

## **Secretly TBB 391**

### Chapter 391: Awake

"Are you for real?" Smith inquired anxiously.

Seth nodded briefly. "I'm telling you. I'm very sure at this moment that Grey is as confused as you are. I'm very sure he's going to lose this order."

"Of course, we own the order."

There was a soft knock on the door. The door opened almost immediately and the secretary walked inside.

"I'm sorry for disturbing you sir but Miss Maria is here from Protos Pubblicita," she announced.

Seth stood up immediately. "Miss Maria? Let her inside. We have been expecting her."

The secretary nodded briefly and walked out. It didn't take more than a minute when the door opened and Maria walked inside. Seth and Smith stood to greet her.

"Welcome, Miss Maria," Seth extended.

Maria nodded briefly. "Good morning Mr. Seth. I don't have much time here as I have a lot of things to do elsewhere. Can we round this thing up quickly?"

Seth nodded briefly. "That's fine. Smith will show you around."

Maria nodded again and looked at Smith in expectant.

Smith smiled. "I will show you then. Please, come with me," he walked out and Maria followed after.

They walked into the store that was filled with a lot of clothes racks. The racks were adorned with a lot of clothes ranging from tops to gowns and to trousers.

Maria's gaze searched around. "This place is nice."

Smith nodded once. "This is to tell you that we are capable of handling the order."

Maria nodded once. "I see. This is a nice store. And I'm sure that Protos Pubblicita will make an excellent choice," she assured.

"But I'm happy with this and I'm sure you would get the order."

Grey nodded. "Good. When the brands get here, you can make the arrangements. There will be a promotion so that this company can be exposed to people."

Rose nodded briefly. "I understand sir. In fact, I have a group of advertising companies that we can use. I just want you to decide so I can move ahead as fast as I can," she placed a file on the table in front of Grey. Grey nodded again, pleased. "This is good. I like your spirit. I will go through them and get back to you."

Grey didn't want to use Protos Pubblicita because he didn't want to associate with it just yet.

Rose bowed slightly. "Alright boss." She muttered and walked out.

Grey's phone rang suddenly. It was Alfred. He picked it up. "Hello, Alfred."

"Hi Hercules, I have a piece of good news for you. Beatrice is awake," he announced.

Happiness flooded into Grey immediately. "What!"

"Yes, Grey. She woke up a few minutes ago. Caramel just called me and I had to call you immediately."

Grey got up. "Thank you. I will be on my way to the hospital now."

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

Grey got up, took his two phones, and hurried out of the office. He hesitated in front of Rose. "I will be back. Handle everything."

Rose stood up and bowed slightly. "Alright boss."

Grey walked to the garage. Jimmy was in the driver's seat, waiting already. Grey got inside the back seat. "Drive to goodness hospital. We are going to see Beatrice," he muttered.

Jimmy nodded once and pulled out into the street.

Grey was excited. He thought Beatrice was gone forever but it was sure a relief that she was better. And he couldn't wait to see her.

They arrived at the hospital in time. Grey didn't wait a moment before he hurried into the hospital.

The men standing watch in front of the room bowed as Grey hurried past them.

When he entered the room, it was only Beatrice that was in. Caramel could have left when she saw that he was coming. Well, he wasn't bothered about it.

Beatrice turned to look at him and her mouth curved into a smile. "Grey," her voice shook slightly but it still sounded like her.

Grey felt a surge of happiness. "Beatrice!" He called softly as he moved nearer to her.

"How have you been doing?"

Grey chuckled. "Fine Beatrice but you have to get well soon. That's the only reason why I will still be fine."

Beatrice laughed at this. "Can you help me up?"

Grey nodded briefly and assisted her up. "Are you sure you are alright? Or is there anything you want me to get for you?"

Beatrice shook her head briefly. "I'm fine for now. Thank you, thank you so much for caring."

Grey pulled a seat closer to her. "You don't have to thank me. I'm doing what I'm supposed to do. You definitely don't know how happy I am that you are doing good."

Beatrice looked at him for a moment. "Have you seen Caramel? Have you guys spoken?"

Grey nodded briefly. "You just have to focus on getting better."

Beatrice released a sigh. "I'm sorry Grey. I didn't know it would come to that. I wanted to prevent the abortion. This was why I called you but you wouldn't give me attention."

Grey sighed. He remembered exactly when Beatrice called him but he was too busy to attend to her. Though he promised to call her back and he really did but her number was no longer available.

"I'm sorry for not attending to you in time. I was just so busy."

Beatrice nodded once. "It's ok. I also sent a message to Mr. Alfred but he didn't respond."

Grey smiled as he nodded. "I understand that. He saw it but it was too late and you don't have to bother yourself with me and Caramel. Just focus on getting better, alright?"

Beatrice nodded briefly. "Alright, but will you come over to see me tomorrow?"

Grey regarded her for a moment, unsure of what to say. He wanted to avoid Caramel as much as he could since that was what she wanted.

"Please, Grey. I want to see you tomorrow," she held his arm into hers.

Grey nodded once. "Alright, I will but I want you to eat well and get better so you can leave this hospital very fast."

Beatrice smiled. "Thank you"

## Chapter 392: Set up

The door to Giovanni's private room opened and a man walked inside. It was late at night and Giovanni was in one of his clubs. He took a cup filled with wine already and sipped it.

"Any news?"

"Yes, boss. There's feedback from our spy that he just left goodness hospital."

"What for?" Giovanni didn't look at him as he asked.

"We didn't get that sir but he told US that he spent a lot of time there. And the room he entered was not only a VIP one but also guarded," he revealed.

Giovanni looked at him for a moment. "Then that means the person must be very important to him," he reasoned for a moment. "I want you to find out who the person is. And I want it as quickly as possible. It could actually provide US an opportunity to eliminate Grey."

The man bowed slightly and walked out.

Giovanni was looking for every means possible. Anything would do as long as it eliminates Grey. And he wouldn't stop until he finds it.

Smith and Seth entered Protos Pubblicita and hesitated. "I'm anxious, Smith," Seth started.

Smith released a sigh. "If Maria is making a decision the next day after she saw our store, then we should be convinced of what her decision would be.

Seth thought about it and nodded briefly. "You are right actually. I didn't even think about that," he released a sigh. "Let's be positive that this order is ours already."

Smith smiled encouragingly. "Yes, let's go collect our order," he insisted and they both finally entered the elevator.

The night before was when Seth received a message from Protos Pubblicita that they were to appear in the company the next day.

Violet led them to Maria's door and knocked slightly. "Hello, ma. Mr. Smith and Mr. Seth are here to meet you," she announced.

There was a crack in the intercom above them. "Let them inside," Maria ordered.

Violet turned to look at Smith and Seth. "You can enter now."

Seth hesitated as he let out a sigh before he walked inside with Smith.

Maria stood up with an engaging smile. 'Good morning Mr. Smith and Mr. Seth.'

"Good morning," the men chorused.

"You may sit," Maria gestured at the chairs in front of her and watched the men sit before she sat as well. "Thank you for coming."

Actually, we have come to the end of the inspection and the company has finally decided."

Seth nodded. "We are aware," a smile spread on his face. "And we know why exactly we are here."

He didn't see Grey around and concluded that Protos Pubblicita must have decided to award him the contract. There was no way they would call only him out if they had no plan of doing just that.

"Yes," Maria nodded briefly. "We have decided that-," she hesitated as she looked over at their faces for their expression. "You didn't get the order," she dropped the bombshell.

Seth felt his heart leave him for a moment. "What!" He exclaimed softly. "That can't be! Or is this some kind of prank?" Smith was too dazed.

"Well, it's not a prank. We don't have the time to do that. Protos Pubblicita has decided to award Diamond base with the contract."

"You must be kidding! Is this because Grey works here initially? That's why you had to give him the order?" Seth yelled out with shock and disbelief.

"Well, it's our decision and not yours to question. We don't owe you an explanation. Now, it's time for you to leave."

"Ain't leaving!" Seth banged on the table angrily, his fists were clenched and it felt like the blood was all drawn to his face.

"Are you telling the truth?" Smith asked suddenly. His heart sank. He has gone too far to lose. "I mean we just showed you our store yesterday. I don't even know if you should have made the decision already. Have you been planning it days before?"

"It's not something to discuss," she took her telephone and placed a call to security. "Please, come inside my office right away," she ordered and hung up. She looked at the men again. "I've called the securities and they will be here soon. If you don't want to leave on your own, you will be forced to when they arrive."

The men exchanged gaze as if they couldn't believe it. Seth couldn't think for a moment. He didn't even want to start thinking of the loans he took and the fact that he might not be able to pay them back at the stipulated time.

Does that mean they might go bankrupt?

"But this isn't fair!" Seth rushed the words out. "It's not!"

The door opened and three security guards walked inside. Seth and Smith saw it as a clue to leave. The men wouldn't hesitate to embarrass them if they tried any bullshit and that was the last thing on their minds at that moment.

The men stood up and walked out of the office. Seth hesitated by the door and gave Maria one last stare before he finally walked out.

If looks could kill, Maria would be dead.

Maria could have texted them about the information but it was all Grey's plan for her to call them over because there was something left to unfold.

Smith and Seth were in silence as they walked out of the elevator. They didn't even know what to say to each other even though there was a lot to discuss.

Someone hit Seth suddenly, in the lobby.



The man looked up at Seth and stuffed something into his pocket. "They are coming for you. You had better run. The police are coming. Run like you did back then," he muttered in a frightened voice that drew chills before he rushed away.

Seth was confused for a moment. Was the guy a lunatic?

Smith looked at Seth. "What was he mumbling about?"

Seth didn't answer and instead dipped his hand into his pocket and pulled out a phone. Actually, a video was playing but the music was off.

And Seth recognized it without any indication. It was when he attacked Diamond's base company.

Chapter 393: A bomb planner

Seth turned around quickly to call the man that had handed him the phone but he was suddenly gone. He couldn't decide if he had entered the elevator or if he was just lost among the people in the lobby.

His hand gripped the phone even harder. What was happening? He couldn't think at first, his mind was all foggy.

Could Grey have set him up like he did the year before he left Jacksonville?

"Seth!" Smith yelled at him.

Seth jerked out and looked up at one of the security guards.

"You have to leave now," the security guard reminded them in a strong tone.

Seth released a sigh and nodded briefly before he walked out of the lobby without another word to Smith. He didn't stop until he was out of Protos Pubblicità. He turned to look at Smith with anger showing all over his face.

"This was all your fault!" He yelled in anger.

Smith gave him a confused look. "What do you mean? What are you talking about?"

Seth stretched the phone out. "Don't fucking ask me! Don't you dare ask me that question! Just check for yourself"

Smith took the phone with a confused expression. His eyes went wide with shock as he watched the video. "What the fuck is this?"

"Are you asking me?" Seth grew even angrier. Are you going to pretend as if you don't know what that is? As if you weren't the one that initiated it!" He yelled with pain.

Smith gathered his brows. "We all agreed to the plan and I obviously didn't think you were being recorded. You could have checked for a CCTV camera and turned back when you did see one," he reprimanded.

"Seriously? So this is my fault?"

Smith released a load of air but he didn't talk.

"Now I get it!" He clicked his tongue. "Now I really understand why Protos Pubblicità changed its mind. Most especially why they made the decision today! It was because of this video! Grey must have shown it to Maria.

They must have decided to take it from US because of that! They must have thought we would stain their name. And you made me do it!" He pointed an accusing finger at him. "And to even think you didn't join me! I went along! Only my face was revealed!"

Smith sighed and looked away for a moment as different thoughts went through his mind in some sort of crazy confusion. He had never for once suspected the plan. How was he supposed to think that Grey was going to use it against them?

"You can't be serious, Seth! You can't be! And you have to stop this! You seriously have to!"

"No, we aren't stopping shit! You are going to talk to me!' He insisted in a deep voice, unwilling to give up. His head was reeling.

"See, Seth, we have to leave here. We can discuss this later elsewhere or in private."

"No, I'm not doing that shit! Do you know how much I've put down on this order? How much have I done and how much have I just lost? And you are acting as if it doesn't mean anything to you!" Seth was getting angrier as the minute passed by.

Smith's gaze searched around him at the people that were starting to look at them.

"Will you just let US enter the car or something? People are looking at US."

"I don't care! Or does it look like I do?" He fired at him.

"Fine!" Smith fired back. "Do you think I'm happy that we lost the order? I've lost a lot already as well. Putting the blame on me won't do anything for you!"

Seth clenched his teeth at him. "But it would do a lot to know that you caused half of my predicaments."

Smith's eyes tightened on him. "Seriously? Are you going to continue this? Then fuck off and do whatever you want!" He flagged down a taxi and got inside before Seth would say more.

Seth could only hit his fist against the car in anger. His blood was boiling in rage. He hit the car severely and in anger.

What was he supposed to do at that moment? He couldn't even think. All he could do was scream in anger, not mindful of the stares and silent murmurs he was getting.

He was done for.

Aman walked inside the living room of Giovanni. He stopped a few feet away from Giovanni and bowed slightly.

"Talk," Giovanni ordered.

"Her name is Beatrice, sir. She used to be unconscious but she woke up yesterday which was why Grey went to goodness hospital yesterday," he revealed.

Giovanni's head inclined as he thought about it.

"Beatrice," Giovanni repeated as if he was tasting the sound of it. "That name sounds really familiar but I can't really remember but," he looked at the man. "Anything else?"

The man nodded briefly. "We saw Caramel. She has been attending to this woman. The only time she was absent was when Grey was around."

Giovanni smiled softly. "Now I see. I think I now remember who Beatrice is. That's why the men were watching over her."

"Also, the nurse said Grey would be seeing her today," he added.

Giovanni stood up, suddenly shocking the man for a moment. "It's time. It's finally time for Grey to die." He laughed, feeling somewhat happiness slip into him.

"What should we do, boss," the man asked.

"Grey will die today. And here's the plan," he hesitated as he looked at the man very well. "We are going to tamper with his car. You are going to find a way for his chauffeur or whoever stays in the car. Or you could pretend to be resting against the car and be able to do what you want. We need to implant a bomb into his car. A bomb that can detonate thirty minutes later. Someone needs to control the CCTV camera and the security guard."

Giovanni didn't have to bother much about it anyways since he knew a lot of people at goodness hospital.

"You have to do all it takes to make sure Grey dies today!"

The man bowed slightly. "We will do that immediately the spy inform US that he's at goodness hospital. Meanwhile, we will get prepared."

Chapter 394:15 minutes escape

Grey's phone rang suddenly as Jimmy drove out of the house. He was done with Seth already. So, all he had to do was go to work normally.

But he had already promised Beatrice to come over to her that day. He would see her and then go to work. Though he's yet to know if he should go to Protos Publicita or Diamond base but he would decide later after speaking with Beatrice.

The car pulled off in the garage.

Grey got out of the car without a word to Jimmy and moved inside the hospital. It didn't take long before he was inside the room. He hesitated as he watched Caramel and Beatrice together. Beatrice laughed and took the drugs. Caramel handed her a glass of water and she swallowed the drugs. She hesitated as if suddenly noticing that someone was at the door. She looked up at Grey and a smile escaped her lips.

Grey reciprocated the smile and moved closer.

Caramel regarded him with a side view before she gently placed the cup of water on the table and stood. "Good morning," she whispered and stood up. "Mom, I will be back. I need to get something from across the street."

Beatrice shook her head briefly. "Stay with me. Caramel."

"Let her go. We need to talk privately anyways," he said with a smile.

Caramel didn't wait for any more cues before she walked out.

Grey sat beside Beatrice. "Your colour looks good this morning."

Beatrice laughed. "It's all thanks to you. I don't know what would have happened to me if you hadn't intervened."

"Alright," Grey smiled again. "I have to go to work. I just decided to come here quickly. I will call you in the afternoon."

Beatrice nodded once. "I understand and I appreciate it. You should go to work now. I'm all better."

Grey hugged her slightly. "Alright."

In the garage where Jimmy was, waiting for Grey. Some men stood far away, looking at the car and planning.

Jimmy was in the car with his attention on his phone.

A call came through to one of the men. "Yes, speak."

"He's on the way out. You need to act fast now," the voice said.

Two men in security uniforms moved closer to Jimmy, one came from the driver's side while one came from the passenger's side.

"Hey! Please, get down. We need to talk with you."

Jimmy regarded them one after the other, then down at their uniform. He was easily convinced that they were the security guards of the hospital.

"We are actually the garage security and we need to discuss something with you."

Jimmy nodded briefly. "Alright," he got out of the car. "What's it all about?"

"Please, follow me. I need to show you something," he said.

Jimmy hesitated as he looked at the two men again before he nodded briefly. "Alright, let's go."

Jimmy followed the two men to the corner of the garage while another two guys hurried out from behind the poles. They walked closer to the car and placed a bomb under the seat. They hurried away quickly, just as Grey walked out to view.

Grey walked closer to the car and realised that Jimmy wasn't in the car. He inclined his head aside as he wondered where Jimmy had gone. He pulled out his phone to call him.

The phone barely finished ringing when Jimmy picked it up. "Hello, boss."

"Where are you? I'm in the car but you aren't here."

"I'm on my way, boss," Jimmy assured.

Grey sighed and hung up. He leaned against the door as he waited for him. It didn't take up to a few minutes when Jimmy showed up.

"Where did you go?"

"I'm sorry, boss. The security guards were asking me some questions. We can leave now." He moved to the driver's seat.

Grey nodded once and moved to the back seat. Just as he opened the door, his phone rang suddenly. It was Alfred.

Grey hesitated and picked up the call. "Hello, Alfred. How are you?"

"I'm fine, boss. My men just arrived in Italy. They will get back to me soon. I just decided to let you know."

Grey released a sigh. "Alright, I understand. Just make sure they get their facts straight before they report. I would like to confirm what is really happening with James," he got inside the car and pulled the phone away for a moment. "Drive!" He ordered Jimmy and placed the phone against his ear again. "Alright?"

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

Jimmy pulled out of the garage, while the men from behind them smiled to themselves. Their plan had worked but they still wanted to confirm everything.

So, the three of them entered the car and moved behind them slowly. They only needed to see the car blow up anyways, so they didn't need to see it close.

"Where are we heading to, Boss?"



Grey thought for a moment. "Let's go to Diamond base company. I have something to do over there. Then we can head to Protos Pubblicità later on."

Jimmy nodded briefly and entered the street.

Grey's phone rang again. It was an unknown number this time around. He picked it up anyway. "Hello, who is this?"

"My boss, it is Emily."

Grey smiled. "Emily! How are you doing?" His voice was calm and there was a natural happiness in it.

Emily giggled. "I'm fine, boss but I really need to speak with you."

"Is something wrong?"

"No sir. It's just something I need to tell you and it's urgent."

"Urgent? Can't it wait till tonight? I can see you at the bar or you come over to my house," he suggested.

"Yes, but can I come now? Please? Actually, I'm close to goodness hospital. What street are you on now?"

"How did you know where I am? Were you stalking me?"

"I'm not the one, boss, but someone else. Are you almost at 'Grab a coffee'? There's a big signboard for you."

Grey's gaze searched around and saw a big signboard ahead of them. "Almost there."

"Just blink your light twice so I will know the car that's yours. I will enter."

"Alright but don't hang up," he ordered and looked at Jimmy. "Slow down at 'Grab a coffee' and blink your light twice there. I am expecting someone."

Jimmy nodded once. "Alright boss."

Meanwhile, a countdown was going on underneath Grey's chair and it was on for fifteen minutes. Grey has only 15 minutes to either escape death or not.

Chapter 395: Instead!

The countdown continues.

It was currently at 6 minutes when the car slowed down in front of 'Grab your coffee'. Grey gaze searched around after Jimmy had blinked the light twice but there was no sign of Emily.

"Emily is kidding me," he groaned softly. He wasn't angry but he was slowly seeping into frustration. If Emily was keeping the great Hercules waiting, then she would get punished for it.

His phone made a sudden beep and a message popped up on his phone. It was from Emily and it read, "Please, come inside. One of the men won't let me leave."

Grey looked up, at the glass display as if to catch a glimpse of Emily. She was in danger and he had to help her.

The time was currently 3 minutes.

Grey looked at Jimmy. "I'm entering the shop," he announced and opened the door.

Just as Grey got out, Jimmy also hurried out. "Should I come as well?"

Grey shook his head briefly. "You don't have to worry. I can handle it."

Jimmy nodded and watched Grey for a moment before he moved closer to the car. He was barely at it, only a few hairbreadths away when the car blew off.

Grey was forced to a sudden stop. Though he was far away, he could still feel the heat against his skin. He turned towards his car but that wasn't what he was met with. Damaged metal and destroyed parts

were where his perfectly clean car was. And the displeasing matter was that Jimmy was on the floor out of consciousness.

People had started to gather around but Grey couldn't even move. It felt as though something had glued his feet to the floor.

Emily rushed out and stood beside Grey for a moment. A gasp escaped her as she stared hard at Jimmy. "What!" She exclaimed softly and looked away. "There," she whispered and pointed.

They were in the midst of a crowd now and the ambulance was around. The health worker gathered around Jimmy and Grey was watching them but he couldn't move.

Emily tapped him again, an urgency to her movement. "There, boss!" She gestured ahead.

At this moment, Grey followed the path of her hand movements until he was looking at a red car standing off in the street, with the window down and a guy looking at them. Though, Grey knew it wasn't at them but at Jimmy and his car.

"That car has been tailing you. Those men have been following you. Could they have implanted a bomb in your car?" Emily's question jolted Grey out of his thoughts and he jumped forward, after the ambulance.

"Wait!" Emily called after. She was bothered. If the men saw that Grey wasn't dead, they might go after him but he wasn't even bothered about it.

Emily rushed to stand in front of him. "Wait and hear me out! \*She said adamantly.

Grey wasn't looking at her but past her. "Let me go. If you don't, it will be to your disadvantage because I would eventually be able to go. I will push you off and make you suffer for defiling my order!" He threatened thickly, with something of emotion that Emily couldn't decipher.

"It doesn't matter what you do to me, boss but I won't let you go."

The ambulance sped off before Grey could react to Emily.

"We have to go, boss! Anything could be happening anywhere! I have my car over there, we could ride in that."

Grey nodded once and followed her to the car that was slightly being protected by the crowd.

A lot of people have gathered around now, and a lot of cars were pulled to a stop so they could attend to the emergency.

Everyone was so shocked at the bomb. And while some people started to pity, some could only watch the drama unfold.

"I am going after the ambulance. I need to know where Jimmy was taken to," he whispered and his voice trembled.

Emily released a sigh. "Alright, we can do that but we have to make sure the car leaves before we do that. You need to get treated as well."

Grey didn't answer, not that he didn't want to but he was suddenly thinking. He suddenly had a lot on his mind. He was fucking a few minutes away from the car. He could have been the one in the car. No! He would have been! He would have been bombed!

He looked down at himself and realized that his clothes were affected by the bomb.

Fortunately, the car watching them speed off.

Emily smiled and looked at Grey. "Let's go," she said but

Grey was too lost in his thought to reply. She poked him and he finally responded by looking at her. "Let's go. I'm driving," she repeated and got into the driver's side.

Grey also got into the passenger seat.

Emily started the ignition. She drove after the ambulance, though it was a bit far from them.

"This was actually what I wanted to tell you. I saw the men this morning. I was going to get a cup of coffee this morning when I saw you and then, them. I thought it was a coincidence, so I told someone to watch out for me. Guess what, they confirmed my fear," she explained.

"Why did you call me into the shop? If I had been a little late, I would have been in the car when it blew off." Emily sighed. "I had some guys who wouldn't let me go. This was why I called you."

"I should have allowed Jimmy to follow me! I should have!" He muttered with anger. He was starting to break down and it wasn't good. He was supposed to be Hercules but was he supposed to lose people he loved because he was Hercules?

"It's not your fault actually."

"Actually, it's my fault!" He yelled, hitting his hand hard against the window and not even bothered about it even though the pain riveted through his body.

He could barely notice anyways when the pain he was feeling in his heart was greater.

## Chapter 396: Grey is dead! Right? Or not?

Emily pulled up in front of the hospital and looked at Grey. "Please, stay in the car while I check this up," she informed him. Grey nodded once. Emily was right anyways and it wasn't as if he couldn't think it right, he was just worried for Jimmy.

Nothing must happen to Jimmy.

Emily released a sigh before she closed the door and hurried inside the hospital.

Actually, Emily set the men up. She wanted someone to try to hurt her so that Grey could act like her charming in shining armour. She only wanted to stay close to him anyways and be able to fuck him like she wanted.

She had the perfect plan in her head. But could she say it was because of her plan that Grey actually lived? And her? If she had gotten out and entered the car, she and Grey would have blown up in the car.

She shivered at the thought of it but the realisation still lingered on. She saved both of them and Grey deserved to be grateful, maybe even make her stay close to him. She would finally be able to fulfil her heart's desire.

Grey stared into nothingness, a lot of thoughts going through his mind. He started to think of how the bomb actually ended up in his car. Where did they even have the time to put it in?

Realisation hit him quickly when he remembered that Jimmy wasn't by the car when he walked into the hospital garage. They could have purposely distracted him and did their work.

But Grey didn't notice that anyone was following him. He was too occupied with Beatrice and work. He was too occupied with Seth.

He looked up after some minutes that seemed like an eternity. Emily was taking too much time in the hospital and he had the urge to enter but he had to stay low. He was silently praying that nothing happens to Jimmy.

Acar pulled inside suddenly and Grey bent slightly as one of the men got down and looked around.

Grey recognized the guy immediately. He saw him once, with Giovanni's son. So, it was Giovanni that sent them?

One of them walked inside.

Grey pulled the seat down so he would be able to lay low. The door of the driver's side opened suddenly and Emily entered.

"Boss," she called softly.

"Be careful. They are watching," Grey warned as he continued to stare at the car adjacent to them.

Emily nodded once. "I will drive out then."

Grey nodded once. "Good but be very careful. Don't act as if I'm here."

"Alright boss," she started the ignition and pulled out, driving past the car. The men stared at the car, then at Emily till she was out of sight.

Grey pulled the seat up when they were back on the street.

"Where should I drive you to?"

"How is Jimmy? Is he in the operating room? Is he doing fine?" He bombarded her, ignoring her question.

Emily released a sigh. "Boss," she hesitated. "Jimmy is dead," she released the bombshell suddenly.

It felt as though Grey didn't hear her or maybe his ears were playing tricks on him.

"What did you just say?"

"Jimmy was burnt beyond recognition. He died before he could even make it to the hospital," she explained.

A knot suddenly tightened in Grey's heart as he watched Emily. Jimmy was dead!

Giovanni's head was hung as he awaited the news. He stood and moved to the bar to grab a drink. He hesitated, changing his mind, and turned around again.

On second thought, he smashed the bottle against the wall. The bottle broke into pieces and the wine in it designed a map on the wall.

One of his men hurried inside. "Boss?" He called fearfully.

"What's taking them so long!" He yelled.

The man bowed. "I will call them."

The door opened suddenly and another man walked inside, "They have arrived," he announced.

Grey released a sigh and went to sit. "Tell them to come inside immediately."

The men bowed and walked out. It didn't take a minute when three men walked inside. They bowed at the same time.

"I want the full information!" Grey growled.



"We were able to implant the bomb in his car," one of them announced." And the car blew up."

"We were able to follow the ambulance to check the health status of Grey," one of them picked up.

Giovanni looked at him. "Grey was in the car?"

"He was outside but close to the car so he was affected as well. We were lucky actually as they had already pulled up at 'Grab your coffee'. If they had been quicker, the car would have exploded alone," he revealed.

Giovanni gathered his brows. "So, Grey was affected?"

"Yes boss," another one said quickly. "His driver was taken from the driver's side while Grey was taken from the backside. As my mate said, they were both out of the car. But they were also burnt beyond recognition. " He added quickly.

"And his health status?" Giovanni was anxious.

The men hesitated.

"They both died before they got to the hospital," one of them announced." We confirmed it before coming here."

Giovanni's hard expression suddenly dissolved into a smile. "Yes! That's it!" He yelled with excitement. "I'm going to reward you all nicely for the job well done!" He announced to the excitement of the men.

They bowed quickly. "Thank you so much, boss."

Giovanni couldn't contain the happiness in him. Finally, he had succeeded. He killed the father and the son.

"Now, the next plan," he started, his head calculating. "There will be a broadcast and distribution. Grey is dead! I'm sure Alfred and the rest won't want to announce him to the world. So, we have to do it ourselves."

"Do we need to announce him as Hercules?" One of the men asked.

Giovanni reasoned it for a moment, a smirk on his face. "We don't actually need to. Though the world might not know, the members of the billionaire club do know what Hercules looks like. When the members see the news, they would succumb to me. And for the public, it will only take them a few months to see the truth. I will let them know that Hercules has been deceiving them. I will rule this city and I will be the king of the world for this year as well.

#### Chapter 397: Bad news

"Caramel," Beatrice called softly.

Caramel turned to look at her. "What? Are you going to scold me again?"

Caramel sighed. "I sincerely don't like the way you treat Grey. You shouldn't have aborted his baby in the first place."

Caramel rolled her eyes and stretched out the cup to her. "I don't regret what I did actually. If I was able to make a decision again, it would still be the same thing."

Beatrice regarded her for a moment before she took the cup and drank the tea in it. "What are you going to do now?"

Caramel sighed and sat. "I'm thinking of leaving the city and as usual, you are coming with me."

Beatrice held her gaze. "And you think we will be saved if we run away?"

"We are not running," Caramel stressed. "I'm just moving far away from Grey. It's better for both of us. Jacksonville reminds me so much of him and I have to get it out of my way, I need to live my life."

"Grey could have protected you. He would have protected us."

"And have our lives never been threatened?" Caramel inquired. She was feeling very frustrated. Beatrice released a sigh. And were we ever saved in Seattle? I could have died. And you could have killed Grey. What would have happened if you had?"

The question ate so deep into Caramel. She tried to find answers but they eluded her.

Her mother was right after all but she felt there was nothing she could do. She had been in danger since the first day Grey was Hercules.

Caramel watched her mother for a moment. "I will go to a very far place. We could go to Africa. We will go places that we will never feel threatened ever," she assured.

Beatrice nodded once, sadness written all over her at the thought of moving far from Grey again. She loved Grey like a son.

She had no choice anyways. She has to make sure that Caramel was alright as well.

Beatrice placed the cup on the table beside her and looked up, just in time to catch the headline on the screen.

"Increase the volume!" Beatrice yelled out.

Caramel felt alarmed. "Is something\_\_\_," she was forced to a stop as she looked up at the screen.

A presenter was talking endlessly, and a picture of Grey was beside her. She rushed forward, grabbed the remote control, and increased the volume.

"The incident was very shocking and as I heard initially, only two people were killed. This bomb exploded in front of 'Grab your coffee' a few hours ago," the presenter released air before she continued. "Though the body was burnt beyond recognition but we were able to identify them."

"It's Grey!" Beatrice yelled.

Caramel couldn't believe her eyes. She couldn't even talk, it felt as though she had lost the ability to.

The tears slowly invaded her eyes. It was just what she feared!

Alfred's phone rang as he made his way back to his office. It was from Jayden.

He picked it up. "Hello, Jayden. How are you doing?"

"Not fine, Alfred. Did you see the news?"

Alfred raised skeptical brows. "What news?"

His secretary walked up to him but hesitated when Alfred raised a hand at her.

"Grey is dead! Hercules is dead! Check the news!"

"What! That's impossible!" Alfred protested.

"Heck, Alfred! It is! It's all over the news and in the magazine. His car is displayed on the news as well, that Royce Rolls that he loved!

That Gregory gave to him!" he explained.

Alfred's heart skipped a beat as he started towards the elevator, ignoring what he had in mind to do previously.

"I've been thinking it isn't true. This was why I called you! I can't believe you are as confused as I am!" His voice shook with tremor, the fear visible in it.

"I'm going to call you back now!" Alfred said quickly and hung up.

"Sir, I\_" the secretary that has been going after him said quickly.

"Later, Maria!" Alfred muttered and hurried into the elevator.

He placed a call to Gregory. He didn't pick up until he was out of the elevator.

"Hello, Alfred. Is everything alright?"

"Have you heard the news?"

There was a short minute of silence. "What news?"

"Grey is missing because I can't believe he's dead."

"What! What are you talking about?"

"There's a news circulating concerning Grey's death," he walked inside the car. "We need to call others and find out who Grey is at this moment."

"I will speak with Don and others. You can get across to Aphrodite and whoever you can "

"Alright, I will do that immediately," Gregory said and the line went off.

Alfred looked at his chauffeur. "Drive!"

"I can't believe this happened! How can it?" Someone said suddenly from behind the racks of clothes.

Aphrodite was in the other room, going through the new dresses they just got from Italy.

"The bomb exploded the car!" A thick voice said.

"But I can't imagine Grey is so popular. Imagine him appearing on the news several hours after the incident," A feminine voice muttered.

Aphrodite hesitated at the sound of Grey's name and decided to listen more to the conversation.

"Yes but I feel bad for him. Who could have bombed his car? I heard he was burnt beyond recognition."

It was at this moment that Aphrodite rushed out of the room.

There were actually two ladies behind the rack. And Aphrodite could see the retreating figure of the man that used to be with them.

She moved closer to them. Not that she expected something to happen to Grey but the conversation was getting into her head. She only needed to confirm that it wasn't Grey and she would be good to go.

"I'm sorry but may I see the magazine?"

The ladies recognized her.

"Of course," one of them smile. "I will be glad. It's Aphrodite after all." She stretched out the magazine.

Aphrodite reciprocated the smile and took the magazine. Her eyes went wide as she read through the headline. And there was Grey's picture attached to it.

"No!" She yelled. "No!" She increased her volume and collapsed on the floor.

#### Chapter 398: Running wild

Grey couldn't stop feeling regret, it ate him deep. He could have avoided the tragedy. He could have stopped Jimmy from dying. If only he had allowed him to follow him.

But he would have been dead if Emily hadn't called him. He was just a minute away from death. The thoughts crumbled in him in some sort of crazy confusion.

The door opened suddenly and Emily entered the car through the driver's side. She let out a sigh. They have been in the car for ages now. Grey wanted to be alone so Emily went away. But the reason why she was suddenly back was because she had something to tell him.

"Here," she stretched the magazine at him. "I saw this and I had to return quickly to show you."

Grey took the paper slowly. At first, he didn't see what she was trying to say but when he adjusted his eyes, he saw his picture on the right-hand side and with a headline underneath it. His eyes went wide with shock. "What!"

"Everyone thinks you are dead, boss," Emily muttered.

Grey couldn't believe his eyes, couldn't believe his ears. It was exactly what Giovanni wanted anyways and he would be overjoyed that he was gone.

If that was the case, then his elders would already be looking for him or accepting the painful lies that he was gone.

"Drive me home," he ordered suddenly and threw the magazine back at Emily.

Emily took it and placed it safely in the back seat before she started the ignition and drove out into the street.

He dialled Aphrodite's number. It rang for the first time but she didn't pick up. Grey tried it again and eventually, she picked up before it would stop ringing again. There was a little hesitation. Hello."

"I'm on my way home, meet me at home."

"Who are you? Why are you with Grey's phone?" Aphrodite bombarded calmly.

Grey groaned. "It's Grey and I'm not dead! I'm on my way home, meet me there," he finished, not waiting for Aphrodite to talk before he hung up. A few minutes later, Emily hit the brake at Grey's house. Grey got down and walked inside immediately, his thoughts clouded.

Emily hesitated behind him as she watched him enter the house.

Grey was feeling so bad even though the person that died was his driver. She knew some mafia bosses weren't like that. Does it mean that Grey was weak?

No. It only showed he was an excellent leader. Jimmy was human too and he must have a family. Grey was only sympathising. And the attitude made Emily fall deeper in love with him.

The door burst open and Aphrodite rushed inside. Grey was on the chair just at the place he was an hour ago.

"Grey?" Aphrodite hesitated by the door as she watched him.

"Grey?" She called again as if to confirm he was really there. When Grey's head whipped towards her, she rushed forward. Grey stood up on impulse and Aphrodite went into his arms, hugging him so tight.



"Oh My! I thought you were dead!" She released a sigh. "I called you several times but you wouldn't pick up. At one point, it wasn't available again. I really thought you were dead this time."

Grey pulled back slowly to look at her. Her face was reddish but not swollen. Her eyes were red as well. Could she have been crying?

"Did you cry?" He inquired as he pulled back a strand of rebellious hair from her face.

Aphrodite chuckled slightly. No, I didn't. I don't cry."

Grey saw the lines of worry on her face and knew she was lying. She was just trying to act bravely in front of him.

"Do we hide things from each other recently?" He muttered.

Aphrodite shook her head briefly. I thought you were dead for real. I was so sad and heartbroken. I thought I was not going to see you again. You don't know how heartbroken that felt. I didn't even know when I started crying," she confessed.

Grey managed a smile and pulled her into a close hug this time, his hand stroking her back slightly. Aphrodite melted into him.

The door opened again and Alfred rushed inside, followed quickly by Gregory. They hesitated as they beheld Grey and Aphrodite in the weird position that they were.

Grey regarded Alfred for a moment before he finally pulled Aphrodite away and wiped the tears that lingered under her eyes.

"What happened?" Gregory moved closer, with a dark frown. "We thought you were dead for real."

"Yes!" Alfred added quickly, stepping forward as well. "And it's all over the news."

"It's Giovanni," Grey revealed.

Gregory hit himself harder. "I knew it!" He cursed mentally. "I knew he was the one that plotted all this news stuff."

"But what about your car? It really blew up. Where's Jimmy? And why was it saying two people died?" Alfred inquired.

Grey looked away for a moment.

"Jimmy is dead," he revealed softly.

Gregory raised skeptical brows. "Who's that?"

Grey looked at him. "Jimmy is my driver and he died in my stead."

"How did it all happen?" Aphrodite asked.

"I saved him," a soft voice said suddenly and Emily stepped out.

Gregory regarded her for another moment, with an irritated expression.

"Who's she? And what is she doing jumping into a business she wasn't called into?" He yelled in annoyance.

Grey sighed. He didn't even have time for all Gregory was on about.

"She saved me. She called to inform me that someone had been tailing me. Just as I walked out of the car, it blew up," he explained. Everyone went quiet for a moment as different thoughts went through their minds.

"Thank goodness you are alive. We have to quench the rumour circulating about you," Gregory said suddenly.

"Just like that?" Grey was shocked. Gregory wasn't even remorseful at all.

Gregory shrugged slightly. "Is there anything else?"

"Someone just died in my stead!" Grey stressed.

Gregory sighed. "A lot of people have died in your stead, Hercules."

"That's it!" Grey yelled suddenly. "How many more people are going to lose their lives for me?"

"A lot more! As many as possible!" Gregory hinted.

Grey shook his head briefly. "I don't want that! I don't want to lose any of my men!"

Gregory sighed. "It's inevitable, Hercules. That's why we have them beside us."

Grey chuckled weirdly. "So, they are supposed to be our sacrificial lamb?"

Gregory smacked his lips and looked away. "So, are you going to writhe in pain forever?"

Grey looked at him for a moment. "What do you mean?"

Gregory was getting annoyed at Grey's sudden burst of emotion. "

Are you going to be like this while the enemies jubilate?"

"No!" Grey yelled. "I'm just saying there's time for everything. Someone so close to me just died and we are supposed to give him the honour."

"He's just a driver, Hercules!" Gregory stressed. "And we don't have time to wait. The enemies would plot while we wait."

"Well, I'm Hercules and I decide how things are supposed to be."

Gregory scoffed and looked at Alfred. "I knew we were going to have problems when I realised a twenty-year-old guy was going to be our next boss. He's not strong enough and we will lose at this point! Grey is still young and his emotions are still running wild."

Grey felt a stab of annoyance at his words. "What? How dare you!"

He muttered and rushed forward before Alfred or Aphrodite could stop him.

Chapter 399: Unsure

He stopped in front of him, a few feet from hitting him.

"What did you just say?" His voice was deep and laced with anger.

Emily walked inside when she saw how bad things were getting. She could get killed in the midst of it.

"When you showed up suddenly, I initially thought you couldn't handle the mafia work but you proved to me that you could. And now? What are you trying to say? That you are tired of being a mafia boss?" Gregory released with a grunt.

Grey's fists were clenched beside him and a dark frown was on his face.

"What do you think I should do then? I should watch my men die without a feeling? I'm not supposed to be in pain?" Alfred stepped forward.

"Gregory!" He called in a strained voice.

"Don't speak to Hercules in such a manner." Gregory looked at Alfred.

"How else am I supposed to talk to him? We are his elders and he should listen to us as well. Does he want to end up like his father? Does he?"

"Gregory," Aphrodite called softly.

"Alfred just lost someone, you should give him breathing space. It's not easy. He has been losing a lot of people already."

Gregory released a sigh and dragged it.

"I know but\_" he hesitated.

"I don't want anything to happen to him! Damn it! We will be doomed if that happens!" Grey regarded him for a moment.

"You are dismissed from appearing in my sight till I say so. Not today anyways because I'm not in the mood for it!" Gregory looked at him for a moment before he walked out of the room.

Alfred raced after him.

"Hey, Gregory! " He stopped him before he would enter his car.

"What you did back there"

"Well, someone had to do something," Gregory said quickly, cutting Alfred off.

"If he's there wallowing in pity and sadness over his driver, what about others? What about us? He needs to get up and start planning as he did with Alex. We need to get Giovanni out of the picture before he kills him. Giovanni isn't easy meat and he's planning as we are sympathising."

Alfred released a sigh.

Actually, Gregory was right.

Giovanni wasn't easy meat. He killed Grey's father and mother. And he had killed a lot more.

If he was able to use Charles' father and kill Grey's father, what more could he do with Grey who wasn't as experienced as his father? He could die as well.

"You are right but you shouldn't have gone that way. Now, he's angry."

"Well, I don't care," Gregory muttered.

"Someone has to do it and it's no problem that it's me. But I'm ready to take the punishment as long as he's alive to continue to run the mafia world." Alfred sighed again.

"I will speak to him. But he's brilliant. I'm sure he would come up with a plan soon." Gregory nodded once.

"I know. I just don't want him to back out. Any little mistake and he would be dead."

"You shouldn't worry about that actually."

Now that Giovanni thinks Hercules is dead, let's give Grey the time he needs to think of whatever he wants. I'm sure he will get to us when he's a lot calmer but you will need to apologise."

Gregory released a sigh between the nods.

"I know, I will come back whenever he wants me to and I will also wait for the punishment. I overstepped my boundary and I know that. But till then, I will have to get some of my men to watch this whole place."

Alfred smiled.

"Do that."

Gregory nodded again and entered his car.

Alfred watched him drive out before he walked back inside the house.

"I'm sorry about Gregory, Grey. He's only worried about you. Gregory gets like that whenever he's worried."

Grey hesitated before he released a sigh.

"I know. He's right anyways but I just couldn't stop feeling this way. Jimmy has a family but now that he's dead, what does that make them? And considering the fact that he died because of me. I\_"

"No, he didn't," Aphrodite stepped closer.

"He didn't die because of you."

"Of course he did," Grey turned to look at her.

"You don't understand. Jimmy wouldn't have died if I had allowed him to come with him."

"But he might have died any other day. If he's destined to die, then there's nothing you can do about it. Blaming yourself won't help you."

Grey hit his palm over his face in despair. He felt the tears sting his eyes but he couldn't cry. He really couldn't stop blaming himself for the death of Jimmy. He didn't even know what he was supposed to do at that moment.

Aphrodite moved closer and hugged him tightly.

"Don't do this, Grey. We need you more than this and if we don't move faster, more people you love might die. Charles might, I might and even Caramel might."

Aphrodite was right and even if he wouldn't have anything to do with Caramel ever again, he still didn't want her to die. He wanted to show her that he was capable of protecting her. He would protect Aphrodite too.

Alfred stepped inside behind them and hesitated, as he stared at them.

It was the second time he was meeting them in that kind of compromising position.

Grey pulled back, noticing that they weren't alone. He looked at Alfred but didn't say a word.

"I will leave you for today. Maybe we can talk soon but I wouldn't want you to leave the house until you've decided. I mean since Giovanni thinks you are currently dead, we shouldn't make him believe otherwise unless there's a plan in process," he explained.

Grey nodded once.

"I will call you when I think of something." Alfred nodded once.



"What should we do with Jimmy's corpse? It hasn't been identified."

Grey thought about it for a moment.

"Give me time to think about it but I need to meet with Jimmy's family."

"I will arrange that but you will need to think about Jimmy's corpse by morning or we won't be able to take over it again."

#### Chapter 400: Jubilation

Seth grunted several times as he thought about the days leading to his first escape from Jacksonville the first time. He had stood up against Grey then when it all happened and now it was happening again.

If Grey wasn't Hercules, could he be close to him? Seth had questions but the answers eluded him.

How could he even lose to Grey? Well, it was his fault. He was the one that took Smith in.

If he hadn't, the nightmare wouldn't have happened. His phone rang suddenly, disrupting his thoughts. He jerked backward as a headache suddenly set in. He dragged his feet towards the phone and glanced at the screen.

It was Smith.

A grunt escaped him as he turned away, anger still burning in him. He would never be able to forgive Smith for making him lose so much.

Seth hasn't stepped out of his house since he received the message that informed him that the police were already looking for him.

He hadn't even thought of what to do. He needed to think of the loan he had taken, he needed to pay the bank or he would suffer seriously for it. His phone stopped ringing, only for it to start ringing again.

Seth felt a surge of anger as he angrily strode towards the phone and picked it up.

"What do you want now?"

He yelled in a deep voice, anger seeping through his voice.

If he was supposed to act according to his anger and not even reason the fact that he and Smith used to share a closer bond, he would have got some thugs to deal with him for misleading him.

Seth still believed it was because he attacked Grey's office that Maria changed her mind about giving him the order.

"wait, calm down, Seth," Smith's voice was soft.

Well, he also had a cause to be angry but not at Seth but at Grey. He had a list already of all he wanted to use the four million dollars for. But suddenly, it was gone because of Grey.

"Don't tell me to calm down, Smith. You seriously don't know the situation I am in."

"Well, we both took loans from banks. I don't think it would affect you more than it would affect me." Seth's eyes darkened.

"Why aren't you talking about the break-in? I'm the only one the police are looking for." Smith released a sigh.

"Just hear me out, Seth. I'm sure you don't know about this piece of information. If you do, you wouldn't even be talking like this." Seth reasoned it for a moment.

"What is it about?"

There must be a reason why he called him actually and well, he hasn't been out of his house.

"Grey is dead!"

Smith announced suddenly. Seth blinked once, then twice.

"What? That's not possible. I mean I saw him days back. What killed him? How did he die?" He bombarded him.

"Well, he is dead and I will tell you how he did but I just want you to calm down." Seth responded and moved to sit. He was a lot calmer now and at the same time, anxious.

"How did Grey die?" He demanded again.

"His car exploded and he was burnt beyond recognition. In fact, he died before he could make it to the hospital. It's all over the internet," he explained.

Seth blinked once, then twice, still finding it difficult to believe.

"Are you sure about all this?"

"I am, I can't be joking about this obviously. If you are still doubting me, you can step out and get a magazine. Or you could stroll through the tv channel. I'm sure you will find a channel still talking about it," he explained further.

"Alright, thanks. I will check it out but it doesn't take back the order that you've made me lose!" Seth fired at him.

Smith sighed once.

"You still don't see what I'm trying to say? You are still not seeing the big picture, Seth!" Seth blinked once.

"What do you mean?"

"It means that Maria will be taking back the order from him. The dead can't be trusted with that huge amount of money. We will be the ones to get it now. The order belongs to you!" He uttered.

Seth's eyes brightened up.

"You are right," he laughed.

"Absolutely! I didn't think of it like that. Oh, this is really good!" He was overjoyed.

"I told you," Smith laughed as well.

"I think you should go over there tomorrow. I'm sure the news would have reached them today and they would have made a new decision by tomorrow morning."

"You are right, Smith!" Seth raised.

"And we are going there together. So, get ready."

"That's the spirit, man! This order is finally ours."

Smith repeated in an easy tone that seemed to release happy adrenaline in Seth "Yes!"

Seth laughed out loud.

"Let's meet tonight at the club to celebrate Grey's death. We are having a lot of drinks!" He whooped with delight.

"Yes!" Smith laughed.

He was so happy that everything was finally falling into place.

Giovanni looked up for a moment, at one of the men that were standing in front of him.

"Send a message to the godfather, to Jamal, and let him know that there has to be an emergency meeting soon. He could choose any comfortable day for him but he should make it sooner," he explained.

The man hesitated.

"What if he doesn't respond well?"

"Tell him it's about Grey and we might have to go live on social media if he wouldn't even grant a meeting soon"

The man bowed slightly and walked out.

Giovanni thought about it quickly. He needed to be the billionaire boss as fast as possible.

Well, nothing would delay him now that Grey was dead but he could receive opposition. So, he had to be prepared for that. He didn't want the members of the billionaire club to find themselves another billionaire boss. He looked at the second man in the room.

"You have something to do for me. You won't be able to do it alone actually. So, you can take someone with you." The man bowed slightly.

"What do you want me to do?"

"Send a message to some of the billionaire members that there will be a meeting at my house tonight, a secret one."