

Secretly TBB 341

Chapter 341: Smith is back

"You will give the club ten million dollars?" Jamal demanded in shock.

Grey nodded briefly.

"Yes but Giovanni will have to be suspended like I've said. If he will come back to this group, then it must be with my permission," he expressed.

The members looked at themselves slowly, they didn't know what to do at that moment.

Gregory got up.

"You heard what the president said. Now, it's time to decide."

Alfred nodded briefly.

"Giovanni is going to get suspended as the president has said." Grey nodded briefly.

"Now that you've seen my face, decide who you want to follow."

"Giovanni can't leave this club. That's not possible!" Martin protested.

"Yes, he can't!"

Some of the members chorused.

"Well, he can and he will. Giovanni and his son has done something so shameful. They are currently the talk of the town. I don't think he should be seen associating with the billionaire club for now or he would tarnish our image," Jamal voiced out.

"You can't use that against me, Jamal. My son committed a crime and is currently paying for it. Why just it affect me?" Giovanni expressed.

"Well, you wouldn't say the same thing if it was me, would you?" Grey raised.

Giovanni felt a surge of anger.

"You don't say that!"

"Well, the vote should commence again," Grey ordered.

Jamal cleared his throat meaningfully.

"The previous vote is invalid as we will commence another one. If you want Giovanni to be suspended as the president as said, please signify."

The members start looking at each other.

They were all caught between who their loyalty should lie.

Hercules was a young guy and in fact younger than most of the men there but the position he held was bigger.

That aside, he has decided to give the club ten million dollars every month which is double what Giovanni always gives the club.

Jamal eyes searched around quickly and realized that it was only Gregory and Alfred that had their hands up.

Jamal cleared his throat.

"Ok, so, if-," he was forced to a sudden stop as Dave raised his hand, just then the members started raising their hands too until there everyone was doing the same thing except for Giovanni and Martin.

Martin looked at the members one after the other.

"How could you all betray Giovanni ? After all he has done?"

Giovani didn't say a word but continued to stare at the elders. He was disappointed and angry at the fact that the elders turned their backs at him. But he couldn't yell or express his thought about it because he was matured. He would instead plan something else out.

"Well, Hercules has done a lot for us as well," Dave expressed, countering what Martin said.

"Hercules earned us a lot of money on the crowning day. I'm sure he would be able to earn us a lot , infact more than Giovanni. I don't really think we should be discussing this. This is a new era, we shouldn't be thinking of changing president."

Jamal had a smile on his lip. He supports Grey anyways.

"So, should we go ahead? If you want- "

"Don't worry," Giovanni interrupted suddenly.

"I will leave," he stood and regarded Grey for a moment.

"Later then," he muttered and walked out of the place.

Grey smiled softly.

"Should we proceed to main reason of the meeting?"

"Sure," Dave started.

"We have a billionaire party next week. It's a big one as different people from across the world would be present and it's going to be on the water," he explained.

Jamal nodded briefly.

"Billionaire club is from across all continent as by the end of the year, we will get someone from these clubs to be the king of the world," he explained further.

Grey nodded briefly.

"We can discuss all we have to but I have advice to give. Everyone in this club has seen my face but it should remain that way. It must get out to the public."

"But is that a threat?"

Martin demanded in cold tone.

Grey looked at him.

"It can be, for people like you."

The meeting lasted longer than they expected.

Grey walked to Alfred, after giving his key to Jimmy to take care of. He got inside Alfred's car.

"We need to talk."

Alfred nodded briefly and started the ignition.

"What is it all about? Have you sent out the men to look for Caramel and Beatrice?"

Alfred shook his head briefly.

"I haven't but I will do so soon. Is there any problem?"

"They are supposed to be in Seattle. I sent Jimmy with them that day and he was able to find out for me whether or they actually went to. Though, I'm unable to get their location."

Alfred nodded once.

"The information is helpful. I will send men the moment I get home. So now, Victoria's skincare belongs to Hercules and not Grey?" he joked.

Grey smiled.

"I will be showing everyone who I am soon anyways."

"I understand. Are you going to let Giovanni attend the party?"

"No, I'm going to cut off his familiarity with others." Alfred nodded again.

"I understand. But Giovanni isn't the only one you should watch out for."

Martin have been loyal to Goovanni from day one and I don't think that can get. Giovanni might use him as a spy in our midst."

"No problem. I will take him out as well. Let's see what happens after that."

Grey's phone rang suddenly. It was Linda. He had even forgotten that he wanted to speak with her.

"Hello Linda. Is anything the matter?"

"I'm in Victoria skincare and there's someone here that demands to see you."

"Why? Or just tell whoever the person is that I don't work in Victoria Skincare again."

There was a snap of an hand and friction of the phone. There was an hesitation before the clearing of the throat.

"You should know who this is, Grey."

The voice sounded familiar but Grey couldn't place it.

"This is Smith."

Chapter 342: Abort

Grey sat up, confused for a moment.

"Smith Robinson?"

"Yes, Grey, and I'm aware that Hercules is the owner of this place but what I still don't understand is why you had to lie." Grey sighed.

"What are you calling me for? What do you_." Grey was cut off abruptly by Smith.

"I'm coming for you, Grey.It's my time for revenge.You just wait for me," he finished and hung up.

Alfred glanced at him.

"Who's that?"

"Smith Robinson."

Alfred raised skeptical brows at him.

"Smith Robinson, the brother of Avery Robinson, your ex-wife?"

Grey nodded briefly.

"He called to inform me that he's back in town for me."

Alfred laughed.

"Seriously? That boy is so funny.He wants revenge when you are busy dealing with someone much older than him."Grey joined in the laughter.

"That's actually a funny illustration."

"Where should I drop you at?"

Grey reasoned for a moment.

"At my house.I would like a long hot bath."

Alfred laughed again.

'So, we are having the group meeting in one week?" Grey nodded briefly.

"It's not going to change, not yet."

Alfred nodded briefly as well.

"Alright.I would be busy tomorrow because I'm among the exco that would be discussing how the party of the billionaire clubs would be arranged," he explained.

Grey looked at him.

"I understand."

Grey woke up to sounds coming from the kitchen.

Apparently, the whole place was so quiet for him to have heard a lot.

Or maybe it was just his imagination.He had been having a lot of it these days because of Caramel.

He forced himself up and out of the room.

The sounds have stopped now but Grey still wanted to check if it was only his imagination or maybe there was something else that he doesn't know. He stopped suddenly when he saw a figure actually

moving around the place. His heart skipped a beat as the hope of seeing Caramel sank in but he knew better than to really think it could be true.

There was no way Caramel would be at his house at that time. She doesn't even know his place.

That aside, she doesn't even have his keys.

When he walked out, Aphrodite turned to look at him with a smile on her face.

"What are you doing here?" He questioned.

Aphrodite merely smiled.

"Making myself feel at home. It's not a problem right?"

She winked at him.

Grey chuckled.

"You must be kidding me? How did you even get my keys?"

It was Aphrodite's turn to laugh.

"You ask funny questions, Grey. Have you forgotten who helped you with this place?"

She muttered and turned to carry two plates of steaks.

Realisation dawned on Grey at her explanation and he sighed.

"So, you've started seeing this whole place as your house, right?"

"Yes, isn't it?"

Aphrodite moved to the dining room and placed the steaks on the table.

"Breakfast is served. Will you come to eat or what?"

Grey groaned.

"I haven't even brushed my teeth. I just heard the sounds was why I came here."

"No wonder you smell of sperm. Did you have sex yesterday?"

Her jokes were too much and too sensitive, maybe it was because they grew up together, and had seen each other nakedness even before the goodies came out.

Grey smacked his lips in embarrassment.

"You will not say that Novia! I was fucking tired yesterday. Why would I have sex!"

He snapped, feigning annoyance, and used the opportunity to go back to his room. He heard Aphrodite's rumble of laughter before he closed the door. His phone was ringing.

Grey lurched closer and grabbed it from the bed. It has been ringing for a while actually and it was Alfred.

"Hello, Alfred. Is anything wrong?"

"I've sent men to Seattle but I have good news and a bad one."

Grey heart took on a sudden thud.

"When did you send out the boys?"

"The moment you got down from the car. I had to do it urgently because of what you said about not reaching Caramel," he explained.

Grey nodded once, even though Alfred couldn't see him.

"So, the good news should go first."

"Ok, the good news is that we found Caramel's house." He announced.

Grey felt a surge of happiness at the announcement.

"So, what's the bad one?" Alfred hesitated.

'We_."

"What, Alfred?"

Grey cut in quickly.

"What's it? Where's Caramel? " He snapped.

"We can't find her. We can't find Beatrice either. No one was at home. In fact, they haven't been at home in a week now and_" his voice trailed off.

"That was the day the mail was sent," he explained further.

Grey raked his fingers through his hair in deep thought. He had never felt so confused in his entire life.

"Does that mean that Caramel ran away from me? She doesn't want to give me the child? i "Well, that could be the case. At least, the message did say that she was going to terminate it."

He just didn't understand what was going on.

Why would Caramel terminate his child, his first child for that matter? The thought brought fresh tears to his eyes but he blinked them back. Did Caramel hate him so much? It didn't even make any sense.

"Well, we still can't judge. Anything could have happened. I will tell my men to keep searching. They could have moved to another place as a result of a change of environment. All I'm saying is that we shouldn't jump to a conclusion until we've seen them. They should be able to explain to us what has happened to them," he advised.

Grey shook his head again and remembered that Alfred can't even see him.

"Alright. Let me know immediately if you see anything."

"Alright but," he hesitated.

"Let me ask you something, Grey. Because we might think it didn't happen and it might have," he sighed.

"What would you do if Caramel had really aborted your baby?"

The question was a huge one.

In fact, it became a lump that sat in his throat and prevented words from coming out. He didn't even want to reason it.

Why would Caramel do that to him?

Chapter 343: Strange

"I don't know, Alfred. I hope that won't be the case here but let's see how it goes then. That will determine how it would all go," Grey said truthfully.

Alfred sighed.

"I understand. I will give you a call later then," he finished and the phone went off.

Grey regarded the phone for a moment.

What just what if she really had aborted it? Grey didn't want to think about it but he couldn't stop himself from going back to the question and trying to find answers to his questions.

The sudden knock on the door jerked him out of his mind.

He looked back, remembering that Aphrodite was at home.

"Come down quickly, Grey. The food is ready. You should come down before it gets cold," she advised.

Grey nodded once.

"I will be there soon," he affirmed and hurried to have a quick bath.

It didn't take long before he was done.

Clad in black trousers and a brown t-shirt, he grabbed his phone and walked downstairs.

Aphrodite was eating when he joined her.

"You couldn't even wait for me." Aphrodite smiled.

"I'm starving. Besides, I needed something to stop me from thinking."

Grey sat in front of her.

"Thinking? About what?"

Aphrodite looked up at him for a moment.

"Are you really scared of it? I mean it's palpably clear that Caramel would do something like that. She has been feeling quite uneasy after she discovered who you really are," she muttered and continued eating.

Grey stared at her for a moment, shocked.

"You heard everything?"

Aphrodite didn't look up again as she nodded briefly.

"Actually, I was only able to hear your voice and not what Alfred told you. And I heard you talking about your baby."

Grey let out an exasperated sigh.

"How did you know she was feeling uneasy after I showed her who I really am?" Aphrodite smiled softly.

"There's a lot I know that you don't. All I can say is that Caramel doesn't love the real you, she loved the old you and there's no way you would be able to make her change her mind."

Grey watched her for a moment, still wondering what she was really talking about.

Was Caramel not supposed to be happy that he was powerful? And was rich? At least he wouldn't be disgraced because he was poor.

Why would she not love the new him? Does she expect him to be useless forever? It was a few minutes past 3 when Grey arrived at Victoria Skincare to discuss things with Linda.

"So, the first thing I want us to discuss is how to make it known that Hercules owns Victoria Skincare," Grey started.

Linda nodded once.

"I understand. It's very easy. We would just change some things and we would be fine. I will get you the file of all we need before I proceed."

It's known that Grey owns Victoria Skincare.

But after the declaration, Grey had to change his name from Grey to Hercules.

Well, it all belongs to him whatever anyone says.

Grey nodded once.

"I will be expecting.How is Emily?" Linda tensed.

"What? Emily?"

Grey watched her weird action for a moment.

"Are you alright?"

Linda seemed to have swallowed hard.

"I'm fine but she resigned already." Grey gathered his forehead.

"Why? Did something happen?" Linda shrugged slightly.

"I don't know.We never know what these young children want.Maybe she was overworking herself and decided to give it a rest," she muttered.

Grey nodded once.

"That's ok.I will take my leave now.Get back to me concerning that.Also, I think it's time for you to employ more workers like you've wanted to do months back." Linda smiled brightly.

"I will prepare for that as well.Thank you so very much, boss." Grey flashed her a nice smile.

"You are welcome." His phone rang suddenly.He got inside his car before he picked it up.

"Should we move, boss?"

Jimmy questioned.

Grey nodded briefly.

"Yes, Alfred. Is anything wrong?"

"We found Beatrice," he announced without any formality.

Though what he said was a piece of good news, there was something about the stiffness in his voice that bothers him.

Nevertheless, Grey felt a surge of happiness at the announcement.

At least, finding Beatrice means he would be able to see Caramel.

That aside, she would be able to clear the doubt in the air.

"So, have you spoken to her? What did she say about Caramel and the baby? Also, have you been able to get across to Caramel?" He badgered him.

Alfred waited patiently for him to ask his questions.

"Well, there's a problem, Grey."

Grey's heart made a sudden thud. Has Caramel really aborted the baby? He closed his eyes for a moment.

"What's it?" There was hesitation.

"Grey, I want you to stay calm for this."

Grey's heart sank in anticipation.

It was something bad, very bad if Alfred was talking like he was. But what could it be? There was nothing worse than losing his first heir or heiress. It was probably that.

"Beatrice is dead!"

Grey zoomed out for a moment. It almost looked like he stopped breathing or perhaps he was suddenly floating in space.

The noises around him became even much less concentrated.

"What did you just say?"

"Beatrice is dead and we can't find Caramel,"

Alfred repeated, with the same stiffness that Grey had noticed earlier.

Grey's hand squeezed even tighter around the phone, while his other fist clenched involuntarily beside him.

"Who did it!" He yelled in anger.

"I have no idea, Hercules. But my men are still looking. I will let you know the moment I see anything," he assured.

Grey found himself shivering slightly. He couldn't believe that Beatrice could die in such a way as she had.

And the fact that Caramel was missing was almost running him mad.

"Continue looking but if I don't see anything by today, I would have to go to Seattle." He swore with bitterness.

"Alright," Alfred finished and the line went off.

"Boss, is everything alright?"

Jimmy demanded but Grey was too bitter to respond.

His phone rang again. He hesitated until he took the phone and realised it was Maria.

"Hello, Boss. There's someone here to see you. She said she's Caramel."

Chapter 344: Strange

Grey went into a shocking state for a moment as if he didn't even hear what Mark said at first or maybe his ears were playing tricks on him.

Maria must have definitely said a different thing. It was because he missed Caramel and the fact that he just received news of her disappearance.

"What did you just say, Maria?"

"A lady is here to see you. In fact, she has been here for a while and has refused to leave until you come back. She told me that she's Caramel. Yet, I didn't want her to stay until she told me to call Hercules," she hesitated.

"I knew only a few knew you as one. So, I agreed she must know you. That's why I'm calling. In fact, she's in your office," she explained.

Well, it was right as Maria doesn't know Caramel as his girlfriend. So, there was no way she would guess that they have a connection to each other.

"Are you sure it's really Caramel?" Grey asked, to be sure.

"Yes, that's what she told me and I think she's telling the truth. Though, she's really looking so strange and haggard. It looks like something has happened to her. Anyways, I think you should come here faster," she advised.

Grey nodded briefly.

"I'm on my way," he announced and hung up.

He looked at Jimmy.

"Turn around. We are going to Protos Pubblicita," he announced suddenly and watched Jimmy nod briefly.

His heart made a sudden beat of his heart. Caramel was alive? The thought of it sent a shiver down his spine. He couldn't wait to hold her in his arms or kiss her.

But he still felt very angry about the death of Beatrice. He couldn't wait to find out what the cause was. And who would even dare to lay his or her hand on Beatrice?

He didn't call Alfred because he wasn't yet sure if it was really Caramel that was waiting for him in Protos Pubblicita. Until it has been confirmed, Grey wasn't going to inform Alfred about anything.

Grey rushed down from the car before Jimmy would get down to open the door. He hurried inside the company. He placed a call to Maria the moment he entered the elevator.

Maria picked it up instantly. "Hello, boss."

"I'm on my way to The supervisor's office. Where is Caramel?"

"She's in the supervisor's office. I don't want anyone to suspect anything was why I didn't let her wait for you in Hercules's office," she revealed.

Grey nodded once. "That's actually cool. Thank you, Maria," he finished and hung up.

He hurried out of the elevator so fast that one would have thought he was on the way to receive a trophy. He pulled the door opened and hesitated. Caramel looked up at him with surprised features and then suddenly, she smiled.

Grey stood frozen for a moment as he watched Caramel, still unable to believe she was there at that moment. There was a plaster across her cheeks and red marks on her neck.

"Caramel?" He called softly, to confirm he was really looking at her. It felt so surreal.

Caramel stood up, the wide grin spread even wilder on her face. "Grey," she called softly as well and hurried closer until she ended up in his embrace. She held him so tight as if she was afraid of losing him. "I'm so happy that I'm seeing you again."

Grey hands went around her as he pulled her closer to himself more. "I'm so happy to see you but what happened to you? Why do you have bruises all over?"

Caramel went quiet, instead, her hold tightened around him.

Grey held her hands and pulled her back slowly.

"What happened? Tell me. You know you can tell me anything," he initiated and stared right at her in the eyes.

Caramel started sobbing softly.

"Beatrice is dead, my mom is dead," she sobbed even harder.

Grey watched her for a moment. "How did it happen? What happened? I sent someone to look for you but they couldn't find you. They only found Beatrice. Is there something you know about who took Beatrice or who killed her? Something must have happened."

Caramel nodded once. "They killed her but I don't know who did. I don't know!" She sobbed even harder. "I was taken and I escaped. Mom aided me and got taken back. I heard the gunshot and my mom-," her voice trailed off. Grey stiffed.

"What about the baby?"

Caramel went quiet for a moment and slowly withdrew.

"How did you know?" Her eyes went wide with shock.

Grey almost froze at the thought that something had actually happened to the child. He couldn't bear Beatrice enough, talk more of the baby.

"Beatrice sent me a message weeks back. In fact, it turned out that it was the day that you and Beatrice left home. What really happened? How did you get kidnapped?"

Caramel pulled him into a hug again. "I'm so hungry. I'm so tired. I can't even think clearly now."

Grey nodded briefly and stroked her back slowly.

"I understand. I really do. I will send someone to take you home," he pulled back to look at her very well again. "Just rest and take care of yourself. We will talk better when I get off work."

Caramel nodded slightly, with a smile. Though, Grey could see the relaxed look on her face.

He placed a call to Jimmy and he picked it up immediately. "Meet me in the office now. You need to drop Caramel at my house."

"Alright sir," Jimmy finished up and soon opened the door.

Grey smiled at Caramel. "So, just eat and relax. You will be fine."

Grey watched Jimmy escort Caramel out before he picked up his phone to call Alfred.

Alfred didn't pick up until the third ring. "Hello Grey, is everything alright?"

"Maybe but as I'm speaking with you, Caramel is on the way to my house," he announced.

Alfred was shocked for a moment. "What! How come?" "She was waiting for me at the office. Apparently, she couldn't go to my first house since I've moved already."

"This is strange!"

Chapter 345: Careful

"Why do you think so?" Grey demanded.

Alfred went quiet for a moment.

"You know what, I will give you feedback when I got all my facts together. Don't worry about it," he assured.

Grey nodded once.

"Alright. I will talk to you later then." He finished and hung up.

A soft knock sounded on the door.

"Hello, boss. This is Maria."

Grey nodded once.

"Come inside."

Maria opened the door and walked inside.

"I came to submit these files," she said and submitted the files.

"And to also give you feedback concerning David. But" she hesitated.

"Is everything alright?"

Grey released a sigh. "I lost someone that's like my mother."

"What!" Maria exclaimed softly. "I'm so sorry. Will you take the day off? I mean you shouldn't even be in this place at this time of the day."

Grey thought for a moment. "I think you are right. I will take the day off," he took his phone and looked up at Maria. "Let's talk later, especially about David," he told her.

Maria nodded slightly. "I understand and I'm so sorry about it."

Grey nodded once and stood up. He had a lot to ask Caramel actually. Something just happened in Seattle. Why would Beatrice die? Who could have killed her and then, Caramel didn't respond to him just yet when he asked about the baby. Could something have happened to it?

Grey arrived home and saw Aphrodite waiting for him by her car.

He hesitated and gathered his forehead at her. He was surprised that she was standing there. Could she have seen Caramel?

Maybe she had but how did she even know? She has spare keys, anyways.

Grey moved closer to her, a bit anxious about what was happening. "Hi, Aphrodite."

Aphrodite regarded him for a moment. "So, Caramel is back?"

Grey hesitated. "Yes. She came to my office. Why? Is there a problem?"

Aphrodite sighed. "Nothing, just surprised. I didn't know she could come back."

'What do you mean?' He demanded but Aphrodite didn't respond. "Is there something you aren't telling me?"

Aphrodite let out a sigh. "Nothing really. I just want you to be careful around her. She's suspicious and there's something strange about her."

Grey was still confused. 'What do you mean? Did you see something about her?'

Aphrodite regarded him for a moment before she walked away without replying to him.

Grey stared right behind her until she had driven out of the vicinity. He still found the word strange and he couldn't make out if it was out of jealousy or if she actually heard something about her.

But well, Caramel just got back. There was no way she would hear anything about it.

Grey walked inside the living room and Caramel was in the kitchen, cooking. He regarded her for a moment before he walked nearer.

"Is everything alright?"

Caramel tensed for a moment before she turned around to look at a Grey. A smile suddenly spread across her face. "You are home? I thought you would be home later in the day."

"I just had to speak with you and see that you are alright. But why are you cooking so much? Are you eating with your friends?"

He demanded, confused.

Caramel shook her head briefly. "I just wanted to cook your meal and then I could serve you when you get back. Though I didn't know you would come back so early, you've spoiled my surprise," she laughed nervously.

"It's ok. I will just wait for you to finish cooking. Then we can eat together."

Caramel nodded once. "Ok, I will be done then. You should go inside to shower and come back to eat," she suggested.

Grey regarded her for a moment and nodded once. "I will do that. Thank you. I will be back," he turned around and walked to his room.

He hesitated when he entered the room. A sigh escaped him, followed closely by a smile. He was happy that he was seeing

Caramel again by the way. He thought she would be gone forever.

Though other things were still attached to it, he was still happy that he was seeing Caramel again.

He went inside the bathroom for a quick shower. It took him an hour to actually get ready. When he had freshened up, he felt very good. And the headache that was starting to come up disappeared.

He picked up his phone to see if he had any messages from Alfred or if maybe he missed calls. He had none, so he decided to go downstairs

Caramel had set the table when he got nearer and she was even smiling. It showed that she was happy and it made him happy as well.

Grey sat in front of her. "I'm happy to see you like this. But I still think we need to talk."

"I hope you like your food."

"I will, definitely. This isn't the first time you will be cooking for me."

Caramel hesitated for a moment as if she was trying to remember something.

"Yes, you are right," she smiled as well.

Just as Grey was about to dip into the food, his phone rang and it was Alfred. Grey knew he had to pick it up quickly as Alfred would have a very important message for him and he could afford to miss it.

Grey looked up at Caramel. "I'm sorry but I have to pick up this call."

"Why don't you eat now? You can pick the call up later," she whined softly.

Grey smiled and gently placed the phone on the table. "You are right actually. I can always speak to him later."

The phone stopped ringing and then started ringing almost immediately.

Grey picked up the phone and looked at Caramel. "I need to pick it up and tell him to call me later or I will call him later when I'm done."

Caramel nodded once, a wide smile on her face.

"Hello, Boss."

"Hello Alfred, can we talk later, I'm somehow busy now," he informed him

"Yes, I just want to tell you this too because it's so urgent and you seriously need to hear me out," Alfred explained with urgency in his voice.

Grey stood up and walked into the living room. "Yes, what's it all about?"

"Be careful of Caramel, Grey because something is fishy about her."

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

"Beatrice died three days ago. Caramel could have shown up then but why is she just showing up now?" he revealed, with a question hanging.

Chapter 346: Dead or not

Grey was shocked for a moment, coupled with confusion. He glanced back at Caramel. She was eating slowly, a bit unusual.

Also, Grey noticed that she had been acting a bit weird but he simply thought it was because she just arrived or what she had faced in Seattle.

'You think so?' Grey demanded.

"I don't think so, I know so. My men are still looking anyway and I would always give you feedback. But I just called you to tell you this. Be very careful with her," he repeated.

Grey sighed, remembering that it was the same thing that Aphrodite actually said. "Did you tell Aphrodite anything about Caramel?"

"Well, she was with me when my men were giving me feedback. So, she heard everything," Alfred revealed. Grey let out a sigh again.

"Alright, take care. We will talk later," he finished and hung up.

Grey sighed again, unable to decide on something at that moment. He felt stuffed. He was supposed to be happy that Caramel was back, why was he feeling somehow again?

Well, he had to be cautious and make use of Alfred's words. And he needed to study Caramel very deeply. He walked back to Caramel. "How do you feel, Caramel?"

Caramel smiled, with a mouthful. "I'm fine, actually. What was the call you received? Is everything alright?"

Grey nodded briefly and started at the food in front of him. "Everything is fine. Maria was just updating me with work."

Caramel nodded slightly. "I understand. You should continue eating your food."

Grey nodded once and regarded her for a moment before he glanced at the food and back at Caramel.

He sat up suddenly and moved closer to Caramel. He pulled out a seat beside her. "I feel like eating from your plate," he laughed as if it wasn't a big deal. Well, it wasn't but there was something strange at that moment.

"Why?" caramel raised a brow. "Why do you want to do that?"

Grey shrugged slightly. "No reason. Maybe because I'm used to doing it with you."

Caramel looked away for a moment and looked back at him.

"Yes," she smiled softly.

Grey reciprocated her smile and took a fork. He took a fork of her meat and chewed it.

"There's a lot we need to talk about," he informed her while chewing.

Caramel nodded in response. "Yes, you are right but I think I need to take a nap before I start talking."

Grey nodded once. "I know but we could say a few things before you actually sleep. I will work with that while you are asleep."

Caramel nodded in response. "I will work with that."

Grey stood. "Wait for me in the bedroom, I will be there after clearing the table."

Caramel smiled and stood as well. "Alright, I will be waiting then but you will have to eat your food later, right?"

Grey nodded briefly, with a smile. "I will."

Caramel flashed him another smile before she walked inside.

Grey took his plate of food and hurried to give the food to the dog before he hurried inside to meet Caramel.

She was sitting on the bed and really waiting for him. He hesitated as he regarded her for a moment before he stepped inside.

"You asked me the other time about the baby," she started suddenly and looked up at Grey. "I lost the baby," she dropped the bomb and Grey froze for a moment.

What! She lost the baby? Grey felt a wall of pain descending on him. How could he not see it coming? He had just lost another two important people in his life. How could he not see it coming?

Grey swore mentally. He was really going to kill whoever had done such an evil thing. He was going to make them pay.

"And we were kidnapped," she sobbed quietly. "Me and Beatrice. And they killed my mother," she sobbed even harder.

Grey moved closer to her and pulled her closer to himself. He felt his anger rise in him but he had to be strong for Caramel. He stroked her back slightly while his other fist clenched angrily beside him.

"Who are they?" He demanded.

Caramel hesitated for a moment. "I have no idea. I don't know who they are or what they are. My mother got killed while she was trying to make me escape."

Grey remembered what Alfred told him. "When did Beatrice die? When did you escape?"

She pulled back slowly and looked away. Beatrice died three days ago and I've been on the street. I was just able to beg and get the money to come back to Jacksonville today. I actually thought I wouldn't be

able to come over here or I might get captured and maybe killed," she explained and Grey believed her instantly.

He pulled her closer to himself again. Well, her explanation matched well with what Alfred had explained to him. Since there was nothing to be suspicious of, he thought it was safe to trust her.

A minute, Caramel was sobbing and the next minute, she was quiet. Grey looked down at her and realised she was asleep already.

He gently placed her on the bed very well and covered her with the blanket. He regarded her for a moment before he walked out to the living room to clear the other dishes. He didn't know if he should call Alfred and let him know the current situation of things. His phone rang even before he was done thinking but it was Emily this time. He sighed before he picked it up. "Hi, Emily. Are you alright? Your mother said you travelled," he said and moved into the living room.

"Yes but I'm back now," she laughed.

"And she said you resigned. Why is that so?"

"Well, I did that so that I can work for you fully. I mean with that, I would be available for you at all times."

Grey walked out of the living room unconsciously. "No problem. I will contact you soon but..." he was forced to a sudden stop as he stared at the dog lying on the floor lifelessly.

Chapter 347: A new plan

Grey stared for a moment unbelievably.

"Hello boss," Emily called suddenly and Grey jerked out of his thoughts.

"Yes, Emily. Is everything alright?"

"I was asking if I could come over to your place-," she demanded.

Grey didn't wait for her to finish what she was saying when he shook his head briefly. "It's ok. You can do that. I will definitely call you later," he informed her.

Grey hung up and hurried towards the dog. At first, he thought he was asleep but when he looked and checked closely, he realised he was dead.

And then, there was an empty plate beside it which meant that it was just done eating the food that he got for it. He squeezed his forehead in concentration. What was happening? Something was really going on. Could the dog have died of food poison?

Something was still not going well and Grey found it difficult to think it through. If the dog had died after taking the food, then it meant that it was poisoned. If it was, then who did? Caramel of course?

And then, he remembered what Alfred said about being careful of Caramel. What was really happening? He didn't think anything could go wrong with Caramel at all. Caramel was his girlfriend and he didn't think she could even betray him.

Yet, it was so disturbing.

One of the men standing watch in the front yard moved closer to him. "Hi, boss. Is anything wrong?"

Grey nodded once. "The dog is dead, dispose of it."

The man looked shocked for a moment before he finally nodded.

Grey returned to the kitchen to get the dish done but on second thought, he thought of giving Caramel the scare. Perhaps he would be able to know exactly what was really happening.

Well, the plan was very simple. In fact, Grey had done something similar earlier so it wasn't so disturbing. What was disturbing him was the fact that he was going to be lying to Caramel and then, moving away from her. Grey doesn't want this but he had to do it at that moment because he wasn't even sure what the future holds for him anymore. He didn't even know what to think.

Well, he was sure that something actually happened to Caramel and Beatrice in Seattle and he needed to find out sooner than later. Whatever must have happened but he must find it out.

He placed a call to Alfred as he walked out of the living room again and into the garage.

Alfred picked it up immediately. "Hi, boss."

"So, I have a plan right now. I mean something just happened and I would like to really know what is really happening concerning Caramel. And you are going to work this out with me," he informed him.

Jimmy hurried out of nowhere with two men and they rushed towards the Car that Grey was against, as he was still speaking with Alfred.

"I will be with you soon. And then we can discuss more about what this is all about."

"Alright Hercules, I will be going home now. So, you can just come over to my place."

Grey nodded once, well, still out of habit. "Alright, I will do that." He finished and hung up.

He looked at Jimmy. "We are going to Alfred's house."

"Alright Boss," Jimmy nodded once and moved to the driver's seat while one of the men took the passenger's seat.

"Should I get a car and follow behind with other men?"

Grey regarded him for a moment before he shook his head briefly. "That's ok."

Within minutes, they were driving towards Alfred's house.

Suddenly, his phone started to ring. It was Caramel but he refused to pick it up. The plan has started already anyways.

He remembered Emily and placed a call to her. She picked it up quickly as if she was already waiting beside the phone for Grey.

"Hello, Emily. What did you say the other time?"

"Well, I thought I could come over to your place for any errand or something I could do for you."

"Well, not really but-," he pulled to a sudden stop. Maybe Emily can get into the plan to hasten things up.

"Do you know Alfred's house?"

"Yes, boss."

"Meet me there as soon as you can," he ordered.

"Alright Boss," there was this excitement in her tone before Grey hung up.

Soon enough, they arrived at Alfred's house. When they pulled into the garage was when Alfred pulled in as well.

Alfred hurried towards Grey. "Is everything alright? You wouldn't call to see me at this time if it wasn't so urgent."

Grey nodded once. "It is really urgent. Caramel prepared lunch for me when I got home. And after you called me to be careful, I decided not to eat it. I managed to avoid it and put her to sleep. And then gave the dog the food. Now, my dog is dead."

Alfred hesitated. "What? Are you saying you might have been poisoned?"

Grey nodded briefly as they both walked inside the living room. "Now, I'm going to make sure that isn't the case with my plan."

"Well, there's really something strange with Caramel. There's still something I can't put my hands on, just yet."

'Well, she really told me that Beatrice died three days ago. I sincerely don't think she's hiding anything, at the same time, I'm

equally confused. I don't know what to think anymore but I won't say she's totally fine. She acted strange but I thought it could be

what she had faced in Seattle."

Alfred nodded once as they sat. "So, what is the plan?"

"That I'm dead. I need to act as though I drove here after eating and the poison probably took its course on my way. Caramel

called me but I ignored it. So, I'm already in action," he explained.

"So, how does she know you are dead? Am I supposed to inform her?"

Grey reasoned it for a moment before he shook his head briefly. "No, we don't need that. Eventually, she would be the one to find out on her own.

Chapter 348: Pretending

"But why would Caramel want to kill you?" Alfred was still shocked. "I thought she used to protect you. I mean she used to love you and would do anything to make sure you are alright?"

Grey nodded once. "Yes, she used to be like that. And like you've said, something must have happened. There's no way Caramel would want to kill me," he let out a sigh.

"I'm starving. Is there something in your kitchen?"

Alfred smiled. "I will just tell Ann to make something for you. What would you like to eat?"

"Anything, Alfred. Emily will be here soon. I need her in this plan." he informed him.

Alfred nodded once and walked inside.

Grey relaxed, his head was calculating quickly. He wondered what Caramel was doing at that moment or what she was currently thinking.

He loved her so much and didn't think he would be able to hurt her even if all she wanted was exactly that.

The door opened suddenly and Emily walked inside. "Boss."

Grey let out a smile. "Glad you are here, I need to explain what the plan is all about to you before Caramel makes any move."

Alfred walked back inside. "Oh, she's here already."

Grey nodded once. "Please, sit. Let's discuss."

His phone rang again and it was Caramel. Yet again, Grey ignored it.

"So, the plan is simple actually. I'm going to be pretending as if I'm dead and you all have to make sure this plan works, especially you, Alfred. Caramel might call you or" he hesitated.

"You would call her and lie that I'm dead. Emily here will have to visit Caramel. And after that, Caramel would want to make a move. So," he glanced at Emily, then at Alfred.

"I will need some of your men to spy on Caramel and see what she will do. Now that I'm dead to her, she would definitely show her true colours since she believed I'm dead already," he finished.

Alfred nodded. "I understand. And I think it's really a perfect plan." He affirmed.

"But what about the men in your house? Caramel wouldn't really be able to work or move to her satisfaction if they are there," he voiced out.

Grey smiled softly. Well, his plans were always perfect. They might fail at first but it was always very good.

"Well, you will have to call them over here. Just let them know that Hercules wants them over here so that Incase Caramel ask them what was happening. We don't want her to suspect anything," he explained. "Or_" he said quickly as he remembered something.

"Tell Jimmy this. Let him get the other men. Till I'm able to see Jimmy again, don't let him know where I am or how I'm faring. You can just tell him it's what you want but he should tell the men a different message about me wanting to see them."

Alfred nodded once. "I understand but don't you think we should just tell Jimmy about everything?"

Grey shook his head briefly. "I don't want to tell Jimmy anything just yet until everything has been confirmed. I don't want to spread unnecessary news about Caramel. You know how she is to me."

Alfred nodded once and stood up. "I need to get to work then," he walked out of the living room.

Emily's curious eyes were still watching Grey. "So, what am I supposed to do in this situation?"

Grey looked at her. "Very simple. You would have to go to my place this afternoon. I will tell you what to do but you will need a change of clothes," he glanced down at her attire

"Emily smiled softly. "I love that actually but that means I would need to buy clothes as I don't have them near."

Grey reciprocated her smile. "I will order for you. You don't need to stress yourself," he stood up and moved away to speak to one of the managers of Aphrodite's stores.

Emily stared at him with admiration and affection in her eyes. Actually, there was something she was hiding. There was a reason why Linda wanted her to resign even though it was the last thing on her mind. And it was a thought for another day because Emily was still planning.

There were several men in the front yard. He beckoned one of the men closer.

The man walked nearer and bowed slightly. "Boss, is there anything you want me to do for you?"

"You need to go to Hercules's new house and spy on Caramel every moment. Take two more men to make everything flexible. You can take pictures and others but make sure she doesn't notice you," he ordered.

The man bowed slightly. "I will do my best," he assured.

"Alright, you are dismissed but call Jimmy over here before you leave."

The man bowed again and walked away.

Alfred waited for Jimmy to come around. He didn't want to enter the house, whereby Jimmy would do the same and discover that Grey was actually doing fine. The main plot of the plan was to make everything suspicious.

"Hello boss, you called me over."

"Yes, I did. Tell your men at Hercules's house to come here at once."

Jimmy looked up, a bit confused. "Why? Is something wrong? I mean Hercules said the men should never leave his house unguarded," he explained.

Alfred nodded once. "I know but it's currently a state of emergency and that's what you must do."

Jimmy's heart made a sudden thud at Alfred's choice of words. "Is everything alright? Particularly with Hercules?"

Alfred released a sigh. "Just do as you are told, Jimmy, and hurry up."

Jimmy bowed slightly and dragged his feet away.

Alfred waited for him to be gone before he walked back inside. Emily wasn't inside but that was the least of his concern as he placed a call to Caramel.

Caramel picked up immediately as if she had been waiting for it. "Hello, Richard?" Her voice shook slightly.

Alfred cleared his throat. "This isn't Richard but Alfred. There's something I need to inform you," he hesitated.

"Grey is dead."

Chapter 349: Intention

"W-what!" Caramel yelled suddenly that Alfred had to pull the phone backward a bit so she wouldn't damage his ear drum. "H-how did it happen?" Her voice shook with a slight tremor to it. Though, Alfred didn't want to reason it that much. Even though she sounded so unhappy, he still thought that she had something up her sleeve and wasn't sincere.

"I'm yet to know. I've called all the elders and we will notify them. But for now, no one should know about it and he's still in the hospital," he made his voice fade intentionally.

"I don't know what to do yet but I will let you know eventually," he assured.

Caramel sobbed. "I saw him a few minutes ago. Why would he be dead? You guys should do his autopsy," she sobbed softly.

"Maybe but that's left for the elders to decide on. Bye for now and take care of yourself."

Alfred hung up and released a sigh. He was done with the plan. All they had to do was wait for the result. He walked back inside.

Caramel was starting to get anxious. She sat for a moment, a bit confused before she looked at her phone again as if expecting someone to call her.

Was Grey really dead? He felt uncomfortable and very sad at that words even though she doesn't even know why.

Of course, she does, it was because she used to date him. Maybe they were once in love or something. Well, Caramel couldn't really remember anything much.

She stood up and waited for a moment. The hard beating of her heart was making her uneasy. They could find out and that would mean a disaster for her. She knew that she needed to hurry but where was she supposed to go in such a short time?

The door opened softly and one of the men keeping watch of the house walked inside. "Hello, ma'am."

Caramel's heart took a sudden thud. She looked up, and an anxious smile invaded her face. "Yes, is something wrong?"

The man stepped forward. "Not much but we are all called by Mr. Alfred and we are on the way there. I use came to inform you so you won't find it weird if we leave like that and you can suddenly find out anywhere," he explained.

Caramel nodded briefly. "Alright, you should go. It's alright."

The man bowed slightly and walked out of the room. Caramel moved to the window and saw the other men assembled. They were really leaving and Caramel would have the time to leave without delay.

Her phone rang suddenly and almost gave her a heart attack. She pulled back to pick up the phone and glanced at the screen. It was Richard. A sigh escaped her as she picked it up.

"Hello, Richard."

There were a few minutes of silence at the other end before a few voices came online. "Yes, hello caramel."

"Hi," Caramel felt even anxious that she started having sweaty hands.

"Yes, do you have something for me? How with the job I gave you?"

"Well," Caramel's eyes switched. "That wasn't really a job. It was what I wanted," she clenched her teeth in response.

"I don't care, Caramel. I'm all concerned about nothing but one thing. How is Hercules."

Caramel felt a stab of annoyance at his words but she didn't say anything concerning it. "Hercules is dead," she announced.

There was a few seconds of silence. "Really?" His voice changed briefly and it sounded even lighter. "Are you serious?"

Caramel ignored his question. "As I've said, I did what I had to, not because you want me to do so but because I want to do so. I was going to avenge my mother's death," she swore.

"I understand you, Caramel. And yes, that was the spirit I wanted you to have. And we are done. You can decide to come over here or stay over there. Or do they know you killed him?"

"They don't know that yet but who knows? An autopsy might be performed sooner than later."

"Well, then you should leave before that. I wouldn't be able to help you if you get caught in the web of this situation," he advised, though not sounding concerned.

Caramel nodded briefly and looked up at the lady that just walked in. She hadn't even heard the door open. "I-," she fidgeted with the phone in her hands.

"Are you alright, Caramel?" Richard inquired but Caramel could barely hear him because the phone wasn't even against her ears anymore.

"I will call you back," she said quickly and hung up to look at the lady that just walked inside and was looking at her as if she was shocked. She was clad in a red revealing gown.

"Hello," the lady started.

"Yes, hello. How can I help you?"

"I'm Emily," she said quickly, with a nice smile. She hesitated when Caramel didn't say anything. "You don't need any

introduction. Actually, I know who you are but-, " she hesitated.

"I didn't expect that."

Caramel felt agitated. "Expect what?"

Emily smiled softly. "I heard everything you said. I heard you vividly. I don't need to repeat things before you know what I'm talking about, Caramel."

Caramel's heart made a sudden thud. "What do you want? Are you going to expose it?"

Emily laughed for a moment. "No, I'm not interested. I want Grey dead anyways. That's why I'm with him. It's just taking me a long time to do it because he was always careful around me. I'm shocked that he's so free with you."

Caramel regarded her for a moment. "What are you insinuating? Why are you here?"

Emily regarded her for a moment, a smile dancing on her face. "To see Grey but well, now that he's dead, I have to leave."

"Are you going to tell people that I killed him?"

Emily shook her head briefly. "No, why would I do that? You know my secret already and well, I know yours as well. So, it's a tie. If you don't talk about mine, I won't talk about yours."

Chapter 350: Confusion

Caramel nodded briefly. "Alright, and who are you?"

Emily smiled softly. "You don't actually need that. I will just take my leave now since Grey isn't even here. And I will advise you to do the same if you don't really want Hercules' elders to find out about you," she finished and walked out of the house.

Caramel let out a sigh of relief. She actually thought it was over when she saw the person walk inside but she didn't know she also had something against Hercules. They all do and the anger in Caramel was so big that she would kill Grey again if she had to.

Her phone rang suddenly, startling her so that she jumped up in fear. She glanced at the screen and a sigh escaped her again. She picked up the call.

"Hello, yes. I'm ready," she responded and the call went off.

Caramel rushed to the door and pulled it open to look at the car in front of the car. Everything was already prepared for and all she had to do was get herself out of the mess before it even swallowed her.

She didn't even go back for anything. She rushed out of the house and towards the car. She hesitated in front of the car and glanced back to be sure that no one was watching her. Having confirmed, she opened the door and walked inside.

The car started the ignition and after they were out of sight, a man came out from behind the house. He was the man that Alfred sent over to check on Caramel and he had been waiting for her to come out at least.

He brought out his phone and placed a phone call to Alfred. Alfred picked it up after the second ring. "Hello boss, She just got into the car and drove off."

Grey was waiting for feedback and he was anxious. He didn't want to start thinking of anything at that moment because he kept thinking that it wasn't possible. There was no way Caramel would try to kill him despite everything they'd had together. He loved her and he never hesitated to show that to her. Why then would she want him dead?

His phone rang suddenly. It was Emily. He picked it up quickly. "Yes, anything?"

"Confirmed, Boss. It has been confirmed that Caramel really wants to kill you. I heard her speaking to someone on the phone about confirming your status. She admitted to it as well after using my tricks on her," she explained.

Grey was shocked for a moment. "What? Caramel can do that?"

"In fact, it looks like someone sent her over. It was that person she was talking to when I walked inside," she explained further.

"Did you know what his name was?"

"Yes, I heard that as well," she hesitated as if thinking about it. "Richard. It was Richard."

"Alright, you are dismissed. I will call you whenever I need you," he finished up and hung up.

Grey head was reeling. What the fuck was happening? Why would Caramel suddenly want him dead? There were days when she defended him, even when it involved Alex. She clearly deceived him. So, why would she suddenly be working with someone to eliminate him?

Alfred walked inside. "Hercules, I received a piece of information from the man I sent over. Caramel just left the house in a black car," he revealed.

Grey felt a purge of sadness, with a mixture of anger. "Send the men over. They must bring Caramel to me," he ordered.

Alfred nodded briefly and placed a call back to the man from earlier. He picked it up quickly.

"Hello, boss."

"Go after Caramel. Send me the address that you are in so that I can send some men to join you. Hercules wants you guys to bring back the lady."

"Alright boss. Mr. Gregory's men are around this vicinity. I would suggest you send them so we won't miss her," he advised.

Alfred nodded briefly. "Forward your location to me and I will do the same to Gregory," he informed him before he hung up. He placed a call to Gregory but he didn't pick up. He attempted it twice before he did. "Hello, Gregory. I need your assistance now."

"Is something wrong?"

"I need some of your men. There's someone we need to get and she's riding alongside your street," he explained.

Gregory smacked his lips. "What are you up to?"

"I will let you know about it soon but it's urgent and well, it's Hercules's order."

"Alright, forward the message to me now."

Alfred made a nod of the head. "Of course." He hung up and realised that the location of the guy had already entered his phone. He sent them over to Gregory and turned to look at Grey again.

"All done. I'm sure they would be able to get Caramel."

Grey nodded once, still fuming with anger. "Also, there's someone else I need you to check for me," he looked at Alfred. "Emily said she heard Caramel talking to someone on the phone. And she thinks it was the person that sent her to kill me. I find it very difficult to understand, which is why I want you to check him out for me."

"Where? Seattle or here?"

"Probably both but something keeps telling me you should check Seattle first. If something actually happened in Seattle, it might be the guy. And I think we need to find him to be able to understand all of this," he explained. "He's Richard. Tell your man to look into it."

"I will do that immediately but I think you should eat."

Grey made a nod of his head before he walked to the dining table. The food has been set but Grey was having difficulties in eating. He just couldn't stop thinking of Caramel and why she would even try to kill him.

Or could Caramel have been pretending all this while? Was she intentionally looking for the appropriate time to kill him? Grey had questions but the answers eluded him.