

Secretly TBB 431

Chapter 431: Get together

It was late in the night and time does the get-together that he had promised Maximo and the other mafia lords.

As Grey had his bath, he couldn't stop thinking about what had happened that morning and the fact that Charles hadn't returned home. He had called him several times but he wouldn't pick up.

And he was still grieving the fact that Aphrodite was no longer his.

Well, that was what he wanted, wasn't it? The main reason why he had started to think of giving her a chance was that he didn't want to hurt her forever but now that it looked like she had found another guy, it was best for him to stop thinking.

Yet, Grey couldn't stop thinking about it throughout the day.

A soft knock sounded on the door, just a Grey was wearing his trouser.

Before he could talk, the door opened and Charles walked inside. He was clad in Louis Vuitton wear, different from the clothes he was putting on that morning when he ran out of the house.

"You look ready," Grey muttered.

Charles nodded once.

"Yes, I am. In fact, your men are already waiting for you downstairs."

Grey regarded him for a moment.

"Are you alright? Did something happen to Aurora?"

Charles went mute for a moment.

"Aurora left Italy already. Actually, she wanted us to talk before she would leave but I missed her already."

Grey sighed, concerned.

"What are you going to do now?"

"Nothing," Charles sighed.

"She once told me she would like to return to Jacksonville. I will just have to think that's where she went to. Then, I can comb through the city of Jacksonville for her when we get back."

Grey nodded.

"That's good."

He was done in no time and they both walked out of the house.

Two men were already waiting for Grey like Charles had said.

Charles and Grey entered the backseat while the men took the front seat.

And they arrived at Ex- Maximo in no time.

Grey had never been to a party quite like this before.

The Ex- Maximo Club was filled with different kinds of exotic alcohol and sexy ladies.

It was a gathering of some of the most powerful mafia bosses in Italy.

And yet, Grey felt completely at home.

Maximo met Grey the moment he walked inside with Charles.

"Grey! Welcome!"

The party was just starting when Maximo led Grey to a large table in the center of the room.

It was surrounded by plush couches and chairs, and several attractive women were already seated there.

The club was seething with a lot of people and Grey loved the feeling.

The only people present at the gathering that Grey was invited to were the mafia lords and girls that were brought to satisfy them.

"We have been waiting for you!"

Enzo said suddenly with a wide smile on his face.

Grey went to sit with Charles.

"Here's Charles, my right hand."

Grey watched as they exchanged pleasantries with Charles.

"That reminds me," Leonardo said suddenly.

"There's someone I forgot to introduce you to. Actually, he wasn't around that morning. It's," he gestured towards a man by his right.

"This is Carlo!"

Grey turned towards him and shock kept him motionless for a moment. He was looking at the manager.

"Aren't you the manager of the Luxurious boutique?" Carlo nodded briefly.

"I am. Nice meeting you."

Grey was really happy. He hadn't expected it.

No wonder he was able to tackle the president's son.

If it was someone else, he would have taken the president's son's side.

"So, why are you in Italy?" Romeo asked suddenly.

Grey relaxed.

"Well, it's more on a vacation level. I just came here to see this side of the world. And besides, I wanted to discuss my shares with Maximo," he explained.

Everyone nodded in understanding.

Grey was surprised by how easily he was accepted into their world. He didn't quite understand why, but he was grateful for it.

Two ladies walked closer to Grey and Charles.

They slipped into the seat beside them.

Grey looked at them and shook his head briefly.

They understood his language and walked away.

"So, Maximo,"

Grey turned to him.

"I need another assistance from you. The receptionist you sacked yesterday. Can you employ her back?"
Maximo nodded.

"Anything for you, Grey."

As the night went on, Grey was given special treatment.

More women were assigned to his couch to please him, but he wasn't interested. He politely declined their advances and focused on the conversation with the other mafia bosses.

Maximo eventually made his way over to Grey's couch and shared a drink with him.

They talked about business and the future of their organizations.

"You can talk to me whenever you need anything and it will be done," Maximo promised.

Grey nodded once.

"I will remember that. Thank you for all this. And yes, I will like to see Mattee before I leave. I hope you can arrange that."

Maximo nodded once.

"That's simple."

After the formalities of the party, everyone was doing other things.

Some were dancing to the music, while others were playing card games.

Grey decided to take a walk around the club and explore. He made his way to the bar and ordered a drink. He walked out of the bar.

As he sipped his drink, he overheard a conversation between two men in the corner of the room.

They were discussing a shipment of drugs that was coming in soon.

Grey knew that this was valuable information.

He quickly finished his drink and made his way back to Maximo's couch.

Maximo was busy talking to another mafia boss, so Grey discreetly slipped him a note with the information he had overheard.

Maximo smiled.

"Thank you so much, Grey," he expressed and slipped the note into his pocket.

Grey felt a sense of satisfaction knowing that he had helped Maximo in some small way.

The party continued into the early hours of the morning.

Grey was exhausted, but he didn't want to leave just yet. n.ovelebook He felt like he had finally found a place where he belonged.

As the sun began to rise, Grey walked to Charles who was still drinking and chatting with the other mafia men.

Some had retired.

"Charles, we need to leave.It's time to go," he informed him.

Charles nodded and stood.

Grey greeted the men and made his way back to his villa.

He was still processing everything that had happened that night.

He knew that he had gotten in deep with the Italian mafia, but he wondered why they wanted to be close to him.

Chapter 432: Too late

Avery walked out of the plane and hesitated, as the wind blew at her hair harder, pulling them to different locations.

She let out a sigh before she flagged down a car and got inside.

A smile was tugging at her lips.

"Good to be in Italy."

Within all the years that Avery had left Jacksonville, she started a business in Seattle and it has been blooming well for her.

She has been thinking for a while about taking her business to another stage. She wanted to go back to Jacksonville but she didn't think it was a good idea. She could eventually go back to Jacksonville and show her uncle that she could do it without his help.

At least, the business has been moving very well without his interference.

But she didn't know what she really wanted.

She didn't know if going to Jacksonville was what she really wanted. But while she was in Italy, she would enjoy every bit of it.

Grey was in his room, having a call with Maria.

"Yes, but some of them would like to terminate the contract because they thought you were dead," she revealed.

Grey thought for a moment. It was all Giovanni wanted anyways.

He was going to make his name useless. He knew it would be easier for him after Grey was gone.

Then, he would be able to be the head boss and the strongest mafia lord in Jacksonville.

He bet that Giovanni had already been winning people over to his side.

Maybe he had even gone farther than Grey had expected or thought.

"I think we need to do something about it, Boss.If it continues at this point, we will lose some of our people," she advised.

"I will show up soon, Maria but it's not yet time.I will think of something and get back to you, Maria," he promised.

"Alright, boss."

Grey nodded once.

"Check on Diamond base and see how it's going."

"Alright boss, I will go over there tonight and report to you by tonight."

"Alright, talk to you later then."

Grey hung up and let out a sigh.

A soft knock sounded on the door.

"Hi Grey, you have a letter."

Grey got up and walked to the door.He opened the door and stared at Aphrodite.

"What letter?"

Aphrodite was in a pink hoodie and a pair of blue jeans.

"I don't know.It's sealed.So, I can't see what's in it."

Grey regarded Aphrodite much longer, as he recalled what had transpired between her and Thomas the day before.He took the letter.

"Are you going out today?"

Aphrodite nodded once and turned around to leave.

"I have a date with Thomas," she said casually before she disappeared along the hallway.

Grey found himself staring, dumbfounded for a moment.

He didn't even know if he should be happy for them but there was something he couldn't stop himself from feeling.He felt really jealous.He walked back to his room nonetheless and broke the seal of the letter.

The words on it weren't much at all.

It was an invitation to the billionaire club in Italy.

They had a meeting that afternoon and he was supposed to grace it.It was suddenly happening so fast.

Maybe, just maybe Grey would be able to return to Jacksonville quickly.

His phone rang suddenly.

It was Alfred.

Grey picked it up before it stopped ringing.

"Hello, Hercules. Good morning. I have some important information for you."

Grey moved to the bed.

"I have as well but you should go first."

Alfred went quiet for a moment.

"There was a billionaire meeting yesterday and Giovanni was pronounced as the new billionaire boss. Though, it's late already and there's no way we can stop it as a new president has already been selected. If you show up now, Giovanni would only use his power against you," he explained.

Grey nodded once.

"I knew it was going to happen anyways. Giovanni doesn't want to waste any time."

"Yes, but what will you do now?"

"Well, the news I have for you is a good one. The billionaires in Italy have invited me to the billionaire club. I plan on joining them to fight Giovanni," he revealed.

"A new plan will be created and it will be the one that will bring Giovanni down. I won't stop until he's dead. And he dies first before Alex does."

"Alright, that's good actually. I will tell the other elders about this but is there anything we can do for you?"

"Yes, there actually is. Now that Giovanni is getting everything back quickly. I'm sure he's going to attempt to release Alex. I want you to spy on Giovanni's house or maybe all of his bars and clubs. If he would be doing that, we will get to know."

"Alright, that's all done. About spying on David, Don is with the job. If he has anything to tell you, he will let you know directly," he assured.

Grey smiled, pleased.

"Good. Take care of yourself then. Let's talk later."

And the phone went off.

Giovanni regarded Alex for a moment.

"What have you been up to?" Alex looked away.

"I'm staying clear of the public if that's what you want to know."

Giovanni groaned inwardly.

"That wasn't what I asked you, Alex. You found yourself in prison because you didn't listen to me. n.ovelebook If I risk things to bring you out, you must not only listen to me but also follow everything I want."

"I hear, Dad," he smiled.

"Thank you for bringing me out.I thought it was going to take a longer time than this.Thank you so much."

Giovanni nodded once and looked at Alex.

"Just beware yourself for now.Or I won't be able to help you again." Alex nodded briefly.

"I know."

"No clubbing, Alex.Don't go to any bar as well.We don't know who might be watching you."

"Club too?" His eyes went wide with shock.

"Listen to me, Alex.Don't make me angry!" He yelled.

Alex groaned annoyingly.

"Alright, I will try."

Chapter 433: New deal

Grey got ready for the meeting which was coming up in an hour.He walked out, clad in a blue suit.Aphrodite walked closer to him.

"Are you going alone?" Grey nodded once as he made his tie.

"They invited me alone.So, it's normal that I'm going alone."

Aphrodite stepped forward to help him.

"Alright.I heard everything from Alfred.Are you sure it's really going to be alright? Or does that mean we are trapped in Italy?" Grey shook his head negatively.

"Trust me, Novia.I will find a way very soon.Let's just leave Giovanni to enjoy it a bit longer," he suggested.

Aphrodite finished, stepped back, and let out a smile.

"I'm counting on you." Grey sent her a nice smile as well.

"How is Thomas doing?"

Aphrodite laughed at this.

"Seriously? Don't act as if you are worried about him," she didn't wait for him to say more before she walked into the kitchen.

Grey regarded her for a moment before he walked out of the house.Two men were already waiting for him in the car he was taking.n.ovelebook The door of the back seat was held open before Grey would reach the car.

"Where's Charles?" One of them bowed.

"We haven't seen him today."

Grey nodded once and got inside the car.Soon, the car was pulling out of the garage and into the street, towards where the billionaire would be having a meeting that afternoon.

"who invited Hercules into our midst?" One of the members questioned.

"I did," Maximo voiced out and everyone turned to look at him.

"Is that even something we should be worried about?" Leonardo muttered.

"Well, it is something we need to discuss. Hercules is from Jacksonville. We can't just allow him to join us like that."

"Yes, I concur but that doesn't stop us from being friends. But I don't think he should be invited as part of the billionaire club in Italy," another one suggested.

"Well," Enzo started suddenly.

"We really have to think about a lot of things, especially the fact that we have not won the king of the world for twenty years now. We can actually let Hercules win it. It won't only bring honour to Italy but also break through the history we have on us."

"Well," one of the men groaned.

"That's actually hard. I mean would it make any sense if he joined us?"

"Well, we could ask Hercules how to go about it. If we can do this, it will go well." Dante added.

"That is if Hercules will like to join us,"

Maximo uttered suddenly and looked up.

"We have to hear from him what he wants."

The door opened suddenly and Grey walked inside the hall. He noticed briefly the numbers of members of the billionaire club before he looked at Maximo.

There was no president on the seat or maybe he hadn't arrived, Grey noted.

"Hercules, please come over here," Maximo gestured at a seat with a wide smile on his face.

Grey complied. He was with no mask.

"We are very sorry, Hercules for inviting you to our meeting like this," Leonardo started.

Grey nodded briefly.

"It's ok. I had enough time to prepare for it."

"Actually, the main reason why we invited you is to see if you will be interested in joining our billionaire club," Ben announced.

Grey regarded him for a moment.

"Why? Actually, I am only here for some days. Why do you want me to be part of this club?"

"Well, the best part of it is that you get to be the new billionaire president of this club," Enzo announced suddenly.

Grey looked at Enzo with eyes wide with shock.

"What? I mean, why? Why will you suddenly want that?"

"Well, as you can see," Dante started.

"We don't have any billionaire president at this moment."

"In fact, the thing is that we want this year's king of the world to be from Italy and we want you to help us," Romeo explained.

Grey regarded the men for a moment.

"To get this straight, you want to make me the president so that we can get the king of the world for this year?"

"We don't have much time left actually. The announcement is going to be this month."

"Exactly. Yes, I know you only want to spend a few days here but we can actually make it work before you return," Maximo tried to convince Grey.

"I mean it would be a great one for you as well if you win something so big." Yes, Maximo was right. It was exactly what Grey wanted anyways. It was what he hoped to achieve before coming to Italy.

And it was the only way out since Giovanni had suddenly taken over the club at Jacksonville. What Grey didn't know actually was that the day to choose the king of the world was so close by and that the Italian billionaire club doesn't even have a president. It was actually luck on his side as usual.

"How can we qualify for this post? What would be taken into consideration?" Grey asked suddenly.

"Does this mean you have agreed to do this?" Maximo asked curiously.

Grey nodded once.

"Though, I have a rule that Maximo already knows," he said and sat up.

'My identity isn't supposed to be made known until the announcement day.I just hope we get the award.'

"Well, we are all positive with you.Right everyone?"

They all nodded in affirmation.

"So, what are the criteria for being selected as the king of the world?" Grey repeated.

The meeting ended in exactly two hours after a long discussion.Grey was already thinking of how to really become the king of the world.He was going to do it and disappoint Giovanni.

Then maybe it would be the perfect time to show his face to the world.

Yes! The award would do just that.

And Giovanni would realize that he wasn't dead.

If he won the award, Giovanni's new position as the billionaire president wouldn't even matter anymore.Grey's phone rang suddenly.It was from Don.

"Hello, boss.I have something to tell you concerning David," he announced suddenly.

"Yes, what's it about?"

"David now works for Giovanni."

Chapter 434: Huge step

"What?"

Grey was shocked for a moment.

"Are you sure about this? Grey might have hated his butt but he wouldn't believe that he would work against his company. He could have been transferred to another company but he still worked under Hercules under normal circumstances.

"Yes, boss. I saw him and Hercules meet yesterday. They even discussed for so long and I'm still unable to get what they talked about," Don explained.

Grey nodded briefly.

"Continue spying on him. I will get Maria to fire him."

"Alright boss," Don responded.

Grey hung up and went deep into thought for a moment.

Giovanni thought Hercules was dead. Ok, David doesn't know that Grey was Hercules and Giovanni wouldn't have told him. So, David joined hands with Giovanni to bring Grey down. David has just the boldness to even think of it. Grey was going to destroy the place. He placed a call to Maria which she picked up immediately.

"Hello, boss."

"Yes, Maria. How are you doing?"

"Fine boss, I just finished a meeting with one of our partnering companies. And though some of them left, we still have some agreeing to continue to be with Protos Pubblicità even though Hercules had been publicised dead," n.ovelebook she announced.

Grey nodded at this.

"I'm calling you about David actually.I had my men watch him and I got to find the reason why he's like that.And yes, I've decided on what to do."

"Alright, boss.What do you suggest?"

"David's job should be terminated," he announced.

"Alright boss.Who should be the new MD of the company?"

"Anyone you think can."

"Alright boss.I will do it right away," she assured.

The car pulled into the garage of Grey's house.He released a sigh of relief as he got out of the car.

What he had to do at that moment was to make sure he won the award at all costs.And he was certain he would be able to do it.He placed a call to Alfred as he walked inside but it wasn't going through.So, he called Gregory instead.

Gregory picked up after the second ring.

"Hi, Boss.I've heard everything from Alfred.It looks like things are going fine.Though, I would like to know what today's meeting was all about.I'm so anxious to find out." Grey laughed.

"It's actually a piece of good news.The Italian billionaire wants me to join their club.That isn't all, they want me to be their new billionaire president," he revealed.

Gregory went quiet for a moment in shock.

"What!" n.ovelebook He exclaimed softly, unable to believe it.

"Why would they even want to do that? I mean they do know where you came from.They could allow you to join their club but what's about being their billionaire president? "

"I know, I was shocked too.But they told me the reason why they have decided on that and I reasoned with them as well."

"Tell me, what's it all about?"Grey walked to the chair and sat.

"The award for the king of the world hasn't been given to any president from Italy.They are just desperate and would do anything to have the glory associated with it"

"Seriously? Ok, yes, Italy hasn't had it for long, especially with a lot of connected countries and Giovanni has always been working hard towards receiving the award every time," he explained.

Grey nodded once.

"Exactly what I thought as well.So, I decided to use it for my benefit.I mean who would have thought that it would go so well?"

"This is a piece of great news.I will tell everyone about it.They will be so happy to hear this great news."

"Well, that isn't the next step now, Gregory.We need to make sure I get this award.We have to do all we can."

Gregory hesitated for a moment.

"Yes, you are right.You don't only need to push forward on your side but we also need to make Giovanni make mistakes.He's probably working hard towards getting the award as well."

"Exactly what I want to hear from you, Gregory. You need to work very hard in Jacksonville with the rest of the elders. We must make sure that Giovanni fails."

"I have something already. It's something we need to do in Jacksonville. I will get back to you when I have the elders gathered," he explained.

Grey nodded again.

"Alright, do let me know," he finished and the phone went off.

Charles walked inside almost immediately. He walked past Grey and into the kitchen. He walked out again and sat beside Grey, with a bottle of water in his hand.

"How are you doing by the way, I haven't seen you at all since morning." Grey watched him drink before he took the bottle of water from him.

"I should be asking you that. Where have you been? I didn't see you this afternoon when I was going out and you didn't even come home this morning." Charles scoffed.

"I had to go out and clear my head. I had a lot to think about," he looked away.

"I mean I should be doing that sometimes."

"Is this still because of Aurora? Are you worried you might never see her again?" Charles let out a deep breath.

"Maybe I am. My first love rejected me several times. And now that I was able to fall in love again, I was rejected." Grey smirked.

"You weren't rejected by Aurora," he stressed.

Charles looked at him.

"Then what is it called? She could have waited. She could have let us sort it out. Why must she leave like that? She didn't even give me a chance," he complained.

Grey sighed again.

"She was worried you hated her because of Maximo. Or maybe she was right. You hesitated because of Maximo. I mean girls aren't like that, a little mistake and they are off."

"Yes," Charles nodded briefly.

"Just like Aphrodite. She's going to be with Thomas if you don't act fast."

Chapter 435: Evidence

Grey and Charles locked their gaze for a moment.

"What?" Charles giggled.

"I saw them together on my way home. The guy is really going to have her if you don't hurry up." Grey looked away.

"I didn't say I loved her enough to date her. If she's happy with someone, she should stay with him," he stood up.

"And you are sure that you aren't going to regret it?" Charles asked suddenly, stopping him in his tracks.

Grey released a sigh, unsure of what to say.

"Are you certain? It's going to hurt you so much, I'm sure of it." Grey hesitated before he eventually walked inside, leaving Charles giggling right at him.

Charles was right but Grey didn't want to think about it, not yet anyways. His phone beeped suddenly and a message appeared on the screen of his phone. He read through the message and smiled.

Maximo was ready to let him meet with James that night.

Alex muttered some inaudible under his breath. He sighed and dropped the file in his hands. It had been a lot of months since he had been confined and he had not even stepped a foot out to the club. He felt lonely all those months and currently, he felt even lonelier.

But he didn't want to do anything against her father again. He remembered it was what he did that caused a lot of issues for him. But he couldn't stop the feeling he was currently having. He stood up just as his phone started ringing.

It was his personal guard, Maro, that was calling. He moved to pick it up but it stopped ringing before he did, only for it to start ringing again. He picked it up eventually.

"Yes, how is it going with it?"

"It's planned out already, boss. It will start soon," he informed him.

Alex smiled.

"Good," he finished and hung up.

At least, if he couldn't go to the club, he could make a club out of his home. He laughed so hard.

The door opened suddenly and a man walked inside.

"Boss," he called out with a big smile plastered on his face.

Alex turned to him, with raised brows.

"What? What happened?"

"Actually, there's nothing wrong. The lobby is all set as you have always wanted. Everything is finally prepared. We are only awaiting the guests," he announced.

Alex nodded once.

"Good job. Let's go there while we await others," he said but stopped suddenly and looked at Maro.

"Don't let my dad know about this, alright?"

"Alright boss."

Grey walked into Le Mura club where Maximo and James would be, waiting for him. A man walked towards him suddenly. He was short and had big glasses. You must be Grey."

Grey nodded once.

"Yes, I am."

He nodded once.

"Please, follow me," he turned around and started to walk away.

They walked for a while until they turned towards the private section.

The man walked forward and opened the door for Grey to walk inside.

Grey hesitated before he walked inside.

Truly, James was waiting inside for him but Maximo was nowhere to be found. He walked closer.

"How are you doing?" James looked up at Grey and sighed.

"You came? I didn't know that you would receive my letter." Grey pulled out a chair in front of him and sat.

"You actually look fine. Well, I came to Italy a few days ago."

"And you didn't do anything to stop Maximo? You let him keep me hidden all this while," he yelled, annoyed.

Grey regarded him for a moment.

"You can't win against Maximo."

"But you can! You should have fought him! You should have done everything that you can to get me back to the position I used to be!" He muttered thickly.

"I should be where Maximo is. He's not supposed to still be in Italy. Why won't you repay all I've done to you?"

"I have, James. Have you forgotten?"

"Still_," James stressed.

"What are you going to do now? I can't continue to be here. You have to do something. You have to help me!"

His voice was deep with frustration.

"Being like this won't help you, James. Maximo has the same right as you do to be here. You don't have the right to scream an order. There's nothing you can do with that," he advised.

James grunted.

"Are you saying I should accept being here? I should accept defeat like that?"

"Better do that. It's the best for you. Maybe if you show Maximo how sober you are, he will take pity on you. He's the only one that can help you at this moment."

The door opened suddenly.

"He's right," a voice boomed.

Grey and James turned to look at Maximo.

"I'm only letting you leave because of Grey, James. If not, you would have been dead," he walked to Grey, pulled out a seat beside him, and sat.

"So, you will keep me here forever?"

"No, I will let you leave Italy," he said quickly.

"And you are never to return. If you do, I will kill you with my bare hand," he threatened.

James' clenched his fists in anger. He was boiling in rage but there was nothing he could do.

Grey's phone rang suddenly, jerking them all out of their thoughts.

Grey took it and realised it was Alfred. He looked at no one in particular.

"Give me a few minutes, I need to answer this call. It's urgent."

James didn't answer but Maximo nodded once.

Grey walked out of the room to answer the call but it had already stopped ringing. So, he called Alfred back.

Alfred picked up immediately.

"Hello, Hercules. I received a piece of news from the man I asked to keep an eye on Giovanni," he revealed.

"Yes, tell me about it," he probed in.

"Alex is back. He has been released," he announced, leaving Grey shocked for a moment.

"What! Is he sure about this? Does he have any proof?"

"Yes, boss. Alex is currently having a night party at his place and everywhere is filled up already."

"Can the man enter as one of the guests?"

"Yes, he's not someone that would be recognized by him. I selected him specially for this purpose," he explained.

"Good," Grey smiled.

"He must go in and gather evidence that we can use against Alex and Giovanni."

Chapter 436

Giovanni made a nod of his head, a smile on his face. "Good. I must do all it takes to be the next king of the world. Nothing must stop me."

"Exactly. I'm not even sure anything can stop you. Hercules is gone. So, we just have to focus on the billionaire president from other countries. I'm sure it would be a success," Lawrence, one of his elders assured.

Giovanni nodded again, with a satisfied grin on his face. "Alright, no problem."

They raised their glasses, cheering for their victory but the door opened suddenly and one of Giovanni's men walked inside.

Giovanni looked up, his expression changed slightly, "What is it?" He bellowed.

The man bowed slightly. "I have some information concerning the young boss, sir. I thought I should let you know about it as quickly as possible."

Giovanni groaned inwardly. "Tell me about it then."

"The young master invited some guests to his house. He made it look like a club. In fact, they are currently partying," he announced.

Giovanni couldn't believe his ears as he looked up at the man. "What!" He exclaimed softly.

Lawrence was not only shocked but skeptical. He heard that Alex was convicted and is currently in prison. How come the man was reporting about him?

'Yes, boss. I think you should know about it quickly before words get out that he is back," he suggested.

Giovanni looked away, a dark frown on his face. "Get the men to send them out and bring Alex to me! Immediately!" He ordered.

The man rushed out.

Lawrence looked at Giovanni. "Seriously? Alex is back?"

Giovanni groaned. "Yes, he is. He recently got out. I was planning on letting the elders know when it's time."

Lawrence nodded once. "That's actually good. I didn't like the fact that Alex was in prison. Now that he's back, we can rest."

Giovanni held a hand in the air. "Not yet. I mean, don't tell anyone yet. I will let you know when it's the right time," he assured.

Lawrence nodded again. "Understood."

Matt walked inside the house, alongside others. Some people were walking out while some people were walking. It was very easy for Matt to mingle with others.

Clad in black jeans and a black shirt, he walked to the lobby.

Music was blaring from every speaker from the corner of the lobby. Some people were in a corner, talking. Some were around, dancing while some were drinking. But Matt couldn't find Alex anywhere.

He watched some men walk out from a room by the left.

Matt walked past them and entered the room. He stopped suddenly when he heard a soft groan from the background. There were some people in the room. So, Matt stayed back so that they wouldn't notice that he was inside.

"How is everything going out there?" Alex asked.

Maro nodded briefly. "Fine boss. Everything is all set. You can enjoy it to your satisfaction."

Alex turned around to look at Maro, a wide smile plastered on his face." Let's go then."

Matt took some pictures before he hurried out of the room.

Alex and Maro walked to the lobby. He moved to grab some drinks as his body moved to the music.

Matt found a special spot to take more of Alex's pictures before he hurried out of the house.

Suddenly, several men hurried inside. The music stopped and everyone was ushered out of the lobby.

Alex turned to look at them and realizing that he didn't recognize them, he grew anxious and stepped forward to stop them.

Maro however rushed forward. 'You can't do that. We don't want anyone to know you are around at this moment. You need to hide. I will confirm what's happening and get back to you," he promised.

Alex clenched his teeth in anger before he turned around and rushed inside.

Grey perused the files in front of him and smiled. 'This is actually cool. I like this.'

"We have to do all we can to make sure that Giovanni doesn't become the king of the world."

Grey nodded once. "I will make sure that doesn't happen!" He assured.

Maximo stood. "Let me know if you need my assistance in any way. I will do anything to help you."

Grey stood as well. "I will let you know if I need your help. Just let the members know that everything is going smoothly. My members in Jacksonville are running everything so that there will be no errors," he

explained.

Maximo smiled. "I will let them know, Hercules. And thank you for doing this with me," he turned around and walked away.

Grey phone rang suddenly. It was Don.

"Hello, Hercules. I have a piece of news for you. The man successfully took some pictures that show that Alex was back in town. What do you want us to do next?"

Grey smiled, pleased. "Good. Stay low for now and keep the evidence saved. We aren't going to need it for a while now."

Chapter 437: A pull

Grey took the letter from him and tore it. He hesitated before he read through what was written on it. He hesitated, confused. The message in the letter was very confusing. Aphrodite wanted him to come to a particular place. And that was why Grey found it confusing.

Though, he was relieved. At least, it means he knew where Aphrodite was currently.

But there was something else he needed to think about. Aphrodite could have called him to come over. She didn't need to be sending letters to him as if they were strangers. Or could it be that she wanted to surprise him with something? Aphrodite could act naughty sometimes. Or maybe her phone was off or perhaps, stolen. Grey didn't want to have dirty thoughts. Well, he knew that Aphrodite could handle herself.

That aside, she could even be with Thomas. But there was no point in her calling him if she was really with Thomas. Those two, as Charles had said earlier, have gotten so close that they do things secretly too. They go places too, together.

Or maybe Thomas was planning on proposing to her and he wanted him to be present. That was actually possible. In that case, Thomas could have even been the sender of the letter. He knew that Grey wouldn't show up if he made it visible that he was the one that sent the letter. And it must really be D-Day.

"Who gave you the letter?" Grey directed at the man still standing in front of him.

"A young boy. It actually looked like the person that gave him the letter was standing just away from the house. In fact, it looked like the boy that gave us the letter was merely passing by," he explained.

Grey unconsciously crushed the letter in anger. His guess has been right afterward. Thomas definitely sent the letter. He had discussed the proposal with him anyway.

"I'm leaving," he announced and started upstairs for a change of clothes. He made it simple. Clad in blue jeans and a black hoodie, he hurried out of the house. He remembered to pick up the letter with him.

One of his men moved closer to him. "Boss, do you want some men to come with you?"

Grey shook his head briefly, as he took heavy strides toward his car. "I can manage this on my own," he informed and got inside the car before the man would say more or even think of what to say. He dropped the letter on the passenger's seat before he started the ignition.

He pulled out of the garage so fast that someone would immediately know what was happening to him. To Grey, he was really going to stop Thomas. He would not allow the Thomas plan to go accordingly.

He asked for the direction to the address on the map of the car and let the car direct him to his destination. He couldn't stop cursing as he drove at high speed. He didn't even want to know what anyone would think of him but Novia was his and no one else. He wouldn't let anyone have her.

The map made a sudden indication for him to take a turn and when he did, he found himself in a weird place. With a raised brow and anger that was suddenly subsiding at the turn of things, Grey got down and his gaze searched around. There were no clubs or bars around except the one he passed before he made a turn.

He took the letter and perused it again, perhaps, he was the one that made the mistake. Well, it was the same thing.

Well, it didn't look like anything was going on at the place where he was. Perhaps, the sender made a mistake. That was the only excuse he made.

Maybe not! He realized suddenly that he was pulled out of his house.

Could something be wrong? Could something have happened to Aphrodite or was someone just using her as bait? But who would do that? And the shit was that he left home with not even one of his men. What if he was entering a trap?

Grey placed a call to Charles and silently prayed for him to pick up. It rang suddenly but he didn't pick up. Grey did the next thing that came to his mind. He started the ignition and tried to pull out of the place. However, he noticed that the four tires were actually dancing.

He pulled to a stop immediately and got down to see what was happening. His eyes went wide as he saw that his tires were flats. There were several sharp subjects on the road as well. It meant that someone really lured him over. And they didn't want him to leave.

He picked up his phone and made another phone call to Charles. This time around, he picked it.

“Hello Grey, is everything alright? Where are you? I’m currently at home but you aren’t.”

“I called you a few minutes ago, you idiot. Where did you put your phone?”

Charles laughed. “Sorry, I was driving. I just got inside.”

“Alright, I’m at a weird place now. I received a letter from Novia to be here but she’s not here. So, I believe something is wrong. I will send a message to you now, as my tires have been damaged. So, I can’t drive home,” he opened the door and took the letter. He sent the address to Charles. “Seen it?”

“Yes, I have. But if it wasn’t Novia, who could it be? Who could have lured you to that place?”

Could there be any mafia lords who know about him? Or maybe it was one of the mafia lords that he met at the billionaire club. One of them could have wanted to be the boss of the billionaire club.

“Call Maximo and let him know of this situation. If no one knows, he would and-,” He was forced to a sudden stop when someone aimed at his head from behind. He didn’t see the person initially but he felt it.

He dodged and turned around quickly.

Several men stepped out from the darkness beyond.

Chapter 438: Impossible

Several men walked out, dressed in black attire and they attacked him immediately. The next sudden kick from three men caught Grey off-guard and he fell to the floor, the phone still in his hand.

“Who are you?” Grey demanded.

His question was met with no answers from the men. Instead, they moved even closer to him. Grey got up quickly just as another guy aimed at him. Grey was quick to dodge this time and also gave out a taste of his own on the attacker.

Two men rushed forward to grab Grey's hand, while another aimed a punch at his face. Grey hit his head against the attacker and pulled at the men holding him so tight. They were forced to hit each other and fall.

'You aren't so bad at this,' a voice said suddenly. The voice sounded familiar but Grey doesn't remember where he had heard it from. The men stepped back a bit at the sound of the voice and one would know the speaker was the boss.

Grey turned around again, to see who it was. His eyes went wide with shock as he beheld the man standing in front of him. He couldn't believe his eyes.

"Aren't you the president's son?"

The man clenched his teeth in anger. 'That is not my name, man!' he yelled. 'You are still as rude as ever! And you need to be taught a lesson!' he yelled again. "And my name is Vincenzo!" he yelled, and his muscles flexed in the process. He was almost red with anger.

Grey sighed, 'You brought me here? For real? You called me here to tell me your name? I don't believe this,' Grey scoffed, silently mocking him.

Vincenzo took a step forward, "will you stop being annoying? Is that how you were trained in Jacksonville? You think you can just come to Italy and run your mouth anyhow? Someone like me?" "Why? Because you are the president's son? What are you going to do to me then?"

Vincenzo clenched his fists beside him. "You are bold but I will tell you what I'm capable of doing. Don't you dare think you are the only one that can think this much? And fine!" he muttered. "I am the President's son.

There's a lot I can do and there will be nothing you can do because I rule this place over here."

Vincenzo must have been pained by what happened at the boutique the other time.

“And you sent me a letter to force me out of my house?” “Actually, you will be amazed at what I have in stock for you,” he smiled slightly. “I actually have someone you would love with me. I mean wasn’t that the reason why it was so easy to drag you here?”

Grey went still for a moment as the explanation settled in. “Where is she?” “Well, she’s safe for now. If you cooperate, she will be fine. I don’t need her anyways.”

Grey grew even angrier. “I just asked you a question! Where is she?” he yelled. “If you touch a hair on her head, I won’t spare you,” he warned in a deep tone.

“Calm down, your girlfriend is alright,” his tone was annoying, “Though, I can’t really guarantee that. Your response and co-operation would show how she would be in thirty minutes.” “What do you want from me?” “You have to suffer for the humiliation you made me pass through,” He swore.

“Sincerely, and you had to put Novia into this? I seriously won’t let you off if anything happens to Novia!”

Vincenzo laughed and stepped back slowly. “Let’s see how long you can hold up,” he mocked.” Get him!” He yelled again.

The men hurried closer again. Grey was fast to keep his phone in his pocket before the men would jerk it off him.

He punched a man aiming at him, and quickly kicked several men in the legs. He didn’t have the time to watch them fall as there was another guy that has successfully placed his hand across Grey’s neck, thereby almost suffocating him. Another was coming in front of him.

Grey pulled his legs up and wrapped them around the guy’s neck. He pulled so hard that the one holding unto his neck couldn’t hold up.

Grey pinched him so hard in the stomach that he was forced to leave Grey and stagger back. The men were not up to Grey's standard anyways.

Within minutes, a lot of men were groaning on the floor. But more came out.

Vincenzo's phone rang suddenly as Grey continued to fight the men.

Vincenzo saw that it was his father. So, he stepped aside to receive the call.

"Hello, father. It's so late in the night. Why are you calling me?" "Come and meet me at home. And I want you to come immediately. I have something to discuss with you and it has to be immediate," he ordered.

"Why? Is everything alright? What do you want to discuss with me?" "I said you should come at this instance! Am I supposed to start explaining myself on the phone?" He yelled in a harsh filled tone.

Vincenzo sighed. "Alright, dad. I will be there soon."

His father didn't say another word and instead hung up.

Vincenzo cursed under his breath as he looked at Grey. His father was going to cut short his plan that night. He wondered what he wanted to talk about.

He regarded Grey for a moment. "Do you want to see your girlfriend?" He asked suddenly.

The men were forced to a stop. Grey looked at Vincenzo again but with a dirty stare.

"If I realise that you've touched,," Grey started angrily but was interrupted by Vincenzo.

"Calm down. She's fine. You just have to do something for me. If you can, I will release her."

Just as Grey was about to open his mouth, several cars pulled up in front of them.

The door opened and several men hurried out.

One of the men opened one of the cars and Maximo got out of the car.

His face was a mask of terror as he walked to Vincenzo. "What the fuck do you think you are doing?" He yelled.

Chapter 439: Unawares

Vincenzo looked at Maximo with shock. He didn't expect to see him at all. He didn't even know that he was aware of all he was doing.

"What are you doing here?" His anxiousness showed in his voice.

Maximo was filled with rage.

"I should be asking you that question!" He yelled.

"What are you doing here?" The men that were fighting with Grey, stopped and stepped backward.

"Maximo, this is totally not yours to interfere with. I have to teach him a great lesson," Vincenzo explained.

Maximo huffed, feeling irritated.

"Seriously? Do you even know who he is? How dare you do that to him?" He yelled again, his nostril flaring around. He looked over at the men.

"Lead Grey to the car," he ordered.

The men moved forward, pushing Vincenzo's men in the process. Vincenzo clenched his fist with anger.

Maximo was really messing with him and he didn't like it. Though, Maximo was someone he didn't want to mess with.

They had both agreed to go their separate ways.

One was never to interfere with the other business. But Maximo was currently passing that boundary.

"Stop!"

Vincenzo screamed suddenly. He was fueled with rage. He turned to look at Maximo again.

"If you don't stop right now, I will have my men stop you if you don't," he warned.

Maximo chuckled.

"Seriously? Are you trying to threaten me?" Vincenzo smiled softly.

"See it as anything but that's what I'm going to do. He's not leaving here until he gets punished."
Maximo scoffed.

"Escort Grey to the car," he ordered again.

"Stop them!" Vincenzo said quickly.

The men started fighting each other. One jumped over to kick Grey but Maximo met him halfway and kicked him away. Maximo looked at Grey.

"Let's leave." Grey shook his head briefly.

"Vincenzo has Aphrodite," he informed him.

Maximo's eyes went wide for a moment before he focused them on Vincenzo again.

"Get Vincenzo!" He yelled out the order.

The fight continued for a moment while Maximo and Grey watched. But Maximo's men were outnumbered.

They quickly overpowered Vincenzo's men.

In no time, two of Maximo's caught Vincenzo and started to pull him closer to Maximo.

"Let me go! What the fuck are you doing? Do you even know who I am?"

He struggled with the men as he was being pulled violently. He was forced to a sudden stop in front of Maximo.

"Do you know who I am?" Vincenzo yelled at him.

"How dare you do this to me? Do you know what my father would do to you? Do you even remember who my father is?" Maximo hit him across the face.

"Shut the fuck up!" He yelled at him.

"Who do you think you are talking to?" He yelled.

"Do you think I'm asking you? Do you think I need your opinion?" Vincenzo went mute and instead glared hard at Maximo.

"You had better answer my questions before I do the worst thing to you! Where is Aphrodite?" Vincenzo didn't reply and instead continued to look at Maximo.

"Do you think I'm joking with you?" He yelled.

"I will ask you again. Your head will go with it if you don't reply to me! Where is she?" Vincenzo released a sigh.

"She's safe actually. I hid her in one of the rooms in the hotel," he revealed.

Maximo stared hard at him.

"Tell two of your men to drive us over before I get even angrier!" Vincenzo nodded at his men.

Two of them moved closer and took a short bow.

Maximo took a step closer to him.

"Let this be the last time you will try this nonsense with me! Your head will be off the day you do."

The men let go of Vincenzo and led Maximo and Grey to the car. A car from Vincenzo's side drove out into the street while Maximo's cars followed behind.

Maximo turned to look at Grey.

"I'm so sorry for everything. I wasn't careful, that's why shit like this happened to you. I hope you will find it in your heart to forgive me," he beseeched softly.

Grey nodded once.

"It's ok but I won't forgive Vincenzo if this shit happens again, especially if he tried to lay his hands on Aphrodite. I really won't." Maximo nodded once.

"I will handle him, don't you worry. Leonardo is going to handle everything, you wouldn't need to worry about anything," he assured.

Grey nodded once, in acceptance. The car leading soon pulled to a sudden stop at a popular hotel and the two men got down.

Grey and Maximo got down as well.

They followed the men inside the hotel.

They entered the elevator and went to the last floor.

One of the men moved closer and unlocked the door with a card. Grey rushed inside and indeed saw Aphrodite on the bed. But she wasn't moving.

Grey rushed to her and checked her pulse. He released a sigh when he saw that she was breathing well. He turned to one of Vincenzo's men suddenly, anger seeping out of him.

"What did you do to her? Why is she like this?" The man looked away in fear.

Grey took him by the collar.

"Answer me or I will kill you, this instance!" He yelled.

"We drugged her. Actually, it could have been an overdose but the doctor said she will be fine. It would only take some days before she wakes," she revealed.

"Do you need help?" Maximo asked suddenly.

He was standing behind Grey and looking down at Aphrodite.

"No, I'm fine," Grey muttered.

He took Aphrodite off the bed and scooped her into his arms. He walked out of the room and Maximo followed after.

Grey placed Aphrodite in one of the cars and looked at Maximo.

"You will have to lend me this car. I will have one of my men return it," he promised.

Maximo nodded his approval.

"It's ok."

Grey stared at Aphrodite again and pulled back the rebellious hair on her face.

"Have your doctor come to my house for a check-up. I don't believe what that guy just said. I will have to make sure she's fine! And if I find out that something is wrong with her, Vincenzo will die."

Chapter 440: Jealous

Vincenzo drove inside the garage roughly. He was a bit angry at the sudden call.

If his father hasn't interrupted him, he would have been able to deal with Grey.

Also, he had to find something to do with Maximo.

To him, Maximo was biting off more than he could chew. He didn't know why Maximo had to meddle with everything. It made him so angry. He just wouldn't let Grey go with insulting him like that. He got out of the car and hurried inside the living room.

The president, his father was waiting for him.

"you took longer than you were supposed to," he muttered.

Vincenzo grunted.

"I came back as fast as I could. What were you going to tell me that couldn't wait till morning?" He asked and sat, still fuming.

The door opened suddenly.

Leonardo, Dante, and Enzo walked inside.

Vincenzo sat up, as fear entered his features.

"What's going on here?" The men didn't answer and went to sit instead.

"I called you over because of them. I heard something was going on at your hotel. Is it true?"

Vincenzo groaned inwardly.

"I'm only punishing those who trespassed me. I didn't do anything wrong," he muttered.

"Did you know who you attacked tonight?" Leonardo asked calmly, his gaze on Vincenzo.

Vincenzo looked away.

"An idiot that didn't know who he was supposed to respect. As I said, I just decided to teach him a great lesson and I wasn't even able to do it because Maximo interrupted," he explained.

The president hesitated briefly before he delved into his pocket and pulled out a passport.

"Leave Italy tomorrow morning. I've booked a flight for you."

"what!"

Vincenzo couldn't believe it.

"Why would I do something like that? What are you trying to do?"

"Stop asking me questions!" Vincenzo's father yelled suddenly. He strained his neck in the process and massaged it.

"What did you think you are doing? Why did you think you have to get involved with Maximo and the rest?" He screamed.

Vincenzo was dumbfounded.

He regarded his father for a moment.

"What are you doing, father? Are you siding with them? I thought you were supposed to be taking my side?"

"You are an idiot! You don't even seem to know anything! I used to dine with Leonard's before I became the president. And they aren't only my friends, they are people you aren't supposed to disrespect!" He yelled.

"Maximo would have killed you if he wasn't trying to respect your father. You should thank your father for saving your life," Leonardo explained.

Vincenzo groaned but couldn't say a word. He felt totally disgraced.

"So, just take what you have to take and leave because I won't come to your aid if you cause any commotion. I won't do that!"

The president assured.

Vincenzo grunted and looked away again.

"Apologize now!" The president yelled.

"But dad-," Vincenzo started stubbornly.

"Shut the fuck up before I shut it for you!" Enzo snapped at him.

"Your father won't always protect you. You should start learning how life is!"

Vincenzo cleared his throat meaningfully.

"I'm sorry about everything," he muttered.

"We don't need your apology, actually," Dante said suddenly.

"We aren't the ones you should be apologising to. You should apologize to Grey."

Vincenzo murmured something under his breath.

"I-," he started to protest.

Dante, Leonardo, and Enzo stood at once.

"We will send you the location. You should come and apologize," Leonardo said finally before the three men walked out.

"You had better do what they want or you are done for!" He warned.

"Is everything alright? What happened to Novia? I thought she was with Thomas," Charles bombarded.

Grey sighed.

"She was indeed taken by Vincenzo. I'm really going to crush him if anything happens to Novia." He muttered thickly.

The doctor from Maximo was currently examining Aphrodite. He finished after a while and move closer to Grey.

"She will be alright. She might just need to sleep for the whole of tomorrow. Then, she will be fine," he assured.

Grey released a breath that he didn't even know he was holding.

"Anything that can fasten it up? And make her wake up earlier?"

"I gave her some drips to aid her. That's the only help I can do. She will have to wake up on her own," he informed them.

Grey nodded once.

"Thank you," he muttered.

The doctor took a short bow before he walked out of the room.

"who is this Vincenzo?"

"Do you have Thomas's number?" Grey asked, ignoring his question.

"Yes, I do. What do you need it for?"

"Give it to me,"

Grey turned to look at Charles.

"I want to know where he was while Novia was in danger," he hinted at him.

"But, I don't-,"

Charles started but stopped when Grey walked out of the room. He sighed and rushed after him.

Grey was waiting in the living room when Charles walked out. He cleared his throat and fished out his phone. He went through it briefly for Thomas' contact before he moved closer to him.

"Here," he stretched out the phone to him.

Grey took it without another word and went through it. He typed the numbers on his phone and dialed n.ovelebook Thomas's number immediately.

Thomas picked up after the second ring.

"Hello, who am I speaking with?"

"Where are you?" Grey questioned in a thick tone.

"Sorry? Who is this?"

"This is Grey and you had better tell me where you are before I find it out myself," he warned.

"Is that supposed to be a threat?"

"See it as you see fit. Where are you?"

"Ok well," Thomas sighed.

"I'm at Nacotis bar."

"Good. And don't you dare leave that place, Thomas? I'm warning you," he threatened.

"But what -," Thomas started.

Grey hung up on him and started towards the door.

"I'm going to Nacotis bar." Charles was shocked.

"What for?"

"To ask for an explanation. Thomas needs to explain why he wasn't with Aphrodite. If he would be marrying her, then he should show us how serious he is," he muttered and walked out of the room.

Charles nearly laughed. Grey was being over jealous.