

Trapped by the Ruthless Billionaire by Lucia Love

Chapter 24

24 – Believing the rumours – the devil disguised as a human

Jenna mulled over her options, not comfortable with the idea of seeing Casper again for now, especially after that night and what just happened in the office. Also, what she was going to discuss with him wasn't work-related so, she wouldn't be queried. Since Peggy was already waiting for her at the reception Casper could wait. That was his punishment for videoing their intimate act without her consent.

She took the elevator and went down to the reception area. Peggy wasn't alone.

She was accompanied by a hunky man with a gush appearance. A glance at him and Jenna discerned that he must have been beaten by a mob or something, due to the bruises covering the exposed areas of his body. Peggy ran to embrace her.

"Jenna, why is your security so tight? They won't even let me upstairs," Peggy complained after breaking from the hug. The security matters at the Blade Towers were out of Jenna's domain.

"I'm sorry Peggy, only staff are allowed upstairs unless you have a business appointment or it's an emergency," Jenna explained as patiently as she could while leading Peggy back to the chair she sat on beside the hunky man. His dirty blonde hair was neck long and he didn't try to acquaint himself with Jenna.

"But this is an emergency," Peggy edged at the hunky man on the visitors' chair. Jenna's glance naturally shifted in that direction as well, confusion tossing her.

"Who is he?" Jenna asked in a low tone. She wasn't comfortable with him around Peggy at all.

"He's my boyfriend, Hunter," Peggy said with unease. Jenna from a glare could tell that the man didn't feel the same way towards Peggy. Perhaps, she was imagining the wrong person.

"The one..." Jenna tried to confirm and was cut off by Peggy.

"Yes, Jenna, he needs a job. He has physical strength and is very intelligent. My house is ruined and my mortgage is catching up on me. I don't even have a place to live, which is why he needs a job to help with the mortgage and also our parents. Please help him get a job among your security or even the CEO's bodyguards. Please, Jenna, you have to help me," Peggy ranted and begged. Jenna was unmoved after confirming that the man she saw was the one Peggy was talking about. Somehow, she didn't trust him and pulled Peggy away from him, to have a private conversation.

"Look, I don't think this guy is good for you. He.."

"I know," Peggy cut her off again but in an astute manner. "He loves me as a sister and protects me as such. We have never been intimate but I'm doing all this for him to see me as a man sees a woman and not a sister. Can't you see that I'm just hanging in there?"

Peggy's voice was teary and Jenna taught she looked miserable after taking a deep look at her. She looked as if her world was crumbling down on her. Her youthful innocence was gone and she had forcefully matured. Thinking through it, Jenna discerned that her friend was sacrificing too much for a man who only saw her as a sister. At that, she didn't want to help.

"I'm not in charge of recruitment so I can't help you with that. But, I will receive my first salary by next week and will send you some money. Will that be enough?" Jenna asked solemnly, hiding her disappointment. Peggy had told her before that this guy got into some mafia trouble. That must have been how she lost everything but Peggy was desperate, resulting to emotional blackmail.

"No Jenna, you have to help him get a job. We don't even have a place to live now. Remember when we were in school, your father had an emergency and traveled abroad without telling you? You lived at our place and even though we didn't have money, we treated you like a Princess for close to two months."

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Jenna remembered quite well. At that time, Peggy's mum would only cook what Jenna wanted to eat for the whole family. It never dawned on her that they couldn't afford a variety of meals. The day she found out, she wept. Peggy's parents treated her like their own daughter or even better. Now that Jenna thought about it, guilt welled up inside her heart.

"I know Peggy, that's why I'm willing to give you money." At that juncture, that was all Jenna could give but Peggy didn't believe her. She still saw Jenna as the Managing Director she was in her father's company with the ability to call the shots.

"But money isn't enough. We shall run out of it and can't keep coming back to you. Do you remember when you angrily bathed our accounting teacher with coffee and were about to be dismissed from school? I took your punishment and stayed at home because I wasn't as smart

as..."

Of course, Jenna remembered vividly. Peggy wasn't very smart academically and never liked school much. If Jenna fell into trouble, she would cover up for her and take her punishment for as long as there weren't witnesses. Jenna saw that Peggy was right. She helped Jenna a lot. The only time she let her down was that ugly night, for which her reasons were relatively honest.

"It's alright. I'll talk to the CEO about Hunter's job and will also talk to Kate to allow you to live in her old apartment." Jenna didn't want to ask for any more favors but Peggy had given her so much, that it was time for her to give back. She wanted to avoid Casper but it seemed that all the elements took their orders from him. Why didn't Peggy come next week or even tomorrow? Jenna had no choice.

Peggy's eyes lit with joy. "Thank you, Jenna, I knew I could count on you." If not Jenna or Kate, who else could she count on?

"Don't thank me yet. I said I was going to talk to them but they haven't agreed yet." Jenna was a little worried. Kate would agree no doubt but for Casper, she couldn't be certain.

"I know, but what is important is that you are willing to help me." Peggy was excited. Hunter couldn't get a job because his boss asked him to frame someone which he refused to do. As such, they set him up with stolen diamonds worth millions. He wasn't in the position to clear his name, thereby being black listed by the gangs. If he got a job, he could clean up his name. Peggy couldn't tell all this to Jenna because they were at the reception, which was why she wanted to go to Jenna's office to talk.

"You need to wait for a while. I left my phone on my desk so I will have to go back upstairs and

talk to the CEO, then I'll call Kate too." Jenna sighed and turned around but halted. The rushing tapping sound of men's shoes was approaching, her curiosity kicked in.

"Yes, thank you, we..." Peggy didn't finish speaking when Hunter's deep hoarse voice cut in, "Peggy, come here," as he lunged forward and pulled her to him. The scene showed how protective he was of Peggy. No wonder she kept equating it to love. He indeed cared about her.

Jenna couldn't help looking in the direction of the footsteps upon seeing Peggy safely in Hunter's arins. She trailed her eyes to the direction of the automatic sliding door and saw five men walking towards the reception.

She promptly felt wary. The man in front looked intimidating in his long curly black hair and the rest of the men seemed to be his bodyguards but she also felt that Hunter might know them from his reaction.

Jenna wanted to leave but strangely found herself eavesdropping. Since she was in the corner, her presence wasn't noticed by the strangers.

"I want to see your boss," the man spoke in a deep intimidating tone, the receptionist stammered,

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"Sir, you..you don't have an appointment." There was visible fear in her eyes under the man's unmoving gaze.

"I know. Just call him," he said solemnly. The receptionist couldn't refuse. She feared offending the man.

At the CEO's office, Casper was boiling with rage. Thirty minutes had passed but Jenna hadn't shown up. She wasn't even answering her phone. He sent Cathan to get her but she wasn't there and her phone lay lazily on her desk.

He was just checking the surveillance footage when his desktop phone rang. He picked it up and was met by a fragile and frightful voice. "Mr. Blade, a man is asking to see you. He doesn't have..."

There was a pause and then, a deep voice sounded in its stead. Instantly, Casper pressed the security tab and Cathan and Caleb could hear the conversation. He knew that the man had snatched the phone from the receptionist. An action he wasn't pleased with.

"Casper Blade, my name is Armando Ciro, Riccardo's brother." The darkness in Casper's eyes dissipated. He could guess that Armando wanted to avenge his brother. Well, he couldn't blame him. The video must have made other Mafia Dons look down on the Italian Mafia.

"Oh, my men will bring you upstairs." There was neither coldness nor warmth in Casper's tone. The nervousness Armando was expecting to hear in his voice wasn't there as well. His face darkened slowly at the thought. He saw Casper in the video. He was just a young man in his twenties. The highest number Armando would give Casper in terms of age was twenty seven years. For this reason, he couldn't bring himself to be afraid of Casper.

Cathan and Caleb organized the bodyguards and went downstairs as Casper had instructed. At the reception, Jenna, upon hearing Armando's words, thought he was Casper's guest and relaxed.

She began to retreat to the elevator but the sound of stilettos tapping the hard marble floor,

caught Armando's attention and he called out,

"Excuse me." His voice had lost its hoarseness, becoming somewhat pleasant. Jenna did not stop but since the elevator wasn't empty, the wait for it to open allowed Armando to catch up to her.

"Hey, I called you." He sounded intimidating, seeing that Jenna was unresponsive to him. Jenna might be soft and kind but it didn't mean she couldn't be irritating if she wanted to.

"And I tried to ignore you." Jenna was indifferent. She didn't have any business with this man and thereby, couldn't allow herself to be bullied by him.

Armando laughed. "I like your kind." To him, Jenna was just like his toys, playing hard to get at one moment, and begging him to hit them hard the next moment.

"I'm sorry but it isn't mutual. To put it gently, I don't like you." Armando coughed to hide his shock at her words. She didn't like him? That made her the first. Jenna spoke solemnly but Armando smiled, as he raked her body with his eyes.

"What's your name?" He licked his mouth and asked.

"I won't tell you." Jenna was not in the mood for a chat and didnt want to entertain the thought of it. Armando was about to ask why when a ding sound was heard and the elevator opened. Seeing Cathan and Caleb, Jenna sighed with relief, quickly dashing into the elevator, ignoring Cathan's call to wait. The elevator closed, leaving the men behind.

"Who is she?" Armando asked Cathan. Seeing him tell Jenna to hold the elevator, he could guess that Cathan had a cordial relationship with Jenna but Cathan's response seemed rather

off.

"Just a girl who is always getting into trouble. You must be Armando." Cathan could tell from his accent.

"You got that right," Armando nodded his head. He couldn't keep Jenna out of his mind.

"We just have to wait a little bit for the elevator," Cathan said apologetically to Armando. Seeing him ask about Jenna, he could only guess what had transpired between them and was certain to check the surveillance later on. He could have used the CEO's exclusive elevator but Armando was an enemy and didn't deserve that honor.

Armando's bodyguards joined them at that moment, as Armando tried to start a conversation. "So what kind of trouble does she usually get into?"

Cathan knew that he was asking about Jenna and responded grimly, "She has a beef with authority and doesn't like to take orders. In a nutshell, she's very stubborn." Indirectly, he was telling Armando to back off. "It seems to me that you know her very well. Is it the same with all the female employees here? "There was a roll of jealousy at the tip of Armando's tongue, which made Cathan want to laugh.

The Casper he knew, would never allow anyone to touch what belonged to him. Since he already felt that Jenna belonged to him, Armando might just be digging his own grave like his elder brother.

No. Not every female is bold enough to get into trouble like her," Cathan responded and Caleb chuckled. All they saw for Armando was death.

"I see. Can I have her number?" Cathan ignored him this time. The next moment, the ding sound of the elevator was heard again. The squad matched into it but Armando asked again

"Can I have her number?"

"Oh, I just remembered that you asked before. Silence means no. But you can get it from her if you are able to see her again," Cathan said in a mocking tone. Armando could see Cathan's men chuckling, and felt even more determined to win Jenna to spite them.

"You are just as the rumors said." He expected Cathan to ask what he had heard about him, so he could use it as a bargaining chip to get Jenna's number but the man was like a stone, not letting out as little as a sigh. Disappointment flashed Armando's eyes.

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Soon, they matched into Casper's office. Since Armando didn't trust Casper, he insisted that his bodyguards stay therefore, Casper's bodyguards stayed as well. However, due to how huge the office was, it didn't seem the least crowded. With the lights dimmed, anyone who came from a well lit environment would instantly feel the impact of darkness, which was what Armando felt. It was only after he heard Casper's voice that he knew that indeed, Casper was in the office. His all black attire made it difficult for Armando to see him. Casper looked up from a document he was reading and Armando wondered how the man could be reading in the dark. He was beginning to believe the rumours that Casper was the devil disguised as a human. "Armando, are you here for business or revenge?" Casper asked directly. His voice was like a stormy winter breeze, so chilly, it made Armando and his men take a step back.

Armando instantly understood that Casper, despite his young age, was not easy to deal with. His straightforwardness made him uncomfortable.