

Secretly TBB 401

Chapter 401: A change

Alfred hesitated, with worry written all over his face. He entered the living room and let out another sigh. He had been expecting a call from the men he sent to Italy but all to no avail.

Something had happened and he could feel it.

If James really needed Grey, why then hasn't he sent back his men? Or could James have been dead? That was the only explanation available.

If James was dead, the mafia bosses would have taken over and anyone who asked about the dead Mafia boss would be seen as though he or she was working for him.

They could kidnap or kill them as a result of it. He didn't want to inform Grey about it just yet until he was sure of everything.

So, he might need to send more men. He needed to ascertain the situation before he informed Grey.

The door opened suddenly and one of Alfred's men walked inside. He bowed slightly.

"Here I am, sir." Alfred looked up at him.

"Get some men, you need to do something for me in Italy."

The man nodded briefly.

"I will do that," he responded before he walked out of the room.

Grey finally fell asleep and Aphrodite was able to leave his room. Grey wouldn't allow her to sleep with him anyways.

And though he didn't ask for it, she felt like staying with him.

She heard the clash of pots and moved toward the kitchen. She regarded Emily for a moment as she moved to and fro while cooking something she couldn't see because of the position of her body.

"And what are you still doing here?" She demanded suddenly.

Emily jerked out in fear, and the plate she was holding dropped to the floor and shattered into pieces. She gasped and looked at Aphrodite.

"You scared me," she muttered.

"Well, I asked you a question and you should answer. I don't like when someone keeps me waiting." She yelled.

Emily released a sigh.

"I just wanted to prepare something for the boss. He hasn't eaten anything since morning and might request some food when he finally wakes up," she explained.

Aphrodite felt a stab of annoyance. She crossed her arms over her chest as she watched Emily.

"Are you kidding me? Cooking? Under whose permission?"

"I work for Hercules and I don't think I need that kind of explanation," she shrugged slightly.

Aphrodite fumed with rage.

"Are you talking back to me?" She chuckled.

"You know what, just dump all you've done and get out. You are not allowed to this house until Hercules calls you," she ordered.

Emily released a sigh between her clenched teeth. She didn't want to do what she had in mind.

Even though she hated Aphrodite, she couldn't disobey her.

Aside from the fact that she's popular, she's also adored by Hercules and she didn't want to get on Grey's bad side. Emily took a short bow.

"I will do that immediately," she responded and turned to pack the plates and other ingredients.

Aphrodite moved closer to her.

"What were you planning on doing by the way? You shouldn't even be so close to him. You are nobody. So, don't get too comfortable, alright?"

Emily stopped to give her a reply, a scowl at the back of her head. She bowed again before she eventually walked out.

Aphrodite released a sigh. She could no longer trust anyone with Grey. She moved to prepare something for herself and Grey.

Maybe, just Maybe he would wake up and eat.

"Don't tell me you were planning on cooking when you could have ordered," a deep voice said from behind her, startling her for a moment. She turned to look at Grey and released a sigh.

"I didn't know you would wake up anytime soon."

"Yes, I had a lot to process in my mind. I kept thinking of Jimmy. I can't keep his corpse like that. I have to do something very fast about it." Aphrodite nodded briefly.

"You must be hungry, I will order something then since cooking will take a while." Grey nodded once.

"I have decided to give Jimmy a befitting burial. The corpses would be exchanged so that it would look like the corpse that they claim to be Jimmy will really be Jimmy."

"Are we going to retrieve that as well? Or just let everyone know that you are still alive?"

"I'm going to let everyone know that I am alive but before that, I need to attend Jimmy's burial unnoticed. I don't want the situation whereby Jimmy's family would be in trouble because of me," he explained and smiled at Aphrodite.

"Thank you for staying. I think I'm ready to eat now. You can order while I call Alfred. There's something I need to ask from him."

Aphrodite nodded briefly, a bit shocked at Grey's new display of behavior. She hadn't expected him to get over Jimmy so quickly but well, he was a mafia boss and needed to act as one. Yet, she was surprised.

Grey changed so quickly.

Giovanni was right and Grey couldn't stop thinking about it.

Actually, Grey pretended to be asleep but he wasn't.

Instead, he was thinking of what to do. But he wasn't supposed to mourn Jimmy forever even though he's still unable to forgive himself for causing his death.

But he needed to sit up and make sure that none of the people he loves die again. He hasn't been able to think of what to do to Giovanni but he would definitely be giving Giovanni a shock. He knew however that Giovanni would definitely make some moves that he wasn't supposed to make, thinking Grey was dead.

And seeing Grey alive afterward would be a shock to him. He went back to his room for his phone and dialled Alfred's number.

Alfred picked it up immediately.

"Hello Grey, I thought you'd slept already."

"No, actually, I have something to discuss with you. Are you busy?"

"No actually. I had some things to do. Actually, I was going to hide it from you but something is going on in Italy that I can figure out." Grey gathered his brows.

"What happened?"

"I can't get across to the men I sent to Italy. So, I just sent another. So, I just feel-," he pulled to a sudden stop and hesitated.

"What!" he exclaimed softly and Grey had a feeling it was directed at him.

"What happened, Alfred?"

"The president of the Italian shoe company has changed," he revealed.

Chapter 402: Confirmation

Grey squeezed his face harder as he tried to process the information. He wasn't quite getting it at all.

"What does that mean? I don't get it?"

'The shoe company in Italy, do you remember that you have shares there? That aside, you are one of the directors. The CEO shouldn't have changed without your knowledge. It means something has happened," Alfred explained.

Grey nodded briefly. 'That's right. But how did you know the CEO has changed when you weren't able to get across to the men you sent over there."

"I just saw it online. I had to seek information about Italy in all ways since I couldn't get across to my men. The shoe company is a big deal. If things are normal, I could tell through the company. Guess what, the inauguration was yesterday and now my men are missing," he explained further, a little anxious.

Alfred was right, something is definitely wrong. "Who is the new CEO?"

'That's the weird part. He didn't show his last name but he's Maximo," he hinted.

Grey reasoned it for a moment. "Something is definitely wrong. No one is contacting me about my shares. Someone eventually took the turn, especially when James used to be the CEO after his father died."

"Exactly, Hercules. That's why I said something is really wrong. But I think we should wait for the men to come back," he suggested.

Grey nodded once. 'That's right, we should but if they don't show up again, I will think of something else," he assured.

Alfred released a sigh. "Alright."

"So, I've decided that Jimmy will be given a befitting burial. My existence isn't supposed to be made known until I say so. And you should get me Jimmy's family as soon as possible."

"Alright, I understand and I will do everything," Alfred responded.

"Ok then, bye."

Just as he hung up, his phone started ringing again. But this time it was Maria.

"Hello, boss!" Maria yelled, her voice a mixture of all kinds of emotion. Her heart was beating very fast and she couldn't even think properly. She had been trying Grey's number since she heard the news but it wasn't available. She thought Grey was dead too.

"Yes, Maria."

"Oh My!" She was relieved. Grey spoke as though nothing had happened to him. "Are you really alright?"

"Yes, I am. Though a lot has happened, but I'm currently fine."

Maria released a sigh. "I thought something bad had happened to you. Your picture is all over the news and I-," she sobbed quietly. "I really thought you were the one," she explained in between sobs.

Grey smiled softly. "I understand Maria and I'm sorry about it. I'm sorry for making you worry so much. My driver died actually, so I can't say the incident didn't get me much. But I'm currently fine. I just need to do something and I will get back to you," he uttered.

Maria sucked in a breath. "Alright boss. I will quench the rumours and let everyone know that you are alright."

"No, don't do that. Only a few people that I trust know that I'm fine. It mustn't leak out, not yet," he informed her.

Maria hesitated. "Alright but what should I do?"

"I'm dead according to the world for now. It should remain so until I say otherwise. No one in Protos Publicita should know about it as well," he warned thickly.

"Alright, boss but we shouldn't discuss your death in our magazine too, right?"

"Not yet. I will give you a new order soon. Wait for it."

"Alright boss."

Grey hung up with a sigh. He walked out into the living room and hesitated when he saw Charles sitting beside Aphrodite and chatting with her.

They were talking about something so funny because Aphrodite laughed out loud, showing a dimple on her right cheek. They were so occupied that they didn't even know that he had joined them.

Grey wondered how it would have been if they were in a relationship. Aphrodite should have ended up with Charles and not him. He doesn't even see himself in any relationship in ten years. Aphrodite was after a lost cause.

Grey cleared his throat suddenly. "Look who we have here," Grey said and forced them to look at him.

"Please, I really need to speak with Mr. Alfred," Caramel beseeched softly. The tears were slowly dropping out of her eyes and she couldn't even stop it.

She had to confirm the news and Alfred was the only source. It was only Alfred that could tell her if Grey was really dead. If that doesn't happen,

Caramel wouldn't believe it. Though, her heart was breaking in halves already by the rumours.

How could Grey die in such a manner? She might not want to have anything to do with him but she still loved him. So, she wants him to be alive.

"Leave here, Miss. The boss didn't give the order to let anyone in. If you don't leave at this moment, we will be forced to chase you away," one of the men warned in a frightening voice to scare her out.

Caramel had called Alfred severally but he ignored them. She didn't know why but she knew that Alfred wouldn't have any choice but to tell her the truth if she was able to meet him that night.

Yes, it was late in the night and after much scolding and being obstinate that she didn't want to know about Grey's health status, she still found her way in front of Alfred's house.

"Please, I'm begging you," she sobbed. "Just let him know. Please!"

Aman walked closer suddenly. "Let her in. The boss said he would meet with her," he announced suddenly, and hope found its way to Caramel's face.

She was allowed entrance and led into the living room where Alfred was, waiting for her.

"Mr. Alfred," she called quickly. "I heard the news, is it-," she stopped as the words were suddenly stuck in her throat.

Alfred regarded her for a moment. 'Yes, he's dead. Hercules is dead," he confirmed.

Caramel eyes went wide with shock. She felt the strength leave her. "What!"

Alfred stood and took a few steps closer to her. 'You don't need him, anyways. Your mother will be discharged tomorrow. You should leave

Jacksonville and forget about Grey." "You didn't want to have anything to do with him anyways," her inner voice added.

Chapter 403: New billionaire president

One of Giovanni's men walked inside and bowed slightly. "They are all here, though, not all. Three of them refused to come," he announced.

Giovanni raised his head, a silly smile on his face. "Those men must be the ones that are already thinking of fully serving Grey.

They don't know that the tide has turned and they would eventually work for me," he stood, with happiness surging through him. "Everything will change today. I will return everything to the way it was before Grey showed up," he looked at the man.

"Let's go." He ordered.

The man nodded and led him out of the living room into the special meeting room where there were a lot of men already waiting for Giovanni.

Giovanni regarded them for a moment before he moved to sit at his usual place.

"what is this meeting for exactly?" Someone asked.

One of the men grunted at him. "You don't have permission to call us out here for anything."

"Let's go."

"Does that mean you haven't heard the news?" Giovanni questioned suddenly and looked at the man that had just spoken. " Haven't you?"

"Grey isn't dead. That can't be true! I think you have a lot to tell us. I know this is your work. You must have published the news to scare the members of the billionaire club."

"Yes, I agree with Dave! If not, Why would you call us today when the whole thing happened a few hours ago? You couldn't even wait for us to confirm it."

"Sure, it's suspicious!" One of them let out.

"What are you trying to say?" Martin yelled out. "Are you saying Giovanni is a liar?"

Giovanni cleared his throat meaningfully. "I don't think we should continue arguing. We were bound to talk about this anyways. It's either today or tomorrow or the day after."

Everyone grunted, unable to respond to Giovanni's question. The door opened all of a sudden and several men walked inside. Each of them stood behind the men and dropped a magazine in front of them.

"Here's the news circulating at the moment. If you haven't been able to access it, you should do so right now."

The members stared at the magazine for a while before they picked it up and read through the news concerning Grey.

"He was really bombed?" One of the men exclaimed softly.

Murmurs started among the members, each sharing their thoughts with other men. The news has truly reached their side but some of them were still doubting it. In fact, they have tried to reach Alfred but to no avail. All they were waiting for was for Jamal to reach them and tell them the truth.

But Giovanni was taking a step faster.

"Hercules is dead!" Giovanni announced again, in a loud voice. Fear gripped everyone at the fact that Hercules was dead. They all suspected it was Giovanni but no one could step forward and say to him

bodily for fear of what might happen to them as well. They know how much Hercules has challenged Giovanni. They were enemies even before their young ones were born.

Asides, the members used to fear Giovanni a lot anyways until Hercules showed up. And somehow, they had to move back to it or they might die. Giovanni didn't have to say it, they knew it.

"Grey is dead, the billionaire president is dead, Hercules is gone!" Giovanni announced.

Everyone sat up and looked at Giovanni with a new expression.

"So, that means that there has to be a new billionaire president. So, I already met up with Jamal and the billionaire members will have a meeting next week. However," Giovanni hesitated as he looked at the men, watching out for any new expression but seeing none, he continued. "What I need from you is easy. I only need you all to support my motion and make me the next billionaire president," he revealed.

"That will not happen!" One of them uttered.

"We need to confirm if Grey is truly dead! We can't believe the news! Just like that!"

"Oh, you still think that Grey is alive even though the news is saying otherwise?" Martin demanded angrily.

"Well, it's normal to want that. I sincerely don't think there's anything wrong with that," another man supported the first one.

"It doesn't matter actually," Giovanni cut in quickly. "Those that would not listen to me will be cut off like Grey," he threatened in a deep voice. "I'm watching everyone so closely. So, what will be your decision?"

"The billionaire member shouldn't be threatened. We are free to choose whoever we want as the boss. This shouldn't be a threat. It's not what this club was built on!" One of the men fired.

Giovanni looked at him, with interesting glare. "Really? You can leave if you want to then. This thing isn't compulsory. You are free to do what you want," he muttered.

The man groaned inwardly and got up. "Fine, I'm leaving. I won't be a part of your plan anyways and I'm seriously going to inform Jamal of your hidden plan," he threatened as he walked towards the door.

A gunshot was heard suddenly. The man was forced to a sudden stop. A wince escaped him before he fell to the floor and blood rushed out from the hole in his head.

Everyone gasped in shock, and disorder came upon the men in the room.

"This is a disaster!"

"This is not going to be good!"

Everyone let out their complaints at the same time and it resulted in noise.

"silent!" Giovanni yelled suddenly, with an angry expression.

Everyone went silent immediately. "I wasn't asking anyone," he stated.

Well, if anyone seriously wanted to go against Giovanni, they shouldn't have appeared in the meeting that night.

"Grey is dead and the sooner you accept that, the better. We are having a billionaire meeting soon and I will be the new president, with or without your help. But then, would you prefer to die in this case or not? That should be your focus. And I will help you if you want," he uttered.

Martin nodded, feeling happy in himself. He never liked Grey anyways.

"So, any objections?" Giovanni asked suddenly, a smile suddenly appearing on his face. "You can leave like the other man. You might just be forced to go to heaven ahead of me."

No one could talk at this moment.

Chapter 404: Leaving

Grey woke up with a sudden headache. He had a lot of drinks last night with Charles. In fact, Charles decided to sleep over. While Grey walked inside to sleep, Charles and Aphrodite were still chatting. They seemed to like each other's company recently or maybe Aphrodite was already falling for him.

Grey looked up and realized it was almost 9 o'clock in the morning. He walked inside the bathroom for a quick bath. He picked up his phone and walked out of the room. Charles and

Aphrodite were in the kitchen cooking.

Grey regarded them for a moment before he turned to return to his room and probably give them time to talk further but the door opened and one of the men walked inside.

He moved toward Grey and bowed slightly. "Boss, there's someone here to see you."

Grey raised a skeptical brow. "Who?"

"The man that brought her said she's from Mr. Alfred."

Grey reasoned it for a moment and remember what he had discussed with Alfred the night before. The woman must be a family of Jimmy.

"Let her in," he ordered.

The man bowed slightly and walked out of the living room.

Grey looked over at Charles and Aphrodite again. They didn't notice that he was even in the room. They were so occupied. The door opened again and the man walked inside again, but followed closely by a woman in her late twenties. She was short and very beautiful.

The man bowed slightly before he walked out, leaving the woman inside.

Grey regarded her for a moment, at her reddish and swollen face. It looked like she had been crying.

He moved closer to her. "Raise your head," he whispered.

The woman complied slowly and Grey was able to see the tears flow freely from her face. She was really in real pain and it made the blade in Grey's chest twist. He remembered quickly that it was his fault that Jimmy was dead. If he hadn't made that one decision, he wouldn't be.

"who are you to Jimmy?"

The woman swallowed hard as if a lump was blocking her throat. "I'm-," she stopped again. "I'm his wife and I'm carrying his baby already. He doesn't even know. I was going to make it a surprise on his birthday. I was going to tell him that he was going to see his son soon. His long-awaited wish was going to be fulfilled but-," she released another round of sobs.

Grey's heart ached to watch her. "I'm sorry. I'm very sorry for everything that has happened to you."

The woman nodded once, "Thank you but who are you? Mr. Alfred only told me there's someone I need to meet."

Grey released an exasperated sigh and goes to sit. "You should sit as well so that we can discuss with you. The earlier, the better. I wouldn't want to keep you here for long."

The woman was skeptical for a moment, unsure of what was happening. She nevertheless complied.

"What's your name? I mean what should I call you?"

"Sophia."

"Sophia, I'm someone who knows your husband very well. I am as saddened as you are at his death and I promise you, if I could do anything to bring him back, I would." He said truthfully.

Somehow, Sophia believed him. There was a tendency of honesty in his voice.

"I want to give him a befitting burial. Also, I will like to support you in any way that I can. I will do anything you ask of me."

"But why?" Sophia was shocked.

"As I said, I'm close to Jimmy. I only want to do what he's not going to be able to do for you again."

Sophia nodded several times. "Thank you so much, I appreciate it, I really do."

Grey smiled slightly as he watched her. "I will send someone to give you some money and you can communicate with the person whenever you need me."

Sophia sobbed even harder.

Grey smiled. "You can leave now then."

She stood up with a smiling face and bowed several times again. "I really appreciate it. Thank you so much!" She finished before walking out.

"That's actually a nice thing to do for her. I'm sure Jimmy will be happy wherever he is," Charles said suddenly.

Grey looked up at him, then back at Aphrodite. "I thought you guys were having fun."

Charles nodded once. "We were just cooking. You must be starving, aren't you? Aphrodite is almost done." He sat beside him. "I'm really glad that you are alright. I thought something bad had happened to you for real when I saw the news."

Grey smiled softly. "I'm glad I'm able to see you again, actually. I thought I would be gone forever. Actually, I was shocked for a moment."

Charles released a sigh. "I was as well."

Grey's phone rang suddenly. It was Alfred calling. He picked it up immediately.

"Hello, Alfred. Good morning."

"Good morning, Hercules. Have you seen Jimmy's wife? I sent her over already."

"Yes, I have. She left here a few minutes ago." Grey responded.

"Alright. I also need to report to you concerning the men I sent to Italy. I was able to talk to them when they arrived in Italy but the connection got lost. I sincerely think we need to talk about it."

Grey reasoned it for a moment, "I'm going to Italy." He said suddenly, startling Charles for a moment.

"What! Going where?" Charles questioned.

Grey looked at Charles for a moment and made a nod of his ear at him. "Call the elders to my house tonight for a meeting."

"Alright, boss," Alfred responded and the line went off.

Grey looked at Charles. "I've been thinking a lot about it and I've finally decided on what to do."

Charles was a bit confused. "Going to Italy? Why? What for?"

Besides, what about Jacksonville?"

Grey watched Charles for a moment. "Well, I also need to think of Italy. That aside, I think I am going to stay dead for now, till I'm back. If James really needs my help, I should offer it out. He has always been helpful to me as well. Aside from that, I have shares in the company. So, I have the right to know what is happening over there. So, I'm going to Italy."

Chapter 405: Dissatisfaction

Seth and Smith met each other at the office. They were very excited that things were going fine. With Grey gone, things would go even better.

"Yesterday night was fun. The girls were amazing!" Smith laughed.

Seth joined in. "I told you. I told you it was going to be a lot of fun! Come, hurry up! We need to get the order and all our dreams will come through," he jubilated.

Smith smiled. "I can't wait. We have to hurry up. Maria might have a lot of appointments today. Though it doesn't matter how long it takes, our order will be waiting for us whenever we are given the chance to come forward," he explained.

"But I think we should do this now. I can't wait to get my hands on it," they both walked into the car. Smith took the driver's side and soon, they were on the way to Protos Pubblicita.

Smith was so happy and would have mocked David and the rest if they were in Jacksonville at that moment. They had all refused to help him, yet Grey eventually died. Though, he couldn't stop thinking there was more to it than they were saying. It felt like something actually happened but Smith didn't even know and there was no way to find out.

They entered the garage and found a nice spot to park before they both entered the lobby. They didn't stop until they were almost at Maria's office.

Violet walked to them. "Is there anything I can do for you?"

"Yes, we are here to see Maria. I'm sure she's waiting for us already," Seth explained with so much boldness that amazed Violet.

Violet made a nod of her head. "Alright, follow me then. I will announce your presence to her."

In the next few minutes, Seth and Smith were in Maria's office, smiling widely.

Maria blinked once, unable to comprehend what was happening. "

Hello and good morning."

Seth nodded once. "Good morning, Maria. We are here now as we couldn't wait for you to send us the message."

Maria blinked once, then twice, totally lost. "I don't understand what you are talking about but please, have your seat," she indicated to the chairs in front of her.

Seth and Smith nodded and took their seats.

"We didn't want to wait for so long concerning the order. So, we decided to come here for the news," Seth explained.

Maria blinked once, totally lost again. "Haven't we discussed that already?"

Seth nodded once. "Yes we have but it's ok. We know already that you've changed your decision after what happened to Grey. We didn't want you guys to look embarrassed, which is why we are here." He explained.

Maria chuckled. "What do you mean? You mean the news circulating about Grey?"

Smith nodded. "Yes, we are sure. A dead man can't handle the order, so it should be ours."

Maria watched them for a moment before she folded her arms in front of her. "Now, I understand you guys. You already expected us to change our minds about who to give the order to since we initially planned on giving Diamond base but now, their CEO is dead?"

Seth nodded happily, a smile tugging at his mouth. "We didn't want you to be embarrassed is why we are here," he repeated.

"We aren't," Maria said casually.

Seth furrowed his brows. "What?"

"We definitely didn't change our mind. It doesn't matter if Grey is dead, we have given the order to Diamond base and not their CEO. I'm sure a new CEO will be appointed and everything will work accordingly," she explained, shocking them.

Seth and Smith were dumbfounded.

"w_what are you trying to say?" Smith stammered.

"That you should leave my office now before I call security on you!" She said slowly.

Seth and Smith were forced to their feet. They were shocked that they couldn't speak as they walked out of the office.

Yet again, Seth felt a stab of annoyance at Smith. It was his fault that he was facing another embarrassment. He would never be able to forgive him.

Jamal looked up at Dave for a moment. "Are you serious? Was there really a meeting yesterday night at Giovanni's place?"

Dave nodded briefly. "Yes. I wasn't invited but I saw the members enter his house. And it took a while for them to come out. I know that they discussed a lot there but it's a pity I know nothing of it." he explained.

Jamal nodded once. "We will confirm that when Gary gets here. I'm really sure that he was invited. He has always been neutral." he assured.

Dave nodded once. "Alright but I don't think there's anything we can do if Grey is truly dead."

Jamal watched him for a moment. He was right anyways. If something had really happened to Grey, then there was no saying what Giovanni would do. He has always wanted the president position. But Jamal didn't know that Hercules would be gone like that. Hercules was so powerful even though he was very young.

And Jamal was thinking he might even be the next king of the world. But that has suddenly been thwarted.

The door opened suddenly and Gary walked inside. He grunted as he moved to sit beside Dave. "What did you call me for?"

"You were in the meeting last night, weren't you?" Gary looked at Jamal for a moment. "Yes, I was. Why?"

"Why did you discuss this? What is Giovanni currently planning?"

"Becoming the next president and he's going to succeed with it," he watched Jamal's expression. "One of the members is dead. He killed him, just as he would kill anyone that wants to stop him. And I think that includes you as well," he explained.

"What???" Jamal exclaimed softly. "Giovanni killed a member?"

Jamal hadn't checked the news that morning so he didn't know. In fact, he has been trying to reach Alfred but all to no avail. He wanted to confirm if Grey was really dead or not.

"Why are you acting as if you don't know Giovanni even before he joined the billionaire club?"

Right, Giovanni was very dangerous. He thought Hercules would put him in his place but he had defeated him as well.

"Why did you discuss this? What is Giovanni currently planning?"

Chapter 406: Jekyll and Hyde

"yes! I think that should be fine. Gregory should go to Italy,"

Luciano supported Gregory.

Grey released a sigh.

"I don't want Gregory to go in my stead because I have a main plan," he announced.

Alfred looked at him.

"What is your plan?"

Grey sat well, "I want to leave Jacksonville for a while.Giovanni can think all he wants but it would only be for a while," he revealed.

Charles gathered his brows.

"What?" Grey nodded once.

"Yes, I'm leaving Jacksonville but just for a while.Come to think of it," he looked at Alfred.

"I still want to grieve and get even more prepared to defeat Giovanni. Along the way, I would be able to help James and also take care of the company," he explained.

"But leaving Jacksonville. Is that supposed to be the solution? Is it the right one?" Luciano questioned.

"It is," Grey responded Aphrodite squeezed her brow together.

"I don't understand. You will be living two lives? A dead man in Jacksonville, and a living man in Italy? Does that even make any sense?" She was confused.

Grey looked at her and nodded briefly.

"You got it all right.That's exactly what I plan on doing."

"Isn't that absurd, Hercules? I don't think we should leave Jacksonville like this.Giovanni would think he has finally gotten hold of everything.He would become the billionaire president, and try to attack you underneath.That aside, he's eventually going to be the king of the world.I'm sure he has it all planned out already, " Jayden suspected.

Grey smiled slightly.

"I've thought it over several times and if Giovanni isn't telling the world who I really am, he probably has a hidden plan. I know he's going to try to attack me from underneath but I'm going to be prepared for him," he looked at Jayden.

"I can always run my companies from Italy. Come to think of it, I've not had the time for a vacation. I will just see going to Italy as a way to have a nice vacation," he nodded briefly, the smile spreading across his face.

"Grey!"

Aphrodite called in a funny way.

"This is not the type to go for vacation."

Grey looked at Aphrodite with a long expression.

"I need it. I've been fighting Giovanni for a long time in Jacksonville. I think I need a new air to think of the perfect plan that will take Giovanni out eventually."

"Hercules is right," Alfred interceded.

"We need a perfect plan or Giovanni might succeed in whatever he's currently planning. We shouldn't rush or we might find ourselves landing in the trap he has laid down for us and Hercules."

Grey nodded once, walked to his bar, and retrieved a bottle of champagne. He moved closer to them and unturned the bottle several times before he opened it.

As a result, the content rushed out and splashed around.

The elders adjusted in their seats to escape the mess, wondering what Grey was doing.

"See," Grey started and looked up.

At this moment, everyone focused their attention on him.

"Because of the disruption I caused the champagne, it wasted. Yes, I was able to reveal a nice opening but there's nothing to do with the wasted champagne. It's on the floor and some probably splashed on you," he hesitated as he watched the expression on his elders' face.

"Those are the lives of my men. That's why I'm going to go slowly because I'm never going to lose anyone again like I've lost Jimmy. None of my men will die!" He finished in a deep voice.

Aphrodite chuckled slightly.

"I like that!"

She stood and looked at the others.

"I'm going to Italy with Grey. He's right actually, I mean doesn't that show how much of a boss he is? He's the best boss those men would ever have." Gregory released an exasperated sigh.

"I understand but I'm still disturbed. We don't know what really happened. How can we go to Italy when we don't even know what we are supposed to meet over there?"

"The elders should go with him," Luciano said suddenly.

"We will keep him safe."

"No," Jayden rushed in.

"We will only arouse suspicion. Giovanni will see through our lies with that and the reason why he went to Italy in the first place wouldn't make a sense anymore," he explained.

Grey nodded briefly.

"The only people that are allowed to follow me are Charles and Aphrodite. Alfred and Gregory can come along too but it would be a different plane and it would be because of other reasons. We can't get Giovanni to start spying on you. The moment he starts that, we should be aware that we would get caught anytime."

Everyone nodded briefly.

"So, does this mean that we will have to spread the news that you are dead?" Luciano demanded.

Grey reasoned it for a moment.

"Maybe but it's not compulsory. We can just let the rumours be. And we will be having a befitting burial to the second corpse that is in my stead."

"Are you going with your men?" Charles asked suddenly.

"Yes, they will be divided between you and Aphrodite but that will be after the burial. I'm attending Jimmy's burial," he revealed.

Everyone groaned inwardly.

"I will get you a nice house to stay, secretly," Jayden offered quickly.

Grey looked at him and nodded briefly, with a smile.

"Though, I have a job for you in Jacksonville. It would be you and Luciano. Giovanni will decide to take a step soon, you two will watch out for him and get back to me."

"Alright, Hercules," Luciano and Jayden chorused.

Grey moved back to the bar again but this time, he retrieved a cup.

"And I'm not going to let Giovanni win either even if I'm in Italy. I will slowly give him shocks of his life," he moved towards the table, took the bottle of champagne, and poured himself some of its content.

"I'm going to join the billionaire club in Italy and I'm going to be the king of the world!" He announced.

Alfred nodded, a smile on his face.

Grey moved back to the bar again but this time, he retrieved a cup.

"Alright, Hercules," Luciano and Jayden chorused.

Chapter 407: Burial procession

Grey stood far away and looked over at the people dressed in black as they performed the burial rite. Clad in black trousers and a black hoodie to cover his face, he was sure that no one would recognize him as Grey.

There were many people there, as Alfred gave Grey the idea of having the fake Grey's burial be at the same time as Jimmy's.

And it was a bit disappointing that the members of the billionaire club were not in attendance. What if he was dead for real? Was that how they were going to turn against him immediately?

Though right, they weren't supposed to show up because he died as Grey but they could find a way to turn up. They would find a way if it was something else but not for Grey.

Well, he didn't expect them to be faithful. They weren't his family after all.

The people started to leave one after the other but Grey stayed and continued to look at the procession.

Everyone left except for Jimmy's wife. She clutched hard at her baby as she stared at his grave. And Grey knew that she was crying.

Though, she was far away and he couldn't see her face.

But she wasn't the only one standing by the grave, in front of his fake grave was another lady.

Grey's eyes went wide when he saw who it was. It was Caramel. He didn't know if he should show up at that moment and let her know that he was alive. No, that would cause people to see him as well and the lie would spread like wildfire in the harmattan.

But he could call her at that moment. He still had her digit. He could call her and let her know that he was alright, only her.

But Grey didn't know what to do. He looked away as he thought about it. When he looked up again, Caramel was already walking away.

Grey released a sigh and moved towards the cars parked at the back of the church. He opened the back seat of the Benz and got inside.

There were some of the elders inside the car. Alfred, Jayden,

Gregory, and Charles were the only elders inside the car.

"Is something wrong, Hercules? Are you already thinking of changing your mind?" Gregory demanded calmly.

Grey shook his head briefly. "Not that, I was just thinking about a lot," he looked at Alfred. "Did Caramel come over to you? To ask you about me?"

Alfred looked up at him for a moment, "No-," he said finally. "I think she decided to finally let go of you. She wouldn't need to ask me since her mother has been discharged and she has nothing to do with me anymore. Besides, she already made up her mind."

Grey looked away, a bit confused. "Then why did she come to my burial and spend so much time? She didn't even leave like the others."

"She came?" Alfred was shocked.

Grey nodded briefly. "I'm sure she asked one of you guys about me. Could it be Aphrodite?"

Alfred released a sigh. "She asked me. She came to me."

Grey relaxed back. "I knew it. I knew that would happen. Why didn't you tell her the truth?"

Alfred hesitated. "You seriously want that?"

Grey nodded briefly. "She wouldn't be so disturbed if you had. She looked so sad thinking I had died."

"Grey," Alfred called softly. "You remember how important this plan is. I don't think a lot of people should be aware, especially someone that Giovanni knows. Who knows, he could be spying on her. If you really want to act dead, You should be able to convince Caramel if you want to convince Giovanni."

Grey released a sigh but he didn't say anything.

"Besides, you and Caramel have called it off days back. I don't think you should be worried about her, you should be worried about yourself instead. Caramel has decided to move on, even before she found out that you were dead. You should do the same," he explained.

Grey nodded briefly, finding sense in what he had said. "Alright," he released a relieved sigh and pushed the thought about Caramel to the back of his mind. "Let's meet in Italy in two days."

"You are leaving today, right?" Gregory asked. Grey nodded briefly. "Yes."

"I've found a nice house for you. Charles will show you the way," Jayden revealed.

Grey nodded again. "Thank you all for your hard work," he sat back. "Jacksonville is going to be empty without me but well, not for so long. Giovanni will probably attack Protos Pubblicita first. I want you to double the security before we leave," he ordered Charles.

"Alright boss."

Grey regarded him for a moment. "Let's go then," he got down and walked to the Lamborghini that was close to the Benz. He got inside and waited for Charles.

"Are you alright?" Aphrodite asked suddenly. She sat on the passenger's side of the car.

Grey nodded once. "I'm fine. Why do you think I won't be?" Aphrodite smiled. "You just ended your life in Jacksonville. It might only be for some time but you really have. So, you might be feeling somehow."

Grey smiled and looked out through the window. "Maybe I am but I am also excited to start a new life. Although, I'm worried about what I would be meeting in Italy."

Several moments later, Charles entered. "Are we leaving now?"

Grey nodded once. "Yes, we are. If something has really changed in Italy, then it won't be advisable for you to show up suddenly. So, I will go ahead before you," he revealed suddenly.

"No, that's risky. We have to be beside you to protect you," Charles said quickly.

"You won't be leaving me totally. You will just be one hour apart. I just need an hour to ascertain the situation and get used to some things in Italy. I will be fine if you keep to my instructions."

Aphrodite looked at Charles and nodded briefly.

Chapter 408: Worried

Giovanni looked up. "Did you spy on Caramel?" He demanded.

One of the men nodded briefly. "We did but we didn't see her meet with anyone besides from Alfred. We couldn't get what they discussed but she has not acted any difference as to how she did when she heard the news about Grey's death. Infact, she spent a lot of time at the burial, crying about Grey." he explained.

"Why?" Another inquired. "Do you think Grey isn't dead for real?"

Giovanni made a side smile. "Of course, I know. I know he's dead but there's no harm in confirming things. What was Jamal's response?"

"That the meeting will hold tomorrow afternoon."

Giovanni's smile got even wider. "Good. He has finally succumbed. I'm sure he would. He only needed some time to confirm the allegations from Alfred. Several times now, the allegations have always turned out unreal. So, I don't blame him but I'm going to deal with him for turning his back on me. But that will be when I'm done with Grey totally," he revealed.

Giovanni was certain that Grey was dead through the information that his men brought home that night. But he still felt a bit strange about it. It looked as if Grey passed away too quickly and not as he had expected. It got too sudden. Maybe it was because he had been trying to kill him for a while now but to no avail.

Well, he was supposed to kill Grey eventually anyways, either yesterday or tomorrow.

Caramel and Grey used to be very close. If Grey was alive, Caramel would be aware. But with the explanation that his men had just given him, he decided to believe that Grey was really dead. Well, he

was. If not, he would have showed up like he did the last time unless he was planning something at the billionaire meeting.

Grey rode in Charles's private jet while pretending to be one of Charles's guards. Charles' main guard, Dominic led them inside. They were twelve in number including Grey.

The attendant didn't suspect anything as Grey was all covered in black clothes.

Aphrodite and Charles on the other hand were lurking behind at the airport to give Grey some time to fly.

When they were about to fly, Dominic placed a call to Charles to inform him that Grey has moved.

"Boss," Dominic called softly when he was closer to Grey. "I've told boss Charles that we have moved. Is there anything else you want me to do for you?"

Grey glanced at his wristwatch. "We should arrive in Italy at approximately 8 at the night, right?"

Dominic nodded briefly. "Yes boss, we should if we don't encounter any problems on the way."

Grey nodded once. "Find a nice club we can go to, especially a club that is always visited by mafia bosses. A club that is always crowded. We are visiting tonight. Also, send a message to Charles and let him know the club that I will be. Tell him that I will message him if I want him to come over. So, he should go home with Aphrodite when they arrive," he ordered.

Dominic nodded briefly. "Alright boss."

"And get me some alcoholic drink," Grey said quickly before Dominic would turn away.

Grey had a plan to execute already. A smile firmed on his face at the excitement.

Aphrodite looked at Charles with worry written all over her face. It wasn't yet the time for them to fly but she was already worrying about Grey.

"Do you think he would be fine?"

Charles nodded briefly as he drank his cola. "I'm sure he would. You shouldn't be so worried."

Aphrodite released a sigh. "We have five mafia bosses in Italy, Charles. And these bosses are exactly like Giovanni. They have power and they have influence. Grey could be walking into a trap.

In fact, it could be a trap set by James," she explained and worries marred her face. "Grey is stronger than James. This could have made him jealous," she stressed.

Charles regarded Aphrodite for a moment. "You are with me and you are worrying about Grey. I'm sure you love him so very much. Though, I thought that was going to change one day."

Aphrodite released an exasperated sigh as she took her cola and sipped slowly. She looked away for a moment. "You do know how much Grey weighs in my heart. I don't think there is any man that can take his place at this very moment and I don't even plan to release it."

"Grey has no plan on engaging with you on a romantic level," he announced.

Aphrodite looked at him and smiled softly. "It's ok. I don't expect him to have. It's sufficient that I'm beside him. I will hold on to that for now but I think we have to move now if we really don't want anything bad to happen to Grey," she stood. "I'm getting so worried already."

Charles laughed and finished his cola on a go. "Grey hasn't even arrived in Italy. He's still on the plane. You shouldn't be working yourself so hard. And besides, he's capable of taking care of himself. If he can't do that small thing, he would never be able to protect you," he muttered and stood. "And that is the most important thing. Well, unless you don't believe in him."

"Let's go, Charles. Believing in Grey has nothing to do with all I've just said. [t doesn't. I know he can protect himself but I won't fail to protect him likewise. What had happened over ten years ago will never repeat itself," she finished and didn't wait for Charles to say another word before she walked away.

Grey thought they were getting along but they would never do.

Aphrodite was always thinking about Grey. It was something she had promised herself never to stop.

Just as Caramel had severe contact with Grey, Charles was ready to forget about Aphrodite and focus on the mission ahead.

His father was also one of the people that started the fight with

Giovanni, it was only right that he works harder to help Grey even if it meant his death.

Chapter 409: Worried

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Giovanni, it was only right that he works harder to help Grey even if it meant his death.

Chapter 410: Caged

"Boss," a soft voice reached to his ears.

Grey looked up slowly. He slept off just a few minutes after the plan had moved.

Though, it was part of the plan. He wanted to look wasted.

"Have we arrived?"

"Yes boss, we have," Dominic responded.

"It's kind of late. It's thirty minutes after eight already but this is the time for nightclubs to get even more interesting." Grey sat up.

"Tell me more about this nightclub."

"It's frequently visited by the mafia bosses in town. In fact, it's the most popular one in the city. This particular nightclub even has a casino. And just as Protos Pubblicita is popular in Jacksonville, Ex Maximo is here," he responded.

Grey nodded once and got up.

"Two men are coming with me. The other should stay back. You can stay around but I advise you to go to Charles's house. I won't be needing your service today."

The men bowed. He stepped out of the plane with Dominic and another man.

Dominic decided to go with him because he knew that Charles would kill him if anything bad happened to Grey.

Even when Grey just came, Charles protected him so much.

Even when Grey was yet to reveal himself to the mafia group, Charles had always told them never to lay their hand on him. It was at that moment that Dominic realised that Grey must be someone of high personality.

And well, he turned out to be their mafia lord.

Acar was already waiting for them.

One of the men hurried to open the door for Grey. He got inside the back seat and relaxed.

"To the club."

There was a nod of the head as the car pulled out into the busy street.

"Even Though the Ex-Maximo club is always visited by everyone, it closes early. It closes at 10:00," Dominic revealed.

"why? "

"I have no idea now unless I'm able to gather more information when we get there. There wasn't any reason provided on the internet," he explained.

Grey nodded briefly.

And the men that Alfred had sent kept missing. He knew there was more to it than he could see.

That night was the time to unravel some mystery.

But the name of the club rang a bell in his ears.

He closed his eyes and tried to think of where he had heard it from.

His eyes went wide with shock when he remember.

Alfred told him the name of the new president of the Italian shoe company and it was Maximo.

Could the club have been named after him? If so, then that means it belonged to Maximo and he might likely show up that night.

And well, it could be a coincidence as well.

There were a lot of possibilities.

Well, he wasn't sure as well that Maximo was the one killing Alfred's men.

It could be anyone.

James and his father obviously had a lot of enemies.

Anyone would want to control James as his father had controlled them for years.

But he also needed to know if James was still alive or not.

Maybe someone in the club would know the details.

Though, he had to be very careful.

He could end up entering the trap that Maximo has set.

The driver hit the brake in front of the biggest nightclub in Italy.

Dominic looked at Grey.

"Are we entering with you?"

Grey regarded him for a moment.

"Don't tell me you are scared."

Dominic managed a smile.

"Not really boss."

Grey opened the door and got down.

His gaze searched around.

There were different cars parked anyhow.

And there were a lot of men standing around as if they were on guard.

His eyes met with one.

Their gaze held and locked for a moment before Grey looked away.

The other man's expression was very hard.

Even as Grey and Dominic walked inside, Grey still felt his eyes on him.

"We are supposed to act like friends. Don't forget," Grey reminded as they entered the nightclub.

He adjusted his jeans and hoodie that fitted him as though it was tailored for him. He moved closer to the barman.

"what type of wine can I have here?"

Grey inquired from the pale barman in front of him.

The boy's eyes went wide for a moment.

"You are new here?" Grey nodded with a smile.

"I would like to get drunk.I want one of your best."

The boy's gaze searched around for a moment before it rested on Grey again.

"Barolo," he muttered.

Grey nodded.

"A glass is enough for now," he looked at Dominic.

"You care for some, friend?"

Dominic looked at him for a moment and opened his mouth to say something.

"Friend!" a deep voice said suddenly, interrupting Dominic of the word he was about to say.

" We have a new man in our midst," the voice announced.

The barman pulled a glass of water to Grey but before he could take it, a hand had reached out for it.
The man raised the glass of wine.

"Look! And he's handsome," he turned to look at Grey.

"Where are you from?"

"Seattle," Grey lied, with a smile.

The man safely placed the cup in Grey's hand.

"We should greet him." Everyone was looking at Grey now as if they barely understood what the man was saying.

"Shall we?" the man raised a brow.

The crowd stretched out their cups in the air and laughed. It was as if they were expecting Grey.

The man turned to Grey again.

"Let's go," he informed him and didn't wait for Grey to say a word before he started to pull him toward the crowds.

As if he wanted Grey to enter the crowds, he was skeptical but didn't say a word.

The crowds parted slowly until Grey could easily look at the stage ahead of him.

There were two poles on the stage and Grey didn't need anyone to inform him that it was a stage for pole dancing.

Grey looked up at the man.

"I need to get my drink."

"Here!" someone said suddenly from his other side, startling Grey for a moment.

An unknown man carefully placed the cup in his hand and with a smile, said.

"Enjoy."

The light dimmed suddenly as a lady walked out, almost half naked.

When Grey looked back, he realized suddenly that the crowd were not actually going to watch the show, they were intentionally keeping him there, preventing him from leaving.

It was a trap but Grey didn't know where it was from.