

## **Secretly TBB 281**

### Chapter 281: Break up!

Grey made to move but Aphrodite stopped him quickly. "Where are you going?"

Grey looked at her. "I have someone to see at this very moment," he said hurriedly and walked past her while Alfred said the last words before the men continued with jubilation.

Aphrodite regarded him for a moment until he disappeared. She saw her anyway. She knew that Grey's new girlfriend was invited on the ship.

Grey walked out in a hurry to look for Caramel. The ship had already taken up. So there was no way she would get off. She could have been taken aback by the revelation, surprised, and had hidden somewhere.

"Caramel!" He called suddenly, then hesitated when he saw her from afar staring out into the water. It was getting darker slowly and the ship had already been turned around.

Grey let out a sigh before he moved nearer to her. He wondered what was going on in her head or how he was supposed to start his conversation with her.

Caramel jumped up as Grey touched her. She looked up at him with surprise written all over her face.

"Caramel," he called again but she recoiled in fear. "Please," she trembled in fear as if she just saw a ghost. She had a lot going on in her head.

"Caramel!" Grey called again but softly. "It's me, Grey," he tried to hold her hands again and succeeded.

Caramel was too shocked by the revelation that her mind was totally troubled. She couldn't have imagined that Grey was

Hercules. The line was too far stretched. But at that moment, it looked like everything was happening faster than she could think.

She could have made a guess for it but it was too impossible to be true. Like Grey spoke to Don with some kind of power and he got a tattoo too. He was also close to Alfred. The facts were staring right at her but she couldn't even guess it. Well, who would have thought the poor son-in-law that got divorced because he had no money was Hercules?

"You were Hercules?" She said slowly with a little quaver.

Grey didn't know how to answer the question. So, he kept mute. He expected her to ask more questions anyways.

Even though he knew what would happen, he still went ahead with letting her know who he really was. Well, something was bent to happen no matter what. Caramel was Beatrice's daughter. Sooner or later, she would find out, not even when she puts her mind to it. Caramel has been able to stop the search because of Grey. She would have found out about the truth earlier if she hadn't.

"You were the one I danced with at the billionaire club?" She hesitated and took a deep breath as if she was trying to convince herself.

"You gave me the job? You were the one under the mask all this time?" She still couldn't believe it.

"Calm down, Caramel."

Caramel regarded him for another moment.

"Is that why Alex was trying to get a DNA test? If I had given him the real hair, he would have been aware you were Hercules," the question sounded weird to her ears but it was the right one.

It was the reason why he was after Alex as well.

But that aside, Caramel couldn't accept the fact that Grey was actually Hercules and he owned almost anything in the city.

Hercules was literally one of the richest men in the city. But he never acted in such a way.

"But why?" She whispered in a voice that sounded unlike her.

Her mind was in a foggy state. Questions welled up in her in some sort of frenzy of confusion.

Grey sighed. "What do you really want to know, Caramel? Why did I show you who I am or why I'm Hercules? You wanted to know who I really am. You gave me no choice but to show you this even though I didn't want to."

Caramel sucked in a ragged breath.

"I know but" her voice trailed off for a few minutes. "I thought you merely work for Hercules but I didn't know you were," she hesitated.

"Why did you pretend to be poor? Why did you stay with Avery? Why did you start dating me? Was it because you hate Giovanni and Alex? And you were going to use me?" She badgered him.

Well, he hated Giovanni and Alex. That was true but what wasn't, was about using Caramel for his gain?

Grey shook his head briefly. "I didn't use you, Caramel. I never did, just know this, ok?"

Caramel went mute.

"Caramel, you used to trust me. Where has that gone too?"

Caramel looked up at him with a troubled expression.

"Does my mom know this?"

Grey read her expression and quickly decided if he was supposed to say the truth or not.

"She does," Grey sighed. "She used to serve my mother before she died. That's why she's the only one I know as a mom now."

Caramel shook her head briefly. "I can't do this, Grey. I just can't. I mean I trust you but this is too much for me."

"Caramel, calm down. I know you need time to process everything. Trust me, it has happened to me as well. I'm ready to give you the time you need but don't act in a hurry," he advised.

Caramel regarded him for a moment before she slowly let go of his hands. "The woman I knew as my mother was killed by Giovanni, one of the mafia lords in town. I don't want to get into this kind of thing. I don't want to be in trouble," she complained.

"Caramel," Grey called.

"No, you don't understand," Caramel sobbed silently. "Alex promised to find you and kill you. I can't wait and let people

I love die. I'm sure he's only angry that we are together. He would probably let you off when he discovers I'm leaving. I mean he doesn't know who you really are."

It took a while before the explanation settled in and realisation finally dawned on Grey.

"Are you suggesting a breakup?"

Chapter 282: Decisions

Caramel stared at him for a moment as if she was preparing the next thing to say.

"Yes, I'm fucked up! I can't keep doing this"

Grey regarded her for another moment.

"Why? Why do you want to break up with me? Is it because you are scared of Alex? Or is it that you can't bear staying with me because I'm Hercules?"

Caramel blinked once and looked away. She sucked in her breath. "No," she dragged, "no," she repeated as if she was indecisive about her decision. "I love you, Grey but I'm scared. Oh, what I ever wanted was not to get into all this shit. I don't want to get involved with anything Mafia. My mother was killed by one of them and..." her voice trailed off.

Grey didn't say a word. He didn't want to interrupt her and make her forget what she was about to say.

Caramel let out a sigh. "All I ever wanted was to have a normal man as my boyfriend. I didn't want to get into the mess again because I'm scared of it. I don't want someone from the mafia, I don't want that," she sobbed silently. "I don't even want you to get involved with the mafia, how can you now say you are one of the popular Mafia lords?" She shook her head briefly. "I don't! I don't want to be in the center of it all. I don't even know why my mother died. I'm scared to shit!"

Grey regarded her for a moment. "That's why you are running?"

Caramel shook her head briefly. "I'm not running, Grey."

"It is, Caramel, it's running. If it's not running, what is it? Do you want to leave everything behind because of your mother? I mean just because your mother was killed by the mafia doesn't mean you

will be killed by one."

"Well, not now. But soon. My mother was already married before she died. It could happen at any time. Enemies keep coming in and it never stops."

"I'm going to protect you, Caramel. I will," Grey swore.

"No, you can't do this. Anything can happen along the way. My life is not guaranteed and it scares the life out of me," she confessed.

Grey sighed. "What are you going to do?"

Caramel turned to look at the water. The air was getting harder, the breeze made her feel cold and she shivered at it.

Grey pulled off his suit and covered Caramel's body with it.

Caramel took it with a smile of gratitude but she didn't say a word.

Grey stared out at the water as well. He had always loved the view of water since he was young. His father mostly take him on tours on the water whenever he was back from school.

"I'm leaving, Grey. I will leave Jacksonville," she revealed suddenly.

Grey turned towards her quickly. It was as if he heard it wrong the first time. "What did you say?"

"I'm leaving."

Grey doesn't understand it. Avery left him because he was nobody. Caramel was going to leave him because he was someone?

Because he was Hercules? Did she want a nobody? It doesn't even make any sense. But he wouldn't talk about it if she didn't want to.

"Where will you go?"

Caramel shook her head briefly. "I have no idea but I'm leaving as soon as possible."

Grey regarded her for a moment. "You don't even know where you are going. And you want to leave quickly?"

Caramel looked at Grey.

"I'm sorry Grey but this is the only thing I can think of."

It was vividly clear that Caramel was scared of him as Hercules. She didn't even believe that he could protect her. Ok, he understood what she was trying to explain.

Wasn't it the reason why she stopped talking to Alex?

Caramel and Alex were best friends until the revelation. And now, she doesn't even want to have anything to do with him. He initially thought it was because he was the son of the family that killed her mother.

But now that Grey thought about it, he realised what that really is. Caramel was running away. She doesn't want to have anything to do with anything mafia.

Leo couldn't stop thinking about it all. Well, something was staring right at him in the face. Grey doesn't like him. Well, it looked like that was an understatement. Grey hated him and he didn't want to have anything to do with him. That would explain the reason why he wasn't allowed on the ship.

And it pained him dearly. Though, he knew that he deserved it. How could he explain his betrayal? Just what can his reasons be?

But he could at least do the last thing. He could let everyone know what had happened that night. But that was really difficult.

Leo heard the door open and he got up. Were they back already?

Actually, Leo didn't know how long he got before he would be kicked out. Grey was against him in the first place. He was still in the house because of Alfred. He might have to plan something out very fast.

But making decisions has always been his weakness.

Imagine, he couldn't even reconcile with his son because of it. Charles hates him so much now. He wouldn't even talk to him. Leo didn't hear anyone come inside which was strange. He did hear the door open or could it have been his ears playing tricks on him?

He walked to the door and placed his ears against the door. He heard no movement. He sighed and turned to walk back to the bed. Something broke from outside, alerting Leo again.

It showed that someone was really in the house.

Leo opened the door and stepped out. Perhaps it was Alfred but he felt strange about it.

Or maybe it was because he thought Giovanni might be looking for him. And well, he might find him. There were no security guards in the house. Anything could happen to him.

He hesitated as three figures walked out of the darkness and stopped in front of him.

Chapter 283: Guilt and Threats

"She just told me she's leaving," Beatrice voiced out.



The ship successfully returned to the shore. Caramel left even before Grey would be ready to leave. She was already avoiding him. Grey drove Beatrice home and left the elders in charge.

Grey nodded briefly. "Are you leaving with her?"

Beatrice hesitated. "I guess I will have to stay behind. I mean I need to help you here."

Grey regarded her for a moment. "What did she tell you when she discovered you actually worked for me?"

"Well, she was disappointed," she sighed. "But there's nothing I can do about that or is there?"

Grey nodded briefly. "Someone will be joining you at work. Teach her everything she needs to know about the cream so that you can join Caramel wherever she's going. She needs you more than I do."

Beatrice watched his expression. "Is that ok with you?"

Grey nodded briefly. "It is. Just update me if anything comes up."

Beatrice nodded once. "I will do that. Thank you."

Grey's phone rang suddenly and it was Alfred's calling.

"Hi, Alfred?"

"Grey, we have a problem. Leo is gone," he revealed suddenly.

Grey went still for a moment. "And so?"

His question amazed Alfred. "What! Giovanni could have taken him."

"And why would he do something like that? Is he working with him? I mean how did he even know he was around?"

Alfred went mute for a moment. "We left the house unguarded. Anything could have happened. Giovanni must have sent some men to our houses and found him," he explained. Anything to make him see the reason why he should be anxious about what had happened to Leo.

"Or he could have walked out of the house on his own. He must have heard that he was left behind and decided he wasn't needed. Anything could have happened. You shouldn't jump to conclusions," Grey voiced out.

Alfred sighed, frustrated already. "But I still think we should look for him. There is a lot of probability."

"I don't care, you can look for him but count me out Alfred. I'm not interested."

Alfred sighed again. "Alright. At least you gave me permission to look for him. I will do that then. Good night, Hercules."

"Good night, Alfred." He hung up and stared at the space. He wasn't really bothered about Leo, he was getting bothered about Caramel leaving. He didn't want her to leave but it turned out that there was nothing he could do. Caramel's mind is all made up.

When Leo opened his eyes again, he was staring at an unfamiliar ceiling. It was semi-dark but Leo could still see some things in the room. There were a few chairs and a desk. But he had no idea where he was.

The door opened suddenly. "It's been a long time, Leo," a deep but familiar voice said suddenly.

Leo looked up, shocked for a moment. He realised who it was. It was Giovanni.

"Giovanni?" he called out.

Giovanni laughed. "You still recognize my voice after all these years. It's almost eleven years."

Leo struggled on the chair that he was tied to.

"Why am I here? What do you want from me?"

Giovanni regarded him for a moment.

"If you are still living with Alfred, it only means they are yet to know what you did," he voiced out.

"I don't know what you are talking about," Leo feigned innocence.

"Don't play that card with me, Leo. I know everything. I know the card you are playing with the elders. You won't do that with me!"

He yelled with anger.

"For how long have you been spying on me?"

Giovanni bent to be able to look at him very well. "Don't ask me any questions. I'm the one who will be doing the asking. You only need to answer my questions!" He barked.

Leo sighed. "They do know about everything."

"And they still keep you around them?" Giovanni gave him a puzzled look.

"Maybe it's because you didn't tell them the real truth. If you had told them you were working with me, it wouldn't have been this."

"Why are you so concerned with what happens to me? The last time I checked, you wanted me to die!" Leo stressed.

Giovanni smiled wickedly. "But you didn't. And now, I'm here to make you a great offer. This deal is nice, Isn't it?"

"I'm not ready to make any deal with you, Giovanni. I'm not interested in your nonsense!"

Giovanni pulled out a chair and sat on it.

"Have you forgotten? We made a deal like this ten years ago. It was smooth and you did very well. Have you forgotten what you did?"

"I definitely don't need you to remind me! And I'm not going to get into any deal with you, not again!" Leo groaned.

Giovanni regarded him for a moment. "This isn't an interrogation. I'm not asking for your opinion, Leo. And you don't have a choice but to do this."

Leo shook his head briefly. "I'm not doing this. I'm not going to listen to you again, not anymore. And it was ten years ago. Time has changed, Giovanni."

Giovanni clenched his teeth in anger. "Well, people don't change so easily. And well, if the elders really know what you did, do you think you will be spared? I'm sure Hercules would kill you. He would definitely kill you for murdering his father."

Leo closed his eyes in regret. He felt a pang of sadness at what he had done.

"But tell me, Leo. How come Grey is alive?"

Leo's breath got stuck in his chest. He didn't expect

Giovanni to ask such a question. Well, yes, he was supposed to kill Hercules and his son.

"You have a lot of explanation to make, Leo and you aren't getting out of here until you do so!" Giovanni threatened.

Leo looked away. "I lost some of my memories, including that."

Giovanni laughed again. "Then tell me who Hercules really is."

Leo's eyes went wide with shock as he looked back at him. "What!" "Yes, who is the man behind that mask? Who is Hercules?"

#### Chapter 284: The Kidnap

"Where is my father?"

"He's having his breakfast," the maid supplied.

Caramel nodded briefly and walked past the maid to the dining. Her father was truly having his breakfast.

"Hello father," she moved closer and gave him a peck.

" Good morning."

"Good morning Hunny," her father stared at her for a moment. "Are you ok? You look pale."

Caramel nodded briefly and pulled out a seat for herself. "I am. I just need space. I'm leaving Jacksonville," she announced to her father's surprise.

"Why, Caramel?"

Caramel stared down at the food that have been placed in front of her.

"Nothing, really."

"Nothing? You stopped working at my company and you said nothing. Now, you are leaving and you are still telling me it's nothing?"

Caramel sighed. "I'm really ok. I just need to clear my head. I will be fine when I return, I promise," she said with a smile.

Her father nodded in acceptance. He had always been understanding anyways.

"So, when am I seeing him?" He asked all of a sudden.

Caramel gave her father a puzzled look. "See who?"

"Your boyfriend! The one that has been making you happy all this while. I have to thank him," he teased.

Caramel smiled. "I will, soon."

Caramel was about to enter the car when her phone rang all of a sudden. It was her mother. She had already booked a flight the previous night after she was done talking to Grey.

"Hello, mom."

"Where are you?" Beatrice demanded.

Caramel sighed. "On the way to the airport. It will be taking up in less than two hours," she revealed.

"Alright but you could have informed me and I would have had some men follow you to the airport," Beatrice scolded.

Caramel sighed. "It's no big deal, mom. As I said, the enmity between Grey and Alex will be put to rest after I'm gone. And Alex wouldn't have my time. I would be safe. I don't even think he knows I'm leaving."

Beatrice let out a sigh. "Alright but I'm coming over soon. I just need to sort out some things. I will definitely be there."

"Why? I mean you need to be with Grey."

"Hercules was the one that gave me the permission to come around," Beatrice revealed.

Caramel groaned inwardly. "Can we just refer to him as Grey?"

"Well, you can't hide the fact that he's Hercules and he's my boss and a boss to a lot of people," Beatrice voiced out.

"Alright," Caramel sighed. "I'm just not used to it. It's ok. Just let me know when you will be coming, and I will let you know about the address."

"Alright, that will do then. Call me when you arrive."

"Alright, I will. Take care," Caramel finished and hung up.

She sighed. She wasn't only confused and shocked about Grey but she was angry. Grey kept such a secret from her and he wouldn't even reveal it until she took it seriously.

The whole shit was starting to get her fed up with everything. That was why she was willing to give up everything just to stay away from trouble.

After getting checked in, her phone started ringing. It was an unknown. So, she didn't want to pick it up.

That stopped only for her phone to start ringing again. This time, it was Grey. Caramel has a second thoughts about picking up his call.

But she wanted to say goodbye for the last time. She loved Grey anyways.

She stepped out and tried to find a secure place to pick up the call. The plane won't be taking off until thirty minutes later which meant she had the time.

She was about to pick up when she saw two strange men walking towards her slowly. They had this dark frown on their faces and they were in suits.

Caramel gathered her forehead as she regarded them for another moment before she realized they were actually coming towards her.

Caramel turned around quickly, to leave instinct.

When she turned left, the guys also turned left. She hurried towards the entrance of the plane but found another two strange-looking men standing and waiting for her. She knew that instant that she had no chance. She might even have to miss her flight.

She turned to her right quickly. They almost caught up with her and so she started to run. These men ran after her. They multiplied along the way.

It was at this moment that she realized she had to call Grey. But when she looked down at her hands, she realized she wasn't holding her phone anymore. She must have dropped it on the run.

"Shit!" She cursed.



Three men showed up in front of her suddenly and she was forced to a sudden stop, her breath coming out so fast.

There was nowhere to turn to, it was a dead end.

"Who are you? What do you want from me?"

Before she could ask more questions, there was a handkerchief being held to her nose tightly.

Before she would black out, she saw Grey from a distance and made to reach out to him. She struggled with the men but she was no match.

Grey was the last picture on her mind before she fell into the darkness.

Grey had been trying Caramel's number but she wouldn't pick up. He figured that she must still be mad at him.

Well, Beatrice told him the time of Caramel's flight which was why he was at the airport at that time. He just wanted to make sure that Caramel got to her destination safely.

There was an announcement ongoing about the departure. Grey tried Caramel's number again but she didn't pick up. So, he decided to call Beatrice's number.

She picked it up immediately. "Hello Grey, is anything the matter?"

"I can't get across to Caramel. Can you call her for me and confirm she's doing fine?"

"Sure, I will do that immediately. I will call you back quickly," she said and hung up.

Grey sighed. He didn't believe he was missing work because of Caramel. Caramel could have been alright. He didn't know why he was bothering himself.

He turned to leave when Beatrice's call came through. He picked it up immediately.

"Hello, Grey! I can't get to Caramel. I spoke to her this morning. She wouldn't ignore me. And the phone is still ringing but she's just not picking up!" Her voice was filled with anxiety and fear.

Grey gathered his brows. "The plane is just about to depart. Her number shouldn't be ringing anymore. I will try to call her again," he didn't wait for a reply before he hung up.

He placed a call to Caramel. It rang but no one picked it up. Definitely, something was really happening.

Chapter 285: forced marriage

Grey placed a call to Charles and he picked it up immediately.

"Hello, Grey."

"I need a favour from you. Can you send one of your guys over to spy on Alex and Hattie?"

"Sure, but is something wrong somewhere?"

"Yes, Caramel is missing. I need someone very active to spy on them."

"Alright, I will do that. Is there anything else you want me to do?"

Grey shook his head briefly. "No, that's ok. I will call you if I need something else," he assured before he hung up.

"Dad, I told you that we can't get the truth from him. I sincerely think we should kill him," Alex mumbled.

"No, I got this, Alex," Giovanni scolded him "Leo has once worked for me and he would do it again. I will make sure of it. Just get your ass out there and look for Grey," he yelled out the order.

Alex nodded briefly. "Alright, I will do that. I will get back to you whenever I get something tangible," he assured. tonight."

Alex opened his mouth to say something but Giovanni beat him to it.

"I'm the only one that can torture him and I will continue to do it until he gives me the answers that I want," Giovanni muttered and the line went off.

Alex sighed and stared out into space. He was so mad at everything. He doesn't even know exactly what he was so mad at. At Grey for not dying or at Caramel for refusing to stay with him? Or at the fucking Hercules that was alive. He literally tricked them!

How could they have fallen for that kind of thing?

Alex had a bad time thinking if Grey knew about it or not. What if he was aware of who Hercules really was? What if he planned it out with Hercules?

According to what Jane said, Grey was close to Hercules in one way or the other. He could have known from the start.

Alex felt like punching him because of it. How could he love the woman he loved and even had the gut to trick him twice? Grey was really going to have it when he got to him.

Aman rushed to him as he was about to enter the house.

"Boss, you have a message," the man said hurriedly.

Alex turned to look at him and recognized he was one of his men. "Is anything the matter?"

The man nodded briefly. "Yes, boss. It's a message from Hattie. She couldn't get across to you on the phone and she said it was urgent," he supplied.

"What did she say this is all about?"

"She said you should come over to her place immediately. You will find out when you get there," he revealed.

Alex regarded the man for a moment before he slowly released a sigh. He had no idea why Hattie would call him so early that morning but he figured out it must be very important.

"We are driving over immediately!" He announced and turned back towards the car.

Just as they drove out, a man moved to one corner and made a call to Charles.

"Hi boss, Alex just drove out a few minutes after he drove inside. I think they are going to Hattie's house," he informed.

"Go after him but be careful so that he doesn't notice you. If he does, you will be dead," Charles reminded him.

The man nodded once. "Don't worry, I got this," he muttered and hung up. He walked inside the car and drove after Alex slowly. Alex walked out of the car before his driver would help with the door. He was just anxious about what Hattie was going to tell him. And he'd had a long day, he needed his rest.

Hattie met him at the door. "Alex!" There was a big smile on her face.

Alex sighed, not concerned with what she was doing. "What's it, aunt? I'm not really in the mood for this," he stressed.

"Oh, come," Hattie led him to the door by the left.

"I'm sure you will be glad about this. Your spirit will definitely be lifted. Guess who I have here?" She hesitated in front of a door and opened it slightly.

"There."

Alex regarded her for a moment, with a frustrated look before he followed the path of her gaze. His eyes went wide with shock for a moment as he stared at Caramel. Her eyes were closed as if she was sleeping but Alex couldn't make a guess.

"What is this? What is she doing here?" Alex sent her an angry look.

"Relax, Alex. Just calm down," Hattie said at once and it seemed to cool Alex. "Did you know that Caramel was going to leave Jacksonville?"

The news came as a shock to Alex.

"What! She was?"

Hattie nodded briefly.

"She's running away from you. I bet this was all Grey's plan. Caramel was willing to make you a thing of her past."

Alex felt a surge of anger that his fist clenched involuntarily beside him. "I'm really going to kill Grey!"

"Yes, but I don't think that's the first thing to do."

Alex looked at Hattie. "What do you mean?" He had his brows gathered curiously.

Hattie smiled briefly. "When Caramel is gone, she will never be yours, Alex. Think about it. Grey will join her over there and you will have to forget about Caramel."

Alex shook his head briefly.

"I can't! I've tried but I can't! She must be with me at all costs. I don't care if I have to kill Grey! " He swore.

Hattie sighed. "Then I think you have to do something with Caramel too. I mean something that would mark your spot on her too. I'm sure it would cause a misunderstanding between her and Grey."

"What is that supposed to be?"

"You are going to marry her," Hattie dropped suddenly, startling Alex for a moment.

What?

Chapter 286: A Must!

"That doesn't even make sense. How can I marry a woman that doesn't even want to have anything to do with me?" Alex complained.

Hattie shrugged slightly. "There's always a way around something, isn't there? You might want to speak to her. The drugs should be wearing off now, take your time," she finished and walked away.

Alex regarded Caramel for a moment and realised she was already moving her head. She seemed to be coming back to life already.

Alex walked inside the room and regarded Caramel for a moment.

Caramel looked up at him.

"Alex?"

Alex groaned inwardly. "Yes, it's me. Do you have anything to say to me?"

Caramel cursed under her breath.

"Yes, I have a lot to say. Why am I here?"

Alex cleared his throat. "You were really going to leave? With Grey?"

Caramel rolled her eyes. "Is this what this is all about?"

"Answer my question, Caramel!" Alex barked, startling Caramel for a moment. "You would leave me for that thing! For Grey?" His muscles contracted and his voice went deeper.

Caramel shivered. "Am I not allowed to leave you two? Well, point of correction, I wasn't leaving with Grey. You should get your facts straight before you talk!" She reprimanded.

Alex sucked in breath. "Seriously?"

"Of course. I'm leaving Jacksonville for good, to get away from the two of you! I don't want any more trouble."

Alex regarded her for a moment and a smile escaped him. "Good then. We should get married."

"What?" Caramel raised skeptical brows at him. "What did you just say?"

"Proof to me that you weren't planning on eloping with Grey."

Caramel sighed. "Why would I do that?"

"Because Grey is in danger here. And well, since Hercules is alive, he would want to leave Jacksonville for a while. That is when you came in. I'm assuming you decided to elope with him wherever and have a nice time together," he explained.

Caramel sighed, frustrated. "I'm not eloping with Grey! I'm escaping from the both of you!" She yelled in anger.

Alex watched her for a moment. "The. Proof it to me! Marry me! Lemme have you and I will know you are not with Grey."

Caramel huffed. "You must be kidding me!"

"Unfortunately for you, I'm not."

"What the fuck!" Caramel yelled. "Are you out of your mind!"

Alex moved even closer to her. "I've been out of my mind since I discovered the relationship between you and Grey. I've been keeping it cool all these while. I thought we had time on our hands. You had a lot of time to love me back but instead of focusing on that, you had to go with Grey? That useless thing?"

Caramel released an exasperated sigh, "I don't love you, I know that. Is it a crime to be with the one I love?"

Alex shut his eyes at once. He was angry. In fact, his blood was pumping so fast but he didn't want to react to it.

"Your place is with me, Caramel. You can either be mine or be no one!" He swore.

"I just told you I wasn't planning on leaving with Grey! Why won't you believe me!" Caramel yelled.



Alex scoffed. "Believe you? How can you explain the fact that he was at the airport?"

Caramel's eyes went wide for a moment as realization dawned on her. She stared at Alex with fear in her eyes. "What are you going to do with me?"

Alex moved backward. "I'm going to have you, even if it's with the force that you want. I'm seeing you tonight, Caramel."

"What for? What are you going to do with me?" Fear almost swallowed her alive.

Alex regarded her for a moment. "I will do anything to have you, Caramel even if it means going against your wish. And this is the only way to keep you to myself. And well, I'm going on with it," he finished and walked out of the room.

"Let me go! You mother fucking son of a bastard! Let me go!" Caramel yelled even harder. She was frustrated and angry.

Caramel couldn't stop crying. She was left alone for hours. The men brought her some food but she couldn't even have them because she had clearly lost her appetite.

Maybe Grey was right. But well, she was wrong about the whole situation. She thought everything would be resolved if she could go away, far from everyone. But she was wrong. She should have stayed with Grey, at least let him know when she was leaving.

Then, Alex wouldn't have been able to get her.

And thanks to her secrecy, Grey doesn't even know she got kidnapped. He might think she had left Jacksonville already. What was she supposed to do at that time?

The door crept open suddenly and Caramel jerked back in fear.

"It's time to get prepared," a voice announced and several ladies walked inside the room.

Caramel shivered at this.

She was led out of the room by the ladies, into another room that seemed to be different from the one she was coming from.

"What are you doing with me?" She yelled but knew it was pointless to struggle. Alex did say he would come back that night. The whole thing was starting to give her a headache.

"The best thing for you to do is co-operate and you will be alright," a voice warned.

The ladies retreated, leaving behind just one maid.

"You need to have your bath," the maid announced.

"I don't want to. I want to see Alex at this moment," she said stubbornly.

"You will, soon," the maid moved closer. "But he won't be the only one you would be seeing."

Caramel eyes went wide with shock at the statement. "What!"

The maid moved even nearer for her to see her face. "I'm Tiana and I work for Hercules."

Caramel was too shocked to say a word. Hercules? That meant Grey.

Tiana read her facial expressions and understood what she was trying to say. "Yes," she nodded briefly. "And he's on his way."

Chapter 287: Concern

The car pulled off in the garage and Alex hesitated. He has been thinking about it for a long time but he somehow agrees with

Hattie. He was supposed to take whatever belongs to him that Grey might take. He shouldn't allow him to get away with it at all.

The driver opened his side of the door and Alex's side of the door opened too as well but it wasn't the driver.

"Alex, get down or I will shoot this through your head," Grey announced in a deep voice.

Alex looked up at Grey. "Grey?"

"You got it right but do it now or I'm actually going to pull the trigger!" He threatened.

Alex sighed and got down from the car slowly. "How did you escape death? I

Grey chuckled. "I have nine lives, Alex. You can't kill me like that."

"Oh," Alex smirked. "Interesting. Just beware, I'm really going to kill you for real this time."

Grey huffed. "I would like to see you try. Bring out your phone and call her to come out here," he ordered.

Alex raised confused brows at him. "Who?"

Grey pushed the gun right into his neck. "You do know what I'm talking about. You better bring out your phone or you won't be the one after my life, someone will be doing it in your stead."

Alex regarded him for a moment before he took his phone and dialled a number. It rang severally and no one picked it up.

"Are you playing me, Alex? I have men around already and I have you on the hook."

Alex sighed and dialled another number.

"And place it on speaker!" Grey warned between his teeth.

Alex complied. "Hello!"

"Good evening boss. Are you around?"

"Yes," Alex glanced at Grey. "I want you to send someone to escort Caramel out of the house."

There was hesitation on the other side. "Is everything alright, boss?"

"Yes, I need to take her home. Don't worry, just let her come down."

"Alright boss, she will be there soon," she assured and the line went off.

Alex pocketed his phone. 'You know, I was really thinking hard about everything. I mean when you came to me, you acted as if you knew nothing about the Mafia. And I thought I could use the likes of you.'

Grey smirked. "Well, I'm nothing like you."

"We are both in this mafia business, you've done shitty things as I have."

Grey shook his head briefly. "I'm not like you, Alex. I'm not like Pablo and I can never be like you. Meanwhile, Caramel is taking a long time. If she doesn't come out in five minutes, it will be on you," he warned sternly.

Alex sighed. "If you kill me, my father won't let you off the hook."

"Well, you would be dead already," Grey smiled.

When Grey looked up slightly, he saw Caramel walking out with Tiana and a sigh escaped him.

Tiana and Caramel moved closer. Caramel hesitated as she stared at Grey. At that moment, what it looked like to Caramel was Hercules pointing a gun at Alex but Alex doesn't even know.

"Let's go," Tiana announced and escorted her over to a car close by.

Jimmy was in it. The moment they shut the door, the car pulled out of the garage.

"What kind of a man kidnaps a woman because she refused to love him? You should man up, Alex, and face me. Stop going through corners, and let's do this man-to-man. I will be waiting for you," he gave him a last smile before he walked to the car and Don drove out of the garage.

The driver rushed to him. "Should we go after them?"

Alex shook his head briefly. "Let him be."

Leo yelled out as sharp pain coursed through his whole body. His body vibrated with it.

"Stop!" Giovanni said suddenly and the hot metal that was being pressed against Leo's body was held on hold.

"You are not being fair, Giovanni!" Leo spat out blood. His face was all bruised and there was blood on his clothes.

"This is fair enough. You say what I want, you do what I ask and this would be good for you."

"I've already done that once, I'm not ready to go into that," Leo yelled out in anger.

Giovanni regarded him for a moment, then looked over at the man beside him. "Continue," he ordered.

The man picked another metal from the burning charcoal and placed it on Leo's exposed body. A loud Yelp escaped Leo again.

His mind was in a great tumult on what to do. The suffering was too much and getting out of hand but Leo didn't want to talk.

How was he supposed to tell Giovanni that Grey was Hercules? How was he supposed to cope with betraying his friend and Grey? Damn, he had betrayed Rio. Would he betray his son?

But he didn't know how long he could cope with the torture.

Alfred stared up at the ceiling for a moment. "I have a bad feeling about this, Gregory."

Grey didn't inform Alfred and others that he was going to Hattie's place to get Caramel. He didn't want to disturb the elders since he can handle it on his own.

"About Leo?" Gregory raised skeptical brows at him.

Alfred nodded briefly. "What if Giovanni was the one that took him? What if \_ M

"Stop thinking too far, Alfred. Anything could have happened to him as Grey had said. It's nothing to be bothering yourself with.'

Alfred regarded Gregory for another moment. "I can't find Leo anywhere. It's something, Gregory. I've sent out my men since yesterday and they haven't found anything. I'm bothered. What if I'm actually right about him?"

"And what if you are not?"

Alfred let out a sigh. "I'm going to give it till tomorrow night. If I don't find Leo, I'm going for Giovanni."

"But you do know that Hercules might not be interested in it."

Alfred looked at Grey.

"I will make him. I have a reason that will move him." Gregory looked at him as well and raised skeptical brows.

"And what can that be?"

"Leo knows who the real Hercules is, Gregory. He might have lost his memories but he had been living with us for a while now.

Leo knows it's Grey. What if he tells this to Giovanni? I mean he could torture him for the information.

Gregory's eyes went wide with shock. "You are right. We need to meet with Grey tonight. We need to speak with him!" He announced hurriedly.

Alfred nodded once. "We need to protect Hercules."

Chapter 288

Grey's phone rang suddenly as they drove along the street. It was Tiana.

"Hello boss, should we drive to your house or straight to Caramel's house?"

Grey regarded the car in front of him for a moment. "Take her home, Tiana," he finished and hung up.

"Are you alright?" Charles inquired.

Grey sighed and stared out of the window into nothingness. He had a lot on his mind anyways but he doesn't want to talk about it at that moment.

"Boss," Charles called suddenly, pulling Grey out of his thoughts. "Don's car is actually parked. It looked like they wanted to speak with you."

Grey glanced down at his phone's screen but there were no missed calls from Tiana. He wondered why they were stopping anyways.

Charles pulled to a stop behind Don's car.

Grey got down and made his way toward the car. He opened the door and only Tiana was staring up at him.

"Where's Caramel?"

"She wants to speak with you," she announced and pointed in the opposite direction, at Caramel's figure.

Alex let out a sigh before he moved closer to Caramel slowly. "Caramel," he called softly. 1

Caramel shivered slightly before she turned around to look at Grey. "Grey," she called softly. Her voice got low and unlike hers.



Grey regarded her for a moment and saw the devastated look on her. He hesitated, "I told Don to take you home. You will be saved over there," he assured.

Caramel rushed forward until she had ended up in his arms. She sobbed quietly as she hugged her so tightly as if someone was going to rip her away.

Grey hesitated for a moment before he hugged her back, and stroked her back slowly.

"It's ok," he assured her.

"I'm sorry for running away. I thought it was the best thing to do. I didn't believe Alex could do something like this," she almost choked on her words. "I was so scared to death!" She expressed.

Grey let out a sigh. "It's not your fault, actually. In fact, I think I understand you now. I mean it looked like the best. There's no way I can keep a tab on you for 24 hours without getting through your privacy. There won't be free will and there's no way you would be comfortable about it. You chose the best option. I just didn't like the fact that you are willing to do this in your way."

Caramel sobbed silently. "I'm sorry for the way I reacted to you. I'm so sorry, Grey."

Grey nodded briefly. "It's ok, Caramel. I'm not mad and I understand you were just so startled. It's ok," he stroked her hair slowly.

"I understand you perfectly and you are going to be alright?"

Caramel pulled back slowly. "Are you sure?"

Grey wiped off the tears on her face with the tip of his finger. "You will be fine. I will make sure you get out of Jacksonville safely.

You won't need to worry about anything and I will call you back when everything is alright."

Caramel smiled. "You will?"

He nodded briefly. "You will be fine because I will be in charge of everything," he assured.

He had never really thought about it, about the fact that Alex was going to give it all it takes to have Caramel. Unless he was going to have Caramel stay guarded 24/7 which wouldn't be so pleasing to Caramel, considering the fact that she would want to go on with her daily work. Would he send his men with her to Protos Pubblicita?

"You can go home now, I will send my men to watch over you till morning. I will book a new flight for you," he expressed.

Caramel shook her head briefly.

"I will stay with you and mom."

Grey nodded briefly.

"Alright, let's go then."

He led her to her car and opened the door to let her get inside before he got inside as well.

"We are going home," he announced to Charles.

Charles made a nod of his head and started the ignition.

Grey placed a call to Don and he picked it up immediately.

"Hello, boss."

"You can go home but send a dozen men to my place," he ordered.

Caramel's head was hanging over his shoulder as Grey pulled her closer to him. She soon closed her eyes.

"Alright boss, goodnight."

Just as the call ended, his phone rang almost immediately. It was Alfred.

Grey glanced at Caramel before he picked it up.

"Hello Alfred."

"Hi Hercules. How are you doing?"

"I'm doing fine. Is something wrong?"

Yes," Alfred hesitated. "It's about Leo. I'm yet to find him."

Grey grunted. "I'm not in the mood for this, Alfred, and I'm definitely not in the mood to find someone that killed my father," he expressed sadly.

Caramel has fallen asleep now, against his shoulder.

"Grey, you have to listen to me. You know me, Grey. I don't waste my time on things that aren't worth it. You just have to listen to me." He pleaded silently.

Grey groaned inwardly. "Alright, what is this all about?"

Alfred let out a sigh. 'We have to find Leo, Grey. If Giovanni has taken him, then we are in a great mess. It means trouble for us.'

Grey gathered his brows. 'What do you mean?'

"Leo knows about you. He knows who the real Hercules is. What if Giovanni was trying to find this out from him? You know what this means if he succeeds," he alerted.

Grey thought about it for a moment. "I thought Leo didn't remember anything."

'Well, that's where the trouble lies. He doesn't remember anything from the past but because of our medication, he sees and remembers things from the present, which include everything we did in my house," he explained.

Grey's heart made a sudden thud. "What!"

"That's why I think we need to find him. If he talks, Giovanni and the world will know who you really are."

"Shit!" Grey cursed under his breath. "Find him! I need you to find him quickly!"

He still didn't want to make his identity known to Giovanni, not yet. There was a lot to happen. Damn! How could he make such a mistake? He could have listened to Alfred and allowed him on the ship.

"Don't worry, boss. I and Gregory will dispatch the men immediately in search of him. I'm sure we will get him," he assured.

'The hideout," Grey said quickly. "The place where I was taken. Leo would definitely be there. Search that place first."

"On it, Hercules. Thank you for the tip!" Alfred said and the line went off.

Grey looked at Caramel. "If Giovanni knows about his true identity, it wouldn't just be Caramel shivering out, the others would, as well."

## Chapter 289: The truth is confusing

Leo was all bloody and he could barely feel his body. The torture was too much and Leo didn't think he could handle it anymore.

"Please stop!" He screamed suddenly. "I'm ready to talk. Please, call Giovanni."

The man regarded Leo for a moment before he slowly dropped the metal in his hand. "Don't play me. If I call him and you don't talk, it would mean death for you."

Leo nodded quickly. "You bastard! I'm serious!"

The man sent him a glare before he turned away and walked out of the room.

Leo had to think of something. He had to think of the best way to escape. If he could reach forward and grab one of the hot metals, he could use it to free himself before the man that went out would return with Giovanni.

Alfred looked at Gregory. "The men are rounding the area while we will try to check the alley. Let's be sure he's not around here before we enter the building," he suggested.

Gregory nodded briefly. "That's ok actually. Let's go," he cocked his gun and got out of the car. Alfred followed behind quickly with five more men.

They walked in a straight line toward a particular location. It was dark but there was light coming from the moon.

Gregory stopped suddenly and signalled to others to do the same. "I hear some muffled sounds coming from that side," he pointed in the opposite direction.

Alfred nodded briefly. They moved closer to where the Sound was coming from slowly. And they saw them-

Actually, two men held Leo so tight in their midst while the third one had a gun held to his forehead.

"Fuck! We need to be careful!" Alfred muttered.

"On it," Gregory smiled and aimed at the man holding the gun.

Ashot and the man went flat on the floor. The rest of the men shot at the other two men.

Leo yelled in fear.

Alfred stepped out. "Man, it's us," he announced.

Leo looked at him and his eyes adjusted on him. "Why are you here?"

"To get you out of course," he looked at the men. "Unloose him and get him to the car."

The men complied and Alfred moved to Gregory.

"Get out of here. We are done." Alfred announced and they both walked to the car.

"But what really happened to you there? You are soaked!" Gregory demanded but no answer came. He glanced back and saw that Leo had fainted.

"We need to get Leo to the hospital. He just fainted!" He informed Alfred.

Alfred pulled to a sudden stop.

"Take on the wheel, I will call my doctor," he stepped out of the car while Gregory also did the same.

Alfred went to the passenger's seat while Gregory took the driver's side. Gregory took off while Alfred placed a call to the doctor. He knew anyways that Leo has gone through a lot, considering the blood and bruises on his face. Only God knew what Giovanni had done to him. They were even early or Leo could have died.

Alex walked inside the living room. Giovanni sat, with his head bowed. He seemed to be in deep thought when Alex walked inside. He regarded him for a moment.

"Is something wrong?" Alex demanded.

Giovanni didn't say a word. He cupped his face in his hands. His head was really calculating. He couldn't believe it. Who would have? It still doesn't make any sense to him.

"Dad, what is wrong? Is Leo gone?"

Giovanni finally raised his head. "I let him go. He agreed to be our new spy," he crossed his leg. "For Hercules," he revealed.

Alex regarded Giovanni for a moment. "Then, what seems to be the problem?" He took his seat in front of his father.

Giovanni let out a sigh, the words felt so hard for him to say. In fact, he still had the shock all over him.

"Leo told me the truth," he started.

Alex raised skeptical brows. "Then what happened?"

Giovanni looked up at Alex, and he hesitated.

"I know who Hercules is."

Alex's eyes went wide with shock and excitement.

"Seriously? Who is he? Is it someone we know?"

Giovanni nodded briefly as he stood up.

"You won't believe who it turned out to be. I'm still finding it difficult to access the whole thing. How can it be? He was right under my nose, and has always been! But I didn't know."

"But dad, who is he exactly?" He asked anxiously. He didn't like the suspense that Gio was giving him. He was getting really curious.

Giovanni let out a sigh. "Grey is the Hercules!" He announced.

Shock kept Alex motionless and speechless for a moment. Then, he burst into laughter. "Stop playing dad, that's not even possible. How would Grey be Hercules?" He hissed. "I told you that Leo isn't someone we can trust. He's part of Hercules' elders. He would always try to hide him."

Giovanni looked at him, "what if it's true?"

Alex shook his head briefly. "It's not possible! I did a DNA test and it didn't match at all. This could be a ploy! These men are really using Grey! I'm sure it's only that and nothing else is involved."

"I tortured Leo so hard, he wouldn't have lied to me. He wouldn't do it when he knew I wouldn't spare him."



Alex cursed under his breath. "I don't believe you trust Leo. Leo betrayed Hercules once, he's not worthy to be trusted."

"Well, he betrayed them once and can do it again!"

Giovanni turned away for a moment, as he thought about it. Alex was telling the truth. He had the DNA and confirmed that it wasn't Hercules but why did Leo insist on it? There was something wrong somewhere and Giovanni planned to find out.

He turned to look at Alex. "I'm going to believe Leo partially. Leo is currently pretending. He doesn't have memory loss but he's lying. That means he's still fooling the elders and Hercules himself. If he insists on this, then I have to act on it."

Alex bowed his head in deep thought. "But why doesn't the DNA match?" "That's something you should find out. We are having another test on Grey," he looked away.

"Something feels so strange on Grey and I'm going to find out."

## Chapter 290: Plots

Leo woke up with a loud yelp. He was soaked in his perspiration but he felt a lot better. Though his head was still seriously banging and there were bandages all over his body.

"Are you ok?" Alfred demanded suddenly.

Leo looked over at him and slowly nodded. "I feel good now."

Alfred released a sigh. "That's good. Giovanni took you, right?"

Leo relaxed. "Yes, he did."

Though, he didn't believe that he had already agreed to be Giovanni's spy. Not only that, he had told him everything about

Hercules, and he had betrayed Hercules twice.

He didn't even know how long he could carry the burden.

"Thankfully, we found you earlier. What was he planning on doing with you?"

"He was-," he hesitated and gestured towards nothing in particular. "He wants me to be the spy but I disagree. I guess he was going to kill me when you found me," he lied.

Alfred nodded as a sign of encouragement. "You should be fine by morning," he assured.

Leo nodded briefly and Alfred walked out of the room.

Leo regarded him for a moment until he was out of sight. He closed his eyes in regret. What was he going to do?

How was he going to face Rio again?

Caramel woke up late that morning in Grey's arms. She slept so peacefully and Grey didn't want to wake her up. i

Instead, he got ready for the day. He walked downstairs to meet with Beatrice. He initially told Beatrice to get prepared because he wants her to go with Caramel.

"How are you doing?" Grey said suddenly, startling Beatrice for a moment.

Beatrice turned over to look at him. "Good morning Boss," there was this nice smile on her face. She looked so happy. Grey could tell.

"Good morning," Grey greeted and turned to grab a bottle of water.

"I've made breakfast," she announced. "You can get dressed while I set the table."

Grey nodded briefly and gulped down the water. "Caramel seemed to be having a nice sleep."

"I'm glad that happened."

Grey turned to look at her. "Three of my men are boarding with you. They will be your guards when you reach your location. Just make sure you call me if anything happens," he advised.

Beatrice smiled even wider. "Thank you so much, Hercules. I really appreciate it."

Grey reciprocated the smile. "You are always welcome, Beatrice. You've been so loyal to my mom, it's time to have your life. We will take up from here," he assured.

"Call me if you need any help with the production."

Grey shook his head briefly. "We won't, I will handle it," he assured her. "And you had the better dish out the food because I'm on my way."

They both laughed before Grey went upstairs. Caramel was still sleeping when Grey walked inside. He sat beside her and stroked her hair slowly.

Caramel and Grey had another hot sex the night before and Grey wouldn't even doubt the love he had for her. He wanted her to be saved, which was letting her go, till she was calm enough to accept this position with him.

Though, he wonders if it would all be the same when she comes back. It doesn't matter anyways as long as she is alright.

Caramel opened her eyes slowly. "Is it morning already?"

Grey smiled and pulled at her cheek slightly. "You have a flight to catch. Beatrice is dishing out the food. You should get dressed."

Caramel nodded briefly. "Is my mom really coming with me?"

Grey nodded briefly, a smile still tugging at his lips.

Caramel grinned. "Thank you, Grey. Thank you so much."

Alfred had left for work that morning and it was only Leo at home. Though, there were other men at home as well. So, it was secured but his mind wasn't.

Leo couldn't stop thinking about everything. The fact that he told Giovanni the truth. Though, he's worried as to why the truth hasn't spread yet. If anything has happened as a result of what he confessed, Alfred would have shown it but there was currently nothing.

It looked like Giovanni was planning something wild and just thinking about it made Leo's heart race.

Just what was he supposed to do?

Damn! He had just two choices! Tell the elders everything and expect death immediately or well, continue to betray the elders, continue to lie and well, die.

He was going to die no matter what he did. His sins were great already. But the main question should be what he would be dying for. For betraying or for help.

It was relatively late but it was better to be late than never.

Leo reached for his phone. It was the phone that Alfred gave to him that morning. In case anything happens, Leo was supposed to call and alert him.

Alfred picked up immediately. "Hello, Leo. Is everything alright?" Leo was supposed to call him only if something was happening and he thought something was really happening.

"Not really Alfred. I have something to tell you and the elders."

"Ok. Do you remember something already?"

There was hesitation from Leo's side. "I've never lost anything. It was only a pretence and I'm ready to tell you and Hercules everything."

Silence ensued from the other end for a few seconds. "Alright, I will call the elders' attention to it. We will meet you at home soon," he assured in a calm voice.

Well, Alfred was the eldest. He, Rio, and Leo were age mates. And the fact that Alfred was taking everything calm amazes him.

He wondered what Grey would do after he learned of the truth.

Alex stood up in anticipation as the door opened and a man rushed inside. "Yes?"

The man nodded briefly. "I got several strands of hair as I didn't know if he was the only one that used the comb. But I got it from his room."

Alex thought for a moment. "Yes, Caramel could have been in his room. I will just run a test with each and every one of them."

The man nodded and stretched out a transparent bag filled with hairs.

"It's time to identify Grey."