

## Secretly TBB 101

### Chapter 101: Surreal

Grey decided to show up at KK corporation before going to the office. Well, there was really nothing to go to the company for. Everyone has been pulling back, thanks to Chris.

He has made some decisions but he needs to settle everything accordingly. He needed to settle everything before meeting with the investors. And he sure has something up his sleeve with the other companies. But what did he meet? Nora. He actually hoped he would be able to keep Nora in the company since it was how she pays her tuition fee. But Nora was displaying unforgivable behavior.

Grey stared down at his wet shirt, then he raised skeptical brows at Nora, a smile curved at the tip of his lips. "Longest time, Nora." There was a blank expression on Nora's face. "Longest time? We met yesterday night, you dummy! Are you suffering from dementia?" Grey nodded once, looking away as if he was really thinking about something. "I remembered vividly. You spilled on me just as you did right now."

Nora huffed. "I'm going to pour on you something much worse than that, Grey! If you don't get your stupid ass out of the company!" She yelled angrily.

She wondered where Seth was anyways. If Seth was there, he would have placed him in his place. Somehow, she felt the strangeness in the air.

"The idiot might be here to beg Mr. Seth," Tracy moved to stand beside Nora. There was this look of pride on her face. "Perhaps, he's jobless and wants Mr. Seth to employ him as his driver." The workers were all watching them now, unable to say a word. Somehow, the tenses in the air could be cut with a knife.

Grey got to KK corporation earlier and informed them that he was the new CEO.

And since Nora and Tracy were already used to getting late to work, they missed the announcement.

Grey chuckled lightly. "May I ask the position you held here?"

"She's Mr. Seth's secretary," one of the workers responded. Grey regarded Nora for a moment." No wonder you have the mouth to talk. You are nothing but a secretary."

Nora felt a surge of anger. She rushed to Grey and raised her hand to slap Grey but he caught her easily. "Not so fast, princess. The world has changed overnight," there was a smile on his face as he let go of Nora." New shirt," he ordered. One of the workers dashed out, then back again with a Louis Vuitton shirt. "This is the quick one I can lay my hand on, sir."

Nora looked at the worker, with raised brows." What the fuck are you saying? Why are you respecting him so much? He's just a delivery boy!" She explained with frustration.

"Water," Grey requested and stretched out his left hand in the air.

Another worker rushed over and soon came back with a bottle of water.

Grey drank from the water, his gaze still over Nora.

By now, Nora didn't understand what was really happening. The first worker had respected Grey and even though she saw that as a mistake. What should she call what the second worker had just done?

"What is really happening here?" She stammered as she stared at the workers." Why are you standing here when you should be at your table doing something reasonable? Do you think Mr. Seth would take it easy with you all?" She tried to sound bold.

"Yes! Move it!" Tracy chimed in.

Unfortunately for them, the workers stood still as if they didn't hear what they had just said.

Some men walked closer to them.

"So, Mr. Grey, we will be delivering the furniture soon." one of the men said.

Grey turned to them. "Good, I don't want anything that would remind me of Seth.

"What are you doing? Changing furniture? Or what?" With drawn brows, Nora asked.

The leading man nodded. "I will see you later then," and he left, ignoring Nora's remark.

Nora started feeling uneasy. "What is happening? And what do you mean by 'the world has changed overnight?'" Her voice quivered and she didn't want to think about what could have gone wrong.

And there was no way Grey would rise to fame suddenly.

what was really happening? Why the fuck would Seth leave her?

Chapter 102: Show time Nora couldn't believe her ears. She stood still in shock for a moment. Tracy shuddered Nora slightly. "Nora, what the fuck is he saying? That isn't possible, right? Grey can't be the new CEO!" She muttered a bit to convince herself, instead of others. Nora's heart felt shattered. The shock was too much and she couldn't even bring herself to talk

Grey regarded them for a moment. "Send them out. I don't want to see them, and he turned around to walk into the office, while the security saw Tracy and Nora out of the company.

Grey turned to look at the manager and the director. "We will go through changing the company names. KK corporation reminds me so much of someone and I don't want that."

"Alright, it's fine with us. We also want you to know that there's nothing in the warehouse," Linda, the director responded.

"Yes, Seth sold everything days back," Westley chimed in.

Grey thought about it for a moment. He wasn't surprised anyways. He knew that Seth would have ruined everything before he left. "There will be a discussion on that soon but now, I need to leave."

"Alright, we will leave you to change your shirt," Linda said with a smile before she and Wesley walked out of the room. Grey regarded the room for a moment before he slipped out of his suit jacket. He would be wearing a shirt, instead of a suit thanks to Nora. The shirt was a designer and the only one left in the large shopping mall.

For a moment, Grey didn't know if it was necessary to develop the company. But then, it wouldn't move anything from him. He has a lot of money to make anything work and he wasn't even going to depend on the company at all. As he stepped out, one of the security rushed to Grey. "Hi, boss. The car that Tracy and Nora brought in belonged to the company, so I took it from them, and here is the key," he stretched it out to Grey.

Grey regarded it for a moment and decided to give it to Don. He had no use of it anyways.

"Hold onto it, I will send someone over to take it," he uttered and got into his car.

He pulled out into the street, towards SU world. Alfred didn't want to trust Lan, he wanted to do it his way. But if he does it his way, Lan's family would die. What if he wasn't telling the truth? Grey might be trapped. But what if he was? Would he allow innocent people to die? He placed a call to Don and he picked it up immediately. "Good morning boss." "Morning, Don. I have a car waiting for you at KK corporation. You can pick it up anytime, it's yours," he declared.

Don went into shock for a moment. "You mean it would be mine totally?"

Grey nodded and remembered that Don wasn't close by. "Yes, it's yours. I'm going to hand over the documents to you later on."

"Thank you so much, Boss!" He yelled in excitement.

Grey groaned. "I need something from you."

Don's excitement died down. "Yes, I will do anything for you."

“Does Audrey have a family? If he does, I want you to find anything you can get concerning them,” he informed.

“Do you have a plan yet?” He wondered aloud.

“No, not yet but,” his expression hardened as he took a turn.” Everyone must have weaknesses. Audrey knows my weakness already and I need to know his.”

“Alright, I will get back to you whenever I get solid information about it.” Grey pulled to a stop at the parking lot. “Later then,” and he hung up. Grey walked into the lobby and Tina hurried close. “Good

morning boss. You wanted a meeting with the investors and we’ve made it. You have a meeting by two today,” she informed and took the briefcase from him.

Grey nodded briefly. “What about the other requests?” He stepped into the elevator.

Tina stepped inside and looked up at him.” what other requests?” Grey sighed. “I’m talking about WW Products Company. His CEO said something, didn’t he?”

“Oh yes,” she nodded briefly.” They want to speak with the CEO,” she reminded.

“I know. Get the contact across to me and I will finish the work,” he ordered and stepped out of the elevator.

Tina followed him. “You have no appointments today except for the meeting,” she revealed with a sigh.

Grey walked inside the office.” You should enjoy it while it lasts,” he hesitated and turned to look at Tina.” Has the contract with Digital World been signed?”

Tina flipped through the pages on her note and eventually sighed. She looked up and nodded briefly. “Yes, the supervisor and other team members sealed the deal.

"And the products?" "It's ongoing. In fact, they have deposited half of the payment into the company fund," she revealed. Grey nodded briefly. He actually loved the way Maria works. She was just so hard working. He was still doubting Jane, seeing that she was even close to Giovanni. Tina regarded him for a moment. "Is there anything you want?" Grey nodded once. "The number. When I'm done, I will let you know if I want something else." "Alright, sir. I will retrieve it immediately." "Just send it through a message. You don't need to come back to the office. I will forward it to the CEO," he hinted. "Alright then," Tina placed the briefcase on the table and walked out of the room.

Grey moved after her to lock the door so that no one would barge in on him while he was on the call.

It didn't take long before a message popped up on his phone, a message from Tina. It was Jason's hotline. He copied it to his second phone, a phone he only used as the Hercules. It rang twice before Jason picked it up. "Hello, who is this?" Grey let out a sigh. "Good morning is not a hard way to start the day, Jason," he corrected softly.

Jason went silent for a moment." Seeing that you know my name, then I must know you. Though, this number is under a private number. Who are you?" Grey intentionally hid his number because he didn't want anyone tracking him down.

"No, Jason. You don't know who I am, maybe you've heard of me but you don't know me, definitely. But one of my workers said you desperately needed to speak with me."

"Worker? Is this SU World?"

"Yes, this is the CEO of SU World. This is Hercules." "What!" Jason yelled from the other end, in fear.

Chapter 103: Dusted Jason's heart skipped a thousand beats. "What did you just say? Who am I speaking with?" Grey released a sigh." Why will I lie about my identity?"

"I\_ I'm not saying you are lying," Jason stuttered." Why would I say that? I was just bothered," he took a deep sigh." I mean skeptical. I didn't know you had a relationship with SU world."

"I own a lot of companies. How are you supposed to keep track of all of my companies? What are you? A spy?" He muttered.

"No!" Jason said quickly. "I mean, I didn't mean it like that," he stammered, almost out of air. "I was just surprised. I mean, it's a pleasure speaking with you. Are you really the owner of SU world?"

Grey laughed. "Do you want to know the names of all my companies? Then, we could arrange a meeting."

Jason laughed anxiously. "I didn't mean it like that but I will be glad if you meet with me. I've always wanted to meet with you," he revealed.

Grey cleared his throat meaningfully. "One of my workers told me you needed to speak with me. I'm hearing something about Grey, my manager," he smiled at this. "What was it about again?"

Jason coughed. "I\_ we\_ nothing! I mean I only wanted to speak with you and let you know how hard-working Grey is." Grey chuckled softly. "Seriously?" "Yes, sir!" He affirmed in a deep voice. "I mean why else. But can I really get to meet you? I would be pleased if that happens." Grey went silent for a moment. "You can depend on how you get along with the SU world. It's the smallest company of mine and Grey is one of my trusted men." "Seriously? Does it mean that Grey has seen you?" Grey laughed again. "Of course. If you want to meet with Hercules, move closer to Grey. When you see Grey, you've seen me," and he hung up. His phone started ringing almost immediately. It was Jane. "Hi, Hercules. I've succeeded in setting a conference call with three investors. It's by 2. Is that fine by you?"

Grey thought about it quickly. He had a meeting by 2 but since it was just a conference call. It wouldn't take much of his time.

"Fine, it's ok."

"So," she trailed off. "Will you be coming to the company for it?"

"No, I will do it here. I will merge calls on my phone. Just send me the conference attendees' phone numbers," he decided.

"Alright Boss. I will do just that."

Grey nodded and hung up.

"I know what you did, Avery!" Smith yelled in anger. "I know what you did exactly. And you must think you can get away from it!"

Avery regarded him for a moment. "Just calm down, Smith. I don't even know what you are talking about," she responded calmly. Smith couldn't stop thinking about the embarrassment he got at Protos Publicita. He had never got embarrassed so much except on Lucy's birthday when Don betrayed him. He didn't want to think of that anyways since it was Grey and he couldn't fight against him.

But Avery was using the same tactic that he was using against her. Perhaps, she knew the truth about Grey and she was trying to get revenge.

Smith scoffed. "You seemed so calm, for someone whose brother was disgraced in such a way." That's it! Avery seemed to have had enough. She was trying to talk it amicably with him but Smith was proving too stubborn.

"So what? You are not even my brother, so stop giving me that bullshit! You were embarrassed, so how is that my fault?" She retaliated.

"You think I didn't know what you did?" Smith didn't want to have it. "I know you bribed Jane to take me out of the project," he said.

Avery's eyes went wide with shock and she felt a stab of annoyance at his accusation. "What? Do you think I'm like you? Do you think I would stoop so low for something like that? If you were disgraced, it could be because of something you did. Why blame it on me?" She yelled angrily. "Exactly! I knew you would show it soon enough, Avery. It's exactly who you are

and you are going to regret it!" He walked out of the office without waiting for Avery to respond

He suddenly thought of Seth again and wondered why he hadn't been able to reach him all day.



He got off work and decided to see Seth at the office. They needed to talk anyway and he also wanted to ask about what he had decided concerning Hercules's offer, He had been so occupied with Lucy's birthday that he didn't have time for Seth.

He pulled up in front of KK corporation and tried to calm down. Perhaps he might be able to cook up another plan to get Avery to back off He entered the lobby and moved to the receptionist.

"Hi Paulina, how are you doing?"

Paulina looked up and smiled. "Hi, sir. How may I help you?"

"Is Seth inside?" He inquired.

Pauline observed him for a moment. "He's not in. He's never going to be in."

Smith raised skeptical brows at her. "What do you mean?"

"Seth doesn't own this company any more," Linda said suddenly, stepping closer to him.

Smith turned to look at Linda with a confused look. He still didn't get what was really happening "What?"

Linda turned to Pauline. "Let me know when Mr. Jake comes in."

Pauline nodded once. "Alright."

Linda looked at Smith. "Let's talk outside."

"Sure," Smith nodded. "We could go inside my car," he offered and moved out of the company, while Linda followed.

Before Linda would get inside, Smith tried Seth's line again but it wasn't reachable. He sighed, disturbed. Something was really wrong somewhere, especially with the fact that he missed Seth's calls. Linda entered the car. "Have you called Seth, Smith?"

Smith shook his head. "I've been trying but I couldn't reach him."

Linda sighed. "Seth sold the company already." Smith's eyes went wide with shock. "He did what?"

Linda nodded briefly. "Yes, we only discovered it this morning. Even Nora was here and it looks like she knew who the new CEO was."

Smith regarded her for a moment. "What's the name of the CEO?"

"Well, I don't know his last name but he's Grey." Smith went into shock immediately. "Grey is the new owner of the company?"

Chapter 104: Problem solved Just as the conference call was about to start, a soft knock sounded on the door. Grey groaned and stood to open the door. Tina was at the door.

"I'm sorry for disturbing you but I had to remind you of the meeting. It's 2 already and the investors have arrived," she revealed.

Grey nodded once. "Yes, I remember. I will be off soon. Let them know I'm on my way," he muttered.

"Alright," she nodded as well and walked away.

Grey locked the door again before he moved back to his seat

Finally, he started the conference call

“Hello, Hercules. It’s a pleasure to be on a conference call with you,” Joe uttered, with a hint of happiness.

“Yes, I was surprised when Janet told me you would like to have a conference call with us. It’s a pleasure,” Andrew laughed.

“Yes, I’m so glad that you have me as an audience,” Grey started.” I really need your help.”

“Really? What could it be?” Gaius inquired.” We will gladly help.”

Grey smiled.” I’m so glad for that reception. Anyways, I will get straight to the point. As you know that I have a lot of companies, and well, I have one that’s lagging and I would love for you to support it.”

“Really? You have a new company?” Gaius asked excitedly. “Yes, I do. You might not notice because I didn’t want to reveal that for a while but I currently need investors to support it.” He explained

“Is that the help you need?” Joe asked, skeptical.

Grey went silent for a moment. “Y\_yes.”

Joe laughed. “That’s not a help. We will gladly help. We have always wanted to help Hercules in any way that we can.” He revealed.

“Yes, this is something we will be pleased to do. You don’t need to ask us for it. Actually, I would like to support all your companies but most of them are registered under Protos Publicita, which means supporting them means supporting every one of your companies,” Gaius explained.

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Grey nodded again, out of attitude. “This is great news.”

Andrew laughed. "Very great news. It's not every day we get Hercules to call us." Grey laughed. "Thanks for honoring me."

"The pleasure is ours," they chorused. "Alright, we should talk later," Grey dismissed them. The men said their byes before Grey hung up. They were so happy and Grey felt accomplished. He picked a file on the table and dashed out of the office.

Tina rushed forward. "Sir, the investors are leaving already. Miss Maria is trying to make them stay back."

Grey nodded once. "I'm over there now. Don't worry, I got this," he assured and moved towards the board room.

Truthfully, the men were outside the room, fusing and complaining about a lot of things while Maria was trying to explain what the case could be. "I'm sorry. He's just so busy but he will be here soon," Maria tried to placate them.

"No! We will not condone this insolence! How dare he leave us here for other business?" Philip snapped.

"Yes, this is one of the reasons why we pulled out in the first place. That man doesn't deserve the post of manager!" Mathias uttered in a deep voice. "I'm here," Grey stopped a few feet before them. "Good afternoon gentlemen," he said with a smile.

"What's so good in the afternoon? Seems like it's your specialty to keep people waiting," Biden yelled at Grey. "Yes," Matt chimed in. "He must think we are his to order around."

Grey smiled softly. "You are getting the wrong picture. I was really busy and now that I'm here, I have something important to show to you and I don't want you to waste more time chatting in front of the board room," he expressed.

The men groaned. "I sincerely don't have time for this. Do you think I don't have a company of my own or a business to operate?" Biden yelled in anger.

"Yes, we don't have the time for this. Even though this company doesn't belong to you, you should work towards the best interest of the company," Matt hauled at him.

Grey decided to stay cool." Actually, I have a proposal to make with you. It's very lucrative and you will be gaining a lot as well," he explained to them." But it's your choice if you want to stay or not." "I think you should stay. You will have a lot of benefits from it," Maria supported Grey even though she didn't even know the proposal that Grey was talking about.

"We will give you just fifteen minutes or we will be out of here," Biden informed.

Seeing that they were all voicing the same thing, Grey was sure that it could still be Chris' handiwork.

"Ten minutes is enough for me," Grey told them.

The ten investors exchanged gazes for a moment before they walked back inside the room.

Grey turned to look at Maria. "You can leave now, I will handle the rest."

Maria took a short bow." You've not taken anything for lunch. Do you want me to order something for you?"

Grey thought for a moment." Tell Tina to order the usual thing."

Maria nodded once. "Alright sir, bye for now then." She walked away Grey walked inside the room and regarded the men for a moment before he moved to sit.

"I'm sorry for keeping you waiting," he apologized as he brought out a file for the document. "I had to attend to something quickly. Here," he stretched the file out to Biden as he was close by." You can pass it to others to see what it's all about," he jibed.

The men looked into the file one after the other.

"I'm not going to beg you to invest in this company but I want you to know that as you are pulling out, three big investors are pulling in." "What is that supposed to be? A warning?" Matt boomed. Grey looked at Matt. "No, just a foreshadowing. If you don't invest in our company now, we won't allow you again. This opportunity only comes once," he revealed "Are you trying to play us?" Mathias was getting angry now. "No," Grey shook his head slowly. "I'm only telling you to think it through before accepting an offer that would harm you. SU world will start reigning and we won't consider you again, for anything."

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Biden raised skeptical brows." Who are those investing?"

Grey let out a sigh and relaxed in his chair." Confidential. We will not discuss that, not yet. But I assure you that you are in for a big surprise."

The men exchanged curious gazes. Somehow, they couldn't help but believe what Grey had told them.

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"So, what do you say? Will you take it or not?"

Biden went quiet for a moment and gently released a sigh. "We will take it. We will continue to be your investors." He announced.

Grey took in a deep breath and a smile evaded his face. Problem solved!

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Chapter 105: unexpected meeting "Wow! How did you convince them, Boss?" Liam asked, surprised. There was a big smile on his face.

Maria regarded Grey for a moment. "I knew he had a perfect plan. We don't need to ask how he did it, as far as everything is moving accordingly," she rescued Grey.

Grey gave her a nice smile. "She's right. Well, so our investors are back. We should proceed with our daily affairs."

"Did you tell Hercules about the situation here?" Liam inquired suddenly.

Grey watched him for a moment. "No, why should I? And only Jane has access to Hercules. I'm just a manager of SU world," he explained.

Maria nodded. "Yes, do you know the type of people Hercules speaks with? I'm sure we are not in his league," Maria pointed out.

Grey laughed at this. To think he was the Hercules they were talking about.

Liam nodded. "I will go back to work then, even though I feel like we need to celebrate our success," he suggested with a smile.

Grey observed him for a moment and slowly shook his head. "I don't think it's necessary." A soft knock sounded on the door. And it opened to reveal Tina with a bright smile on her face.

"I have good news boss," she announced and walked closer. "Seriously? What's it about?" Maria urged softly.

"Mr. Jason on WW has sent our payment to the company account. That aside, he sent excess money. He said he would love to get more of our Surveillance cameras. We are supposed to set an

appointment and discuss it. Then, we could make a contract that it would be written and because he wants us to be the only one that would be supplying him with Surveillance cameras," she explained with a wide smile.

“What!” Maria couldn’t contain the joy in her. “This is a piece of great news! Now, this is a cause for celebration. Are we celebrating, boss?” She pouted at Grey.

Grey smiled eventually, succumbing to their request. “Alright, after work then. You can inform the staff. There will be a nice treat.”

“At 5star restaurant?” Maria asked excitedly.

“Now, Maria, you enjoy nice things, don’t you?” Maria smiled. “I’m sorry boss. I was just excited to go back there. Their meals are top-notch,” she muttered and looked away. “What? Have you guys been to 5star?” Liam asked, shocked.

“Yes,” Maria responded. “It was very beautiful.”

Grey thought for a moment. “Alright, let’s do that. Tina should book tables for us, depending on the numbers of workers attending,” he said finally.

“Yes!” Maria whooped in delight.

Eventually, they walked out of the office and gave Grey the space that he wanted.

His lunch was on the table. He grabbed the tarco and munched quietly.

Grey had only an hour to himself before it was closing hour. He was tired but he remembered the promise he made to the workers. Walking out of the office, Tina rushed to him. “Boss, I booked three tables. The workers were happy that they would be having something like this. Only a few of them had

things to do,” she explained. Just as the elevator was about to close, Maria and Liam rushed inside. “Damn, I almost missed that,” she laughed and turned to Tina. “Is everyone really going?”



"Only a few of them are staying back," Tina responded. "I told you," Liam confirmed, with a smile. Maria sighed. "We've never had something like this in the SU world. Everyone must be very excited," she revealed. Grey regarded her for a moment. "You look excited, Maria." Maria laughed aloud. "Of course, I'm very excited. Are we getting a VIP?" "What?" Liam cut in quickly. "That's a lot! Are we using the company fund or what?"

Grey smiled softly, "Meet me in 5star," he said simply and stepped out. Maria watched Grey for a moment. Actually, he knew that he could afford it. Jane feared him, and somehow she didn't believe the fact that he wasn't close to Hercules.

As far as she was concerned, Grey might be as close as Jane was to Hercules. Maybe, Grey was Hercules' spy. So, she decided to be on her best behavior. She

wanted Grey to put in a good word for her in front of Hercules. Perhaps Hercules would promote her to a big company of his and increase her salary. It was all she sought for.

Grey soon pulled up at 5star restaurant and he submitted his membership card for a VIP room so that all the workers would be in one room.

"OMG! I have never been here!" One of the workers squealed excitedly.

Liam moved to Maria. "Is this from the company fund or what? I don't believe Mr. Grey is so rich to this extent," he voiced his opinion.

Maria looked at him. "I think you need to be very careful around Boss, or you might get fired or something for running your mouth carelessly," she advised. Liam's heart made a sudden thud as he

decided to get settled.

Some of the workers were taking pictures and not even ready to settle down and order. Though, the waiters were already taking orders from some workers. "This is the best day of my life. At least I can brag to my friends that I have been here," Tina said excitedly.

Grey smiled at them. His phone rang suddenly and it was Alfred. He turned to look at Maria who sat beside him. "I will be back. You are free to order whatever you want."

Maria nodded. "Alright, Boss."

The phone had stopped ringing when Grey walked out of the room. He waited for a moment, expecting Alfred to call back but when he didn't, he dialed his line.

Alfred picked up immediately. "Hello, Grey. So, I've informed the elders and we've decided to have our first meeting. Is that fine with you?"

Grey nodded, unconsciously taking a step away from where he stood initially. "I think it's ok. We've never had the opportunity to talk anyways." "Yes but Aphrodite isn't around currently. Though, she told me she would shorten her trip because of you. Then, she would go back." Alfred explained. "Alright, let's do that. We can decide on the time whenever she comes back." "Alright then but be very careful. Like I said earlier, I don't trust Audrey's men and I don't trust Audrey either," he acknowledged. Grey smiled at his choice of words. "Alright, no problem. Let's talk later then."

The phone went off and he decided to join the others in the room.

Just as Grey looked up from his phone, his feet froze to the ground and his eyes went wide with shock.

He wanted to say something but the word was suddenly stuck in his throat as he stared at the man watching him from rooms away from him.

Chapter 106: Where's Leo It was impossible, could the death have come alive? Grey found it strange to even imagine it. Alas! Behold, it was Leo, Charles' father. Were his eyes playing tricks on him? Even after he closed and opened his eyes, he saw the man as he turned around and started towards the elevator. Grey hurried closer to him. If it was true and Leo was alive, then, he must speak with him. He must ask him why he killed his father and attempted to take his life as well.

One of the maids pulling a serving tray rushed out from the room beside Grey, obstructing him for a moment. When Grey reached the elevator, he saw that Leo had taken the ride to the last floor.

Greg rushed to the second elevator as well. His heart was thumping madly in his chest.

He made a calculation, a hard thought at why Leo would be alive and the elders wouldn't know about it.

Alfred told him that he died in the accident. Even though, he knew that it wasn't an accident and something fishy was actually happening somewhere.

Damn, he needed to find out. The moment the elevator door opened, Grey hurried out and moved to the second elevator, only to discover it was going up. It seemed like Leo had walked out of it. Grey grunted and turned around, his eyes searching for Leo. He sighed with frustration when he saw lots of people moving around the restaurant. Just then, he caught the glimpse of that familiar clothes, the ones that Leo was wearing earlier when he saw him. Grey released a sigh and dashed closer to him. His phone rang suddenly, and he stopped unconsciously to retrieve it. It was Lan.

Grey's heart made a sudden thud. If Lan was calling him at that time, then it must be very important. When Grey looked up again, the man was gone. He sighed with frustration and raked his fingers through his hair. Why must Lan call at a such a bad time?

He hurried out of the restaurant anyway since he still needed to pick up Lan's call.

When he got into the car, the phone had stopped ringing. Grey waited for his call. It didn't take up to a minute before Lan called back and Grey picked up immediately. "Hello Lan, how are you doing?" "Fine but I'm in a tight place. I just had to get you this news," he revealed.

"Alright, I appreciate that. And, shoot," he encouraged. "Alright. So, Audrey is currently speaking with Giovanni. I think he's planning to betray you. I don't have the details right now as only Jude was allowed entrance. But I will gather as much information as I can and give your feedback later," he announced. He knew that Audrey was likely to take such steps. He didn't even disappoint him.

III

"Where should I send the pizza to?" "Home, at Audrey's place. I will call you before you do so," he pointed out.

Grey nodded once." Before you go, I want to ask you something. Do you perhaps have any idea where your family might be?"

Lan went silent for a while as if thinking about it." Some of the men think they aren't in the city currently."

"You mean Audrey has flown them out of the country? Is that even possible?"

"I don't think it's right anyways. I mean my wife and daughter don't have what it takes to travel out of the country. Same as some of the men," he explained. Grey's head made a thud as the words sank in." Are you saying it's not only you? Did Audrey take the family of the others?" There was a reshuffling. "I will call you back. I have to go now," he notified and hung up immediately.

Grey sighed and got down of the car. He hesitated, thinking back to the man that resembled Leo. If he had caught up with him, it would have been easy for him to realize who he really was. Then, he

wondered if Charles knew something about it. Definitely, he would. If his father was really alive, then he would.

Grey didn't know if Leo didn't recognize him when he stared at him the other time but he stared hard enough. What if he was the one? What was he even saying? He saw the man and the similarities he displayed with

Leo.

A headache set in suddenly. Grey knew he had to head home.

He hurried back to the restaurant and handed over his black membership card as a payment for the orders.

After that, he went to the room and signaled Maria closer to him. "Boss, is everything alright?" Maria noticed the worried expression on his face. Even though she was smiling, it soon transformed into a frown after she saw the expression on his face.

"Just a headache. I think I should go home. Meanwhile, I paid for the order. You guys can have fun," he declared,

Maria observed him for a moment. "Do you want me to get something for you?" Grey shook his head previously. "No, I'm fine. I will pass. See you at work tomorrow."

"Alright, boss," she took a short bow.

Grey let out a sigh as he stepped into his car. Just as he started the car, a destination slipped into his mind. He took his phone immediately and dialed Charles' line. It took a while before he answered.

"Where are you currently?" He didn't even go through with exchanging pleasantries. He just didn't have the time for it.

"In the city, why?" "I need to see you right away. Send your address to me," he ordered and hung up without waiting for his feedback. A message popped up on his phone as he pulled out into the street. Grey went on full speed, his mind was reeling. He had questions. He needed answers.

A car was moving slowly in front of him and Grey overtook it, pressing even harder on the accelerator. Grey soon pulled up in front of the mansion that must have belonged to Leo

seeing it was an old design, though still in Vogue. Grey sent him a message to tell him that he was outside before he stepped out of the car. The gate automatically withdrew on its own and Grey stepped inside, his fists

clenched beside him.

He walked to the front door. However, the door opened before he would get there.

"Grey!" Charles called with a wide smile on his face. Grey wore the same dark expression he had been having. "Where's Leo?" His voice was deep.

Charles's smile vanished slowly." What do you mean?"

"You heard me, Charles. Where is your father? Where's Leo?" Charles's eyes went wide and dark with shock.

Chapter 107: Proclamation Charles stood in shock for a moment, unable to believe the question that Grey was asking him. "Who the fuck are you asking for? My father?"

Grey felt a stab of annoyance." You heard me clearly, Charles. I'm not going to repeat myself. Where is your father? Is he in? Where have you been hiding him?" His deep voice rang through the night, leaving an echo. Grey's fist clenched even harder, anger fueled him up.

Charles chuckled. "You are not making any sense, Grey. My father is dead."

"Is that supposed to be a tease or a lie? I know you are hiding him and it will be the best for you if you let him out of that door!" He muttered.

Charles regarded him for another moment. "I don't even know what you are talking about. Why are you asking about my dead father?" He inquired with confused brows.

Grey advanced closer, taking Charles by the collar and pulling him back until his back was against the wall. Four men emerged from behind the flower suddenly. Clad in black suits, they stepped closer to Grey.

Grey felt a surge of anger as he squeezed his collar, though careful not to choke him.

"Don't use questions to reply to me!" He yelled in his face." Tell me the truth! Where is the man that killed my father!" He expressed in a thick but sadness filled voice.

Someone caught Grey from behind suddenly, pulling him apart. Grey felt weak at the revelation that he just saw and the fact that he was never going to see his family again. For a moment, he lost his energy

and allowed the men to yank his hands off Charles. The men thought they had the strength to pull him back.

Just as one of them tried to punch Grey, Charles screamed. "Don't you dare!"

The men looked back at Charles, though they didn't let go of Grey.

Charles felt a stab of annoyance. He rushed forward. "Blaze, let him go!" He yelled and pulled the man away from Grey.

"But Boss," Blaze, who was reluctant to let Grey go started but Charles slapped him, cutting him off abruptly. "How dare you!" He yelled with his full strength. "I told you to let him go! How dare you lay your hand on Hercules!" He pointed out.

The men exchanged gazes slowly. "What? Hercules?" Blaze stuttered but he couldn't even bring himself to react at that moment.

Charles moved closer and yanked his hand away from Grey forcefully.

"Hercules!" The men chorused at once and went on their knees in front of Grey.

Grey watched the drama unfold slowly. Though, he didn't expect it. He didn't know that Charles would proclaim him in front of his men. He didn't trust him anyways. Maybe he could have thought it through before stepping into his house. If Charles was really going to harm him, he would have done so. Yet, Grey found it difficult to believe that Charles doesn't know anything about his father. If his father was alive, Charles would definitely be aware of it. "I think you are misunderstanding something. My father is dead. He died ten years ago," Charles explained softly.

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Grey rushed towards him again, in anguish and anger. He caught him by the collar again, his eyes hard on him. "What did I tell you about revealing my personality? You just disobeyed me! How do I know you

aren't working against me!" He yelled in anger. Charles regarded him for a moment in the silence. He slowly dropped to the ground, in front of Grey.

Grey watched him for a moment, shocked. Charles was kneeling in front of him.

"We might not be that close when we were young but we behaved like brothers," Charles started, his gaze anywhere but Grey. "I know my dad might have killed your father\_" Grey interrupted quickly. "He killed him! This statement is relevant and correct!" He yelled in frustration. He tried to retrain himself even though he wanted to bash Charles' face.

Charles nodded briefly. "I don't know what you saw but if you keep saying it, then he must have been the one." Grey sighed and looked away. He raked his fingers through his hair for a moment

before he looked back at Charles. "So, you didn't believe me?"

"My father's death was an accident. The news was that he died alongside your father. We had to cancel the autopsy because we didn't want the world to know your father was murdered. I don't know what my father saw to have done something so wicked but," Charles looked up eventually. "I would love to find out for you. And I understand the mistrust, I mean I would have done the same thing if I was in your shoes but\_" he trailed off.

Grey regarded him for a moment as if reading his thoughts. The eyes spoke of loyalty. Though, Grey didn't know if it was best to rely on something like that. His father had been killed by his trusted and closest friend.

"Are you saying you don't know where your father is?"

"Of course, I know," Charles stressed. "He died, we buried him," he revealed.

Grey slowly let out the air he didn't know he was holding. Everything actually felt stuffy for him. He turned away and tried a flashback.



What if he saw it wrong? What if it was his eyes playing tricks on him? Or maybe it was just someone that looked like Leo but wasn't even him?

These questions rolled and toiled in his mind but the answers evaded him.

"I might have been angry about your appearance but I will never harm you," Charles proclaimed. "I want to stand with you to the end. But," he swallowed harder. "You can kill me right now, I will gladly accept any punishment for my father's sin."

Grey saw the tears streaming down Charles' cheeks. "I will accept any punishment imposed on me as Hercules' follower and elder. If my father was the reason why this group is going into ruin, then I will accept

anything you have to dish out," he said with determination. Grey watched him, somehow lost of words to say.

Chapter 108: Confusion Grey turned away from him immediately and suppressed the emotion building up in him.

"Like you've said the other day, I did enjoy your wealth, I won't deny it. Maybe it's time I die. I mean what's the essence? How could I live with the truth anyways? But one thing I won't take is the fact that my father is truly dead. I saw his corpse. Even though he was burnt beyond recognition, I knew it was him," he explained.

Grey sighed again and rubbed his face in frustration. Maybe it was true. Grey could have seen the wrong person. There was no valid reason as to why Leo would be alive.

He turned to look at Charles still on his knees. For a reason unknown to him, he wanted to believe him, just as he had believed Lan even though there were lots of possibilities why he shouldn't. Should he follow his instincts? Well, he had always done so.

"Get up," he muttered.

Charles got up slowly. "What are you going to do to me?" He looked up at him, his face hard with expression.

Grey released a sigh. "I'm not going to take your position as the elder but I don't fully trust you yet. Maybe, just maybe you can work towards it. Goodbye," he finished and without waiting for Charles' reply hurried back to his car.

He wiped off the perspiration that had formed on his forehead. Was his eyes really playing tricks on him?

He laid back for a moment in quick thought. The spy was nowhere to be found and Grey still didn't know who had killed his father. "Being the Hercules is as draining as something else," he muttered and

started the ignition.

A message popped up on his phone suddenly. It was from Lan. Grey read through and smiled. He placed a call to Don immediately.

"Hi Boss," Don boomed from the other end. "I was going to call you after this last trip," he announced. "I have some information on what you want."

"Good, let's meet by 3 tomorrow. We have to see Lan together. Then, you can fill

me on with everything," he suggested. "That's fine," Don responded. And Grey hung up before he sped up. He was suddenly tired and very hungry. But he didn't stop to get anything even though he knew there might not be any food awaiting him at home.

Grey hadn't stepped in when he started hearing voices from the house.

"I have no time for this, sincerely," Avery said softly.

The word enraged Smith. "Seriously? I knew this was what you were going to say! I was waiting for this! If this had happened to you, the world would have been the worst!" He yelled at her. "You would have cried your eyes out in pity but it happens to me and you don't have the time for it?" He pointed out annoyingly. "What?" It was Avery's turn to be angry. "Are you kidding me?" She regarded him for a moment. "Why do you even act as if you've never prayed for something like that to happen to me?"

She remembered what Grey had told her and somehow, the facts would always glare at her sometimes but she would choose to ignore it.

"Seriously?" Smith had this grim smile on his face.

The maid walked inside with a cup of hot chocolate but seeing the ongoing argument, she carefully placed it on the table and dashed off. "Yes!" Avery affirmed, standing up. "Just tell me you weren't the

one that goes around bribing top workers. Do you think I'm like you?"

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"Are you any better?" He fired back.

Grey stepped inside at this moment but hesitated as he watched the two before he moved closer to Avery.

"What are you doing, Smith?" Grey asked as he stepped beside Avery. "Why are you torturing her? As if she has a hand in your misfortune," he told him calmly. Avery looked over at him quickly, battling her lashes. She wondered how Grey knew about what had happened. Smith scoffed. "I can see that you've told your useless husband about it. You two must think you are a match for me, right?" "And what are you going to do about it?" Avery replied in cold tones.

Smith huffed. "Taking to your brother?"

Avery closed her eyes for a moment. "Now, I've had it all!" She opened them

again and stared hard at Smith. "You are not my brother. You don't even act like one. You are not eligible to be one. Instead of you to repent, you go around blaming people for your misfortune and your mistakes." "Stop it!" Smith screamed, in order to shut her up but Avery was like a cat that was just let out of the bag. "No, I wouldn't stop!" She said stubbornly, her anger matching with Smith's. "You blamed me for what Jane did as if you didn't approach Protos Publicita in the first place. Wait, can you even tell us how you made them sign the contract in the first place?"

"Yes, can't you ever accept defeat? Protos Publicita chose Avery. Why should that be a problem for you? And why are you blaming her for it?" Grey questioned. "Yes!" Avery affirmed. "I didn't do anything. You should be the one to sit and think it through. You should really reflect on yourself and stop blaming

others. It's not going-" Avery didn't complete it. Smith, fully enraged now, grabbed the cup of chocolate and aimed it close to Avery. He was very angry now and didn't even see where his aim was set at.

Grey, sensing the danger at hand pulled Avery into a hug. His arms went around Avery, pulling her into the hard chest as he turned her around so that the chocolate would spill on his shirt.

Grey had initially taken off his suit and had just a shirt on. And the chocolate was still very hot. It went through his shirt and eventually burnt his skin, inflicting pain. Grey clenched his teeth against the pain from the burn. Avery pulled away from Grey quickly to look at Smith. "What have you done?" She screamed, then looked at Grey's back, at the stain. "That chocolate was hot! Were you going to kill me?" Avery felt a surge of anger. Her heart made a sudden thud as the realization dawned on her. "Were you going to kill him?" She corrected.

Chapter 109: The Owner "You think I care?" Smith spat out, his eyes almost glowing. "And lemme warn you this last time. If you and your useless husband love yourself, never meddle with me ever again!" He warned sternly.

"Are you like this because grandfather isn't around?" Avery accused.

Smith regarded them for a moment before he walked out of the house in anger.

Avery took in a deep breath and looked up at Grey, a bit touched by his action. "Are you alright?" She sounded worried. Grey nodded once. "I'm fine," he lied and moved towards the room.

Three maids rushed inside. Avery regarded them for a moment before she went for the first aid box. She didn't know how much damage the chocolate had done to Grey but she knew that he was just lying about being fine. It was her fault anyways. And if Grey hadn't hugged her, she wondered where the chocolate would have spilled on.

When she walked inside the room, Grey was staring in the mirror and the shirt was still on him. "Are you truly ok?" Avery hesitated by the door and asked, concerned.

Grey nodded once. "I'm fine. Are you hurt anywhere?" He turned to look at her. Avery watched him for a moment. "Why won't I be fine? You took the bullet for me." Grey laughed at this, the image became stuck in her head. Actually, she had never seen Grey laugh and it was recently that she realized how handsome he looked. "Don't worry, I can take a bullet for you." Avery sighed. "Stop being sarcastic," she muttered and moved closer with the first aid box. "Let's see if the chocolate hasn't caused any damage." "I'm fine, Avery. You needn't worry about this?" He said stubbornly. Avery ignored him and instead placed the box on the floor beside her. She stretched to grab the shirt. "I will pull this off," she informed but Grey caught hold of her hand. "I will do this," he said firmly and Avery reluctantly let go of the shirt. He sighed

and slipped the shirt off his body. The first thing that Avery saw was the tattoo. "When did you get this?" She asked out of curiosity. She reached for it, touching the side of the viper with delicacy. She wasn't at all scared of the image. Actually, she loved men with tattoos but Lucy found it weird.

Even at that, Smith had few tattoos on his body. He was always very stubborn and undisciplined. It was still a miracle that Lucy now relates well with him.

"It has been on me forever," he replied. Avery smiled. "That's why it has grown small," she traced the image until it got to a slightly reddish mark.

The Louis Vuitton wear was thick and little of the chocolate actually spilled on Grey. The impact caused the area to turn very red but it didn't swell and wasn't

deep.

Avery released a relieved sigh. "It's not deep, that's good." "I told you I was fine," Grey insisted in a thick voice. Avery ignored his remark. "Will you come to the bathroom so that I can rinse it with water?"

Grey groaned. "I'm just tired and hungry. I will like to get it done with quickly." Avery looked up. "You are hungry? Why didn't you say that?" When Grey didn't reply, she got up and rushed out of the room.

Grey entered the shower before she got back. In fact, he had slipped on pajama trousers, leaving his chest unclad as he was sure that Avery would still disturb. "I've told the maids to make something quick for you," she informed him. Grey turned to look at her, shocked. "You told the maids to make my food?" Well, Avery had never bothered herself about something that concerned Grey and he was shocked at the new behavior.

"I will apply the lotion on the wound since you've bath before I got back," she bent and applied the lotion on it. "May I ask you a question?" Grey nodded once. "Anything."

"How did you know what had happened at Protos Pubblicita? I wanted to ask you the other time but it wasn't the right time."

Grey kept quiet as he thought of what to say. He was unconscious of what he had said earlier.

"Well, I arrived a few minutes ago and I heard your conversation. Besides, we've discussed it earlier. I just kind of placed the puzzle together," he explained.

Avery nodded briefly. She went silent for a moment. "Thank you," she murmured. It was so low that Grey thought he heard it wrong.

Well, Avery was very stubborn and all these were new to her.

"Thank you for pulling me out of the way. The coffee might have burnt my chest more than this," she indicated softly. She eventually acknowledged.

Grey nodded once. "It's ok."

Avery stood and regarded the shirt for a while before she picked it up and walked out with it. When she returned, she was without the shirt.

"I'm sorry for ruining your shirt. I will get a new one for you," she announced. Grey stood up. "You don't need to do that, I'm fine," and he walked out of the room.

Avery regarded him for a moment with a smile on her lips. She didn't expect Grey to do what he did for her despite what she had done to him.

She sighed and followed after him.

There was a plate of pancakes and wine on the table when Grey stepped out.

His phone rang suddenly and it was Caramel.

"Hi Caramel," he called as he sat on the dining chair.

At the mention of the name, Avery pulled to a stop in her track. She felt a stab of annoyance at the fact that Caramel was calling Grey that late in the night. She might not love Grey but he was still her husband and Caramel was supposed to know that. It was at that moment she decided to speak with Caramel the next day and let her know her right position.

No matter what, Grey was still her husband. Ring or no ring, he was still the one.

Chapter 110; Pull Grey regarded the Robinson family for a moment before he picked his fork. Spaghetti Bolognese was served. Avery looked at Grey, remembering what he did for her the previous night. No matter how hard she tried, she couldn't stop thinking about it. "Are you alright, Avery?" Emma demanded, her gaze hovering over her for a moment.

"Yes, mom. It's actually\_" she trailed off, looking over at Smith with icy eyes.

Smith smiled softly as if daring her to speak up. "So, how was the appointment with Protos Pubblicita?" Lucy brought up suddenly, interrupting Avery from what she was about to say.

"Fine," Avery responded quickly. "We decided to bring in a model from our side. And we settled on Chloe," she announced.

Smith's gaze shot up. "Behind me? How could you decide on that alone?" His angry voice boomed.

Lucy looked at him, confused. "What do you mean by that? Weren't you present at the meeting? Didn't you discuss it together?" Smith sighed and hesitated. "Hercules didn't allow it. Jane made me leave," he informed in soft tones.

Grey laughed softly. "How could that happen? We should be able to choose who our representatives would be!" He declared half angry. "We are going to set up another meeting and talk about it!"

"You have to calm down, father," Benjamin soothed.

"Yes, we all know that Hercules isn't someone you can fight with," Grey declared suddenly. Every gaze turned towards him in shock. Grey shrugged at this. "I mean he's really powerful."

Emma hissed. "For the first time in your life, you are actually making sense," she remarked and looked at Lucy. "Father, he's right. This is a very dangerous fight."

Grey nodded severally. "We don't want to upset him," he added quickly. Lucy regarded them for a moment and slowly released a sigh. "You are right. I will be making Smith the CEO of LX corporation then," she announced suddenly.

Avery's eyes widened with shock. "What?"

"Well, he would still be the creative project manager of the whole company while Avery would be the CEO of LN material. The post of a president will be canceled," he announced. It was as if he had been thinking about it overnight.

Avery couldn't believe her ears. Grey had tried to warn her about it and she had always chosen to turn a deaf ear. Unfortunately, it turned out to be real. Lucy was really going to keep favoring Smith.



"Thank you so much, uncle," Smith uttered with a bright smile on his face.

Avery stared at him for a moment in anger. "Fine! But we are still using Chloe!"

"Says who? I'm the project manager. I get to decide who best suits this. Besides, we have a more competent and popular Model that we can use in place of Chloe," he argued.

"Well, none of those models uses our products, do they?" Avery complained. "Besides, it would be convincing for the public if we announce that Chloe uses our products. And well, she has started using them," she added quickly

"Avery is right. It will be easy to convince the public that Chloe uses our products. And she was successful where she came from," Lucy hinted. Smith groaned inwardly. "Good, then but she won't be our ambassador. We will find someone worthwhile for it." Avery huffed. "My friend is more than capable but you wouldn't accept the truth," she contended.

"Well, I'm the project manager, I know what's best for us," he replied.

"No problem. Are we picking the attire? Then you should see Seth and discuss it on time. The shoot will start today," she explained.

Smith grunted and looked away. "Seth left the country," he announced.

"What do you mean by left?" Lucy probed further.

"Well, he sold the company and left," he looked up at Grey. "I discovered it late as well."

Grey looked up at Smith. Their gaze held and locked for a moment. Smith's gaze wore a tricky look and had deep meaning. Grey knew that there was a piece of information with him.

"I wonder if the new owner is going to be able to continue the line," Benjamin said, concerned.

"I think we should let Protos Pubblicita handle the costume then. They've been advertising for so long, they must have brands," Avery suggested. Smith nodded once. "That's fine by me." Avery didn't go to work immediately because she planned to have a chat with Caramel. It has been a while since they hung out.

For a reason unknown to Avery, she had been avoiding her. Though, it started after she learned of how close she had gotten with Grey. For another strange reason, it upset her so much.

A soft knock on the door.

"Yes, come in," Caramel urged softly.

Avery opened the door and walked inside. "Good morning, Caramel."

Caramel looked up from her desk. She regarded her for a moment. "Good morning. It's been a while. Why are you here?"

"Must I get invited before I visit my friend?" Avery responded and walked to sit in front of her.

Caramel chuckled. "Are we still friends?"

Avery cleared her throat. "Why do you think we are not?"

Caramel sighed. "I heard that Chloe is back, even though you two refuse to visit," she said instead, ignoring her remark. "Yes, I'm thinking we should hang out this evening. What do you think about that?" Avery brought it up.

Caramel nodded once. "That's fine by me."

Avery observed her for a moment while thinking of how to phrase her next word.

"It's amazing anyways how you find time to be with Grey, yet you didn't have time for us. What's between you two?"

Caramel laughed." Does it disturb you? As long as I know it, you don't even care." " Who said that? He's married to me, remember?"

Caramel rolled her eyes." He is but you don't even see him as your husband. Why should you bother yourself about him?" Avery felt a stab of annoyance but she kept it all in check." But he's still my husband. That's not something you can pull aside." Caramel regarded her for a moment, and relaxed in her chair." Why can't I pull it

aside? Your marriage is fake after all, you said this yourself, didn't you?"

Avery's cheeks went hot at the accusations. It was true anyways, she said it.

"Fine then," she uttered, taking her bag from the desk. "I will text you the location."