

Secretly TBB 461

Chapter 461: A fool or not

"What? Alex is calling?"

Grey was a bit shocked.Or maybe he just thought that Alex was a fool and he was not.Alex might already know that they were watching him or maybe he saw one of his men.If he does, he would definitely know what their plan was.

"Get back to me about whatever he says," he finished and hung up.

Charles moved closer to him at this point.

"Boss, I just receive a report from the men," he announced.

"Open up!" Grey ordered.

"I just got informed that the men that just arrived in Italy aren't staying with Alex.They actually lodged into one of the hotels in Italy," Charles revealed.

Grey regarded him for a moment.

"Seriously? Something is really wrong somewhere.If they are really here for Alex, then they should be staying with him.There must be something we don't know." Charles nodded once.

"That's what I think too.But I'm leaving now.I will have to lodge into the hotel to be able to know what the men's mission is," he explained.

Grey nodded once.

"Just let me in on everything." Charles smiled briefly.

"Don't worry about it and enjoy your vacation. I will handle everything," he promised.

Grey released a sigh.

"Alex just called Maximo. I'm anxious to know what he would tell him. That can cut my trip short but let's see how it goes." Charles nodded once and walked out of the house. The door opened behind Grey almost immediately and Aphrodite stepped out in high waist -jean trousers and a pink hoodie. Grey took in her view for a moment and a smile exploded on his face.

"Ready?"

"Yes," Aphrodite giggled.

"I just don't know if I'm wearing the right clothes. I wanted to go with a gown but I realized I would have to shower and change when we arrive. Maybe I could change into that by then," she explained.

Grey moved closer and embraced her.

"You look very beautiful in this. It doesn't matter what you wear, Novia. You are always very beautiful. Besides, you are right. You would be exhausted when we arrive and would need a shower. You could change your clothes by then."

Aphrodite nodded briefly as heat rushed into her due to their closeness.

"It's my first date as your girlfriend. I'm anxious." Grey smiled.

"It's our first and it will be the least. I plan to go to a lot of places with you."

Avery knocked on the door slightly and waited. She heard a faint voice from inside before she opened the door and walked inside. Maximo seemed immense in something on the phone that he didn't instantly notice it was Avery that walked inside.

"Good morning, Mr. Maximo," Avery said suddenly, drawing attention to herself.

It was at this moment that Maximo looked up, saw it was Avery, and smiled.

"Good morning, Miss Avery. I didn't know it was you."

He slowly placed the phone on the table and pushed it slightly away.

"Can we really finalise the contract now?"

Avery hesitated as if she was thinking about something.

"Yes, actually but there's something I'm currently thinking of considering."

Maximo gathered his brows at her.

"Yes, what can that be?"

"I've just discovered that Italy is really a nice place. I would like to have one of my business branches here if you don't mind," she revealed.

"Though," she added quickly because she thought Maximo might react to it in a bad way.

"I'm still thinking about it and haven't really decided. But what do you think?"

Maximo nodded several times at this, with a nice smile on his face.

"I actually think it's a nice idea.I mean I remember telling you this when we met days ago.It's actually a nice thing," he repeated.

Avery released a sigh of relief.

"Thank you.I thought you might be against it." Maximo shook his head once.

"No, that can't happen.I mean it's a nice thing.There's no way I would be against such things.I can help you with whatever you need.Just tell me whenever you need my help but," he regarded Avery for a moment.

"You rejected it days back.What changed your mind?" Avery laughed shortly.

"I don't know," she shrugged slightly.

"I just gave your suggestion a deep thought and saw how good it was.So, I will be staying for more days if you don't mind," she announced.

Maximo nodded once, a smile coming up on his face.

"That's ok.You can stay as long as you want.Just let me know if you encounter any kind of difficulties on your way, and I will surely come to your aid," he promised.

Avery smiled with gratitude.

"I will surely do that, thank you, Mr.Maximo," she finished and stood up. She hesitated a little before she looked at Maximo again.

"What about David? Is he in the company at the moment?" Maximo shook his head briefly.

'He's not, Avery.I sent him on a business trip," he lied.

Avery's face fell. She thought she was going to see him again. Or maybe she would. Well, she was spending more days in Italy after all. And she would intentionally show up in the company just to see him.

"Thank you so much, Mr. Maximo. I will talk to you later then."

Maximo regarded her for a moment and called out to her before she would walk out of the office.

Avery looked at him with raised brows.

"Is anything wrong?" Maximo shook his head briefly.

"Nothing actually. I was just going to ask a few questions concerning David or rather, the man you thought David was. What was the name you called him?" He feigned ignorance.

"Grey," Avery reminded.

Maximo snapped his fingers dramatically.

"Yes, it's Grey. I don't know how you would take it but who was Grey to you and why were you so shocked last night?"

Maximo found it strange that Grey didn't want to talk about it. He has been so wanting to know how close Grey had been with Avery.

Avery went silent for a moment as she deliberated on how to start.

"Oh, it's on if you don't feel comfortable discussing it with me," Maximo said hurriedly.

"I should just let you leave.How about dinner tonight? I will pick you up."

"Grey was my husband before he died," Avery revealed, much to Maximo's surprise.

Chapter 462: Hidden agenda

Maximo couldn't believe his ears.

"What did you just say? He was your dead husband? I mean, I didn't know you were married." Avery smiled softly.

"We divorced before he died.It's actually a long story but David reminds me a lot about him.I will check in with you later then," she took a short bow before she walked out of the office.

For a few minutes, Maximo was still shocked.He never expected it.Was that why Grey didn't want to tell him anything? Yet, Maximo felt offended.

Grey shouldn't hide something like that from him.

That aside, he wondered why the two divorced.

And somehow, he wanted to get to the root of it all especially because he has started loving Avery.

Grey and Aphrodite arrived at Italy's Amalfi Coast several hours later.

No call came from Maximo or Charles and Grey was starting to worry but he didn't want it to disrupt his trip.

Aphrodite had changed into a red gown that matched her hair perfectly.

"The view is perfect!" she exclaimed softly.

Grey moved closer and embraced her from behind.

They both stared out from the terraced garden.

They were in Ravello, a resort town set 365 meters above the Tyrrhenian Sea by Italy's Amalfi Coast.

And they were lodged into Caruso, a Belmond hotel that was one of the exclusive luxury hotels in Italy.

"I knew you were going to love it. The funniest thing is that there are a lot of tourists currently. So, the whole place is booked up. Thankfully, I already booked this place a week ago," he explained.

"What? You've been paying for this place? For a week?" Aphrodite asked with amazement.

Grey laughed briefly.

"It's actually nothing. You know how rich I am, don't you?" Aphrodite laughed too.

"I know. You are Hercules, after all. It just feels good that you did this for me. Thank you so much, Grey." Grey pecked her.

"Anything for you, Novia. Least I forget, I just ordered Delizia al limone for you. You are going to love it. I heard it's one of the foods you should try around here. When you are done with that, we could go for a little tour before we call it a night. Though, we could go through Via dei Rufolo," Aphrodite giggled.

"Yes, that would be great. I would love to. Are we getting escorts?"

Grey released a sigh and pulled back slightly.

While still leaning forward a bit, he whirled Aphrodite around towards him.

"We are, I wouldn't risk it again, not with you around and knowing that we could get killers pretending to be tourists. Like I said initially, I can't risk it."

The telephone rang suddenly.

Grey pulled away and picked it up. He spoke silently for some minutes before he hung up and looked at Aphrodite.

"Our Delizia al limone is here," he announced and moved to the main door.

He walked back inside, pulling a serving tray.

"Let's eat!" he announced happily.

Aphrodite regarded him for a moment before she moved closer.

Grey got a glass of non-alcoholic wine and they both settled down to eat.

While Aphrodite was eating, Grey took his phone and went through it again.

He was at least expecting to see a message but there was nothing.

He might need to place a call to Charles when they are done eating.

But he didn't want to do it at that moment.

He wanted to have a nice time with Aphrodite.

"So, what are your plans now? When are you going to Jacksonville? Also, are you really planning on exposing your identity after it all?"

Grey laughed.

"What question do you want me to answer first?"

Aphrodite chuckled.

"Anyone but I want to know all.I haven't been able to talk with you like this, because you've been so busy."

Grey laughed again.

"I will do that, it's no problem," he downed a cup of wine.

"Actually, I've told Maximo about it.I would like to let everyone know I'm Hercules when this goes well.And I'm sure it will.With our plans, I'm sure I would be the next King of the world," he explained.

Aphrodite regarded him for a moment.

"Are you sure it's ok like that?" Grey shrugged slightly.

"Why not?"

"I still think you should watch out for Giovanni.You should not rush things like that.I don't feel good about you exposing yourself to the world like that.There will be time for it.Why don't you relax?" Grey nodded once.

"Alright, I will give it a thought."Aphrodite smiled.

"Thank you. So, tell me more. Are you sure your plan is working well? And everything is going accordingly?" Grey nodded once.

"It is. We just have a slight issue with Alex but I plan to settle it very fast. It's nothing to worry about."

They spoke about a lot of things while they eat. When they were done, it was almost evening. So, they decided to take a stroll to Via dei Rufolo. "The sunset looks nice in this part of the world," Aphrodite muttered.

They were both holding hands and walking through the street.

Due to the time of the day, there were a lot of tourists around.

Grey still had his phone clutched to himself and was expecting a call from either Charles or Maximo.

At a point when he couldn't take it anymore, he turned to look at Aphrodite.

"Can I call Charles? I mean I've been expecting Maximo and Charles' call since morning but nothing came through. I'm thinking something bad could have happened. I don't think I would be able to concentrate anymore if I don't talk to them," he explained.

Aphrodite nodded once.

"That's ok. You don't really need my permission to do that, actually." Grey smiled and pulled her into a slight hug.

"Today is for you, dear. I don't want to come with any excuse." Aphrodite grinned.

"Well, I'll give you the permission." Grey laughed.

"Thank you, darling."

"Who do we have here?" a voice said suddenly and Vincenzo showed up in front of them.

Chapter 463: Main idea

Grey regarded him for a moment.

"What are you doing here?" Vincenzo shook his head once.

"I didn't follow you here. It's just a coincidence," he explained.

Five men moved out from their hiding place and moved closer to Grey from behind. Vincenzo watched the men for a moment.

"Calm down, I wasn't going to do anything to your boss," he told the men and looked at Grey again.

"I saw you from afar and I decided to move closer and apologize for the other day. The elders told me you won't be available for three days," he explained.

Grey regarded him for a moment as if trying to read what was going on in his head.

"Alright. Nice meeting you here. You can proceed with what you want to do. We have places to be."

Vincenzo made a nod of his head and looked at Aphrodite.

"I'm sorry ma'am for everything and I'm sorry," he looked up at Grey.

"For accosting you. I hope we are clear, now?" Grey nodded once.

"Good," he gave him a side look and wrapped his arm around Aphrodite.

"See you later," he muttered and gently walked Aphrodite away while Vincenzo continued to stare right behind them.

"Who is that man?" Aphrodite inquired.

'Vincenzo.He was the man that drugged you.I was just being nice to him," he muttered as he let the anger seep out of him.

He was still angry at Vincenzo, there was no fact about that.He could even punch his face if he spent another minute staring at his face.

They both decided to return home.

Aphrodite was equally tired.

Just as they stepped inside the suite, Grey's phone rang suddenly, startling Aphrodite for a moment.

Grey withdrew it and saw it was Charles.He picked it up immediately while Aphrodite moved to the bathroom for a quick shower.

"Hey, Charles.What has been taking you so long? I've been waiting for your call.What didn't you call back?"

"I'm sorry boss but I didn't want to disturb you and Aphrodite.I told Maximo not to report to you," he revealed.

Grey groaned inwardly.

"You got me worried, for real! What the fuck is happening currently?"

"Well, Maximo refused to disclose anything to me. He said he would like to discuss this with you directly. But he said it could wait. Besides, I discovered that the men didn't come for Alex. They are actually here for a different mission," he explained.

"Really?" Grey raised a skeptical brow.

"Did you discover the reason?"

"Not yet but some of them have been lurking around Dante and Enzo. I have a feeling it's something concerning the billionaire club," he hesitated.

"Could it be what you have said earlier? Could Giovanni be looking into the billionaire club in Italy?" Grey reasoned it for a moment.

"That can be the case. The announcement would come soon. It's only normal that he has already taken the bait," he explained.

"That's what I thought as well. But I'm yet to find a concrete reason to hold. I will just spy on them for some days and I will get it," he assured.

Grey made a nod of the head.

"If Giovanni sent his men to look into the billionaire club, then my plan must be working. I will call Maximo and inform him. No one is allowed to communicate with each other at this moment. Giovanni's men must not suspect anything."

"Alright, I understand. I will continue to keep them under watch," he assured.

"But you must get back to me with whatever happens," Grey ordered.

"Alright, boss. I understand."

The line went off and Grey released a sigh. He actually thought the men were in Italy for Alex. So, that does mean that Alex doesn't have the evidence? Then why did he call Maximo? What did they discuss? Aphrodite was already inside and maybe already asleep.

Grey decided to place a call to Maximo. It rang twice but Maximo didn't pick up.

Grey decided to stop calling him.

Maybe he was busy at that moment.

He promised to call him back the next day.

But just as he turned to leave, his phone rang suddenly and it was Maximo.

Grey picked it up immediately.

"Hi Maximo, how are you doing?"

Maximo went quiet for a moment.

"Why didn't you tell me?"

He muttered in a deep voice, with a hint of anger.

"I thought you were supposed to be my friend."

Grey blinked once, unable to comprehend what was really happening.

"What are you talking about?"

Maximo released a sigh.

"Why didn't you say you were once married to Miss Avery?"

Grey went into a sudden shock.

Actually, he didn't expect Maximo to learn about it. And he wondered how he did.

"It's a piece of little and unimportant information. So, I didn't see it fit to inform you about it."

"It doesn't matter, Grey. I deserve to hear about everything. It doesn't matter how little the information is, you should inform me about it," he stressed.

Grey released a sigh.

"Alright, I apologise. But how did you discover it?"

"She told me about it. She kept asking to see you. In fact, it's likely she extends her trip because of you," Maximo revealed.

Grey heart skipped thousands of beats.

"Then inform her that I have been sacked." Maximo laughed briefly.

"Alright, I shall inform her tomorrow, " he cleared his throat.

"Alex called me, Grey. He didn't show me the evidence actually but he seemed to have done something huge to it."

"Yes, what did he do?" Grey probed in.

Maximo released a sigh.

"He said he handed it over to his father. Giovanni would use it against me after he becomes the new king of the world," he revealed.

Grey thought about it for a moment.

With Alex's action, there were only two possible explanations.

Alex didn't have the evidence and was trying to delay everything.

He didn't want Maximo to walk out of his trap, so he had to bring up something to still keep him in it.

Or could Alex have misplaced it somewhere? Perhaps he's only looking for it.

Or maybe he doesn't even have it.

If Giovanni becomes the next king of the world, he would have the power to do things.

Yes! Alex doesn't have any evidence against Maximo!

Chapter 464: Caught at the end

The door opened suddenly and two men walked inside.

A man that was already inside and seemed to be waiting for the two men, looked up and released a sigh.

"Anything?" The man asked.

The two men made a nod of their heads.

"Nothing sir. We are unable to get anything. It doesn't even look like they've had any meetings this year."

"Yes, it looks like they don't plan on joining for this year after all," the second man informed.

The man who was on the chair and well, the boss, sighed again.

"It's exactly like I thought but we need concrete evidence to report to the boss," he explained and stood.

"We need a picture or maybe a video. Then, we can be done with this," he cleared his throat.

"Let's stay calm for today. We will get our evidence tomorrow. For now, let's get some drinks," he announced.

The other men whooped in delight.

The boss had a wide smile on his face as he moved to the door.

Just as he opened it, a lady walked past him.

He hesitated, but his eyes followed her to her door.

The lady hesitated as if suddenly realising that someone was watching her.

She looked back and caught the man staring.

Fearfully, she hurried inside her apartment.

The boss was still watching, with a sly smile on his face and his tongue moving over his lips slowly.

"Is anything the problem?"

One of the men asked from behind.

"That lady, I want to know everything about her. Find me more about her," he ordered.

"Yes boss," the men chorused at the same time.

Maximo read through the contract for a moment and looked up at Avery.

"Seriously? I mean I don't expect this to be ready very fast. I mean we were just discussing yesterday about your decision to expand in Italy." Avery smiled.

"I understand what you mean. And yes, that was my plan today but I want this to happen as quickly as possible. I would like to start my plan in Italy. I don't want to waste time as time is money," she explained.

Maximo laughed.

"Actually, I love the way you think. I knew you would be so busy and I'm sorry for taking your time yesterday night," he placed his hand on his chest dramatically.

Avery laughed.

"It's ok, actually. I had fun last night. But like I've said initially, I'm only concerned about my business and I would be so happy if you can assist me in any way." Maximo nodded once.

"I will do that, Miss Avery. That is a promise, just tell me what you want. Besides, I literally own this place. It will be easy for me to do anything for you," he assured.

Avery smiled with gratitude.

"Thank you, Mr. Maximo. Then, I think you should check chapter 3 because I've added a clause already," she revealed.

Maximo gathered his forehead at this, a bit surprised as he wasn't expecting it. He flipped through the pages until he was staring right at the clause. His eyes went wide with shock.

"What?" He looked up at Avery.

"What is this supposed to mean, Miss Avery?"

"I need David actually. I need someone to help me with information about Italy. You are the CEO and you wouldn't be available every time. Also, I need someone I would be able to associate with very well. David falls into that category. So, that's why I'm proposing it," she revealed.

Maximo regarded her for a moment.

"Oh, that's actually good but David doesn't work in this company again," he lied.

Avery frowned.

"Why? Did something happen?"

"I fired him, Avery. I discovered that we have so many employees and to ensure stability and efficiency, I had to fire some employees which include David." Avery looked away as she reasoned it for a moment.

The contour on her face told Maximo that she was sad by the news or maybe even heartbroken but it was the best.

"That's no problem, actually," she looked up suddenly, a smile suddenly finding its way to her face.

"I will employ him," she revealed.

Maximo stood still for a moment, too shocked to talk.

"What! What did you just say?"

Avery smiled briefly.

"I just said I would employ him. In fact, that will make the work easier for me."

Maximo shook his head quickly.

"No, I don't think that will work out. Gr_," he stopped suddenly and cleared his throat meaningfully.

"I mean David isn't in Italy. He left for his hometown."

"Where is that?"

Avery inquired with a straight face.

Maximo was dumbfounded. He didn't even know what he was supposed to say again.

"Well, I understand if you are trying to be private about your employees but you should be assured that I mean no harm. Besides, I want you to help me with this. If you don't help me, I will find my help

elsewhere and that means we won't be signing this contract," she watched him for a moment and noticed some suspicious movements. She ignored them.

"So, can you get him to see me? Today? He could come over to my suites. We can talk about it and_"

"And if he doesn't want the job?"

Maximo cut in before she could finish talking.

"If he still doesn't want the job after my persuasion, I will let it go. Then we can sign this contract," she said truthfully.

Maximo released a groan.

"I can get you someone as good as David. There won't be any difference."

"It's David I want," Avery stressed.

"Do we have a deal or not?"

Maximo regarded her for a moment.

Actually, he has started developing feelings for Avery but it seemed like there was more to Avery that he didn't know.

Avery was stubborn and unbending.

But he also wondered how Grey was going to take the news.

What was he supposed to do? What option was he supposed to give Avery?

Chapter 465: Situation

Grey kissed Aphrodite on the forehead.

It was morning already.

Grey has been awake for a few minutes and has just been staring at Aphrodite. He actually felt happier with Aphrodite. He felt very peaceful as if she was the one he had been looking for. He wondered why he didn't see it early and why it took so long for him to realise. But he was still grateful that it wasn't too late.

Aphrodite was Seriously the best for him.

She would never betray him and she would never stop loving him. He wouldn't have to worry about other things. He didn't have to worry about his secrets because Aphrodite knew them all.

She knew all there was to know about him and more.

In fact, Aphrodite was just the best for him.

His phone rang suddenly, pulling him out of his thoughts quickly.

He hurried to pick it up without even checking the screen ID so that it doesn't wake Aphrodite.

Fortunately, Aphrodite only turned but she continued to sleep soundly.

"Hello, who is this?" He muttered and hurried out of the bed. He made his way into the small living room.

"Grey, it's Maximo. What happened to my contact?" Grey laughed shortly.

"Sorry, I didn't check the screen. Good morning. Is everything alright?"

"Not really, Grey. We've got a problem."

Grey squeezed his face in concentration.

"What happened? Did Alex meet with you or did Giovanni get in touch with you?" a "No," Maximo muttered thickly.

"It's Avery."

Grey's heart actually skipped a beat.

"What happened to her?"

"Oh no, she's fine," Maximo assured.

"I guess you should be worried about yourself because Avery wants you to handle this project with her," he revealed.

It was as if Grey didn't hear him clearly.

"What project are you talking about? And why am I handling stuff with her? I thought we discussed what you were supposed to do."

"Well, she's so unbending and she has already decided that she's going to have you help her build a branch office in Italy. I told her that you were fired already but that didn't change her mind. She wants to have a word with you today at the hotel," Maximo explained.

"I'm not to be brought, Maximo. It doesn't matter what she wants. I'm not going to show up in front of her again, I'm not even ready to," Grey protested calmly.

"Well," Maximo released an exasperated sigh.

"There's nothing you can do at this moment but to see her. I gave her my word already and it's left to you to decide if to accept her or not." Grey released a sigh.

"Alright. No problem, you just want me to see her today, right?"

"Yes please, do it for me. You could decide in any way that you can that you won't work for her. That's left to you as she has said. I'm sorry for disturbing your three days' vacation," he said truthfully.

Grey groaned inwardly.

"It's ok. I will just meet with her and let her know that I'm not interested. It's as easy as that," he muttered.

"Yes," Maximo released a sigh.

"Even though you know how stubborn Avery can be. She promised to let you go if she's unable to change your mind. I think she has a great way to change your mind," he chuckled.

"Anyways, you still remember her suite, right?"

Grey nodded once and remembered that Maximo couldn't see him at that moment.

"Yes, I do. Did Alex call you again?"

"Not yet. There has been nothing from him after what he said yesterday morning. I will definitely get back to you if anything comes up," he promised.

"Alright, talk to you later then," he muttered and hung up.

"Did something happen?"

A soft voice said suddenly, from behind.

Grey turned towards Aphrodite, with a smile.

"Good morning, darling," he moved closer to embrace her and plant a kiss on her cheek.

Aphrodite smiled.

"Good morning."

"I have to be back at home by evening. I need to meet with someone for business. I promise to return home as quickly as possible. Then we can continue with our three day vacation," he explained.

Aphrodite nodded once.

"I understand," she smiled.

"What are we having this morning? I want a lot of side dishes," she expressed funnily.

Grey laughed.

"I'm going to order a lot. You must finish them all." Aphrodite laughed.

"When are you leaving by the way?"

"By afternoon,"he muttered and wondered if Avery already knew something.He didn't want to risk anything at all and working for Avery would do that.

"Good, that means I would have you all to myself till afternoon," Aphrodite laughed again.

"What have you gathered about her?"

"She's Avery and she's not a citizen of Italy.I guess she's only here on a business trip."

The boss looked up surprisedly.

"Avery?"

The men nodded once.

"She leaves the suites in the morning and sometimes returns very late or sometimes in the afternoon."

"And anything about the other thing?"

"Nothing, sir because we haven't been able to pin anything on the elders.No one has been having meetings.I'm very certain that Italy won't be performing this year."

The boss nodded once.

"Good then, book a flight for each of us.We will leave tomorrow morning.But before that, I want Avery on my bed tonight.Where is she currently?"

"She's out of the suites currently.She left very early this morning."

"Then watch out for when she will be back.If she doesn't want it willingly, it will be forced.She will be my last meat in Italy."

"Where should it be? This room?"

"Well, if she can be willing to obey, then this place but if she's acting stubborn, I will have my venue elsewhere.It could attract trouble if I don't care," the boss explained.

The men smiled.

They knew what the boss meant and what opportunity it would give them.The two men bowed slightly and walked out of the room.

Chapter 466: Help

It was afternoon, and Aphrodite and Grey were having lunch.

And as Aphrodite wanted, there were a lot of side dishes on the table.

Grey smiled softly.

"Would you be touring around the street in my absence?" Aphrodite nodded once.

"Yes, I got a call from one of my friends that said she would be visiting this town.And guess what? She's around already.So, we are going to tour the whole place."

Grey nodded once.

"That's actually good.It means you won't be bored till I come back.I will be back tonight actually.The moment I'm done, I will return," he promised.

Aphrodite smiled.

"It's ok. Just take your time. I will be fine here. Though, I expect you to divide the men. Some of the men must follow you back to the city. We can't risk anything. Grey smile widened.

"Alright, thank you."

"So," Aphrodite took a scoop of ice cream.

"Tell me, what is happening with Alex and his men? Are the men truly here with the evidence? Is Maximo going to be in any kind of trouble?"

"Fortunately, no. Alex is stalling. He's only working hard towards making sure that Giovanni wins this award. And this is exactly what we are working trying to avoid. And as for the men, they are here to

confirm if Italy's billionaire club would be participating in the contest or not. We've ruled ourselves out temporarily," he laughed.

"I can imagine how calm Giovanni would be when he hears the news. He would believe anyways because there would be no evidence he would pin on us. Everything would be perfect," he explained.

Aphrodite nodded once.

"But I still have some questions to ask. How do you intend on handling Alex? Are you really working towards that?"

"Yes, I am. I plan to make Alex get arrested by the police but that would be after the announcement," he hesitated, as if imagining it.

"I will have so much power if I'm elected as the king of the world. I'm going to use that power like Giovanni would," he revealed.

"But, Alex will be in Italy. How would you go about it? He could run away or go to another country and there will be no way to get him," she complained.

"I know," he watched Aphrodite for a while.

"This is why I plan to make Alex go back to Jacksonville before the announcement day. Alex would be apprehended again before he would be able to run," he smiled.

"Isn't that amazing?" Aphrodite smiled as well.

"Excellent actually, I love it," she released a sigh.

"I can't wait. I can't wait for the whole thing to be over. I can't wait to let everyone know who you really are."

"Soon, Novia," he assured.

"Soon."

Grey arrived at the city at exactly 5 in the evening. He felt exhausted. So, he stopped by at his house for a quick shower.

Aphrodite already left the suite with her friend before Grey moved out. He came with three men. He still had his suspicions with Avery but there was nothing he could do. He had to show up and let her know that he doesn't want her job.

Then, maybe she would leave Maximo and him alone. He will be leaving Italy soon. He only had to play around and stall time till he was ready.

"Boss, your phone has been ringing," one of Grey's men announced as Grey walked out of the house, clad in Louis Vuitton trousers and a t-shirt.

Grey moved closer and took the phone from the extended hand. He glanced at the screen and it was Charles. He entered the car before he placed a call to him.

Charles picked it up immediately.

"Hello Grey, I'm just leaving the suite," he announced.

"Is everything alright?"

"Absolutely. I heard the men saying they would leave tomorrow. They have been convinced that Italy isn't going to participate this year. So, there's no reason for me to still be at the suite but there's something I saw that you won't believe," he said with a hint of excitement.

"Yes, what's it all about?"

Grey inquired, just as the car pulled out into the street.

"I saw Avery yesterday in the same hotel. I couldn't believe it. I mean she has gotten more beautiful but it was just impossible that she was suddenly in Italy at the same time that you are. Amazing right?"

Grey scoffed.

"I know, Charles. We saw each other two nights ago and it's the reason why I am currently on my way to the suite."

"What!" Charles exclaimed softly.

"Are you saying that Avery knows you are in Italy and that you are alive? No shit!" Grey laughed at this.

"No. She doesn't know I'm Grey. Maximo had to come up with another name for me."

Charles went mute for a moment. He was shocked beyond measure.

"This is crazy, Grey. Do you mean that Maximo was in this with you? But why are you on your way to see her if she doesn't know it's you? Are you sure she doesn't know?"

"She doesn't but Maximo said she's reminded of me. Anyways, she only wants me to work for her because she's bringing up a branch here in Italy," he explained.

"I'm only going to meet with her for a few minutes and let her know that I'm not interested." Charles chuckled.

"Ok, this makes a lot of sense. Anyways, is Aphrodite around already? Did you guys decide to cut the vacation short or what?"

"No, I'm returning tonight. The vacation continues. I will see you when I do."

"Alright, take care." And the line went off.

It was a few minutes after seven when Grey got out of the car.

Maximo already texted him the room number of the room.

'ç Because it was very late, there were a lot of cars parked in the parking space and people were walking in and out.

On second thought, Grey decided against going to Avery's suite and decided to ask Maximo for her number.

He could call her and tell her to come to the bar so they could discuss.

Just as he veered from his initial direction towards a secluded part of the hotel building, three men walked past him.

One of them was carrying a big bag on his shoulder.

A big bag that would have been mistaken for a human being because of how big it was.

He dialled Maximo's number but it wasn't available.

Grey decided to move further away.

He hadn't taken more than two more steps when his eyes caught a red shoe lying suspiciously on the floor.

The fact that it was there was disturbing and the fact that strange-looking men just walked past him a few minutes ago carrying a bag that looked like a human being.

Everything connected quickly.

He may not know who the woman was but he felt like someone needed his help.

Chapter 467: Coincidence?

Grey rushed out and his gaze searched around quickly for the men. His muscles contracted and a surge of anger rushed through him at the fact that he might have missed them.

Heck, he wouldn't forgive himself.

Something was definitely happening and he would find out. He took a step towards some cars, with his gaze still searching around and suddenly, he stopped when he saw a man close the booth.

The man looked up at him for a moment and Grey saw the resemblance.

The man walked to the front seat and got inside.

Then, the car drove right towards him, as if to run him over.

Grey managed to move aside so that the car would drive past him.

He switched off the phone flashlight just in time to catch a glimpse of the number plates before he rushed back to where his car was parked.

"Boss, is there anything to do for you?"

One of the men asked as he stepped out of the car.

"Get inside the car and drive out!"

He ordered and hurried inside the car.

The men complied immediately and pulled out into the street.

"Where are we going?" The driver asked.

Grey didn't answer, instead, his gaze was quickly searching around for a black car but that was very difficult as the majority of the cars in front of them were black.

"Flash the lights!"

Grey yelled suddenly.

The men complied and got some protests in the form of horns from beside them.

Grey didn't mind as he continued to check the cars.

"Again!" He yelled.

And then, he saw it.

Fortunately, the car was about to overtake another.

"Follow that car! And be fast about it!" He ordered.

The driver pressed the accelerator but it was too late as another car had overtaken them.

"Shit!"

Grey cursed under his breath.

"We are going to miss them!"

He muttered in anger as he thought of what to do quickly.

"Stop the car," he said softly.

"What? In the middle of the road?"

The driver was confused.

"Stop the fucking car!"

He yelled in a deep voice that the car was forced to pull up by the side of the road.

"Motherfucker!"

One of the drivers yelled as he hurried past Grey's car but Grey wasn't concerned about it as he hurried over to the driver's side. He pulled the door open.

"Get out of the car!"

He yelled and got inside immediately the driver hurried out.

Grey pressed the accelerator so fast that the driver had no chance to open the door. He sighed and flagged down a taxi. He got inside and gestured ahead of him.

"Follow that car!" He ordered.

Grey increased the accelerator.

"I hope you have your seatbelt on or else_," he muttered with a sneaky smile as he overtook a car unexpectedly, making the men move sideways and hitting their heads against the window.

He pressed the brake suddenly when he was about to hit a car on his left. He stared ahead of him, at the black car moving at a fast speed.

The car was going to get away if he didn't hurry up.

Grey took over another car but the car he was driving after was three cars away.

"Damn! I'm not going to get them at this point," he muttered under his breath.

Suddenly, the traffic light went red and the car was forced to a sudden stop.

Grey smiled softly, luck was on his side.

He pressed the accelerator even harder and started to overtake cars at different angles and positions.

When he was at the front, he was only two cars ahead of the other black car.

The men in the car finally got a grip.

But Grey's hands were firmly on the steering in preparation. He couldn't wait for the traffic light to change the signal. His phone rang suddenly.

Grey retrieved it from his pocket and discovered it was Maximo. He picked it up.

"Hello, Maximo."

"Hi, Grey. I missed your call. Though, I was planning on calling you initially."

"Yes, is everything alright?"

"Is Avery with you? Have you guys spoken? Because I'm unable to get across to her. She has not been answering her phone," he explained.

Grey gathered his brows amazingly.

"Seriously? Send her numbers to me now. I will try to reach her. I'm around the suite actually but something came up suddenly. I will return 1 to her when I'm done," he assured.

"Alright, I will send it immediately," he finished and the line went off.

The traffic light changed and Grey started the ignition. His feet went down on the accelerator so that he would overtake the car in front of him. He succeeded and as a response, the angry driver made a 'fuck you' sign at him.

Grey ignored him and avoided a disaster.

The speed he was on was very fast and so, he was avoiding the cars do fast.

Soon enough, the car he was chasing after was right in front of him.

Grey released a sigh and slowed down.

His phone made a beep at this time and a message appeared on the screen.

"One of you should take my phone and check the new message. Input the numbers on your phone and dial it until 4 the person picks up," he ordered.

One of the men that was in the front complied.

The car in front of them made a turn to their left.

At this moment, they were sure that Grey was after them and was also trying to avoid him. Grey followed the car until they got to an empty street.

At this point, they both increased their speed but Grey's car had an advanced speed rate than the other car.

Soon, Grey was driving side by side with the other driver.

Grey doubled it so that he went right before him.

He didn't stop as he made a U-turn on the street and drove right into the other car.

The other car had no chance and was forced to a sudden stop.

Grey hurried out of the car and towards the other car.

Angrily, he yanked the driver's door opened and dragged the driver out of the car.

Grey's men were suddenly behind him.

"Who the fuck are you?"

The driver yelled and charged at Grey.

Grey dodged his blow and gave him one on his nose.

"Boss, it looks like the phone is ringing from this car," one of Grey's men announced suddenly.

Grey stopped and looked at him.

"What did you just say?"

"I think the phone is in this car." Grey couldn't believe it. It was actually Avery that was in danger?

Chapter 468: Dangerous

Grey couldn't believe it.

Was it just a coincidence? That Avery was the one he so desperately wanted to rescue? "Leave now! While you still can," a deep voice muttered suddenly.

The door opened and two men got out of the car.

"Deal with them!" Grey ordered.

Grey's men rushed at the other men.

A car pulled to a stop beside Grey suddenly and the last of Grey's men rushed out of the car. He hurried towards the others to help out.

Grey watched the men for a moment before he moved closer to the driver.

The driver launched an attack at him again.

Grey caught his fist in his hand, groaned, and squeezed it.

The driver yelled out as Grey continued to squeeze even harder until the driver slowly went down, while cries of protest filled the air around them.

"Where is she? Where is the woman you took?"

"In the booth!" He said quickly.

"Please, let me go. I beg of you," he beseeched softly.

Grey released him and hit him in the chest. He hurried over to the back of the car and struggled with the booth.

"Open the fucking booth!"

He yelled and when no one answered, he hurried towards the front of the car only for it to start moving.

Grey's hands had already touched the door of the car and he didn't want to let go. He pulled the door open with force. The driver laughed and pressed on the accelerator.

Fortunately for Grey, he was able to pull his weight inside the car before the driver pressed the accelerator.

Then, the driver started to move sideways to jerk Grey out of the car.

Grey held onto the seat belt for some minutes but his hands slipped and he started to feel nature pull him back.

He groaned in desperation and reached for the door just as his legs hit the ground.

For some minutes, he was being dragged and the pain hit him harder than anything else, passing through his body like a spasm.

He pulled at the door with every strength he had in him.

Slowly, he was able to pull himself up.

Successfully inside the car, Grey made for the driver but he drove sideways and made Grey hit his head against the other side of the door.

He got up very quickly and started to choke the driver.

The driver groaned and pressed the accelerator.

The car drove even faster and approached the bridge.

The driver started struggling with Grey that turned the steering sideways.

The car hit the side of the bridge hard and the bar gave way.

The car moved forward and got suspended in the air for a few minutes before it approached the lake underneath them.

Grey squeezed the driver's throat harder, applying even more pressure.

The driver struggled as usual while pressing the horn, the accelerator, and the brakes but nothing could work again as the car entered the lake.

The car went down and water started slipping in.

The driver slumped suddenly and Grey was convinced that he was dead.

He had to die actually.

Though Grey didn't plan on killing him at first but he got pissed off because of what he did.

Grey moved to the driver's side and grabbed the car keys.

He hesitated for a moment before he tried to open the door.

The pressure from the water prevented this from happening.

On second thought, he rolled down the windows and watched the water rush inside the car.

Within minutes, it was filled up and Grey had to hold his breath as he pushed the door open.

He swam to the back of the car, inserted the key, and opened the booth.

Avery was truly in the booth but she was unconscious.

That was dangerous! Avery might drown.

He pulled her out and started swimming towards the surface.

He stared down at Avery at intervals, his heart beating madly in his chest.

Nothing must happen to Avery or he would kill everyone involved in the act.

Everyone would suffer.

"Avery!"

Grey yelled as he rose to the surface and made sure Avery's head was above the water.

"Come on! Stay a life. Don't do this!"

He beseeched softly as he hurried out of the water. He safely placed her on the floor, against her back, and did some chest compression on her.

"Damn! Avery! Get up!"

Grey yelled.

He was scared.

What if? Just what if Avery doesn't wake up? He just couldn't imagine it.

The fear the thought alone brought to him was overwhelming.

He couldn't handle it.

"Come on, Avery! Don't die on me!"

He yelled as he continued the chest compression.

"You can't fucking do this to me! Fuck!"

He stopped the chest compression and bent to give two rescue breaths.

Avery coughed out water and a smile exploded on Grey's face.

"Welcome back."

Avery opened her eyes slowly, then closed it back again. She felt so drained.

Grey noticed this and took her off the floor.

They were both drained now but Grey was happy that he was able to save her.

He wondered what he would have done if something bad had really happened to Avery.

Avery's arms wrapped around Grey's body suddenly and then, she held him so tight as if she was afraid of letting him go.

Grey stared down at her for a moment and saw that her eyes were closed.

"Boss!"

One of Grey's men called and hesitated when he saw Avery. He hurried closer to take Avery but Avery was holding Grey so tight.

Grey shook his head briefly.

"Where are the men? And what did they want from her?"

"One of them has confessed. He said they came from Jacksonville and they were taking Avery to the boss," he explained.

"The boss?"

Grey raised skeptical brows at this but then, almost immediately, realisation dawned on him.

Could it be Giovanni's men from Jacksonville? Truly, Charles told him they lodged at the suite where Avery was staying in.

"B_but what did the Boss want from her?"

"They aren't saying."

Grey clenched his fist in anger.

"They are going to talk forcefully or willingly."

Chapter 469: Seen

Grey safely placed Avery in the car and walked towards the other men from Jacksonville.

Two of Grey's men were watching them while the last one was the one that came with Grey from the lake.

"They still failed to say why they kidnapped Avery?" Grey asked in a deep voice.

One of his men nodded positively.

"No one is talking." Grey regarded them for a moment.

"Kill them," he muttered.

The other men looked up suddenly, and fear gripped them.

Grey could see this in their eyes as he turned back.

"Kill them and dispose of their bodies. Then, find a way to meet me at the suite."

"I will talk," one of the men said suddenly as Grey took a step forward. He stopped but didn't turn to look at them.

"I will tell you everything you want to know," he promised.

Grey whirled around to look at them again.

"And start talking before I change my mind!"

He yelled in a deep voice.

One of the men swallowed harder.

"The boss wished to have her. So, we are supposed to bring her to him," he explained.

Grey grew angrier.

"So, you are a stranger in this land and the next thing you could think of was to forcefully have a woman?"

"Boss, what should we do with them?"

Grey regarded them for a moment.

"Send a message to their boss through one of their phones. He must leave Italy by tomorrow or he will die. And as for them, kill them. That will be for trespassing!"

"Kill us?"

One of the men laughed suddenly and slowly raised his hand.

A phone was in his hand.

"I know who you are, Grey. I know that you are the Hercules that people think is dead."

Grey's eyes went wide with shock.

"What?"

"Are you surprised?"

The man chuckled.

"Well, I was one of the men that Boss Giovanni has always sent to spy on you. So, I know who you really are. I've inputted the message and I only need to press the centre button so that the head of us

here in Italy will get the message and inform Giovanni about it." Grey watched him for a moment.

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

"Call it anything, Hercules. You have to let me go if you want to protect yourself."

Grey laughed smugly and looked at one of his men.

"Kill him," he ordered.

The men exchanged gazes, shocked at what he had just said.

"You heard me clearly. One of you should kill him!"

He repeated in anger.

"But the_" one of the men started.

"Kill him now or I will be forced to kill him and then kill you.Maybe you will love that."

With a shot aimed at his head, the man fell to the floor and the phone dropped, showing the message screen and the fact that he had just sent a message to their leader in Italy.

Grey looked at the other man whose face held a shocked expression as he stared at the lifeless body of his mate.

"Nobody threatens Hercules.I will ask you a question and if you answer correctly and without stressing me, I will spare you."The man looked up at Grey.

"Give me your word, sir.That you will spare me," his voice shook with great tremor to it.

Grey nodded once.

"I promise."

The man nodded severally as he swallowed harder on a dry throat.

"I will do anything you want, I will answer all your questions correctly."

"Good," Grey smiled.

"Where is your boss? Where are you supposed to meet him?"

"I know where he is.I could tell you the location, I can even take you there."

"You will take me there!" He ordered.

The man nodded again, with eagerness and pleasure maybe because Grey had promised not to kill him.

Well, Grey wasn't like Giovanni.

If he was, then he might go against his words.

Giovanni doesn't care about promises, principles, or whatsoever.

He deals with things as it comes.

Grey looked back at the car, at the fact that Avery was in the car.

He placed a call to Charles immediately.

There was no way he would do anything without his help.

He had to take Avery back home and have someone to change her attire before she caught a cold and worsened the whole situation.

Charles picked it up after the second ring.

"Hello Grey, is everything alright?"

"I have a situation and I want you to meet me here as soon as possible. Someone knows I'm alive and I have to act very fast. I will tell you the details later," he assured.

"Alright, send me the address. I will just grab a t-shirt and meet you there immediately," he finished and the line went off.

Grey moved closer to his men.

"You and you," he pointed at two men.

"Get rid of the body and meet me at the suite," he ordered.

The two men bowed slightly before they walked away.

"And you_,"

Grey looked at the last man.

"You are going to wait here for Charles. You have to drive him and this guy to where his boss is. His boss has to die but keep him in my house and wait for further instructions. This is what you should tell him because he might not have the time to pick up his calls," he explained.

The man bowed slightly.

"Alright boss."

Grey entered the car and released a sigh. He glanced back at Avery sleeping soundly at the back of the car before he started the ignition. He drove to the suite and pulled into the parking lot. His phone rang at this moment.

It was Maximo. He picked it up immediately.

"Hello, Grey. Have you seen Avery? She is still not picking up," he complained.

He sounded very worried, Grey noticed.

"Oh, she's here with me. Unconscious and soaked. I will tell you about everything later when we meet but for now, I need help with how she's going to enter her suite without anyone being suspicious of me."

"Don't worry, the owner of that suite is my Friend. So, I will speak with someone to help you over there. Meanwhile, I'm also on my way," he finished and hung up before Grey would say another word.

Maximo sounded strange.

Well, he had always been strange especially when the matter involved Avery. Could Maximo love Avery?

Chapter 470: Changed

Within minutes, Grey was inside Avery's room and gently placed her on the bed.

Two men came over to show him another door inside the suite so he wouldn't have to pass the main entrance and risk people looking at them weirdly.

Just as he pulled himself up, he realised that Avery was holding onto his clothes firmly. He looked at her for a moment.

She was asleep while her right fist held the clothes in check.

"Don't go," she said softly as if she was somnambulating.

Grey didn't know actually if that was the case or maybe she was just dreaming.

However, he secured a place beside her. It was getting even late now and he thought he would be on the evening plane back to Ravello but that was no longer possible.

As long as he wanted to leave, there were several reasons why he shouldn't. He just couldn't leave Avery in the state that she was in.

Even though Maximo was on his way, Grey felt he still had to stay behind.

Besides, he had to speak with her.

If he leave, Avery would call him out again. So, staying was the best option at least, till Avery wakes up.

A soft knock sounded on the door.

Grey reasoned it might be Maximo. He hesitated as he watched Avery for a moment before he slowly pulled her hand away. He succeeded and Avery only stirred before she went back to sleep. He released a sigh and went to the door.

Upon opening it, he realised it wasn't Maximo but two of the maids in the hotel that he had called to change Avery's clothes.

"Good day, sir," they greeted in unison.

Grey nodded and stepped aside for them to enter.

"Get down to work and inform me when you are done," he spoke with authority in the air.

The maids bowed slightly and moved towards Avery.

Grey stepped out. He had no business inside anyways.

"Where is Avery?"

A voice entered his thoughts suddenly.

Grey looked up and realised it was Maximo. He released a sigh.

"She's inside. I had the maids dress her up since she was soaked," he explained.

Maximo regarded him for a moment.

"You are soaked as well. I think you should return home."

"I will but I'm trying to buy time. Perhaps, Avery would wake up soon. So, we can talk. You do know that I must return to Ravello as soon as possible and I wouldn't even be here if you hadn't made it compulsory."

Maximo grunted and seemed to swallow whatever words he had in his mouth at that moment. He looked away for a moment as if he was currently cooking up things to say.

"What really happened? I don't think any of my men in Italy would want to mess with me. Who could it be then? I specifically instructed no one to touch Avery," he explained.

Grey's head snapped at him actually because of his last statement.

"You seemed to be so concerned about her welfare. I didn't know you had specifically told your men to step aside as if she's the first lady," he joked.

Maximo laughed.

"Come on, Grey."

Grey watched his expression for a moment with a sly smile.

"I think there's something you are hiding from me. Isn't there? "Grey, it's nothing."

Grey laughed shortly and looked away.

"It's ok but I'm just here to tell her that I'm not interested in the job. I don't want her to look for me again. I would even like it if she returned to wherever she came from and if she didn't _," he shrugged briefly.

"Well, I'm returning to Jacksonville soon. So, it would be over."

Maximo groaned inwardly.

"Can I ask you a question?"

Grey looked at him for a moment.

"Yes, what's it all about?"

Maximo hesitated.

"How close were you guys? I mean you and Avery? I know you are married but it doesn't look like you had a good relationship judging by how you planned not to have anything to do with her again."

Grey released a sigh.

"Nothing deep happened between us. Maybe we shared a kiss once or twice but that was it. We didn't go beyond that even though we were married. It was an arranged one anyway. So, what did I expect?"

Maximo smiled or so, Grey thought because it was gone as soon as it appeared.

Was he really pleased with his reply? "But," Maximo hesitated and shook his head briefly.

* Anyways, who messed with her?"

"Giovanni's men, the ones that came to Italy for us."

Maximo gathered his forehead.

"I trust you will find a better solution to it because those guys must not return home to Jacksonville."

Grey nodded once.

"I am already on it. But maybe you could stay with Avery and give me feedback whenever she wakes up."

Maximo shook his head briefly.

"It's ok. I will leave you with it. Take care of things. I will just check on her tomorrow."

Grey smiled briefly.

"Alright."

"Alright. I will see you later, Grey,"

Maximo finished and started walking away.

Grey laughed at him for a moment. He didn't need anyone to tell him that Maximo was slowly loving Avery.

Well, it was none of his business. So, he didn't care.

It took forever when the door opened finally and the maids walked out of the room.

Grey turned around to look at them.

"Sir, we are done. She's awake as well and wants to speak with you."

Grey nodded once and dipped inside his pocket for some notes of money. He extended it to the maids.

They took it with a smile and bowed severally before walking away.

Grey hesitated in front of Avery's door as he contemplated if he should really enter the house or not.

"David_," a soft voice called from inside the room.

The door opened almost immediately and Avery walked out. She regarded him for a moment.

"Aren't you coming in?" Grey scoffed.

"I only came here to tell you that I have no interest in joining you."

"And I planned to change your mind."