

Secretly TBB 231

Chapter 231: Truth needed

"If there's nothing else to say, then I will leave," Grey stood immediately and walked out of the meeting room with Charles and Maria.

David felt speechless for a moment, even after the other executive had left.

"I knew it!" One had said. "We should be careful before David puts us into trouble," they stated before they all walked out as well.

David didn't know that Grey could do something so tangible. He had always thought he was useless and even senseless.

Well, there was nothing to do but accept the deal. Hercules was strict and stubborn with things. He wouldn't change his mind no matter how much he pleaded. So, all he was going to do was work harder so that he wouldn't have to apologize to Grey.

No matter what, Grey was still not up to his standard and would never be. He wouldn't stoop so low as apologizing to someone like Grey.

"Don't forget the assignment, Maria. And let me know after you've decided."

Maria nodded briefly. "I will get back to you by tomorrow."

They entered the elevator.

"Are you coming to work tomorrow?"

"No, I have to be somewhere with Charles," he glanced at Charles. "I'm leaving soon as well. Is Caramel still around?"

"No, she left already. She will resume fully tomorrow," Maria responded.

Grey nodded once and stepped out of the elevator. The others followed suit and they entered the office." I will be leaving now then. I have no purpose to be around."

Well, yes but we have an appointment in less than a few minutes with Mr. Lawrence. I thought you could attend to him. If not, I would have to reschedule the appointment as Miss Caramel isn't around," she explained.

Grey stopped in his tracks as the name rang a bell. "Lawrence? What does he sell?"

"Well, he owns a delivery company. And he wants to feature on our front page," she revealed.

Grey turned to look at Maria, with eyes that had gone wide and dark." Lawrence?" He repeated as if he was tasting the sound of it.

"Do you know him?" Charles demanded when he noticed the expression that Grey was giving.

Grey nodded briefly. "I do know him very well. Lawrence used to be my boss," he laughed and moved to sit. "In fact, he denied me my last salary. If I wasn't a fighter, Lawrence wouldn't let me have it. Apparently, he was working with Seth."

"Oh Seth," Charles nodded briefly." So, Lawrence is here for a deal? You should refuse to have business with him," he suggested.

Grey thought about it for a moment. Let him in when he comes. I will attend to him," he decided.

Maria nodded. "Will you like to have something before he comes? Any food or snacks?"

Grey nodded. "You know what I like. You can ask Charles what he wants. Also, Richard and Jimmy as well.

Maria nodded briefly and looked at Charles." What would you like to have?"

"Get me something similar to Grey. I will have it like that."

Maria bowed and eventually walked out of the office.

"Where are you going tomorrow?"

"I need to be in Italy because of the promise I made to Jamal. Though, I'm not sure I would be coming back to the city that same tomorrow."

It's not advisable," Charles said quickly. "I will find a nice place for you to stay in. Is there anything you will be needing aside from a room and a car?"

Grey thought for a moment. "Nothing. Well, you can provide anything you feel is necessary. I may need to have extra meetings with the CEO. Novia said I have shares in there. There are actually some things that are confusing to me and I must find out," he announced.

Charles nodded." Then, perhaps you should be planning on spending two days with them. Never mind, I have everything in control. We should leave with some men as well," he suggested.

Grey nodded once. See to it." He went silent for a moment. "I need to be at my estate today for the spies I found that day. But are you sure they aren't dead?" He asked, with sarcasm.

Charles laughed briefly. "Sure, I selected a few men to stay with them. Nothing must happen to them."

Grey nodded briefly.

Alex regarded the building for a moment before he entered the lobby of Digital World.

He moved towards the secretary who he knew because he was a regular of the company and everyone knew how close he was to the CEO. Well, everyone knew they were friends.

Though, the moment he entered, words spread about him. Since the discovery of his identity as

Giovanni's son, paparazzi and bloggers have always been on his tail.

And well, most of Giovanni's fans have always wanted to have something to do with Alex, seeing that he was also very handsome. But for people that loved Hercules, he was their enemy.

"Welcome, Mr. Alex," the secretary greeted with a smiling face.

Alex reciprocated it. "Is Caramel around?"

"Oh no, she went out one hour ago. Would you like to wait for her? I'm sure she will be back very soon."

Alex thought for a moment and slowly nodded. "Alright, no problem," and he walked towards the elevator

alone.

No one followed him since they knew he meant no harm to Caramel because of their closeness.

It didn't take up to twenty minutes when the door opened and Caramel walked in. "What are you doing here, Alex?" The tone she used showed how displeased she was.

Chapter 232: Attention

Caramel let out a sigh. "Are you trying to use that to make me forget?"

Alex shook his head slightly. "I only need to ask questions about Grey. It's not something serious. All you need to do is to answer me correctly."

Caramel regarded him for a moment. Did your father send you here?"

Alex sighed, frustrated. "No Caramel, for how long do I have to let you know some things are just coincidences and it has nothing to do with each other?" He stressed.

Caramel sighed again and moved to sit." What is this all about by the way? Why do you ask such a question about Grey? I already told he's an orphan. What else do you want to know?" She demanded.

Alex sat and observed Caramel for a moment. "Who were his real parents?"

The answer shocked Caramel for a moment. She was confused, though it felt like Alex was right. Caramel nor Avery knew who Grey's real parents were. But it doesn't matter and Caramel has never seen it in the way that Alex was terming it to be.

Should Caramel be worried about her father? She doesn't even know who her real father was.

"I have no answer to your questions, Alex. How do you expect me to know who his real parents are? I've been friends with you since when we were in high school but I didn't know you were Giovanni's son," she stressed.

Alex squeezed his brows. "I know, and I'm not telling you this to disturb you. I only need you to get something for me. That aside, is there anything about Grey that's weird to you?"

"Like how weird you were to me?" Caramel retaliated.

Alex released an exasperated sigh. "I'm not going to harm you, Caramel. Trust me on that one. I've always done so many things to protect you. Keeping my identity was also to protect you. Stop doing this to me," he beseeched softly.

Caramel continued to watch him but didn't say a word.

"I need you to get me a strand of his hair." He demanded.

Caramel gathered her brows in disbelief." What? You want me to start looking for his strand of hair?"

"Common, Caramel. It will be very easy for you. You are close to him, aren't you?"

"If it's so easy for you to say, why don't you ask him? You two are getting way close as well and he would give it to you."

Alex sighed, feeling fed up already. "I don't mean it like that, Caramel."

Then leave, Alex. I'm not interested in this nonsense talk."

Alex stood and regarded her for another moment. "Forget I told you this then."

"Sure, why would I remember something like this?" She almost yelled as she showed him the way out.

After Caramel had walked out, she couldn't stop thinking of the reason why Alex would demand such

from her.

Alex entered the car and placed a call to one of his men. "Hello, I need someone very capable. I need him to retrieve something for me. No," he shook his head slightly as the driver pulled out into the street.

"I need you to get me a strand of hair. I will email you his name and pictures. And I want you to be snappy.

with it."

Grey and Charles got down from the private jet. A car was waiting for them and the driver turned out to be one of Charles' men.

"I think you would have to employ maids now before you start thinking of exposing your identity," Charles started on the way to the estate.

Grey thought about it for a moment. "Not now, it's a crucial point. Giovanni is busy looking for ways to find out what I am planning and for some reason, I'm still believing I have spies among us. Until I've seen the sources, it would be difficult for me to take over," he explained.

Charles nodded briefly. "I understand but there's something you don't understand now. The rest of the elders refused to discuss it because of the situation on the ground but there's no way we can avoid it," he

hinted.

Grey looked at him. "Is something going on that I don't know about?"

Charles nodded briefly. "Maybe the appearance shouldn't have happened in the first place. Maybe you shouldn't have appeared at the Billionaire club party or Protos Pubblicità but well, you can't avoid it for so long and Alfred was right when he said you should accept the president position. With it, it would be easy for you to win the wealthiest man of the year," he informed.

Grey didn't talk. He raised a brow and waited.

Chapter 233: A chat

The car pulled off in the garage, and Grey got down.

Charles was already down as well. "Who will you like to see first?"

Grey thought for a moment. "Let's have a chat with the attendant first. She seemed to be saying something the other time that got me interested," he hinted.

Charles nodded briefly, " alright, follow me then," he walked forward while Grey followed behind.

He entered a hallway and walked for a while as well.

"Even if you refuse to employ a maid just yet, we will need someone to keep the whole place clean. You wouldn't want to leave this place dirty till you proclaim yourself as Hercules, right?"

Grey sighed. "I will do something about it. I plan on seeing Linda, perhaps there are some people she can recommend. Giovanni doesn't know about her so it would be easy to get at least two maids," he explained.

Charles nodded. "I will do some underground investigation on them after you have selected them."

Well, I have Jimmy for that. He seems to be skilled in those areas. By the way," he glanced at him. "I will need a gun."

A man was outside the door close to them. On seeing them, he took a short bow.

Charles and Grey moved closer. Charles took his gun and stretched it out to Grey.

Grey took it and nodded briefly. "Let's go."

Charles opened the door and they both walked inside the semi-dark room.

There was a whimper from the corner of the room before the light descended on her. She was on a chair, with ropes used to put her in place.

"Please, let me go! I'm begging you!" She cried.

"Are you sure she eats regularly?" Grey questioned as he stared at Haggard Tiana.

She refused to eat this morning," a voice explained and a man stepped out from behind her. "But she has been eating well before."

Grey gathered his brows." Why are you in there?"

The man hesitated. "To keep a close watch on her," then he moved towards them, past them, and started

towards the door.

"Stop!" Grey said suddenly.

The man stopped.

Grey regarded Tiana for a moment. "What did you do to her? Why did she refuse to eat?"

The man turned around to look at them, he had this confused but raised brows. Actually, he sent them directly at Charles as if questioning Grey's authority.

"Answer him," Charles responded.

The man nodded briefly and looked at Grey, whose gaze was still on Tiana. "Absolutely nothing. She's just being stubborn. She has been crying for release. I guess she's just fed up," he hinted.

Grey moved closer to Tiana. Her hair was rough and dirty. That aside, she looked dirty as well but that was normal. Though, there was something else Grey was seeing.

“Tell me the truth, Tiana. I promise to protect your life,” he said softly.

Charles walked closer. “Is everything alright?”

Grey didn’t answer, his eyes still on Tiana.

Tiana shook her head slightly. “Nothing. I just want you to release me. Please, I’m begging,” she beseeched softly.

Grey sighed and pulled back.

“You can leave, Fred,” Charles told Fred.

”

Fred bowed slightly before he walked out.

Grey regarded Tiana for a moment. “Do you know who I am?”

Tiana shook her head briefly. “No, I don’t but I promise you that I wasn’t trying to hurt anyone. Please, let me go,” she cried again.

Well, I will tell you who I am.”

Charles looked at Grey quickly.” No, don’t!”

Grey smiled softly. “The moment she knows, only two options would be laid before her. Die or serve me. But, I can’t even allow her to serve me because she has lied a lot.”

Tiana regarded the two men for a moment, confused. Just then, her gaze focused on Grey and her eyes went wide with shock.

"You are," she swallowed harder. "Hercules?"

Grey cocked the gun and placed it on her temple. You've found the truth, that means you have to die."

Tiana almost stopped breathing. "I" she swallowed harder on the hard lump that had formed in her throat. "I will say the truth, I will serve you if you can let me go," she expressed in fright.

Grey smiled." Hercules doesn't give second chances, Tiana. You misused it."

Tiana sobbed silently, perspiration had broken down from her face. "I will tell you everything I've heard. and know!" She burst out.

Grey regarded her for a moment. " Like what?"

Tiana tried to swallow the lump. "The reason why I didn't eat was_."

"Gone, Tiana," Grey interrupted quickly. "I'm no longer interested. I've given you enough chances but you still chose death. My mind is made up," he expressed and his finger pulled at the trigger slowly.

Charles watched the two, curious as to how it would end.

"It's Fred!" She yelled out suddenly.

"Wait! What! What did Fred do?" Charles questioned.

Tiana started sobbing, while still trying to breathe properly.

Grey regarded her for a moment and pulled back the gun. "You have one minute to start talking about what all this is all about."

Tiana dragged her breath as she sobbed even harder." Fred forced me to have oral sex with him," she cried.

Chapter 234: So Different

Grey clenched his teeth against the accusations. " Did he threaten you?"

Tiana shook her head briefly. "He said he would pay me \$10,000," she confessed.

Grey felt a stab of annoyance. " You sold your dignity for this little amount of money?"

Tiana nodded briefly. My son is suffering from Cancer. He's going to die without the appropriate surgery. He's the only one I've got and I don't want to let anything happen to him," she started crying afresh. "I'm so sorry, I really am. I'm so tired of this position! I'm so tired of having oral sex with him. It got to a point when I refused but he forced me to do it. I did it with a bullet to my head," she cried even harder.

Do you deserve to die or not?" Grey asked suddenly, startling her for a moment.

He watched Grey for a moment and slowly nodded. "I do, no matter how much I think about it. I think I do. I'm just worried for my son. I don't want him to die," she cried harder. " But maybe it's too late. My son only has today to live or maybe he's dead already. I've begged Fred to give me the money and just save my son but he disagreed and made me have oral sex with him again," she explained and smiled softly. " Maybe I should just join him. If he's dead, then I have no plan for the world," she faked a smile, the tears streaming down her face.

Grey clenched his teeth even harder. A lot of thoughts went through his mind. He remembered something quickly. It was the question he had always asked himself after he regained his memories.

After Leo had killed his father and had shot him, who then took him. Who took care of Grey and placed him in the orphanage? Who did?

Grey slowly released a sigh. "What's your son's name?" He asked suddenly, his mind already made up.

The first thing comes first. He would be able to settle others later.

Tiana was still sobbing. His question caught her off guard and she looked at Grey with disbelief. Was Grey going to check if her son was alright? And kill him if he was?

"I" she started but Grey cut in sharply.

"I don't like dilly-dallying. I might shoot you for it. Just answer my question."

Tiana closed her eyes for a moment, feeling the sick feeling churn in her. She felt really bad but it was her fault anyways. Her son might die of gunshot and not even cancer.

Hercules was someone that can do and undo. He and Giovanni are the most powerful mafia don boss in the city. Tiana understood.

"Samson Katz," she responded and tried to fight back the tears that had suddenly gathered around her

eyes

"What hospital is he in?"

Tiana broke down again. "Miracle hospital in Jacksonville," she pointed out.

Grey turned around, as Tiana burst into fresh tears. He walked out of the door and placed a call to Don. It rang twice before he would pick it up.

"Hi, boss."

"Do

you know Miracle hospital in Jacksonville?" He asked immediately, dropping the pleasantries. He had business to attend to anyway.

"Yes, I do. It's close to my house," he pointed out.

Grey nodded once. "Go there right now and demand Samson Katz."

"Alright boss, I will do that now," he responded.

"I'm going to be waiting for an answer immediately," Grey informed and hung up.

He placed a call to Jimmy. He picked up immediately.

"Good evening, boss. Is there anything I can do for you?" He initiated.

"Of course, there is. I want a background search on two people. I will send you their full names. Find me all there is concerning them."

"Alright boss. I will get down to work the moment I receive the necessary documents," he expressed.

H

Alright,” Grey smiled and hung up.

He entered the room and realized that Tiana wasn’t crying. Her facial expression was as hard as anything else.

“What else do you want to know? I will tell you everything I know anyways but I want it to be faster so can join my son sooner,” she said, deadpanned.

Grey sighed. Just as he opened his mouth to say something, his phone rang suddenly. It was Don. He picked it up.

“Yes, hello.”

“Seen. I’ve found Samson Katz. He’s suffering from cancer but boss, why did you need this information?” He demanded, confused.

“I want you to pay for his hospital bills. Meet with Beatrice and ask for my credit card. I want the doctor to start operating on him. Tell them it’s Hercules and they must do their best to save the child’s life. If he dies, I will be suing them,” he muttered in a thick voice.

Tiana looked up at him suddenly, shocked for a moment. Though she couldn’t hear the speaker from the other end it undoubtedly looked like Grey was talking about her son. Though it wasn’t possible, she couldn’t stop thinking about it.

“Give me feedback in less than an hour. For the surgery, tell them his mother is on a business trip and would be there soon. And if they want to speak with her, they can call,” he explained.

Alright boss. I will do that immediately.”

Grey hung up and looked down at Tiana.

Chapter 235: The Mission

The ropes were too tight around her and there was no way to lose it.

Grey grunted and pulled away, frustrated.

Tiana was still watching him in amazement. "Why are you doing this to me? Why are you helping me?"

"Why am I doing it?" He smiled. "Because you will serve me wholeheartedly."

Tiana started sobbing afresh. "I promise to serve you till I die, Hercules. Thank you so much! Thank you!"

And you still have to tell me all you know and I've heard, alright?"

Tiana nodded quickly. "You don't need to ask me. I will not leave anything behind. I promise and I will forever serve you," she swore.

Grey smiled. "Good. What's your name by the way?"

Tiana Elrod."

Grey sent the names as a text message to Jimmy and added the gender since the next was Fred but he was waiting so that he could get his surname as well.

Grey's phone rang suddenly and it was Don. He picked it up immediately.

"Hello boss, the doctor would like to speak with the mother of the kid before they start. Though, they assure me of a good result," he explained.

Grey regarded Tiana for a moment. "Good. Please, place the doctor on the phone." He ordered.

"Alright boss," he responded.

It took a few minutes before another voice came on the phone. "Hello, Hercules. This is doctor Smith."

"Alright. I will hand the phone over to the mother," he announced, placed it on speaker, and stretched out the phone to Tania since she was still confined.

Tania smiled. "Good afternoon doctor. This is Tania Elrod, that's my son, Samson Katz," she introduced.

"Alright, Miss Tania. We only want to get confirmation from you."

"Oh yes, please proceed. Hercules is the guardian and I'm currently on a business trip. I will be there as soon as possible."

Alright, Miss Tania. We will start the surgery sooner as well," they revealed.

Grey pulled the phone back to himself." Try your best on the kid, add the bills and call this line."

Alright, Hercules."

Grey hung up and looked down at Tania. "I will obviously find something to cut the rope with."

The door opened suddenly and Charles entered.

Grey turned to look at him, his brows raised slightly. "Where's Fred?"

"He escaped but my men are after him. They will get him soon," he announced.

Grey nodded briefly, "I need something to cut the ropes around her."

"What? She's a suspect too. I mean how can you listen to her over Fred?"

"Because she's the victim here and Fred must tell us why he ran off."

Charles nodded once. "I understand but I'm still doubtful about her."

Grey regarded him for a moment. "Do you trust me?"

Charles nodded slowly. "Of course, I do."

"Then, please continue to do so. Don't trust her but me," he advised.

Charles slowly released a sigh. "I will get something for you then," and he walked out.

"I met Fred two weeks ago in my search for someone who could help me pay for my son's hospital bill. He told me about you," Tiana started. "Though, he didn't tell me why he wanted me to do it. He only told me I should try and find a way to find out what you look like. This was why I had to be close to your driver as well. Then, I figured out that he also wanted the same thing that Fred wanted from me. Maybe he was going to enslave me as Fred did to me. So, I decided to drug him before I would head over to the estate to watch out for you. That was why I drugged him the other time." She explained.

Grey shook his head slightly. "You tried to but you didn't. If I hadn't caught you earlier, he might have overshadowed you."

Tiana's eyes went wide with shock. "But I saw him drink the wine."

"Maybe or maybe not. But he outsmarts you, Tiana. Did you think Fred would really pay your son's hospital bill?" He chuckled. "He's going to kill you, Tiana, and then leave your son to die in the hospital."

Tiana's eyes went gobsmailed. "What?"

"Do you think he gave you an easy job or a normal one?" He moved closer to her and squatted in front of her so that she would be able to see his face very well. "I am Hercules. Aside from the fact that I'm

feared by a lot of people, I'm also desired by some. Not everyone has seen my face. Though someone has and died and some are still going to die before I reveal myself to the public. So, if you know what I look like, he would probably kill you to protect himself because he would be sure I would kill you when I find out what you had done," he revealed.

Chapter 236: Sour Plan

"That's absurd! Why would you even come up with such an idea?" Charles complained.

Grey moved closer to him and took the knife from him. "Why do you think so?"

"Because," he started and stopped almost immediately. He looked at Tiana. "Let's talk elsewhere."

Grey chuckled and cut the rope loose. "You should get a bath. I will send you some clothes so that you can change. Then, we can discuss more on our way back to Jacksonville."

Tiana bowed. "Thank you so much, Hercules. Thank you so very much."

Grey nodded once and looked at Charles. Send one of your men to provide her with clothes but warned him that if he tries something stupid, his balls will be the breakfast for the dogs," he warned.

Charles sighed. "I seriously need to speak with you," he stressed.

Grey moved his head slightly. "Can you please tell your men to attend to Tiana, so we can move to the next person?"

Charles let out a sigh and looked at Tiana. "Let's go," he invited and walked out with her.

One of the men was standing at the entrance. Charles didn't want to go far with getting another man. So, he turned to him. "Order a dress of Tiana's size from Aphrodite. My credit card is on the table in the living room. And just stay in front of her door, don't try to harass or do anything stupid. Ok?"

The man bowed slightly. "Yes sir," he looked at Tiana. "Let's leave then."

Charles regarded Tiana for a moment before he entered the room. "We need to talk, Grey."

"Yes, sure," he turned around to look at Charles. First, we need to discuss why your men are spies. Why is Fred one of the spies?"

Charles sighed. "I didn't know, sincerely. I would have told you if I had suspected anything."

Grey nodded once. "You need a loyalty test, Charles," he walked past him, out of the room.

Charles hesitated, as his word sank in. Yet, it sounded even more confusing. So, he hurried after him.

"Grey, what do you mean? I don't understand what you just said?"

Grey pulled to a stop to look at him again. "We need to do something about the spies, we need to be able to recognize our men. When everyone realized that there's no Hercules, they would pull back and we can be assured that the rest of the men are loyal," he explained.

Still, it doesn't make sense. Grey, half of your men might turn their back on you because they think you don't exist. So, what if they pay loyalty to Giovanni?" He demanded.

Then, it means they are not my men, to begin with. And guess what, I acquire followers every day. I just got another one," he looked away, towards the path that Tiana had taken. "Do you think I would be depressed when millions of followers are awaiting me?" He huffed. "I don't think so. Can you show me where the idiot is?"

Charles sighed. "The next room but Grey, I still think this plan sucks. It's very dangerous."

"Let's talk later, Charles," he barely took two steps when he stopped again. "Don't come with me, I can handle myself. Just find me Fred before I turn the whole place upside down!" He expressed and walked to the next room.

Charles watched him for a moment, somehow frustrated. Grey was brilliant, he knew that but his plans were suddenly turning sour and risky.

A group without a leader would definitely break. Even the most loyal of men would lose their vigor,

Though, someone like him had been staying and lying all these years even when there was no assurance that Hercules was alive.

Well, there could be men like him.

The plan was perfect, yet it sucks.

Grey opened the door slowly and walked in. Unlike the other room, this was bright. A man was hanging over two ropes on his right and left sides.

He was awake at that moment.

"Who would have thought it? That you were Hercules all these while?" He laughed sarcastically.

"Yes," Grey admitted. "I'm sure the man that sent you must have seen me a couple of times but he's unable to recognize me. Isn't that great? It makes me feel very powerful," he smiled softly and moved closer.

“What are you going to do with me? Kill me?”

“What do you think?” Grey demanded.

“Do you think I’m going to beg for my life?” He muttered. “I know you would kill me, so there’s no need to do so.”

Grey laughed again. “You are very funny. Actually, I’ve got some questions for you and I want you to answer them.*

“Or what?” He laughed. “You can’t threaten me. I’m going to die already, there’s nothing to threaten me with,” he boasted.

Grey nodded briefly. “Who sent you?”

The man laughed. “I’m not going to say a word.”

“So, you are going to die for someone that doesn’t even care if you die or not?”

He nodded briefly. “At least, my family would be saved.”

Chapter 237: More

The door opened suddenly and Charles walked inside.

Grey turned to look at him. “Where’s Fred?”

“Caught. He’s in the other room, awaiting your order,” he responded.

Grey nodded briefly and looked at Cole. "I will soon be done here. It turns out I won't need to waste my time too much since Fred has been caught," he muttered.

Cole groaned as he tried to regain himself.

"Has he said a word?"

"He's acting stubborn. I need you to bring his child and wife here. Maybe he would talk by then," he teased.

Please, don't take my family. I'm begging you," he expressed.

Grey turned to look at Cole." Why should I listen to you?"

Cole groaned. "Please, don't hurt them. I'm begging you," he cried.

"Then, I'm going to be asking you for the last time. Who sent you, Cole?"

Cole groaned inwardly. "I don't know, I receive orders from the phone."

Grey regarded him for a moment." How did he collect your number? Who is the middleman?"

Cole groaned again. "Todd."

"Todd?" Grey repeated. "Who's that?"

"One of Giovanni's elders. Is he back? I thought he was out of the city since the day you got missing," Charles explained.

Grey gathered his brows." So, that means he's as old as Giovanni?"

Charles nodded briefly. "He's one crafty old man. I didn't even know he was still alive but hearing from Cole, I'm certain he's in Jacksonville as we speak."

"

"Do you think Giovanni sent him?"

Well, yes. He could even add monetary benefits. Though, Todd is closer to Giovanni as I'm supposed to be close to you."

You can't bring down Giovanni. He's very older than you and that's experience. You are just so young. You will eventually fail," he rattled off.

Grey regarded him for a moment and shot him. "Send his head to Cole," he hesitated. "Don't touch his family." He finished and walked out.

Charles stared for a moment, shocked.

Grey was about to enter the other room where Fred was when his phone rang suddenly. He didn't stare down at the screen for a moment. Why was Maria calling his number?

He picked up anyway.

"Hi, Maria," he took a few steps away from the door. "Is everything alright?"

"Not really sir. I have something to inform you of. You are at your estate right?"

Grey nodded once and remembered that she wasn't near." What is it all about?"

“Jones came in minutes ago to inform me that a strange man was asking about you from one of the workers. When they heard that you didn’t come to work, they left. I sincerely don’t know who they are but I had to warn you to be very careful. Something seems weird,” she explained.

Grey thought for a moment, as he let the words sink in. Maria was right. They couldn’t have been someone he knew. They could have been sent by Giovanni or anyone associated with him. He was the only one bent on seeing what he looked like.

“Thanks for informing me. I will get back to you,” Grey finished and hung up.

“Did something happen?” Charles asked suddenly.

Grey pocketed his phone and turned to look at him. “Not really. I will see Fred before I leave,” he didn’t say more words and instead moved towards the door. He hesitated when his hand touched the knob. “Are we leaving together?”

“No, I don’t think we can because of what you just asked me to do.”

Grey let go of the knob so that he would be able to look at Charles. “I’ve changed my mind. I’m leaving now. I will come back for Fred. Send the men to fetch Tiana,” he ordered and started walking towards the living room.

Charles watched him for a moment, skeptical and not even understanding his recent behavior.

Grey waited in the living room. It didn’t take up to a few minutes before Tiana walked out, clad in black trousers and a tank top.

“Boss, I heard it’s time to leave.”

Grey looked up at her. “Yes, we have to leave now. It’s getting too late. You should be beside your son. when he wakes up.”

Tiana smiled softly." What you asked of me, would I start with it immediately?"

Grey shook his head slightly and stood, hovering above her by several inches. "I'm cooking something up and I will let you know how it turns out. Do you have a cellphone?"

She nodded briefly." But I must have dropped it somewhere."

Grey nodded briefly. "I will get you a new phone so we can exchange numbers," he informed me and

walked out.

Chapter 238: The wait

Grey car was waiting for him at the Port. He dropped Tiana at the hospital before he decided to speed home. He remembered something on his way.

He placed a call to Linda and she picked up immediately. "Hello, boss."

"Hello, I need to speak with you. Where are you currently?"

"Well, I'm still at work. I decided to settle some things before I retired home. Is something wrong?"

"No, but wait for me. I will be there soon," he finished up and hung up.

He knew that if someone was seriously after him, then he might need to lure them to the company. He needed to know who was looking for him.

He pulled up in front of Victoria Skincare company and walked inside.

Linda was waiting for him in the lobby. "Good day, sir. It has been a while," she meets him with a wide smile.

Grey reciprocated it. "Maria told me some things and I decided to see you concerning it. Though I can speak with my mother concerning it there's something else you must know," he informed.

Linda nodded briefly. "Should we talk here or go into your office?"

Grey thought for a moment. "It's alright here. I don't want to keep you waiting for too long. I heard from Maria that we are somehow short of staff."

Linda nodded briefly. "Yes, we are. Maria said she was going to talk to you concerning it and I shouldn't bother about it. The sales are raising and we are getting more demands every day. So, I think we could

still take in more workers to enable enough productivity," she explained.

"That's cool but I'm still working on something. Until I'm done, I don't think it's safe to let anyone in. You do know that Miss Hattie wants our cream recipe. I don't want to have spies among us. We will need to fix the time and the schedule period. You can adopt this law of mine. Every delivery should always be fixed in three days. It would be easier for us to produce the goods for the delivery," he informed her.

Linda nodded briefly. "That's an excellent idea. I will discuss it with Miss Beatrice and settle things."

Grey nodded once. "Good, I hope there's no problem with the workers?"

Linda shook her head briefly. "Everything is alright. It just amazes me how fast our sales are skyrocketing.

"Yes, and I'm thinking we could have another open sale. Though, I would have to see Aphrodite concerning that so that she would accompany us."

"Wow!" She exclaimed softly. "That's great. I'm sure we would be able to win the CCS if we continue this

way.”

Grey smiled. “Yes. So, we are done now. I will speak with you later and I think you should go home as well. Tomorrow is another day.”

”

Sure, I’m done as well.”

They both walked to the garage. Grey’s phone rang suddenly and he hesitated to pick it up.

Linda on the other hand entered the car and drove out of the garage.

“Hello, Maria. Is everything alright?”

“Yes but I want to ask you about Mr. Lawrence. When should I reschedule it? He desperately wants to speak with you,” she informed.

At first, Grey wanted to see him but he changed his mind and decided to leave for his estate with Charles. Grey intentionally wanted to make fun of him, even though he didn’t plan on working with him.

“I will get back to you concerning it. I will give you feedback when I’m back from Italy. And don’t let Caramel attend to him. It’s his cup of tea if he can’t wait for me.”

Maria laughed briefly.” Alright boss. I will inform him about this by tomorrow. Bye then.”

“Alright, later,” he hung up and stared at the screen for a moment. Someone was walking behind him. He position the phone very well until he could see a man in Black overall and a funny face mask.

Grey smiled slightly. He was actually expecting him. Though, he was a bit worried. Could someone already know he was Hercules?

If this was true, he would need to administer the plan as soon as possible. Maybe he would think of it later on.

He pretended as if he didn't see him and it looked like he was aiming for his hair.

Grey turned away quickly before his hand would even touch his hair. Though, he didn't know what he was planning on doing.

He looked at him and slowly pocketed his phone. "Who are you and what do you want from me?"

The man ignored him, as his fist clenched beside him.

Chapter 239: Fake

Someone jumped forward, almost kicking Grey in the process. He jerked backward, thereby releasing the other man in the process.

Grey watched as the man moved closer to the second one to pull him up. Grey got up and watched two men hurry out of the garage.

He regarded them for a moment before he entered the car and drove out of the garage.

If he wasn't so tired, he might have decided to speak with Alfred that day. So, instead, he drove straight home.

Lucy was fuming with anger. "How can you use all the company funds? How are we sincerely going to prevent the company from going bankrupt?" He yelled.

"I had a good dream for the company. I just didn't know it would end like this," Smith mumbled. Emma sighed. "I sincerely don't believe all this is happening. I think LX should borrow funds from LN. They should be able to manage it. Don't forget that Smith borrowed from the bank and the deadline is near. If we don't do something, we will lose our reputation in public," she explained.

Lucy nodded, in support of what she had just said. "That will be the best move for now. So, Avery, how can this work out?"

Avery regarded Emma for a moment. "He didn't tell you?" She looked over at Lucy. "He hasn't? Well, LN has no funds again."

Lucy felt agitated. "What! LN has no funds? What happened? Did you do something as well?"

"Well, this question should be directed at Smith because he borrowed the fund as well. He did it behind my back and saw it as nothing when I confronted him," she explained calmly.

"What!" Lucy yelled and looked at Smith again. "You did what? You used all LN funds as well?" The shock was vivid on his face. "You," he stopped suddenly as he couldn't speak clearly.

"Dad!" Emma yelled and rushed to him.

Benjamin supported him as Lucy couldn't really stand again.

Lucy was still pointing an accusing finger at Smith. "How dare you! Smith! How dare you!" Anger fueled his blood and he wasn't even bothered about his health.

"Get me the car key! We are taking him to the hospital!" Emma yelled at Smith.

Smith, feeling very ashamed of himself, hurried to grab the keys and handed them over to Emma. Emma hurried to call one of the security guards so that he and Benjamin could help Lucy inside the car.

After they left, Avery regarded Smith for a moment. "I knew it was going to come to an end soon, Smith."

Smith clenched his teeth. "What are you doing? You could have helped me! You know it wasn't intentional. I had no plan to waste it like that. I only wanted the better future for the company," he argued.

Avery nodded briefly. "I will never use my paycheck for you, Smith. I will never help you. And this is just a little payback for all you have ever done for me."

Smith gathered his forehead as he watched Avery. "What? I hope what I'm thinking isn't what happened. You planned with Grey to make me pay?"

Avery sighed I didn't do anything but I wished I had something to do. You ruined my life, Smith!" She

yelled. I thought it was Grey but it was you! It has always been you all this while. You are nothing but a wicked and greedy uncle!" She had been very thoughtful recently. Even though she realized it was all her fault, she also discovered how much harm Smith had done to her.

She wouldn't have married Grey to start with if Smith had not set them up. And meanwhile, she blamed it all on Grey and didn't treat him well.

"Smith smiled softly. So, you still plan on running the companies?"

"It's the end for you, Smith. And no, I have no plan on running your company. How do you even expect me to run a company with no funds? You just think I'm as stupid as you are!" She yelled. "And I'm just so tired of you all in this house and I'm going to find my way!" She finished and stomped inside.

Smith felt rage at the fact that he lost to Grey. It was the end for him, as Avery had said but he was still bent on making Grey pay.

Avery entered his room and took the blue diamond that Chris got for her. She regarded it for a moment. It was in fact the only thing she had left. She had no paycheck because it was all gone.

She placed her all into LN company, thinking she would eventually see a good result and get back all she had used.

The blue diamond was a rare one and according to ladies that have been admiring it, it is worth a fortune. Even Chloe confirmed it.

If she could sell it at Aphrodite store or any specialist diamond buyer, she could get back thirty million dollars, if not the fifty million dollars which is the actual price.

Though, if it was auctioned, she could have gotten more but Avery had no way to get it auctioned. So, she would just sell it.

Maybe, she can give her grandfather some of the money to prevent the company from going bankrupt. Then, she would be able to find her way.

She had no plan to go back to the company that started the whole thing.

When she walked into the living room, Smith was gone. She didn't care about him and instead drove towards one of the local Jeweler in Jacksonville.

As she drove, a lot of thought cuddled in her mind in some sort of frenzy confusion. She knew she had lost Grey but she still wanted to see him.

Avery hasn't decided what to do exactly but she would definitely leave the family house and she wouldn't stay in the family company either.

She would need time to find herself and she would need to do it alone.

She finally pulled to a stop in front of a jeweler's store. She took the blue diamond and walked inside.

"Good day, ma'am. Welcome, would you like to look around?" One of the Salespeople said.

Avery regarded the store for a moment.” Actually, I’m not here to buy but sell. Where is the manager or someone that can attend to me?”

“Oh, come this way. I will take you to the manager,” the salesperson offered and led her towards a mini office by their right. A man was there, looking at a pink diamond. He had a wide smile on his face.

The manager looked up at the man standing in front of him. “Good, are we done?”

The man nodded briefly and walked past Avery. It looked like he just sold the pink diamond to the

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manager.

“Sir, we have another seller,” the salesperson announced.

May I see it?”

Chapter 240: Regrets

It was impossible! How could a diamond like this be the fake one?

“Are you kidding me? Are you trying to scam me?” Avery yelled in anger.

“I’m telling you the truth, miss. We don’t scam here. Whoever gave you that knows it’s not the real diamond because no one can sell or buy that for even twenty million dollars. I’m only buying it from you. because I was fascinated by it but no one will do it. You will never get a buyer for it,” he stated.

Avery took her diamond from him and rushed out of the store. It was impossible! There was no way the diamond would be fake. The manager must be trying to extort money from her.

So, she decided to try her grandfather's friend. Her grandfather's friend would definitely do her well and he would never lie to her.

She should have thought of it initially instead of wasting her time.

She soon arrived at Lucy's friend's store. Avery didn't know his name but she does refer to him as grandpa too.

There were days when Avery usually visited him. In fact, he gifted her a pair of diamond earrings for her tenth birthday. But recently, she had been too busy to even remember him. Not even when she was disturbed by the sudden marriage and the trouble from Smith.

Avery entered the store and saw him handling one of the chains. She hesitated.

Her grandfather's friends have always lived a meek life. He had just one salesperson and he didn't plan on expanding it. Though, he was slowly becoming popular as his diamonds have been entering auctions.

He looked up, "welcome. How may I help you?"

Avery smiled. "It's Avery Robinson."

Avery," he repeated as if tasting the sound of it. Then, his straight face evolved into a nice smile. "Avery, the daughter of Lucy! My friend?"

Avery nodded briefly and moved closer.

Meanwhile, his son was uninterested in what he was doing. His son had a company in France and has been living there. Only his grandchildren visit him in Jacksonville every Christmas.

Though, unlike Emma, his son got married late and his grandchildren were still very young.

“It has been a long time. Why have you and your grandfather deserted me?” He joked.” Though, he was here a few days ago.”

Avery laughed. “I’m so sorry. I got caught up with work, I actually thought I would see you at my grandfather’s birthday party.”

“Oh, yes. I’m really sorry about that. I was out of the city already. I visited my grandchildren and took ill. My son decided to have me treated before I return.” He explained and gestured at the chair in front of him.

Avery smiled and sat. “How do you feel now?”

“Very much better. Is there anything I can get you?”

Avery shook her head quickly.” No, don’t bother. I had something before coming but I wanted you to see this,” she brought out the blue diamond.

The man regarded it for a moment before he took it from Avery. ” Are you worried it might be fake? Your

father was also here to check if a watch was fake.”

Avery remembered that Grey presented a watch as Lucy’s gift but it was disregarded. Could it have been. what Lucy came to check?

“Was it Patek Philippe stainless steel?”

The man nodded briefly, as he brought out his magnifying glass to examine the diamond. “It is and it was the real one. And the funniest thing is that the price has skyrocketed and is currently 15 million dollars.”

Avery's eyes went wide in shock. So, Grey was right. He won a lottery and still had to buy the real thing for her grandfather, despite how harsh everyone was to him.

The man got up and retrieved a book where there was an image of the diamond.

"It's really confusing. Whoever imitated this diamond ring did a great job but it's fake," he dropped the bombshell.

Avery blinked once, then twice. "Is it fake?"

The man nodded briefly. "It is. Who gave you this?"

Avery looked away. "I got it for my birthday," she responded, as hot anger rushed into her.

Chris lied to her. How could he lie that it was real when it was fake? She even had to wear it at a party, thinking it was real.

"Well, whoever gave this fake thing for a birthday gift is an idiot."

Avery let out a deep breath. "I need to leave now, I will come around some other time," she took the ring

and stood.

The man smiled. "Tell Lucy a hi for me."

Avery hesitated. She didn't know if she was supposed to tell him that her grandfather was sick. She decided against it quickly. "Alright."

She walked out of the store and entered the car. She thought Chris was a real man. He had always shown he had the money but Avery was wrong.

And she regretted all she had ever done with him. Chris was a useless person. What kind of a man gives a lady a fake gift? Chris only showed how much of a fool he was.