

Royal Contract 74

Chapter 74 - Truce

She looked out of her window, enjoying the view outside. The clouds were barely visible in some areas. While on the other side, a thicker portion was spreading on the horizon. She observed that they were steadily gliding on the vast ocean underneath them.

It was such magnificent scenery, so peaceful and calm. However, like everything else in this world, nothing stayed the same. At any moment in time, things could change. What was once quiet could suddenly become chaotic.

But what she did not realize was where her gaze had travel eventually. She just noticed that Alex was smirking at her. She then discovered that she had been staring at his chest for some time. She might appear to be looking at him, but her mind was somewhere else.

"Enjoying the view." He smiled at her, but when she gave him an irritated smile, he knew he made a mistake.

He should stop antagonizing Dani, especially when it was he who was asking for her help. If they were to pull this off, he would need her full cooperation. That meant he had to be on his best behavior too.

"I know, it's not funny. Sorry. I'm just trying to lighten up the mood." He looked at her apologetically, not wanting to see a scowl on her beautiful face.

He suddenly found himself unable to look away. He had always known that physically, he was attracted to Dani. Such attraction had not been an issue with him before with other women. He could easily control it with his strong will.

But with her, he always had to work harder to control himself around her. Something about her was pulling him towards her. She had always intrigued him as no other girl had done before. Even if he wanted not to think about her, she managed to creep into his consciousness.

"Maybe just stop being so annoying." She knew there was no point in starting an argument with him over something so trivial.

To be caught staring, even if she was not aware that she was, was quite embarrassing. Now that her mind registered Alex's presence, she could not help but steal a few looks at him when he was not looking.

"Deal." He nodded at her, acknowledging her request. "I hope that you already prepared yourself for what was about to happen when we land." He told her as they neared their destination, changing the subject to divert his mind to something else.

He suddenly doubted if he made the correct decision of choosing her. Last night, it took all his control not to kiss her in her apartment. He knew he could handle having a physical relationship with her without getting emotionally involved, but he doubted if she could.

He was not prepared to make any commitment to any woman until he had reached his goal. And he was not about to use her as a pastime while they were playing the acting game. He liked her, but he could not love her.

"You should have been more forthright about your identity. Instead of pretending to be someone else." She admonished him.

She always thought that he was just another businessman who struck some luck to land in the big league. Learning about him being a prince was quite a surprise. She would not expect it in a million years.

"Will it matter if you knew beforehand that I was a prince? Will it change your mind about agreeing to my proposal?" He did not think so. He believed that she would still accept his offer because she needed what he was giving in exchange.

He felt somewhat sorry that he was exploiting her, using her weakness against her to get what he wanted. However, he was a desperate man who believed that she was the only person that would be perfect for the position.

"No." She answered him honestly. She believed that she would still have accepted it despite knowing who he was. "But it would have been better if I had known before I agreed to this."

"Noted." He understood her point of view. "Can we start again? This time, I promise that there will be no more secrets. I will be open to anything that involves our agreement." He swore by using his entwined hands, placing them on his chest just above his heart.

"Ok. I will also do the same." She smiled at his childish way. She figured that there was no use in making it harder for both of them. It would only worsen their situation if they kept fighting like cats and dogs.

"If it is alright with you, maybe we could start by considering each other as friends. In that way, we can be more comfortable around each other." Alex offered his suggestion.

"Maybe we can do that." She agreed.

Putting him in the friend zone should help her situation, she thought. She could not keep looking at him as if he was someone available to her. She knew Alex was attracted to her. She was naive, but she also knew that he was not looking for anything serious in a relationship, as stated in his contract.

"One more thing, don't fall in love with me, and I will do the same." He had to say it.

He had to be clear about that. He did not want any misunderstanding of what was about to happen in the six months they would be pretending. Because that was all it was, an act.

"Of course, I assure you that it will never happen." She could mark it in stone and put a stamp on it. She swore never to do that.

Getting involved with Alex in anything sexual could only lead to an emotional attachment too. She was not ready for that. She knew if that happened, she would be the one on the losing end. She could not fall in love with him and end up rejected again. She would never allow that to happen.

"Then, we have an agreement, Dani." He offered his hand so they could shake on it. "Truce?"

"Truce." They finally agreed that they should make their lives easier by working together to get what they both wanted.

Chapter 75 - Short-lived Affair

"By the way, are we truly staying at a palace?" Jacky turned her face to Marcus, whose eyes were closed. "Hey, wake up." She bugged him as he continued to ignore her question.

"Yes. We are." He finally answered her without opening his eyes.

He was not sleeping, but he just wanted some rest because the past week had been tedious. He was looking forward to this celebration since it would also be his long-needed vacation.

"Have you been in the palace?" She wondered excitedly. She had not seen a real palace before. Only the picture on fairy tale books, magazines, and google.

She could already imagine what the party would be like as she looked forward to seeing a grand celebration. She was already expecting to meet several famous personalities, celebrities, and even royals during the party.

"Yes, a few times." He finally opened his eyes and looked at her. "It's just a big hotel with many rooms." He teased Jacky, who scowled her face at his statement.

"Stop joking around." She punched him in his arms. She did not find it funny that he was messing with her ignorance.

She might not have some fancy degrees like them, but she was not a dumb bimbo. She might lack the formal education that they were privilege to have but what she learned on the street and through her experience taught her a lot about life.

"I'm sorry." He pulled her in his arms. "But I am telling the truth. It is indeed just a big place with many old things."

When he first saw the palace when Alex invited him when they were still in college, he remembered that he was in awe of the enormity of the place. He had lived a comfortable life too. However, his place was nothing compared to where Alex grew up.

"Still, I am sure that it is still magnificent and massive." She did not want his words to ruin her excitement to see the place. "I still can't believe that Alex is a prince. I never met a prince before."

She tapped her fingers on her lips, thinking of an instant that she even got a glimpse of one in person. But all she could remember were the ones she saw in photos or the news.

"Aren't I, your prince charming?" Marcus announced, taking her fingers into his lips as he started giving them feather kisses.

It was what Marcus liked about her. Jacky did not pretend to be anything else than herself. She said what was on her mind and cursed if she had to. He found her so different from the women he usually dated. She never had to change or act to please him.

"You certainly are." She teased him back, liking what he was doing to her. "But you have to excuse me for a second." She pried her fingers from his hands and stood up to go to the bathroom.

"Don't take long," Marcus told her as she moved to the back of the plane.

As she passed the couple at the back, she wondered what the two were talking about, but she was in no mood to eavesdrop on them. She quickly went inside the lavatory and did her business.

When she strode back to her seat, she noticed that Marcus was talking to the flight attendant. Well, more of flirting with her, she realized.

"You should call me." She heard the girl say, handing Marcus a piece of paper, or was that a napkin, before walking away, back to her place in front of the plane.

He immediately put the paper inside his pocket and smiled contentedly in his seat, not even noticing that she was already standing beside him. She knew she had no right to feel anything about what she witnessed, but something inside her was churning.

She had no right to be jealous, but she was pretty sure that was what she was feeling at that instant. She only once felt this way before. It was when she fell in love when she was still young. She hated the feeling since it messed up with her head.

"Oh, how long have you been standing there?" Marcus finally asked when she noticed her standing just behind him.

"Just got back." She tried to ignore what she saw because it was no use to dwell on it.

They were not a couple. Well, not the traditional one. The affair was an arrangement that was purely for fun. Feelings were not part of the bargain. Jacky should well remember that before she became delusional that there was something more.

"What are the two doing back there?" Marcus asked as she sat back beside him.

"Just talking. I think Dani and Alex are still planning how they would make everyone believe that they are a couple." Jacky explained what she thought she saw when she passed them.

"Honestly, I have no idea how they could pull this through. I don't think Alex and Dani even like each other." Marcus said, remembering the way the two kept on bickering when they were in a conversation.

He still was uncertain why Alex picked Dani to play the part when he thought that Tyra would have been the better choice. But he was not Alex, so it was not his decision. All he could do now was make sure that everything ran smoothly for all of them until this entire situation was resolved.

"Did Dani tell you that we are extending our stay for a week?" Marcus asked Jacky, hoping that she would be staying with them for that long.

"Yes. I was glad that Evan approved our vacation leave. I could use a very long vacation." She giggled in excitement.

She had never been out of the city before. So, going on this trip was a dream come true. She planned to make the most of it, and an extra few days was a welcome bonus to get more time to explore. She just hoped that Marcus would have time to come along with her.

"Are you still in an official capacity as Alex's lawyer, or are you here as just his friend?" She asked him, wanting to know if he would have time for her.

"Both, but no worries. I will make sure that we will have plenty of time together." Marcus promised her as he picked up her hands again and placed them in his.

She was becoming an addiction to him, he realized, as he held her hands firmly against his. Talking to the beautiful flight attendant earlier usually gave him satisfaction, but now, all he could think of was. What was taking her so long to get back?

He knew he had to end this relationship soon before things got more complicated. He was already alarmed by the way he was acting around her. But for now, he planned to enjoy the week with her.

He was sure that she would understand his decision since they were both aware of what they agreed on when they started going out. It was better to end this soon instead of ruining a friendship with a relationship they both did not want. What they had was a short-lived affair, but at least it had been fun.