

Secretly TBB 491

Chapter 491: The truth

Avery walked inside the salon and scanned the place for the stylist. She was nowhere in sight, so Avery used the Opportunity to sit. She placed a call to her however and she picked it up immediately.

"Hi, good morning. Where are you?" "I'm at the salon.

How can we meet and discuss?"

"Just do as if you want to go to the restroom, I will meet you, " she explained and hung up.

Avery cleared her throat meaningfully and looked at one of the stylists around.

"Where's the restroom, please?"

"There, just go straight. You will see it." Avery stood and bowed slightly.

"Thank you," she muttered and followed the direction that was explained. She entered the restroom, her gaze searching around quickly for the stylist.

"Looking for me?"

A soft voice said suddenly behind her.

Avery turned to look at the stylist, a smile on her face.

"Should we go elsewhere to discuss? Are you sure you are ok here?"

The stylist nodded briefly.

"Besides, what I'm about to tell you was gotten through dubious means. I had to give him half of the money you gave to me before he could speak. He said it was a piece of top-notch information and it could get him killed if revealed," she confessed.

Avery's eyes widened with shock.

"Really?" The stylist nodded briefly.

"That was why I asked you to come here. I can't be sure who and who is watching me. Anyways, let's talk so we can leave this place before anyone notices that something is weird."

Avery nodded once.

"Alright, go on. And I also promise to give you something for the stress and to cover the amount that the man collected from you. You wouldn't lose." The stylist smiled.

"I will really appreciate that. Thank you!"

She released a sigh.

"So, according to what he said, this particular person," she gestured to the picture she was holding.

"came to Italy some weeks back. And in fact, he isn't a citizen of Italy and even had a duet with Maximo. That's all I got."

Avery was surprised but she tried to hide it.

"You don't know where he came from?"

The stylist shook her head briefly.

"That's all I know and I would like you to return now."

Avery nodded briefly.

"Will you have the cheque or should I send it to your account?"

"Just send it. I don't want it to show that I transacted with you. Bye for now," she finished and walked out.

Avery hesitated as she thought about everything the stylist had said.

If David wasn't a citizen of Italy, that meant he wasn't a mafia lord in Italy.

Then, where could he have come from? Well, Maximo held him in high esteem.

Asides, the stylist said Maximo and David had a duet. It was what was common among mafia lords. So, he was really a mafia lord. She was sure of it.

But where could he have come from? And why was he in Italy? Then she remembered, the expression on his face when she told him about Grey. She didn't count it as anything at that moment but now that she thought about it, it was kind of weird.

David was shocked.

That aside, he knew that she was from Jacksonville.

Well, there was a possibility that she was just trying to look for ways to find out who he was.

But at the same time, she could be right. To be sure of everything, she was going to do a final test.

Avery remembered that Grey had a tattoo of a viper on his back. She was going to check David's body for it. She released a sigh, mentally cursing herself.

There was no way David would be Grey. It just wasn't possible.

Besides, even though they look alike, they act differently. But Avery was going to check to be clear of everything.

Then, maybe she could start thinking of a way to find David's real identity.

Grey walked inside the living room.

Charles was already waiting for him.

"Charles, I need an answer to this question. Was Grey declared dead in Jacksonville?"

Charles regarded him for a moment.

"What?"

"Hercules was supposed to be the one, why did you pronounce Grey dead?"

"I have no idea, Grey. I don't even know what you are talking about. Why would Grey be declared dead? We agreed on Hercules alone."

Grey released a sigh.

"Then Gregory or Alfred would know about it," he turned away and dialled Gregory's number.

Gregory picked up before the end of the first ring.

"Hello, Hercules."

"I need an urgent answer to this question. Did you declare Grey dead?"

Gregory went quiet for a moment.

"I did. In fact, it was Alfred's idea."

Grey couldn't believe it.

"Seriously? And you decided to keep it from me? Why couldn't you discuss it with me before you do that?"

"Well, it was all for your sake. Giovanni already knows what you look like. We just saw that it would be good if we do that. So, you could safely get to Italy. In fact, the day you left for Italy was the day the fake Grey was buried," he explained.

Grey released a sigh.

"This should have been discussed with me before you proceed. How could I not know about it? Instead, I heard it from someone. It's not supposed to be."

"I'm sorry about that, Hercules. We were all after your good. You know how Alfred always is."

"Alright, I will call you later," he finished and hung up. He turned to look at Charles again.

"I'm thinking of luring Alex to Jacksonville in two days and I need your help."

"Yes, what must I do?"

"I need you to act as me.They don't need to see your face.You could wear a black nose mask like I used to do.Just make sure you deceive them.I will take a private plane at ' the same time because the venue for the announcement is Jacksonville," he revealed.

Charles nodded once.

"The time is fast approaching.I will start preparing."

Grey nodded once.

"Where is the man I asked you to lock up?"

"He's in the store."

Grey didn't say anything as he moved towards the store.He opened the door and stepped inside.

The man was inside, facing the wall as if there was something on the wall.

"As I promised, I will release you the moment I leave Italy.So, you can do whatever you want after I'm gone."

The man turned to look at Grey.

"There's nowhere for me to go again.In fact, I doubt Giovanni would let me live.I will rather work for you."

Grey scoffed.

"That won't be possible. You have worked with Giovanni, so, I won't have you by myself. There's no way to know if you will really be with me truly or not."

The man took two steps closer to Grey.

"I know a lot about Giovanni. I know how his security is. I'm sure you would need my help. There's no way you won't."

Grey furrowed his brows at him as he thought about it.

Chapter 492: Revealing plan

"Are you sure about this?" The man nodded once.

"I can help you and you won't regret it. I promise."

Grey regarded him for a moment.

"If you try something funny, I will kill you."

"Alright. You can do anything you want to me if I deceive you but I've made up my mind already."

"No prob, I will be watching," he walked out of the room and shut it.

Charles was still in the living room, waiting for him. Grey moved closer to him.

"Get the guy initiated in our men. He has a perfect way of infiltrating Giovanni's security. I think I'm going to need him on the announcement day," he explained.

Charles shook his head briefly.

"I don't think that's actually nice. We can't trust him. He's one of Giovanni's men."

"Well, you don't need to trust him. Just trust me. I will handle everything else," he assured.

Avery had already prepared a perfect plan to get to the root of the matter. She was going to use her wit to check who David really was. She couldn't take chances as she didn't even know when David would stop seeing her.

A soft knock sounded on her door. She opened the door and regarded Grey for a moment.

"Good morning," she muttered, turned away, and walked into her bedroom.

Grey contemplated quickly if he should go wait for her inside or just stay outside, knowing full well they were going to be alone if it was inside.

Nevertheless, he stepped inside. He hesitated for a moment and instead, turned to the television set. He felt a figure behind him suddenly but he didn't move.

"Good morning to you too, Avery."

"Let's go then," she muttered and walked past him towards the door.

Her scent wafted into Grey's nostril, shocking him for a moment. He looked at her and her eyes widened with shock.

"W_what are you wearing, Avery?" His voice faltered a bit.

Avery was wearing a long sleeveless blue gown.

The gown looked as though it was made specifically for Avery, revealing her cleavage and making her look as hot as ever.

But! That wasn't what Grey was concerned with.

"I wear whatever I see fit. Besides, I'm going to be having lunch at one of the famous restaurants," she explained as she walked out into the hallway.

"Come on, Avery. You will catch a cold easily. Come on, you need to change your clothes right this instant. You could always buy a dress whenever you are prepared to go out," he explained, as he walked after her.

Avery ignored him and continued to walk away. She was in front of the elevator when Grey caught up with her and whirled her around to look at him.

"Avery!" He yelled, his eyes almost turning red with exhaustion.

Avery looked up at him, feeling a surge of emotion in her. She had a stupid urge to reach out and kiss him or maybe she was merely going insane. She opened her mouth to say something but the words refused to come out.

"Why don't you ever listen to me!"

Avery's heartbeat accelerated, as they were locked in a transfixed gaze. She couldn't stop it, no matter how hard she tried. She knew, however, that Grey was the only person that has made her feel that way. She wondered why she was currently feeling so drawn to him. She suddenly wanted him to touch her even if it was only going to be a hug. She just wanted to be close to him.

"Avery," Grey called softly.

"Avery!" He stressed.

Avery jerked out of her thoughts.

"I," she started and stopped.

She swallowed harder.

"I just want you to see me like this." Grey was taken aback.

"What?"

Avery smiled.

"And see how hot your boss can be. Isn't it good?"

Grey released a sigh.

"But you could catch a cold. You can't be wearing this type of clothes in this kind of weather."

"I'm fine, David. I'm only going to the office anyway and I have a heater. I will be fine," she insisted, flashed him a smile, and walked inside the elevator. She waited for Giovanni to do the same as well.

Grey released an exasperated sigh before he walked inside the elevator as well.

In the next few minutes, they were on the way to the company.

The interview would start in less than two hours.

Avery didn't say anything for a moment and Grey was a bit bothered. She was only staring out of the window and watching the buildings as they drove past them.

"Is everything alright, Avery?"

Avery shook her head briefly, as her hands flew around her in a protective way. She was actually feeling cold but was trying to hide it.

"I'm fine," she whispered.

Grey glanced at her again and noticed how she was doing. He increased the heater.

"Can we get coffee at the nearby coffee store?"

"Sure. What type of coffee do you like?"

"You don't have to bother, I will get it myself," she said stubbornly.

Grey gave up immediately but after he had pulled the car to a stop, he rushed out and pulled his suit for her.

Avery looked at him in awe but didn't protest.

Grey helped her with it and stepped back, a satisfied smile on his face.

Avery was not only shocked but pleased.

Grey was only with a white shirt but he looked satisfied. He could be a mafia lord but he had a heart of gold.

"Thank you," she smiled and stepped inside the shop.

Grey decided to wait for her in the car. It didn't take up to ten minutes when Avery walked out with her coffee.

"I'm done," Avery said excitedly. "Now, we can go to the office," she announced and looked at Grey.

"Why aren't you angry?" Grey didn't look at her as he started the ignition.

"Angry for what?"

"I refused to change my clothes even after you gave me a nice reason to. Now, I'm disturbing you. I even took your suit. I'm just one stubborn girl."

Grey laughed wholeheartedly.

"Good. I like the fact that you are telling the truth. You are really stubborn, in fact, one of the most stubborn ladies I have ever seen."

"No, I'm not!" Avery pouted funnily.

Grey glanced at her and laughed again.

"Well, everyone should be allowed to wear whatever would give them joy. If giving you the suit was the little thing I could do to fulfil your heart's desire, I will do it all over."

Avery felt moved to tears.

"Damn! I need to drink my coffee when it's still hot," she fumbled but didn't drink.

Instead, she turned to Grey.

"Will you have some as well?"

Grey shook his head briefly.

"I'm fine."

"I insist, Grey. You know that you won't be able to win against me."

Grey laughed.

"Alright, I will have some when we get to the office. We are almost there anyway."

Avery shook her head quickly.

"No, coffee is better when served hot. You could just have a taste, that's all," she moved the cup toward Grey's lips.

"The taste is ok."

"Avery, stop. You_, "Grey protests went to a full stop as Avery pushed the cup to his lips, allowing him to drink the coffee.

A car almost overtook him suddenly.

Grey saw it at the last minute and pressed the brake.

The coffee splashed out over Grey's shirt and Avery's hand.

Avery yelled.

Grey took the coffee from her so fast that the rest poured on his hand.

Avery's eyes widened in shock.

Though it was the plan, she didn't want Grey to get hurt so much.

Chapter 493: The truth

"I'm so sorry! I'm really sorry!"

Avery rushed the words as she felt anxious and regretful.

Maybe she shouldn't have gone with such a bad plan.

Grey didn't reply, his right hand on the steering while the other one was still holding the cup.

Instead, he found a nice spot to park the car. He looked at Avery, his expression was somehow frightening, even for Avery.

Avery felt he was going to scold her like usual.

Instead, he reached for her right hand and stared down at it.

"Are you hurt?"

His deep voice almost brought tears to Avery's eyes. Here she was thinking that he was angry at her when he was merely worried about her.

"I'm fine," Avery tried to pull back but Grey was firmly holding her.

"You should check yourself. The coffee poured on you as well."

Grey locked gaze with her for a moment and Avery slowly released her hand.

Grey stared down at it.

"It's not bruised. It looks like it will be fine," he looked up at her.

"Let's go to the hospital."

Avery withdrew her hand now.

"I'm looking at yours," she stared at his ruined shirt.

Grey followed the path of her gaze.

"Well, I will be fine. I will just need to change this shirt. But you_."

"I wasn't the only one that needed to be worried. You got hurt because of me. We should go to the hospital."

"No, I can't allow that. We have to be at the office in thirty minutes. The interview would start by then," he explained.

Avery huffed.

"You still remember that, yet you wanted me to go to the hospital."

Grey nodded once.

"Yes, at least I would be able to handle things before you get back." Avery felt elated.

"Well, I'm not going to the hospital. You should be the one doing that. If you are worried about who would drive me to the office, you don't need to. I will handle myself," she assured.

"No, you have to be with your secretary. I don't think it's right to be alone."

"So, you would rather be alone but I can't? Aren't you a bit chauvinist?" Grey chuckled.

"You have to be kidding me. Why would you even say that?"

"Your statement warranted it."

"Ok but for your information, I'm not. I'm only talking about things that will benefit you."

"If you aren't, then allow me to tell you what would benefit you as well. How about that?" Grey groaned.

"Alright, no problem. What do you want?"

"If you won't be going to the hospital, at least, let me look at your hand and your chest. If it's worse, then you must agree to go to the hospital with me."

"It's nothing actually. The coffee wasn't really hurt," Grey argued.

"You said I was stubborn but you are equally stubborn!" She yelled.

Grey smiled softly and stretched out the cup of coffee.

"Alright, let's do what you want and that's if we can get to the office before the arrival of the participants."

"Should we stop by a boutique and get you a new shirt?"

Grey shook his head briefly as he started the car.

"I don't want you to be late. I can drop you off and come back to get one."

"No," Avery said quickly.

"Let's just order. They should be able to drop it off before we get to the office or maybe a bit late. Then, you can join me when you are ready."

Grey nodded once.

"That's good actually. You soaked me already. You should be getting me a complete pair."

Avery laughed.

"I will. I owe you that much anyways."

Avery released a relieved sigh. It felt like her plan wasn't going to work at first but eventually, it was working.

The only thing left was for her to remove the shirt so she could confirm if he had the tattoo or not.

But if there was any secret, she knew that he wouldn't want to pull his shirt off in front of her. She just had to find another way of knowing the truth without having to confront him.

"Thank you," Avery muttered and placed some orders on suits.

Within minutes, Grey pulled into the parking lot and they both got down.

Avery looked at Grey's ruined clothes.

The stain on the white was so vivid that Avery blamed herself the second time that day.

The moment they were inside, Avery turned towards Grey.

She took his hand and tried to see the wound.

Then, she remembered suddenly when Smith poured hot chocolate at Grey mistakenly.

The fact that he was worried about her that day and not about himself, moved Avery to tears.

And funnily enough, the man in front of her just did the same thing.

How could they have the same face, and the same attitude, and yet, make her feel the same?
novelebook.com "It's really nothing, I'm telling you, Avery,"

Grey protested.

Avery looked up at him and cleared her throat.

"Your skin wasn't damaged but we can't yet conclude. I will be watching." Grey smiled.

"Thank you, Boss," he said with a hint of sarcasm before he stepped back.

"Please, call me when the clothes are here."

Avery nodded once, "I will. I have a lot to do anyways. So, so I wouldn't have the luxury to be free," she flashed him one of her nicest smiles before she walked inside the office.

She darted at the wristwatch and realised that it was almost time for the Interview to start. But she still had one last thing to do.

And it was the risky one to do because David wasn't supposed to see her.

Grey was in one of the rooms, and doing whatever that Avery didn't know.

Maybe he only wanted to pull off the clothes because of the coffee but he couldn't do it in front of Avery.

The door was slightly opened.

Perhaps it was because he wasn't expecting Avery. She already said she was going to call him when his clothes got to the company.

Avery could see Grey clearly now. He slowly pulled off his clothes and stared down at his chest as if looking for any injured or discolored skin.

Avery swallowed harder as she continued to stare at him. He wasn't only fit but had broad shoulders. His physical structure made Avery yearn for him the more.

A grunt escaped him and he gently placed the ruined shirt on the table. He seemed angry for a moment.

Avery silently prayed for nature to make him stand and turn around so she would be able to see his back.

As if hearing her, his phone rang suddenly.

Grey had placed it on the desk while he was sitting on one of the sofas. He got up and turned around, displaying his viper tattoo to Avery.

Avery stood rooted to the floor.

Chapter 494: Emotions

Avery couldn't believe it. She stood rooted to the floor for several minutes.

Was there really a way for two people to have the same tattoo at the same place? "Don't worry, Maximo. She's safe with me,"

Grey muttered and turned around, his eyes lingering at the door for a moment.

Avery stepped back very quickly, fortunate that she didn't fall or make a noise that would have given her out. She walked away slowly, with so much on her mind.

At one point, she couldn't work anymore and nearly faltered.

Her head felt so heavy, she couldn't really think it deeply. But she had to.

The stylist said it was top-notch information and David wasn't Italian.

In fact, he arrived in Italy several days after he was declared dead in Jacksonville.

That aside, what was she supposed to say concerning the way he made her feel? The way she was always reminded of Grey whenever he was with her.

And the tattoo! It was no coincidence, Avery could only come up to one conclusion, That wasn't David, that was Grey.

But there was something else that she still couldn't figure out.

Would she say that Grey was a mafia lord? That was hilarious and credulous.

There was no way! Grey was a pauper whose father was merely a friend to Alfred.

Well, Alfred could have helped him.

And he could have introduced him to Hercules before he died.

Maybe that was how he came to know Maximo.

Maybe he wasn't really a mafia lord.

But Avery was grateful that she sobbed quietly.

Grey was alive.

She thought he was dead and she had never for once stopped blaming herself.

How could she have lived peacefully when she knew that she caused half of the misery that Grey had? But now, he was alive and in fact, he was moving with people of high positions in countries.

Who would have thought that Grey would be this successful? He even had a lot of designer clothes.

"Are you crying?"

A deep voice boomed from behind her.

Avery froze for a few minutes, but she soon relaxed when she remembered it was Grey.

"Why? Does your hand hurt?"

He sounded worried as he walked closer to her. He didn't wait for her to reply before he took her hand and regarded it for a moment before he blew air on them.

"Does it really hurt?"

Avery yanked her hand away from him, the tears not willing to stop even though she wanted them to.

"What are you doing?"

Grey regarded her for a moment, a bit shocked.

"Did something else happen?"

Avery wanted to shout at him and ask him why he made her feel that way.

Why couldn't he let her know that he was Grey? Must he torment her the same way she tormented her?

Ok, maybe she didn't. She knew that Grey never loved her. It was so painful to come to that limelight but well, the fact remains.

"Avery, did I do something wrong?"

Avery looked away and thought about it.

Did Grey really do something wrong? Of course not, he didn't. She was the only criminal at that moment. It was never Grey's fault to start with. She took in a sighing breath.

"You did nothing. I just discovered I'm not feeling well. I'm leaving earlier. You can continue with the interview," she muttered.

Grey watched her for a moment.

"Should I drive you to the hospital?" She shook her head briefly.

"I will get there myself. Besides, we can't keep the participants waiting," she released a sigh and looked up at Grey.

"Call me when you are done," she finished, pulled off his jacket, and stretched it out.

"Thank you," she said with a smile before she walked past him.

Avery managed to walk to the car. Her leg threatened to break under her. She leaned against the steering as different emotions collided in her in some sort of crazy confusion. She felt anger, pain, and betrayal but they were all directed at herself. She was really working hard to ensure she fell out of love with Grey.

But after he died, she felt like she could have stayed with him no matter what.

But then, the foolish her found him again and forced him to work for her.

Actually, it felt like she was doing to him what she had done to him in the past.

But if she hadn't forced him to work for her, she wouldn't have rekindled old feelings. She didn't even know what to do. She was so confused.

She just felt like yelling, she felt so angry.

"Is something wrong?" Aphrodite asked.

She observed Charles' face and noticed that he looked disturbed.

Charles sat in the living room and drowned his vodka slowly.

"Just thinking about how our plan would work." Aphrodite sighed and sat opposite him.

"Are you worried that it might not work? Or that the special members might change their minds? Though, I'm deeply concerned about that. It would be very bad if they do or if Giovanni was eventually able to convince them."

Charles nodded once.

"That's right. But if they do that, it only means they are exactly like Giovanni. Giovanni is a huge manipulator and would deal with them if he becomes a special member too."

Aphrodite took the bottle of vodka and served herself.

"Yes, but that means a failure for us. Then we will need a second plan."

"Actually," Charles sat up.

"I'm indeed worried about those things you just spoke about but I can't stop worrying about Grey's recent decision. It's disturbing," he released a sigh and his expression became as hard as rock.

Aphrodite looked at him.

"What decision? Is there something else that I don't know about?"

Charles nodded once.

"The guy in the store, the one that was sent to Italy to check if there's a billionaire club here. Grey wants us to include him in our plan. He is apparently going to Jacksonville with him," he explained.

"What?"

"Yes, and he wouldn't listen to me. I mean what if he was sent here to do just that? I mean he could be trying to lure Grey to Giovanni," he explained further.

Aphrodite released a sigh.

"But you know that Grey is very smart and most of his plans do work."

"And some fail, remember? This could be part of the failure. If something bad really happens to Hercules, I don't know what would happen next, I can't even think about it. And I'm not allowed to go

with him. I'm so worried to death," he complained.

Aphrodite regarded him for a moment.

"I will go with him, Charles. I will guard him in your stead. You don't have to be so worried."

Charles released an exasperated sigh.

"Ok."

Chapter 495: Keep shut still

Grey returned home after being assured that Avery was inside her room. He called her several times but she didn't pick up. He just wondered what was going wrong with her again and what he had done wrong.

Though, he was leaving Italy in two days and won't be coming back for a while. He might not even come back in years.

Grey walked inside the living room but stopped suddenly as he regarded Aphrodite for a moment. She was sleeping on the couch. He sighed and moved closer. He scooped her in his arms and headed to their bedroom.

Just as he placed her on the bed, he was taken aback for a moment as he stared down at Aphrodite's opened eyes.

"For how long were you awake?" He laughed.

"Since you took me in your arms," she laughed and stretched up to kiss Grey on the lips.

"You came late and I didn't want to sleep. I wanted to discuss something with you," she revealed and sat up.

Grey sat beside her and gave her full attention.

"Yes, what is it all about?"

"Charles told me you would like to include one of Giovanni's men in your plan. Don't you think it's risky? We don't have the luxury of trust and you know that Grey."

Grey nodded once.

"I actually understand you but I want you to trust me, Aphrodite. I'm a better judge of expression and you know it. It will be fine."

Aphrodite nodded once.

"I trust you," she smiled softly.

Avery woke up feeling very tired. She was exhausted from crying so much. She didn't eat dinner too and was currently weak. She got down from the bed and moved to the mirror fastened to the bathroom door. She stared at herself in the mirror and barely recognized herself. She had a swollen and reddish face as a result of crying too much. She was just heartbroken.

And she spent several hours thinking of what to do.

And eventually, she was able to make a decision.

Though, she had a tough time before she did.

And at that moment, she just wanted to see Grey.

Damn, she missed him so much. Her phone rang suddenly, jerking her out of her thoughts. She released a sigh before she grabbed it, only to discover it was Grey. She released another sigh and picked it up.

"Good morning, Grey."

"Avery! What the fuck happened yesterday?"

"You could have started with greetings. It won't hurt your ego, G-,"

Avery started but stopped almost immediately. She was making a huge mistake. It just wasn't time for it. She would like to make Grey think he was still deceiving her. If he knew the truth, he might flee.

Though, she would like to know why he wasn't dead but was declared as one.

Something seemed to be wrong somewhere.

"David," she corrected herself.

"But anyways, I'm sorry for what happened yesterday."

Grey released a sigh.

"Good morning, Avery. I hope you slept well?"

"I did, thank you. In fact, I feel very much better this morning. So, were you impressed yesterday? Are there people you think are best for the posts?"

"I got a few of them. Would you like to look at their CV and decide?"

"No, hire anyone that you see fit. Also, I want to discuss something with you. Could you come to my room? Let's talk before we go to work."

"Alright. Actually, I'm in front of your door,"

Grey announced.

"Damn! What!"

Avery yelled, "How can you be in front of my room? Stay away. Go elsewhere. Just give me thirty minutes. Ok? Don't go anywhere," she yelled out the orders and hung up before Grey would say anything.

She flushed harder. She hadn't even had her bath.

How was she supposed to meet with Grey? She rushed inside the bathroom to get clean.

The countdown has begun actually.

Grey was leaving the next day.

And everything has been decided. He couldn't wait actually, to return to Jacksonville. He missed it so much. He couldn't wait to face Giovanni again. He could wait to see the look on his face as he got embarrassed and disappointed.

And he sincerely looked forward to killing him as he had killed his father.

Actually, Grey was really looking forward to the announcement day. His phone rang suddenly and it was Avery.

Grey picked it up before it would stop ringing.

"Hello, Avery. Are you done?"

"Yes, you can come in now," she finished and hung up almost immediately.

Grey shook his head briefly.

Avery was being funny. He knew exactly why she had delayed him. He got up and entered the elevator.

Avery opened the door and Grey walked inside.

Avery was wearing loungewear and she walked back to sit after helping him with the door.

Grey regarded her for a moment before he moved closer to her and sat.

"Is everything alright? What do you want us to discuss?"

Avery crossed her long legs.

"I remember you told me something about the announcement day. You wanted us to go to Jacksonville to get more investors. How do we go about it? Am I supposed to be in Jacksonville by evening? Or what plan have you laid out for it?"

Grey regarded her for a moment.

"Are you sure you want to do this? If you don't, it's ok." Avery grinned.

"Well, I want to. Who doesn't love investors or business partners? It's going to help me a lot."

Grey nodded several times.

"That's good. If that's the case. Then I suggest you leave for Jacksonville by this afternoon."

"What about you? Aren't you supposed to go to the party with me?"

"I am. I was invited as a matter of fact. So, my place is different from yours," he explained.

"But I will do my best wherever I am," he assured.

"So, would you communicate the venue with me? And the time?" Grey nodded once.

"I will do that. You don't have to worry about it."

"But yet, I think we should get to the party at the same time. Why can't you leave with me for Jacksonville? "Because I have other things that I need to do. So, I would only finish up and meet you in Jacksonville. Trust me, everything will be fine. I will communicate with you about anything or everything you need to know about the party. Is that ok?"

Avery smiled briefly.

"Yes, it is but can we have breakfast before going to work? I'm famished. She stood up and walked inside just as Grey was about to protest. He sighed instead.

Chapter 496: More answers

Alex paced endlessly, as different thoughts collided in him in some sort of crazy confusion. He couldn't stop thinking that Maximo could have deceived him.

Could that have been the case? The door opened and one of his men walked inside.

"Boss." Alex stopped to look at him.

"What did you find?"

"Maximo hasn't met with anyone. His routes aren't suspicious. From work to his house and then to the club. I haven't seen him with Charles or anyone from Hercules's side," he explained.

Alex released a sigh. Maybe it was only his thought.

Well, he had to eliminate suspicion. His phone rang suddenly, almost startling him. It was his father.

Alex picked it up immediately.

"Good morning, Dad."

"Alex, I think something is going on in Italy. It looks like Maximo and the rest might have been deceiving us." Alex gathered his brows.

"Why do you think so? Did your men inform you of anything?"

"Not yet. I'm unable to get across to my men but I've sent a few of them again. But one of the spies I planted with the special members called to inform me that someone went to see the special members. How could this have happened in your presence?" He yelled at him angrily.

"B_ but Italy isn't participating," Alex stammered.

"I want you to find out who the person was, as soon as possible. If it wasn't the Italian, then something else is wrong. Someone could be planning to turn the hearts of all the special members against me. Though, I doubt the person succeeded. The special members are stubborn," he explained.

"Alright, Dad. I will do everything that I can," he assured.

Giovanni grunted.

"Let's see then."

Alex dropped the call and released a sigh.

"Send one of our men here!"

He yelled at the man in front of him.

"They have to tell me how someone sneaked past them! Do it now!" He ordered.

The man bowed slightly and rushed out of the room. He wasn't even able to inform his father that he had men in the suites.

What usefulness was it if someone was still able to sneak past them? His phone rang again.

Alex released a sigh, thinking it was still his father but it was Maximo. He let the phone ring as he wondered quickly why he was calling. He has started suspecting him again.

The phone stopped ringing and just as he was about to put it down, it started ringing again. He picked it up this time.

"Hello, Maximo. Why are you calling?"

"I just had to inform you that I caught a trace of the man that looks like Grey. In fact, my men are looking for him at the airport." Alex stood up.

"Seriously?"

"Yes, Alex. I won't call you if this isn't true. My men are currently looking for him. I will let you know when I see him."

"No!" Alex said quickly.

"I will meet you at the airport. If my current guess is right, then I know where he might have been," he revealed.

"Tell your men to continue looking for him. In fact, focus more on the plane going to Jacksonville. I will be there soon," he muttered and hung up.

He walked out of the room and regarded some of his men for a moment.

"Ten of you should come with me. We are going to the airport now," he ordered.

Ten men moved closer while the rest waited.

They got into three cars.

Alex rode in the middle one, one car led the way while the other was coming right behind.

Alex's phone rang again suddenly. It was still Maximo. He picked it up immediately.

"Yes, Maximo. Any update?"

"Yes, some of my men caught him. He just entered the plane going to Jacksonville. And the plane is about to take off already. There's no way we can stop him. What should we do?"

Alex was dumbfounded for a moment.

"What!" He exclaimed softly.

The first thing his mind went to was the fact that it could be Grey.

If it wasn't Grey, who would it be? Why did someone that looks like Grey be going to Jacksonville after staying hidden for so long? There was something really strange about it.

"Leave, Maximo. I will handle it," he finished and hung up.

"Stop the car. We aren't going to the airport now. Instead, one of you should book me the fastest flight to Jacksonville now," he ordered.

The car pulled to a sudden stop at Alex's order and turned around.

Alex grunted, anger seeping into him at a faster rate. He didn't want to inform his father yet or maybe he should. novelebook.com He was so confused.

If he could do that, at least, his father might be able to stop whoever Grey's lookalike was. He started to think of what to do.

Something that was going to make everything faster for him.

"We are going to Jacksonville in a private jet."

Avery regarded the city of Jacksonville for a moment in surprise and awe.

A lot of things seem to have changed. She wondered how her parents were doing.

Smith and her grandfather too.

Though, she didn't even miss them. They made her life a tough one and she hasn't even recovered. So, she had no plan of visiting them even if she was going to spend a week in Jacksonville.

Avery arrived in Jacksonville that morning as she decided to see and speak with Chloe.

It has been a long year and the only person she wanted to speak with was Grey and Chloe.

Since she was already in term with Grey, she thought speaking with Chloe was the next.

Besides, there was something she needed to ask her.

Now that she thought about it, there was always something that Chloe wanted to inform her but she never gave her the chance to.

That aside, Chloe seemed to have changed her mind in the early minutes concerning Grey.

Chloe used to be stubborn, and very abusive.

In fact, she was one of the people that gave her advice on how to handle Grey.

She gave her literally all the bad advice ever.

But then, she suddenly stopped. She suddenly started to respect Grey. She, in fact, advised her to be careful with him.

There was indeed something that Chloe knows but Avery doesn't.

And that was what Avery hoped to find.

Perhaps, it would shed more light on why Grey was currently hiding in Italy and the position he truly held in the mafia world.

Chapter 497: About Grey

Grey got down and released a sigh.

It felt good to be back in Jacksonville.

A message popped up on his phone, just as he took it from aeroplane mode. It was from Charles and he only informed him that he had arrived in Jacksonville.

Grey smiled at this and turned towards one of his men.

"Is the suite ready?" The man nodded briefly.

"Yes, boss."

The night before, Grey and Charles went through their plans again.

Grey informed him that he wasn't going to lodge in one of his hotels and suites because Giovanni and Alex could really be watching, especially with the trick they were going to play the next morning.

"What if? Just what if Alex is able to get to me?"

Charles had asked a question that hadn't come to Grey's mind.

After several minutes of thought, Grey said.

"If that happens, we will have to make sure he doesn't leave Jacksonville. We could send a letter to him, from his father or anyone. Something that would make him stay longer till we think of what to do with him. He must be around until the announcement."

"Something like that?" Aphrodite probed further.

Grey looked at her.

"He might not need to speak directly with his father. We could make him not to. We could send him a letter telling him to stay till the announcement day. Well, we all know what Giovanni plans to do for him with his newly found power. And we could state that he wasn't to contact him until the day of the announcement," he explained.

They had all nodded in agreement.

The men led Grey to the car quickly.

Grey got inside and went through his message again, sure that there was none from Charles.

According to the plan, Charles was supposed to message him if the plan fail. So, they would prepare the letter as the plan B.

If Charles hadn't messaged, it only met that things were still going fine. He placed a call, instead to Douglas, one of the special members.

Douglas picked it up after the second ring.

"Hello, Hercules."

"Hi, Douglas. I'm sorry for calling at this moment. I only wanted to ask about how far you've gone and what is the assurance that everything we discussed was going smoothly?"

"Well, it's good news, Hercules. We were able to get one more vote from the special members. The other one seemed to have finally become Giovanni's supporter," he revealed. Grey released a sigh.

He had been bothered, especially after his discussion with Aphrodite and Charles the night before.

If the plan doesn't go accordingly, what was he supposed to do? Some things would definitely be unrepairable.

Things like Giovanni celebrating his success especially the fact that he would become one of the special members.

"Alright. Till then," he finished and hung up.

Grey smiled. He was almost close. His phone beeped suddenly. It was a message from Charles. He hasn't been caught by Alex but they've been searching everywhere for him. And he might even leave unnoticed soon.

Avery knew Chloe's schedule, that is if she hasn't changed them. But she decided to check and see.

Well, she had no choice as she lost Chloe's contact already.

There was a boutique that Chloe always visited every Saturday when Avery was still in Jacksonville.

Avery arrived at the boutique in less than thirty minutes. She hesitated before she walked inside.

One of the salespeople moved closer to Avery.

"Hello, ma'am. What would you like to get?"

Avery gave the whole place a brief scrutiny.

"Just some clothes for my size. That will be fine."

"Please, come with me," the salesperson started walking away, and Avery followed.

They walked around for some minutes, with Avery picking some clothes. She stopped walking suddenly and regarded the person in front of her.

The lady was busy speaking with another salesperson that she didn't notice Avery.

She turned towards Avery suddenly, her eyes finally met with her.

"Avery?" Avery smiled.

"Chloe!" She jubilated.

They rushed toward each other until they were in each other's arms.

"Wow! It has been a very long time.How have you been!"

Avery smiled.

"I've been fine.Do you have plans for today? Or we could talk," she offered.

"Sure! Come, let's go to my new place.I relocated several months back,"novelebook.com she announced.

Avery nodded once.

"I thought as much.Though, I lost your contact."

"Come, let's talk."

Chloe drove her car ahead while Avery followed behind.

Within minutes, they were at Chloe's new house.

Avery marveled at the inner decorations.

"Your house is beautiful."

Chloe flashed her a smile."Thank you, Avery.What type of juice would you like to go for?"

"Anyone, Chloe. Actually, I came to talk to you. I knew I would meet you at the boutique since you frequent there every Saturday."

Chloe sat beside her.

"Is everything alright?"

Avery nodded once.

"I heard about the death of Grey."

Chloe released a sigh.

"I heard too. His death came as a sad one. I wasn't expecting such a young and healthy man to die at such an age. You left Jacksonville already. How did you hear the news then?"

Avery sighed.

"Actually, I was initially planning on coming back to Jacksonville. I wanted to make some amendments between me and Grey. Then, I had the news about his death and decided to stay back," she explained.

Chloe nodded once.

"I'm so happy to see you again. I thought you had finally abandoned me. I even tried to reach you too but it was to no avail." Avery nodded once.

"I know. But now that I'm here," she smiled.

"Let's do some hanging around before I return. I've missed our old lives." Chloe laughed.

"Alright but when are you leaving?"

"After the announcement day.I plan on getting investors and business partners that day." Chloe nodded once.

"Alright.That means you have a company now?" Avery nodded once.

"But I would like to ask you about Grey." Chloe sat very well.

"Alright, but what do you want to know from me that you don't know? You used to be his wife."

"I'm talking about who Grey really is."

Chapter 498: Grey is Hercules?

Chloe furrowed her brow.

"What are you talking about? I don't understand.We all knew who Grey was before you left Jacksonville.So, what are you talking about now?"

Avery regarded Chloe for a moment.

"I still remember how you kept mincing words whenever I speak of dealing with Grey.You used to tell me to be very harsh towards him and suddenly, you were taking his side and telling me to be careful.Why did you say that?"

A flash of expression flickered across Chloe's face as an admission of a tactical error.

"I might have done that because of so many reasons.I mean we've bullied him enough.He was supposed to live his life as well,"

Chloe accused.

Avery sighed.

"I regret my decision now but it's too late, isn't it?"

She let out a sly smile.

"Grey is dead already. So, even if you tell me anything about him, there will be no problem because he's dead," she teased, knowing fully well that it wasn't true.

Grey was alive well, it wasn't a lie on her part.

Grey already declared himself dead.

Why would she be the one to spread the news that he was alive? If he wants, he would.

Chloe released an exasperated sigh and looked away as if deliberating on either telling Avery or not.

"Don't I deserve to know the truth? I used to be his wife," Avery protested.

"Well, yes but you guys weren't a couple, forgotten. You guys weren't even close and_" she stammered.

"He made me promise not to tell you." Avery sat up anxiously.

It looked like she was right after all. There was really something that Chloe was keeping from her.

"But well, he is dead now. So, you can tell me. You aren't bound by the promise anymore. Besides, I'm supposed to be your friend. There was never supposed to be any secret between us. What happened?" She probed.

Chloe fidgeted.

"You are right, he's dead but the others aren't. I mean he made me promise but, it's scary. I don't want to cross anyone," she rattled off, her fingers moving in their own accord.

Avery watched her for a while and realized Chloe was actually scared.

In fact, she had never seen her so scared in SO Many years.

What could the secret be? And why did it make Chloe so frightened? Avery didn't know if she should be frightened as well.

The moment Chloe let out the cat from the bag, she would be forced to keep the dreadful secret, especially whenever she was beside Grey. She didn't know if she should stop Chloe at that moment. Yet, she needed to know.

"Chloe," Avery called softly but got no response.

"Chloe!" She yelled and Chloe looked up at her.

Chloe tried to steady her heavy breathing. "Grey is a mafia lord!"

She said quickly and took in a deep breath. She stood up quickly and fidgeted the more.

"God, should I have done this?" She muttered.

Avery watched her for another moment.

"What!" She exclaimed softly.

Avery didn't know that Grey was a mafia lord.

In fact, she merely thought that he worked for Hercules.

Chloe has been siding with Grey when Avery was still married to Grey.

How could Grey be a mafia lord at that moment? Hercules was still alive and he wasn't an Italian.

What the fuck was happening? Avery was so confused.

"Chloe," she called softly and stood up.

"What mafia lord? Or which city?" Chloe took a deep breath.

"I don't think this is a good idea. His elders might come for me."

"His elders?" Avery's breath nearly stopped.

"I don't think this is the best. I don't, Avery. I'm scared. I'm scared for my life. You treated him less than nothing. I'm scared he might come after you and I. Though," her gaze met with Avery for a few seconds.

"I wonder why he has always spared you. I wondered why he got married to you when he had the power to stop it."

"Chloe, tell me," Avery said softly.

"He's dead alright but I won't tell anyone. His elders won't know about this. I just felt I should know about this. I mean he's dead already. Don't keep it from me forever," she beseeched softly.

Chloe looked at her.

"Promise me, Avery."

"Chloe," Avery called, entirely disturbed by her new behaviour.

Had Chloe forgotten how thick as thieves they used to be? Her sudden change of behaviour because of Grey is just so frightening.

"You have to promise me, Avery! You have to!" Chloe emphasised.

Avery released an exasperated sigh.

"Fine. Since you don't trust me, I will promise. I will do whatever you want."

Chloe was a bit disturbed.

Avery was his closest friend.

They have been very close since when they were in high school. She could have just trusted her without hernovelebook.com asking for it but it was just too difficult for Chloe.

The words weighed too high on her heart.

Would she prefer to lose her life over this? It was the right thing to do, according to her at that moment.

Avery held her gaze for a moment.

"I promise."Chloe released a sigh but didn't look away.

"You know Hercules, right?" Avery nodded once.

"Yes, one of the mafia lords in Jacksonville.And he is in fact, dead."

Chloe nodded several times, as if convinced.

"But you have never seen his face?"

Avery didn't know where she was driving to but she knew that Grey definitely worked for Hercules.That could be why he was given an important post in Protos Publicita.

"I have never, Chloe.Why would you even ask this question? "

She was suddenly disturbed again.

"No one has seen Hercules.No one knows what he looks like.How can you ask that of me then? Are you mocking me? Have you seen him? And I'm not talking about him.I wasn't asking about him.I just want to know who Grey is."

"Can you just be calm?" Chloe asked softly.

"And be patient?" Avery nodded once.

"Alright.Continue."

Chloe released a sigh, maybe for the umpteenth time that day.

"You have seen his face, Avery. You do know what he looks like. In fact, maybe you know him a little more than others do. I mean seeing Hercules every day is a big deal, isn't it?"

Confusion clouded Avery's eyes.

"What? What are you saying? I'm talking about Grey and not_" she continued but Chloe cut in quickly.

"Grey is Hercules!" Chloe said suddenly.

Avery blinked once, shock kept her rooted to the floor. Chloe couldn't move either and they ended up staring at each other.

Chapter 499: Pursuit

"What the fuck!"

Avery released a chuckle.

"You are kidding, right? Is this a joke to you?"

"Does this look like a fucking joke to you?" Chloe asked, half yelling.

Avery was taken aback.

"What!" She repeated, half-conscious.

"There's no fucking way! How?"

"I didn't believe it either, initially. I mean it wasn't possible. How could Grey be Hercules? How would Hercules be the man that we do insult,"

Chloe made a rumble of laughter as if she was still finding it difficult to accept the truth, even at that moment? "I mean_,"

Chloe took her seat.

"I only saw him with the rest of the elders and they very much respected him. But later on, when I appeared at the party. Yes! The party!"

Avery's eyes went wide.

"The party where you danced with Hercules?" Chloe nodded quickly.

"Yes. I was able to confirm it that day and he made me promise not to tell anyone under any circumstances," she revealed.

Avery couldn't move. She had never felt so shocked in her entire life. She couldn't think about it for a moment. How could Grey be Hercules? "No,"

Avery shook her head slowly.

"It's not possible."

"Have you ever wondered why he always wears a mask? I bet it's because of you. What do you think would happen if Giovanni finds out that you are Hercules's wife? Or the rest of these mafia lords? You will be in danger," she released another sigh.

"He has always been trying to protect you but what did we do to him in return?"

Avery turned away quickly and her heart rate increased.

Beads of perspiration broke off on her forehead, even though the AC was fully active. It felt like her head was in a fog and she couldn't breathe.

Then, it all came back at her quickly.

Protos Pubblicita was owned by Hercules.

If truly Grey was Hercules, then he owned Protos Pubblicita.

That meant he was the one that really wanted to give the contract to her.

And when Smith stepped in, he stopped it and insisted on Avery or the contract would be withdrawn.

Chloe was right! He had always protected her but she didn't even know.

Her heart sank as the feeling of sadness enveloped her.

"That's why Grey was pronounced dead the moment Hercules was. It wasn't a coincidence. It was because they were both the same," Chloe explained.

"I can't believe he's dead, I just can't!" She sobbed softly. Avery looked back at Chloe as tears streamed down her cheeks.

"He's not dead," she muttered.

Chloe regarded her for a moment.

"What?" Avery shook her head briefly.

"He's alive. He's not dead. I saw him."

"What do you mean? Hercules is alive?" Avery managed a smile, amidst the tears.

"Yes, he is. He's currently in Jacksonville."

"Oh my!" Chloe jubilated. She was actually glad about the news.

"That's nice, actually. I'm so glad he's alive."

Avery nodded once.

"I am as well."

"I can't believe you! I can't believe you lost him! You fools!"

Alex yelled in anger. The anger in him could actually boil eggs. He felt so annoyed. novelebook.com He was currently in Jacksonville in pursuit of the man that looked like Grey.

Truly, a man was sighted at the airport thirty minutes ago and he looked so much like Grey, with that mask on his face.

Alex had ordered his men to look for him unfailingly but thirty minutes later, they came back with an explanation.

Alex didn't know what to do at that moment. But he knew he might have to inform his father.

That aside, he still had to keep looking for him even if it meant combing through every corner of the city.

"You," he gestured to one of the men.

"And five of you will comb through this city to look for him. Don't come back if you don't see him. And you must see him today! Ok?"

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

Alex nodded once.

"The rest should follow me. We are meeting my father."

The ride to Giovanni's house was fast.

Alex clenched his fist in anger at the incident that had just occurred. It looked as though someone was playing with him.

The car pulled to a sudden stop in front of Giovanni's house.

Alex walked inside, only to realise that Giovanni had gone out.

Well, he had no interest in going back to Italy that day. So, he was going to wait for him.

Charles pulled the mask off his face and entered the restaurant next by. He was exhausted from running.

But he was happy that he had successfully gotten rid of Alex and his men. He found a place to sit and text a message to Grey. He relaxed and beckoned the waiter closer.

"Here's the menu, sir," the waiter extended the menu and waited.

Charles was quick with his order and stretched it back to the waiter. His phone beeped suddenly and a message appeared on the screen. It was from Grey and he was informing him of where he would be staying.

"Hello," a soft, yet familiar voice said suddenly as Charles was typing a message to Grey.

"Yes hi," he muttered, even though he was forced to look up but he wanted to send a message to Grey about if he knew where Alex was at that moment.

"You seem_" the feminine voice trailed off.

"Completely obsessed with the phone."

Charles looked up at this instance and his eyes went wide with shock. He couldn't believe who was sitting in front of him, he could never have imagined it. "H_how?"

The lady smiled so enchantingly.

"I didn't know you were coming to Jacksonville so soon. In fact, I had no idea you were even going to give coming back here a thought," she explained, her gaze locked on him.

"I waited for you that morning. Why didn't you come? Did I mean so little to you? Or you don't even love me like you said you do?" Charles stared for a moment.

Chapter 500: Second chance

"Aurora,"

Charles called softly, unable to decide where to start from. It was his fault anyways.

If he had been able to explain everything to her initially, it wouldn't have resulted in her making such a decision.

"Or are you disappointed to see me now? You obviously didn't think there would be a chance for us to see each other in such a big city," Aurora expressed in a voice that showed how angry she was.

"Aurora, I can explain," Charles said eventually.

"Ok, let's see what you are going to say then. Maybe I would be able to believe it because I'm currently finding it difficult to."

"See, Aurora. Calm down. It wasn't my intention to convey such information. In fact, I wanted to see you before you leave. I didn't even know you planned to do so very soon. But all the same, I'm sorry. Though, I still plan on explaining everything. Can we just see later? Maybe dinner or cinema?"

Aurora regarded him for a moment before she slowly released a sigh.

"Alright. Dinner is fine." Charles said a mental thank-you.

"Tonight?"

Aurora watched him for another moment before she slowly nodded.

"Alright, that's fine." Charles smiled.

"Thank you, I really appreciate the opportunity. Are you back with your parents now?" Aurora stiff for a moment.

"Yes." Charles smiled.

"That's great. I'm happy for you. So, will you like something? I could let the waiter get you something." Aurora shook her head briefly.

"No, I don't really need that. I came here for something and would leave soon. Let's just talk during dinner," she finished and stood.

Charles nodded once.

"Alright then. Take care," he bid and watched her walk away.

He didn't know if he should be grateful that he came to Jacksonville at that moment or he might not have been able to see her.

Maybe he was actually going to get a second chance in love, just as Grey had told him.

Grey looked at Aphrodite.

"Any message from Alfred or Gregory or do they not know that I'm in Jacksonville already? "I will call them. They must have forgotten or been too busy. Or maybe Giovanni was back to spying on them. They have to be extra careful at this moment," she explained.

Grey nodded once.

"Alright then." The door opened suddenly.

Gregory and Alfred walked inside.

"I didn't know that you were coming so early,"

Gregory muttered as he went to sit.

"It's so glad that you are back in Jacksonville without anyone seeing you," Alfred said as he went to sit as well.

"Yes. Well, we had the best plan. So, I was going to discuss how the announcement day is going to be. Giovanni would certainly think that he would be the king of the world."

"Do you think the security won't be tight around the hall? Giovanni would try to do anything if he learns from Alex that someone that looks like you is in Jacksonville," novelebook.com Gregory explained.

"Yes, that's right. We will have to infiltrate his security."

"I have someone who can do that. I was initially thinking that it won't be necessary but I just realised the opposite because Alex would have or would be informing him. We have to go full prepared," Alfred suggested.

"That's fine. I have someone that can easily deceive the security guards since he used to work for them," Grey revealed.

"Yes, he does. The plan will go accordingly,"

Aphrodite added quickly. The elders nodded slightly.

"That's good then. We just have to wait for D-Day then. This should be the final blow to Giovanni. The next thing we should be thinking about should involve the loss of his life," Gregory muttered.

"I can't wait for Giovanni to die." Grey smiled slightly.

"I understand. It's ok. We will be able to think about that carefully after Alex is in prison. He has to be the only survivor just as I was the only one as well."

"We should leave now," Gregory stood slightly.

"One of Giovanni's men was tailing me. I had to get him off to come here. It's best to keep it low for now till after the announcement day," he suggested.

Alfred nodded once.

"That's right. We should leave now. Let's say the rest on the phone. Everything will pass soon," he assured.

Grey's phone rang suddenly. It was Avery. He regarded the phone for a moment and allowed it to stop ringing. But it started ringing just as he was about to drop the phone.

"You should pick up your call," Gregory said.

"We will meet each other later or we can just communicate with you on the phone."

"Yes, that's right. I'm planning on having some of my men among Giovanni's men,"

Alfred stood as well.

Grey smiled softly.

"That's actually good." The phone started ringing again.

Aphrodite looked at Alfred.

"I will follow you guys out. Grey should use the opportunity to answer his call," she stood and walked out with Alfred and Gregory before Grey would say anything.

Grey released a sigh. He wondered why Avery was calling him. He picked it up anyway.

"Hello?" There was a few minutes of silence at the other end.

"Hello David," Avery called.

"Did you encounter any trouble? I thought you said you were already in Jacksonville?"

"Yes, I am. But is it a crime for a boss to call her employee?" Grey laughed.

"You must be kidding. This is no longer the case. This is like you disturbing me because I look like someone you used to know."

"Whatever. Are you in Jacksonville as well?"

"Yes." Avery hesitated.

"When can I see you?"

"I will come around, either tonight or tomorrow. The announcement is in two days."

"Alright. Talk to you later, then," she finished and the line went off.

Grey shook his head briefly, a smile on his face. He wondered actually how Avery was going to feel when he tell her that he wasn't going back to Italy. How she was going to miss him while thinking that Grey was dead.