

## **Secretly TBB 301**

### Chapter 301: Accusation

Grey froze for a second but quickly got back to his senses. He knew that he had to act quickly.

"Stop there!" He yelled and jumped forward before the intruder would dip the string into Charles's skin.

The man ignored him and struggled to continue with what he was doing but Grey's hand was already on his, thwarting his plan.

"Who are you?" Grey demanded as he gave him an uppercut, thereby making him fall to the floor.

The man regarded Grey for a moment while still on the floor.

"Who are you?" Grey demanded again.

The man didn't say anything, instead, he went over to the other side to continue her plan of injecting Charles.

Grey jumped over Charles and kicked the man in the chest. The kick sent him reeling backward. Before he could get up, Grey was already over him, giving him blows filled with hatred and anger.

"Grey?" A familiar voice said from above him, making Grey lose control all of a sudden. He looked back, skeptical because he thought that Charles was still in a coma. But the voice that just called his name sounded exactly like Charles.

The man used the opportunity to punch Grey in the face. He pushed him off almost immediately.

When Grey would look at the man again, he was working out of the room.

Grey hurried after him quickly. Just as he walked out, he saw the man running toward the elevator.

One of his men rushed past him, to Grey. "Boss."

Grey regarded him for a moment. "Stay here! Get the others too and you must not leave here until I get back!" He ordered and rushed towards the elevator as well.

The elevator was moving when he got there but he didn't think the man had ridden in it. He on second thought takes the way to the staircase. And he saw the man running down the stairs.

"Wait right there!" Grey yelled and hurried after him.

He didn't want to think about it at first but there was a huge probability that someone had sent him to kill Charles. Could it be Giovanni or Alex? Well, he was determined to get to the root of the matter. That was why he was after the man and he would never let him go.

Maybe he was going to start from there. Cut off his head and send it as a gift to Giovanni.

Grey jumped severally, sometimes three steps at a time. The other man was far away from him but he could see his head as he ran through the stairs.

When Grey entered the lobby, the man was nowhere to be found. Grey gaze searched the whole place anxiously but the man was gone already.

"Sir," a feminine voice said from behind him.

Grey turned to look at her and realized she was one of the nurses. Though, he wondered why she called him.

"Is everything alright?"

"I want to know why you ran through the stairs. You could have knocked out anyone on the way," her voice was hostile.

Grey sighed. "Well, it was an emergency."

"Emergency?" Her eyes went wide with disbelief. "We don't run in the hospital no matter the emergency."

"But you do know that there are some cases where that can actually happen. And that was why I said it was an emergency."

The nurse huffed. "It looked like I'm going to call security on you. Why are you here in the first place? You looked ragged and unorganized to me!" She glared at him.

"You see, Miss\_," he looked down at her rage. "Mary, the situation warranted it and I'm sorry about it."

"No! You aren't sorry and you need to be punished for it!" She yelled. "Security!" She called out to the security guard that was patrolling.

The security guard moved closer. "Is anything the matter, Miss Mary?"

"No! I just caught a thug running down the stairs when we have elevators."

The security guard looked at Grey for a moment. "Maybe he was in a rush," he suggested.

"I was and I told her it was an emergency. In fact, I wasn't the only one running down the stairs. You only saw me."

"How dare you lie!" Mary snapped at him. "James, just look at him. Look at the way he's dressed." She gestured towards him.

It was at this moment Grey was able to look at himself. He actually had three buttons pulled off and there was a stain of blood on his shirt. It must have been when he was struggling with the man earlier. Also, he punched the man and drew blood.

"Miss Mary, I assure you that it's not what you think. You do have a CCTV camera right? You can check through and you will see that I'm telling the truth."

"Maybe he's right," the security guard said.

"No James. Don't trust this man. He only wants to use the opportunity to run off. I'm sure he's going to do that the moment we turn our back on him." She accused him. "He should be detained."

"What is going on here?" A deep accentuated voice said suddenly. It was doctor Mike.

Mary smiled. "Thank God you are here. We have a situation. This man here looks rugged and was caught running down the stairs. I'm sure he must have done something to the patients. We need to detain him until we've gotten to the root of the matter," she explained.

It was at this moment that Mike was able to look at Grey. "Wait a moment, are you-," he didn't finish as Gregory entered the lobby with some men.

Because of who he was, every attention turned towards him.

Gregory's gaze found Grey quickly and immediately knew that something was wrong. A frown spread across his face as he moved nearer to them.

Mike actually knew that Grey was the CEO of Victoria Skincare because he had recently started patronizing the cream. But Gregory was a very important person in society.

Chapter 302: Awake

Gregory moved closer to them. "What is going on here?"

Doctor Mike smiled. "Nothing, Mr. Gregory. How can we help you? Do you need anything?"

Gregory looked at Grey. Their gaze met and locked for a moment. Gregory sent him a look that said/ what are you doing here?'

"Is anything happening with the gentleman here?" Gregory questioned.

Mike glanced at Grey. "Not really."

"But doctor Mike, this guy was really trespassing and must be arrested!" The nurse was being adamant.

Mike looked at the nurse. "I don't think that's true because Mr. Grey is the CEO of Victoria Skincare," he announced.

Mary raised skeptical brows. "That can not be true! I think you took him for someone else. I clearly saw this guy constituting a nuisance. He should be arrested."

"You want to arrest my guest?" Gregory said suddenly, shocking the three people for a moment.

Mike's eyes went wide as he looked back at Gregory. "What! He's your guest?" He knew what it meant. Gregory was one of the important people in the city and being his guest meant only one thing. The guy was already rolling with bigwigs in society. He was right after all. Grey was the CEO of Victoria Skincare.

You heard him, didn't you? He's not someone suspicious, he's Mr.

Gregory's guest." Mike informed Mary and turned towards Gregory. "I'm sorry, sir. This was all a misunderstanding."

Gregory huffed. "I will like to see Scott immediately," he voiced. "And this nurse must come with me," he dropped.

Mike let out a sigh before he turned to James. "Please James, take him to see Mr. Scott."

James bowed slightly and turned to Gregory. "Follow me, sir."

Mike stepped back. Well, he knew that the matter has escalated. But there was nothing he could do.

"What the fuck is going on under your nose!" Gregory yelled in anger as they stepped inside the office where Scott was. Gregory was angry now and he was not ready to pretend.

Scott got up. "Mr. Gregory. Is everything alright?"

"Clearly not, Scott. Why was your nurse harassing my guest?"

Scott looked at Grey for a moment, then at Mary. "What happened Mary?"

Mary let out a sigh and stepped forward. "I saw this guy causing a nuisance in the hospital. He was running and I bet those red stains on his shirt," he pointed forward. "Are blood stains. So, I decided to call the police on him."

Grey sighed. "I told her it wasn't why she thinks. I told her to check the footage camera to be sure but she wouldn't listen to me," he explained.

"What! Why didn't you look for the footage camera instead of harassing him?" He yelled.

"But you can blame me, Mr. Scott. Look how he's dressed," Mary muttered.

Scott sighed and looked at Gregory. "I'm really sorry sir," he turned to Grey. "I'm very sorry for the embarrassment."

"That isn't the only thing you should be sorry for!" Grey snapped. "I just saw someone trying to inject the patient with poison!" He announced. "How did someone sneak in under your nose?"

Gregory looked at Grey immediately. "What!" He yelled.

Grey nodded briefly. "I just saw someone try to inject Charles."

"What!" Scott yelled and turned to look at Mary again. "Look at your life! How did someone sneak into the patient ward? You didn't see that! But you saw this innocent man?"

Mary regretted his action instantly

Scott looked at Gregory. "I'm really sorry. And this wouldn't happen again because Mary won't be available here for six months."

Mary's heart did a flip.

"What! Mr. Scott, you can't do that. I didn't know, I was trying to protect our dignity."

"No, that's not the case. You would have checked the CCTV camera if that was the case. You would have investigated thoroughly before making claims. You will leave on temporary suspension or I would be forced to sack you," he threatened.

Mary nodded quickly. "Please, don't place me on suspension! I'm begging you."

Scott looked at James. "Please, get her out," he turned to Gregory. "I'm going to handle this. Once again, I'm sorry about the embarrassment. We will check through the camera and see if we can get a picture of his face." He explained.

"That's ok but I will need someone to come over to check the substance in the syringe."

Scott thought for a moment. "I will do it myself to stay clear of misunderstanding. Let's check the CCTV first," he suggested and walked out of the room, ahead of them.

Grey sighed and turned to look at Gregory. He nodded his head briefly towards Scott.

Gregory understood what he meant. "Scott, I will be going with you. Grey has somewhere to be and he needs a change of clothes," he pointed out.

"No problem, Mr. Gregory. That's fine," Scott responded.

Grey took the way back to Charles's room. The men were standing guard when he got there. They bowed briefly.

He regarded them for a moment before he walked inside. He regarded the broken syringe for a moment before he sat beside Charles.

Charles was breathing fine and so wasn't supported by any breathing machine but Grey didn't get why he wasn't waking up. Just seeing him in that position cracked him up. He couldn't stop thinking about ruining Giovanni.

Ok, this was all Leo's fault but Charles intentionally laid his life for his father. No matter what happens, he would always love his father.

Grey was caught in between what to do. If Charles wakes up, he wouldn't want to cause any harm to him by liking his father.

Well, it was all Giovanni's fault and he must make sure that Giovanni cries. Alex would be his next target.

"Boss," someone said suddenly, the voice sounds familiar. It was at this moment that he remembered that someone actually called his name while he was fighting with the man earlier. The issue that came up didn't let him investigate further.



When Grey looked up at Charles, a smile evade his face. Charles was looking at him. He was finally awake!

### Chapter 303: Accepted invitation

Grey heart filled with gladness. 'You are awake!' He announced loudly.

Two men rushed inside at the voice.

"Is everything alright?" one of the men asked.

Grey turned to look at them. "Get the doctor immediately!" He yelled the order at them.

The men scampered out of the room while Grey turned towards Charles again.

He was glad to see him like he felt his spirit leap for joy.

"I thought I was dead when I woke up early but when I saw you, I got confused. I mean you weren't dead, so there was no way I would be seeing you," a smile spread across his face.

"You were fast. I was going to come and get you," Grey teased, a smile forming on his lips.

Charles tried to laugh because of the words but he started coughing. 'Take it, easy man, I just woke up.'

Grey smiled.

"I'm glad you are better. I'm so happy to see you again."

Charles nodded briefly. "Me too. But did something happen?"

Grey shook his head briefly. He didn't want to bother him. "It's ok. It's nothing to be bothered about."

Charles nodded again but looked away. "What's going to happen to my father?"

Alex was impatiently waiting for feedback. He heard everything that happened the day Hattie was killed rather too late. But it was a blessing that he found out where he was admitted to.

He didn't know all the facts actually because unfortunately for them, they currently have no spy with Hercules but he confirmed the fact that Charles lies in the hospital, half dead.

And he just sent someone to kill him. He needed to kill one of Grey and let him feel more pain. It was more like payback for killing Hattie.

Though He and his father have agreed to call in another mafia boss from oversea but he wanted to do something before his arrival.

He wanted to show Grey not to mess with him.

The door opened suddenly and the men he had sent over to the hospital walked inside. He slowly pulled off the hood and Alex saw that he was bruised and had blood all over his face.

Alex regarded her for a moment. "What happened? Is he dead?" He asked, sitting up.

The man went quiet for a moment as if he was gathering his thoughts. "I failed," he muttered.

"What!" Alex got up in anger. "Why did you just say? I mean how did it happen? It was supposed to go perfectly! The plan was great!" He yelled in frustration.

Alex had planned with some nurses and he made sure that the men staying guard in front of Charles's room would be able to leave for a few minutes. It wasn't supposed to be a failure.

"Yes, you were right. It was supposed to be a success but well, someone stopped me," he hinted and cast his face downward in shame. He had to run for his life. Maybe he would have been dead if he didn't do something like that.

"Who? No one was supposed to be in that room before you finished your job! And you didn't even have to do much! You were just supposed to inject him with poison! How hard was that?" He said with fury.

The man bowed slightly. "I'm sorry, boss."

"Sorry for yourself!" Alex yelled. His muscles came out as he grew more furious that he kicked the table beside him. He tried to relax because it was so annoying that he lost a great opportunity to murder Grey's left hand. He relaxed eventually after a while.

"Who? Who intruded?"

"I don't know but Charles called him Grey. That was before I took off," he exposed.

"Grey?" Alex raised skeptical brows. "Grey was there?"

The man nodded briefly. "He was very swift and skilled. I couldn't take him down," he explained.

Alex hit his face slightly. He knew it anyways. He knew how powerful Grey was. Not just anyone can take him down. He was equally skilled. Though, Alex doesn't know who would have won if he and Grey fought.

He turned around and walked to the bar. "How could he have been there at the right time?" He took the wine and was about to pour some of the content into the cup when he stopped suddenly.

"Wait a moment, Charles is awake?"

"Yes boss, he is."

Alex couldn't move for a moment as his fingers tightened the more around the bottle. He yelled out suddenly and threw the bottle against the wall.

The plan had been thwarted. There was nothing he could do again.

Back at Alfred's house, Gregory bowed for Grey. "I'm sorry, Hercules. I mean if you had listened to me, Charles would have been dead."

Alfred sighed. Gregory had filled him in about what had happened. "This is why he's Hercules and why you must let him do whatever he wants."

Gregory looked at Alfred. "Don't act as if you don't know what I'm trying to solve. Grey is trying to act without thinking. Maybe we need to announce publicly that he's Hercules so that we can have men around him already," he explained.

Grey smiled softly. "I'm done for now. But that doesn't mean I won't kill if I have to."

"But come to think of it, why isn't there any news around about Hercules? I mean if Giovanni knows about Grey already, then we should have heard the news or seen some around Grey. Why isn't he saying anything?" Jayden asked curiously.

Gregory shrugged slightly as he goes to his seat. "Maybe he's finally thinking."

"Or maybe something has happened," Aphrodite said quickly. "Something must have happened or he wouldn't have done something like that. I'm sure of it."

Alfred released a sigh. "That's right. Something must have really happened or Giovanni wouldn't have tried to kill Charles."

All the elders looked at Alfred the moment the words had left his mouth.

"What! Someone tried to kill Charles?" Luciano questioned with shock.

Grey nodded briefly. "Which only means that Giovanni has finally accepted my invite to play Chess with me."

Chapter 304 Who is he?

"So, what are you going to about Leo?" Jayden asked suddenly.

Grey looked up. "Where's he by the way?"

Alfred sighed. "Inside. I haven't been opportune to inform him about the good news. He's probably sick with dread," he expressed.

Grey looked away as he thought about it for a moment. "Alright, Prepare him for a trial." Grey stood and made to leave.

Luciano looked at Grey. "You are not going to kill him?"

Grey raised his brows slightly. "No, but he's going to be punished accordingly. I won't kill him because I've forgiven him. It's Giovanni that must suffer anyways," he voiced out.

The elders nodded quickly and a sigh escaped them.

"That's actually pleasant to hear!" Luciano laughed.

Jayden nodded briefly. "Sincerely."

Alfred looked at Grey. "I'm glad you aren't going to kill him."

Grey nodded once. "I want more men to watch over Charles. Nothing must happen to him. I will be going home now."

"I will tell the men to go with you. They can always return," Gregory suggested.

Grey shook his head briefly. "No, I will pass."

"No, we can't allow that," Luciano said quickly. "We need to protect you! We can't afford to put you in danger."

"I don't want that. And as you've seen earlier, I can handle myself," Grey finished and walked out of the house. He entered the garage and ten men walked after him.

When Grey turned to look at them, they pulled to a stop and bowed to him.

Grey sighed. "I thought I told these people not to try to send anyone." He released a sigh again. "Ok, fine."

He walked to his car but before he would be able to enter the driver's seat, one of the men got inside. The others entered the back seat while Grey took the passenger seat. The others took another car after Grey as the driver pulled out into the street.

Suddenly, it looked like two cars were going after them.

"It looked like we are being tailed," the driver announced.

Grey looked up at him for a moment, before he focused on the rear mirror. He saw the black car coming after them.

"Take a turn," he ordered.

The driver complied immediately.

After what seemed like some minutes, the two cars drove right behind them.

"It looks like they are really after us," the driver expressed.

Who could it be? Grey made a mental calculation. It's either it was Alex or Giovanni. Well, Giovanni has started playing chess with him. Though, he didn't expect him to be taking such drastic steps

Grey turned to look at the driver. "You need to outrun them."

"Should I call Mr. Gregory?" One of the men from behind asked suddenly.

Grey thought for a moment. "Pull the car to a stop."

The driver glanced at him. "What boss?"

"Stop the car now!" He ordered in a deep voice.

The driver pulled to a sudden stop.

"Confuse them. Get them to follow you until they corner you. They will definitely pull back when they realise I'm not with you."

"But Boss, we need to protect you."

"I can help myself."

The door opened and the three men got down. "We will come with you, Boss. At least till you get to your house. One of us will place a call to Mr. Gregory. We don't know how many of them are after us." He explained.

Grey nodded briefly and got out of the car. The three men followed him.

The other car pulled to a stop behind the first driver. He placed a call to them just as he started his car as well.

"Move it! We are to protect the Boss!" He announced and the other car started the ignition behind him as well.

They increased the accelerator as the other two black cars followed them from behind.

Grey walked with the men towards his house. It was close by actually and there were a lot of men in the house waiting for him. And the funniest thing is that he didn't even have any contact with one of the men in his house.

Though, he wasn't scared at all. But he knew his elders would be worried to death about him.

Just as they got back on the street, a black car pulled to a stop into sudden stop in front of them.

The men moved to stand in front of Grey.

The door of the car opened suddenly and a man stepped out. He had a black mask on and he stood firm on the ground.

Grey noticed his stance and knew that it was neither Giovanni nor Alex.

But who could it be? Could Alex have sent someone after him as he did to Charles?



The three men rushed towards the man quickly but he was so fast, dodging their punches and giving his.

Within minutes, the men were on the floor. Truly, the man in the mask was skilled.

He walked closer to Grey. "I've heard so much about you," he boomed, his thick voice sounding strange to Grey's ears.

"Who are you?"

He laughed and stopped for a moment. His hands went up to the mask and then, he pulled it down.

Grey stared at his face for a moment as if he could see something that would strike a chord and tell him where he had seen or met him. Nothing! He was a total stranger.

"I don't know you. I've never seen you."

"Yes," he muttered, a silly smile sticking out of his mouth. He looks older, probably fifty or sixty, and a mark stretched across his face, from his left hand to his right cheeks. It only stopped slightly in his eyes and continued under it.

"But I know you. You must be the popular Hercules," his eyes sparked with excitement.

How did he know? Grey hasn't announced to anyone who he was. There was no way anyone would know about his identity unless one of his nemeses told him.

Giovanni or Alex must have done that.

Chapter 305: Preparation

"Who are you?" Grey demanded again.

The man didn't respond and instead moved nearer. He pulled out a knife from his pocket. A new knife that sparkled even in the dark after it was pulled out of its sheath.

Grey knew what was coming at him even without asking.

The man rushed towards Grey swiftly, almost slashing at him. His attack but not hit by him instead.

"Who are you?" Grey demanded again.

The man didn't respond and instead moved nearer. He pulled out a knife from his pocket. A new knife that sparkled even in the dark after it was pulled out of its sheath.

Grey knew what was coming at him even without asking.

The man rushed towards Grey swiftly, almost slashing at him. He dodged his attack but got hit by him instead.

Grey found himself on the floor. He turned to the man quickly. "You know who I am and you still want to kill me? You have no fear of what that will do to you?"

He smirked. "I'm not scared whatsoever. In fact, there's something I know but you don't. Something you should but haven't," he twirled the knife in his hand.

Grey raised skeptical brows at him. "What?"

He smiled. "It's left for you to find out!" He launched another attack on him.

Grey dodged and punched him this time. He took the punch with his palm as Grey would.

Grey hit him in the leg until he lost balance and found himself on the floor.

Just as Grey moved to punch him in the face, he rolled away quickly so that Grey would punch the floor in his stead.

"You look like a coward! What man would be scared of telling me his name? n

"Let's see, Hercules who the coward really is," he went for his waist, kicking him so hard that Grey was pushed to the floor. "And don't you worry, you will learn about me soon. It takes only a few minutes and you will know the deal you are signing," he moved nearer to him.

When he was close enough, Grey kicked him by the leg and rushed to yank the knife away from him. He succeeded and threw the knife miles away.

"You are no match for me, Hercules," he muttered as he pulled out another knife from behind him and slashed Grey with it.

Several cars pulled to a stop beside them suddenly and several men rushed out toward Grey.

"Guess what? I didn't plan to kill you, not today anyways. I just want you to know of my arrival," he smiled. "Farewell, Hercules," he finished and rushed to his car just as the men stopped beside Grey.

He drove off within a twinkle of an eye.

Grey released a sigh as Don moved closer to him.

"Is everything already, Boss?"

Grey nodded briefly. "I'm fine. I think Giovanni or Alex sent him."

"I guess this is why Mr. Gregory said you should walk alone. We can't afford to lose you, Boss."

Grey nodded briefly. "I understand but I'm going to work tomorrow and you won't be accompanying me." He muttered as he walked to one of the cars that the men brought.

Don rushed towards him. I can and I will. I've been employed by Protos Pubblicita. I will be your assistant. I and Richard will work together to make sure you are safe at work," he explained.

Grey pulled to a sudden stop at his words. He turned to look at Don. "What! Who did that?"

"Mr. Gregory, Mr. Alfred, and Maria had it planned out. We are going to employ a lot of men into Protos Pubblicita to keep you safe whenever you go to work," he explained further.

Grey smiled softly, a bit shocked. ' What! When did they plan all these?"

Don laughed shortly. 'Tonight and Maria has stamped the necessary documents."

"Great idea actually because there's nothing that will stop me from going to work."

There was a lot he has to do anyways. He wanted to go to Linda and see how Victoria Skincare was doing. It has been a while since he showed up at that place.

That aside, he has Jane as a spy now. He would need to monitor her and see how he was acting.

Grey wouldn't spare her if she tried nonsense with him again. In fact, Grey wouldn't spare anyone. Not again.

"Alright, no problem. Let's go home then," he hesitated."! need some men to spy on Jane every

Jane's heart made a sudden thud in her chest as her phone started ringing again. It was Giovanni but she was scared. She didn't even know what she was supposed to do or say.

And Grey had threatened her. She was supposed to let Grey know about it before she picked up any call.

But how was she supposed to know that Hercules had been staying with her all this while? He had been observing her. No wonder, everything turned upside down the moment Grey showed up at Protos Pubblicità.

She was supposed to tell Giovanni. She was supposed to inform him of the recent updates. She wondered what would happen if Giovanni doesn't find out who Grey is soon.

But she valued her life. She saw the way Tina was wasted. She didn't know that Grey was so callous. But apparently, he was angry. Giovanni told her that he killed Grey's parents.

So, he was obviously obsessed with getting revenge.

"Hattie was killed in a gruesome way. I don't know who could have done something like that?" One of the workers murmured as Jane stepped out of the elevator.

"That isn't the only death announcement this week. Jane's corpse was found on the bridge," another announced.

Jane pulled to a sudden stop at this. She felt like she had stopped breathing. Actually, she had never felt so scared in her entire life.

Hercules was a big man and he would probably have men watching her at that moment. Some might even be one of her workers.

If she had known or had someone hinted to her who Grey was, she wouldn't have messed with him. The shit was hitting her raw and she didn't even know what to do.

"Boss!" Someone called suddenly, jerking Jane out of her thoughts.

She looked up slowly, still unable to talk.

"Someone is waiting for you in the office," she announced.

"Who?"

Could it be Alex or Giovanni?

"Grey Fox, boss."

Chapter 306: Conspiracy

It took almost forever before the door opened slowly and Jane walked inside.

Grey could see the fear in them. In fact, he had to stop over at SU before going to Protos Pubblicità that morning. Because it was morning, Grey was sure that Giovanni wasn't watching. And well, he was with Don and Richard like the elders have wanted.

The moment she was inside, Richard moved closer to the door.

Jane regarded Richard for a moment before she fell to her knees in front of Grey.

"I'm doing what you want. Please, don't kill me." She beseeched softly.

Grey ignored her and looked away. "Has Giovanni called?" He asked instead.

Jane went mute for a moment as the words were stuck in her throat.

"You better answer the boss now before\_" Don's thick voice trailed off when Grey put up his hand to stop him.

"Yes," Jane released a sigh and tried to stabilise her heavy breathing. "He has. He called me several minutes ago."

Like magic, the phone started ringing again.

Jane froze for some minutes in fear, before she slowly pulled out her phone. Her hand shook with a slight tremor to it.

"It's Giovanni," she announced.

Don caught her throat immediately and the phone fell to the floor. Thank goodness she was kneeling or the phone might have broken.

"Why is he calling you so early this morning if you haven't told him anything? Are you playing us?"

Jane released muffled sounds as she tried to fight back air as Don was almost done squeezing it out of her.

"Let her go Don, and step back!" Grey ordered.

Don reluctantly let her go. "Just reply to Hercules faster if you value your life."

Jane coughed severally before she looked up at Grey. "I didn't tell him anything, I swear. You have your men spying on me, you would have seen me if I had spoken to him, right?"

"But you could have messaged him or called him in your office!" Don fired back.

Grey sent Don a dirty stare for him to shut up. He regarded Jane for a moment. "Sure and somehow, I now have spies among your workers. So, behalf."

The phone that had stopped ringing, started to ring again.

Grey met Jane's eyes for a few minutes of silence. "Pick the call."

Jane's hand vibrated as she reached to grab the phone.

"If that phone stops ringing, you will die," Grey threatened.

Jane grabbed the phone and picked it up immediately.

There were a few minutes of silence at the other end. Grey was silently watching her and looking for a reason to kill her just as he had killed Tina.

"Jane," Giovanni's deep voice came out loud from the other side.

Jane cleared her throat meaningfully. "Hi, why are you calling?"

"You've been distancing yourself for a while now but I think we need to talk now."

"Im\_" she shook her head briefly as if trying to find the right word to use. "I'm feeling indisposed."

Giovanni laughed for a moment. "Are you angry about what I did the other time?"

Jane had the urge to yell at him and tell him to shut it, tell him everything that was happening but she couldn't. Instead, she released a sigh. "No, that's not it."

"Then come over to my hotel tonight at seven. There's someone you need to meet," he hinted.

Jane looked up at Grey for confirmation.



Grey slowly nodded his head.

"Alright. I will be there," she said and the phone went off.

Grey stood. "You've done well. Get ready by 7. Some of my men will be accompanying you," he announced.

"Are you\_," she asked suddenly as Grey was about to turn around. "Are you still going to kill me after using me?"

Grey regarded her for a moment. "No, I won't," he turned around and walked out of the office.

Jane released the breath she didn't even know she was holding.

Outside the company, Don felt worried. "I don't think Jane is someone you should leave alive. She has tried to harm you once and she would do it again," he explained, worriedly.

"I know what I'm doing, Don. Drive to Victoria Skincare," he told them.

Don nodded briefly and turned towards Richard. He was the one in the passenger seat while Grey sat in the back seat. "Drive to Victoria Skincare."

Richard nodded briefly and started the ignition.

Grey was a lot calmer that day. The day before was the worst because he felt like killing everyone that had a hand in the death of his parents.

But no! Giovanni was a big mafia lord. It wouldn't be that easy to take him that but Grey was determined. That aside, he was going to think of a nice plan for him. And that would be after the meeting tonight with Giovanni.

"Boss, I think something is going on with the company," Don said suddenly, jerking Grey out of his thoughts.

He looked up and realised there were a lot of cars and reporters in front of Victoria Skincare.

"What's going on?"

Suddenly, Linda emerged from inside with handcuffs on her hands. There were a lot of workers behind her while her daughter was crying after her. And the police were leading them.

"I need to find out," Don got down and walked towards the clustered crowds.

The reporters gathered around Linda as she was being led away.

"I think that's the CEO car!" One of the reporters yelled and gestured towards Grey's car.

A lot of reporters hurried towards them.

"What should we do, boss?" Richard demanded.

Grey didn't say a word and the reporters got closer.

Boss!" Richard yelled to gain his attention but it was already too late as the people were already clustering around the car. The car wouldn't even be able to move if they wanted it to.

"Mr. Grey, what would you say about this incident?" Someone threw a question at him.

Just as Grey looked at the male reporter with curiosity, another question came from behind.

"Or are you in it with her? Did you intentionally start this cream company even when you knew the harmful substances you would use?"

Grey blinked once, then twice. What!

Chapter 307: Pawns

"The cream," one of the reporters added, as if aware of Grey's confusion.

With Grey's intelligence, it didn't take long before he understood what they meant. Someone must have tampered with the cream and he knew exactly who that might be.

The door opened suddenly, and Don squeezed himself into the front seat." Lock the door now." He ordered.

Richard complied just in time as one of the reporters tried to open the door.

"We are moving! Get out from behind us or we will be forced to drive you over!" Don warned.

Richard started the ignition and the people jerked back in fear. He reversed and eventually took a U-turn.

Grey's phone rang suddenly, its noise almost deafening him. It was Alfred.

"Hello Grey, where are you? Something had happened with Victoria Skincare?" He announced.

Looks like the news is everywhere already.

"I'm in the car, on my way back to Protos Publicita. I was coming from Victoria Skincare and I'm not sure what happened just yet."

"I don't advise you to go to Protos Pubblicità until you are sure that the situation is under control. You can come over to my place if you want to because your house might have been stalked by the reporters," he hinted.

Grey nodded once. "Alright."

"I'm still at one of my companies. So, you could go over to my house."

"Alright," Grey said and eventually hung up.

His phone started ringing again before he would give Richard the order to turn over. It was Maria this time.

"Hello Boss, I don't think you should come here. Some reporters are looking for you at this place," She revealed.

It wasn't official that Grey was working in Protos Pubblicità. Giovanni or Alex would have been the one to have exposed such.

"Boss!" Maria called suddenly, jerking Grey out of his thought. "Did something happen?"

"Don't attend to them, Maria. I will take care of everything. Also, I want you to send a report to David or check on him yourself. I need to know how he's doing."

"Alright, boss. I will do that."

Smith stared hard at the screen of his phone, with contempt. Actually, a smile was forming at the tip of his mouth.

He couldn't stop the gladness from filling his heart at the news about Grey's company. Grey was going down slowly.

Smith had stayed hidden for months now. He had been doing every menial job that he could lay his hands on just so he could come back for revenge.

Avery had been out of the city and no one was sure of when she would return.

Lucy didn't want to see him and the last time he checked, one of the companies eventually had to go for the other but he wasn't sure of it.

He wasn't concerned about it anyways. All he was concerned about was getting back at Grey for what he had done to him. He was going to make Grey pay in the hardest way.

"What? Is something going on on the screen?" A voice asked suddenly, almost making Smith jump up in fear.

Smith looked up at Arnold.

Arnold was one of the mafia lords in Russia. Well, Smith's only option was Russia. He knew he had to leave like Avery.

But it wasn't difficult for him to associate with one of the important mafia lords in Russia. Though, he still had to stay on the low until it was ok for him to ask Arnold for help.

Grey might have defeated him once but he wouldn't be able to do it again.

"Just looking at the man that ruined my life," Smith hinted.

"Oh," Arnold had a knowing smile on his face as he moved to sit. "The one you told me about?"

Smith nodded briefly. "He's in trouble."

Arnold smiled. "Isn't that good news to you?"

Smith shook his head. "I want to make him suffer. I want to be the cause of his problem," he swore.

Arnold nodded briefly and patted him.

Grey huffed. "This is probably Giovanni. He's moving on of his pawn already and I'm seriously going to enjoy this."

Alfred nodded briefly. "Alright, but how do you save Victoria Skincare and protect your dignity?"

"I will. But I need to find out something," he looked away as his mind went to the man that attacked him the day before. The man seemed readily available to fight him. "And Jane will do it for me."

"Jane?" Alfred raised skeptical brows. "The manager of SU world? I thought she works for Giovanni. I mean she wanted to kill you."

Grey nodded briefly. "But she works for me now."

Grey was going to find out about Giovanni's plan and what he had done so far. Then he would know how to counter him.

His phone rang suddenly. It was Don. Grey picked it up immediately.

"Yes, what is it?"

"Jane is waiting at downtown," he announced.

"I will be there immediately," Grey responded and hung up. He looked at Grey. "I will be back."

Alfred nodded once and Grey walked out of the house.

Within minutes, Grey was sitting beside Jane.

"I want your utmost cooperation. I need the names of everyone present at the meeting."

Jane nodded once. "I will do anything you ask for."

"Good. I will see you around."

Jane bowed slightly before she stepped out of the car. She walked over to the other side. It didn't take long before Alex pulled over in front of the hotel.

"It seems like all the participants are getting ready," Don muttered.

Grey was still watching when another car pulled to a sudden stop. The door opened and a man stepped out. He hesitated as if he knew someone was watching him. He turned around and Grey saw who it was.

"Lawrence?" Grey called out in shock.

He had really forgotten about Lawrence and what he did to him earlier.

But somehow, it looked interesting. Giovanni got more pawns to himself. For a fight that Grey was certain would end up like a failure for him.

Chapter 308: Payback

"Call the men to a standby. You are taking Lawrence the moment he walks out of that hotel," he ordered.

Don nodded briefly. "Alright, Boss," he got out of the car to make some calls while Grey continued to watch the entrance of the hotel.

It took over three hours when Lawrence walked out of the hotel.

"He's out," Don said to the receiver.

"That man," Grey said suddenly as he pointed towards a man that walked out with Alex.

Don followed the path of Grey's gaze. "Who?" He demanded with confusion written all over his face.

Grey didn't talk again as he continued to watch the man closely walking with Alex. There was no way his eyes would be playing tricks on him. It was the man that attacked him the night before.

So, he was right and he was really working with Giovanni.

"Let's move," Grey said suddenly as Jane walked out of the hotel.

"Yes boss," Richard responded and started the ignition.

Jane was still walking along the street, looking confused and in deep thought.

Richard pulled up beside her suddenly, startling her for a moment.

"Get inside," Don ordered.

Jane nodded briefly and rounded the car to enter it. Richard drove immediately.

"Who was that man?" He questioned.



Jane looked at Grey. "Who?"

Grey regarded her for a moment. "The man with the face mark. The mark that stretched from his eyes."

Jane sighed. "He's Pablo Gotti," she announced.

Grey raised skeptical brows but he didn't say a word.

"He's a mafia lord too and he's not here to play. I\_."

Grey cut her off immediately. "I didn't ask for your opinion. Did you record your conversation?"

Jane hesitated. "Yes, I did but I must warn you about him. He's very dangerous and he has a great plan for you."

Grey stretched out his hand. "The phone Jane!" He muttered.

Jane nodded severally and rummaged through her bag for her phone. She pulled it out and stretched it towards Grey.

Grey regarded her for a moment before he took the phone. "I will listen to it tonight and get it delivered to you before you leave for work tomorrow."

Jane's heart leaped for fear. "But I"

"Done deal, Jane. I don't want questions or opinions from you. Get out."

Jane tried to say something but nothing came out of her mouth.

"Get out, Jane!" Grey yelled suddenly that Jane rushed for the door handle, opened the door, and got out.

It turned out that Richard was already in front of Jane's house.

"But\_" she started again but Richard pulled out into the street before she would even say more.

She started to think of what Grey would say if he saw the messages on her phone. She thought that Giovanni was being authoritative but Grey was the worst. There was not even a way out again.

"Where's Lawrence?" Grey demanded.

"The men have him in the car. We are waiting for your order," Don responded.

"Take me there!" Gry ordered.

"Yes boss," Richard muttered and pulled the car around.

They drove for some minutes before Richard pulled to a stop in front of a black car.

Richard hurried down to open the door for Grey.

Grey got down and hesitated for a moment. "Is he unconscious or not?"

"Yes, but the drugs should be wearing off soon," Don explained and beckoned one of the men from afar closer to them.

When he was close enough, he gave Grey a bow. "Welcome boss."

"He's in the car. What should we do?"

Grey thought for a moment. "I need a chair and I want Lawrence on it before he wakes up," he said.

The man took another bow before he walked away to do what Grey had told him.

Within minutes, Grey was sitting in front of Lawrence and waiting for him to open his eyes. He had his hands tied together behind his back.

Lawrence opened his eyes slowly, a bit tired. His memory felt foggy as he does so. He tried to move his body but that felt even more dangerous.

He looked up, just as the breeze hit him. He felt chilly all of a sudden only to discover he wasn't wearing his suit. He had only a white shirt on. Who took off his clothes?

"Hello, Lawrence," A thick but familiar voice said suddenly.

Lawrence looked down at Grey. He blinked once, then twice, skeptical and shocked at how Grey was suddenly in front of him.

"Grey?" He called softly, still unable to believe his eyes. "What are you doing here?"

Grey smiled. "You must be startled. The blow to your head must have been the reason. You've got a lot of blood on there and they won't stop coming out," he mocked.

It was at this moment that realisation dawned on him. He remembered a car pulling over in front of his car on his way back home. And when he got down to say something, something actually knocked him out.

"You did that?"

Grey regarded him for a moment. "You tried to kill me, remember?"

"Get me out of here, Grey. Or I will show you!" He warned.

Grey stood. "What will you do? Will you try to kill me again?"

"Let me go, this instance or that is exactly what will happen!" He screamed.

"Good, I will," Grey smiled softly as several men walked forward.

Giovanni didn't tell Lawrence that Grey was Hercules. The only thing he knew was that he wanted to get back at Grey so that he could get accepted in Protos Pubblicita. Grey was the only obstacle. In fact, he was the one that approached Giovanni.

Lawrence's eyes went wide at the men standing behind Grey. "Let me go! What are you going to do to me!"

"Push him to the middle of the road," Grey ordered and several men moved forward to comply.

"What are you doing? Why are you going to move me!" Lawrence yelled with fright.

"This side of the road is always quiet at this time of the night but by 6 tomorrow morning, you will see passersby. But if you are so lucky, you will get help and leave here tonight or you might just become a victim of whatever bad thing that is going to happen."

Chapter 309: Pablo Gotti

"I'm warning you, Lawrence, for the last time to stay out of lane," he finished and turned around, leaving Lawrence with his mouth wide open in agape.

Grey and the rest of the men walked back to their cars after leaving Lawrence in the middle of the road.

"Hey! Come back! You don't dare leave me here!" Lawrence yelled in anger, till their cars were out of sight.

"Where are we going, Boss." Don inquired.

"To Alfred's house," Grey responded. He still didn't want to go home. He had no idea how the next morning would be for him. And for that moment, he wanted to avoid any excuses.

He didn't know if Lawrence would listen to him and finally pull back but that was the only warning he would give him. If he tries any shit with him again, Grey would make sure he never wants to stay in Jacksonville again.

Grey's phone rang suddenly, forcefully pulling him out of his thoughts. But the caller wasn't who he expected, not at that moment. He hesitated for some moment before he eventually picked it up. "Hello, James."

"Hello Grey, where are you?" James' voice boomed from the other side. There was no trace of laugh or excitement in his voice like it always was. It was as if something was bothering him.

Well, it could be the fact that Grey hadn't dealt with Alex even after his promise. Well, Grey was still thinking of the best punishment for Alex.

"I'm in the car, in Jacksonville. Why do you ask?"

"I'm in your house but you aren't at home. Are you coming home already or what?" James demanded.

Grey hesitated, finally sensing the urgency in his voice. "Is something wrong?"

"Yes. We need to see and talk about it immediately."

"Ok," he sighed. "I'm heading towards Alfred's house. You can come by. I don't think I can go home considering what is currently happening," he hinted.

"What is happening?"

"When you get here, James. We will talk more about everything," he assured and the phone went off.

He wondered what James wanted to tell him.

"Boss, is everything alright?" Don asked as he dropped the call.

"Do you know who Pablo Gotti is?"

"Pablo?" Don raised skeptical brows. "He's a mafia lord."

Grey nodded briefly. It was exactly what Jane told him.

He took Jane's phone and went to the record app. He hesitated and went to the gallery instead.

He went through the pictures and his eyes went wide with shock. There were actually pictures of Jane, Grey, and Giovanni on it. Jane was dating both father and son? It doesn't make sense to ears actually. Grey knew what could have happened. Jane was

Giovanni's mistress but Alex could have gotten to her first or maybe he asked for a one-night stand, considering the fact that Alex loved to chase anything that wears skirts.

Asmile came up Grey's face as he went through the pictures. There were actually a lot of things he could use on Giovanni without even stressing himself.

Though, he still needed to think of how to put Victoria back into its place.

Grey's phone rang again. It was an unknown number. He picked it up anyways.

"Hi, sir," a soft yet frightened voice came on the line.

"Hello, who is this?"

"It's Emily, my mother's name is Linda and she works for you at Victoria Skincare," she explained.

Grey relaxed. "Yes, I remember you."

"My mother was taken!" She cried. "She is innocent. She didn't do anything. You have to rescue her," she beseeched softly and with her voice, Grey knew she had been crying.

"Calm down, Emily. I saw your mother being taken even though I have no idea what had happened exactly," he voiced out.

Emily cried. "I\_" her voice trailed off.

Grey sighed. "Can I see you tomorrow' morning? Then we can discuss this better?" He suggested.

"Yes, that's fine," she said amidst sobs. "The police aren't just going to take it easy on my mother."

"Your mother will be released, trust me. Ok?"

There was hesitation and it felt like Emily shook her head. "Ok. I will see you tomorrow then but at where?"

"I will pick you up. We will talk in the car,"

"Alright, sir. Goodnight," she finished and hung up.

Grey released another sigh and looked up. He was in the garage and the car door was open already.

He got down and strode into the living room.

Alfred was in the living room when he entered.

"James is on his way here," Grey announced.

Alfred sat with a cup of wine in his hand. "Is something wrong?"

Grey nodded briefly. "I think it's something very urgent." He informed him.

Minutes later, the door opened and James walked inside with four men in a black suit.

"There's a problem, Grey," James started but stopped again as he looked at Alfred. "Hi, Alfred!"

"What's happening," Alfred questioned.

James hesitated for a moment. "My father is dead!" He announced.

"What!" Alfred and Grey muttered at the same time. Shock took all over them for a moment.

"How? What happened? I was there not quite long and he was doing fine. What happened to him?" Grey questioned.

James hesitated. "We have four main mafia lords in Italy. And all these were spearheaded by my father. He was the main of all.

But well, my father isn't innocent and he has offended a lot of men. But taking down my father, only means that the other mafia lords would rebel against each other, especially me," he explained.



An exasperated sigh actually escaped Grey. It shouldn't be at that moment. He had other issues at hand. Why was it all happening at the same time?

"Wait, someone killed him?" Alfred was confused.

James nodded briefly. "He was killed by one of our greatest enemies.

Pablo Gotti disappeared years back. No one expected to see him again. I even thought he was dead," he said hurriedly.

Grey brows raised slightly at James. "What? Pablo Gotti?" James looked at Grey. "Yes, he killed my father," he revealed.

Chapter 310: Outsmart

Grey released a curse, unable to hold back his anger. Pablo Gotti killed Francesco?

It came as a shock to him but he was still skeptical about when it happened. If Pablo was around two days ago, then when did he kill Francesco?

Alfred gave Grey confused brows. "Do you know who Pablo Gotti is?"

Grey sighed and nodded briefly. "He was the man that attacked me yesterday. He works with Grey now," he explained. 1

"But why would Pablo Gotti be working with Giovanni?"

Alfred regarded Grey for a moment. "I don't get this, you mean you've fought with Pablo?"

Grey nodded once. "I have. When did your father die?"

"Three days ago."

So, Pablo came over to Jacksonville after killing Francesco. Well, killing each other was what was associated with the mafia.

They were always walking on a thin thread.

James stood up. "A lot of troubles lie ahead, Grey but I need to kill Pablo as soon as I can."

Grey released a sigh.

"Pablo is coming after you, Grey. You need to take him out before anything else." James tried to convince him

"I was going to take out Alex as you've wanted."

James shook his head briefly. "We can always come back to Alex. We must take out Pablo as fast as we can. But I don't even know how we can do it. Pablo is very powerful and skilled," he explained with worries written all over his face.

Grey thought for a moment. "For now, we can track whatever they are discussing. I need to get my company out of trouble before it goes bankrupt but I will try to think of a way out," he expressed.

James nodded severally. "That's good. I will alert you anytime I come up with a plan."

"When is the funeral?" Grey asked suddenly.

James held Grey's gaze for a moment. "There won't be any funeral."

Grey gathered his brows in confusion. "Why?"

James smirked and sat again. "I told you that my father was able to submit the other mafia lords under him. Well, he's dead and they will rise against me, against his men. For what I know, I could die on the day of the funeral."

Grey huffed. "You are scared?"

James shook his head slightly. "I'm not. That's why I need to kill Pablo. When he does, I would be able to return to Italy. I will be able to plan on how to subdue them like how my father did," he explained.

Grey nodded briefly. It makes a lot of sense anyways but they had to think of a perfect plan if Pablo really was the strong man that James thinks he is.

James got up now. "Thank you, Grey. I really appreciate your support. I will also help you in any way that I can," he said truthfully and stretched out his hand for a shake.

Grey stood and accepted it.

James nodded briefly toward Alfred before he walked out of the room.

"James is a coward," Alfred announced suddenly.

Grey looked at him. "Why did you say that?"

"He's scared of the other mafia lords in Italy. He's not only scared of Pablo Gotti. You will see him either running or coming back to you for help after Pablo is dead," he mentioned and stood. "Goodnight, Hercules."

Grey smiled softly. "Goodnight."

He watched Alfred for a moment as he thought about what he had said. James actually looked brave and intelligent to him; he

didn't think he could be a coward.

Grey pulled out Jane's phone and decided to go through it.

He played the recording and waited.

"I'm going to be talking about Victoria Skincare," a deep but familiar voice initiated. Grey knew it was Alex.

"Yes," there was a hesitation. "Jane? Are you feeling ok?" It was Giovanni.

"Yes, I'm just feeling quick down but I will be fine," Jane responded.

"Can I see you for a few minutes?"

And like that, Grey couldn't hear anything again, it merely looked like there was no signal. There was so much noise and it overshadowed what anyone was saying.

At first, Grey didn't get it. But after a few minutes of thinking hard about it, he got what it meant.

Jane wasn't entirely opening up for him. Jane was going to betray him. She would rather work for Giovanni than work for Grey. She was quite stubborn like Tina.

Or maybe she was scared that Grey might kill her at the end. But he gave her his word but she still chose to defy him. She would have to go with whatever punishment he meted out for her.

Also, if she was like this then she could have told Giovanni everything. Well, Don was right when he said Jane wants someone he should trust.

Grey placed a call to Don but he didn't pick up until after the third ring. Maybe he was sleeping.

"Boss?"

"Call Jimmy to come over to you right now. I want you guys to find out where Jane's family is. Get them immediately!" He ordered.

"On it, boss."

Grey hung up and decided to delete all the images on Jane's phone. At least there was something he could use to buy time. The next morning came so fast or maybe it was because Grey slept late.

He needed to see Emily that morning by ten but he still wanted to go to Protos Publicita.

His phone rang suddenly. It was Don. It was at that time that he remembered that he actually gave Don an assignment the night before.

"Yes, anything?"

"Boss, Jane's sister, and mother disappeared overnight. They all are nowhere to be found," he revealed.

"What?" Grey was not shocked, just surprised. He knew that Jane was going to take a step anyways. He just didn't know she would be so fast. "Give me some minutes, I will call you back," he said into the receiver and hung up before Don would say anything.

He placed a call to Tiana since she was the one that Grey sent to always spy on Jane.

Tiana picked up immediately as if she was already waiting for Grey to call her. "Boss, there's a problem. I can't find Jane again."