

Royal Contract 351

Chapter 351 - Angel From The Heaven Above

She had been biding her time, finding the perfect moment. Finally, she was able to find an opportunity to escape. She knew she had to seize the chance.

After last night's incident with Nick, she feared she could not hold off Nick from discovering she did not possess the evidence anymore. She still could recall their conversation last night.

"Our plans are almost at play. All I need now is what you promise me. In return, I will give you the revenge that we have agreed upon." Nick whispered to her ears as they lay naked on his bed.

But how could she give him what she did not possess anymore? However, even if she still had it, she probably would not give it to him. She did not want to proceed with her revenge plot, and she did not trust Nick with all those information.

"Of course, as a promise, I will deliver." She lied to her teeth as she diverted his attention away from the topic by doing what she knew best.

It was the only way she could silence him. Once he was too exhausted and satisfied, he would eventually go to sleep, and she would be free from his scrutiny.

But she could sense that he was becoming impatient. She could not keep dodging his questions. Nick would soon want to get his hands on the files. She had to act fast before he figured what she had done.

A knock on the door snapped her out of her reverie. She quickly slid out of bed and moved to the door. "This came for you, Miss." One of Nick's security stood outside with a package for her.

She thanked the man guarding her, making sure that she had gained his trust. It would be easier for her to execute her plan if the security was clueless about it.

She took the box into the room and placed it on the bed, knowing what she would find inside. When she opened the box, she found a beautiful red dress and matching shoes.

She read the card with an attached note on it. It came from no one else but the man that held her captive. He had invited her this morning before he left to attend a dinner date tonight.

Wear it later. I will pick you up at six. Nick.

"I will." She mumbled to herself as she picked up the dress and placed it in front of her as she gazed at her reflection in the mirror.

In the past, she had enjoyed the gifts she had received from Nick. Today, she could only stare at herself, thinking that this dress was her ticket out of this place.

She would make sure to look extra stunning tonight, alluring Nick and whoever he was entertaining. Then, she would make her disappearing act.

"You can't fail." She told the woman standing in front of her. She could see the determination in her eyes. She just hoped that everything would work out just the way she had planned it in her mind.

She believed that once Nick learned of her betrayal, her life would be in grave danger. Nick was not a person who would take what she had done lightly. He would surely exact his revenge.

She had to find a way out of his place and his life for good as soon as possible. She preferred now. She could only think of one person who could help her, Alexander Princeton.

On the other side of the city, his mind kept returning to the woman he left in his bed. He sat in his office, staring at the window outside. He was working on a project, but he could not keep his concentration on his task.

"Sir, these files just came in. It requires your immediate approval." His assistant placed the files on the table, arranging them according to his preference.

His work was piling up, and his mind still kept flying elsewhere. He felt like something was wrong. He could sense that Cassie was hiding something from him.

"Thanks, Michael." He told his assistant, who interrupted his thought when he walked into his room.

"Do I have confirmation on my meeting tonight?" Nick asked his loyal assistant. He believed that money controls everything. As long as he was paying him well, he would do everything he commanded.

"Yes, Sir Nick. I have sent the dress to your house too." He informed him, knowing that he had to do his job well.

"If Edward arrives, send him first to my private room. I will attend to him in a little while." He instructed as he scanned the new files on his table.

He finally dismissed his assistant, leaving him alone again. He returned his attention to his work, trying his best to finish it. Somehow, he finally was able to set aside thoughts of her.

He barely accomplished much when Michael informed him that Edward had arrived. The prince was already waiting for him in the other room for their meeting.

"Tell him to give me a few minutes." The prince was early from their appointed time. He would make him sit for a while, making him remember his place in this arrangement.

He could not barge in his office as if he owned the place and demand for his time. He might be significant in executing his plans, but he would not hesitate to throw him the trash if he kept meddling where he did not belong.

"Yes, Sir," Michael excused himself and returned to his place outside his door.

He was again on his own, closing the file he had been working on before he was interrupted. He maliciously smiled as he thought of the man waiting for him in the other room.

He turned around on his chair, once again gazing at the view outside his office. Not at all in a hurry to entertain his guest. Even if he knew he would be fuming any minute now.

After a few more minutes, like clockwork. Nick heard the door of his office open with a slightly forceful bang. Edward must have been raging from his stunt. But he was already prepared for his wrath.

"Where is Cassie?" Someone from the door shouted.

"Sir, sorry, but I could not stop her." Michael apologetically muttered as he followed her into the room.

He abruptly turned his chair around as he recognized that melodic voice. His visitor was not what he expected. He thought that it was Edward, who would be barging on his space, but it was someone else.

He could not believe his eyes. He stared at the woman who stood in front of his desk with fire in her eyes. She looked calm, but he could sense her anger just underneath the surface.

"It is nice to see you too." That was his response to her question. "I am glad that you remember to visit me."

He leaned on his chair and entwined his fingers in front of him as he smiled at her presence. He could not stop staring at her beautiful face, once again regretting letting her go in the first place.

She was indeed an angel from the heaven above.

Chapter 352 - A Devil In A Man's Skin

"I am not here for pleasantries. I am only looking for Cassie." She ignored his snide comments and proceeded with why she was present in this despicable place. "Where is she?" She repeated.

As much as she wanted to avoid seeing him, she had no choice. He was the only one who could point where Cassie was hiding. He was the last person she was with the last time she saw her.

She had to talk to her privately. She had to hear from Cassie what she knew about her father's past and his involvement with the underground society.

"Come on now, Daniella. Let us put the past behind us." This time, he stood up from his seat and walked a bit closer to her. "Why don't you sit down?" He pointed to the chair in front of his desk.

He did not allow her to refuse as he stood above her, forcing her to take one of the chairs he offered. Then, he leaned on the edge of his table, facing her.

He was not about to let this opportunity go to waste. He studied her under his gaze, remembering every part of her features. He realized that she had changed, but it was for the better.

"I don't have much time to waste here, Nick." She voiced her irritation, noticing that he was withholding the information and using it to keep her from leaving.

She would have walked out of this place and away from him, but she had to find out the whereabouts of Cassie. She could not leave without getting at least a hint.

She believed it was one of the ways she could help Alex with the situation. At the same time, get to the bottom of the truth once and for all.

"You look gorgeous than ever." He could not stop himself from saying what was on his mind.

He did not want to frighten her away, but he believed it would take more than that to scare someone like her. He was aware of how she had changed since they separated ways.

Physically, she had turned more beautiful and developed in the right places. She was more stunning now that Nick was able to look at her more closely. He wanted her more, back in his arms.

However, her personality had also strengthened, he had observed. She was far from the weak and spoiled princess he had known before.

The old her never attracted him. He only tolerated her presence because of the promise of the fulfillment of his dream. Since he saw her again, he knew he was obsessed with her. He could not stop craving for her.

"I'm not here to have a friendly chat with you. Nothing has changed. You are still a scumbag. I only need Cassie and not you." She had to reiterate to him, not wanting any misunderstanding.

She could see the glimmer in his eyes. She could guess that he was already planning something she would not like. She used to love this man, but she was through with his games.

She sat straight, not wanting him to intimidate her. She already dealt with men like him, and she was not frightened that easily. She usually handled men like him with a firm resolve.

"Why are you looking for her anyway?" His eyes narrowed at her, suddenly curious about her reason. If he remembered correctly, she had severed her ties with him and Cassie.

His initial suspicion that something was going on with Cassie had suddenly spiked up again. He again wondered what Cassie had been doing for Dani to seek her out.

"It is none of your business. It is between Cassie and me. So, tell me where she is hiding because I need to talk to her." She insisted as she stared at him without blinking.

She had no plan to share with him what she wanted to ask Cassie. In truth, she did not want him to suspect anything about her intention, but she had to find her.

However, she had to extract the truth from him. When she asked Alex about Cassie's possible whereabouts, he had no clue. All he knew was that Cassie had just vanished after she sent the files.

The smirk on his face told her that he had no plan to answer her. He was indulging her whim, nothing more, to keep her from leaving. She could walk out now, but that would mean she was leaving empty-handed.

"What do I get if I help you find her?" He looked at her maliciously, waiting for her reaction.

He could not think of a better opportunity to use this particular situation to his advantage if he could help it. He might not get the same chance ever again.

"Nothing. I am not here to make a deal with you." She stood up from her chair and avoided bumping into him. "If you are not helping, then there is nothing else for me to do here."

She decided that she was not getting anything from him. She was wasting her time. She could sense that he knew something about Cassie's hideout, but he was not divulging it to her.

She was about to walk out of his office just the same way she had come, but he grabbed her hand before she could move further away.

He pulled her closer to him until he had captured her in his arms.

"Leaving so soon. We barely have time to chat." He uttered seductively, believing that he could manipulate her with his charm just like before. "Stay for a few more minutes, and I will tell you where she will be later."

He tightened his hold on her arms when she tried to break free. She pulled harder, but his grasp became firmer. She hated feeling his skin against hers, remembering every cruel word he had said to her.

As she pulled harder, he moved even closer until she was almost in his arms, but she still refused to move any further. She struggled harder to be free from his touch.

"No, thanks," Dani could see in his lies. She knew how manipulative he could be. She would never fall again into his trap. "Let go of me." She demanded as she twisted her arms until one was loose from his grip.

With one hand, she put all her energy on it and smacked him on the face. With the impact, she had managed to free herself. Then she pushed him hard enough until she had created enough space to escape.

"If you ever touch me again, I will put a restraining order against you and file a harassment case against you." She shouted at him, full of anger for his audacity to touch her.

She suddenly thought that maybe Carrie was also undergoing the same fate as she did. Her mind swiftly conjured images of Cassie, held against her will, hurt and in danger.

It was not a farfetched idea when it was Nick that was involved. He was capable of such heinous acts, so she would not be surprised. She suddenly feared for Cassie's life if that was the case.

She could not wait for her to resurface from wherever he was hiding her. She had to find her soon. Getting involved with Nick was a terrible experience for her.. He was a devil in a man's skin.

Chapter 353 - The Waving Red Flag

She was almost at the door when Nick blocked her path. He just could not simply let her go. "I can arrange for you to see Cassie. It is a one-time offer. All you have to do is have dinner with me."

Her reaction to his touch did not deter his intention. On the contrary, he felt more challenged to pursue her even more. The sting on his cheek only fueled the obsession he had with her. He had to own her again.

"You must be insane if you think that I will ever go out with you again." She moved a step back away from him, seeing his devilish smile. "Get out of my way." She demanded, ready to strike him again if given a chance.

She regretted her involvement with him. It was a lesson she would never forget. A man like him was not worth her tears and especially her love. Luckily, she had found a man a hundred times better than him.

She was not going to waste any more of her time in his presence. It was a mistake that she came to see him. As always, she only proved that he was not capable of a civilized conversation.

"Don't be like that. I am sure that we could at least be friends. After all, we did have shared a lot of memories." He stood his ground, still blocking her path towards the door.

He figured that she was too smart to fall for his tricks. He had to think of something else if he wanted her back. He had to be more cunning in dealing with her. That was the only way.

"What memories?" She could almost feel her blood boiling, remembering those unwanted recollections of their past. "My relationship with you was a nightmare." She sneered at him.

All her hatred came back like a tidal wave, ready to consume everything in its path. She had finally confronted the man that almost ruined her life.

"It was not all bad. We did share many good ones." He replied to her, hoping to reason out with her.

But she quickly shut him down with her reply. "Those were all lies. Nothing about what we shared was true. You only used me to get what you wanted. My father's trust."

Visions of their past flashed through her mind. It was true. She had been happy during the time they were together. She had been floating in cloud nine, wanting to spend the rest of her life with him.

Fortunately, she woke up from that dreadful dream. She discovered the hell that she was about to enter into before it was too late. She had escaped his clutches.

"I admit. I used you to get to your father's wealth. But I regret the way I treated you. I am sorry that I lost you." He wore a mournful look, pleading for her forgiveness. "I am truly sorry for how I treated you. But I do love you."

He thought that by changing his tactics, he might win her trust back. It was that or using force. But he would resort to the latter after exhausting all other efforts.

"You don't know anything about love. An evil man like you is not capable of love." She told him in spite.

She would never fall again into his trap. She would never believe any more of his lies. "Now, step away from the door." She asked him calmly, barely containing her anger.

"But I do. I still love you." He told her as he stepped forward, wanting to hold her in his arms again.

"Don't come closer." She uttered, suddenly alarmed with his movement. She did not like the way he was looking at her. He seemed up to no good. "Step away."

She quickly glanced around her, stepping back, checking her surrounding. She also considered her options if Nick decided to do something untoward to her.

"Why? Am I frightening you?" He continued to walk closer to her, unable to control himself anymore. He wanted a taste of her lips. He had to have her in his arms. "You always love my kisses."

"Stay back," Dani warned him, sensing that she was almost running out of place to go. "Stop this nonsense before I call the police."

She knew she found herself cornered, but she was not easily giving up. She was ready to fight if needed. She was not afraid to defend herself against any assault.

"Well, what will you tell them? That I stole a kiss." Nick taunted her as he stopped a few feet away from her.

Another commotion was happening just outside the office. Nick was unaware since he had his attention focused on her. He knew he had caught her, but he was careful with his next move.

"I will do more than that. I will make sure that you will rot in jail." She told him with contempt. She truly hated his existence.

She tried to slip away from him, but he grabbed her before she could get away. She maneuvered against his grip, but he was quick. He was able to foresee what she had planned.

"You are not getting away from me that easily." He tightened his hold on her arms and pinned her to the wall behind her.

"Let go of me." She twisted and turned, trying to loosen his grip on her, but she could not get enough space to move. "You are truly despicable."

She waited for an opportunity to strike back at him when she stopped resisting, his grip on her slightly loosened. She grabbed the chance and twisted her way out of his clutches.

"Let me show you how despicable I can be." He ran after her, but she dodged his attack. She used his momentum to her advantage, making him fall to the floor. Then, she moved to her exit.

But before Dani could escape and storm out of the room, the door had suddenly burst open, revealing a raging bull ready to charge on the waving red flag.

Chapter 354 - A Sick Predator

It had been a long day for him. He had been moving from one conference room to another. He had to attend several meetings due to a new project they were launching.

In one of his meetings with an important client, he received a call from Ben. Upon hearing his report, he immediately made his excuses and left his meeting in a hurry.

"What is it?" Marcus ran after him, concerned about his action.

Alex never walked away from a client unless he had a more urgent matter to attend to, which in this case, he was clueless. He had not received any word that there was an emergency in the company.

It could only mean it was something personal. Marcus wondered what it could be or who was involved. He could only think of a few possible reasons. It was either his parents or Dani.

"It is an emergency. Take over for me." Alex instructed Marcus, having no time to explain the situation as the elevator closed on him.

Alex knew he should have told him more, but he had no time as he rushed like a maniac on the road. He did not like that Dani had made a hasty decision, putting herself in a compromising position or even a dangerous one.

"Ben, where is she now?" He called her bodyguard again, hoping that she was already with him, on her way back to her office.

He was just glad that Ben had informed him of her plan, despite her plea to keep it from him. He reminded himself to reward Ben for his loyalty and sharp thinking.

"She had not left the building yet, Sir. I am still waiting outside." Ben informed him of the situation.

He knew he promised her to keep it from his boss, but he weighed the situation and found her safety was his priority. No matter what he promised her, he had to fulfill his first obligation.

"Ok. Be on alert. I will get Dani." He informed his men as he neared the building. He left his car in front of the building, letting his men deal with it, and rushed further inside.

He only knew the layout of this building because he had Nick investigated. But this was the first time he had entered this premises. He did not care if he was trespassing, but he had to get to her.

The one at the front desk tried to stop him, but she was too late as the elevator closed on her. He could not wait to reach the top floor where his private office was situated.

He was sure that was where Dani went to confront him. He still wondered why she would come to see him unless it had something to do with Cassie.

"Come on." He muttered to himself, willing the elevator lift to go faster, even if it was already an express one.

As soon as the door opened, he rushed out. Then, he proceeded to the room on the other side of the floor. It was the only one that was not enclosed in glass and with the door closed.

The man sitting on the desk looked at him closely with a wide-eyed expression and probably recognized him. He stood from his chair and tried to stop him from proceeding to the door behind him.

"Sir, I don't think you have an appointment. I will require you to turn back." He said a bit nervously, blocking the path to the other room. "You can set up another date..."

He was not able to finish his statement as Alex disrupted him. "Where is Daniella?" He asked the man that stood in his way.

Alex was not able to wait for his response, sensing the urgency of the situation. His instinct was blaring warning bells on his consciousness, nagging at him to make a move.

He quickly shoved Nick's assistant out of the way as he proceeded to the closed room. Alex moved at lightning speed when he heard a commotion inside.

When he saw Dani running towards the door, he already knew that something was wrong. Dani bumped into him in a rush to get out of the place.

"What did he do?" He furiously asked her, trying to assess the damage he had done. He looked at her and then shifted his eyes to him, determining his line of action. "What did you do?"

But there was a predominant feeling that kept nagging at him. His instinct dictated that he beat the hell out of the scumbag, but his training prevented him from acting savagely.

"Nothing. We were only talking, and apparently, Dani did not like my opinion on some subject matters." Nick said with a sly smile on his lips.

He did find it amusing that the prince was acting like a knight in shining armor, coming to her rescue. He did not know that her fiance did enjoy playing the part.

At the same time, he was annoyed that their unexpected visitor interrupted his opportunity to be alone with her. He almost had her in his mercy.

"Just take me out of here." She whispered as he held her in his arms. She tried to push him out of the door, but he refused to budge. He remained holding her in his arms, but his eyes never left the other man in the room.

She knew if she did not do something, all hell would break loose. She had too convinced him to leave before he realized what had just occurred a few moments ago.

But she was too late as she saw him looking at her arms. Markings were already visible in her pale skin. Nick's grip earlier had finally shown some light red bruising.

"Did he do this to you?" He held her arms lightly, careful not to hurt her any further.

But he knew his patience was wearing thin as he imagined the scenario that happened earlier. And what could have happened if he did not arrive on time.

He let her go reluctantly, but his desire to take action took precedence. He marched towards him with one thought in his mind. He had to make him pay for laying a hand on her.

Alex thought of Nick as a coward who preyed on people who could not defend themselves.. He was a sick predator who could only abuse the weaker ones.

Chapter 355 - An Eye For An Eye

"Did he do this?" He had asked her, but she guessed her answer was unnecessary as he already had formed his conclusion.

It was written all over his face as it contorted in anger. His eyes ablaze, not tearing his eyes away from Nick. He already decided that he could not let this slide.

"Alex, let us just go." She did not want him to waste his time on a man like him. "He is not worth it." She knew what would happen if she did not stop Alex from what he was thinking.

But there was nothing she could do as he continued to strode into the room where Nick stood waiting, ready for whatever was coming his way.

They were both equally built, almost at the same size. Dani could only wonder who would have the upper hand. She knew that both trained to defend themselves, but they had grown up in a different kind of discipline.

"This will not take long." He heard her, but he could not stop. He continued on his path, seeing that Nick was already anticipating his first move.

As soon as he was at a striking distance, he moved his left hand in the direction of his face, but he easily eluded his thrust. Nick also made a counter strike, but he already knew it was coming.

"I'm sorry, but I can't let this pass," Alex said after letting his fist fly again and hitting him on the mark. He had tricked Nick, giving him a follow-up blow on the stomach and another one on his cheek.

Nick tried to recover and throw some punches too, but it hardly made a dent on Alex as it lacked a strong impact. Nick had already sustained several hard blows that he could barely stand straight.

"Stop it," Dani shouted, wanting the fighting to stop. Luckily, Nick's assistant was able to call the security who walked into the room, preventing the two from going at it again.

It took two men to stop Alex from beating Nick lifeless, and then the other two helped their boss to his feet. But instead of anger, Dani saw Nick smirked, amused with Alex's violent reaction.

"Please, Sir, you have to come with us." One of the security men finally let go of him when Alex had calmed down.

"No, let them go," Nick commanded his men as he stood straight and fixed his clothes that had gone disarray from the brawl.

He used his fingers to wipe the blood that dripped down his broken lips and smiled upon seeing it. He shook his head to clear his head from the blow he had incurred.

He never liked doing his dirty work, but sometimes it was necessary. Right now, he had Alex just where he wanted him. It might have caused him some bruises and minor broken bones, but it was all worth it.

"Alex, please." She begged him, entwining her arms around his, hoping that he would finally snap out of whatever had possessed him to lose control.

She knew that Nick was up to something no good, but at the moment, all she wanted was to be as far away from him as possible. She could not stand another minute in the same room with him.

"This is not over yet," Alex stated in a threatening voice. "Touch her again, and I assure you that you have not seen the last of me." He could not tolerate what he did.

He had very high reverence for women. He believed that men had no right to lay a finger on them or disrespect them in any way. What Nick did was unacceptable, and he had to pay for it.

It was unfortunate that he had lost his control. However, he would not regret defending Dani from men like him. Nick already caused enough damage to Dani's life. Alex would not allow him to continue to do so.

"I assure you that this is far from over." Dani finally could not take the way he was mocking them with his smile.

She wanted him to pay for all his sins, but she knew it was never that simple. Nick was a sly fox who knew how to avoid messing with the law. But she would find a way to be answerable to the law, even if take her forever.

"I am looking forward to it," Nick answered her with a malicious smile and a subtle kiss, just for her. "But expect my retaliation." He offered his warning too.

He could see that Alex was fuming from his small action and his parting words, but he enjoyed it too much for him to stop. Finally, the couple walked towards the door, escorted by his men.

"Are you alright?" Alex looked at her and took her hand as they left the building.

He knew he had made a mistake by losing his sensibility and letting Nick get to his nerves. He should have known better. But when it came to Dani, he seemed to be going crazy.

"Yes, don't worry about me. I can handle myself just fine. But thanks for coming to my rescue." She held his gaze, assuring him that she was ok.

She could have handled the situation on her own. She had it under control, but Alex showed up. Although she appreciated his effort to defend her, she knew it was not necessary.

He assisted her on the passenger seat of his car, ready to take her home. He knew that they could never go back to the office in their current condition. He also had to attend to her bruises.

"You know I will always come when you need me. Look at what Nick did to you. I will never forgive myself if he had done worse." He touched the reddened area on her skin and felt the rage once again.

He wished he could do more to hurt Nick and wiped that ugly smug on his face. But he believed that it would not have solved anything. He had to think smart and not stoop to his level.

Nick was not someone who did fight fair. He had to be careful with dealing with him. Nick would have something up his sleeves. He could expect that Nick would fulfill his threat and exact his revenge anytime soon.

Nick was the kind of man that believed in an eye for an eye.

Chapter 356 - Very Independent Woman

"Does it hurt?" He asked as he took an ice pack from the freezer to apply to the already darkened bruises. He could tell that Nick had forced himself at her and gripped her tightly on her arms.

He swore he would have killed the man if the security had not stopped him. He never felt this kind of rage before, not even when he discovered that Tyra had betrayed him for his cousin.

He could not fathom what he would do if any harm befell Dani because he failed to protect her. He knew that Dani had become his life, and he would not know how to survive without her.

"Not much. Don't worry. It is nothing I can't handle." Dani assured him, already guessing what was going through his mind.

She could see the mixed anger and confusion that ran in his mind as his eyes mirrored what he was feeling. Alex was a man who was always in control. He never allowed his emotions to get the best of him.

But today, she saw how he lost it all just because he wanted to protect her. She feared that he might eventually do something stupid because of how he felt about her.

"Why did you go there in the first place?" He placed the bag on the affected area and then shifted his eyes back at her face.

He was still wondering what possessed her to barge into Nick's office on her own. It was a foolish thing to do, especially when she put herself in harm's way.

"I have to see Cassie and talk to her. He was the only one who knows where she is." She explained to him. "I thought I could convince him to tell me. I was proven wrong."

She did regret her decision to see Nick. She should have known better to think that he had a tiny shred of good in him. He was a man without a conscience and could never be trusted.

"I told you to leave the part of looking for Cassie to me. I will handle it. Please, stop putting yourself in danger. Don't ever go near Nick again." He commanded in a firm voice.

He did not mean to sound like he was dictating what she could and could not do, but he only wanted her safe. He was only thinking of what would be best for her.

He moved closer to her until he was only inches away from her. He took the ice bag away from her arms and placed her in his embrace. He would protect her no matter what.

"Wait a minute." She did not like the way it seemed like he was ordering her around. "I'm not your damsel in distress that you have to keep on saving. I am capable of doing that for myself."

She suddenly looked at Alex the way she had looked at her dad. She realized that he sounded like Ethan, always telling treating her like she was a child, a delicate piece of object that needed protecting.

She had run away from him because she had enough of his control, but it would seem that Alex was doing the same thing. She could not handle if he, too, would start taking charge of her life.

"I did not want to sound like I am controlling your life. I am sorry." He could see that she did not appreciate what he said. Her face frowning indicated that she was not happy with their situation.

It was never his intention, but the incident earlier warrants for him to intervene with the scene. He could not stand idly by while that scumbag ex-fiance assaulted his girl.

"How did you even know that I went to Nick's office?" She questioned him. Then, a lightbulb suddenly lit and enlightened her confusion. "Of course, all your men are loyal to you."

She finally figured that despite Ben promising not to tell, he still reported what she did. She suddenly felt like she was that young girl who kept fighting for her independence.

"Don't blame Ben. He was only doing his job. Besides, he was concerned that you might be in danger." He tried to defend the man responsible for guarding her with his life.

"Ok, then I blame you." She said in irritation. "You can't keep tracking my activities. I am more than able to defend myself."

Although she knew that his intention had always been noble, she still could not help but be annoyed with the way he was acting. She never liked this part of him that always wanted to protect her.

Sometimes she felt he was becoming overbearing. Since he always seemed to be overdoing it. He acted as if she was in constant danger when she had lived all her life in this city without fearing for her life.

"What about earlier when Nick had his hands on you?" He could not keep his anger contained anymore, just thinking about it. He was not mad at her, but he was furious with how she put her life in a difficult situation.

"I was handling it just fine. I already put Nick in his place. If you must know, I was already on my way out when you came." She proudly told him. She did not like that he was not taking her seriously.

As far as she was concerned, she could have handled the situation on her own. She was able to defend herself against Nick. She did sustain some bruises, but it did not mean that Nick was able to overpower her.

"Oh! Really?" Alex understood what she was trying to say. "But look at what he did. What if you failed to stop his assault? We can't be too careful." But he needed her to see his point of view too.

He was sure that this was not the last they would encounter Nick or similar situations that might cause her harm. He had to have a guarantee that Nick would never be able to touch her again.

"You will never be able to protect me all the time." She stated frustratedly. "You can't keep dropping everything to run to my rescue." She guessed that he left his obligations again for her.

She could not live in fear, hiding behind him or his men to protect her. She learned to defend herself, exactly, for this reason. She had become to become stronger to survive on her own.

"You can't ask me not to think about your safety. I promise your dad that you are now my responsibility." He reasoned with her as he held her hands in his. He wanted her to listen to him.

"I think I should be getting back to my office," Dani muttered while making a sigh.

She slowly pulled her hands from his, stood on the couch, and grabbed her bag. She did not want to argue with Alex anymore. She felt it was necessary to put some space between them in the meantime.

"I think you should stay and rest. I will call Jacky and tell her to cancel the rest of your appointments." He offered, thinking that she was taking this incident too lightly.

"I can't stay here. I am hardly hurt since you made sure of that. Remember." She somehow sounded sarcastic, but she could not help it. "I still have a lot of work to do."

She walked out of his apartment despite his appeal for her to stay. It felt like she needed to stand her ground.. He had to understand that she was a very independent woman.

Chapter 357 - Wake-up Call

She just finished with her hair and makeup. She already wore her new gown. All that was left was to put on her matching shoes. Then, she was ready to go.

She looked at the mirror to check on her masterpiece. She had put some extra care into making herself look stunning for her man. She had to guarantee that he would fall for her charms.

"You look delightful in that dress." A man stood behind her and whispered in her ears as his lips kissed her cheeks and his hands started caressing her exposed neck and shoulders.

She was indeed quite beautiful with a body to match. She was cunning and vile, an asset that she was proud to possess. Besides that, she was incredible in bed.

"Because you always know what is good for me." She teased him as she turned around to face him, running her fingers on the side of his muscular arms until they landed on his chest. "You certainly know what I like, Nick."

She spread her palm flat on the surface, feeling his steady heartbeat as she stared into his eyes. She maintained his gaze, not wavering as she convinced him that she was still a part of his world.

"And you certainly know what to do with it." His hands slid down on her back until it settled on her behind, giving it a firm squeeze before letting her go. "Shall we go, Cassie?"

As much as he would like to play with her and enjoy her delectable body, where they were going was more important at the moment. He finally let go of her body and assisted her out of the apartment.

"Where are we going? What is this meeting all about?" She asked him, hoping that he was still under her spell.

If he answered her question, she would know that he still trusted her. She had to determine where she stood in this situation. It could mean her life and freedom.

He sat in the backseat with her as the chauffeur drove them to their destination. He studied her under his gaze, deeply thinking if he could still trust her.

"Well, I think you will like where we are heading. As Edward said before, we are moving up our timeline." He finally spoke up and told her just a few bits of information to feed her curiosity.

After what happened earlier with Dani, he still could not figure out why Dani wanted to see her. What was her connection with Cassie? With the delicacy of their situation, he could not afford to make any mistake.

He had to be careful in everything he did and said, especially in front of Cassie. Until he had proven that she was still worth his trust, he would be wary of her presence.

"Then, I can't wait." She smiled, acting excited and giggly with his plans. Just like before, she started doing her part.

She put on her invisible mask and behaved like a dumb bimbo that all she could do was do his bidding and make him happy. It had been her ammo against him from the very start.

All she had to do was feed his ego, and in return, he would give her what she wanted. Her assets had been her way around him, and she would continue to use them until she found a way to escape.

"Me too." He replied, taking her hand and teasing it with peppered kisses.

A few more minutes, they had stopped in a famous underground club that they had frequented in the past. Nick loved to invest in this kind of business.

He found the business lucrative. It was also a nice place to conduct his other private meetings since he could avoid the prying eyes of his enemies and the law.

"Don't you just love this place?" He whispered in Cassie's ears as the hostess ushered them to the exclusive section.

Men and women scattered the room, consisting of patrons and their guests. This establishment offered a different sort of entertainment. This place offered an assortment of activities that enticed their wealthy clients.

Illegal activities predominated around the place, making it the perfect place for his more lucrative projects. Nobody dared bother him nor messed up with his business.

"Yes," She answered as she smiled at him shrewdly. She had to play the part perfectly.

He could not suspect her plans, or else she would be screwed. If she wanted to get away from him, she had to do it tonight. Before he finally discovered her secrets. Then, she would be as good as dead.

He ordered them some drinks as they waited for their guest. If her suspicion was correct, she believed they were meeting the prince again to finalize their plans.

"Who are we meeting anyway?" She asked casually, feigning boredom as they sat and drank on one of the corners, with the view of the entire room.

"Patience, my dear. I made sure to be early. I want to see his grand entrance." He told her as he sat comfortably in the soft cushion of his chair, watching the people that roam around the place.

He never liked coming in late in a meeting. It always put the latecomer at a disadvantage. As the saying went, the early bird caught the worms.

"Then, can I at least go dance on the dance floor?" She stood up from her chair and moved to his lap, playing with his hair with her fingers.

"Fine." He grabbed her arms and pulled her closer, kissing her intensely until she was barely breathing from the pressure of his lips. Then, he finally let her go, allowing her to move out of his grip.

"What about you? Don't you like to dance?" She stretched her hands to him, alluring him to join her. But she already knew that he would not.

"You go ahead and dance for me. I will join you later." He told her as his eyes kept glancing around him. "Cassie." He called her back before she could step further. "Stay where I can see you."

He did enjoy watching her move. She was a good dancer, very graceful in her movement. She could stand out in a sea of people as soon as she let her body sway to the rhythm.

The way she ground her body to the music had always been a prelude to what she could offer to him once they were in his bed. She was a vixen sent to torture him.

Then, his eyes caught the man he had been waiting for, and he was just on time. The same hostess earlier showed his guest to his table, guiding him through the crowded place until he stood in front of him.

"Welcome home, my brother. How was your flight? I hope you are ready to join the family business." Nick stood from his chair and started to hug the man he had not seen for a long time.

He could certainly use his help. That was if he had finally changed his mind about being part of his plans.. He had been reluctant to participate in his grand master plan, but maybe this time, he ultimately had a wake-up call.

Chapter 358 - Rich, Arrogant, Snobby Man

"You know I only came here because I accepted a job." The newcomer said to the man that claimed to be his brother, declining the drink handed to him.

He took the seat that Nick offered to him and ordered his preferred drink. He looked around the room, assessing the place. Then, his eyes focused on the dance floor, finding a woman staring back at them.

"You can always work at the hospital and help me out in your spare time, Jacob." Nick pointed out, disrupting his focus, returning his attention to his brother.

Nick only learned that he had a brother when his father died and left the company to him. In the last will that his father left, it stipulated his last wish. It included that he should find his bastard brother.

For Nick to get his entire inheritance, he had to help Jacob succeed in the life he wished to become. His father only left a few of his wealth to Jacob, but he assured that his other son would have enough to have a comfortable life.

"Although I am thankful to you for helping me get through medicine, it did not mean that I owed you anything." Jacob clarified his reason for transferring to this city. "I am not here to work for you." To make it clear.

He had hated his father for impregnating his mother, then leaving her to fend for herself. He had to grow up without a father and a struggling mother.

Luckily, his mother had been a great woman. She had been both a father and a mother to him, growing up. He had a happy childhood even if he did not get all he wanted nor had a father to support him and be there for him.

"If you ever change your mind, know that you are always welcome to join my company." Nick reiterated as his attention went to another man walking towards their table.

He might not feel any sibling love for his brother, but he could see his potential. Jacob was smart and capable of helping him in the business. He believed that Jacob would be a great addition to his personnel.

"I will not count on it, brother," Jacob stated with conviction. He had discovered the business that his father left Nick when his older brother had taken him under his wings.

His brother offered to send him to school and take care of his and his mother's needs. He even paid their loans and house mortgaged. Nick said that it was the wish of their father to help him.

But in exchange, he had to do some errands for him. At first, it was a small job that he could do in his spare time. But as time went on, the tasks had turned more complicated.

"I hope I am not disturbing anything important." The newcomer that Nick was waiting for had finally arrived, cutting off his conversation with his brother.

He had arrived a few minutes ago, but he stayed in obscurity. He wished to observe the man he would be meeting with before showing himself to him.

He could see that he was having a conversation with someone he did not recognize. He could sense a bit of argument in the way their body language suggested. But it was too subtle to be even noticed by untrained eyes.

"No, not at all." Nick quickly stood up and shook the hand of his new client. "You have to excuse me if I have to bring along my brother with me. He just arrived in town, and I wish to show him around."

Jacob stood up from his sitting position and offered his hand to the stranger. He seemed to be a very significant person in his brother's eyes. But to him, he was just another rich snob. "Jacob."

"I don't mind at all. If your brother is as good as you, then you might be able to convince me to join your group." The man reacted with a wide grin on his face and shook the young man's hand.

"Unfortunately, he had no passion for our line of business. He is a doctor who will be starting his practice at the County General Hospital." He knew that it was a noble profession but still had a bitter taste on his lips.

He knew that his brother's talent would be wasted in his chosen job but would have become a great asset in his business instead. But he could not force him to do his bidding just yet.

"I guess a loss for us, but a great gain for mankind." The man who still had not divulged his name to Jacob said sarcastically.

He believed that there were people who were born to serve humanity. Then, there were those extraordinary men and women created to rule the world.

"It depends on one's perspective," Jacob responded to the man's words, not at all offended but proud of his chosen field.

He did not come here to entertain his brother's clients. Nick asked him here to see him, nothing more. He was here just as a courtesy to him, as his brother by blood.

"Yes, it does." Nick finally intervened in the conversation. "Why don't you have a taste of this delicious scotch? I ordered it just for you." Nick interjected, knowing that his new client was a fanatic in this particular brand and year.

On the other hand, Jacob decided to excuse himself from the discussion. He had no interest in their topic of conversation. He walked to the bar to replenish his drink and found the woman on the dance floor earlier ordering a drink.

He had already forgotten about her, but seeing her again spiked up his curiosity once again. He walked towards her and sat down on the empty stool a sit away from her.

"I'll have a beer." He told the woman behind the counter, giving her a friendly smile.

If he was to catch this woman's attention, he had to act differently from what most men around here did.. He should not behave to be a rich, arrogant, snobby man, like his half-brother.

Chapter 359 - Another Time

The lady bartender was also a bit surprised but went to go and get his drink. That probably also caught the attention of the other girl near him. She turned her head to look in his direction.

But instead of smiling at him, she just shook her head in disbelief. Though she did smile eventually, it was a grin, saying she was more amused by him than the situation.

"What is so funny?" He finally asked as he also turned to her, looking directly at her. "Do I have something on my face?" He patted his cheeks as if he was trying to remove an invisible speck.

He did not plan to use that as a start-up conversation, but the opportunity presented itself, so he had to grab it by the balls. He was never great at pick-up lines, not having any practice with going out with random girls.

He did not usually come up to girls at a bar. In truth, he rarely had been inside a bar. With his busy schedule, going out had always been out of the question, much alone dates.

"Nothing." She replied but then again changed her mind. "You, I guess. I am not used to men in this place ordering a cheap beer. It diminishes their social standing." She explained to him, slightly curious about this stranger.

Men who usually came to this kind of place wanted attention. He had to prove to the other that he was better, wealthier, and more powerful.

The more expensive their alcohol and cigarettes were, the more respect they felt they deserved. Booming markets, trade successes, business alliances, and mergers were only a few of their status symbols.

"Well, I am not a man of this place. I am just passing through. So, that should answer your question." He responded to her even if she did not ask him any question.

He could read it in her eyes, her curiosity about his identity. He suddenly wondered if she knew his brother. He remembered her looking at their table earlier. Or was she interested in him?

"I guess that much." She replied quickly, slightly challenged by this man. She looked in her date's direction and immediately locked eyes with him. She concluded that he was still watching her every move.

He still had not forgotten about her. It would have been easier for her to execute her plan if she could find a way to distract him. He thought that this man would do the trick, but it seemed that it did not work.

She returned her gaze at the man next to her. She could sense that he did not seem to be the typical man she met in this place. He was different. He still looked young but old enough to be part of these underworld activities.

She wondered what he was doing talking to her date. He did not look like he could hurt a fly. His face did not seem to be haunted by his crime. But then again, looks could be deceiving.

"What about you? Are you one of them?" His voice contained a challenge for her to answer him truthfully.

He was not naive about what this place was. It was full of secrets and lies that could be dangerous to anyone who did not belong, just like him.

But his brother was a bit up in the ladder, so nobody would dare to touch him unless it was he who would order the hit. As of now, he did not see any reason for him to fear for his life. Not that he knew of anyway.

"I'll have what he is having." She ordered, thinking that it should answer his query. "Bottoms up." She grabbed the bottle and drank directly from it, not waiting for the bartender to pour it on clear glass.

She watched him follow her lead as they both finished the drink in one go. She had a high tolerance for alcohol. Getting drunk was the least of her worries.

But somehow, she had to get rid of this man. She could not have him watching her every move, especially if he could be a part of what she was running away from, or else she would never be able to escape.

"You should be careful. I think you are asking for trouble by drinking too much." He had already seen her with a drink earlier. Then, another one before he walked near her.

He could tell that she was no ordinary woman. She was someone with a unique and strong personality. But it did not mean that men could not take advantage of her. After all, she was still vulnerable to cruel and despicable men that dominated this place.

"Can I ask you a favor?" She knew it. Her guess was correct. This man was different.

He was not like most of these men. They were all losers who tried to overcompensate, using money and power to cover up their shortcomings as decent human beings.

"What is it?" He asked, willing to help her with whatever she needed.

He always thought that men ought to treat women as if they were delicate flowers. They deserved to be loved, cared for, and respected, just like his mother.

"Can you stay here and guard my bag? I am just going to the dance floor and dance unless you care to join me." She appeared to be ordering him subtly in his consciousness.

It was an ability she slowly developed over the years. With her charms, in addition to her wit, she was able to manipulate men to do what she wanted.

He had two options. He could stay on the counter and watch, or he could dance on the dance floor. Either way, she was good with it. She could work on both scenarios to her advantage.

"I am sorry, but I will have to pass." He answered her, not that he did not dance. He could not at the moment. He remembered that he had to make a call. It was an important one that he could not put aside.

Although, he did feel slightly disappointed because it would have been nice to dance with her.. Maybe another time, he thought as he watched her sashayed away.

Chapter 360 - Last Attempt For Salvation

"Suit yourself." She replied, slightly disappointed that her appeal did not work on him.

She stood up, and without looking back, she proceeded to the center of the place and tried to catch everyone's attention. In this case, all eyes would be on her.

That included her date for the night, the stranger, and the other men, lusting over her body since she started dancing earlier. A plan had been concocting in her mind as soon as the stranger came looking for her.

"Let me see..." She mumbled to herself as she swayed her hips to the beat. "... how long you can keep your hands to yourself." She finished her thought as she sexily moved her body for everyone to see.

She could feel their eyes on her even if she could not see them with her eyes closed. She could imagine one man was furious with her action, another man was curious, and the others only wanted to touch her.

A few seconds later, a man stood behind her and had his hands on her hips, putting pressure on her skin. If he kept pushing his fingers tighter, it might make a bruise.

"You are such a tease." An unfamiliar voice uttered near her ears.

Hearing him did not frighten her one bit. On the contrary, it made her smile as she began to map up her next plan.

At first, she feared that Nick would be the one to join her. That would certainly ruin her plans, but it was a risk she had to take. Then, the stranger might try his luck with her.

She knew she could work with that. But it was still not the best solution to her situation. Her initial plan was better, she believed. The one that did not involve the stranger.

"I was just dancing and minding my business." She responded, not stopping him from moving his hands around her body. One landed on her stomach while the other one went down on her exposed thighs.

She could sense that he was a big man. Exactly what she had in mind. She could feel his firm grip as it played with her body. She could only guess that he was the creep that had been lusting over her.

She did not mind his touch or the way his lips now attacked her neck. She had endured this kind of sleaziness from Nick, what was one more time for her plan to escape.

"I don't think you will mind if I keep you company." He whispered in between his ragged breaths. "What about my place?" This time, his hand had gone up under her skirt, and his other one had started squeezing her boobs.

To all the men watching her, it would seem that she had enjoyed every minute of it. But unknownst to them, she hated it. She wanted to puke from what he was doing to her. But it had to be done.

"..." Before she could answer the man, someone pried him away from her, almost making her lose her balance from the impact of the force.

The next thing she knew, the man flew away on the floor. She was left standing in the middle of the scene, waiting for what would happen next.

"You son of a b*tch." He heard a familiar voice shout in rage. She knew she had to do something, but she was stunned by what happened and could only watch as Nick started beating the guy.

The man who dared to touch her tried to recover and punch back, but Nick avoided the first throw. But the second one landed hard on his cheek, throwing him slightly off.

"Stop, Nick," Cassie shouted, acting the part of a distressed girlfriend as best as she could.

However, Nick found a chair and smacked the guy with it, making him land again on his back. Nick was about to do more assault on him, but the stranger who stood at the side finally tried to stop them.

This time, she realized that it was her time to run away. She snapped out of her initial shock and started thinking of her escape strategy. She slowly slipped around the other man watching the brawl until the bouncers helped to stop the fight.

By that time, she was already out the door, trying to find a way to get away as far as she could. She kept looking at her back, thinking that Nick and his men were already coming after her.

She ran to the other side of the street, hoping to find a ride. The streets looked deserted. The club was not exactly in the middle of the city.

All she could see was the empty road, a few darkened buildings, and a few luxurious cars on the parking lot. She believed that hailing a cab on her way to her freedom was not likely to happen in this scenario.

So, she had to improvise. She tried the first car near her. "Why do they have to lock their doors? Don't they trust anyone anymore?" She muttered under her breath, frustrated with her situation.

She had to find a way out of this place soon, or they would find her and catch her. After that, she could only guess her fate, and it was not something she could look forward to since she would be dead.

"Come on. Think." She kept whispering to herself, afraid that she was running out of time.

Then she saw the convertible that was parked a few cars away from her. She rushed to its side and checked the front side, but there were no keys. She had no idea of how to hotwire a car.

Finally, she abandoned the idea and ran towards the road where she would try her luck. When she thought that she was far enough, she hid behind the bushes, just in case a familiar car came looking for her.

"You can do this. You have to be patient." She could only think of one thing she had to do. She had to reach Alex because he was the only one who could help her.

She laid down on the rocky ground, finding herself exhausted, drunk, and frustrated. It would seem that the alcohol she had consumed was more than her body could handle. Add up the stress of the night.

She tried to stay awake and command herself to stand up when she saw a car coming by, but it had been too much of an effort. She could not even clearly see the car since it was dark.

"I'm sorry for the wrong things I had done." She mumbled in the dark, seeing a shadow of a man standing up above her.

She could only think of one man who would be looking for her, and now he had found her. She closed her eyes, resigning to her fate. She could beg for her life, but she believed this time, it would not work.

She had done something unforgivable in his eyes. Nick would never let this pass even if he had liked her. He would surely exact his revenge on her once he learned of all she had done against him.

Finally, she found herself dosing off or passing out cold on the ground, thinking that it was her end. "I'm sorry.." She uttered again in her last attempt for salvation.