

Secretly TBB 441

Chapter 441: Case closed

Grey walked into the garage. Two men rushed to him.

"Is there anything we can do, boss?" Grey regarded them for a moment.

"I want one of you to return this car to Maximo," he ordered and walked to another car by his left.

"Should we go with you, sir? I mean we wouldn't want what had happened before to repeat itself," one of the men explained.

Grey shook his head briefly.

"I will handle this myself," he didn't wait for them to say any more words before he got into the car and drove out of the garage. He was fuming with rage when he pulled to a stop in front of the bar where Thomas said he was. He rushed inside the bar, in anger.

The place was seething with people and the lights that were changing from orange to purple, to blue and orange again prevented Grey from seeing Thomas. He pulled his phone out of his pocket and dialled his number again. It rang severally before Thomas eventually picked it up.

"Where the fuck are you?" Grey yelled into the receiver.

There was hesitation.

"Calm down, Grey. Where are you? Are you in the club?"

"Fuck! I am! Where the fuck are you before I destroy the whole place!" He warned.

Thomas released a sigh.

"Alright, I will come out of the bar so we can talk," he assured and hung up before Grey would say more.

' The action angered Grey the more and he cursed under his breath. He turned around severally, his gaze searching around for Thomas.

"Oh, there you are?" A calm voice reached his ears from behind. Grey turned to look at Thomas. He regarded him for a moment before he took him by his left hand and started no.velebook pulling him out of the bar.

"Just follow me!" He grunted.

Thomas didn't fight him.

"What is happening, Grey? Shouldn't you be explaining to me? What is this all about?"

Grey pulled him forward violently when they were outside.

"Where have you been? What have you been doing?"

Thomas inclined his head aside.

"I don't understand a word that you are saying. Your words are a bit complicated for me," he laughed.

Grey punched his face.

"Just answer all my questions if you don't want to get more punished. I'm trying my best to remain calm. Don't frustrate me the more." Thomas scoffed.

"Alright," he nodded once.

"Ok, go on."

"Where were you when Aphrodite was kidnapped tonight?"

Thomas went mute for a moment.

"Seriously?"

His eyes went wide for a moment.

"She was kidnapped?"

Grey hit him again, in rage.

"Don't act like that to me. You think I don't know who you really are? Answer my questions, don't question me!" He yelled.

"How was I to know that she was kidnapped?"

Thomas fired back! He was equally angry. He was drunk but he was getting sober from what Grey had said.

"You tell me! She was supposed to be with you! Now, she got drugged and won't even be able to wake up tomorrow!" He stressed.

Thomas swallowed harder.

"I went out with her but we parted ways quickly," he looked away.

"I had no idea anything had happened to her.If I knew, I wouldn't be here"

Grey regarded him for a moment.

"And you want me to believe that?"

"I don't care,"

Thomas muttered.

"I've told you what I have to and what I really know.It's left to you, you can choose what to believe in.That doesn't matter anyways," he took along stride forward and with the second one, he walked past him.

"I don't want to see you with her again," Grey said suddenly.

Thomas was forced to a sudden stop.He turned to look at Grey again.

"What?"

"You heard me," Grey whirled around to look at him.

"You shouldn't come to the house again.We will be leaving soon anyways and don't look for her!"

Thomas laughed.

"Seriously? Don't tell me you really love her.Why have you been pretending then?" He laughed the more.

"You know why?"

He took a step forward.

"I have really been thinking about it. I mean it was really strange. You were always against me, you were always against everything I do. Now, I get why that is. You must love her so much. But why are you guys not in any relationship?" He huffed.

"It must have been a one-sided love. She must have rejected you. That is why you take it out on me," he laughed the more, in mocking of him.

Grey took him by the collar in anger.

"Shut up! You don't know what you are talking about!" He screamed at him.

"What more do you have to say? It's the truth." Grey let go of him.

"It's not the truth. You see-," he hesitated as a smile spread across his face.

"I and Aphrodite are in a relationship already." Thomas' eyes went wide with shock. He couldn't believe it.

"What?"

Grey scoffed.

Actually, he didn't need anyone to tell him anything before he discovered what had really happened between Thomas and Aphrodite. It was the reason why Thomas was drinking in the bar so late in the night.

"I asked her out and she said yes. So, stay the fuck away from my girlfriend!" He ordered.

The word felt weird in his mouth but he loved the sound of it. Thomas watched him for a moment.

"Seriously? You guys are in a relationship? Grey nodded once.

"We are," he admitted.

Thomas released a sigh and looked away.

"So, that was why she rejected my proposal?"

He looked at him.

"Why didn't you say it initially? Why didn't you show me you were interested in her? You just wasted my time!" He yelled in anger.

"Just leave Italy and never come back I won't come to you as well. It's all settled. Take care of your girlfriend," he turned around and walked inside.

Battle won! There was no way he could avoid it. Aphrodite was going to be his girlfriend.

Chapter 443: Ayes

Grey stayed beside Aphrodite till the next morning, he actually slept off. When he woke up the next morning, Aphrodite was suddenly gone. He was shocked at first.

The doctor said she might not even wake up throughout the second day.

Does that mean someone walked in and took her while he was asleep? That wasn't really possible anyway. Grey was a light sleeper alright but the course of events of the day really affected him. But he still couldn't believe it. He got up and his neck felt stiff.

"You could have slept on the bed beside me instead of sleeping so uncomfortable," a soft voice said suddenly, jerking Grey out of his thoughts. He didn't even need to turn to know who the speaker was.

"Novia?" He was shocked.

Aphrodite smiled.

"Good morning, Grey. It feels like I've been sleeping for ages. I think I'm the live adaptation of the sleeping beauty," no.vel.e.book she laughed.

Grey regarded her for a moment, a smile on his face.

"You seem ok, joking like that. I thought something was going to happen to you," no.vel.e.book he confessed.

"What do you remember before you black out?" Aphrodite inclined her head aside as she thought about it.

"Well, I had a disagreement with Thomas but I begged him and we decided to share a few drinks." Grey stood up unconsciously.

"Seriously?" Aphrodite nodded once.

"After Thomas had left, I remember drinking more before I black out. That was the only thing I remember."

Grey couldn't believe it. He scoffed.

"so, Thomas knew what happened to you? He intentionally set you up?" Aphrodite regarded him for a moment.

"He might not know.He ordered the wine.The wine could have been tampered with before we ordered it.Anything could have happened," no.vel.e.book she explained.

Grey sucked in breath.

"Are you taking his side?"

"Well, he hasn't done anything wrong.I don't think it's good to put the blame on him like that," she muttered and walked out of the room.

Actually, she understood everything.

Thomas could have set her up because he insisted they go to a particular bar that night.It was really as if he planned something.He asked her out, alright but maybe he planned something depending on the answer she gave.If she had given him a positive reply, he might not have drugged her.

"Where and how did you find me?" Aphrodite asked quickly the moment she felt Grey behind her.

"The president's son took you as a payoff.And I'm sure he gave Thomas the work.Thomas must have gotten back at you for not agreeing to go out with him," he explained.

Aphrodite turned to look at him, a bit shocked.

"How did you know?" Grey sighed.

"I met with Thomas last night.Though, he didn't tell me anything at first.It was easy for me to find out and I'm going to rip him apart if he truly sets you up!" He said in between clenched teeth. Aphrodite sighed.

"I'm hungry, I need to eat." Grey took two long strides forward.

"I can make something for you."

Aphrodite looked up at him for a moment.

"Can you let Thomas go for my sake?"

"So, you knew?"

Aphrodite rolled her eyes.

"I'm not that dumb, Grey and you know it. I discovered this immediately. Thomas insisted we go to that particular bar. He made us talk before we started drinking. Now that I think about it, he barely drank the wine," she revealed.

Grey clenched his fist in anger.

"I'm going to kill him!" He muttered.

"Fuck! Grey! Why are you so sensitive?"

Aphrodite yelled suddenly, shocking Grey for a moment.

"You are overreacting. Besides, you aren't supposed to do more than the victim."

"Well, it doesn't matter. You are one of my elders and a close friend. It's my responsibility to do what I wish with any idiot that fuck you up!"

He placed stress on the last part.

"Stop Grey! It's been too much and I don't like it. I like Thomas and I wouldn't want him to get hurt. Just because I gave him a negative reply doesn't mean I don't like him at all." Grey released a sigh.

"Alright, no problem."

Aphrodite turned away.

"I can cook my food," she murmured and moved away to grab some ingredients that she would be needing.

"Should I make something for you too?"

Grey didn't answer as he walked closer to her again and whirled her to him.

"Grey, what-,"

Aphrodite started but stopped immediately when Grey kissed her. She was shocked to her bone that she didn't respond.

Grey pulled back and looked at her.

"I don't care, Novia. I will kill people if they try to harm you. I will destroy anyone regardless of who they really are."

"Don't do that again unless you are ready for the consequences!" Aphrodite warned.

"What consequences?" He laughed.

"I expect none from my girlfriend," he announced.

Shock kept Aphrodite motionless and speechless for a moment.

"Are you playing me?"

"Have I ever played you in such a way? Novia, Will you be my girlfriend?" He asked but saw that Aphrodite hesitated.

"Well, you have no choice because I already told Thomas that you are my girlfriend."

Aphrodite laughed, unable to believe it.

"Are you for real?" Grey nodded once.

"I'm serious. The world thinks Hercules is your boyfriend already. There's no pain in letting that tiny thing come true." Aphrodite laughed again.

"Alright, I agree."

"Agree for what?" A deep voice interrupted suddenly. Aphrodite and Grey turned to look at Charles.

"What? Are you guys alright?"

Charles continued to watch them with confusion written all over his face.

Grey looked back at Aphrodite and kissed her before he parted ways.

"I'm hungry too," he muttered before he moved closer to Charles.

By now, Charles was laughing.

"Is it what I'm thinking?"

"And what are you thinking of?" Grey feigned innocent.

"You guys have eventually started dating?" Grey looked back at Aphrodite and smiled.

Actually, he felt relieved now.

Chapter 444: Downfall

Richard walked into a house with a bright smile on his face. He regarded the whole place for a moment before he turned to the man behind him.

"This place is nice, tell that to Giovanni. Also, tell him that I'm expecting the other thing."

The man nodded once.

"Alright, sir."

Richard walked to his room where a sealed box was. He took it and unlocked it.

A smile appeared on his face as he pulled out everything in it. He hesitated at the last piece in the box. He read through it briefly.

A soft knock sounded on the door suddenly, jerking him out of his thoughts. He placed the piece back inside the box. He placed the box on the bed and got up. He opened the door and looked at the man standing in front of the door. It was a different guy from before.

"Yes, is everything alright?"

"Yes, boss. The boss sent me and several men over here. We will be your security guards now," he revealed.

Richard felt even happier.

"Giovanni knew exactly what to do and when to do it. Did he tell you another thing?" He nodded once.

"He told me to take you to someplace. The things you need to start what you have to is there already," he explained.

Richard nodded once.

"We will go soon, be prepared." Gregory placed a call to Jayden.

"Where are you currently? The container will move soon."

"The men are on their way. I linked some messages out to a few reporters and they will be there soon," Jayden assured.

Gregory nodded once.

"Alright, I will be waiting. Just make it snappy."

He placed a call to Grey. He picked it up immediately.

"Hello, Hercules."

"Hello, Gregory. Is everything alright?"

"Giovanni's goods are arriving today as I've told you. We will be intercepting it. Everything seems to be falling into place already," he explained.

"Good job, Gregory. I will be expecting a piece of the news so that I can broadcast it here. Maximo will help us spread the news," he assured.

"Alright boss, I will do that," he finished and the line went off.

"What are we supposed to do now?"

One of Gregory's men inquired. They were all standing guard.

"Intercept the second container by all means," he ordered.

A man rushed inside the house the next morning, while Giovanni was eating with Alex. Giovanni looked up, a flash of anger on his face.

"What did I tell you about entering my house like that?" The man bowed slightly.

"I'm so sorry boss but there's news currently about your goods that were supposed to come in yesterday night," he explained.

Giovanni raised skeptical brows.

"Didn't it come in yesterday?"

"It didn't, boss and in fact, it's all over the news already."

Giovanni stood up.

"All over the news?"

He walked into the living room and grabbed the remote. He switched the tv on just in time when a presenter was broadcasting.

She was reporting about the drug container that belonged to Giovanni.

Truly, the container had been held after it was discovered by the reporters that Giovanni was a drug dealer. The door opened suddenly and another man rushed inside.

"Boss, there are a lot of reporters outside the house."

Giovanni couldn't believe his ears.

"What?"

Alex rushed to the window and looked down at the reporters in front of the house.

"And you have a call from the police," the man announced.

"Who the fuck did this?" Giovanni yelled. He thought about it quickly.

Could it be Hercules? Grey was dead already. So, there was no way he would do it. It would definitely be his elders.

"Call me Max, now!" He yelled.

The first guy rushed out of the room. He entered the room again but with Max.

Giovanni walked closer to Max.

"Didn't I tell you to watch out for Hercules's elders? What were you doing when they planned all these?" Max went on one knee.

"I'm so sorry boss. It was yesterday night that I noticed that they were involved in the goods that got intercepted yesterday," he explained. Giovanni kicked him in the chest and sent him reeling backward.

"What!" He yelled.

"You didn't spy on them! You didn't monitor them! Now, you have put me into this mess?" he yelled in annoyance. Alex rushed to Giovanni.

"We have to do something very fast!" He said urgently.

Giovanni felt a stab of annoyance. He clenched his fists in anger as he thought about it. He felt so angry.

"Boss, the head of police is calling again," one of the men announced again.

Giovanni released a sigh.

"Give me the phone," he took the phone and looked at Alex.

"Find someone to take the blame while I speak with the police." Alex nodded once and rushed out of the room.

Grey stretched out his phone to Maximo.

"Here, check it out."

Maximo took the phone and smiled softly as he read through the content on the screen.

"This is actually nice news," he looked up at Grey.

"I will make sure this news reaches everywhere. I have someone in other countries, they will broadcast it as well," he assured.

Grey nodded once.

"I like that. We have to make sure he stands no chance."

Maximo stretched out the phone to Grey again.

"I will get to work immediately."

"Thank you." Maximo stood.

"Lest I forget, Vincenzo wants to see you tonight."

Grey looked at him.

"What is it for again?"

"Just to apologise to you, Grey. You don't have to worry about anything else. The members of the billionaire club met with him and his father. So, everything is alright," he assured.

Grey released a sigh.

"Alright. I just hope he doesn't try nonsense. If he does, he will die," he muttered.

"Accepted," Maximo smiled.

"I will relay your message but I'm sure he won't try any nonsense with you again." Grey nodded several times.

"That's fine then. I will turn up with Aphrodite because he has to apologise to her as well."

Chapter 445: The best

"If Hercules's elders really set you up. Then, they must be trying to stop you from becoming the king of the world," Sam explained.

"Does that mean there's a new Hercules? " Robert inquired.

"I don't think so. In fact, I don't think it's Hercules' elders,"

Martin voiced out.

Giovanni released a sigh.

"I spoke with the head of police and he promised to help us."

Giovanni suspected Alfred and Gregory but he wasn't so sure.

What would Alfred gain by doing something like that? Maybe they were doing it to get back at him for killing Grey.

Giovanni still couldn't find anything to show the involvement of Hercules' elders.

"Has the news stopped?"

"Yes, immediately. But you all should watch out for any site that brings out this kind of news. We must prevent it all. I am going to be the king of the world. The throne belongs to me."

"We will do all we can to make sure you get this throne," Martin assured.

Giovanni nodded once.

"I'm going to meet with one of the judges tomorrow. I will do all I can to get her to our side. So, we would just have to worry about the remaining five judges," he explained.

The elders made a nod of their heads in agreement.

Giovanni was very desperate and he couldn't wait to have world power at his fingertip. He would do anything to achieve it.

Alex walked inside and hesitated.

"It looks like the matter has escalated," he voiced out.

Giovanni looked up at him.

"What do you mean by that?"

Alex moved closer to give him the phone he was holding.

Giovanni took the phone and stared at the screen for a moment. His eyes went wide with shock as he perused it.

"What!"

Giovanni yelled suddenly.

"Is something wrong?" Martin asked suddenly.

Alex turned to Martin.

"The news has reached Italy and it's spreading so fast but that's not even the only thing. I'm seeing tags from posts about it from other two countries," Alex explained.

"What! How did it all get there?"

Robert demanded.

"It's now evident that the elders of Hercules are the ones behind this problem," Martin voiced out.

"Alfred and Giovanni went to Italy a few days ago, after Hercules' death," he revealed.

Sam looked at Martin.

"You are right. In fact, I heard that Hercules could have shares in the Italian shoe company. It would be easy for Alfred to work with them," he explained.

"We need to do something about it," Alex said urgently.

"How do we force the site down?" Sam complained.

"I will check the site for any contact information and see if we can bring down the news. Meanwhile, we might need to bribe or kill them. And whichever we will be doing, it would mean that we have to go to Italy," Alex explained.

Martin made a nod of the head.

"I concur."

"And considering the fact that we have three more sites posting news about you, it will only take a few days before it will spread and we won't have a solution again. So," he hesitated.

"I will go to Italy and handle the job. I will make sure I do a clear job."

Giovanni looked at him.

"You will stay out of this!" He stressed.

"I will send my men out for it."

"The news seemed to be growing faster in Italy. I should go. I'm in the best position to handle it. You can send two of your men over to the other countries."

"I heard that Maximo rules Italy now. Are you sure you can handle him?" Martin asked.

Alex smiled softly.

"I can handle him very well. I know exactly what to do. Maximo won't disturb me till I'm done," he assured them.

"Well, I haven't given you the right to leave. You are staying right here in Jacksonville until everything clears. I don't want to have to worry about anything."

Alex regarded his father for a moment.

"No one will know I'm alive in Italy even if I move as I wish.No one cares what has happened in Jacksonville.News of Jacksonville doesn't spread in Italy unless someone had anchored it,"he explained further.

"You just have to find a way for me to get on the plane.The rest is as easy as ABC and you know it as well."

"I agree with Alex, Giovanni.He can do this.Let's give him the chance.If Alfred and the rest of the Elders were the ones that did the job, then we will need someone like Alex to handle it.What if your men fail?"

Giovanni cleared his throat meaningfully, a bit confused.He didn't know if he was supposed to accept or not.

"And you won't have to worry about anyone in Jacksonville knowing that I'm alive.I won't even return to Jacksonville until you call me over,"he promised.

Giovanni thought about it for a moment.It was really going to benefit him if Alex went to Italy.He promised to handle the situation.

Well, it was an opportunity for him to prove his worth.

And he wouldn't have to worry about the fact that anyone could find out that Alex was really in the city.He released a sigh and looked at Alex.

"Alright, you leave as early as 6am tomorrow.I wouldn't want anyone to notice you.You will leave with one of my men, in one of our jets.Do update me on everything over there."

Alex smiled slightly.

"I won't disappoint you," he promised.

Giovanni nodded unconsciously.

"You should get ready, I will get what you will need in Italy, ready for you."

Alex nodded once and walked out of the room.

"If Italy has decided to go against me,"

Giovanni started suddenly.

"Then we have to make sure they are disqualified from the contest. I want you," he looked at Martin.

"To find everything you can on their billionaire president. They will get disqualified again, as usual until they agree to team up with me," he swore.

Chapter 446: Expose

"Are you sure your plan is going to work?" Maro inquired.

Alex nodded once.

"My father has accepted me already. I have nothing to worry about that. But yes, I have a perfect plan already," he assured.

"I'm going to Italy to get more powerful and like I said, I won't be coming back anytime soon." He stood.

"I'm leaving in one hour, get everything ready," he ordered.

Maro took a short bow and walked out.

Alex decided to use a stone to kill two birds.He didn't know how long it was going to take his father to help him clear the mess.

Alex didn't know how long he was supposed to stay hidden.He couldn't even bear it anymore.He didn't even know why his father doesn't want him to leave Jacksonville in the first place.

It was the best thing for him to do.

Nonetheless, he had found a way to escape.He laughed at this.

Aphrodite adjusted on the bed, with a smile plastered on her face.She opened her eyes suddenly, just as the door opened and Grey walked inside.

"You sleep like a baby," he complimented with a smile before he moved closer to her with a tray of sandwiches and tea.

"You made this? This morning?"

Aphrodite was surprised.

Grey nodded once.

"I have to meet with Maximo this morning but I didn't want to leave without letting you know.Though, I thought you would still be sleeping." Aphrodite laughed.

"Where did you sleep last night?"

Grey hesitated as he placed the tray on the bed.

"On your bed, beside you."

Aphrodite scoffed.

"Don't lie! I woke up at the midnight but you were gone." Grey laughed.

"You caught me. Anyways, let's talk later when I get back. I think what Maximo has to see me for is urgent," he reached down and pecked her.

"Take care," he turned around to leave but stopped suddenly.

"Would you like to visit the Amalfi coast?" He turned to look at her.

Aphrodite's eyes brightened.

"With you?"

Grey nodded once.

"Yes. I've made a reservation at Ravello. We could go over when I'm back."

Aphrodite smiled.

"Are we coming back today?"

Grey shook his head.

"We could tour the city for three days. Who knows when we will be leaving for Italy and we won't be able to have the time for a vacation again," he explained.

Aphrodite whooped with delight.

"I will get ready."

Grey grinned widely before he walked out of the room.

Charles was waiting for him in the living room.

"Do you want me to come with you?"

"Yes, let's go together. I don't know what he wants to talk about but it doesn't matter if you tag along."

Charles nodded once.

"Give me a few minutes," he walked back inside his room.

Grey used the opportunity to grab a white hoodie as well.

He kept his dress simple even though they were all expensive.

Charles joined him in the living room later on clad in black trousers and a big T-shirt.

They both walked out of the room.

"Are you sure the news can make Giovanni not qualify for the position? Giovanni is very influential,"

Charles asked suddenly as he started the ignition.

Grey reasoned it for a moment.

"I think it should do the trick. But I'm thinking exposing the news in Italy would make it a target for Giovanni. Why has Italy never won an award as the king of the world?"

Charles nodded slightly.

"Giovanni could be doing things against Italy. Maybe he's even doing it against some other countries as well."

Grey nodded once.

"Giovanni is tricky. So, it's not a surprise for me. It "So, what do you do? What if Giovanni finds out that you are the new billionaire boss of the Italian billionaire club? I mean his eyes would certainly be on Italy now and I'm sure he's currently planning against Italy,"

Charles enlightened.

Grey relaxed in his chair.

"Then we have to give him something to not worry about."

"What are you planning?"

"We will have a temporary billionaire president. I will discuss it with Maximo today."

Charles nodded once as he pulled into the garage.

Grey and Charles walked into the company.

They've entered the elevator when Grey's phone rang suddenly. Grey picked it up immediately.

"Hi Grey, are you around?"

This was the question that Maximo asked immediately. He didn't even wait for Grey to reply when he continued.

"Don't come now. I will call you when the space is clear, " his tone sounded urgent.

"Well, I'm already in the elevator,"

Grey announced.

"What! Alex is on the way to the elevator," he revealed.

Grey gathered his brows amazingly.

"What? Alex is in this company?"

"Yes, that was what I was going to tell you but I thought he left already. He's one stubborn and suspicious guy."

He complained.

Actually, Maximo sounded frustrated and Grey noticed it.

"What did Alex come for? What did you guys talk about?"

"I will tell you everything later. But you need to get off the elevator now. He's not supposed to know you are alive, remembers?"

Grey nodded once.

"Alright, but you could have told me earlier! Then, I wouldn't have come in the first place! This will be your fault if he sees me."

"I'm sorry, Grey. I just hope he doesn't see you."

Grey released an exasperated sigh.

"Alright, later," he finished and hung up.

"Is something wrong?" Charles asked quickly.

Grey made a short nod of his head.

"Alex is in the company. Maximo wants me to leave the company immediately," he explained.

Charles's eyes went wide with shock as he pressed some buttons.

"I will get you off. I just hope he's not on this floor."

The elevator door opened suddenly and Charles saw Alex talking to one of his men.

Charles looked at Grey and realized that he was also looking at him.

Grey's eyes went wide and dark with shock.

The only luck they had at that moment is because Alex wasn't looking ahead or he would have seen them too.

But he would want to enter the elevator.

There was no way to escape it.

Chapter 447: Misled

Charles looked at Grey.

"Go now! I will distract him!" He said quickly and rushed out of the elevator.

Grey covered his face very well with the hood and turned aside. It was at this moment that Alex rounded off what he was saying to his men and turned towards the elevator. His eyes went wide with shock as he looked at Charles.

"Charles?"

Charles feigned surprise, as he stood in front of the elevator so that Alex wouldn't be able to enter.

Alex didn't suspect anything as his attention was on Charles.

"It's actually pleasing to meet you here. But I'm not here for you."

"How disappointing,"

Charles voiced out suddenly, as the elevator closed. He released a sigh of relief.

"I actually knew how notorious X your father was," he eventually stepped aside from the elevator.

"But I didn't expect him to shamelessly let you off the hook.You x disgraced him.Yet, he's still willing to risk his reputation to get you out." Alex scoffed.

"What do you think? I'm sure you are just bitter for Grey.Grey didn't think that I would get out.No, he must be the * most bitter man.He must be turning at this moment!" He laughed.

Charles rushed forward with anger and grabbed his collar.

"Don't talk about him in such a way!" He yelled.

One of Alex's men moved closer and yanked Charles' hand away x from Alex.

"What can you do to me now? Your boss is dead.I'm sure this * group will collapse soon.

Without a boss, the followers are easily tired.

Unless they are yet to know that Grey is the Hercules, the one that was buried several days ago,"he taunted.

Charles clenched his fist beside him in anger.

"There's a lot we can do to you.You are going down, Alex.You are going back to prison.And your father will never get the award," he promised.

Alex regarded him for a moment before he laughed out so loud.

"Seriously? I thought as much. I knew it was your work but well, it will all be handled by me now that I'm here," he took a step forward to fill the space between them.

"And if you don't stay mindful of yourself, you will go next," he warned sternly, then pulled away.

"Nice meeting you again, old friend. See you later," he turned around and walked away with his men.

"Should we get rid of him?" Maro asked Alex as they walked to the next elevator.

Alex shook his head briefly.

"Not here. We can do it later but it's so crowded here and I don't know who else is here with him. If I don't act cautious, it will backfire," he explained.

Maro nodded once.

"I will get one of the men to spy on him." Alex nodded once.

"That's good."

Charles released a sigh. He was scared for a moment. He thought that Alex was actually going to see Grey.

If that happens, all their plans would be thwarted.

Damn! He was so scared.

And the funniest part was that he was already releasing beads of perspiration.

All the moves he displayed were so that Alex wouldn't notice anything strange and he succeeded. He pulled out his phone and placed a call to Grey.

The phone rang but suddenly, it wasn't available again. It bothered him.

Could Grey have lost his phone? Grey walked back to the garage and realised that there were several men standing guards at every corner.

There was no way for Grey to know if they were Alex's men but there was one thing he was sure of.

The men were definitely looking for him.

Because none of them were standing guard when they pulled into the garage that morning.

And Alex was already inside the company at that moment.

Something seemed wrong.

Grey was in hiding when his phone rang suddenly.

It was Charles but he was calling at the wrong time.

Grey managed to hang up as fast as he could but it had already attracted the men.

The men started to walk towards him now.

They weren't much, actually and Grey could take them down quickly but he just didn't want his identity to be revealed.

If he doesn't act very carefully, all his plans would go to waste.

"Who is there?"

One of the men demanded in an angry tone.

"Come out at this moment!"

They knew something was wrong too.

If someone was hiding from them, then it could be who they were looking for. So, they continued to move closer.

Suddenly, a car horn sounded from behind them, distracting them for a moment.

"Where am I supposed to park my car? How am I supposed to go see my client?"

A feminine voice yelled in frustration.

The men's attention was fully divided and while some of the men started towards the lady in need, some turned towards their first prey.

During the interruption, Grey used the opportunity to walk back to the company.

They walked towards the location where they knew the sound came from earlier.

They met nothing.

They all cursed at once.

Thankfully with the hoodie that Grey was putting on, he was able to walk without being noticed.

He moved towards another elevator and he was eventually able to find an empty one. He placed a call to Charles immediately.

"Where are you?" Charles asked quickly.

"I'm back in the elevator. I suppose Alex would have been in an elevator already. I'm in an empty one, so we won't meet," he assured.

"But something is wrong."

"What is wrong? Also, I called you the other time but you didn't pick up. What happened?"

"Something is wrong, Charles. There were a lot of men in the garage when I got there. I suspected they could be from Alex. So, I had to hide," he explained.

"Actually, that feels really strange. Do you think there's something Maximo isn't telling us? Alex said he would handle everything that could hinder his father from getting the award," he revealed.

Grey reasoned it for a moment.

"Could Maximo be working for Alex?" Alex gasped.

"That's not possible!"

"That's what I want to believe too but it was Maximo that called me here this morning. And why will Alex come to see him so early this morning if there wasn't more to it? Could he have told Alex the truth?"

The truth was scary.

"Fuck! I don't believe it. I spoke with Alex the other time but he didn't act as if he knew. Though, there was this boldness I sensed from him. Could he truly know everything?"

"I'm seeing Maximo immediately!" Grey almost yelled.

Chapter 448: On whim?

Grey was fuming when he arrived at the floor where Maximo's office was.

There were two security men in front of his office. Grey moved closer nonetheless.

"Who are you?"

One of the men asked as they tried to stop Grey from entering.

Grey ignored them and made towards the door.

One of the men caught him by the hand and made to punch him with the other one. But Grey dodged it and gave him a blow in the mouth.

The man staggered back and vomited blood.

Grey had this dark frown on his face as he turned towards the second man. He backed away briefly, now seeing his face and remembering that Grey was friends with Maximo.

"You can go in," he said hurriedly, with a shaking voice.

Well, he remembered that Grey had defeated Maximo in a fight. So, he would be no match for him.

Fighting him would be useless.

Grey clenched his fist angrily, ready to smash anyone that dared him. He stomped inside.

Maximo stood up quickly when the door opened. He regarded Grey for a moment.

"Grey? I thought you left already."

"You thought I left?" Grey yelled in anger.

"What the fuck are you planning, Maximo?" Maximo raised confused brows.

"What do you mean?" Grey didn't answer immediately.

Instead, he took three long strides towards him until they were standing so close to each other, only a hairbreadth away.

"Start talking, Maximo. I might be in your country but I know what I can do. Don't dare me!" He warned.

"Don't threaten me, Grey. I don't understand you. You can do me a favor by making me understand. I'm totally lost at this point," he regarded him for a moment and slowly let go of his hands on him.

"Don't handle me like that, Grey. I'm not someone you can control. And if something happens to me in this company, you won't get out easily." Grey eyes went wide with awe.

"Seriously? Is that supposed to be a threat?"

"No," Maximo shook his head briefly.

"I'm just trying to let you know. Instead, you can sit, and let's talk this out," he sat and looked up at him.

"Or do you suppose we fight it out?" Grey released an exasperated sigh.

"Why don't you start with the reason why Alex is here? You guys seem closer than you told me," he uttered.

"Why don't you explain your relationship? Because the last time I checked, he was supposed to be one of our opposition," he stressed.

Maximo looked away, and his mouth formed a tactical line in the admission of a tactical error.

"Or why don't you tell me why Alex's men are in the garage? Or have you told them the truth? That I'm alive and in Italy?" Maximo looked at him and shook his head briefly.

"No, such a thing didn't happen. I didn't tell him that," he protested.

Grey gathered his forehead at him.

"Then what did you discuss?"

"It's a long story," Maximo muttered.

"Why don't you start telling me about it?"

A soft knock sounded on the door and one of Maximo's men rushed inside. He turned out to be the one that told Grey to enter the other day.

"Boss, Mr. Alex is on the way here right now."

Grey looked up at him, unable to believe his ears.

"What did you just say?"

"Yes, he's on the way. In fact, he's going to be here any minute."

Grey looked back at Maximo. At this moment, he was too angry to even believe Maximo.

"What can you say at this moment? What is your explanation? Alex is supposed to have left. Why is he lagging around?"

Grey couldn't keep the anger in. He knew there was something that Maximo wasn't telling him.

There was something Alex knew. It was why he refused to leave the company.

And at that moment, Grey didn't even trust Maximo again.

"I didn't tell Alex anything, I swear! We've been together since you entered and I haven't even been chanced to take my phone," he explained.

Grey huffed.

"You must think I am a fool! You could have told one of your men!" Maximo stood.

"I didn't! Believe me this once! I promise to get to the root of the matter." Grey regarded him for a moment.

"Why should I believe you at this moment?"

"Because I'm after Italian best interest. We are getting the award for this year and you are helping us," his voice was pleading.

Grey watched him for a moment and saw the sincerity on his face.

"Come over here," he said hurriedly and moved towards the shelf.

He took a book and pulled at a switch.

A door appeared suddenly. He looked at Grey.

"Come over here if you don't want him to meet you here!" He said urgently.

Grey found himself inhaling severally before he moved closer to him.

"This will lead you to an office on the second floor. You can choose to stay there till everything is settled. I will call you when he leaves, " he explained.

Grey stared at Maximo for a moment.

"I will trust you this last time," he finished and entered the mini-elevator.

Just as the shelf closed, the door opened violently and Alex strode in.

"What are you doing here again? I thought you left?" Maximo feigned innocence.

Alex didn't answer as his gaze searched around quickly for a place where someone could hide.

"Who was in this room with you before T arrived?"

Maximo regarded him for a moment.

"What are you doing? There's no one here, except for my guard," he explained, "Do you want me to report to Jacksonville police that you are here?"

Alex laughed.

"I'm sure you wouldn't dare. You are not my match, Maximo. Just remember that. Even your brother, Mattee wasn't my match." Maximo clenched his teeth in anger. He wanted to say more but he bit it in and decided to stay quiet.

Alex watched Maximo for a moment.

"I will be back," he uttered and turned to leave.

He stopped almost immediately and turned around again. His eyes went to the bookshelf.

Maximo traced his eyes toward the shelf and his heart skipped several beats. He wasn't able to fit the book in its place before Alex opened the door.

At this moment, the switch was easily visible for all to see. And Alex could have seen the switch.

"You should leave now," Maximo said hurriedly.

Alex ignored him and started moving towards the shelf. Maximo didn't know if he was supposed to message Grey and inform him of the danger. But was there a way he could do that without Alex knowing? Truly, it looked like Alex knows something but he wasn't the one that told him.

Chapter 449: Seen

The door opened suddenly and Maximo's secretary walked inside. Alex stopped walking and turned around, his focus now on the secretary, the book shelf already forgotten. The secretary gaze searched around briefly.

"Yes, what is it?" Maximo demanded.

"Miss Robinson is here. She's supposed to see you this morning. But I don't know if you are ready to meet with her."

Maximo cleared his throat meaningfully.

"Let her in. I'm free at this moment to attend to her."

The secretary bowed slightly.

"Alright boss," she finished and walked out.

Maximo looked at Alex.

"You will have to leave now. As you can see, I have something else to do." Alex gave him a long stare.

"I will be watching you," he gave him the last warning before he walked out of the office.

Maximo closed his eyes briefly, while inhaling a sighing breath.

"Make sure Alex leaves this territory, before you report to me," he ordered.

The man bowed slightly.

"Yes boss," and walked out of the office.

A soft knock sounded on the door almost immediately.

"Yes, come in," Maximo invited.

The door opened softly and Avery walked inside, a bright smile on her face.

"Good morning, Mr Maximo." Maximo stood and reciprocated her smile.

"Good morning, Miss Avery. It's so nice to meet you in person." Avery laughed.

"Thank you."

Maximo gestured to the chair in front of him.

"Have your seat please."

Avery sat and watched Maximo do the same.

"Thank you so much."

"So, were you planning on getting a company here?"

"Not really," Avery shook her head briefly.

"I was thinking of a place like Seattle or Orange park. But I'm yet to make a decision. I will definitely let you know when I do," she assured.

Maximo gave her a reassuring smile and stretched out a file to her.

"Here's the sample contract. You could check it out before you sign. We could meet here later on for both partners to sign."

Avery took the sample contract and nodded once.

"I really appreciate this. Thank you so very much." Maximo nodded once.

"It's my pleasure." They both stood up.

Maximo hesitated before he stretched out his hands to her.

"Nice doing business with you."

Avery took it, with a wide smile.

"Same here."

On second thought, Maximo said, "Would you like to see Ravello with me? I mean it's one of the places that people love to see whenever they are in Italy. You shouldn't miss the opportunity," he explained, though still holding her.

Avery felt anxious.

"Sure, I heard it has great views."

"Exactly," Maximo finally released her.

"You should go there so you can confirm if what people said about it is true." Avery nodded severally.

"Alright, let's see how it goes."

"Ok, how about tomorrow morning? I'm kind of booked today and I don't know what your schedule is as well."

"Yes, tomorrow morning is perfect. Bye, Mr.Maximo," she finished and walked out.

Maximo found himself staring right behind her.

Avery was such a beauty, as the world has described her to be.His phone rang suddenly, jerking him out of his thoughts.It was one of his men, Philip.Maximo picked it up immediately.

"Yes, Philip.Has Alex left?"

"Yes, boss.He just pulled out now, with his men," Philip confirmed.

Maximo released a relieved sigh.

"Alright," he finished and hung up.

He placed a call to Grey immediately.

Grey seemed to be waiting for him already, as he picked it up immediately.

"Hello, Maximo."

"Alex is gone," he announced.

"You can come over now."

"Alright, I will be there now."

Avery couldn't help but notice that Maximo was being a bit flirty. But she had heard a lot about him.

Maximo wasn't only strong but he was currently leading the mafia bosses in Italy. She knew, before she embarked on a journey to Italy, that there were more mafia bosses in Italy than there were in Jacksonville. She could still remember that there were just two main bosses in Jacksonville.

Hercules and Giovanni.

Though she knew who Giovanni was but that wasn't the case for Hercules. Hercules hid his identity until the last minute.

The news has been talking about Hercules especially after Giovanni became the new billionaire president.

The world wondered what had happened to Hercules and why he had gone into hiding like he did for ten years.

Could the man under Hercules be someone that lives the life of Jekyll and Hyde? That was the only reason why he would appear for some minutes, only to disappear again and leave the world wanting him.

But Avery hadn't really been able to go out on dates after the divorce between her and Grey. She had been so occupied with her job and she had wanted to prove it to everyone, including her grandfather and mother that she was capable. So, going on a date with Maximo wasn't such a big deal, especially when she would be leaving soon.

"Thank you so much, ma'am," the receptionist said behind Avery.

Avery glanced back and threw her a bright smile before she walked to the elevator.

Italy was fun to be in anyways if not for the danger that looms around.

But with Maximo, she could be sure that nothing would happen to her.

There was actually a lot going on in the shoe company.

Avery had noticed that something was wrong when she arrived an hour ago and saw the men in the garage.

They were mafia lords, so it wasn't entirely new if danger looms around but Avery had wanted to intervene even though she knew nothing about it all.

That was why she horned out loud and distracted the men.

And somehow, when she looked up, she saw a man hurried away.

It looked like he hesitated and mouthed a 'thank you' to her before he left or maybe it was only imaginary.

Anyways, she did it. She pressed the button and waited.

An elevator was coming up already.

Her phone rang suddenly.

It was her secretary.

She picked it up immediately.

"Hello Jones, I have the sample contract with me already. We will discuss more when I'm back in the hotel."

The elevator door opened suddenly and Avery walked inside.

Aman walked past her as she hung up. She looked at the man slightly.

He was with a hoodie but Avery still couldn't miss the familiar look on his face. But Avery didn't stop.

Maybe it was her mind that was merely playing tricks on her, she couldn't tell. But the door was closing when Avery remembered whose face she had seen. It was Grey! Fuck! There was no way she would have missed it! It was him!

Chapter 450: Twists!

Avery stopped the door before it would close. She rushed out of the elevator and realised that the man was gone.

Wait, she couldn't have imagined him.

Avery had Grey in mind but he wasn't the one he was thinking about at that moment.

There was no way she would be hallucinating. It was very impossible.

And the man clearly walked past her. It was weird.

Avery walked back to Maximo's office and regarded the two men in front of the office for a moment. She didn't know if she was supposed to enter Maximo's office.

What excuse was she going to give Maximo? That she wanted to check if her ex-husband was in his office.

What if he wasn't? Damn! Grey was dead! Avery heard the news as well. She didn't get herself for some days after the announcement.

The fact that she knew that Grey was killed gave her a feeling close to fear.

Grey was bombed. He could have been annoying when they were married but Avery wished she could meet him again.

In fact, she realised after a few months that Grey was a good man.

And she lost a gem by losing him. She hesitated as her heart sank again. She had just been reminded of Grey again.

Grey was someone she had tried so hard to forget even though it was very difficult for her.

If only she could turn back the time, then she would have left Jacksonville with Grey.

They would have settled down elsewhere and lived happily ever after.

It didn't matter if Grey had no money.

They could end up making it real.

Well, it was all in the past.

But the only thing she couldn't understand was why she just hallucinated about Grey.

If Grey wasn't dead, she wondered if he would have gotten married again.

Sadly, she walked to the elevator. She stopped again and looked back as if she would catch Grey walking through the hallway. She missed him so much! Grey stepped out after the elevator door had shut.

For a moment, Grey didn't know it was Avery. She had changed so much.

In fact, she had grown to be very beautiful and very different.

He was lucky that she didn't recognize him instantly.

Grey was sure that she heard the news about his death already.

And it wasn't time for anyone to know the truth.

He walked inside Maximo's office again, with tiredness.

He had been running around since that morning and it felt like he had exhausted all the energy in him.

Maximo stood.

"Welcome Grey." Grey collapsed into his chair, tired.

"What the fuck is Alex always looking for here?" He stressed languorously.

The door opened almost immediately and Charles walked inside.

"Grey," Charles breathed out a sigh of relief.

"I was even scared of calling you again."

"Thank God you didn't or you would have caused a lot of trouble," Grey joked.

Charles laughed.

"If you are making a joke out of this, then you must be alright," he looked at Maximo.

"But we need an explanation. What the fuck just happened? To me, it looked planned."

Maximo went still for a moment as if thinking about everything.

"I will tell you everything," he said suddenly.

Grey sat up.

"You did tell Alex something about me, right?"

Maximo shook his head briefly.

"I didn't. I wasn't lying with what I said earlier."

"What about the reporters and the owner of the website that helped us share the news about Giovanni? Alex said he was going to take care of them. Did you tell him anything about them?"

Charles inquired.

Maximo released a sigh and met Charles' eyes for a few minutes.

"I did."

'What! "

Charles half-yelled.

"You did that? How can you betray us like that?"

"I didn't betray you. I told him about the reporter but not you."

"Seriously?"

Charles laughed bitterly.

"If that isn't considered a betrayal to you, then what is it?" He yelled.

"Who knows what else you told him! Who knows how much you are going to tell him."

Grey watched Maximo for a moment before he looked at Charles.

"Do all you have to do to make sure none of them die," he ordered.

"No!"

Maximo said quickly.

"You can't do that."

Grey gaze met Maximo's for a few minutes, his gaze was cold while Maximo's own was pleading.

"I won't let them die," he stated calmly.

"You don't seem to understand anything.I already told Alex everything.He knows how to get them.If you show up now, you will only risk everything.He might even end up seeing you," he explained.

"So, that's why you will let five people die?" Charles yelled.

"These people only worked for us.They don't even share in our dreams.How could you let Alex kill them!"

Maximo released a sigh.

"For the greater height."Alex will definitely find you, Grey, if you show up now."

There was something about Maximo that Grey couldn't really explain.He was really hiding something very important.

Grey stood up suddenly.

"I will not let them die."

Maximo stood as well.

"You have to let Alex believe that they are all dead so that we can continue with our plan.If you_."

"They must be alive!" Grey said suddenly, interrupting Maximo quickly.

"- for my plan to work.No one is dying in this plan."

"Don't mess with Alex!" Maximo warned.

"He's dangerous." Grey scoffed.

"You won't be the one to tell me how dangerous Alex is. I will definitely handle him," he assured.

Maximo fidgeted for a moment.

"Will you just sit and hear me out? I have a lot to tell you, guys, about. You have to sit and eat them out!" He warned.

"I will come back, after I've saved the reporters and the site creator,"

Grey turned around and walked out of the office before Maximo would say more.

"Are you sure we can do this without Maximo's help? Wouldn't it be dangerous?"

"It will but I'm not ready to give the men up,"

Grey responded.

Charles understood him.

Well, Grey was always like that.

He has always wanted to save everyone, even though it was the most foolish thing to do sometimes.

"I will go alone. Alex must have probably decided to finish the door today."

Grey shook his head briefly.

"No, I will do it. Even Maximo seems scared of Alex, I should be the one to do this but," he hesitated.

"I want you to send a message to Luciano and Dante. I want to speak to them immediately."

"What of Maximo? He's acting suspicious. Should I get someone to spy on him?"

Grey entered the elevator.

"No, don't spy on him. Let him be. There's something going on with him, something only Alex knows. I have that feeling."