet. "We can still go out to get a quick bite." She offered, suddenly feeling bad that she had forgotten about him.

"Don't worry. I also had dinner at the office. I just thought that you might be hungry." He told her as he tapped her hand on his to assure her.

They waited in silence inside the elevator until they had reached his car. He had informed Ben to take Dani's car back to the apartment since he would be driving her home.

Somehow, his mind started processing the situation. He concluded that Dani's anxiousness had something to do with the dinner. She probably felt guilty that she had already eaten without him.

She smiled at him, knowing that she had some explaining to do. "Alex, about earlier." She turned her head in his direction, looking directly in his face, but he had his concentration on the road.

She hoped that once she had explained the incident, he would understand and forget the entire thing. She would like to talk about it now rather than leave it unsettled.

"Why don't we talk about it later at the apartment? Go rest for a while. I am sure that you are exhausted." He glanced at her.

He extended his hand to her hair and ran his fingers through its strands, then gradually let it slide to her cheeks before returning it to the steering wheels.

He loved her so much. He was sure that there was nothing seriously wrong with what he saw earlier. But he would rather talk about it later on when he was not behind the wheel.

One thing he learned from his training while growing up. He should never discuss something serious, personal, and possibly emotional while driving. It was as dangerous as being under the influence of alcohol.

"Ok." She agreed with him, feeling her eyes were about to shut down. It was only a short ride back to his place, with less traffic, but she still managed to take a quick nap.

He looked at her closed eyes and steady breathing. Could he possibly believe that she was capable of lying, much more cheat on him? It seemed impossible, but he also thought that Tyra was incapable of doing those things.

"Hey, Dani. We're home?" He ran his fingers through her hair that was slightly covering her face and put the strands aside. He stared at her beautiful face, unconvinced that she could do what Tyra did.

He waited until she opened her eyes before he kissed her tenderly on the lips. He could not help it. He had been longing to see her the entire day.

"That is a nice way to wake me up." She mumbled into his lips as he continued to pepper her with soft kisses. For the time being, she forgot her earlier worry as she enjoyed his caresses.

"I'm glad that you approve of my ways." He teased her with a few more tiny kisses on her cheeks and down her throat.



Suddenly, he wanted to claim her right here and right now as his kisses started becoming more intense. He claimed her lips once again as his hands roamed on her body.

He could sense that she wanted it as much as he did, feeling her body shake from his touch. Her hands also held him as they tightened their hold around his nape, pulling him closer to her.

"Wait!" She said, feeling his hands on her blouse as he removed the first few buttons of her blouse. "Can we continue this back at the apartment?" She held his face in her hands to stop him as she returned to her senses.

She just saw another car parked not far from their position. As much as she wanted to continue with what he was doing, she did not want an audience to watch their performance.

"I guess you are right." He agreed with labored breath as he rested his forehead against hers. It was taking him a lot of willpower to stop himself from ravaging her inside his car.

But he also realized that they were not alone in the parking lot. Under other circumstances, he would not imagine doing anything scandalous in his life.

However, whenever he was with her, he felt like he was battling with his self-control. He always prided himself on how well he could handle situations. With her, he felt like he could never control himself.

"Let's go." She whispered into his ears, an open invitation for him to continue where they left off once they reached the privacy of his room.

They made their way back to his apartment. Once inside, they never made it to the room as he grabbed her by the waist upon closing the front door.

He pushed her by the nearby wall along the hallway and kissed her with intense hunger. It was as if he was dying of starvation. He had to have his fill of her.

"Oh my." She moaned as his hands played with her body. She could feel the tension in her muscles as he teased her with his fingers.

She felt like he was torturing her but in a good way. Depriving her of the release she was craving for as she melted under his arms. She held on to him as he pushed her more to the wall.

She wrapped her legs tighter around his waist, wanting to feel the friction of his body against hers. She wanted him, but he seemed determined to prolong their suffering as he continued teasing her.

"Tell me that you are only mine." It was like he wanted her to submit to him, body and soul. It seemed like he was possessed as he looked into her eyes.

"I am yours." She muttered under her breath as she writhed underneath his touch. "Only yours, Alex," Dani repeated, ensuring him of her role in his life, sensing a difference in him.

She wondered if his actions were a result of what happened earlier. Was he trying to dominate her to point out that she belonged only to him? But all thoughts went out the window as he continued to stroke her desire.

With that, he grabbed her by the waist and joined them together in one explosive union. He supported her weight with his arms as they made love on the side of the wall.

He slowly lowered her down on her feet as he gazed into her eyes. "That was great." He expressed as he touched her cheeks that had turned pinkish underneath the dim light.

It was the first time they had done anything like this, and he could tell that she was still getting used to the idea. He was a lot rougher than he used to be. He took what he wanted and seized his desire to own her.

"Yeah, it was." She finally acknowledged that she did like it in a way. It was different, and she felt a thrilling excitement inside her. She was still a bit surprised, but she enjoyed every minute of it.

"I love you." He would never get tired of repeating those words to her. He loved her with every fiber of his being.

Suddenly, he realized something. As Dani's words sunk into his consciousness, he realized what he had just done. He was not different from any other men.

He was also afraid to lose her, not with any other man.. He only reacted this way because he was jealous as hell.

### **Chapter 338 - Single Life**

"Is it today?" She questioned as she looked up to see her friend standing outside the door.

It was the weekend, and she was planning to stay all day at home before their dinner at her parents' house. But Jacky suddenly showed up on Alex's doorstep, all chirpy and bright, so early in the morning.

"Yes, it is." Jacky strode inside the apartment and made herself comfortable. "I need you to go to your room and get dressed. We have a lot of things to do today." She added.

She worked her way to the kitchen to fix coffee and some breakfast. She was hungry since she woke up early to pick her up for their appointments for today.

She had a long list of things to do and little time to accomplish everything. She had no time for complaints and idle chitchats. But she was glad she was spending today with her best friend.

"Well, I guess I have no choice because you are not going away." Dani walked back to her room, leaving her friend to get prepared.

As much as she wanted to stay, she also was excited to go out with Jacky. It had been a long time since they had a girl's bonding. It was the perfect day to have fun with one of the people she loved.

"Who was that?" He asked as he stretched on the bed and stared at her, showing off his muscular chest. "Come back to bed." He patted the sheet next to him, asking her to lay back beside him.

Whoever interrupted their sleep must be someone she knew since she only smiled at him but did not return to bed. Instead, she moved closer to him and sat on the edge near him.

"It is Jacky. I forgot that we have somewhere to go today. I'm sorry I have to leave you for a while." She regretfully told him as she leaned down close to him, touching his cheeks with her fingers, feeling the morning stubbles of his beard.

"Where are you two going?" He asked, curious of their plans. He was disappointed that she was leaving so early. However, he was also happy that she was spending some time having fun with her friend.

"I have no idea. Jacky planned the whole thing. We will probably go shopping or end up in a salon. Just some girly things." She shrugged her shoulders, indicating that she was clueless.

She could only guess. With Jacky, she could never be too sure. But she could trust Jacky that it would not be too crazy. It would be the right kind of fun.

"Is there any way I can persuade you to stay?" He pulled her closer until his lips were barely touching hers, coercing her to change her mind.

After the week that both of them had been working overtime. This weekend was the only time that Alex could have her all to himself. Therefore, he would try if he could convince her to stay.

"I wish I could stay, but Jacky is looking forward to this. I can't disappoint her again." She had been canceling on Jacky several times. She could not do that to her again today.

"I understand." At least he tried, he thought. "It is just a shame that you would be missing out on this all day." He pointed to his naked chest shamelessly, trying for one last attempt to seduce her.

"I am sure that it will still be right where I left it when I come back." She kiddingly answered him as she gave him one quick kiss before standing up and walking to the adjoining bathroom.

"Are you sure you don't want to change your mind?" Alex still laid on the bed when she came out, ready to leave.

"I will be back before our dinner." She promised him. "Why don't you take this time to rest?" Kissing him one last time before walking out of their room.

She would have to make up to him tonight after dinner. She could not back out on her plan with Jacky. Besides, she was also excited to be out with her friend again after a long time.

"Where are we going?" Dani asked after drinking half of the coffee she offered and finishing a toast she made.

"As your maid of honor, I should take charge of your bridal needs." She hooked her hands on her as they rode the elevator down on the parking lot.

"What do you mean?" She was confused since she had never asked Jacky to handle her wedding preparation. Her mother and Katherine were doing the job quite nicely.

"I think you were always busy, working so hard that you hardly did anything to prepare for your wedding. So, I am stepping up to make sure that all will run smoothly from now on." Jacky informed her.

"Did my mom put you up to this?" She could only guess that her mother would have something to do with it since she had been bugging her about the preparation.

She suddenly did feel guilty, remembering that her mom was also busy taking care of his dad. Dealing with her wedding must be frustrating for her since she was not a very cooperative bride.

Her mom probably decided to pass off her responsibility to Jacky, thinking she might have better luck, making her move her ass and think of her wedding.

"Yes, but she was just concerned that the preparations were way behind schedule. Besides, I am better at this." She confidently said as they drove to their first destination.

Jacky was good at organizing things. That was why she hired her to be her assistant. She also had many connections, making her job easier when she required help.

She was very resourceful, a talent that was innate to her. Dani knew it would be impossible to find someone as good as her. Jacky was one in a million and her only best friend.

"I guess both of you are right. I want so much to get married to Alex, but I barely accomplish anything for the wedding." She finally admitted her shortcoming, glad that her friend was now on top of the situation.

"Then, let us go first to our dress fitting. You had put off Ms. Laverne for far too long." Jacky would know. She was the one who kept making excuses for her.

"Oh, yeah. How can I get married without a dress?" Dani laughed at the situation as she looked at Jacky on the wheel.

Since this was Jacky's plan, she let her take the lead. She took the passenger seat and sat comfortably while her friend made all the arrangements.

"Precisely. Ding, ding, ding." Jacky said, clicking her tongue in agreement. She acted like her friend just guessed the correct answer, and she deserved a prize.

"What do we do after fitting our dress?" She asked excitedly. She could never think of anyone else she would rather be doing all of this with, except for her best friend.

"We go get ourselves pampered. Then, we picked a date for your bachelorette party." Jacky laid out her plans for the day. "You are getting married soon. I want to give you the best last day of your single life."

### **Chapter 339 - Saying Goodbyes**

"Dad, I am not going out with him." She said with a slightly raised voice. She could not take any more of his matchmaking.

Her father arrived at her apartment that morning with a cheerful smile and good news. She was aware that his company was on the brink of bankruptcy.

That was why he was so desperate to marry her off to the next highest bidder. Whoever was this man, he probably promised to save his company for her hand.

"But you have to. After all, you are not getting any younger. Sooner or later, your beauty would fade, and your body would sag, then what? What will you do to earn money?" John moved closer to her on the couch and held her hands.

He had to find a way to convince her to go out with this powerful and wealthy man. This man was his last hope for his company. Time was running out for him.

Although, he did hear some unusual things about him. He disregarded them, believing that his enemies were only discrediting him. In his case, what mattered was his interest in his daughter.

"Dad, I wish to stay single for a while." She stated, looking down at their entwined hands.

Since she was a child, she always tried to find ways to please her father. She constantly sought his approval. She loved him so much, and she wanted him to love her too.

Now, she learned the hard way that his father only loved himself. He was incapable of loving anyone else, not even her, his daughter. He only needed her for his gain and nothing more.

"Don't be foolish. There is nothing wrong with going out and meeting new people. I assure you that once you meet Mr. Zander Blake, you will like him." John reassured her, still trying to persuade her that it was for her interest and future.

She had to go out with Zander, he thought. He needed his business. The only way to get that was through her. She was the key to his millions.

He saw how Zander desired his daughter. When he opened up the topic that his daughter was single, he saw the glint of interest in his eyes. If only he could convince his daughter to go out with him and eventually marry him.

"But..." She stopped her words, knowing that it was futile to argue with him. Once he had made up his mind, he would not stop until she followed his wishes.

However, this time, she had enough of his manipulations. She could not continue to do his bidding even if she ended up disappointing her father.

Suddenly, she longed to get away again, to find some refuge away from her father. The idea of arranging herself for marriage was once again becoming more promising than letting her father choose for her.

"You will go out with him tonight. That is final." Her father stated with a calm voice, but she knew what it meant. She had no choice in the matter but to obey her father.

Her father left her apartment with a satisfied smile, feeling victorious. He assumed that he still had control over his daughter. She would do what he asked her to do.

She paced her apartment, debating with herself if she should follow his father or completely ignore him. Was she ready to disobey his wishes?

On the other side of the city, Troy was packing his things. He was the one ready to leave everything behind. He did not see the point of staying in this place when it only held sad memories.

His business was already doing well. He had assigned one of his trusted friends to manage it for him. He was ready to expand his business in another place. His new investors were already waiting for him.

A knock on the door alerted him of a visitor. He walked towards it to check it out, only to find one of the new friends he met during his stay in this building. "Jacky, do you need anything?"

"I heard that you are leaving. I wonder if..." But she stopped when she saw the boxes around his living room floor. "I guess it is true." She pointed to the room.

"I am just packing, but it is true. I plan to leave soon. I am transferring to another state. I have a good offer for a new business venture." He explained, telling her half of the story. "Do you want to come in?" He offered, opening the door wider for her.

"Sure. So, are you leaving without saying goodbye to us?" She did like Troy. He was funny and charismatic. He had been a good friend in the short time that they had known each other.

"Of course not. I am just busy with the transfer and fixing the things that I will be leaving behind. But I plan to invite you girls so that I can say goodbye. You are my friends, after all." Troy stated as he sat across from her on the sofa.

"We are going to miss you. Dani would surely miss her jogging buddy." Jacky felt a bit sad since she got used to having him around just down the hall.

There were times that she did bother him on some occasions. Like a broken faucet or a stuck cabinet door or something else. He never once complained about her demanding attitude. He had become handy to be around.

"I doubt that. Dani hasn't been around lately." It had been a while since he last ran with her. He knew that she was staying more in her fiance's apartment.

He was happy for her, for finding the man that would make her happy. He was also glad that he realized earlier that she was not meant for him before he fell in love hard for her.

"I am sure that Dani will still miss your company. You are one of our best friends now." Jacky meant what she said. She did consider him as part of their small group.

"You mean that. You both consider me your best friend." He was slightly overwhelmed to know that he had gained friends, true friends. He did cherish the time he had spent with these two ladies.

"Of course. So, I expect to keep in touch. You have to tell us all about your new venture and maybe invite us to your new place once you get settled." Jacky insisted, slightly sad that he was leaving.

However, she was also happy that he looked different. As if the shadows under his eyes were gone. He looked like a burden was lifted on his shoulders.

She had tried to ask him before if he had a problem. But he kept dodging her questions, not able to share with her what was bothering him. But it seemed that he finally resolved the issues.

"Definitely. I like that." He agreed with her suggestions. He would love to remain friends with Jacky and Dani. They were a few of the people he could honestly call his friends.

"So, what do you want me to do?" She offered her services. She had nothing to do in her apartment anyway. She might as well help him pack.

She hated losing a friend, especially when they had already crept into her life.. She never liked saying goodbyes because it meant that she was about to be alone again.

## Chapter 340 - A Different Kind Of Makeover

"Wow! This time you look like a princess." Jacky excitedly giggled when she went out of the changing room to look at her friend.

Dani walked to the small stage where three huge mirrors stood around it. Jacky could see how lovely she was in her beautiful white gown. The only missing now was the veil.

"It is not yet done since we are still going to add up a few more details." Abby, the designer, explained to both of them. But she could already see her creation coming to life.

She could not wait to see it completed, worn by one of the most beautiful women in the world, as she walked down the aisle to meet the man of her dreams.

She had done a lot of gowns for different celebrities, wealthy and famous personalities, but she could tell that this would be one of her finest works.

"You also look stunning. You are a perfect maid of honor." Dani checked out her friend, who also tried out the dress she was going to wear.

She looked at them together as they stood in front of the large mirror, enjoying their reflections. She wondered who she would be taking as her date for her wedding.

She certainly would like to see her friend happy with someone, who she could share her life. She witnessed her ups and downs as she went in search of the right one.

"Both of you are beautiful." Abby interrupted them as she and her assistants worked on finding faults in the dress to correct them. "But you are not making my job very easy." She complained as she stuck some needles in the dress to make some adjustments.

It was not easy to make a gown as exquisite as this. Abby knew that it would be one of her masterpieces. The entire world would be criticizing every detail of her work.

But that was not the only problem. The couple had decided to move the wedding to an earlier date. Now, the new schedule had messed up with the timetable.

"You have to forgive my friend. She could not wait to get married to her prince." Jacky winked at Abby, teasing her friend.

Just like everyone else, she was also confused about the reason for the rush. She also wondered why they suddenly changed the date to an earlier date.

"Why should we wait? When we already know what we want," Dani responded, smiling dreamily at her reflection.

She could almost imagine her wedding with him waiting at the other end of the aisle. She slowly walked towards him, with her gown flowing beautifully around her body.

It gently swayed as she moved gracefully, with its long lace sliding smoothly on the floor. Her eyes focused only on the man, who she would be sharing the rest of her life.

"That is my girl. Finally, she knows what she wants and gets it." Jacky proudly announced inside the room, making all of them look at her and smile.

She liked the changes that were happening to her friend. Dani was becoming bolder about love. She could also sense that Dani was genuinely happy with her relationship with Alex.

She supported that marrying Alex was the best decision she ever made. It might have started as a lie, but they managed to make it real. It was one love affair that she could not wait to tell the world.

"Thanks to you. If not for all your support and encouragement, I might never have given Alex a chance." Dani still could remember how many times she rejected Alex's advances.

She never wanted anything to do with him. She avoided him like he was a plague. Luckily, Jacky had convinced her to take a risk, giving him a chance.

Now, she could not conceive a life without him. She could only see a future with him on it. She could even imagine the kids that they will have in the future.

"It was nothing. Just make sure that you will make me a godmother to your firstborn." Jacky turned to her and held her hands tightly. "Are you sure that you are not pregnant?" She looked at her suspiciously.

It was a possible explanation for the hasty wedding. Although, presently, having a baby was not reason enough to get married, Jacky believed that Alex was conservative in his tradition.

He might be insisting on tying the knots before the baby was born. She knew it was a farfetched idea, but who could blame her rich imagination.

"Where did you even get that idea? I am not pregnant. We only want to be married as soon as possible. That is all." She reiterated her reason, correcting her friend's wild conclusion.

Although she could not blame her friend for coming up with that idea, she did feel like everything about their relationship was happening so fast.

On the other hand, she was not complaining because she wanted it as much as Alex wanted to get married soon. She could not wait to be his wife and for him to be her husband.

"Just saying." Jacky waved her hands in the air in surrender. "Anyway, I am happy either way." She continued as they started walking back to the changing room to return the dress for its finishing touches.

After a few more minutes, they were saying goodbye to Abby. The designer assured them that everything would be ready before the wedding. She would work night and day if she had to finish the job.

"Where to next?" Dani asked her friend as she took control of the car once again.

She looked at her friend, trying to see what she could read on her face. But she only smiled without saying a word, concentrating on the road ahead.

Then, they stopped in one exclusive boutique that Jacky loved so much. They always shopped at this place but always ended up on the opposite side of the room.



"Why are we here?" Dani walked inside, following her friend who was taking the lead.

"I am buying you the things you will need for your honeymoon." Jacky quipped with a wicked smile.. She was about to give her a different kind of makeover.