

Secretly TBB 221

Chapter 221: Doubting Thomas

“What? He’s dead! That’s not possible! Charles uttered, clearly shocked as well

Grey looked at Charles for a moment, as a feeling of doubt overswept him Was he supposed to trust Charles at that moment?

“We will need to check the cameras It would definitely show there I will go and check it out You all should enjoy the rest of the party. It will end soon anyways Gregory muttered

Alfred nodded, affirming his words. You should calm down. I will send some men around the hall too so that we can see if he’s really around.”

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*I will release some men inside the hall so that they can search around for us. You needn’t worry. Hercules. We have it in control,” Jayden mentioned

Grey nodded forcefully. “Alright, no problem then, he tried to breathe out and that was when he remembered that he left Caramel in the hall the other time

Alfred, Jayden, and Gregory walked away, to make the request they had promised

Grey’s gaze searched around again for Caramel but she was nowhere to be found An exasperated sigh escaped him as he moved away from the table

He rubbed his head in frustration as he continued to look around for Caramel His heart made a sudden

thud at the fact that she might have been kidnapped again, by Hattie

He walked towards the mini rooms to check if she was in any of them

Then, he walked out and decided to try the second door. The moment he opened the door was when he saw Alex and Caramel They didn't notice him So, he decided to watch them for a while

"I'm not interested in whatever you have to say, Alex. It won't even change the fact that you lied to me." Caramel pointed an accusing finger at him. She was angry and it was evident in her voice and expression.

"Just calm down, Caramel Give me the chance to explain It's not really my fault that I had to do it," he explained.

Caramel regarded him for a moment. "I don't care, Alex. I'm just not interested in anything you have to say and you can't force it on me," she finished and made to leave but Alex pulled her back.

"I sure will, Caramel. If I have to make you listen to me forcefully, then I will do so

Caramel huffed. "So, you are going to be using force now? Right, since that's what you grew up to see "

Alex sighed and slowly let her go. "I won't stop bothering you until you eventually give me the opportunity. I'm sure you will eventually succumb and you will hear me out."

Grey's heart took on a sudden beat as he closed the door and walked back to the hall. He couldn't stop thinking of the fact that Caramel might even end up dating Alex.

Well, Caramel doesn't know that Beatrice works for Hercules. And she didn't know that Hercules was Grey. So, nothing was stopping her from dating him.

And that was what Grey feared the most.

The back door opened eventually and Caramel walked in. Grey knew at that point that he had to make Caramel his before he lost her forever.

Alfred and Jayden returned.

“My men are all around the hall and they would give me feedback when they find him. His pictures have been distributed to their phones,” Alfred explained

“Same here,” Jayden uttered

The back door opened and Caramel walked inside. Instead of staying, she walked out of the hall and probably home.

Grey slowly let out a sigh and turned to look at Charles. “I need you to help me settle the bills”

Charles nodded. “No problem.”

Grey gave him the card and he walked away. Then, he turned to look at the elders “There’s something I didn’t tell you guys. Though, Charles knows about it”

“What’s it about?” Alfred inquired.

Grey let out a sigh. I saw the culprit that killed my father,” he revealed

Another round of surprises passed around.

“Who did?” Jayden was anxious.

“We will need to have this conversation elsewhere.” Alfred suggested

Everyone nodded in agreement.

A message entered Jayden's phone. He checked through and looked up at Grey. "The boss was right, one of the men saw a man that looked like Leo," he announced.

"Fuck! Who is really that?"

"He's heading towards the door," Jayden announced again.

Alfred's phone rang suddenly and he picked it up immediately. "Yes, Gregory. Oh, you've seen him. Alright, we will pin him." He finished and hung up. "I think the party has ended already because it's time to leave. I think you should meet with the members of the Billionaire club while we capture the man that looks like Leo."

Grey doubted it. He instead believes it was Leo but he didn't want to argue at that moment. So, he nodded briefly. "I will do that. Just make sure you capture him. He must not escape," he warned softly.

Alfred nodded once. "We will not let him escape," he promised. He and the rest of the elders walk out of the hall.

Richard stayed back.

Grey promised himself that he was going to deal with Charles if it was true that he knew of his father's existence, if at all that was his father.

The members of the club moved towards Grey, with their godfather.

"We knew we made the right decision of making you the new president," the godfather stated happily. "We are glad you are here."

"Well, the pleasure is all mine," Grey replied.

The members nodded happily.

“We will have our first meeting soon. The PRO will communicate with you as necessary because we wouldn’t want to be disturbing you too much,” Nicholas, one of the members said.

Sure, thanks and I will be waiting.”

The godfather must have done wonders because none of the members were talking about the mask.

‘I will be leaving soon, I have things to take care of,” Grey apologized.

The godfather nodded once. “No problem, the party has ended already,” he informed and the members walked away.

Giovanni, Alex, and Hattie moved closer.

“The mask fits you so well. I’m sure you are going to be wearing it forever,” Giovanni expressed in a sarcastic tone.

Grey laughed. “Maybe or maybe not. The likes of you should be worried to their bones,” he glanced at Richard.” Let’s go,” he said and walked out of the hall.

Alex stared behind him in hot anger. He was really angry that Hercules stole his chance with Caramel and he promised within himself to get back at him.

“So, he’s Grey?” Alex raised skeptical brows.

Hattie nodded briefly. “Your father discovered his real name,” she explained.

Alex didn’t know why Grey was so common. He remembered Caramel’s friend also bearing Grey.

He furrowed his brows for a moment and looked at Giovanni. "What's his last name?"

Chapter 222: Rage

Just as Giovanni opened his mouth to say something, a man in a suit hurried closer to him and whispered something in his ears.

At this, Giovanni's eyes went wide with shock. "Are you sure?"

The man nodded briefly. "Very sure, I saw when he entered the car and they drove away"

Alex regarded his father for a moment. Did something happen? Is something wrong?"

Giovanni ignored Alex's questions and instead looked at Hattie Leo is alive"

Hattie's eyes went wide with shock as well while Alex stood stil, skeptical "Who the fuck is Leo"

Giovanni eventually looked at him. "We need to discuss this elsewhere We are leaving immediately," he told the man.

The man bowed slightly and walked away.

"I will tell you all you need to know when we get home This isn't the right place for it," he informed Alex
Alex nodded in understanding.

Grey drove right behind Alfred's car, his mind in deep thought The mask was still on his face and he barely noticed.

He remembered the first time he saw Leo That day, he thought he actually hallucinated He couldn't believe it was the truth. Leo was alive?

Well, he saw no reason why he would die. Grey saw him shoot his father and then, him. There was no way he could have died unless he killed himself. If he did, how did Grey meet himself in the

orphanage?

Grey had questions but the answers eluded him. It felt as though his head was going to explode any moment from that time.

"Boss, the mask," Richard reminded softly, jerking Grey out of his thoughts.

Grey sighed and eventually pulled the mask off.

He had a lot of things to ask Leo. He wanted to ask him why he killed his father Why did he kill his long-time friend? It doesn't make sense no matter how much he thought about it, except if Charles was the

reason.

Well, when Grey was gone, Charles was able to have his position to himself.

Though, it was still strange. Leo could have shot him in the head or the heart. Leo could have shot him at places where he knew Grey wouldn't have survived it. Why didn't he?

The car went into Alfred's garage and Grey followed suit.

He pulled over and got out of the car. Richard does the same and hurries behind him.

The elders were out of the cars as well and walking towards the last one where Charles was in.

"It's really Leo!" Alfred was too shocked to move.

Charles was dumbfounded. "We buried my father! How come he's still alive?"

The question landed on the wrong place in Grey and he turned to fire Charles a dirty stare. "Don't ask that

question, Charles. You do know what your father looked like! If he was the one, you would know!" He snapped

Charles shook his head briefly." He was burnt beyond recognition. The house exploded," he revealed.

Grey regarded Charles for a moment, in shock. Actually, the shock replaced the anger in him. "What do you mean? The house?"

Charles nodded quickly and briefly. The house was set ablaze. My father burnt to death."

Grey took two heavy strides toward Charles and took him by the collar. "What are you talking about? You knew the truth! You weren't shocked when I told you about it! How the fuck did you know!" He yelled to

his face.

Charles clenched his teeth but didn't reply.

Grey felt a stab of annoyance and his blood was boiling with anger. He regarded Charles for a moment and suddenly let him go. He pulled at the gun hanging carelessly in Richard's pocket.

He took it, cocked it, and pointed it at Charles. "Start talking before I pull the trigger."

“What the fuck is this? What is happening?” Jayden asked, skeptical.

*Please, Hercules. You have to calm down. Please, don’t kill one of your elders,” Alfred beseeched softly

Grey face hardened the more.” He better start talking or I’m going to actually pull the trigger!” He yelled in a deep voice that was filled with anguish “I’m going to kill you before you all actually kill me as you’ve killed my father!”

Charles looked at him. “I didn’t kill your father.”

“But you do know who did! Didn’t you?” Grey snapped.

“Wait!” Gregory said at once. “I seem to be lost here,” he looked at Grey. “You know who killed your father? And, Charles knows as well?”

Grey ignored him and instead started to pull at the trigger. “Tell him to fucking talk before I kill him!”

‘Boss’ You have to talk to us! You have to take this easy!” Luciano beseeched, disturbed

*No, let him shoot. If that’s what would take off the anger, then he has to do it,” Charles said softly

Grey’s fist clenched even harder around the gun, as images rolled off his eyes. There were images of when his father was killed, of when he was shot And the fact that Leo was the culprit or the fact that Charles knew that the culprit still lives made him even angrier.

Grey had an inner fight as he struggled to pull the trigger and kill Charles but he couldn’t. Charles was one of his elders The decision felt like a thousand

Grey yelled suddenly, as he fired the shot!

But he was fast enough to have moved his hand slightly so that the bullet would pass Charles and enter a car behind him

Charles' eyes were closed as he anticipated death. And when he realized that several minutes had passed and he was fine, he opened his eyes only to discover that Grey didn't shoot.

Grey turned around in anger and despair. He was so angry and full of sadness. His heart ached so much that he couldn't stop the pain. He yelled again, this one louder, and sent thousands of sad messages.

The elders couldn't say anything and just watched. They had no idea what was really happening and no one could talk at that moment. If Aphrodite was around, maybe she would have been able to help.

It was after some minutes that he cooled down, breathing heavily. When he turned around to face the elders again, his face was as red and as hard as stone.

He didn't cry but one would know he had passed through something very hard at that moment.

"Let's talk tomorrow about all these. I will tell you everything," Grey muttered.

"And Leo? Do you want to speak with him?"

If I see him, I will shoot him! He pushed the words out forcefully, leaving the elders except Charles dumbfounded.

Chapter 223: Finally

Grey threw the gun away as he proceeded toward the car. He entered and drove out.

The elders stared behind him, bothered but skeptical.

"This has something to do with Leo, right?" Gregory inquired softly. His question was aimed at Charles but he didn't answer him. "I just asked a question, Charles!" His deep voice matched the same time that Grey used earlier.

"Don't ask me. Hercules already said he would explain but yes, it has to do with the foolish man I call my father," Charles mentioned.

The others could only stare. It was at that moment they realized it was something very huge and they wondered when Hercules would come back.

"What do we do about Hercules?" Luciano demanded.

* I fear whatever is eating him is something very huge. We seriously need to make him talk sooner." Gregory advised.

Alfred nodded briefly. "We need to call Aphrodite. She's the only one that can talk to Grey," he suggested.

Richard was even too shocked to say a word. He had never seen Grey behave so violently. He had almost stopped breathing, thinking Grey would actually pull the trigger at Charles.

"You all can retire to your various rooms. Leo would be with me until Hercules decides otherwise," Alfred announced.

They all nodded, agreeing with him.

But, Richard had another plan within. Caramel was someone Grey cherished and he knew that she would help to elevate Grey's mood.

Grey drove for some minutes, his mind in a kind of dark tunnel and he was seriously struggling to find the light

He pulled up in front of a salon. He realized he needed to change his style before he meet with Caramel on Monday.

“Welcome,” the stylist gestured to a seat “What style would you want?”

Grey still had this dark frown on his face “Change it anyhow you see fit I don’t want a long process because I have to leave very soon.”

The woman nodded briefly, though noticing that her customer was in a bad mood. She went straight to

business

It didn’t take long before he was done. He made a transfer of the money because he had the Hercules card with him and he didn’t want anyone to know who he was.

The drive back home was done absentmindedly. He had a lot on his mind and he didn’t even know how he was supposed to put it off.

Charles knew something that he didn’t know. And the fact that he was finding it difficult to say it out, also mean something

As much as Grey was scared of finding out, he desperately wanted to know it all. If Leo didn’t die with his father? How come the elders didn’t know about him? How come Grey disappeared and no one

knew

about him? Just how come Leo allegedly died in a house explosion? The pieces were not compatible and he knew that he still needed to make Charles talk.

But at that moment, he felt very stuffy and he had to just release the tension. By the next day, he would be ready for the next thing.

The moment he entered the living room, he heard some clinking sounds and concluded it was probably Beatrice making dinner.

He didn't even have the appetite to eat. But well, he still wanted to let Beatrice know he was at home

But the woman standing in the kitchen didn't look at all like Beatrice. It looked like.

And the woman turned as if sensing someone behind her. Her eyes went wide slightly as she regards Grey for a moment. The designer clothes he had on resembled the ones Hercules was wearing except for the hairstyle. 1

Grey didn't expect to see Caramel or he would have changed his clothes as well But thank goodness he had changed his hairstyle.

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"What are you doing here Caramel? You said you would be here by Monday." Grey felt even more shocked.

"I" she stammered, unsure of what to say Richard didn't tell her anything except that Grey was in a very bad mood. Caramel didn't know why he called her over but she decided to give it a shot Grey was becoming more than a friend anyways.

"I wanted to see Beatrice but she wasn't around and I decided to make dinner"

Grey sighed. Don't tell lies Caramel. If I find out, it would greatly upset me," he drawled

Caramel sighed. "I wanted to see you and I decided to make something for you."

Grey regarded her for a moment. "I'm not hungry," he turned away and headed towards the stairs "Don't follow me," he warned.

Caramel ignored his warning and went after him.

Grey entered the room and pulled off his hoodie angrily.

A gasp escaped Caramel as she watched the viper tattoo on Grey's back. It was at that moment that Grey knew that Caramel had followed her inside the room

Grey turned to look at Caramel, and his heart softened when he saw the way Caramel was looking at him.

"Caramel," he called softly.

Caramel shook his head briefly. "You don't need to say anything, Grey. I know you have secrets. I know there are some things you don't want to tell me. I didn't ask because I knew you had a solid reason for it. What if, just what if they have reasons too? Maybe if you see it as that, you would stop being so angry," she explained. "And yes, Richard called me over," she revealed and regarded him for another moment. "I will leave now too. I'm sorry for disturbing you."

"Wait," Grey said quickly before Caramel would open the door. He walked nearer and threw the hoodie away carelessly.

Caramel felt a lump appear in her throat at the sight of him. He was greatly shaped, with broad shoulders that Caramel wondered again how it would feel to have someone like him as her man.

Maybe it wasn't possible. Well, she has decided to stop dwelling on it. She was only going to see Grey as a friend and brother.

"Didn't you feel angry that I'm hiding things from you?" He demanded in a deep low voice.

Caramel shook her head slightly. "No, because I trust you. And I know there will be a day you would be comfortable telling me everything," she responded.

Grey smiled softly. Damn be anything that says he shouldn't date Caramel.

Grey tilted his head in to kiss her softly and sensed the hesitation in her.

"Date me, Caramel," he dropped the word that Caramel has been waiting for so long.

Caramel blinked once, unsure of what to say.

Chapter 224: Hide

Caramel woke up to the sudden knock on the door. She opened her eyes slowly, as she tried to focus on something or where she was.

The door opened suddenly, startling her for a moment because she had a blanket over her body and it felt like she was naked beneath.

"Grey," the voice stopped suddenly and that was when the puzzles filled themselves into places.

Grey asked her out and well, she accepted. It was what she had been waiting for anyways. She loved Grey like the air that she breathed.

"Violet!" Beatrice called and moved towards her. She had this wide smile plastered on her face. Caramel wasn't actually expecting her to be happy that she met her daughter naked in a man's bed.

"What happened here? Are you dating Grey already?"

Caramel stared, dumbfounded. She didn't know if she was supposed to say a negative or positive answer. "Somehow. Where's Grey?"

"He went for his morning exercise. He will be back soon but you need to tell me if something is really happening between you two. Grey is a nice man to date or even marry," she uttered.

Caramel felt shocked again.” Do you think he likes me?”

Beatrice laughed. ” Grey loves you. I’ve seen the way he looks at you or the way he reacts whenever you are in trouble. I don’t believe a man would love more than that,” she explained.

Caramel felt a surge of happiness. She smiled softly. “Yes, he asked me out and I responded but I merely thought he was under pressure,” she went back to being doubtful. She believed she did wrong for responding the night before or the fact that she decided to come to the house after she met with Richard.

Beatrice shook her head briefly and stood. “Grey isn’t that kind of man. He thinks very deeply before he makes a decision. It doesn’t matter if he’s angry or sad. Whatever he says has been something he had thought deeply about before he uttered it. He’s a great man. I’m making breakfast, you can join me downstairs when you are done cleaning up,” she informed and walked out of the room.

Caramel laid back on the bed, deep in thought as to what Beatrice had told her Beatrice seemed to know Grey, even more than she does. If she could say something so good about Grey, then it was nothing but the truth.

Well, she had that intrusiveness that Grey was a nice man. Poor or not, he was a very good man.

But she couldn’t believe she had sex with him the night before or the fact that they were now in a relationship

Grey walked inside and regarded Beatrice for a moment, realizing what he and Caramel did the night before.

Well, he loved Caramel even though it took him so long to admit it due to some circumstances. surrounding their meetings.

“Grey?” Beatrice called suddenly, jerking Grey out of his thoughts. “You are back and well, your color looks so good”

Grey smiled and moved even nearer. Have you seen Caramel?"

Beatrice held a shocked look. "Caramel? Was she in the house? I only went to check your room but couldn't find you" She teased.

Grey's smile slowly evolved into a frown." Did she leave?"

Beatrice suddenly smiled. "She's in your room. I spoke to her not quite long," she responded and turned around to continue chopping the vegetables.

Grey laughed wholeheartedly. "Did you just play me?"

Beatrice chuckled. "I can do that as your mother."

"No, there's no way you can be my mother and still be Caramel's mother because we are currently in a relationship," he revealed.

Beatrice smiled at this, feeling pleased. "Well, that makes me your mother. I'm your mother-in-law," she turned to look at him and saw the shock on his face.

"You aren't shocked or angry?"

"Why should I be? Have you forgotten this is what I initially wanted? I can't believe you've been hiding your feelings all this while, why?"

Grey looked away. There's something I didn't tell you initially. It's about the woman I married She used to be Caramel's friend," he looked up again." That's what has been pulling me back."

Beatrice regarded him for a moment. "What changed your mind?"

Grey clenched his teeth. "Because I will not let anyone have Caramel. It can only be me and me alone."

She smiled. "Maybe you need to be ready to focus on some other things. Some things are best left uncared for."

Grey frowned. He didn't need to ask questions because he knew what she was talking about. Though what Caramel actually told him the night before seemed to have settled in his heart and he had started to

think of what to do

"I'm going inside. I will talk to you later," he said and turned around only to see Caramel walk out to view. She was in a black dress, one that he got for her.

"We have a date today, Grey. You can't go anywhere."

Grey smiled and moved closer to kiss her on the forehead. "Where do you want us to go?"

"Actually, I need to tell you something about Hercules. Can I make a reservation in any restaurant of my choice?"

Grey nodded briefly. "Sure."

Caramel smiled "Be ready by 12. Then you can leave for anywhere when we are done. We will be done by

two."

Grey pulled at her cheeks softly, "you look beautiful when you smile."

"Are you guys going to eat or not? Beatrice interrupted playfully.

They both laughed.

"I will be back I just need to shower," he excused himself and went up the stairs.

Smith threw the magazine in front of Avery

She took it and read through the headlines. There were different topics but they all seem to be associated with Hercules.

'Hercules is the wealthiest man'.

'Hercules danced with two damsels'.

'Excellent carpet entry goes to Hercules'.

'Hercules, the best Billionaire president'.

Avery looked up at Smith, with confused brows. "What does this have to do with me?"

"A lot!" Emma said suddenly. I'm going to agree with Smith on this one! Hercules danced with your two friends. In fact, he walked Chloe out and who knows where they went? But you were at home, doing

nothing!" She yelled in anger.

Avery sighed." Mom, I don't understand what you are so angry about."

“If you had followed us, Hercules might have taken interest in you, instead of your friends.”

“Yes,” Emma chimed in. “ You are quite more beautiful than your two friends. Who knows, I might be the mother-in-law to the wealthiest man in the city.”

“Mom! I’m not ready for your complaint this morning!” She took the magazine and entered her room.

She could hear her mom still talking but she decided to turn a deaf ear to it.

She stared down at the magazine again and her heart made a sudden thud. It was true that her friend danced with Hercules but why was that so?

Grey was an employee at Protos Pubblicita. Could he be

Chapter 225: Revealed

“I didn’t know I would attend, sincerely. I didn’t have an invite but suddenly, the delivery man was standing in front of my doorpost with it,” she explained while Hercules watched with curiosity

“So, you attended the Billionaire party?” Grey asked with little surprise as if he wasn’t there

Caramel nodded severally, amidst eating shawarma. “But that isn’t the funniest thing in this story The first thing is that Hercules chose me. Did you see it in the magazine? I mean why would he dance with me?”

Grey tongue seductively went over his lips. He must have found you attractive. You aren’t easy to resist

Caramel laughed.” So, you were resisting?”

Grey nodded quickly "But not anymore."

Caramel was happy about this. So, guess what I did or should I rather say what I've been planning?" She started anxiously

Grey pretended to be anxious about what she was about to say, as he bit down some steaks

"So, I've decided to stop working at my father's company Ok, he's not even my father So, I would like to find my way and I've decided on the company I would aim for, she revealed

Grey remembered when she asked him if she could work at Protos Pubblicita Grey had wanted to ask her why she made such a decision but he couldn't because she would find it suspicious

"But why? I mean it doesn't matter. You can continue to work in his company"

Caramel shook her head slightly No, because I'm still going to tell him the truth So, I need to work and make money on my own. So, I told Hercules about it. I told him I would like to work in his company!" She sounded so happy. And guess what he said? He said a yes!" She jumped up. "I know that's so unfair but yes, I can finally start from somewhere"

Grey smiled, nodding slightly. "You deserve even better."

Caramel smiled, feeling that Grey was only trying to motivate her. "So, I would have to meet with the secretary on Monday. I'm so happy about the turn of things."

Grey nodded briefly." You are going to do great. Is there another thing you have in mind? Like the position you want."

Caramel thought for a moment. "I don't really care as long as it's a place I can showcase my talent."

"Like being the project manager?"

Caramel's eyes went wide in shock. That's too much, and I'm sure Protos Pubblicità has a project manager already. So, I'm not aiming for that but anything is fine by me."

"Well, It's no problem. I'm sure it would work well for you."

Grey was already thinking of firing David and letting Caramel work as the new project manager. David was giving him hard work and he would still have to deal with him on Monday.

"So, the next thing I discovered was that it was Alex that sent the invite_" she rattled off

A message popped up on Grey's phone. He read it and the smile on his face formed a frown. It was a message from Charles. Charles wanted Grey to come over to Alfred's house because he was ready to talk and explain things he didn't know to him.

Caramel stopped suddenly, sensing the change in Grey's expression She thought that she had triggered it by mentioning Alex. Well, Alex lied to everyone So, Grey could have been disappointed to realize he was Giovanni's only son.

"Are you ok? Is it because I mentioned Alex?"

Grey looked up at Caramel and slowly shook his head. "No, but I have to be somewhere very soon I will give you a call later"

Caramel nodded briefly, understanding.

Grey went to settle the bills while Caramel got ready to leave.

"Where should I drop you off?" Grey asked as they walked towards the car

Caramel shook her head briefly "I'm not going home I need to see a friend of mine. We will meet on Monday."

“Well, I can still drop you off,” Grey insisted.

Caramel smiled You need to hurry up with where you are going I can handle myself We will definitely see on Monday,” and she turned away before Grey would say much

Grey regarded her for a moment, as a Uber pulled off in front of her Caramel looked over at Grey, then smiled before she entered the Uber.

Grey entered the car too and drove right over to Alfred’s house

He remembered what Beatrice had told her that morning. There were things he would need to use a nonchalant attitude for Well, it wasn’t that easy. Could he still be friends with people that made him an

orphan?

But well, there must be something he doesn’t know. Something must be wrong somewhere Why would a friend suddenly wake up to be an enemy?

Though Grey was anxious about it he still didn’t trust what he would do if he was in the same room with

Charles.

Grey parked the car at the garage and walked into the elevator. The elevator took him right to the parlor where everyone was. The elders were already awaiting him, though Leo wasn’t in sight.

Everyone was quiet as Grey walked to sit.

“Grey,” Alfred started. “We are sorry for bothering you but I think you need to hear Charles out He has something to say to you,” he declared.

Grey looked over at Charles, with a dark frown on his face before he looked away. "Alright. Where's Leo?"

"In the room. We decided not to bring him over because you gave the instructions earlier and because_" Luciano stopped suddenly.

Grey raised his brows at him. "What?" He probed.

Gregory sighed. "Leo lost his memories. He doesn't seem to remember anything or even anyone. He didn't remember his son," he announced.

Grey released an exasperated sigh and sat back on the chair. "I should probably explain something to you. before Charles starts his. I mean I should have let you know beforehand," he voiced.

Alfred nodded. "You told me that you didn't know who killed your father," he reminded him.

Grey nodded once. Of course, I lied because I didn't want to scatter this union. Though, I'm going to tell

everyone at this moment," he hesitated. "Leo killed my father," he revealed.

"What!" Was the only thing some shocked elders could utter.

Only Charles wasn't surprised because he seemed to know the truth already.

Chapter 226: The Truth

"What the fuck!" Gregory yelled suddenly, standing up in the process.

"Are you fucking kidding us? How could Leo kill the previous Hercules?" Luciano questioned.

Grey sighed. "Well, I saw it. I watched Leo shoot my father to death before he shot me as well and I lost consciousness," he revealed.

Gregory gave the chair two consecutive punches. "How can that be?" His angry voice echoed throughout the whole room.

"I'm not getting this. I'm just not getting it. So, this means we actually have an enemy in our midst? Giovanni isn't the first enemy?" Jayden uttered.

"Hercules knew what this would cause, that was why he refused to say it until today. We shouldn't misuse the opportunity. We should however be calm to hear the rest of the story," Alfred explained.

Gregory grunted and forced himself to sit. "This is seriously rubbish! We need to ask Leo why he did it! What had happened? Why would one of the elders kill Hercules and injure his son!" He complained, feeling very disturbed.

If Leo wasn't helpless, he knew what he could have done. He was in fact starting to feel Grey's pain. No wonder, he had refused to see Leo and had insisted on killing him if he ever did.

"Well, I've been as skeptical and confused as you guys. I have no idea why my father's closest friend would be the one to kill him," he sighed." But that's not even the important thing today. Charles wasn't surprised when I told him about it weeks ago. He knew that his father actually killed my father," he revealed.

All gazes settled on Charles.

"He does?" Luciano was shocked.

Gregory launched an attack toward him. He grabbed him by the collar, "you knew and you refused to disclose it? And you kept all the elders silent!" He yelled to his face.

Charles said and did nothing.

“Gregory, leave him be!” Alfred persuaded. “We haven’t heard the end of the story.”

Gregory regarded him for another moment and released him suddenly so that he bounced on the chair.” This is seriously sickening! I don’t blame the fact that Hercules was about to pull the trigger at you yesterday! Your crimes are so much! What more have you and your father committed?” He yelled angrily.

“Yes! These people should be punished according to our laws! How could they do this?” Luciano lamented.

Grey’s head was bowed and he was in deep thought as well. There was no fucking way they would. succeed if they had enemies in their midst. How could the elders be the ones killing themselves?

If Leo hadn’t killed his father, he would still be alive. Well, Grey wouldn’t have passed through all he did. Those ten years felt like the 100 years of life full of hardship and troubles and hunger.

How was he going to overlook such an angle and forgive the idiots? Their sins were numerous according to Gregory.

But well, it was time to know about it all. He wouldn’t stay in the darkness for too long, not again.

Gregory’s anger matched Grey as if he was the one that had gone past what Grey had.

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“Please, continue,” Alfred told Grey.

Grey nodded once.” Yes, Charles knows that his father murdered my father but that’s not the only thing. he knows. There’s more and I expect that was why he called me because I would treat his fuck up if h tries to misbehave,” he threatened in low voice.

Charles sighed, with his head bent as he couldn't bring himself to look up at the other elders. He was filled with guilt and regret and then, sadness..

"I'm sorry for keeping this a secret among us but I thought the truth would never surface because all this was my father's fault," he looked up as if he was trying to reconcile with experience. "If my father hadn't killed Hercules, I wouldn't have to do what I did," he expressed.

Alfred regarded him for a moment." What did you do?"

Charles went quiet for a moment. "I tried to kill my father."

Grey gathered his brows as he watched him. "What?"

"Yes, I set the house on ablaze with the mindset of killing my father after the death of Hercules and after you," he glanced at Grey. "Went missing."

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What the fuck!" Gregory muttered.

My father has been acting weird for days. Whenever I told him I was going to Hercules' house to play

with Grey, he would shun me and tell me I had to visit my grandmother in days. I had to be prepared to see her," he started.

As he spoke, some images formed in front of Grey's eyes. He remembered days when they were very close. They played together and did almost everything together unless Grey went back to school because. Hercules made sure he schooled far away.

Well, it was normal because their fathers were best friends. In fact, they were closer than the rest of the

elders.

Realization showed on Grey's face. "You told me," he remembered vividly now.

Charles looked at him and nodded slightly, as tears gathered in his eyes. "I did but I was confused. I didn't know what was going on in his mind."

"I told you to give him the space he wanted," Grey was amazed at how he suddenly remembered. Well, Charles was right when he said they were very close when they were kids.

Charles nodded again. "So, I agreed to leave," he paused slightly and sighed.

But you didn't?" Grey was already in his story.

Charles sighed. "I left the car after my father left. I told the driver that I would be back but he should leave. without me because my father still had to give me some things. I told him that he would either find me a train or airplane to go on my own," he explained. "So, he let me."

Chapter 227: Reconciliation

Charles swallowed even harder. "You were my friend. And I just had to do what came to my mind," he looked away." So, that was why I was shocked when I heard you say he was alive. I knew it wasn't possible. In fact, we saw a burnt corpse and there was no one else in the house with him when I left," he explained.

"What the fuck is this?" Luciano exclaimed softly.

"No! What are we supposed to do, Hercules?" Alfred demanded.

Grey regarded Charles for a moment." That's all?"

Charles nodded briefly. "That's all I know, and I promise," he said truthfully.

Grey released a sigh and looked away. "We need to hear from the horse's mouth. The only person that can tell us what really happened is Leo," he expressed.

"But he doesn't remember anything. How are we sure he's not suffering from dementia?" Jayden demanded, stressed.

Grey thought for a moment. "You guys need to take care of Leo. We need him to come back. Well, I have a lot of questions to ask."

Alfred nodded. "I will monitor his health issue, you shouldn't worry about it," he assured.

Grey nodded once. "That's ok."

"So, what do we do to Charles?" Jayden demanded softly.

Grey looked over at Charles, and let out a sigh. "I will think of something later but it will be because he didn't open up when he was supposed to. Aside from that, I don't see his other crimes. What he did when he did to his father was because he was young. I will overlook it," he stood. "I don't want anyone to know about Leo just yet until he's alright."

They all nodded.

"So, what do you plan on doing about your company?" Alfred asked suddenly as Grey was about to step

out.

Grey turned to look at him again, with raised brows. "I don't understand your question."

Alfred stood. "I mean you already attended the Billionaire club party with a mask. Why don't you use this. tactic for Protos Publicita? I mean now that it shows you are back, it should also reflect on Protos Publicita. Even if it's once in a while, it would be ok to keep the employee in check," he advised.

Grey reasoned it for a moment, and when the idea sank in, he smiled. He didn't even think it to such an extent. A lot has been on his mind.

He turned to look at Charles. "Do you have a house around here?"

Charles nodded briefly. "I do."

"Let's go then," Grey finished and walked out of the room.

Charles met him at the garage. He rushed to him. "why don't you leave your car here? I can drive you in mine. Then I can make arrangements with Gregory to get you some cars for tomorrow," he expressed.

Grey shook his head briefly, "Two cars are enough for me. But yes, I will go in your car."

Charles hurried away and drove the car right to Grey. He let Grey enter before he drove out into the street.

When the silence stretched too far between them, Charles decided to talk.

"Are you still angry at me?"

Grey kept mute for some minutes as if he was thinking about the question. "Not really but I can't just seem to get it off. If I had told my dad about what you told me, maybe they would all be alive now," he looked at Charles. "Don't you regret what you did to your father?"

"I will redo it if I'm given the chance," Charles muttered.

Grey regarded him for another moment.” You don’t need to do that. Think deeply, Charles. I miss my father and I’m sure you miss him too. You love your father and you must have regretted everything,” he pointed out.

The red on the traffic light went on while Charles was already absentmindedly increasing the speed. He pulled to a stop immediately and they lurched ahead.

Charles’ hands on the wheel went even harder. Grey was right, he has only been lying to himself all this while. Charles was only caught in between family and friends. He loved Grey like a brother and was pained by his death that he decided to do something about it. Meanwhile, he also wanted his father.

The tears dropped from his face despite how much he tried to stop them.

Grey observed him for a moment and slowly patted his shoulder. “I’m sorry about your father.”

“Well, I don’t regret it!” Charles said quickly. “It wouldn’t have happened anyways if my dad hasn’t killed your father and tried to kill you as well. We wouldn’t even be in this position! And you wouldn’t have been suffering for ten years!” He felt torn.

Grey let in a deep air. Charles was right but there was no way he wouldn’t feel the pain of having to kill one father by oneself. It was a heavy burden for him to carry.

Chapter 228: The big Boss

Smith’s heart raced as he stared down at the laptop screen.

Actually, when he saw the sale decline, his heart nearly stopped beating. He didn’t know what went wrong. The sale was increasing so high that Smith knew he was eventually going to enter CCS finals.

The door burst open and he didn’t even know. His attention was all focused on the screen of the laptop as if a miracle would happen at that moment.

“Boss!” Mia screamed suddenly, jerking Smith out of his thoughts. He looked up at her, with an expression that showed how angry he was.

Well, Mia turned a blind eye to it. "We have a problem, sir."

"Of course! Do you think I don't know?" He snapped. "I have the fucking laptop in front of me!" He yelled.

Mia stepped back in fear. "I am so sorry sir but I just need to report this to you very quickly."

Smith sighed. "What is this all about?"

Mia moved closer and placed her notepad in front of him. "We got this mail this morning."

Smith read through and his head did a flip. "What the fuck is this?"

"They would like to pull back from advertising for us. They blame it on declining sales. According to them, it's not even their fault. They've tried their best in promoting our products but it didn't yield any effort. They are planning on sending us the money we paid them the last time."

Smith couldn't believe his ears. "What the fuck?"

Mia nodded briefly. "We are going against Victoria Skincare and it seems like they have more pundits than us. We should have continued our sales slowly. We shouldn't_."

Smith gave her a dirty glare that shut her up for good. "Are you saying I shouldn't have decided to promote our company?"

Mia sighed. "No, but we kept displaying them besides Victoria skincare, even on social media. Now, it looks like Victoria's skincare has skyrocketed again. In fact, it's of the same level as Smooth Therapy," she revealed.

Smith closed his eyes in defeat. "What do we do now?"

Mia went quiet for a moment. “We don’t have any funds left. Though, the company is still earning. So, we are optimistic about the future. If not, we will have to declare bankruptcy when the bank demands their money,” she explained.

Smith collapsed into the chair, and his eyes lost their color.

“And you have to decide very fast. I’ve seen the news everywhere. Someone from Victoria skincare is definitely monitoring us. We need to make a decision soon,” she said urgently.

Smith cleared the table in anger. He lost! He had lost to Grey!

What was he supposed to do at that moment?

Grey’s phone rang as he entered the car. Jimmy shut the door and moved to the driver’s seat.

Richard was the second chauffeur. He was the one driving the leading car, while Jimmy would drive the second car

Charles entered the car beside him.

“Yes,” Grey said to the receiver. It was Maria and he wondered why she was calling. Well, Grey hadn’t even told her he was coming to Protos Pubblicita that afternoon.

Grey took his time, changing his hairstyle. Though, he made sure it was a very new hairstyle and not the one he wore to the Billionaire club party.

“Good morning boss, I have some news for you,” Maria declared.

Grey nodded briefly, as he pulled down the mask. “Yes, proceed.”

“Victoria Skincare has skyrocketed. The sales are very much now that Beatrice is going to have to double the production and I hope we can take in another employee. That will facilitate production. I told Linda I would inform you and she shouldn’t worry about it,” she explained.

Grey smiled, feeling pleased by the news. “I will see Linda soon and have some discussion with her but no, I won’t be accepting any employee for now. Who knows, spies might infiltrate our base,” he informed.

“That’s actually right. I’m sorry for not thinking in that direction,” she apologized.” The second thing is that there will be a meeting between the executive to determine who the new supervisor would be,” Maria announced.

Grey scoffed.” You mean to say they removed me and still had the audacity to determine who the next supervisor would be?” He was amazed.

“Yes, boss. I think you need to come. David is probably going to do more,” she stressed.

Grey smiled softly.” I’m already on my way.”

“W_what!” Maria stammered. “I don’t understand. Do you mean you are coming as Grey or Hercules?”

Hercules and I will soon be at the office. Meet me at the lobby,” he ordered.

Chapter 229: Stripped

“Sir?” David stammered, unable to bring himself to raise his head.

Grey smiled softly. “Maria, I want the list of all the executives that had meetings behind my back in my office right now,” he ordered.

“Yes boss,” Maria responded in a shaky voice.

There was this usual aura around Grey after he was done with the transition that made her find it hard to relate with him easily as she normally does.

Grey was in front of her, dressed like a trillionaire. There was no way she could treat him the same way. She had grown to fear and respect him the more.

Grey entered the VIP elevator with Charles, Maria, Jimmy, and Richard.

“Here they are,” Maria rendered and stretched out her notepad.

Grey took it and stretched it over to Charles. “Since you employed them, you will find the best punishment for them. Though, I will be the one to punish David,” he added quickly.

Charles shook his head slightly and took the notepad.

“Maria should set up a meeting between all the executives that had the meetings to remove one of my employees behind my back,” he muttered thickly.

The elevator door opened and everyone walked out. The Hercules office was at the highest part of the building and it comprises the whole floor.

“What will you like to have? Should I send an assistant to you?”

“No, Jimmy will be here to help me out.”

Maria’s phone rang suddenly. “Hello Violet,” she said into the receiver. She went quiet for a moment. Seriously? Alright, I will speak with the boss and get back to you very soon.” she hung up and looked at Grey. “Miss Caramel is here but she wants to see you.”

Grey looked up at her. “Hasn’t she been here earlier?”

“No sir. I was actually expecting her as you told me to. I don’t know why she’s coming at this time and now, she seems to know you are around. So, she wants to see you,” she explained.

Grey thought about it for a moment. “Let her in but I will be discussing with you inside as well.”

Maria nodded and stepped back to call Violet back.

Grey looked at Richard. “You and Jimmy will have to excuse us because I don’t want Caramel to see you guys with me,” he stated.

The two bowed and walked out of the spacious office.

“Should I leave as well?” Charles asked suddenly.

Grey shook his head. “No, stay. You are the second in command anyways and you are my friend.”

The words found a nice place in Charles and he smiled as well. Well, he had always loved Grey as a brother and he had sworn to protect him forever.

Maria moved closer again and looked at Grey. “Is there anything else to do?”

Grey shook his head briefly. “You can set up the meeting now. We will have it the moment I’m done with

Caramel,” he informed.

Maria nodded and walked out of the office.

“Is Caramel truly the woman you love?”

Grey regarded Charles for a moment and smiled softly. "She is. How did you know?"

"Richard told me about what he did and thinks it might make you upset."

Grey relaxed in his chair. "Richard has this attitude of going out of the way for something. I'm keeping him close because he's brilliant."

Charles laughed. "That is your way of expressing your gratitude?" He teased

Grey laughed. "What gratitude? It's in the middle. I'm not pleased by it but I'm not angry by it," he insisted.

Charles nodded, with a smiling face.

A soft knock sounded on the door, it opened immediately and Maria stepped inside. "Boss, Miss Caramel is here," she announced and stepped aside for Caramel to enter.

Grey watched Caramel as she walked nearer. "Good day, I'm Caramel. I'm the woman you danced_"

Grey laughed. "I know, you don't have to explain."

Caramel blushed slightly. "I know you are a businessman and wouldn't even remember such trivial things was why I wanted to explain," she expressed.

Grey nodded once. "It's ok. You can sit," he gestured towards the chair in front of him. He watched her sit before he proceeded with words. "I already told Maria to expect you. I was shocked when she said

you are just coming now."

Caramel nodded briefly. "Yes, I had a personal issue to settle this morning. I'm sorry for coming late. I hope I haven't missed the offer. I came with my CVs in case you are doubting my potential," she pulled out a file.

"Let me have it," Maria said quickly.

Caramel turned to stretch it towards her. Maria collected it but didn't look through it. Instead, she looked up at Grey.

"I don't need to check that before I know your potential. I've done some underground research on you and

I realized I could actually trust you with my company. So, I've decided on the position for you."

"Oh, thank you so much," Caramel smiled.

Grey observed her for a moment, pulling back with every ounce of his strength from pulling down the mask and kissing Caramel.

"You will be the new project manager!" He announced.

Caramel eyes went wide with shock." What? Project manager?"

Grey nodded briefly and looked at Maria. "See to it. And tell someone to bring me a bottle of wine for me. and Charles."

Maria stood and bowed slightly. "I will see to it immediately," she looked at Caramel. "Miss Caramel, let's go so that I can show you to your assistant."

Caramel was still shocked." Just like that?"

Maria nodded. Yes, let's go, and she led her out of the office.

It didn't take long when the door opened, and Jimmy entered with a bottle of wine and two glasses.

Smith couldn't make a decision. He couldn't even think clearly.

After some minutes that felt like forever, Smith decided he would have to meet with the advertising company and maybe have a talk with them.

The money they decided to return was low and wouldn't even help Smith.

But going was also a disaster because the CEO refused to see him. Smith had to return to the office after some minutes of trying to see the CEO.

Chapter 230: A point

Alex couldn't stop thinking about it. Giovanni told him a lot of things about Hercules, especially the fact surrounding his father.

But Alex could not take off something from his head. Giovanni told him the real name of Hercules. And it wasn't a coincidence that his name was the same as the Grey he knew.

He couldn't suspect Grey, he didn't even want to. There was just something about him that doesn't tally. But he couldn't take his mind off him. So, he was going to find the truth out and clear the doubt.

"Ben!" He calls softly.

Ben moved closer to him and bowed slightly. "Yes, boss."

"Get prepared, I'm going to Digital world. I need to speak with Caramel."

Yes boss,” and he walked out of the room.

Alex needed something from Grey to conduct a DNA with sample with Giovanni. Giovanni had a sample of Rio’s DNA.

Caramel might not want to help him directly, so there was something in his mind already.

The executives were shocked at Hercules’s appearance. They didn’t expect him to show up at the company that morning.

“Why did you think Hercules suddenly wants to have this meeting?” One of the executives asked, perplexed and a bit anxious.

David thought about it for a moment. “I have no idea. Hercules, as I’ve heard has never appeared in Protos Pubblicita in the past ten years. There must be a reason why he’s suddenly here.”

Does this have to do with the decision we made concerning Grey? I mean it could be Hercules that appointed him as the supervisor,” another voiced.

David shook his head briefly. There’s no freaking way. Grey is a nobody. He’s very poor and would never have the backing of someone like Hercules.”

“You sound so sure of yourself,” a deep voice boomed suddenly, startling the executive for a moment as Hercules walked inside with Charles and Maria.

Grey regarded the executives for a moment before he sat. Charles and Maria took their seats closely beside him.

“We weren’t expecting you, Hercules,” Mathias said suddenly, bending his head slightly out of respect and fear for Hercules.

“I’ve been watching everyone even though I haven’t been able to show up anywhere,” he declared in a deep voice that masked his usual voice.

No one spoke. Well, it wasn’t a share company that required the decision of the board of directors. So, Grey had the ultimate power.

“And suddenly, I heard you’ve been having meetings behind me to appoint, elect and remove employees without my consultant. Is that right?” He demanded in a calm voice.

“Well,” David started when no one was ready to speak. You employed us into this position means you have trust in us to run the company smoothly and_.”

Grey raised a hand to stop him.” Point of correction. I didn’t employ you, Charles did.”

Charles smiled. “That’s right, I did.”

David regarded the two for a moment, confused for a moment.” A alright boss. Ok, what I’m trying to say is that we realized that one of your workers is doing as he likes. Grey isn’t serious, he’s lazy and handles things carelessly.”

Charles burst into laughter suddenly. David stopped talking and looked at him, the same as everyone.

Grey glared at Charles. “Are you laughing just now?”

Charles tried to swallow harder on it. It was just funny to see David abusing Grey without knowing it was Grey that was sitting in front of him.

“I’m sorry, boss but it’s so funny and you know why it is.”

Grey smiled. "I'm going to have to punch you when we leave here," he looked back at David. "Yes, where were you?"

David cleared his throat meaningfully. "I was trying to tell you who Grey was because we used to be close when we were in school. We attended the same college, so I know something about him. So_."

Grey nodded slowly as if understanding all he said. "So, you feel it's best if you fire Grey because of his carelessness?"

David hesitated for a moment. "Yes, boss. Grey isn't someone fit for the position."

"Maria, what do you think about what he just said? What do you think about Grey?"

Maria stood and moved to the board. "I have some things I need you all to know about Grey. I tried to explain these to you but none of you would listen to me," she announced, and suddenly, the SU world is displayed in full.

Surveillance world is one of Hercules' companies and Grey was able to manage it for weeks. The funniest thing about this is that SU world used to be one of the useless and low companies of Hercules. Even Jane didn't have the time to monitor it," she mentioned.