

Royal Contract 541

[Chapter 541 - Desire For The Flesh](#)

Back in the city, inside the privacy of his office. He looked at the uninvited visitor who had just walked into the room without his permission. To say that he was astonished would be an understatement.

He was not expecting that she would be standing in his presence at this very moment. On the contrary, he thought that she would still be disappointed with him after his cancellation.

"I will admit I am surprised to see you, Jacky, but I am glad you are here." He immediately left his desk and walked toward her to greet her. "Actually, you are just in time. I am famished."

He quickly enveloped her in his embrace and claimed her lips with his hungry ones. He prolonged the kiss as if he was a starving man, getting his fill, not yet ready to let her go. With the help of his hands, he made her feel his longing for her.

Eventually, he had to come up for air, reluctantly releasing her supple lips. He let his hands settle on her hips, steadying her after their passionate kiss.

"I was not expecting that kind of welcome either." She finally found her voice after catching up with her breath. Her hands encircled tightly around his neck for support as she stared into his eyes.

She could not help but smile, feeling relieved that he did not mind her sudden appearance. At the same time, she felt ecstatic after the warm greetings she had just received.

"Come on, what did you bring me?" Marcus pulled her with him behind his desk, but he did not offer her a seat. He made her sit on his lap instead.

He knew he was busy, but he could not turn her away. He liked that she came to see him. In addition, he was honestly hungry. Suddenly, feeling his stomach protesting from the lack of food.

He remembered that his secretary offered to order him some dinner, but he mumbled something about asking her later. Then, he had forgotten all about it until now.

"It is nothing much. It was supposed to be my dinner, but I thought of sharing it with you." She explained as she pulled the food containers out of the bag.

There was more than enough for one since she liked to cook some extra. Then, she would store the rest for the next day. It would be handy if she could not cook or did not want to cook.

Ever since Dani moved out, cooking for one had been depressing for her. Living alone brought back memories of the times she struggled to survive by herself.

"Stopped moving too much, or we might end up not eating any of that food." He teased her, biting his lips to stop himself from saying more.

She kept adjusting her ass on his lap as she moved to prepare their dinner on the desk in front of them. Suddenly, his idea seemed not such a bright idea after all as it backfired on him.

He could not blame himself for feeling that way. It had been a while since he had sex. Not because he did not have an opportunity to have some, but he chose to abstain from it.

"That is not funny." She replied, not that she was offended by his teasing. On the contrary, she was also feeling the same way. It had been a long time since she had been with a man.

As a matter of fact, he was the last man she was in bed with. Although she tried to date and look for another man that would replace him in her heart. She never did end up hooking up with any of them.

Maybe because her heart and mind knew that she only belonged with him. It appeared that unconsciously she had been preserving herself for him.

"I am not trying to be funny." He said seriously this time as he pulled her even closer to his body, letting her feel how much he had missed her.

Most of the girls who had been throwing themselves at him were very attractive, beautiful, intelligent, sexy, and hot, but they had one flaw. All of them were not her.

Since he realized that losing her was the biggest mistake he had ever made in his life. He never could see another woman in the same way again. He could only think about her and how much he was a prick to her. He had wanted her back.

"Well, I am not laughing either." She said to him in almost a whisper, turning around to face him. This time, she claimed his lips for another round.

She wrapped her arms around his shoulder, leaning even closer to his body. She wanted to feel him closer to hers, wanting his warmth to seep through her skin.

She could feel that he wished for the same thing as his hands wrapped around her waist, his palm planted on the surface of her back, pulling her tighter against his solid chest.

"I miss you so much." Marcus finally voiced out after she released his lips and worked her way down his neck.

The only thing that stood in their way was their clothes, preventing them from feeling their skin against each other. There was an easy fix to such a situation, she thought.

She started to pull the loose tie wrapped around his neck. Then, she worked on unbuttoning his shirt while he did the same, following her cue.

"I miss you too." She responded as she continued to kiss him just below his ears.

They were halfway to removing the clothes from their upper body when a startled voice alerted them of another person's presence in the room.

It was like a cold bucket of ice was poured over their bodies, making them realize that they were inside an office. Although it was late, it was still full of buzzing employees.

"I am sorry." The female voice said apologetically, not expecting what she would witness inside the room. "I will just come back in a few minutes."

She immediately turned her back away from the scene and walked out of the room. She usually knocked on the door before coming in, but it was already beyond office hours.

Then, she had an urgent business she needed to discuss with her boss. She just did not see the point of being formal. The only problem was, she did not know that he had a visitor inside.

"Oh, my!" Jacky scrambled out of his lap and quickly fixed her clothes, but she could not help herself as she started laughing at their situation.

"What is so funny this time?" Marcus asked with a confused smile on his face, seeing that she was enjoying herself after what happened.

He also started fixing the button of his shirt but did not bother to put back the tie on and let it just lie on the floor where she threw it earlier.

He always liked her easy-going style. Not letting small things bother her. It was one of the many of her qualities that he had loved about her.

"Nothing and everything." She answered as she returned her attention to the food they had forgotten all about. "You and me." She added, not making sense at all.

Her mind just went back to all those times when they both thought that the only connection they had was sex. They were only compatible because of their sexual attraction to one another.

Presently, she had no more doubt that some deeper feelings had linked them together.. The way they felt about each other now was more than a desire for the flesh.

[Chapter 542 - Walking Into A Trap](#)

The big boss had returned to his car immediately after he had checked on her. He had not planned to stick around for long. He just wanted to see for himself that everything he had planned was working perfectly according to his instructions.

Only his men knew his true identity. For Nick's men, he was just another associate of their boss who came here to do his bidding. But he made sure to avoid being seen, making sure that his path was cleared every time he moved around the place.

"Thank you for showing me around." He told the doctor before closing the door on him, dismissing his services for the night.

Nobody should suspect who he was, why he was here, and his intentions. So far, he was happy with what his men had done so far. All he needed now was for Nick to comply with all his demands.

He would have taken Ms. Hamilton with him, but that would alarm Nick of his presence. Besides, it would ruin what he had planned for her and her father. Her time would come, and she would vow to him eventually. He just needed to be patient.

"Are you sure that everything around here is under your control?" He asked the man, sitting at his side.

He was the only man he trusted in this entire operation. Still, not absolutely. He still had doubts about him. As his father had told him before, he could only trust himself entirely. The rest would always protect their own interest before him.

"Yes, for now." The man answered with a tone he only used when he had some suspicions. "I think the doctor is losing his grip on his men." He finally spoke up about his concern.

He had heard some rumors about the complaints he was getting about the unusual behavior of the doctor lately. He had always been odd, eccentric at some point, but they always attributed it to his genius mind.

However, when his work was starting to affect his team. Then, that was a different issue that he had to address. He could not allow it to fester inside the organization and rot. It would destroy what they had built so far.

"Then, have Samson checked on him from time to time. Make sure that he will not create any problems. If the doctor so much makes a mistake, he knows what to do." He ordered as he watched the dark scenery in front of him.

He had lived in a place like this before. He had loved it, growing up with fresh air blowing on his face and with birds chirping just outside his window.

The ray of the sun would wake him up as it showered its bright light on the window of his room while the moon cast its gentle glow at night.

"I will." Then, he realized that he had not seen or heard from Samson since they had arrived.

He wondered where he was all this time. But he was confident that he must be just checking on things. He would eventually turn out and report to him.

For now, he was escorting his boss back to the private jet that would take them back home. He and his boss were unaware of the impending chaos that was about to happen in the place they had just left.

Meanwhile, back in the fortress, the other team led by Tim had already infiltrated one of the buildings. The barn, where the prince was held before he was transferred to the other building.

"Look at this." One of the men found the rope that bound their boss. He also saw traces of blood on the floor and on the wooden post.

He could only guess that it belonged to the prince when he was tortured. But there was no sign of a pool of blood, so there was hope that he was still alive somewhere in the other buildings.

"Ok. We already eliminated some of the men, but they still have outnumbered us. So, we need to be more careful." One of the team leaders told his men as they regrouped to discuss their next objective.

One man served as a lookout in one of the windows, moving to the upper floor. While the rest took their place, readying themselves to go out and scout the other buildings.

One of their objectives was to rescue their boss and his wife. Another one was to achieve their first objective without any casualty. They could not alert the other team of their presence to accomplish their mission without shedding their blood.

"Sir, I think I saw a movement in the other building." The man on the lookout warned them before they could even step outside the door.

He adjusted the scope of his gun to see clearly the shadows that were moving slowly on the side of the building. He saw a big man with a gun in his hand. But he could not see clearly the other who stood behind him.

"What do you see?" The team leader asked, waiting for a go signal to proceed to their next target.

They had noticed that the guards had dwindled down to a minimum of three to four that roamed the grounds. It would appear that they had relaxed on their security.

It turned out to go in their favor, making their jobs a lot easier than before. Instead of dealing with double that size, they only had to eliminate half of the guards.

"I am not sure yet. Just wait for a few seconds." The man asked their team leader, adjusting his lenses again, and found a better angle.

He could not be too sure of what was happening on the other side of the building. But he could not lead his teammates into an ambush, which was very likely in situations like this.

Somebody might have accidentally discovered the dead bodies they had taken down and alerted the others about their presence.. They could be walking into a trap right now.

[Chapter 543 - An Escape Plan](#)

A few minutes earlier, he had thought that he was hallucinating everything that was happening to him. He woke up with a headache and an aching body.

Many things occurred while he was sleeping. He was unsure if those were real or just part of his dreams or illusions. He had been on and off from consciousness. Determining the real deal became difficult.

"Alex." Her voice floated in the air, bouncing on the walls of the room. It was not loud, but it was more than enough to reach his ears.

Hearing her voice was like a heavy load had been lifted off his shoulder. He felt so much relief, knowing that she was safe and alive. At that moment, it was all he needed. She was the air he needed to breathe.

He turned his body as much as he could, but he only saw a glimpse of her as the pain still restricted his movements. Well, he did not need to see her face to know that it was her walking toward him.

"Alex, are you ok?" Her sweet voice penetrated the silence, making melodies in his still slightly drug state mind.

She could see from her position when she entered the room that he had struggled to move. However, Samson had already briefed her on what he had gone through.

She quickly moved to his side, careful not to touch any of his injuries. She could tell that Nick and his men did a number on him. She noticed all the bruises on his face. She could only imagine what his body had to endure.

But she was glad that it was not as worse as she initially had assumed. She knew that Alex was a tough guy. If anyone could get through this, it was him.

"I am glad to see you, Dani. Are you ok? Are you hurt? Did Nick do anything to hurt you?" Alex fired his questions as the fuzziness in his mind started to clear up and made more sense, remembering more distinctly their situation.

He raised his hands to touch her cheeks, wondering if she was real or just an illusion playing tricks on him. Well, he had been dreaming of her, on and off, since he was placed in a semi-comatose state.

He blamed himself for putting them in this position. He should have never taken for granted their security. Instead, he should have doubled it and double-checked everything after what happened to Tim.

Now, he had put his wife in danger because of his lack of foresight. But he had been preoccupied with the excitement of the moment.

The thought of marrying the woman he loved had been the only thing he had on his mind during that time. But that was just his excuse. He still felt it was his fault for not prioritizing her safety.

"You should not be worrying about me." Dani grabbed his hands that were still on her cheeks and pulled them into her lips, kissing them. "I am ok." Dani was trying hard not to cry.

The last thing she wanted was for him to feel that their situation was hopeless. She smiled at him and showed him how happy she was to see him.

"As much as I want to witness the happy reunion, we have to move before they catch us." Samson interrupted the couple, who seemed to be in their little bubble, unaware of the danger that surrounded them.

He still could not believe that he was risking his neck for them. But he just could not see two innocent people killed. Well, not exactly, since he had killed many before.

Something about her or what she said convinced him to help them. He realized that he did not want to be a part of this organization anymore. He was done being a criminal.

"Who is he?" Alex had finally noticed the big man when he came into his view, pulling Dani to his side to protect her.

He believed he had not seen him before or had no recollection. But someone like him would be hard to miss, he thought as he searched his mind for his memories.

"This is my friend. He is the one guarding me." She introduced the big man to her husband, trying to calm him down.

She could sense that Alex considered Samson a threat based on his actions. She could not blame him after what he had gone through. Trusting anyone other than his men would be hard for him.

"He is one of them." It was more of a statement than a question. He was on alert upon confirming he was part of the criminals who took them.

He had always prepared himself for something like this. During childhood, he had heard stories of the abduction of royalties or wealthy kids in exchange for financial ransoms.

In their case, he knew that money was not what motivated Nick, which made it more dangerous. Nick had something he wanted. Once Nick had it, he knew that Nick would dispose of him.

He was not afraid to die. He had prepared for it since he was young. But he was terrified to leave Dani behind. He could not allow Dani to land in the hands of Nick.

"I am Samson." The big man said, hoping that introducing himself would ease the situation.

He could not blame the man for doubting his intentions. Even he was still confused about his actions. However, they had no time for chitchats. They had to move as soon as possible.

"Yes, Samson was one of them. But he is now helping us escape." Dani said, pulling Alex's face towards her, trying to convince her husband that Samson was not the enemy.

She could see that her husband was still unconvinced with her statement. She could not blame him when most of the men belonging to this group were hardened criminals who probably had lost all their morals long before.

If she had not seen people driven to crimes because of unavoidable circumstances in their life. She might not believe that Samson still had a chance to change.

But she honestly believed that Samson was different. He was one of those who still had a chance to rehabilitate and turn to the good side.

"How can you be sure that he is not just leading us into some trap?" He was still skeptical about this man and his plans. He wondered what Dani was doing, trusting this criminal.

"Hey, this is not the time for arguments. We are running out of time." Samson interrupted the couple from continuing to discuss his merits.

As much as he did not want to regret being a part of this, fear was still creeping into his heart that they might get caught. This bickering about his character was not helping, in any way, with their situation.

"It is you." He suddenly remembered his voice. It finally clicked in his mind that he had heard it before. "You were here earlier, talking while I was barely awake."

He thought that he was only dreaming about the unknown voice. He had hoped it was one of his men who had come to rescue them.

Now, he realized it was not a dream. It was this big man who had visited him earlier.. He was the one talking about an escape plan.

[Chapter 544 - No Mercy](#)

He checked the seconds on his watch ticked by as he waited for his men to go give them the go signal to roll out. But his man was taking his sweet time in investigating the movement outside.

"Hurry up." The leader said impatiently on his mouthpiece. They were squandering valuable time just by standing inside the corner of the building when they should be moving to their next target.

Although, he also understood that the safety of his men was also invaluable in their mission. Still, he could not waste time since it was the only commodity they lacked. Every second counted in a situation like this.

"Wait." The man again said. He adjusted his night vision to get a good glimpse of the shadows hidden behind the darkness.

He was not letting his team move out without confirmation of who the man was and how many men he was with. Their opponents might be carrying heavy artillery that could put their teammates in jeopardy.

"What is the problem?" The team leader once again asked as he grew more impatient.

He knew that the more they prolonged their stay in one place, the more he was risking the lives of his men in danger. The longer the mission was delayed, the risk of them being caught by their enemies became higher.

"I said wait. I see a lot of movements not far from here." He repeated when he saw that his leader was about to take his team out to the open field, a bit impatient to accomplish their task.

"How many?" The leader asked him as he stopped on his track. He was conflicted about taking the risk or just waiting it out.

He believed he was missing an opportunity by sitting in their ass. He could easily tackle whoever it was, delaying them from performing what they set out to do.

Then, all of them heard Tim on their earpiece. "Stand down. I think I saw Prince Alex." His voice echoed into the ears of his entire team, making them all stop.

He had decided to move a bit closer to the perimeter. He found a slope that had a better angle of the grounds. From his position and using high-powered binoculars, he scouted the place without anybody noticing him.

When he checked out what his man was talking about, he believed that he saw the image of their boss, limping behind the big man. He was being carried by a small frame, who he thought might be the princess.

"Yes, I also think it is him and the princess standing behind the big man." The lookout finally confirmed what Tim had seen on his side. "What are they doing with that man?" He wondered aloud.

The team leader finally went up to the second floor and checked out what the fuss was about. From his angle downstairs, he could not see anything because something was blocking his view.

"Is he helping them escape?" The team leader was perplexed by what he witnessed, but he could not be sure.

However, it was what their posture and actions suggested to him at the moment. From the way the big man was protecting them, it appeared that he was on their side.

"I want you to watch them thoroughly. Do not let the prince out of your sight. Tell me what the man will do next." He indicated the big man that was leading the couple somewhere.

"Try to intercept them," Tim instructed his men, also unaware of what the other man was planning to do with the captives.

He could only hope that the unknown big man was leading them to their salvation and not to their doom. As for them, they had to figure out how they could facilitate their escape.

But at least now, he had seen that both of them were alive. He could breathe just a bit easier, but he knew the battle was still far from over.

They could only relax when the couple was safely back in their hands, the enemies were eliminated, and the masterminds had paid for their crimes.

"Yes, Sir." The team leader responded and listened to what Tim had to say. He realized that Tim had to improvise and change their plan. It was the only way, given the change in their circumstances.

He was glad that Tim had joined them in this mission despite his health condition. He believed he was still the best in creating on-the-spot strategies and gameplay.

He had to admit that he was still a long way from becoming anywhere near as great as Tim. Their leader would always be an asset rather than a liability to them.

Now, he had to confer with his team about the new plan. "Ok. Any questions?" He asked his team before concluding the brief meeting.

Finally, he led his team out of the barn and followed the group of three, still unaware of their presence too. He could see that they were going in the opposite direction, away from Tim.

He figured that if the big man was helping them escape. Then, he might have a different escape route in play. He just hoped he was aware of the danger that might be waiting for them on the other side.

He signaled for two of his men to take care of a guard on their left. So far, the lone man was still unaware of their presence as he continued to smoke, and he wanted to keep it that way.

He was just glad, for whatever reason, most of the guards disappeared by the time they had entered the premises. Only a few remained to keep watch for the night.

"Sir, I think they are heading in another direction on the other side." He reported to Tim. "But we are closing in on them before they reach the perimeter fence. I think that is where they are planning to exit."

He could not see any other way out except for them to climb the tall fence. He could not let them out of his sight. If they were to catch them, they had to move fast. They already had a headstart.

They almost caught up with them if not for the guards that kept blocking their path. Luckily, the trio seemed to escape the eyes of the patrol. Maybe the man guiding them was familiar with the routine.

"Wait. You see those men." He spoke to his team, pointing to a group of men coming from the other direction. They quickly hid again in the shadows to avoid being spotted.

He believed he had spoken too soon. He wanted to warn them, but he was too late. A group of men was walking in the direction of the three and moving fast.

He could count at least ten of them, but there could be more right behind. It was just a matter of time before the patrol saw them and captured them again.

He could already see their fate once they were caught. The big man would surely die on the spot for aiding them. The couple would surely suffer first, making them regret thinking of escaping.

But the ultimate punishment would be harsher than death.. There would be no mercy for any of them, that was for sure.

[Chapter 545 - The Sound Of Freedom](#)

He already knew that this would not end well for any of them. They had to respond fast before they were too late. He could already see that the trio was trapped and had nowhere to go.

Once the guards caught them, it would be harder for his team to get them back. There was a high chance that the couple might get hurt in the process if that ever happened. He had to think and act fast.

"Men, we need a diversion, quick." He spoke to his mouthpiece, making sure Tim was also aware of his plan. "Be ready because we are going in hot." It was a signal that they were about to go to battle.

They had no more choice but to make their presence known to their enemies. Either he started the fight, or his team would be on the defense.

However, he regarded that being offensive would seem to be a better choice at this point. He preferred the element of surprise to be on their side.

Two of his men carefully worked their way to the next building. Once in position, they gave the signal that they were ready. The team leader did not wait for Tim this time.

He was calling the shot, and everybody knew it, even Tim, as he had remained silent. The other group was about to intercept the trio. It was the time to strike.

He raised his fist in the air and started counting with his fingers. At the last count, everybody moved into position, ready to intercept the enemies.

"Take the shot." He ordered on his mouthpiece while the rest of the team moved to a better position.

The two who hid at the side of the building made the first shots. Two men in the opposing group abruptly dropped dead to the ground with bullets on their heads and blood gushing on the pavement.

The incident surprised the other group. Some immediately scrambled for cover, then the rest raised their guns in the direction of the shot, looking for the gunman.

Then, one by one, they opened fire on his men who were hiding behind the building. He was sure his men were secured in their hiding place, so he was not worried about them.

"Are you boys ok?" He asked his men, and they responded affirmatively.

He was glad he had accomplished his first objective without losing his men. He had diverted their attention away from the three, who were now safely hiding behind the bushes.

The three must have heard the gunshots and alerted them to keep themselves away from the patrol guards. At least that was one problem averted, for now, he thought.

"Men, prepare yourself because more are coming." He instructed as he took charge of their next attack. "We have to keep the attention to us so that the prince and the princess can safely escape."

He had to change the plan again. Instead of going after the couple, he would have to protect them. He would provide them a clear path to escape while they kept the enemies busy.

He just had to trust the big man to help them find a safe hiding place in the meantime. They would just have to look for them when this was all over.

"Sir, more are coming on our left." One of his men informed him.

He started shooting at the enemies firing at his men and got one of them, but there was more to go.

He noticed that the commotion had alerted more of the men inside the building as they hurriedly joined the battle. He had no choice now but for his team to face them head-on.

As expected, they were outnumbered, but he was not afraid because he knew that he had capable men at his side. They would fight honorably and with courage. Even fear of death would not stop them.

At the same time, he believed that they were better skilled in fighting than these common criminals. He was confident that they could tackle the task despite their slight disadvantage in numbers.

He, once again, glanced at the trio who had safely moved towards the fence. He only hoped that the big man knew what he was doing.

"Men, let us pick up the pace and wrap this up quick. I need a long bath soon." He said confidently on his mouthpiece, encouraging his men to fight without fear.

He could hear some of them laugh at what he said. But he knew that it helped them boost their morals somehow. In situations like this, it was one of the things that could help them win the battle. It was knowing that they had each other's back.

On the fence, while the place was in chaos. The three walked closer to the barricade that hindered them from escaping. It was a high barbed wire fence with spikes on the top portion.

"What happened?" Dani asked Samson, referring to the gunfire. Samson only shrugged his shoulder, having no idea if the fighting was about them or something else.

"Maybe they had discovered that we had escaped, but then again, why would they be shooting at each other." Dani again voiced her speculation as they continued to walk along the fence.

"Where are we going anyway?" Alex finally spoke up after conserving her energy on the task of limping to their freedom. Luckily, his feet were not damaged by the beating. He was still able to walk using his two feet.

However, his chest was hurting every time he forced it, causing him a hard time moving around without help. He had to rely on Dani's support so he could move a little faster, or he would not be moving at all.

"I have a car on the other side, waiting for us. I also arranged a small cottage where we can hide for the night or two until we can arrange for your rescue." Samson informed them as he continued to guide them away from the fighting.

"How do you intend for me to climb this fence?" Alex asked, still skeptical of his plans as he scanned the high wires and considered his condition.

"I guess you just have to fly," Samson answered him sarcastically, getting slightly irritated that the man was still doubting his help.

But before Alex could respond again, Samson stopped abruptly and showed them an opening in the corner of the fence. He had cut them earlier, creating an exit.

When Samson pushed the wire, it created a small space where they could squeeze their body out. It was big enough for each one of them to fit.

"Will this do?" Samson asked, hoping that he had proven his point.

"Thank you so much for doing this for us." Dani once again told him for probably the hundredth time.

It would have to be a tight squeeze for Samson due to his bulky body. While for Alex, it would be a difficult one. But it was better than climbing the fence. Dani had no problem since he was petite and was still in good shape.

As they got through the barrier, they quickly moved out of the open area and walked toward the car that Samson talked about. Once inside, the three finally had felt a lot better.

The sound of the engine was music to their ears. It was an old car that probably had seen its better days.. But the loud engine only signified one thing, the sound of freedom.

[Chapter 546 - Stolen A Kiss](#)

After visiting his brother, Nick had decided to go to the club. One drink later, he knew he was disinterested in the scene. Even the girls that approached him did not do anything to amuse him.

Staying in his house was not an option either. Going back to the office did not appeal to him too. He was running out of things to do because he only wanted one thing, but going back to the island was still out of his cards.

He grabbed his phone and checked for any messages, but his inbox was only filled with schedules. He put away his phone since he did not want to entertain any clients, not tonight.

He wished to get distracted from his thoughts even for the night. Not to keep thinking about the problems he had been handling the entire day.

"Ready the car. I am leaving." He told one of his bodyguards as he finished his drink and dismissed the two girls sitting beside him on the couch.

As much as he wanted to fly out tonight and be back on the island, he could not. He still had a board meeting that he could not miss early in the morning.

"I will see you some other time," Nick promised them, kissing each one before letting them leave. But he did not mean any of it. He could not care less about those girls.

Parking outside the building that he had visited a few hours ago, he looked up to the apartment he was supposed to go to. The lights were still on, but it did not matter if it was off. He owned the place. He would come and go as he pleased.

He figured that the woman who resembled Dani in some way would have to do for the night. He had already paid for her. He might as well get his money's worth.

He was about to go inside when he noticed a familiar car park outside not far from where he had parked. He would know that junk from anywhere.

"What is your car doing here?" He asked aloud as he stood outside his car, staring at the plates of the old rusty motor vehicle. "What are you up to, brother?" He questioned himself as he looked up to the building again.

He thought his brother had an emergency at the hospital, which was why he had to decline his request for dinner tonight. But this place was long away from the hospital that he was working at.

He decided to make a few calls for himself, just to check on his suspicion. After he had made a quick conversation with the information desk in the hospital. He had verified that his brother had lied to him.

"This is interesting." He thought as he walked towards the lobby of the building. "What are you hiding from me, my little brother?"

He believed his brother would not be staying in this place since he loved his trashy apartment so much. Maybe he was visiting a friend, but why would he lie about it, he thought.

Maybe his brother was keeping a lover that he was not yet ready to introduce to him. But then again, why the secrecy. Well, it only piqued his interest the more he thought about it.

Inside the building, in one of the apartments. Jacob visited his friend just like he used to do when he was not on duty in the hospital.

Instead of going out, as she initially planned, he eventually convinced her to remain inside and just have a quick dinner in her apartment. But he had no plan to stay long.

"Are you sure you don't want to stay for a movie marathon? I have prepared several of your preferred choices. I even have popcorns and chocolates." She bribed him to stay, tempting him with his favorites.

He was the only person she had been able to talk to since Alex had locked her up in this prison. It was not a cell with iron bars on it, but it certainly felt that way when she was alone and could not go out.

"I will just try to come back soon, Cassie. I don't like it when my brother is dropping by unannounced. I don't think he is snooping around, but I don't want him to suspect anything." Jacob once again explained to her why he could not stay.

Still, he did not want her to get alarmed when there was no reason yet to be. He still believed it was just a coincidence that his brother came to his home when he was about to visit her.

As much as he enjoyed her company and watching a movie with her, it was just not possible tonight. He still felt uneasy and a bit nervous the entire time they were together.

Maybe he was just paranoid, shocked to see his brother at his front step. Maybe, it was nothing at all. But he just did not want to throw caution in the wind. Not when her safety was involved.

"Fine." She responded with a wide pout on her lips, feeling sad and disappointed. She turned around and folded her arms across her chest as she stared at the window outside.

She knew she was acting like a child or a spoiled brat who did not get her way, but she was tired of her life. She was lonely and depressed. This was not the life she had envisioned for herself.

But there was another thing, she did not want him to leave just yet. She wanted him to stay for as long as possible. Although she did not want to admit it to herself, she liked him.

As much as she fought her feelings for him, she could not deny it anymore. She was attracted to him. She liked the brother of her ex-lover. But she knew she could not act on it. They should only remain as friends.

"Hey, don't be like that." Jacob walked toward her side and stood behind her.

He wished he could read what was going through her mind, but he could only sense that she was unhappy about her situation. However, he agreed with Alex. She was not safe until his brother was still roaming the streets.

He only hoped that Alex had more to work on against his brother so he could put him behind a prison cell to pay for his crimes. He might be his brother, but he was not condoning any of his wrongdoings.

He did not have a close relationship with Nick. Whatever help he got from Nick, he knew it came from their father and not him. Just like earlier. Nick only approached him because he needed something from him. Not because Nick wanted to bond with him.

He would not care if his brother rotted in jail since he believed Nick deserved it after all the crimes he had committed. They might have a few percentages of the same blood, but he still firmly believed they were completely different.

"I am sorry. You did not deserve that." She suddenly turned around, ashamed of her behavior. "Of course, you are right."

Jacob had already done so much for her. She should not punish him for her misery. He did not bring her these problems. She was only reaping what she sowed.

"Hey, I promise I will make it up to you once my brother has laid low again." Jacob placed his fingers on her chin and tilted her face, making her look into his eyes. "Am I forgiven?" He asked.

He could not leave her when she was in this mood. He understood what she was going through. It could not have been easy for her to be in this situation.

But instead of answering with words, she tiptoed towards him until her lips were aligned with his. Without any warning, she closed the gap and kissed him.

She closed her eyes, savoring the feeling of his soft lips against hers. Her hands wrapped around his neck, pulling him closer to her, so she could deepen the kiss.

She knew she should not have done that, but she was transfixed by his eyes. It was like it was calling to her. She believed she saw what she wanted to see in them.

Suddenly her dreams finally came true, and he stood in front of her, waiting for her kiss, just like what she had imagined it would be in her head. She liked kissing him. She was excited to feel his body pressed against hers.

But when he did not kiss her back, she knew that she had made a mistake. She suddenly felt like her dreams shattered in front of her. She concluded that he did not feel the same way as her.

She suddenly felt foolish for kissing him. Allowing her emotions to get the best of her.. Now, she had put herself in an awkward situation, feeling like she had just stolen a kiss from him.

[Chapter 547 - The Princess With The Long Hair, Locked In The Tall Tower](#)

"I am sorry." Cassie immediately looked away, pulling herself out of his reach. "I should not have done that." She went straight to the balcony, needing the distance and some fresh air to cool her face, which was probably burning red from embarrassment.

She internally reprimanded herself for acting out her fantasy about him. She should not have assumed that his act of kindness meant more than just the friendship he offered.

After a few seconds, she sensed that he had followed her outside, but he had not spoken a single word. He just stood behind her, probably quietly contemplating what prompted her to do what she did.

She knew Jacob was a good person. He would not say anything that would break her heart, but still, she knew that it would not change a thing. He just did not like her that way.

"Cassie, we need to talk." Jacob was a bit confused. At the same time, he felt elated.

He was initially shocked by her action. He was not expecting that she would kiss him. He did not know that she was attracted to him in that way.

She had never shown anything that would indicate that she wanted him more than a friend. Or was he just so dense that he did not notice it before?

"If it was about the kiss, it did not mean anything. I am sorry, but I was just lonely." She quickly made her excuse, not wanting to embarrass herself any further. "I guess it is making me act crazy."

She did not want to lose their friendship because of her stupidity. She should not have acted out on impulse and allowed her feelings to cloud her judgment.

Well, it had been a while since she had a male companion. She believed it was not about the sex but what she felt when she was with him.

But she could not discount that she might be feeling like this about him only because of her circumstances. But she could not also deny that he had most of the qualities she liked in a man.

"What if I say that you should not be sorry?" He whispered as he continued to stand right behind her, leaning closer until his breath almost touched the skin on the back of her neck.

He wished that their situation was different. But the fact was, it was what it was. He could not change it even if he wanted to. He could only live with it and make the most of it.

As of now, he was tired of fighting against their fate. He could not keep denying the pull that made it hard for him to stay away from her.

"What if I told you that I liked it when you kissed me?" He finally admitted also to himself that he enjoyed her lips on his.

He had wanted to kiss her for the longest time but was hesitant not to take advantage of her situation. He was not turned off that she made the first move. Actually, he was glad that she did.

But now, it was his turn to continue what she started as he turned her around to face him. With the help of his fingers, he made her look at him again.

She looked so adorable with her cherry cheeks on display, he thought as he continued to stare at her face. "Now, can I kiss you?" But he did not wait for a response as he lowered his face towards her.

He took it as a go signal for him to continue when she closed her eyes and did not object. He touched his lips gently to her red ones, tasting them once again. But, he did not linger long as he pulled back to look at her again.

She still had her eyes closed as if she was waiting for him to continue. But this time, her lips parted as if she was giving him permission to kiss her once again.

He did not need any additional encouragement as he kissed her again, this time more intensely. His hands encircled her waist, pulling her closer to him. While her hands tightly held his shoulders as if she did not want to let him go.

"I think I like kissing you." He finally said after a while of just making out on the balcony.

When their lips touched, it felt like they fitted perfectly together. The kiss felt so natural that it seemed like they had been doing it for a long time, even though it was just their first kiss.

"I like it too." She confided in him, feeling relieved that he also felt the same way.

She was ecstatic to learn that she was not alone, that he felt the same way too. That she was not the only one harboring a secret. She was glad that she was finally free to show him how much she liked him.

"But I think we should take this slow. I don't want to ruin our friendship if this does not work out for the both of us." He told her as he pulled a strand of hair away from her eyes that got loose from the tight bun on her head.

He knew that rushing into a relationship might only make them regret it if it did not work out in the end. He did not want to lose the friendship they had built over the time they were together.

She had played a significant part in his life. He never wanted anything that could possibly hurt her or jeopardize their relationship.

"I think you are right. I am just glad that we are on the same page." She had seriously considered his explanation. She could not agree more with his conclusion.

After all, getting into a relationship with him in her situation was not ideal. It would be messy and complicated. Especially when it was his brother who wanted her dead.

Maybe taking it slow and examining her feelings for him more thoroughly was the right thing to do. She did not want to jump to anything that might worsen her situation.

After a few more minutes, locked in each other's embrace, he finally said his goodbye. He promised he would return soon when the matter was less dangerous. Then, they would talk more about them.

He was whistling as he walked out of the elevator, still reminiscing the kiss he had shared with her a few minutes ago. He could still taste her on his lips as he ignored the people around him.

It had been a while since he had been in a relationship, but he believed she was different. If only the situation was not complicated, he would have liked to go on a date with her properly and show her how special she was.

"Jacob?" A loud voice suddenly shouted at him, calling his attention as he walked into the lobby of the building.

If not for the familiarity of the voice that called to him, he would not have stopped. However, he did recognize the person walking toward him.

He was not expecting to see a familiar face in this place. Let alone found his brother standing not far from his position. He was suddenly alarmed that he might be following him.

On the other hand, Cassie still stood on the balcony of her room, oblivious of what was happening downstairs. She stared at the open sky and then looked down at the street, immediately realizing the high position she was in.

She suddenly remembered a part of a fairy tale about a princess who could not wait for her prince to find her, save her, and set her free.

She could not help comparing herself to the princess with the long hair, locked in the tall tower.

[Chapter 548 - A Gunfight With Blank Bullets](#)

Samson drove the car out of the dark area where he hid it earlier and into the rough, rocky, dirt road. It was a perfect spot where the security would not spot them because of the tall grasses and the lush trees surrounding the dense area.

The couple settled in the back seat, sitting close together, finding comfort in the warmth of the other. Thankful for finally getting out of captivity and being in each other's arms once again.

The first few minutes had been enveloped in silence as all of them tried to catch their breaths and calm their nerves. Nobody dared to make a sound, with hearts still beating at rapid speed and a bit wary of their safety.

The only noise that could be heard in the background was the steady hum of the engine and the soft breeze that passed through the open windows as the car cruised along some open field.

"Thank you!" This time it was Alex who spoke the first words. He looked into the eyes of the man who had just saved their lives in the rearview mirror. "I am sorry if I misjudged you earlier."

He kept his arms wrapped around his wife, finding relief from feeling her body against his. He still felt the discomfort of his injuries. Pain still plagued his body when the car hit several bumps on the road.

But he could only focus on the knowledge they would soon be freed. They had escaped without being caught. Although he still found it odd that it had been too easy. But who was he to question their luck?

He knew he should be thankful that Dani found a man who still had a good heart and was willing to help them. He had no idea what had convinced him to help them, but now, he could tell that it was not about the money.

Whatever it was, he would make sure that he would help him. Any price the big man would ask would be worthy payment for the safety of the woman he loved.

"Thank me when this is all over. And you are both safely back in your home. But I am counting on your words, your highness." Samson answered, then he directed his gaze to the woman behind him.

He was not concerned for his safety. He could handle and protect himself. Besides, he was not afraid to die. He had prepared himself for the inevitable when he had joined this organization.

However, he did worry about his family. His mother and sisters counted on him to provide and protect them. He had worked hard not to involve them in this dark life he had chosen.

"I promise you, I will do my best to protect you and your family," Dani once again swore to him.

She had every intention to fulfill those promises that she made. She would use all the power and influence that her family had to make that happen. She would use what she knew about the law to help him with his case.

She owed him so much for risking his life and his family for two perfect strangers. Samson had never even asked for the financial reward she mentioned before as payment for his effort.

"That is all I ask," Samson said, ready to resign to his fate. He was through doing terrible shits for money. It was time that he paid for his crime.

He believed meeting her was a wake-up call for him. He still had time to change. His family should not pay for the crimes he had committed. The mistakes he had made in his life should not haunt them in the future. It should be his alone.

"What do you think happened back there?" Alex could not keep his curiosity to himself. "Do you think they were onto us?"

He was unsure if the commotion was about them, but he did not see anyone coming after them if that was the case. He figured guards would be swarming around the perimeter fence if they had learned their escape. But until now, no one was going after them.

He knew he should be feeling relieved, but he could not help thinking of every possible scenario that could put them in any harm. He just wanted to be assured that they were safe.

Samson slightly turned his face to look at his passengers. He was also wondering the same thing. "I am not entirely sure, but I think it was not us they were after."

Samson could only speculate from what he observed when they had stopped to duck for cover. But they were far enough for him to see the entire situation. Another building also covered the incident from his view.

However, judging from the sound of the fire shots, he could tell that someone else had infiltrated their base. Maybe someone came to rescue the two.

Although he could also be wrong since he was not privy to the situation. Maybe his team was discovered by Nick and was starting to eliminate them. He could think of several more scenarios on his mind.

Whatever happened out there, he could not risk the life of the two by going back and checking it out. He was just glad he could use the incident as cover for getting them out without being noticed.

"I also think so." Dani agreed with his assessment, noticing that the commotion was far from them.

If the guards were after them, they would have seen them. But, they were able to slip off their security easily because of the chaos that erupted inside the area.

"I think we can safely say we are in the clear for now until I have deposited you to the safehouse I had arranged not very far from here." He guaranteed them that they would be safe in that place since it was far from any neighbors who might recognize them.

He also had arranged for a phone that they could use to communicate outside. There was also a clear path for their rescue that would not alert the other team of their presence.

Getting a clear signal in the fortress was hard since Nick had placed a blocking apparatus that prevented outside calls unless one would use his system. It was hard to get access to that.

"How did you manage to do all this?" Dani asked since she thought he was not that intelligent to come up with all this.

She always thought he was just a big fellow who only followed orders. She could not believe that he could create an elaborate plan for their escape. This only reminded her that she could not judge a person by the first impression.

"I love spy books and movies. I always thought that I would become one and work for the CIA, but I ended up working on the other side of the fence." He explained how he came up with the plan.

Luckily, he had been given access to most of the resources in their fortress, or he would not be able to pull this through. He used the opportunity to set up everything when he volunteered to buy the supplies earlier.

Well, regarding the medications, it helped that his sister was studying to be a doctor. He had asked her about these things, wanting to be aware of the common risk related to his job, including the use of different drugs.

It also helped him to have some knowledge of things that could help him in his trade. He might not be a genius, but he was not dumb to enter a war with no training.. He was not going into a gunfight with blank bullets.

[Chapter 549 - Rot Behind Bars](#)

After a few more minutes inside the car, the trio had finally settled into a more comfortable conversation. The tension was lessened knowing that there was no one going after them.

"You certainly did a great job so far." Alex commended his effort for going through all the trouble just to help them. He thought Samson had done well organizing and then executing his plans.

He concluded that this man would be a great asset to any organization if given a chance. He would not have a second thought about taking him under his wings.

He guaranteed that Tim would accept him with open arms. To be a part of his team and family. If the big man would like his offer to join them. That was after he had faced the penalties of his crime.

"We are here." He slowed down on what seemed to be an old house in the middle of nowhere. "Don't worry. We are safe here for the night."

He pulled the car in front of the tiny house and stopped the engine. He knew that the place was not too much to look at, but it was still a shelter from the cold night and the prying eyes of their enemies.

He ushered them inside the dark space, grabbing a flashlight just by the entrance. He had bought this place when he first came to this island without anyone knowing.

He thought that this might become useful to him someday. It had been one foresight that he would never regret since it became handy in their current situation.

"I will start a fire." He told them as he walked towards a table and lighted a lamp. "I still have to fix the electricity in this place. I was not expecting visitors this soon."

He smiled at the couple, guiding them on an old, rugged couch that had seen its better days. He wished he could offer them more, but this was what he could come up with under their unusual circumstance.

"This is more than enough." Dani voiced her appreciation for having a roof over their heads. "You already have done so much for us."

She helped Alex onto the seat, careful not to put too much pressure on his injuries. Although he appeared to be taking it well, she could sense that he was hiding his pain, not wanting her to worry about him.

"I hope it would be enough to absolve me for my participation in your abduction." He said in all seriousness, starting to light the wood on the fireplace with a match he hid in between a crack.

After creating the fire, he moved towards a corner beside the fireplace. He had hidden a box along with the old pile of junk to conceal it from an intruder who might want to steal it.

Although it was unlikely to happen in this part of the woods. He had barely enough neighbors that might pass this place. But he was not taking his chances of losing any part of his plan.

"It is more than enough," Alex assured him, relaxing in his stance as he allowed his back to rest on the couch.

He had spent most of his energy on their escape. He believed that the only thing that had made him move the rest of the way was the adrenaline that was pumping in his blood.

Now that the danger had subsided, his body finally felt the toll of the strain he had forced on himself earlier. In addition, the drugs that circulated in his system had already dissipated, leaving him in tremendous pain.

"I also bought some pain medication, but this is strong. It can make you feel drowsy, but it will help you with the pain." He handed the medicine to Dani and two bottles of water.

"I also brought some food that you can eat. I guess you must be starving." He started arranging them on the rough, dusty wooden table.

Then, Dani took the bread and split them in half. She started helping Alex eat so he could regain his strength. She could see that he was struggling, but he managed to force some of the few bites into his stomach before drinking the medicine.

As she cleaned up and threw the trash in a box in the corner of the small space, she quickly returned to Alex's side, but Samson called her attention.

"Here is the phone I promised." He took the box out and removed the phone from the packaging.

He had already checked it earlier, guaranteeing that it was already functional. It was the first thing he bought earlier and brought it here before going back to the manor.

"Thank you," Dani responded, taking the phone from him.

She turned around to show it to Alex but realized that he had already passed out.

She quickly moved to his side to check on his condition, examining his vitals. She breathed a sigh of relief when she noticed that he was just sleeping.

She touched his face, wishing she could do something more to help his condition. But other than being there for him, there was nothing she could do for now but to let him rest.

"Will you excuse me? I am just going to make a call." She told the big man as she stared at the phone in her hand.

She pressed several numbers that she had known by heart. Pressing the call button and waited for the familiar voice to answer.

"Who is this?" The impatient voice echoed in her ears. She sensed the anxiety in the man's voice who took the call.

The voice of the only man that could always calm her down despite what she was feeling. The sound seemed to be music to her ears at the moment, despite the tone he had used.

"Hello, Dad." Tears followed her words, unable to control the mixed emotions that almost exploded in her chest upon hearing her father's voice on the other line.

She cradled the phone in her ears as tears flowed down her cheeks, afraid to lose the connection she had as she waited for him to speak up.

She wanted to tell him everything, but the words were trapped in her throat. She choked on her sobs, finally allowing the fear, the anguish, and the happiness to overwhelm her for the first time.

She had bottled up all her feelings the entire time she was a captive until they had reached this place. She could not show Nick any fear. Or could she allow Alex to see her hopelessness?

"Princess, is that you?" Ethan could not simply believe it, pressing the receiver to his ears, straining to hear her voice again.

He was afraid that he might be hearing things, imagining that it was his daughter on the other line. But his heart had already rejoiced at the sound of her voice, confirming that she was still alive.

"Princess, talk to me." He repeated when all he heard was the soft sobbing on the other line. "Are you alright? Where is Alex?" Panic strained his voice.

He was afraid that the line would be cut and he would never hear from her again. The image of her captors played on his mind as they tried to hurt his daughter.

He still had to hear from Tim, who was currently in the line of fire. The last thing he heard from him was that they were infiltrating the premises. Until now, they had not reported back.

He wondered if they were all captured. Or worse, they might be dead. Their attempt to rescue his daughter and her husband might have failed. Now, the bastards were making his daughter pay.

"I am ok, Dad. We were able to escape." She started rubbing the tears away from her face, holding herself together.

She looked at the sleeping form of her husband and tried to draw strength from him. He had shown so much courage to withstand what they did to him.

This was not the time for her to break down. The ordeal was almost over. They were about to be rescued. What mattered to her now was to bring Alex to the hospital where he could be treated for the injuries he incurred.

After telling her father the details of where they were, Ethan quickly arranged for his team to rescue them. In a few hours, he would be seeing his daughter again.

"Who is responsible for this?" Ethan already knew who it was, but he needed to hear it from her mouth.

He could feel his blood boiling, and his heart was burning from anger. Once he had confirmed his name, Nick could kiss his life goodbye because he was not getting out of this alive.

"It is Nick, Dad." She finally spoke the man's name that brought so much misery in her life. "Nick is the one responsible for all this." She said with a barely controlled voice as her words were laced with anger.

She clenched her other fist on her side as hatred gripped her upon hearing his name coming from her own lips. It literally brought a bitter taste to her tongue, loathing him with every fiber of her body.

She swore never to stop hunting Nick until she had made him pay. Death was such an easy punishment for him. She did not want him to get a leisurely pass by simply dying. He did not deserve it.

She wanted Nick to pay for his sins with his entire lifetime. Locked up with the hardened criminals like him, where he belonged.. To rot behind bars without a possibility of parole.

[Chapter 550 - An Electric Chair](#)

"Nick, what are you doing here?" Jacob asked first, anxious to hear his answer.

He was not expecting Nick to appear in front of him. If he was not so distracted by that kiss, he would have seen him a mile away. He could have hidden behind a pillar or a wall before his brother had a chance to notice him.

But it was too late for him. He had no other choice but to find a way out of this mess. On the other hand, it was also his chance to determine if his brother was onto him. If he had any idea of what his secret was.

"I should be the one asking you that question." Nick smiled at his brother, confirming that he was hiding something from him.

He could see a few telltale signs that he was nervous, but Jacob had a way of appearing calm. However, he was not leaving him alone until he got some answers.

"Well, I ask first." Jacob insisted as they stood in the middle of the lobby, acquiring a few stares from the few people lounging in the area.

He had to stall his answer since he was still trying to arrive with a plausible alibi for his presence in this building. He was sure that if his brother got a whiff of what he was keeping from him, then that would be the end of the two of them.

"Fair enough," Nick responded with a grin, staring at him, studying his expression. "If you must know, I recently bought an apartment in this building. I sometimes preferred to stay here."

Nick could see the wheels in his brother's eyes turning. He could easily read his expression because he was not particularly good at lying. As of now, he could surmise that he was still trying to come up with a lie.

He did not mind if Jacob had lied to him. He just did not care what Jacob did with his life. As long as it did not affect him, he had no problem with it.

"Oh, I did not know that you started living here," Nick responded with a bit of fright, but he quickly masked it with a nervous smile.

Learning that his brother always frequented this place put Cassie's life in danger. There was every chance that his brother might discover that she was also staying in this same building.

He had to do something quickly before his brother had found out about his big secret. He had to call Alex to transfer Cassie to another place and expedite the process of Nick's case.

"What about you? Don't tell me that you also have decided to live here." Nick jokingly told his brother, who he believed would never prefer to live in a place like this.

He would know his brother since Jacob could not afford a place like this with his meager salary. He remembered that his brother also refused the apartment he offered, which was more expensive than the units available in this building.

"Or are you dating someone who lives in one of the apartments? Maybe it is time that you introduce me to her." Nick quickly added before Jacob could respond to his earlier statement.

Something about his brother's unusual behavior caught his attention. It could probably have something to do with his curiosity about the kind of girl his brother would date.

It was the only explanation he could think of for making him this peculiarly invested in his brother. Because he had not seen him with a woman before. Well, Jacob had not introduced a girl to him yet.

"No, actually... No..." Jacob almost stuttered upon his brother's last sentence. "I am not seeing anyone." He quickly answered. Technically, he was not yet seeing Cassie, so he was not lying. Maybe they had kissed her once, but it did not imply that it already meant something.

He was about to come up with a lie when a phone ringing suddenly interrupted their conversation. "I think that is your phone." He quickly informed him.

He knew it was not his since the ringtone was different, so it would be someone else's phone that was making all the fuss. He could only guess that someone might be calling Nick.

"Give me a second." Nick pulled his phone out of his breast pocket and checked the caller. "Don't go anywhere. We are not yet done talking." He told his brother since he was not yet finished interrogating him about his recent activities.

He did not like the name that appeared on the screen. If he was calling this late at night. Then there must be a problem, he concluded. It was the only reason he would dare disturb him at this time.

He moved a few steps away from his brother, hoping to avoid him overhearing his conversation. But when he heard what the other man said on the phone in a rush tone, he realized it was a bigger problem than he initially thought.

"Fuck!" He expressed angrily, then held his tongue before he said more. He ran his fingers at the back of his neck, rubbing it to ease his tension as he continued to listen to the other line.

He remembered that he was in a public place and in the presence of his brother. He could not lose his temper. Not even when everything seemed to be falling apart in his world.

"Update me in an hour." He told the man on the other side of the conversation. He had to call an emergency meeting with his men about the latest issue they had to handle.

He quickly ended the call and let his mind work. He could not let this happen. He had to find a way to get out of this mess and fix things. But how?

"What is it?" Jacob asked when he saw the sudden change in his brother's expression. He walked closer to his brother when he ended his call.

He appeared concerned about Nick, but he was actually not. He only wanted to know what was happening to him out of curiosity. At the same time, it was a perfect way to stir the issue away from himself.

He had never seen Nick with uncertainty in his eyes before. He had always been so calm and collected and constantly in control of his situation.

At this moment, he seemed to be the opposite, but he quickly masked it with a confident smile as he looked at him. He put his phone away and fixed his coat.

"It is nothing. Just some issue about work," Nick replied, seemingly taking the issue lightly. However, his mind kept reeling from the news he had just received.

It was something he was not expecting.

It was something that he did not need right now.

But, it was a problem that could destroy everything he had built if he did not find a solution soon.

"Is there anything I can do?" Jacob offered, seeing it as an opportunity to get his brother off his back.

He figured that using the reverse tactic method would do the trick in this situation. It would divert his brother's attention away from him instead of the issue Nick was having.

"I would really like to chat with you more. But I really must go." Nick said to Jacob. "Maybe dinner tomorrow night."

He would have liked to delve more into his brother's secrets, but at this point, he had to deal first with his own problems. If he did not stop this onslaught on his business and personal life. He would wake up the next day with nothing left.

His company would burn to the ground. His life would be in royal shambles.. He would not just end up on the street but in an electric chair.