

## **Secretly TBB 471**

### Chapter 471: Daring

"Seriously?"

Grey laughed at her boldness.

Though, he wasn't surprised.

Avery has always been daring and bold."

Are you saying you are going to force me to work with you?"

Avery watched him for a moment.

"Why did you save me?"

Grey couldn't believe it.

"Are you going to use that against me? That rescuing you would be the death of me?"

"Why don't you admit it?"

She stressed in a voice higher than her normal one. She took three steps closer to Grey to fill the gap in front of them.

"Why don't you tell me that you didn't want to work with me because you are scared?" Grey huffed.

"Scared of what?"

"Why don't you tell me about it? Then maybe I can understand and let you off," she muttered.

"You can't force me, Avery. That's not possible and you know that," Grey said stubbornly, anger growing in him now.

Avery watched him for another moment before she eventually looked away.

"How close are you with Maximo? You guys seem to be as close as friends which brings me to the fact that he lied to me about your position in his company," she met his gaze for a few minutes of silent communication.

"You weren't working in the company to begin with. You are just friends with the CEO," she explained much to Grey's surprise.

Grey couldn't talk for a few minutes. He was dumbfounded.

"How?"

"Follow me, and I will show you," she turned around and entered her room.

Grey hesitated for a few minutes, still shocked before he walked inside.

"I find you weird, David. And it doesn't matter if you will work for me or not, I can always find things about you if I really want it," she walked to Grey and stretched out a file to him which Grey collected.

Grey flipped through the pages and perused it.

"I asked some employees about you the day that Maximo told me that you work in his company and I found out that none of the workers knew you. And that was because you never worked in the company," Avery stepped back.

"I plan to dig deep into this. Who knows, you might be a hardened criminal and I might be doing the government a favor by helping them to apprehend you."

"Seriously?" Grey couldn't stop a chuckle.

"Did you think I would let you do this if I was a hardened criminal? You aren't even scared of anything." Avery smiled.

"You wouldn't have saved me if you wanted to kill me."

"Well," Grey shrugged briefly.

"That was before I discovered you knew all this. I can decide to kill you at this moment," he threatened.

Avery cleared her throat meaningfully.

"If you wanted to do that, you would have done it a long time ago. We are the only ones in this room. It will be easy for you, won't it?" novelbin

Grey made a sly smile.

"How did you know I'm not giving the idea a thought already?"

Avery's eyes went wide with shock and Grey had to bit back the urge to laugh.

"I'm\_ I'm sure Maximo wouldn't let you kill me!"

She stammered fearfully.

Eventually, Grey managed a smile.

"This is very funny. Maximo told me you were a businesswoman. I didn't know you were a comedian as well. I can't believe you are willing to work with a criminal."

Avery took a step forward unconsciously.

"See? You just called Maximo by his first name which means I was right!"

Grey watched her for another moment.

"You were, as a matter of fact. But there's something important you are missing," he took a step closer, and his face shifted into a dark frown.

"As you've deduced, I'm a criminal and I work with Maximo on a personal level. I'm dangerous and I've killed people with my bare hands. I can't say I'm innocent. You wouldn't want to build a business with someone like me. So, forget about all this," he advised.

"Well," Avery started quickly.

"You killed some people today to save me. That isn't considered as being wicked or being a criminal. You did the right thing, you saved me."

Grey clasped his hands together for her.

"Nice one, Avery. You are really working so hard but it's a capital NO. I will never work with you. Besides, I don't owe you anything. You should be grateful I saved you but that doesn't make me a good person. Avoid me at all costs, Avery. It's a warning."

"Or what?"

Avery raised skeptical brows and waited.

"I will pay you more than you can ever dream of earning. I will pay you millions of dollars. Just work for me," she beseeched softly.

Avery has been thinking so hard about a couple of things.

Though she knew that Grey was dead but she couldn't stop thinking it was her fault.

She couldn't stop thinking she could have stopped it. She had been thinking a lot about his death and when she saw David, she suddenly felt at peace.

Maybe David would let her find her inner peace.

Maybe she would eventually be able to forgive herself for everything she had done to Grey when he was still alive.

Though, she couldn't help but think there was something else to David that she didn't know.

And yes, the two personalities look so different, yet the same.

Grey was always calm and reserved but the man in front of her was a criminal and he had no problem admitting to it.

Yet, Avery felt the willingness to proceed.

She would do anything to make sure David works for her.

Grey scoffed.

"I'm not going to change my mind."

"You should, David, because I will be releasing the news of you by tomorrow morning, and unless you would like to stop me by killing me tonight. That should be easy for you to do right?" she taunted, folded her arms dramatically, and waited for his response.

Grey didn't know what to do.

Chapter 472: Too late

Grey watched him for a moment, unable to comprehend it all. He didn't know what he was supposed to make of her.

Avery was being stubborn as usual.

She didn't even care if it was going to cause her trouble.

Though Grey wasn't in any relationship with her, he didn't want her to die.

If Grey tried to do it the normal way, it's either Avery gets to discover the secret he was keeping or she gets in danger and Grey doesn't want any of the options.

Grey released a sigh, while still watching Avery with a confused look.

Avery was disturbed.

Though, her mind was made up already but she desperately wanted Grey to accept her proposal.

And it doesn't even matter if Grey was going to accept to work for her, she was still going to find out who David was to Maximo, secretly.

Grey cleared his throat meaningfully.

"What position are you going to offer me?"

"My secretary," she muttered.

Grey chuckled.

"For real? Are you kidding?"

"Why?" Avery pouted funnily.

"A guy can't be a secretary to a lady? Is that so bad? Are you a masochist?" she attacked.

Grey laughed. novelbin

"I'm not! It's just rare. It makes it look weird. I can be anything instead of a secretary."

Avery was happy at the statement.

"Does that mean you have accepted to work for me?"

To be on the safer side, Grey nodded once.

"Maybe but I'm still going to watch you and see if you will make an excellent boss." Avery smiled.

"I will show you how excellent I can be. Also, you can't work in another office because the main aim of making you a secretary is to help me and stay close to me. I'm just about to bring up another office in Italy, and we would be needing an office and employees." Grey released a sigh.

"Alright, I'm in. Anything else? Or should we call it a night?"

Avery shook her head briefly.

"Not yet. I will be right back," she walked inside.

Grey used the opportunity to reason for his early decision.

Was he right in agreeing with her or not? It was difficult to know what was right, especially when Avery was concerned. He just had to hope that everything goes well and he was able to return to Jacksonville before things worsen.

"Here," Avery said suddenly, jerking Grey out of his thoughts. She stretched out a file.

"Here."

Grey regarded it for a moment before he looked up at Avery again.

"What is this?"

"We are going to seal the deal at this moment. You are going to sign the papers to show you have really agreed to work for me." Grey was shocked.

"What? You had everything prepared already?" Avery smiled.

"I knew you would agree with me. I believe in myself."

"And I have to sign it today? This isn't even an office setting, it's a suite."

Avery shrugged slightly.



"It doesn't really matter as long as both partners decide to proceed with it. Besides, how am I sure you wouldn't change your mind before tomorrow morning? With this, I will be assured." Grey held her gaze for a moment.

"I don't go back on my word," he said truthfully and in a much deeper voice.

Avery swallowed harder at this. She felt as though she was standing in front of Grey. She loved the feeling she was having. She was specifically happy because it reminded her so much of Grey and how much she loved him.

Grey took the file and walked inside.

"I'm sure you have a pen because I won't spend more than five minutes here. You've finished your allocated time."

Avery grinned, pleased, and followed him. She retrieved a pen and moved closer to Grey who was at the dining.

"I do have a pen. There are some clauses there but since it's not something bad, you can skip it so that you can leave this place quickly," she explained and stretched out a pen to him.

Grey ignored her and took the pen instead. He skipped through the papers quickly and only sighed where it was required. He looked at her again.

"Am I free now?"

Avery looked down at the paper as if to be sure that he really signed.

"You are supposed to resume tomorrow."

Grey scoffed and dropped the pen.

"I'm resuming on Monday," he turned around and didn't wait for her to say more before he walked out of the room.

Avery didn't bother to follow him. She got what she wanted anyways and she was more than overjoyed about it.

Grey released a sigh as he walked out of the suite. His phone rang suddenly. It was Charles.

Grey picked it up immediately.

"Speak, Charles."

"The boss is dead but how do we do it? Giovanni might suspect that something is wrong if these men don't return to Jacksonville," he expressed his concern.

"I know and I have already planned it out. Just find the boss' phone and meet me at home. I will tell you the rest when we see," he assured.

Charles released a sigh.

"Alright, I will do just that. See you at home," he finished and the line went off.

When Grey entered the parking space, he sighted his men leaning against his car. He moved closer to them.

"Was it a success?"

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

Grey entered the car and released an exasperated sigh.

"Book a flight for me tomorrow morning."

"Yes, boss."

His phone rang again. It was Maximo.

Grey groaned inwardly, slightly upset.

Maximo just left the suites, he wasn't supposed to be calling him so soon unless he wasn't able to get to Avery.

Could something have happened to her? Well, he doubted it since Maximo already ensured her safety.

"Hello, Maximo. Is everything alright?"

"Not really, Grey. Alex just called me."

Grey gathered his brows.

"Yes, what happened? Did he say something?"

Maximo went quiet for a moment as if contemplating how to proceed.

"Alex knows you are alive and in Italy."

Chapter 473: Nice Plan "What?"

Grey inquired.

It was as if he didn't hear what Maximo had said or perhaps he was just playing tricks on him.

"Alex called me now to ask me some questions and he knew. He said he knew that you were alive and currently in Italy. I tried to argue and act as if I didn't know what he was talking about. But he said one of his men saw you. He even emphasized the fact that the guy recognizes you very much. So, he was positive that it was you," he explained.

"Now, Grey. What the fuck happened? How were you able to be recognized by one of Alex's men?"

Grey released an exasperated sigh.

For a moment, he was short of words.

How should he say Alex found out? Could it be that the other guy sent it to Alex before he was killed? That was the only explanation that Grey could gather in his head.

"I told you that Avery was kidnapped by Giovanni's men, right?"

"Yes, you did," Maximo responded immediately.

"Well, it was one of the men. One of them recognized me and sent a message before he died. Though, he sent the message to his boss and I don't know how it got to Alex," he explained.

Maximo snorted aloud.

"So, how do you plan on doing this? If Alex already knows that you are alive, doesn't that mean that his father is aware of it as well? Isn't that dangerous? Especially the fact that you were caught in Italy."

"Yes, I know Maximo. You don't have to tell me the implications. I will try to come up with something. Just give me some time."

"But we don't have time because we don't know what Alex is planning to do any moment from now. The announcement date is next week. Can we really pull this thing off before then?"

There was indifference in his voice, mixed with fear.

"I know, Maximo. I know the risk and that's why I said you should give me a few minutes to figure out a plan. We are in this already, there's no way to stop what has already been done. But just give me a few minutes, I promise to find something," he assured.

"Fine, I will be waiting for it, Grey. Just don't jeopardise everything," he finished and the line went off.

Grey groaned.

What the fuck was he supposed to do? Though, the award was just a week apart.

Would Giovanni be able to do some damage before then? How was he even sure that Giovanni doesn't know about it already? His phone rang again but it was Charles this time.

Grey hesitated for a moment before he picked it up.

"Is everything alright, Charles?"

"Not really, Grey. The boss is dead. I retrieved his phone and realised that he sent a message to Alex. Actually, he forwarded the message that one of his men sent to him."

"What message is that?"

"About you, Grey. That you are alive and in fact in Italy," he revealed.

Grey released a sigh.

"What should we do?"

"Meet me at home," he ordered.

"We will talk it out in person. I would think of something we can do about it. Hopefully, it will work or our plan won't be ruined." Charles released a sigh.

"Alright, I will be on my way now."

Grey dropped the phone and looked at the men.

"We are going home," he announced.

The men nodded once.

It was getting very late and Grey realized that he hadn't even call Aphrodite to ask her how she was doing.

So, he placed a call to her immediately, just as the driver drove home.

Aphrodite picked up before the end of the first ring.

"Grey?" novelbin

"How are you doing, love? How was your tour? And are you back at home?"

"Yes, I am," she still sounded excited, maybe even more happy than the night before.

Well, that could amount to the fact that she was exhausted from the travel.

"I'm home with my friend. We decided to stay together tonight. And the tour was cool. We saw a lot of things. We had a lot of fun. We ate a lot of food," she rattled off excitedly.

Grey smiled at this.

"I'm so glad you enjoyed yourself, love. I'm sorry I won't be able to make it tonight. I will tell you everything in detail when I return."

"Yes, I can't wait for that. There's a nice boutique here. Should we go shopping when you are back?"

"Sure, that's a great idea. I should leave you girls to have a nice time. We will chat later," he assured.

"Alright. Take care and be very careful."

When the line went off, they were already at home.

Grey got down and walked inside.

Charles was already waiting and when Grey stepped in, he stood up.

"Have you been able to think of something?"

Grey raked his fingers through his hair in exhaustion and moved to sit.

"I've actually been thinking of a lot of things. I'm just trying to compare and see what we should go for. Anything can destroy the plan we have been building all this while," he explained.

Charles nodded once.

"But we still have to act fast. But what if Alex had already informed Giovanni? Our plan should involve either you showing up in front of Alex or we find a way to convince Alex that you aren't in Italy and that

you are really dead," he suggested.

Grey looked away as he thought about it.

"There's obviously no way we can convince Alex that I'm not alive but we can stall it," he looked at Charles.

"We could save time. The boss sent a message to Alex, we could send another message with a different meaning. And then since we have to lure Alex to Jacksonville at this moment, we could just add the plan together," he muttered.

"Do you have a solid plan?"

Grey nodded once.

"I do."

Chapter 474: Not balanced

"Tell me about it and let's start with the process. We can't afford to tarry. The more we wait, the more dangerous this can get."

Grey nodded several times.

"I know. Did you bring the boss' phone?"



Charles nodded once and delved into his pocket for the phone. He withdrew it and stretched it out to Grey.

"Here it is."

Grey took it and went through it. It took a few minutes before he dropped the phone.

"Let's wait for feedback from Alex." Charles nodded again.

"What else are we supposed to do?"

"I need to speak with Maximo. We need to lure Alex back to Jacksonville and he has a part to take in it. Even if Alex had told his father, it wouldn't matter. We just need to confuse him and make him return to Jacksonville. Well, I will be doing just that," he assured.

Charles nodded at this.

"Alright. Do that and get back to me on the outcome. While you do that, I will take a bath. I'm so irritated. I need to get this blood off me," he complained as he walked away. Grey nodded once and dialled Maximo's number.

It rang twice before he was able to pick it up.

"Hello Grey, I've been waiting for your call. I thought you wouldn't be calling back this evening. What have you decided on so far?"

"Well, I have a plan already and I need you to act your part. We wouldn't have to worry about anything if you can do your part well."

"Now, I like the sound of it. Tell me what I need to do and I shall do it immediately," he assured.

Grey nodded once and settled down.

"You need to meet up with Alex very early tomorrow morning. Request to see him. Let him know that you have to speak with him about me."

"About you?"

Maximo was confused.

"I don't understand that. Why should I tell him about you? Wouldn't that make it look like I was in this together with you from the start?"

"Trust me, Maximo. Just trust me. I believe this plan will work out. I'm sure of it but listen and let me explain. You will understand this plan when I'm done explaining," he assured.

Maximo released a sigh.

"Alright, you can proceed."

"Just let Alex be convinced that you are telling him the truth because it's the key fact in this plan. We will not be able to move forward without it."

"Alright, I understand. I will try my best."

"Alright,"

Grey cleared his throat meaningfully.

"Tell him that after he spoke to you on the phone concerning me, you got your men to watch out for me. For that reason, send out most of your men today. Tell me to linger around Alex's place and make sure they are seen. That would serve as one of the pieces of evidence you can use for Alex."

"I think I like this plane already.Tell me more," Maximo probed in. novelbin

"Tell him you were able to find out where I was but I escaped.Convince him that I was on my way to the airport and I would want to leave Italy as fast as possible.So, he should also watch out for me.Tell him you would inform him as soon as you find out where I am staying.In fact, tell him that you are not sure that I'm Grey as I have never shown up in front of you.Alex wouldn't want to inform Giovanni anything if he's not sure of who I really am or where I am exactly," he explained "This is a cool plan. So, how do we lure him back to Jacksonville ?"

"Well, I wasn't done explaining.I need you to find me a club that Alex frequents here.We will plant some of our people in it.They will help us to spread the news to Alex's hearing.And then when it's time, you just have to inform Alex that I was going to Jacksonville.He would try to stop me at all costs.That should be enough to lure him to Jacksonville," he finished.

"Nice plan, Grey.I will start with everything tonight.You don't have to be bothered about anything, I will make sure I convince Alex," he promised.

"Good, I will be expecting feedback from you.But before you hang up, tell one of the members to travel out of Italy for a few days.When are we submitting the criteria?"

"Next week Wednesday.The representatives would come to Italy and we are supposed to hand it to them when they do.But I think they would be in tight security.Giovanni and Alex would definitely be

watching us," he reminded.

"We will think of something when it's the right time.I will give you feedback when I get something."

"Alright, Grey.Let's talk later," he finished and the line went off.

Grey released an exasperated sigh.He felt tired actually but he was glad that everything was still within plan.

They just had to hold on.

There was just a week left.

The next thing Grey wanted to do was speak with Charles about his role in the plan.

And then, he could sit and watch it go smoothly.

Alex stared at the wine in front of him, lost in thought. He had been contemplating telling his father the truth, especially after his chat with Maximo.

To him, Maximo was hiding something but he couldn't figure it out.

Maybe that was why he was hesitating.

Actually, he called his father an hour ago but he was so busy.

He would have told him then but it wasn't late.

All he wanted was to be sure.

How could Grey be alive? It doesn't make any sense on one hand but whenever he thought about it deeper, he found himself believing it.

Grey was skilled intellectually.

It was something he could do.

Though, he wondered how that could have happened.

Well, Grey had tricked him several times.

It was enough to be convinced.

The thought of it alone scares him.

If Grey was really alive, then the war wasn't over.

In fact, it was just about to start.

The only thing that would give him and his father an upper hand was if his father won the KING OF THE WORLD award.

His phone beeped suddenly and a message appeared on the screen.

It was from one of his father's men.

Just as he read through the content, his eyes went wide with shock.

"What the fuck!"

The door opened suddenly and a man rushed inside.

"Boss, some suspicious men are lurking behind the house," he announced.

Chapter 475: Caught in the trap

Alex regarded the man for a moment.

"Strange men?"

"Yes boss," the man nodded once.

"Should we get them? We could question them what they are doing in our territory," he suggested.

Alex nodded once.

"Get the men to do that."

The man bowed slightly and walked out.

Alex took his phone and read through the message again. He found it strange.

Why would he inform him that Grey was in Italy and then, he's saying it might be his lookalike? Surely, that could have been true but Alex didn't want to believe, not yet because it kind of sounded somehow.

And that means he won't be telling his father until he has confirmed everything.

He dialled the number. It rang severally but no one picked it up. He rang it the second time before he gave up on it. Maybe he was asleep or perhaps he was at a nightclub. So, he decided to send him a message.

The door opened again and the man from earlier on walked inside.

"Boss, they left before I got out. They left in a hurry, according to the men outside. One of them seemed to have received a call before they all left," he explained.

Alex squeezed his face in concentration.

"Have someone to follow them and see where they go.I want every detail about the men," he ordered.

The man bowed slightly and walked out of the room.

Maximo woke up early that morning and got prepared to do his role in Grey's plan.

Though he was a bit scared he might fail or Alex might not believe him.But he still had to try.

"Boss, when is he coming back home?" Maximo grunted.

"When it's time.I won't let him put me into trouble and he would have to serve his punishment when he returns.But for now, let him be with Grey," he turned around and adjusted his t-shirt.

'Let's leave now," he ordered.

They walked out to the parking space, with ten of Maximo's men already waiting for him by the car.He contemplated quickly on whether to go with more men or not.He didn't trust Alex one bit but he had to make it look like he wasn't scared by him.

"Five of the men should stay back.Only five follow me," he muttered and entered the car. novelbin

The car pulled out into the street a few minutes later.Grey called him that morning before he left for Ravello.

And he also revealed to him that he was finally going to work for Avery.As much as he hated it, he couldn't help but admit to the fact that he wanted it as well.He wanted anything that would make Avery stay in Italy.

Without Grey, Avery would leave Italy very soon.But with him, she would be able to start a branch office in Italy which would enable her to be close to him.

Maximo loves Avery already.He was just waiting for the right time to let the cat out of the bag.

"We are here, boss," one of the men announced suddenly, jerking Maximo out of his thought.

He released a sigh and got out of the car.He hesitated as he looked up at the building.

Several men rushed out of the house and formed a defense position.

While Maximo's men were forced to stay behind Maximo in a defense position as well.

The men parted suddenly and Alex walked out from the door.

"Maximo?" Alex laughed.

"So nice to see you again." Maximo scoffed.

"Don't act as if you are pleased to see me again."

"Why? You haven't boldly challenged me, Maximo.Though, I'm looking forward to that.What are you doing here?" Maximo cleared his throat.

"I need to speak with you." Alex raised a skeptical brow.

"What for?"

"It's about Grey.I have some information for you about him." Alex regarded him for a moment as if he couldn't quite believe it.

"Come with me," he muttered, turned around, and walked inside.



Maximo followed him.

In the next few minutes, they were sitting opposite each other.

Alex poured himself a glass of alcohol.

"What about Grey did you want to tell me that made you come to my place so early this morning?"

Maximo released a sigh.

"After you called me about him.I decided to make a little investigation.I mean would Grey really be in this place without coming to see me?"Alex raised a brow and watched him.

"You said Grey was dead.Well, I didn't know that and he could have come over to me if he really was the one."

"So, what's your conclusion? That my men were lying?" Maximo shrugged briefly.

"I don't know about that, Alex but what I do know was that I found him.I found someone that looks like him."

"What?"

Alex felt alarmed.

"Is this supposed to be a play? Are you trying to play on my intelligence?"

"Does this look like a play to you? Would I come to your place so early in the morning just to play on your intelligence?"

Alex's eyes tightened on him.

"Tell me more."

"He seemed to be running. I don't know why or what his motive was but he was really on the way to the airport. My men traced him there before he disappeared again."

"How many men did you send after him?"

"Ten, I think. His location came suddenly and I didn't have the time to inform the other men." Alex regarded him for a moment before he burst out laughing.

"Are you kidding me? Are you saying ten men couldn't capture a single man? Do you think I'm a fool? You don't think I would know that you let him go on purpose?"

"Why will I do that? Even though I don't like you, I wouldn't want to get on your bad side. Besides, I have no idea who this man really is, except for the fact that he owns some shares in my company. And I don't really know how he escaped but he really did. The man seemed to know every hook and corner of this street," he explained.

Alex clenched his teeth in concentration.

"Did you send your men to this place last night?"

Maximo relaxed at this, a smile almost coming up to his face. It looked like the plan was really working.

"I couldn't take any chances. I had to search every part of the city to confirm your allegations because initially, I wasn't believing it."

Chapter 476: The Nightclub

"Are you sure about what you are saying?" Alex inquired.

While a part of him wants to believe him, the other part found it difficult to do it.

"I have no reason to lie to you. I took James off this position so that I can be here. I wouldn't want Grey to drag it with me," he muttered. Alex regarded him for a moment before he cleared his throat.

"Did they really see Grey?" Maximo nodded once.

"Yes, though I'm still not sure if he really is Grey. I mean none of my men have seen Grey in person. But maybe we can trace him and find that out, don't you think?" Alex nodded once.

"I like that idea of yours. It sounds cool actually," he said well.

"You said he was sighted at the airport? Do you think he's leaving Italy? I mean if he's not Grey, then he has no cause to leave."

"I've thought about that as well. But as I said earlier, we still can't judge things yet. But I will keep my men around for now. Though, since he knows we are tailing him, he would be very careful now." Alex released a sigh.

"That's right. Then, that means we should work together. Call me if you need my men, and I will send them right away." Maximo smiled softly.

"I will do just that. Just promise me something, that you will make sure Grey would never disturb me if at all he's alive." Alex relaxed at this.

He felt pleased with his statement. It meant that Maximo was going to rely on him.

And that was a nice thing.

"That's no problem, Maximo. I will not let you down."

Maximo nodded once.

"Thank you. Which club do you frequent? We could go tonight, all bills on me."

Alex laughed and drowned the alcohol.

"Great, Maximo. Let's have some drinks for our new partnership."

"I will be waiting for your message," he stood up.

"I will take my leave now because I need to be at work. I have some things to do."

Alex stood and nodded once.

"Alright. Inform me immediately if you find anything about him. I want every little information."

"Alright, I will do just that. Thank you for giving me little of your time. Let's see in the evening." They shook hands.

Maximo relaxed when he got inside the car. He was so glad that the plan and tactics worked well.

Besides, if Alex had told his father, he would have mentioned it. This meant that they were still safe. He placed a call to Grey immediately. He didn't pick up until the second ring.

"Hi Maximo," Grey boomed.

"Hi Grey, good morning. I'm just coming from Alex's house and I must inform you that things went perfectly."

"Nice, I knew it was going to work well. Did Alex say anything about informing his father?"

"No, I doubt he has done that. He believed everything I said and is surely waiting for information about you from me. Besides that, I'm going to a club tonight with him so that he will trust me more."

"That's actually good. Do that, and I will inform you later if I have something for you. Talk to you later, Maximo," he finished and hung up.

They got to the company and just as he walked inside the lobby, his secretary walked towards him.

"Boss, Miss Avery is here to see you," she announced.

Maximo raised a skeptical brow.

"Why? I don't remember having any appointments with her. Did she say the reason why she's here?"

The secretary shook her head briefly.

"She didn't say anything. In fact, when I told her that you weren't around, she said she would wait for you." Maximo nodded once.

"Alright," he smiled softly and walked to the elevator.

Avery released a sigh, as she waited for Maximo.

Actually, she wasn't there to see Maximo, she was there because of David. She forgot to ask for his number or where he lived. novelbin

The door opened suddenly behind her and she got up.

"Bobino Milano? Alright, I will be there tonight. I won't miss it for anything,"

Maximo laughed.

"Alright, later," he finished and moved closer to Avery. Avery stood up, with a smile on her face.

"Hi, Mr. Maximo."

"Good morning, Avery. Please, you can have your seat," he gestured to the chair and watched her sit before he did the same.

"How are you doing? I wasn't expecting to see you this morning. And I don't remember having an appointment with you today."

"Yes, I know. I'm sorry for coming here unannounced. I just need your help with something."

Maximo regarded her for a moment.

"Yes, what can that be?"

"Firstly, I would like to inform you of the latest update. David has agreed to work for me. In fact, he has signed the contract," she revealed.

Maximo nodded once.

"I'm aware. He informed me about it."

Avery watched him for a moment.

"You guys seem very close.Anyways, I forgot to ask for his address and his phone details.And I need it from you if you don't mind."

"Well, I can't help you with that."

"Why?"

"Because I don't know what you guys agreed on.Besides, I can't just give away someone's personal information like that unless they consent to you.It will be a betrayal on my part," he explained.

Avery scoffed.

"Seriously?"

Maximo nodded once.

"I'm sorry, Avery.I want to help but there's nothing I can do about it.The only help I can do is to speak with David and get back to you concerning it.I will do that, I promise."

Avery felt annoyed a bit but she couldn't blame Maximo.He was David's friend anyways and besides, David was a stubborn person.But then, she remembered that when Maximo walked in earlier, he was talking about going to a nightclub that night.

Since he was David's friend, she was so sure that David would be present as well.

"Good then," she managed a smile.

"I will see you later," she muttered, knowing deep within her that she was going to see Maximo and David that night.

Chapter 477: Old people

"So, we are safe for now?" Aphrodite inquired jokily.

Grey laughed at this.

"Yes, we are. It's nothing to worry about actually. I told you I would handle it perfectly."

Aphrodite moved closer and planted a kiss on his cheek.

"I know, love. I know that you are capable. I just get worried sometimes. There are lots of dangers lurking around and I wouldn't want you to fall into what your father did."

Grey looked up at her for a moment and slowly held her hand.

"I'm not my father, Novia. I won't die like him. And I won't let the woman I love die as well," he swore.

Somehow, his inner voice asked.

'Does it include Avery?' Even though Grey doesn't want to be with Avery again, he wouldn't doubt the fact that he still wanted her to be safe.

Aphrodite stepped back and smiled briefly.

"Alright, I will trust you on that."

Grey reciprocated the smile.

"Go, get dressed, and let's go shopping." Aphrodite's smile widened.

"Alright!"



She whooped with delight and hurried inside.

Grey regarded her for a moment, with a smile on his face until she was out of sight. His phone rang suddenly. It was Maximo.

"Hello, Maximo. How are you doing?"

"Great, I hope I'm not interrupting?"

"Oh no," Grey laughed.

"Not yet, actually. Is something wrong?"

"Well, yes. When I got back to the company, Avery was waiting for me. She came to ask for your phone number and address."

"What! Did you give it out?" Grey felt alarmed.

Well, if Maximo gave her the number she was familiar with, it would expose him as Grey.

"No, calm down," Maximo snorted with laughter.

"I didn't. I mean I couldn't do that behind your back. I told her that I would call you and get back to her," he explained.

Grey released a sigh.

"Thank you. I will call her myself because there's a particular phone number that she knows with me. I won't be able to escape the reason why I'm not Grey but I have his numbers."

"Alright, I've sent the number to you, right? You should do whatever you see fit," Maximo finished and the line went off.

Grey released a relieved sigh.

Avery seemed to be very serious about the business issue.

Avery took a shower and got dressed in casual clothes. It was evening eventually and time to go to Bobino Milano to see David.

Maximo hasn't gotten back to her which meant that David wasn't planning on giving her the information she had requested, at least not soon.

He was proving really stubborn but Avery was more stubborn.

It was quarter past eight when Avery arrived at Bobino Milano's nightclub.

The place was seething with a lot of people and for once, Avery felt she was really going to enjoy herself aside from meeting with David too.

"Hey! Where are you going?"

One of the bouncers asked suddenly in a way that showed he wasn't really a native English speaker as she was about to enter the club.

Bobino Milano was actually a club and a bar.

So, some people were going to the bar, while some were going to the club.

"Inside," she muttered, a bit confused.

"No! No! No!" The man shook his head briefly.

"You can't go inside," he was still using that weird accent.

"See?"

He gestured towards a woman that was coming behind Avery. She was wearing a very short mini leather skirt, and a leather blouse as well.

Avery watched the woman for a moment, as she was allowed into the club before she looked down at herself and realised where the problem was.

The clothes she was wearing were more hideous and not the type that they wanted in the club.

Different clubs, with different rules.

Avery turned away, somehow feeling disappointed.

Well, she wasn't going to give up like that. She desperately wanted to meet with David. She entered her car and drove past Bobino Milano.

Malls were closed already because of the time.

But there was one still available and people were rushing in and out of it.

Avery found a nice space to park and entered the store.

"Isn't this perfect?" A voice was saying.

Avery's gaze searched around quickly and she eventually realised it was what she had been looking for. She walked towards one of the salespeople.

"Hello."

"Hello," the woman looked up at her, with a huge smile on her.

"You look new. Were you also stopped at the door?"

Avery couldn't understand what she meant.

"What are you talking about?"

She shrugged briefly.

"Bobino Milano. They have strict rules around here but they are also one of the best clubs in this place," she announced.

"Come, I will show you a nice dress you could wear." She led her to a room filled with a variety of clothes.

"I have a special one for you. I reserved it, especially for someone like you," she laughed and disappeared around the racks of clothes.

Avery used the opportunity to look around.

"I heard there are people of high personality in Bobino Milano tonight. In fact, Maximo is also around," someone whispered. novelbin

The woman walked out again but with a black short gown.

"I will help you with little makeup for a little fee if you don't mind." Avery smiled softly.

"I don't, actually."

"I didn't expect you to make such a proposal. Finally, we are getting off being strangers. I love it actually," Alex muttered.

Maximo laughed as he drowned his vodka.

"Actually, it feels good. We could do this some other time too."

"Anything concerning Grey?"

"Not yet. My men are still combing through the street to look for him."

Alex nodded once.

"Let's forget about that and enjoy this moment."

Maximo nodded once and drowned more of the vodka.

"What do we have here?"

A feminine voice said suddenly.

Alex and Maximo were forced to look up at the intruder.

Alex's eyes went wide when he saw who it was. He wasn't really expecting to see her.

The shocking thing was that she seemed close to Maximo. Was there any foul work at play?

Chapter 478: Fired or what?

He was staring at Avery, Grey's ex-wife.

Why was she in Italy? Actually, it all seemed suspicious.

Why was Avery in Italy just when Grey lookalike was recently sighted in Italy as well? "Where's he?"

Avery inquired.

Maximo looked at Alex, then at Avery.

"What are you doing here?"

"I'm looking for David and you know that. I'm sure he's here. Where's he? To get a drink?"

Her gaze searched around quickly for Grey.

"David? Who is David?" Alex asked suddenly.

It was at this moment that Avery turned to look at Alex. Her eyes went wide with shock.

Maximo watched these two for a moment before he stood, took Avery's hand, and walked her away.

Maximo pulled her aside.

"What are you doing? How did you even find me here?"

Avery was still looking at Alex, even from where she stood.

"I know you are a mafia lord but do you seriously roll with someone like Alex?"

Maximo's eyes tightened for a moment.

"You know who Alex is?"

Avery sighed and looked up at Maximo.

"Who doesn't know who Alex is? He is quite popular in Jacksonville especially after his identity was discovered as the heir of Giovanni." Maximo sighed.

"What are you here for exactly? It's dangerous for you if you keep lurking around like this," he warned.

"I'm only here for David. You didn't get back to me since morning and he didn't call me either," she complained.

Maximo released an exasperated.

"See, Avery. I've already spoken to David and he promised to call you. Why don't you just wait for his call? I will tell one of my men to drop you at the suite."

"Don't you bother? I can take care of myself. Thank you," she turned around and started to walk away.

Maximo watched her for a moment.

Actually, his heart seemed to race slightly when he saw Avery. She was dressed differently and well, very beautiful. He looked at one of his men and signalled him over. The man rushed to Maximo and bowed his head slightly. novelbin

"Follow her. Make sure she arrives in the suite safely before you come back."

The man nodded once and walked out of the club.

Maximo released a sigh and walked back to Alex.

"I'm so sorry about the interruption." Alex watched him for a moment.

"How did you know Avery?"

"She came here for business and has been thinking of having a branch in Italy. So, I've been helping out but," he hesitated briefly.

"You seem to know her too. May I ask how? Alex sighed briefly.

"Just someone close to Grey that I knew. Avery stopped briefly on the way to her car. She reasoned that there was actually something amiss somewhere. Maximo was the head of the mafia boss in Italy while Alex was the son of the head of the mafia boss in Jacksonville, well, after the death of Hercules.

What were they doing together? It was really suspicious and she had to be careful.

Besides, Maximo was David's friend and she wondered why he wasn't around or maybe he was and Maximo didn't want her to see him.

Nevertheless, it was painful to Avery that she wasted time coming and didn't get anything in return. Her phone rang suddenly. She glanced at the screen and realised it was an unknown number. She sighed and entered the car before she picked it up.



"Hello, who is this?"

"David. Here's my number." Avery relaxed.

David was in the club after all.

Maximo must have informed him when she left.

"I thought you were never going to call."

"I told you I would work for you. I don't go back on my word. Anyways, you could send me the location of the company here so I could come over on Monday."

"Well, I'm yet to get a place and that would be our job on Monday. Where is your place? I will come over."

"Never mind. I will come over to your suite tomorrow. You have a car, right?"

"Yes but\_"

She didn't finish because Grey hung up on her.

Avery felt a bit annoyed and silently promised to deal with Grey when he resumed. Grey's phone rang suddenly as he entered his car. It was Monday morning and yes, the time for him to resume work as Avery's assistant.

Actually, he started to regret the fact that he agreed to do it with her. He was to meet her at home but he still had to be very careful. His phone rang again.

Grey didn't need to check the screen to know it was Avery calling. She had been disturbing him with calls since eight in the morning.

He released a sigh and decided to pick it up, only to discover it was Maximo. He picked it up immediately.

"Hello, Maximo."

"Hi, Grey. I have a piece of information for you. The special members are here already. They arrived this morning. Do you have a plan again? I mean next week is the announcement of the winner," he explained.

"Just give me a few minutes. I will think something out," he promised.

"Alright, call me when you are through," Maximo finished and the line went off.

Grey released a sigh. He didn't expect them to arrive so early.

Alex would surely be watching them at this moment. He needed to act discreetly.

Maybe, just maybe there was a way he could do it.

With Avery, that should be easy.

Especially the fact that Avery was just about to start a branch in Italy. He could lure her and use it for his interest. His phone rang again as he drove into the street.

Just as he drove inside, a figure suddenly materialised in front of the car.

Grey was fast enough to press the brake.

His eyes went wide with shock when he realised who it was. It was Avery and she was looking at him with furious eyes.

Grey knew that she was very angry.

Avery hesitated before she moved right to the side of the car.

"The clause said you must resume work at exactly 8 in the morning! I'm sure you know the consequences?"

Grey met her gaze for a few minutes and nearly laughed.

"Will you fire me then?"

Chapter 479: Angered

Avery huffed.

"Seriously? That's your way out?"

"What other punishment is there for you to mete out?"

He stepped out of the car and leaned on it.

Because of this, he was standing too close to Avery for comfort. She felt a tinge of emotion at their closeness. She swallowed hard and took a step back.

"Isn't that the general thing? Employees get fired on a daily basis from coming late to work, especially on the first day," he teased.

Avery laughed and threw her car keys at him.

"You are driving," she muttered and started the walk away, expecting Grey to follow behind.

Grey regarded her for a moment before he locked his car and followed Avery. He quickly sent a message to Maximo, asking for the location of the special members.

Avery leaned against her car, waiting for him with a cute frown on her face.

"Where are we going?"

"We need to start with finding a nice location for the company. I have two locations in mind already," she explained and got into the passenger's side.

Grey got inside beside her, just as his phone beeped. He knew it was a message from Maximo.

"So, where are we going now?"

"Bergamo," she muttered and turned away.

Grey typed some information and watched the internet show him the way. He drove out of the parking lot and followed the instructions.

"Was that why you called? Did Maximo tell you I came already?" Grey glanced at her.

"You came where?" Avery looked at him.

"I came to the club but I only saw you and \_," she hesitated.

"Why did you let him discharge me like that? Was it because you were having meetings with your fellow mafia world?"

"Mafia things aren't for women. You shouldn't meddle in," he muttered.

Avery pouted and looked away again.

"I forgot," she said suddenly.

"We are not heading towards Bergamo. We are going to Brescia."

"What? You just said Bergamo," Grey protested.

"No," Avery shook her head briefly and slightly.

"No, I didn't. You must have heard me wrong."

Grey shook his head briefly and took a sudden turn. Avery smiled slightly, pleased with herself. She was slowly enjoying the turn of events.

"Avery, I'm not a fool."

"I'm not either, I'm your boss," she muttered.

"Is this supposed to be your punishment?"

"I suppose it is. Well, I can't fire you. So? Take a turn," she looked ahead.

"Because I'm not going to Brescia, I'm going to Vita Altabella."

Grey pulled out from the street suddenly. He turned to look at Avery.

"What the fuck are you doing?" He was a bit annoyed.

Avery was up with wits again, like she was used to doing when they were still married.

"Why did you stop? I thought I just told you where we are heading?"

"Well, perhaps, you should drive. I give up."

"You can't give up, David. I choose what you can do. I'm your employer and your boss, don't you forget that."

"It doesn't mean you should make silly demands."

Grey groaned inwardly and unconsciously took his phone to check the message.

"You should check the contract that you signed. I have the right to order you around as long as you are in the course of work."

Grey's eyes went wide slightly when he read the message.

Actually, the location where Avery wanted them to go at that moment was the same place where the special members were. He could use the opportunity to see the members.

Though he wasn't having what he was supposed to give out at that moment, he knew what he could do.

The only thing he needed was to make the members choose him as the next king of the World.

"David!" Avery called.

"Did you hear me?" Grey looked at her and nodded briefly.

"Of course I did. You want to go to Vita Altabella, right?" novelbin

Avery didn't reply, her mouth fixed in a tight pout.

"What are you doing?"

"Driving of course," he smiled.

"We will be in Altabella very soon, I promise."

Avery regarded him for a moment, not too sure she knew what was going on. She expected Grey to rebel but was shocked when he didn't.

Though it looked like it was exactly what Grey was about to do, he seemed to have changed his mind suddenly.

And Avery wondered why.

"We are going to Bologna. The office I need has already been paid for," Avery supplied.

Grey made a nod of his head and continued to drive.

The drive lasted for another thirty before Grey changed a turn suddenly, opposite where he was supposed to go.

Avery noticed but disregarded it.

She reasoned that it could be that Grey wanted to pass a shorter way because he was tired of her taunt already.

And then, the second time, Grey made the same mistakes.

Avery sat up.

"What are you doing? Where are you going?"

Grey smiled softly, "You know, I just remembered something.

"And what can that be? Is your house at this place?"

"You asked me a question some nights back but I couldn't answer you. Why did I save you? I literally risked my life to save you and what did you do? You boss me around?"

Avery was taken aback.

"W\_what are you saying?"

"So!"

Grey stressed suddenly, and Avery's heart skipped a beat.

"I've decided to correct my mistakes. I told you that I could snap your neck at any minute. It is the easiest thing for me to do. I could do it at this moment while I'm driving."

"What!" Avery exclaimed.

"Let me go this instant!" She yelled.

"Why?" He glanced at her. His expression was dark and scary.



"Why should I listen to you? Have you forgotten I'm a friend of Maximo."

"Oh, that you are also a mafia lord? So, you are going to kill me? Have you forgotten you signed a paper and you don't like going back on your words?"

Grey looked at her again, and Avery jerked back.

"It won't bother me a bit, Avery. I don't like when people threaten my existence. Maybe then you would know how much it takes to boss around a mafia lord."

Avery could not feel her heart again as she reasoned a way out of the problem but there seemed to be none.

Grey drove into a suite and Avery's eyes went darker and wider with shock.

Was Grey going to have his way with her before he killed her? She had heard a lot about mafia lords.

They were always very wicked.

Though, initially, she didn't know that Grey was a mafia lord.

She merely thought he was a friend of Maximo and maybe does one of his jobs.

"Please, I'm begging you. Let me go."

Grey ignored her and pulled into the parking space.

He covered his head with his hood and got out of the car.

Avery contemplated leaving the car through the driver's side, even though she was very sure that she wasn't a match for Grey.

Grey instead moved to the passenger's side and opened the door.

"Come down," he ordered in a thick voice.

Avery couldn't move.

The shock was just too much.Maybe she had really passed her boundary.

Chapter 480: The setup

"Please, I'm begging you.Let me go," she beseeched softly.

She was in the same position several minutes later but she couldn't bring herself to adjust.She had never felt so scared in her entire life.

Grey regarded her for a moment, and several thoughts slipped in. novelbin

There were times in their lives when Avery wasn't even scared of him.

There were times he wished Avery would respect him as a man, even if it was for a whole day.

Grey shook his head briefly.

"No, you seemed to have misunderstood me, Avery.I heard that some notable people are staying here for a few days.Since you are just about to create a branch here.How about we get some investors?"

Avery stared, still shocked and unable to form a word.She didn't believe him.

Grey had been using some mean words and his voice had gotten even thicker as if he was trying to scare her. And well, that went well because Avery was so scared at that moment.

Grey nearly laughed at the way Avery was quiet. She seemed so submissive when she was quiet. He browsed through his phone until he was at the news that came out several hours ago about the special members in the city. He stretched it out to Avery.

"See?"

Avery regarded Grey for a moment before she looked at the screen.

Seeing the news, she slowly released the breath she didn't know she was holding.

"Are you for real? They are currently here?"

She got excited and took the phone to read through.

Grey nodded once.

"Yes, they are."

"But their location isn't here. Are you sure about this?"

"I can't be wrong, Avery. Besides, we have two more wealthy people you can approach. Do you know that Charles of Jacksonville is also in this suite at this moment?"

Avery's eyes went round with another shock.

"You mean Charles of Hercules?"

Grey nodded once.

"Even though Hercules is dead, don't you think we could still use him? I mean he's still rich, isn't he?"

"Of course," Avery admitted and got down.

"Especially all Hercules's elders. They are all rich. If we can get one or two to be my investors, it would be the best for me. Do you have a plan?" She looked up at Grey and waited.

Grey nodded once.

"I really do. But I think we will have to split up at this point. I will meet with Charles and I think you should meet the special members. I'm sure they would hear you out better since you are a lady," he suggested.

Avery sighed.

"You want us to split up?"

"Isn't that the fastest way? If we decide to go together, we are going to waste time and I heard that Charles will be leaving the suite today. What if we aren't able to have this opportunity until he returns to Jacksonville?"

Avery watched him for a moment.

"You seemed to know a lot about Jacksonville, for a mafia lord that is based in Italy," she muttered.

Grey smiled.

"I know more than you could imagine," he took a long strides forward, to cover the space between them.

"Like the fact that you are safe whenever you are with me," he muttered thickly.

Avery's eyes went wide as a series of emotions exploded in her.

Somehow, the guy in front of her was affecting her in a way she couldn't see.

Was it because she already fell in love with Grey before they divorced? And because the man in front of her resembled Grey a lot? That was why she couldn't stop falling.

"B—but what was—," she started but failed and gave up.

"You mean what I said in the car?"

He laughed and stepped away slowly.

"I was merely teasing you, Avery," he took the phone and turned to leave.

"I will meet you here in an hour. I hope you can finish your task by then."

Too shocked, Avery waited until Grey was gone. She tried to stabilise her heavy breathing. She needed to if she was going to meet three important people that were in the position of selecting the new King of the world.

Come to think of it, that was fast approaching.

So, that meant they were in Italy for the Italian Billionaire Club.

And yes, according to David, there was no telling when they would leave.

David had so much information or maybe it was because he was a mafia lord.

Though, she was still surprised at the fact that David knew a lot about Jacksonville. She finally released a sigh.

"Nice, David. I'm going to pay you back for almost giving me heartache," she muttered stubbornly before she started towards the main entrance.

Grey smiled softly.

His plan actually worked.

Avery was too shaken up to follow him immediately.

That was the plan actually.

He wasn't going to meet Charles but the special members.

Fortunately for him, he would be done before Avery requested an audience.

He just needed a few minutes with them.

And Grey was sure of himself.

His gaze searched around as he entered the lobby.

There were two guys in a suit by his left.

Grey sneezed out loud suddenly and quickly brought out a nose mask. He bent almost immediately, as he wore the nose mask. He sneezed again and felt the man's gaze turn on him.

They watched him for a few minutes until he was actually out of sight.

Grey moved to the elevator.

There were three other men that entered the elevator with him.

Just as the elevator was closing, there was a loud yelp.

"Stop the damn elevator!"

One of the men from earlier screamed.

Fortunately, the door closed before they could get close.

They must have found him suspicious too late.

"Who are they and why did they want us to stop?"

One of the men asked.

Grey ignored them and got off the elevator.

The floor where the special members were was quiet.

Just as he got to the room, the door opened and several men hurried out.

"Where are you from?"

One of the men regarded Grey for a moment.

"Italy billionaire club?"

Grey shook his head for a moment.

"From Jacksonville."

The man raised skeptical brows.

"Jacksonville? In Italy?"

"Yes, something came up. I need to see the members quickly. I have something to report. And it's kind of urgent."

The man regarded Grey for a moment.

"Pull down the mask," he announced.

Grey slowly pulled down the mask.

One of the men standing looked at him, with eyes gone wide with shock. It seemed like he recognised him.