

## Taming A Billionaire\

### #Chapter 121 - One Hundred And Twenty-one : She Shot Niklaus At The Chest - Read Taming A Billionaire Chapter 121 - One Hundred And Twenty-one : She Shot Niklaus At The Chest

*Chapter 121 - One Hundred And Twenty-one : She Shot Niklaus At The Chest*

Maya's POV

I was more than relieved when Eden managed to capture the snake without getting hurt. It was not like I liked him or something, but I couldn't bear to see him get hurt especially with Annabelle being so young. The girl shouldn't lose a father at such an age unlike me who has no idea about my real father.

I don't even dare to dream of meeting my biological father, a man who had the heart to do such a thing to my ex-mother doesn't have the right to claim fatherhood.

But each time, I still curiously end up wondering about him, does he know about me? I hardly doubted that, would a rapist care if his victim delivered his child or not?

I bet he must have a family somewhere without knowing he made an innocent child's life miserable. If people weren't going to take responsibility for their actions, why do it?

His family probably had no idea what he did, truth be told, somewhere deep down, I wished he doesn't have a complete family so he could feel the pain of disrupting one.

Kim's mother had told me several times I was the mistake she hoped she could erase. In fact, those very words had become so stuck in my head, I couldn't push it away no matter how hard I tried.

Even if I did, the stigma was there and would keep reminding me every single day of my life that I was a curse, an unwanted child.

Which was why no matter how much I disliked Eden, I still admired him secretly. He loved Annabelle with all of his heart and treated her like she was the world to him - I envied that relationship.

Niklaus was not left behind, though he hardly expressed his love for Isabella his daughter, I could see it from the looks in his eyes. He was just too stubborn to admit it, does that guy have love phobia or something?

I was startled when my eyes connected with Eden at the dining table and a blush crept up my face, why was he staring at me intently?

Ah, the kis-peck from earlier. I was still pretty pissed off at him for that, how could he do that to him without me asking him to. I just came out of a messy relationship and wasn't looking for a replacement.

Moreover, this time, I was going for love! No more flings, rebounds nor contract relationship. This time I would date a man who loves me back unconditionally even if he doesn't have all the millions in his bank account.

Being happy and content in a relationship was far better than having all the riches yet suffering abuses from his ex-girlfriend and family members.

So, Eden and me? Absolutely impossible, it was never going to happen. Besides, I would like to focus on my career and make more money at the moment.

The sight of numerous zeros in my account was pretty motivating; Niklaus had paid in the compensation and damages as he promised yesterday - he even paid extra, not that I'm complaining.

I just never dreamt of becoming a millionaire at all. Since I left my parent's residence years ago, I have been struggling financially. There was rent fee, feeding, water and electricity bills, wardrobe expenses, and the most depressing of all, student loans to pay off.

All those years it wasn't easy at all, I had to work several part-time jobs in a day while schooling, land small yet difficult roles in a movie in order to earn some cash, and most of all, share my apartment with backstabbing girlfriends to curb its cost.

Sometimes it got so tough, I just thought of giving up, no one cared about me anyway, so why live on? I developed depression during that period but still managed to pull through.

So-called parents didn't inquire whether I was dead or alive and thinking about it now, I must have been really stupid stopping Niklaus from destroying them.

It would be so satisfying if they experienced the same amount of suffering I went through; if they had to depend on one square meal a day just to keep their head above water.

Perhaps it was a blessing in disguise being in this situation I am today. If I had not moved away and continued suffering in silence in their residence, I wouldn't have met Niklaus nor become one of the world's richest nanny.

"Are you crying? " Anabelle asked out of nowhere, generating everyone's searching gaze on me. I myself didn't even realize tears were falling off my eyes.

"No, I'm not " I sniffed, wiping away the tears on my face with the back of my hand.

"You're crying " Isabella insisted, and turned to the most likely suspect, Eden. "What did you do to Maya? "

"I didn't do anything " He was dumbfounded.

"Like I believe you " Isabella sneered. "One moment she's blushing and afraid of looking into your eyes and the next she's crying, do you take me for a fool? "

" What are you trying to say? "

"You might have done something to her emotionally, psychologically, or even financially - did you promise her something and failed to fulfill it? " Tyrannical queen Isabella continued her interrogation.

Eden retorted, " Little devil, I am not like your father who promised her the world but failed to accomplish it "

The chair squeaked loudly as I stood up, chest heaving with anger and jaws working.

"Okay this is it, I'm done with all of your shit. I came all the way to this secluded countryside to have a peace of mind not pick up pieces of my mind. You people are so impossible! " I yelled and started up the stairs with huge strides, banging my door so hard the house literally shook.

I was so mad at them, was it such a hard task asking for some peace and quietness in this house. What kind of family was this, always at each other's throat?

It was as if I was stuck in a Tom and Jerry cartoon, one moment everyone's getting along, the next, chaos breaks out.

Thankfully, In my room everywhere was so quiet that the only thing I could hear was the chirping of birds and insects - peace at last.

I lay back on my back and shut my eyes close, weariness washing over me. The events of the past days were still fresh and vivid in my mind, the kidnap, breakup, and scandal. It all happened so quickly.

I must have fallen asleep - slept really thoroughly- cause when I awoke it was night and someone was hugging my waist really tightly.

Looking down, I was stunned beyond measure when I sighted the figure, Niklaus. What was he doing here? How in the world did he get in here?

As if to answer my question, a cool breeze touched my cheeks and my eyes fell on the open window, he must have sneaked in through there.

I tried to move my body but rouse him from sleep in the process.

"Maya " He whispered, his smoldering hot gaze bore into mine causing my heart to skip a beat.

I hardened my expression "What are you doing here? What if someone saw you? Besides, we've broken up already, why are you still pesterin -?"

" I missed you "

I froze, heart-melting completely. But this was still not right.

Unfortunately, Niklaus began to lower his head but I turned away just in time, his lips brushing across my cheek instead, but still sending a delicious shiver to my body.

"We can't do this," I told him as I placed my hand on his bare chest trying to put some distance between us.

"No, we can. I want you, Maya "? He insisted and this time pinned both of my hands to the bed.

I began to panic but Niklaus was oblivious to my feelings or rather he chose not to care, it was obvious he was determined to have his way with me tonight.

"Niklaus, don't do this " I cried out but he ignored me and instead took my lips.

I hated this feeling yet my body craved it, I didn't want to have sex with Niklaus in this manner.

I whimpered in pain when he bit my lips because I became unresponsive to his kisses.

"You are mine, Maya. Mine and mine alone " He declared, pressing his erection against my hips.

Hungry for air, he finally broke the kiss but his hands grabbed my shirt and ripped off the buttons with a dark delight in his eyes.

I didn't like this, he was scaring me. This was not the Niklaus I knew or perhaps he was this Niklaus all along, he just didn't show me this side. However, something mysterious happened.

Somehow, I managed to lose one of my hands from his iron grip and searched around blindly under my pillow as he continued to undress me.

My hand touched something and I pulled it out and shot Niklaus straight at the chest.

" Y-You " He choked, a mixture of surprise, disbelief then pain flashed across his features.

My hand still gripping the gun shook terribly, why was I having a gun? What did I just do? Did I shoot Niklaus in the chest?

"Why did you betray me? " He managed to say just as he spat out a mouthful of blood that fell on my face.

Then he began to fall towards me. But just as his body was about to slump on me, I awoke with a loud scream that could wake up the dead.

My heart was beating so fast I was surprised I wasn't having a panic attack yet. I was sweating so much while my hands were still shaking from the horrific effect of the dream.

A knock sounded on my bed and I held my breath. Throughout my life, I had never been so scared to answer the door until now.

*Chapter 122 - One Hundred And Twenty-two : An Annoying Fly*

The third point of view.

A noise startled her peaceful sleep.

Emily's eyes snapped open when she heard the door to her place click open. Had a burglar managed to break into her place?

Her room was dim due to the fact she hated sleeping with strong lightning at night.

Heart pounding against her chest yet alert, she adjusted her eyes to the little light while feeling her way around and finally managed to take off the bat from the pegboard hook on the wall.

For a moment, Emily was grateful she had played baseball since childhood, seems like the skill would come in handy now.

Walking on tiptoes, she carefully stepped out of her room after making sure the door didn't creak. If the burglar was in her house, then he would most likely be in her living room, so she headed there.

As expected, Emily found him in her living room going through her stuff, careful not to make a noise. If she wasn't such a light sleeper, she wouldn't have even noticed someone broke into her room today; the thief was definitely a professional.

Hiding behind the door to the living room with clammy palms, Emily tightened her hold on the bat while biting on her bottom lips nervously having known many things could go wrong tonight.

What if she misses her target? Not only would she get robbed but be in danger too, most especially if the burglar assaults her? A huge loss that would be.

Unlike the males in her family who were handled with a primitive approach, she was pampered beyond measure.

Emily couldn't even remember the number of times Niklaus suffered abuse in the hands of their father all in the name of toughening him up while she was treated like a princess.

Well, it wasn't all that surprising since all Spencer males were raised with an iron grip but Niklaus's situation was two times worse thanks to the fact he was the heir apparent.

"If he can't take those beating, he is not worth being a man " Her papa would say whenever she dared to ask him the reason for his prejudiced treatment.

"Then what about me? Why aren't I treated the same way? " Emily would ask.

"You are my princess Emily, you are destined not to suffer throughout your life. A beauty to behold and not stained "

There were only two people on earth Adam didn't joke with and that was She and Isabella. Everyone knew he loved her so much because she was the carbon copy of his late wife.

She was tall but not model-like tall with the irresistible long legs and all, though had a petite build. God must have compensated her height with beauty cause Emily was so breathtakingly beautiful to the point one couldn't pass her by without turning around twice.

With olive-toned skin, she had a heart-shaped face that accommodated thick steep arched brows, straight-edged nose, her pink

rounded cupid bow lips and deep-set eyes with dark blue eyes.

Her lustrous wavy brunette hair cascading down her shoulder added the finishing touch to such a perfect creature. She looked no different from her mother at all!

Thanks to her father's attentive and unlimited love, Emily became the undisrupted princess of the Spencer Group. She was given everything and anything she wanted without asking twice.

At first, she enjoyed the privilege and attention she received but at a point, it became tiring. Though she could be gullible at times, she wasn't that stupid not to notice the flatterers and betrayals posing as her friends.

It was indeed a huge surprise to her that she didn't become tyrannical because of her background, guess her mom inculcated enough morals in her before she died.

During that period, she thought over her life and came to a startling realization that she had only been her mom's replacement in her father's eyes all this while.

So Emily moved out of her father's place, deciding to survive on her own for a while and discover her purpose in life. No, she didn't hate her father at all, despite the fact she was just a stand-in for his wife in his eyes.

But she knew inwardly, her father loves her, not just as a substitute, but as his daughter.

Well, who knew a burglar would break into her new place? She will tighten her security by tenfold if she survives tonight.

Gripping the handle of the bat strongly with both hands, Emily continuously made her way slowly and quietly towards her target who was dressed in dark articles of clothing that camouflaged with the dim environment while his back was turned to her, immersed in his search.

Within a close range, Emily swung the metal bat against the intruder, aiming for his arm but she missed him.

Just as the bat was about to hit him on the arm joint, the burglar suddenly dodged right on time, missing him just by a few inches.

Unfortunately for Emily, she had applied enough force to render him unconscious in the swing, so when it failed, she went awry, slipped, and almost brought herself on the ground had he not grasped her waist on time.

Her brows drew together in confusion, why was the intruder saving her? Wasn't he supposed to knock her out or in the extreme, do away with her so he could cart away with her properties?

But Emily didn't give up such a precious opportunity and strike at once by punching him straight on the face.

She had not been trained strictly like her brother but she definitely picked up one or two moves secretly during his training.

The intruder let go of her while cursing out in pain, a satisfied grin appeared on her lips - one point for her.

Emily at once tried to reach for the metal bat but he stepped on it before she could succeed.

"Fine" She cracked her neck in an intimidating manner, "Don't underestimate me, I am a black belt " She decided to threaten him albeit borrowing that line from Maya.

"Yeah, it's so obvious," He said but she could sense the sneer in his voice.

Confusion flickered in Emily's eyes, why did that voice sound oddly familiar. She tipped her head to the side trying to make out his features but his hood didn't help her sight.

"Do I know you by chance? " She asked, hopefully.

"Thought you would never ask " He spat sarcastically and pulled off his hood.

"Slap me, " Emily said inwardly. It was HSF: Handsome Stoic face. How could she not recognize him?

Ombre sun-kissed hair swept to the side and covering a part of his charming blue-green eyes. He was Niklaus's wingman? Chauffeur? Secretary? Bodyguard? Personal assistant?

Emily couldn't tell what he does exactly, all she knew was that you couldn't find Niklaus without him at his side. But what was he doing at her place at this ungodly hour?

"What are you doing at my place by this time of the night? You didn't even give me any notice, I mistakenly took you for a burglar" Emily questioned him severely

She then clapped loudly twice in a row and the light bulbs came alive, bringing life to her place.

"Do you know I almost harmed y.. ?" Emily trailed off when she saw the bruise forming around his eye. What the f\*ck, she gave him a black eye! When did she even become this strong?

"I'm so sorry, that must hurt " She winced, her face scrunched up as if she were the one in pain.

"It's nothing " He grumbled, pulling off his gloves and tossing it on the glass table resting in the center of her parlor.



" Why are you here? "

"You moved out suddenly without informing your brother Niklaus, so he sent me here to ensure your place was safe and free of bugs. Who knew I would be the one in danger instead? "

Emily bit down on her lips, the guilt was gnawing at her but she refused to believe it was entirely her fault.

"I wouldn't have hit you if you had hinted me of your coming, at least I'd be prepared "

He glanced up with a mocking expression, "I tried your cell phone, fifty times, you weren't picking "

That was when she remembered, "Oh, sorry about that, I kind of silenced my phone earlier while working on something " she smiled apologetically but the person in question gave her a cold glare.

Fine, it was her fault. She would shoulder the whole blame and consequences.

"Take a seat, I'll be back," Emily told him as she left for the kitchen. She quickly made an ice pack, wrapping it in a towel to avoid making direct contact with the skin when applied.

"Tsk, he's so sharp,"? Emily thought inwardly, cause the moment she returned Judy's sight first fell on the ice pack in her grip.

"Thank you for your concern but I don't need that " He refused her help before she could even offer.

Unfortunately, She wasn't tagged

"annoying fly " by Niklaus for no reason.

Emily ignored him and took a seat beside him saying, "Since you don't want to help your face, I'll help your face instead "

Judy caught her hand before the ice pack could touch his face, why was she so damn annoying.

"Ouch! " Emily cried out in pain and he instinctively let go of her hand.

Niklaus would surely skin him alive if anything were to happen to his lovely sister, not to talk of Adam. A chill ran down his back, he was definitely a dead man.

But it seems this annoying woman was a fox because her shout of distress turned out to be a trick - she deceived him.

Yet, his skills still came to life.

Few inches from meeting his face, he swatted the ice pack away from her grip but in the process pushed the young miss.

Startled to see her flapping her arms in the air while slipping off the sofa. Judy rushed forward to break her fall, unfortunately for him, her weight brought both of them to the floor with their lips joined together.

*Chapter 123 - One Hundred And Twenty-three : Send Maya To Her Father*

The third point of view

Her face lit up immediately when her call went through. Kim moved her face to the side and cleared her throat before she spoke in a sweet, gentle, and clear voice.

"Reporter Ann, it is me, Kimberly. I have another news about Maya that would definitely pique your interest and I can assure you this time? - "

"I'm sorry, but I'm not interested "

"What? " She must have heard wrong.

"I can't publish any more denigratory articles about Maya " The reporter disclosed and she was astounded.

"Why? Why can't you? Is the money I sent not enough? Just name your price and receive the cash right away"

"Don't you get it !" She spat, " It's an order from the higher-ups else I'll lose my job. In fact, I'm regretting publishing the other articles already, thanks to this incident, I have been removed from the promotion list I was previously nominated for "

Kim gulped, then scratched the back of her hair exasperatedly, " What do you expect me to do then?! " the gentleness in her voice disappeared.

"What do I expect you to do? Leave the poor girl alone! Even if she's an illegitimate daughter, she's still your half-sister and a human, so why do you hate her so much? Besides most of the news, you sent there was nothing wrong with it if I hadn't tweaked here and there, all because I was so blinded by the tempting - "

"Don't give me that bullshit!" Kim sassed at her through the phone," I have invested so much in this, so you can't give up? now "

"Write it yourself then! " Reporter Ann shouted at her and ended the wall. What a lunatic! \*Sob\* her promotion.

"Ahh! " Kim screamed and pulled her hair, though not tight enough to pull off some strands.

Breath heavy, her chest rose up and down from anger. "How dare that lowlife! " She fumed.

Kim was smart otherwise, she wouldn't have graduated as an attorney. It was obvious to her that someone was still protecting Maya from the background.

Was it Niklaus? Or had that bitch gotten herself another sugar daddy? Kim guffawed, but the malicious intent in her eyes was apparent.

It seems she underestimated that bitch. If Kim had known this would happen, she would not have let that lowlife leave their residence four years ago.

Maya was not worthy of associating with the likes of Niklaus' talk more getting into his bed. But she had gotten into his bed, hadn't she? That realization pricked Kim's heart and made her bite down on her lips drawing blood.

Yes, she was married but she couldn't enjoy a happy sex life. If she had known from the start of their relationship, she wouldn't have married that fool.

Kim had always wondered why John never wanted to bed her during their courtship. She had thought it was because of his religion since he was an avid churchgoer, never did she know he just couldn't achieve an erection - he had erectile dysfunction

During their relationship, she didn't complain about the lack of sex because John was well-to-do and the man loved her like crazy - she bet he couldn't survive without her. But now she has found out the truth? She was totally done with him; already she had sent the divorce papers.

Because their marriage was brief and childless, neither was mandated to pay each other maintenance but walk away with the assets they brought into the marriage.

Yet she knew John, he was too kind-hearted for his own good and made sure to heap a lot of blame on him for their failed marriage - he would willingly and surely pay her a hefty alimony.

Still yet, Maya had no right. How dare she get such a hot and capable lover while she ended up with an impotent husband - It was an insult to her.

Kim conjured Niklaus in her head, that man that looked like a sexy greek god.

She had seen his perfectly sculpted body in numerous types of magazines and the internet. He sure had no problem flaunting his six-pack abdomen and well-toned body.

That night he had invaded their property, she had been so scared to look up at his face, his expression then was so livid she feared for her life.

Kim felt a sudden pang in her chest, Niklaus couldn't be in love with that fool right? No, that wasn't possible. Niklaus loving her? Pfft, what a joke!

Maya was nothing but his plaything, an object to satisfy his desire. He only wanted her body right? Yes, she was a slut .

The only reason Niklaus had been angry that night was because her family had touched one of his sex toys without his permission. Haha, that must be it - not because he loved her.

Moreover, they had broken up already so Maya was now completely out of the picture.

An evil smile curled Kim's mouth to the side as she thought of all the fun she would have with Maya now she was no longer under Nik's protection.

Once Tina takes all of Niklaus's attention away from his ex-mistress, she would have the opportunity to deal with that bitch the way she wanted.

Done destroying Maya, she would now plot against Christina Devon. It was unwise to face Tina head-on, that haughty socialite was so smart and untrusting, the best approach would be through Niklaus himself.

Niklaus was a chronic player - he practically sleeps with anyone with a [email?protected] - and in the guise of being Tina's friend, she would take advantage of that chance and get into his pants.

Thankfully she had a hot body with enough experience and skills, so she would entice Niklaus with her body and give him an unforgettable ride - Well, an unforgotten adventure for both of them since he wasn't inexperienced either.

After that, she would hold onto Niklaus firmly and in no time, kick Christina out of the picture too. Though fighting Tina would be a tough battle but she has started all preparation and was confident she would win.

Who knows, she might end up becoming Niklaus's legal wife and then have the power to control such a mass of wealth; her mom would be so proud of her.

Kim's heart swelled with joy, she couldn't wait to get started on this plan of hers. But first, she had to rebuild her ruined reputation in his eyes.

Right now, Niklaus sees her as nothing but a nuisance that assisted in kidnapping his ex-mistress, so changing his view on her would influence her future plans positively.

Suddenly a knock on her door was heard, distracting her mental calculations.

" Come in " She ordered whosoever was on the door.

"Young miss " It was one of their maidservants.

" What is it? " Irritation was sensed in her tone.

"Elder is here "

A frown outlined Kim's face, grandma? What was she doing here?

"Alright, I would be down there," She said to the maidservant who left right away.

Kimberly went into deep thoughts, What did that Old woman want this time? And why request for her, she wasn't even her precious Maya.

Kim was neither close nor distant with her grandmother, their relationship was just so-so. Moreover, why improve her relationship with that old hag who obviously loves that illegitimate fool called Maya more than her own untainted granddaughter.

"Well, let's go see what she wants nevertheless "

And so Kim made her way downstairs to meet her grandmother who was sitting on the chaise lounge with a stern expression and her walking cane at the side.

"Grandmother " Kim called and smiled up at her. She had put a lot of effort into dressing up just to meet her. Since Maya wasn't here any longer perhaps, the old woman would squeeze out a bit of love for her.

Strangely, her face remained neutral but that didn't demoralize Kim. Just a few flatteries and she bet the grumpy woman would loosen up, she thought.

"Granny you look so beautiful today, did someone special wink at you on the way here by chance " Kim attempted a joke but what met her face was a resounding slap.

Kim stood rooted to the ground, shocked to the core. Her mouth was agape while she palmed her red cheek.

Her lips trembled "G-grandma "

"I don't want to hear that name from your mouth ever again! "Grandma Octavia warned her severely, her old weak body shaking from the rage in her heart.

She roared, " You think I wouldn't know?! How could you be so cruel to your sister? Releasing such deforming news about her?! "

"What's going on here? " Someone questioned defensively from behind.

"Mom" Kim cried and ran into her embrace, finally bursting into aggrieved tears.

"Grandma hit me "

"Seriously Mom? " Kim's mother arched an annoyed brow.

"Angela !" Grandma Octavia roared, "You're making a very huge mistake "

"No, the only mistake I ever made was listening to your gibberish and giving birth to that prick! " She yelled back.

Realizing being angry would do nothing but complicate her heart issues, Octavia calmed down but said to her daughter determinedly.

"I want Maya back in this house "

"That would only happen after? I'm dead " Angela retorted.

"Then I might as well send her to her father! "

There was a shocked silence. Angela unconsciously took a step back, fear and anger flashing through her.

Grandma Octavia smiled bitterly, "You don't think I've forgotten about that night, right? "

*Chapter 124 - One Hundred And Twenty-four : He's The One Being Used*

The third point of view

Judy and Emily froze for a while.

"What is going on?" Judy wondered mentally. One moment he was helping out this annoying woman and the next she tricked him into a kiss.

Emily was astounded, what just happened? Why were their lips touching? One moment she was falling, the next moment his lips were on hers? Did he just take advantage of her?

She was supposed to feel revolted by the kiss considering he was a stranger - not complete strangers, they've exchanged greetings several times over the years, nothing more than that.

But surprisingly, why was her heart beating so fast? He wore a cologne, though faint but it was there and she breathed the refreshing lavender-mint that made her mouth water.

Emily felt him pulling away from her and did the most ridiculous thing ever. She snaked her arm around his neck and reattached their lips together.

Judy went still, eyes expressing shock while the woman beneath him lavished his lips. Though he was not in an active relationship, he has his own means of getting the much needed sexual release.

And right now this annoying woman was greatly tempting him to do something he shouldn't. Yes, he had good self-control but he was a man, how could he resist the feel of the soft, warm body pressed against his.

Pleasure swirled through Emily's body, shutting her eyes close. This was not the first time she was being intimate with a man.

Although, ever since she left her father's residence, she went into a dating spree. Born as the princess of the Spencer group, no man had the nerve to approach her for a relationship: they all feared her father.

Adam's reputation of being a brutal man inspired great fear into them, so none of the wannabe boyfriends and flirts dared crossed her path.

Moreover, her father always made sure two huge-looking bodyguards always accompanied her during high school and university; the sheer size of them alone must have scared off potential mates.

At first, it didn't bother her much, she didn't want any man to pamper her, papa does all the pampering already. But as she continued to grow and her hormones ratcheted up another level.

Emily began to desire that raw relationship between a man and a woman.

So the moment she moved out, she began to date like tomorrow would never come. Already learned all of Niklaus's move and tactics, she went for brief casual flings with a few carefully selected candidates.

If there was one thing she had learned from her brother's rendezvous over the years, it was "love is meant to be shared, not monopolized " She wasn't a fool to give her whole heart to a man and have it brutally shattered in pieces afterward.

At first, Emily had thought she didn't have it in her. After all, she had always been a proper and reserved young lady as her father wanted - not how she wanted. Well, since she and Niklaus were siblings, blood doesn't lie then.

So She began her highly anticipated adventure which Niklaus found out about on the Gala night. Truthfully, Emily had expected him to lecture her about her sudden unsuitable lifestyle choice but he remained quiet.

She had been prepared that night to hurl back at him, how was he any different than her? she would have quibbled with him on that issue, but her brother surprisingly turned a blind eye - at the moment.

Thankfully, it seems her brother was concerned over her for a whole different issue, and huge thanks to him for this delicious eye candy he sent over.

Emily and Judy had crossed paths several times but there was nothing between them but a brief exchange of greetings.

Yes, Judy was handsome and his unsmiling face which was meant to scare people away made him all the hotter, sadly she hadn't put much of her attention on him then.

Things were different now, the desire to not only conquer but bring down his defenses made her body tingle with excitement.

Judy had steeled his heart,? intending to pull away and then flee if the situation prompted it, but that resolve melted like molten lava the moment she moaned into his mouth.

The very sound of her lustful cry reverberated in his head making it spun out of control.

Emily was a very attractive woman, that, he had noticed over the years of staying with Niklaus and working for the Spencer family. He knew his place; he wouldn't dare cross that borderline.

Getting cozy with his employer's daughter and sister especially in a family like the Spencer's? That was suicide!

Also, he was a shadow guard, a protector meant to lay down his life for them, so his future with her was one word, "bleak".

And that small voice of reasoning woke him up cause he broke the kiss and tried to move away but the girl's grip was iron around his neck.

" Emily! "

The annoying woman looked up with a flushed face, a delighted smile curving her luscious lips that were moist and swollen from the intense kiss. Judy gulped and felt his below tighten, he was in for a long night.



"This is the first time you're calling me by my name and it sounds goddamn sexy " She pointed out gleefully.

Ah right, Judy remembered. The times they encountered each other, he had always referred to her as

"Young miss "

"Listen, what we are doing is against work ethics " He tried to reason with her.

"Umm, I know " She answered, busy nibbling on his earlobe before her hot breath hit his ear as she whispered to him "But no one has to know, only the two of us "

"I came here to search your place, not get into your pants "Judy reminded her through gritted teeth, his self-control slowly going into extinction.

Without warning, Emily rolled him on his back and fully settled her body on his. She smirked when she felt his hard-on, he was saying something but his body was speaking otherwise.

"You haven't searched my bedroom yet," She hinted at him while running her tongue across her lips enticingly.

Niklaus would kill him and grind his flesh with a mill. Adam would roast his body in hot oil and dump it on the roadside for vultures to feed on. Judy forgot all about those the moment Emily captured his lips again.

His eyes had darkened and were filled with lust, he wasn't a fool to believe she was looking for a serious relationship. She just wanted a casual fling with him, so why not indulge her this once? His lower man spoke to him.

Emily gasped in surprise, then in delight when he rolled her over this time as he took control of the kiss, the rest of his previous restraint withering away. She loved his scent which pulled her closer against his hard, warm, athletic body.

Lost in the heady sensations, she squealed in surprise when he stood to his feet with her in his arms. To anchor herself from falling, she had to wrap her legs around his waist and tighten her grip on his shoulder.

"Bedroom? " He asked her and she pointed towards the direction of the passageway while reattaching their briefly separated lips together.

They kissed their way to the bedroom and made it at last after bumping and knocking over flower vases on their way in.

Emily felt feverish with desire, the only person that could cure her of this madness was this man currently scalding her with his touches.

With fumbling hands, she helped Judy out of his black long-sleeved zip-neck top and was quite startled at the sight that greeted her - this result could only be achieved with years of intense workout and activities.

Judy was quite muscular but not to the point of being macho or having rippling muscles like those werewolf alphas portrayed on television. He was just proportionally well-toned and did she forget to mention, sexy.

Moving his hair away from his face, she winced at the sight of the black-eye she gave him.

"That must hurt, " She said while tracing the bruise gently as he plopped down on her bed with her sitting astride his lap.

"You could kiss it better " He suggested and she took him up on his offer.

Emily kissed that area tenderly, afraid to hurt him while Judy took advantage of that moment to slip his hand into her shirt, tracing her stomach before trailing up to her already erect nipples.

Because it was night already, she wasn't wearing any bra giving him easier access to those twins peaks.

Emily let out a throaty moan when he began to knead and palp those pair of mounds on her chest. She trailed her hands down his bare chest feeling him flex under her touch.

Head thrown back, She cried out in pleasure as he worked her bosom in a way she never thought possible.

"I don't have protection," He told her when it was obvious the fire burning couldn't be controlled anymore.

"I got you covered," She replied to him through ragged breath, got off his laps, and headed towards her vanity table.

Judy was tongue-tied when Emily

pulled out a drawer and brought out a pack of condoms for use.

"Shall we begin? " She asked with this excited glint in her eyes that made Judy shiver, why does he feel like he's the one being used here?

*Chapter 125 - One Hundred And Twenty-five : Engaged To Tina*

Nik's POV

"Why did you kill me? " Kay asked, taking slow steps towards me while I walked back cautiously.

There was a gunshot wound on her chest area which oozed blood continuously and formed a pool on the floor.

I could still remember that dress on her, it was the same as the one she had worn the day I had that deal with Sakuzi; the very day she died. That knee-length black floral print maxi dress had not altered one bit.

"I didn't kill you, Kayla, so stop tormenting me! Haven't you had your fun already? " I yelled at her, hoping she would stop all to no avail.

Kay had a chalky pale look while her eyes were sunken and bloodshot with disheveled hair which was a huge contrast to her breathtaking beauty when she was still alive. Right now she looked like a demon from hell sent to make my life a living hell.

"I gave you my everything Niklaus, my time, youth, love, beauty, but what did you do with it?" The crazed look in her eyes slowly turned to one filled with anger and hatred.

"You threw it to the ground and stepped all over it like it was nothing! " She raged.

"I needed air! " I yelled back, "You took away everything! You were suffocating me, it was like I was drowning and the more I struggled to escape, the more you kept dragging me to the bottom! You made everything revolve around you, Kay!"

Her eyes flashed, "I had to do everything possible to keep you away from those wolves out there who wouldn't hesitate to take you away from me, don't you know how much I loved you?! "

"Yeah, I loved you too but I'm sorry, our time is gone already "

"No, it hasn't " there was a crooked smile at the corner of her mouth that sent the chills down my spine.

" It is just beginning "

The chill in her eyes scared me so much that I tried to take a step back but to my horror, discovered I couldn't make a move.

I looked down to notice that the pool of blood had reached my knee already, covering the whole ground like a river and filling up gradually. No matter how much I struggled, I couldn't move my feet at all as if it was glued to the floor.

" Let me go! "

There was an evil cackle, "Niklaus, if I can't have you alive then no one will. Join me, sweetheart, Hades awaits us "She stretched out her hands towards me.

I ignored her and strained against this invisible hold with no success, the river of blood was already reaching my chest area.

"Join me in the netherworld " She persisted and this time there wasn't any flesh on the hand she held out to me but bones.

I looked up and found out a complete skeleton now stood in the place of Kay and it spoke with this deep, cajoling yet spooky voice.

I began to choke when the bloody water covered me entirely and I began to sink just as the skeleton wearing Kay's clothes grabbed my hand and smiled creepily, "Let's go ".

At once I saw my flesh begin to dry up. "No, no " came my horrific cry? just as I began to transform into a skeleton like her ."

I awoke from my sleep with a startle, my breathing heavy and uneven. The nightmares were getting vivid and disturbing, it was now badly affecting my sleep.

Going to bed recently had become a huge task having known I would always wake up with a scream. Kay wouldn't leave me alone, my dreams were always haunted with her.

The past few days had been a hellish ordeal coupled with the pain from the beating given to me by my father. With a painful grunt, I lifted myself off my bed and headed to my bathroom.

I wiped the cold sweat from my forehead while staring at my reflection in the mirror, my face was pale and sickly with dark rings around the eyes portraying my lack of sleep.

Turning my back to the mirror, I stretched my neck and examined the dark purplish hue mess on my back; good to know the injuries were healing.

Staring back at the mirror, I laughed, these days I felt so frustrated and lethargic, making me question what I was even doing by the way. Ever since Maya left, I was never the same; like life lost its colors and meaning.

A quick shower helped calmed my brain but it didn't brighten my mood, in fact, it sank further.

"Sir Niklaus, you should take more bites. You haven't eaten much these days "Amanda urged me to eat more but I didn't have any appetite, I kept picking at the food.

"I know heartbreak is hard but you have to survive "

"Heartbreak?" I dropped my spoon and glanced up at her interestedly.

Upon seeing my captivated expression, she continued "I know letting go of Maya is not easy but you have to move on with your life "

"Thanks for your concern but I'm not heartbroken," I told her with a blank face.

"Huh?" Confusion crossed Amanda's features, "Then if you're not experiencing heartbreak, why are you this way then?"

"I'm just downcast "

My heart was Kevlar protected, no woman could penetrate through it and that has been proven over the years of tangoing with them - Maya was close to crackling it but not entirely.

" Downcast? "

Taking a deep breath, I started " I invested a lot of my time, resources, and attention on her but it didn't yield any fruit. It was the first time I was determined to get the person I want the right way but it failed miserably.

"But I'm a bit disappointed, the people I called family aided my failure. It's tiring but I guess this is the compensation for all of my sins. A monster like me doesn't deserve her love "

Amanda's frown deepened, "Stop saying that Sir Niklaus, you're not a monster. I've served you for years and though there are days you can be scary and annoying to hell, you're still a good person "

A wry smile appeared on my face, "Of course I'm scary and annoying "

Amanda shook her hands, "That's not the point Sir Niklaus. The point is that Miss Maya loves you so much and though she might be angry with you at the moment - once you clear up your engagement rumors with Miss Tina, you can kowtow for a thousand times and plead for her forgiveness " She explained to me animatedly.

"Maya is a very kind and good person, I'm sure she would forgive you. That sweet girl cannot hold grudges for long "

Of course, I knew that Maya was too kind for her own good. In this crazy and evil world, the girl was too trusting and always tended to see the good in people notwithstanding her own traumatic experiences.

But that was her charm and what made her so special. It was too hard to find people with such naive yet heartwarming qualities nowadays.

"Yes, I could do that but Amanda, I have so many enemies at the moment, it's better this way. Also, it's not a rumor, I'm truly engaged to Tina"

Her hand clasped her mouth, the shock on her face was obvious and she asked, "What about Maya? Isabella likes Maya "

"Maya would safe and far away from these dramas while Isabella would have no choice than to accept this decision- "

A dramatic gasp from Amanda interrupted me " Sir Adam doesn't like Maya, does he? He must have threatened you with her life, right? You marry Tina and she stays safe, isn't it? "

She gasped again but this time in disbelief, "This happens in television dramas all the time especially in rich families. Whoa, no wonder - "

"I think I might have said so much " I drawled dismissively while I lifted the glass of water to my mouth and took a sip.

Having lived with me for years, Amanda understood my body language perfectly, so she swallowed the rest of her words. She was a wise woman and tends to opine on my matters but she knew when not to cross that line.

Almost immediately, Judy walked into the dining room but I couldn't help but notice something was quite different about him today.

Not because he was wearing this strange huge dark aviator sunglasses but because his usual menacing aura went down a notch today.

Did something good happen to him today? Did he win the lottery or something?

"What's with the shades? " I queried after he bowed in greetings.

His hand moved to the sunglasses and tugged it off leaving me stunned at the purplish-blue bruise around his right eye.

"You fought with a gang? " I asked, having known the only time such injury could be inflicted on him was when outnumbered; he was that skilled.

" No "

"No? " My brows furrowed together, had he by chance found a worthy opponent?

"Then who? "

"Your sister did "

I was taken aback" My sister did? "

Judy nodded.

What the...that was impossible.? Emily really did that to his face? My extremely beautiful yet benevolent sister who thinks killing a cockroach is murder, did that to his face? The world must be truly ending.

*Chapter 126 - One Hundred And Twenty-six : Cat Whiskers And Nose*

Maya's POV

Heart in my throat, I quickly balled up my hands into fists and approached the door with a sense of caution. I was still reeling from the effect of that nightmare so my imagination was pretty high at the moment.

As if to heighten the spookiness of this moment, a flash of lightning lit my room accompanied by a deafening thunderclap.

I fought against the urge to cower away in fear, instead steeled my heart and opened the door in one clean move.

I was prepared to fight against any attack that would come at me but surprisingly, the supposed attacker was a lot of inches shorter than me.

"Isabella? " I asked, just to confirm it was really her "What are you doing here? "

Releasing a breath I didn't know I was holding, I rubbed the bridge of my nose and groaned in relief. So it was Isabella after all and not an attacker as I envisaged?

Izzy was standing in front of my room while clasping a large pillow against her chest while a large blanket was draped securely around her head and billowed out to the floor.

If not for the lightning in the passage, I would've mistaken her for a ghost.

"What are you doing here? " I asked again when I didn't get any reply.

As usual typical Isabella ignored me and tried to strut into my room but I lifted my leg and blocked her path.

" I asked you a question, " I reminded her sternly.

Upon seeing I was serious, she let the blanket drop to the ground and began.

"I can't sleep in that room "

Confusion set in, "Why can't you sleep in your room Isabella? "

"They.caught.a.snake.in.my.room." She emphasized.

"Which.has.been.removed." I pointed out but Isabella was far from over.

"They caught one, what's the probability there isn't another one hiding in there right now? " She argued, pointing to the direction of her room.

Well, who knows? I wasn't good with mathematics anyway.

"Besides " She continued, " This is the countryside with lots of wildlife, a snake sneaked in today. Who can tell that? I might find an alligator on my bed the moment I wake up tomorrow morning - if I ain't resting in its belly already "

I threw my head back and chuckled, "Izzy, your theory is ridiculous " I laughed it away.

"A snake finding its way into my toilet would have been ridiculous if it hadn't happened "? She made a solid point.

Great, I forgot Isabella could argue her way out of a problem. The girl should really pursue a profession in law, she would make a good attorney - ah right, she has a conglomerate awaiting her leadership already.

"So, what are you going to do? " I asked her deliberately just to arouse an answer out of her, but you should know Izzy by now.

She gave me a deadpanned look," Are you testing my intelligence? Or are you teasing me? Or are you pretending to be stupid? Why do you think I'm standing in front of your room? " She peppered me with questions rudely.

"You rude girl! " I knocked her on the head and she glared at me while soothing the pain on her head with her hand.

"If you're going to be staying here with me tonight, you have to learn to be polite " I reprimanded her.



"Whatever " She rolled her eyes and strolled into my room, dragging her overflowing blanket along with her.

Izzy tossed the sleeping materials in her arms to my bed before she bounced on it , looking up at the ceiling.

"Nice bed you got here, I always knew uncle Eden played partially" She accused him while stretching herself out.

What does she mean? Wasn't her bed this soft?

About to inquire more from her, I hardly took a step forward when a soft knock sounded on the door. It was so gentle I wouldn't have heard it, had I not been standing close to it.

A lot bolder this time, I swung the door open but I wasn't really surprised when I saw Anabelle with her own pillow and sheet.

Where there is an Isabelle, there's always an Anabelle.

"Okay, what's your own excuse this time? " I asked hands on my waist.

Anabelle shivered, " I'm afraid of the thunderclaps "

To prove her claim, another flash of lightning crossed my room, followed by a roaring thunderclap as the rain pounded on the roof.

Anabelle screamed and ran to me, latching her arms around my waist tightly. She gripped me in a death hold and refused to let go amidst my pleading and cajoling, for once I was grateful that wasn't my neck.

She held onto me for dear life leaving me with no choice than to walk to the bed with her in that awkward position while Isabella snickered at the scene.

Having known both kids were too competitive and possessive of me and definitely would fight for sleeping arrangements, I purposely lay in the middle with them at my sides, tucked warmly under the covers.

For some minutes we lay in silence, listening to the sound of the rain hitting the roof when Isabella decided to ask.

"What are you going to do from now on? "

I turned my head towards her, " What do you mean? "

"You're practically jobless, what are you going to do ? "

I smiled, "Focus on my career, also I have to audition for a role next week "

Izzy wrinkled her nose in disapproval "Acting? That's so lame. Besides, the entertainment industry is so corrupt these days. I don't want them to taint you "

My chest bubbled with joy upon hearing her comment, "Oi, do you like me this much? " I teased her on purpose by poking her on the ribs.

Isabella had a hard time keeping a straight face, " Who said anything about liking you? " She snorted and continued.

"You're all naive and kind now but once you become a big shot, you're bound to become pompous. Besides, you're the only one gullible enough to fall into my traps aside from Anabelle "

"I am not gullible!" Anabelle who we thought had fallen asleep sat up and defended herself fiercely.

"You're not yet asleep?" I asked surprised.

"Me? Fall asleep with Isabella on the same bed?" She huffed, "Who knows what prank she would play on me in my sleep? "

I looked towards Isabella with an accusing look but she threw her face the other way, pretending to be oblivious to the issue at hand.

"Has she done anything to you in your sleep in the past? " I asked curiously having seen the seriousness on her face.

"Of course " She settled her intense gaze on the guilty Izzy who still refused to meet her eyes.

"On December twenty-six, when we were eight years old during the family's annual winter gathering. After lunch, while I was having my siesta, she! "

She pointed to Izzy and continued her tale, "She sneaked into my room and drew a graphic cat whisker's and nose on my face with a permanent marker. "

I shook my head internally, for such a young child to still remember the date? That must have been a bad experience.

Izzy clicked her tongue, "Your face was just so irresistibly cute and smooth that I thought it was a drawing board"

She lifted her right hand nonchalantly, "So my fingers inched for a drawing, what's so bad about it? "

"Y-you! Do you know how many hours of scrubbing it took me to remove those stains? " Anabelle questioned her angrily.

"The more you scrub, the more the dirt get off, don't you know the saying? "

There was a trace of confusion on my face, why haven't I heard such saying? Unless she made those up?

"Stop saying nonsense " Anabelle rebutted her. " I have never heard of that "

"Why would you hear of it? You're not exactly a bright student"

"Alright kids, knock it out " I came in to settle the dispute " Isabella would not do anything to you " I assured my little pumpkin.

"How would you know?"She retorted.

"I have been sleeping throughout the day, so I don't feel drowsy any longer which means I would be able to protect you from your cousin's snarls and pranks "

Her eyes brightened, "Really? "

I nodded, " Really "

"Thank you aunt Maya " She hugged me and lifted the sheet to cover her body, going to sleep right away.

"Goodnight Pumpkin " I pecked her on the forehead as she smiled with her eyes closed.

"Ugh! " Isabella who had been staring at the scene snorted in disguise and lay back on the bed - ThankGod!.

"Goodnight Izzy " I bent and pecked her too and aside from scrunching up her face, she didn't resist my display of affection.

I shook my head, amused. Even though she acts all tough and cold-hearted, she is still one sweet girl.

So I pulled a vigil all through the night or so I thought cause when the morning came, I find out I slept off in the process.

I panicked when I found out Isabella's side of the bed was empty which meant she had awoken already; I quickly checked on Annabelle.

A huge sigh of relief was released when I found out Annabelle was alright, no harm was done to her by her cousin.

Quickly, I left for my bathroom in order to wash up and prepare for the day ahead. I had already walked past my bathroom vanity when I froze and retraced back my steps.

Eyes wide and mouth agape from shock, I stared hard at the face looking back at me from the mirror.

There was a detailed koala drawing on my face! No, no, no, this had better be not what I'm thinking, permanent marker?

"Isabella!!!!!! "

*Chapter 127 - One Hundred And Twenty-seven : Who Has Sexy Chest?*

Maya's POV

Isabella was hellbent on making me age faster. At first, I had judged Niklaus harshly but it was now obvious to me why he had to hand Isabella over to Adam; the girl is a terror.

Not to talk of her nannies, I heard none of them survived a day which was quite a miracle and a huge achievement when I survived day one of being her caretaker.

Initially, I scrubbed my skin till it turned pink just to remove the marker until Eden suggested using rubbing alcohol.

It was a known fact that Izzy is good in acts so the drawing was quite detailed, but what puzzled me the most was how I was able to sleep through while she tattooed my face in permanent marker.

Eden offered to wipe away the stains but I kicked him out of my room, I wasn't stupid enough to fall into his trap.

Having spent time with Niklaus who was good at luring me into traps that would satisfy him in the end, I could now tell when someone wanted to make a secret move on me.

In the end, I called over my two cute angels: Anabelle and Pedro, to help me out - That little imp called Isabella was currently in my blacklist.

Pouring the alcohol into two separate bowls and handing out cotton balls to both kids, I sat in front of the vanity and watched through the mirror as they began to work on my face.

Anabelle pressed her lips together and focused on the task at hand with a firm and blank expression while Pedro had a more relaxed yet determined look.

They dipped the cotton balls in the alcohol and held it on my skin for a while before wiping it and repeating the same procedure until the stain was gone, as I instructed them since rubbing it could irritate my skin.

I fumed in anger while the kids continuously worked on my face. Who knew Isabella would pull such an evil prank on me? I was so busy protecting Anabelle that I forgot I was vulnerable to her attack too - I would give her a piece of my mind when my face looks more human.

Soon the kids were done, though they had a self-accomplished smile on their faces, I could tell they were exhausted; their arms were probably aching. To pay them for their hard work, I promised them to a treat later which had them grinning from ear to ear.

The marker had faded so I quickly washed up in order to go and visit the prankster - she had gone a bit too far this time. What if I had been allergic to the chemical used in producing that marker? I could have died before I even awoke.

Perhaps Isabella turned out this way because she had no motherly figure? in her life. Fathers were great and all but a mom is always a mom.

I don't know what age Isabella lost her mother but the girl needs serious rehabilitation. Some of her behavior at times scares me and yes, she might take it as fun but the human body was still fragile, an accident could always happen unexpectedly.

So I marched to her room and knocked, only to discover it was open. I pushed the door wide and walked in expecting her to be on her phone or reading a book or something, but what I met was an Isabella sprawled out on the bed in an undignified pose and asleep.

I chuckled inwardly, does she think I would buy her act, what a joke. Isabella was a smart girl and must have guessed I was here to scold her for her prank, so must be pretending to be asleep.

"Hey," I said, with my arms folded across my chest, "I'm not going to be fooled by your act.

No response.

I smirked, so she was intent on continuing with the act. Fine then, let's see who would get tired with pretending.

"If you don't get up from the? bed Isabella, I'll have you sent back to the city "

No response.

"Before the count of three "

Still no response.

"One.. "

No movement.

"Two.. "

She didn't even stir.

"Two and a half... "

Nothing.

"Two and a half and a half... "

Not even a snore.

"Three " I finished my countdown but my brows couldn't help but furrow into a prominent frown. For someone pretending to be asleep, it kinda looked real.

But that was impossible, she just awoke from a long night rest, even had the energy to draw on my face, so how could she be asleep again?

"Hey " I tapped her on the shoulder but she stirred and turned her back to me.

"Isabella " I shook her this time but winced when the back of my palm touched her neck by chance, her temperature was ridiculously high.

"What the... " I faltered when my eyes rested on the skin of her back where the polo shirt had not been able to cover, there was a breakout of rashes there.

"Oh my God." I gasped in shock, then tapped her again but she moaned tiredly and went back to sleep.

That seriously couldn't be chicken pox.

Instantly, I forgot the main reason why I had to come up here in the first place and rushed down to get Eden. But I couldn't find him in the living room as expected.

" Where's is - "

"He is in his room" Mrs.El answered, having surmised I was searching for him.

I muttered a "thank-you" to her and located his room which was on the floor level with ease.

Perhaps, due to the fact that I was panicking, I totally forgot the courtesy action of knocking before entering. I tried the doorknob and hurried into his room but my jaw dropped open at the sight that welcomed me.

Eden was clad in nothing but a white towel wrapped around his waist exposing his toned flat stomach, his skin was flushed from the shower.

His wet hair plastered to his skull while my throat dried up when I saw water dripping from his hair, drop on his chest, and join other smaller droplets before trailing down to the deep V of his abdomen, soaking into his loosely wrapped towel.

He too was shocked to see my abrupt appearance but he recovered from his daze faster than I did.

"You could have joined me in the shower if you were that interested" Eden flirted, " I wouldn't have minded anyway "

His comment aroused me from my reverie and I blinked, just to be sure I was seeing right. Damn, I wasn't a pervert.

I turned away at once with a blush staining my cheeks, my eyes had seen what it can't unsee.

"I'm sorry for barging into your room" I apologized with my back turned to him.

Gosh, if this was still the olden days, I would have to take responsibility for him.

Why can't you be a reserved young lady for once, Maya? I scolded myself internally.

"You can go ahead and dress-up. I promise you, I won't look " I promised him.

"What if I want you to look? "

Perhaps, he intended that to sound romantic but to me, it sounded lewd. To hell with decency!

I turned around and faced him with a questioning look, "Why would I want to watch you dress up? Do I look like a pervert? "

Eden's mouth opened and closed, he was definitely tongue-tied.

What was he expecting anyway? That I would be in awe of his sexy abdominal packs?

No, that is not what the point! Sexy abs or not, the point is that I have developed an immunity to good looks so he should stop seducing me with that - by the way, He and Niklaus who have more six-pack abdomen?

"You sure you aren't? Else, why would you be staring at my chest that way? " he fired at me.

Ouch, I've been caught.

"Staring at what !" I denied his accusation with a straight face, "Your chest isn't that sexy by the way, I've seen countless better ones "

"Really" His eyes twinkled, "Then you must know what happens after you ogle a guy's chest in an enclosed room " He began to step towards me while I took corresponding steps back.

What have I gotten myself into? Maya, this mouth of yours would lead you into trouble one day!

"What do you think you're doing?"? I breathed raggedly.

"What do you think I'm doing? " He pressed forward, a mischievous smirk on his face.

Of course, I knew this scene vividly well, how wouldn't I? A romantic like me? He would continue approaching me until my back hits the wall, then he would place both hands on either side of the wall trapping me and then, one thing would lead to the other and we would start kissing.

I rolled my eyes internally, what a lousy plan Eden. Does he think I have learned nothing from dating the mischievous Niklaus all this time?

Discovering I was about to be trapped, I put up a hand against his chest to stop him from moving further but withdrew it from shock when I realized what I was touching.

Unfortunately, my unruly hands somehow hit his loosely wrapped towel which fell to the ground right before my eyes.

I need holy water to cleanse my eyes....ahh!

*Chapter 128 - One Hundred And Twenty-eight :Niklaus's Brat*

Eden's POV

I meant to tease her not strip before her, what even happened? One moment I had the towel on, the next it was on the floor.

Maya screamed, her hands flying to her face as she turned around immediately.



Flustered, I gripped the towel with lightning speed and covered the view. A hot flush started in my neck and worked upward while my heart beat a million miles an hour. I couldn't believe this, I just flashed my Peekaboo at Maya, seriously Eden?

I couldn't tell if she was just agitated or crying cause I could makeout whimpering noises from her.

Well, what's done is done, the only thing left to do was to salvage the rest of my crumpled image.

This time she didn't even dare to turn back even when I entered my walk-in closet and dressed up.

"Alright, you can look now. I'm decent"

But she shook her head, "How do I know you're not lying "

I rolled my eyes, "I'm not sexually deviant Maya "

"That's rich coming from someone who asked me to watch him dress up moments ago " She taunted.

"I did say that but that was just to mess with you. "

"Well congratulations, your wish came to pass " she attacked me.

"Hey, my towel wouldn't have fallen off if you hadn't hit it " I defended myself.

"I wouldn't have hit your towel if you hadn't tried to make a silly move on me in the first place? "

"Fine" I sighed, "Look or not, that's up to you " the girl was quite difficult to convince.

I watched Maya turn around, her palm was still covering her face. Then she slowly peered between the space in her fingers before she finally glanced up at me.

I gave her a cheeky grin and even pirouetted for her to check me out fully, "I'm good, not even a wardrobe malfunction is bound to happen "

A faint flush spread across her features causing my expression to lit up, good to know that she was as affected as I was.

"By the way, what brought you to my room unannounced?" I asked, having a feeling that something must have happened for her to barge into my room like that.

"Yeah, that's right " Maya hit get head as if chiding herself for forgetting her purpose of coming here, "It's Isabella "

Oh, that brat. What did she do this time or was Maya still angry about the face drawing.

"If you're here to ask me for the right to discipline the girl, then you're at the wrong place. Adam talk more Niklaus has never -"

"No that's not it " She interrupted me.

My brow quirked up in confusion, "That's not it, then what's it? "

Maya took a deep breath and said, "I think Isabella might be down with chickenpox"

For a moment I didn't say anything, just stared hard at her which obviously made her uncomfortable.

"Why are you looking at me that way? Is there something on my face?" The mystified Maya scratched the back of her head awkwardly while checking herself all over for any sign of a disorder.

I burst into laughter, "That's impossible, Isabella can't have such disease. She's vaccinated and the Spencer's are known for their strong immune system " came my explanation but she gave me the look.

"Come and confirm it with your eyes then" She suggested, opened my door and walked out without closing it, obviously urging me to follow after her.

I trailed after Maya with a bit of anticipation, it was strange Izzy contacting such an infection; all Spencer kids have a boosted immune system than normal due to the number of resources spent on their health.

We walked into the little girl's room and I watched as Maya stripped Off Isabella's polo, exposing her back invaded by the telltale red blisters.

I checked for her temperature by placing the back of my palm on her forehead and scrunched up my face at the hotness.

"So? " Maya questioned with an I-told-you-so look.

I gave in, "Yeah, you're right, she's having the chickenpox infection"

I quickly took out my phone, about to place a call when Maya gave me strange looks

"What are you doing? " She asked.

"I need them to get the car ready, she has to be taken to the hospital" I answered.

She snorted with laughter, "Eden, Chickenpox is generally mild and common in children which can be home treated. Why create such a huge fuss? "

"What if there are complications?"

"Luckily, she's still a kid; infection is more severe in teen and adults that are not immune "

I glanced up at her shapely, "Are you immune then? Aren't you at risk of getting infected too? "

Maya was sitting on the girl's bed with their body touching causing a deep frown to appear on my face. If I could remember, chickenpox was clearly a contagious disease that spread through touch, so why wasn't Maya cautious?

"Yeah, you're right " She pursed her lips while rubbing her jaw thoughtfully," And Isabella happened to share the same bed with Anabelle and me last night"

My face paled when I recalled my daughter did share a bed with Maya and that brat. Though I trusted my daughter has a good immune system but I couldn't help but fear for her health a bit, what if my precious little pumpkin gets this horrible disease?

"I was exposed to the disease when I was a kid so my body can fight off another infection because I'm immune already. You should worry about your daughter and the boy... "

She regarded me slowly, "And yourself and the rest of the staff. You should probably call a healthcare provider over instead of moving Isabella and putting yourself at risk"

Maya was right, it was better calling our family doctor over than moving Nik's daughter and spreading the infection.

"You don't need to worry about me, I'm stronger than I look, " I told her but she probably didn't hear me since Isabella awoke and garnered her attention.

"Hey " She spoke softly to the brat who covered her face in permanent marker hours ago.

Tsk tsk, the girl was too kind for her own good. Perhaps, it was a good thing she didn't get to enter her household. Our household was full of liars, greedy, and backstabbing assholes who wouldn't hesitate to use her to satisfy their selfish needs. Yes, it was better that way.

"How do you feel?" Saint Maya asked, the worry lines on her forehead deepening.

"Like a truck ran me over till I was nothing but paste on the floor " Isabella exhaled roughly, "What in the world is happening to me, I feel horrible"

"Well," Maya went on, "I would call it karma paying you back in your own coins considering the fact you drew on my face, the next hour you're down with chickenpox "

Isabella sat up with a great momentum out of shock and just as my daughter would have done, I was expecting her to scream my head off? but she calmly asked Maya.

"Did you just say I have chickenpox? "

"Yeah, you've been infected with chickenpox, and though it might be hard on you during the days ahead. But you should know that? I'm always beside you and would help you pull through, alright? We can fight this together! "

Maya gave a motivational talk to the poker-faced Isabella who stared off into space for a few seconds till she asked the most outrageous question ever.

"Does this mean I won't go to school? " A smile broke out on her face, " No school " she jubilated and lay back on her leaving Maya and I dumbfounded.

What the hell? Niklaus' daughter was definitely abnormal. If that was Annabelle, she would be worried sick whether the blisters or scabs would leave large scars on her skin or not?

"Let's just hope you haven't transferred this miserable infection to my daughter "

"I wish she has it "

That statement from Izzy jerked my head up, " What?! "

"It would be boring combatting this sickness all alone, I need company "

I opened my mouth to rebuke her but I couldn't find the right speech without using offensive words so I closed it and pointed at her instead.

"You're going back to the city "

"What?! " She yelled and sat up abruptly but Maya pushed her back on the bed with a warning.

"Don't get agitated, you have a fever which would only worsen if you continue this way"

"I don't care! " The rude brat snapped at her caretaker and tried to sit up again but Maya was quick to tackle her.

"Aren't you scared, you might get infected too? " the smart young brat tried to threaten her.

But an evil smirk curled up Maya's mouth to the side, "Guess what? I'm immune to the infection, so it's just you and I throughout the days of your misery. And trust me when I say I've got my eyes on you twenty-four hours, seven days "

She added, "Moreover, don't think I've forgotten about the face drawing incident, I'll going to see to your deceit during this period of taking absolute care of you " Maya laid more emphasis on " Taking absolute care of you"

For the first time ever, I saw genuine fear spread across Izzy's face. I couldn't blame her, even I could sense the cold and scary aura Maya was giving off.

Still held captive by Maya, Isabella turned her head towards me and asked with the meekest tone I've ever heard from her,

"Can I still go back to the city, please? "

*Chapter 129 - One Hundred And Twenty-nine : I Love Maya*

Nik's POV

Staying at home was depressing, I didn't have any real friends to have a drink with, just associates. I contacted Pablo, but he had to keep his pregnant wife company so he wasn't able to make it.

Left with no choice, I went to the company on a Sunday in order to bury myself in work. I didn't want to remain idle, it made me think of her a lot so I had to keep my mind busy.

I was going through a document in my office when Judy walked in. I couldn't help but feel guilty, it was obvious I was stressing my shadow guard too. Judy had to ensure my safety before going ahead to do anything he wanted.

He bowed and I nodded in acknowledgment before signaling him to take a seat.

"What about the scandal? " I inquired of him, without taking my eyes off the document I was signing.

"Someone else took it down before I could "

I made a mistake, the ink smeared the document the instant I paused upon hearing Judy's statement.

Realizing I was in no mood to sign further, I grabbed the documents and packed them inside a folder.

"It's my cousin, isn't it? " I asked while pulling out a drawer from my desk and kept the folder in it.

"Yes, you're right " Judy concurred.

A wry smile stretched my lips, was Eden doing this on purpose in order to use the girl against me in the future, or did he sincerely care for her?

If it was the latter, I would be satisfied especially now that the crazy old man was against Maya, I wonder what length my father would go just to separate us further?

But if Eden was just playing with her? He would have me to contend with. Maya was not like the other girls he fooled around with in the past, she was just different and I wanted it to remain that way.

"Are you really going to let Eden hang around her? You know that he's a sly fox " Judy asked me with an exasperated expression.

"Eden hanging around her is a kind of a blessing in disguise "

"What? "

"As far as Eden has his sight on Maya, she's safe from any harm at the moment. With Gerald no longer under our control, I'm afraid he would do everything possible to get back at me.

"Tina has her own private security with her, who would probably hold their own till enforcement arrives. But Maya has nothing but her fist which isn't a guarantee when surrounded all about "

Judy ran his hand through his ombre hair, ruffling it in the process while eyeing me.

"I seriously can't understand you at all," he said, " You do everything possible for a girl and in the end you let her go so easily. Yet you sit here and wallow in misery"

"I can not go head-on with my father yet, he still has the absolute power in our family. Since he can't hurt me because I am his son, I'm afraid he would take out all of his anger and frustration on Maya and I don't want that to happen..." my voice cracked at the end, it was filled with raw emotion.

"I don't want her caught in the middle of the war between father and son. I don't want her to suffer because of me, I won't be able to bear that torment for the rest of my life, knowing it's all my fault. If I ..." I faltered on purpose, what was the point of rambling this over and over again?

"Seriously, you're wasted. Isn't it obvious? " Judy facepalmed.

"What is obvious? " I asked, my attention was captivated.

"You're in love with her, Niklaus! Damn you! "

I was shocked at Judy, not because he was using that tone on me but because he was now officially among those idiots muttering the same nonsense to me.

"I'm not in love with Maya, Judy. I just care way too much for her " I clarified but I can't tell why my tone was wavering, why I felt like I was lying to myself.

"Why are you deluding yourself Niklaus? What's so hard about admitting the fact you fell in love? Your damn ego? Or your uninterrupted streak of never falling in love since Kay? Cause trust me if that's what holding you back from admitting you're in love with Maya? Then you're the worst fool on earth on earth! " Judy spat at me with so much anger, the vein on his forehead bulged.

I couldn't talk, I was tongue-tied. This was the first time he was speaking to me in such a manner and seriousness.

"You don't understand, Love is so much deeper and complicated - "

"Really?" He interrupted me, "What do you know about love? "

My eyes flashed, " I loved Kay "

Judy threw his back and laughed sarcastically, "Niklaus, you f\*cking married at age sixteen. You tied the knot at a period when your hormones were an all-time high, any girl that made your heart flutter then would have been the one for you! That was an infatuation you had there with Kay, not love. Why did you think you and Kay ended so horribly? "

My chest was heaving with anger, I wanted to lunge at Judy and slam my fist up his face for slandering what I had with my late ex-wife.

But I found out I couldn't, my feet were glued to the floor while a lot of thoughts flooded my head, I would go crazy at this rate.

"Fine, let me ask you then. If it was Kay who had been in Maya's situation, would you have handed Gerald's ledger to Sakuzi in exchange for her freedom? "

"That's ridiculous, I did have no bad blood with Sakuzi - "

"Answer the damn question, Niklaus!"

Judy's outburst made me begin to think of her immediately. If Kay had been alive and was kidnapped by Sakuzi instead of Maya, would I have handed the ledger to him?

To my horror, the answer came out negative, I would not have done such a thing for Kayla.

I probably would have gathered all of my family's forces and clashed with Sakuzi for her freedom instead of settling peacefully.

Kay also came from a prominent family, so it was useless risking the ledger when I knew they would join in the fight against Sakuzi.

Moreover, I wouldn't dare go against my father by snatching away the ledger from right under his nose but for Maya, I was willing to do it.

"Oh my God " I gasped in realization.

Maya didn't just crack my platinum armor, she shattered it into bits. How could I have been in denial all this time? This heart has been desolate and fortified all these years, she somehow found a way to breakthrough.

I placed my hand on my heart, it was pounding so fast it hurt. I felt breathless, I needed to breathe, I needed oxygen and that oxygen was Maya.

"I-I... I need to... " I stammered so hard I couldn't form a coherent word, but the broad smile on Judy's face was obvious he knew what I wanted to say.

"The car is already ready " He ushered me towards the door.

How did he..? Had he planned this all along? Well, we would have a discussion later but right now, I needed to see Maya.

I needed to tell her how much she means to me. Just as she loves me, I love her too. Even if we don't end up together... .that would be for later.

Just as he said, Judy led me down to a warm, waiting car. He opened the door and I climbed in while he walked around to the front seat; he wasn't the one driving today.

It was already eight in the night but I didn't mind, I felt the urge to speak to Maya before it was too late.

We traveled through the muddy and parsimonious countryside road until we reached our destination.

"This is the place? " I asked, stretching my neck out the car window and taking in the appearance of the house. It looked simple but Eden enjoyed luxury so I was sure, the inside looked better.

"Yes, it is " He added, "By the way, your daughter has chicken pox "



I was astounded, "My daughter has the pox infection? How is that possible? Hasn't she been vaccinated? "

"She has but it seems the drugs still didn't offer a hundred percent protection "

"Alright," I said to him. I wasn't that worried about Isabella knowing that Maya would take good care of her.

The girl was so kindhearted she was willing to take care of her ex-boyfriend's daughter without whinnying, how could I have been so blind all this time? Maya was perfect for me.

Abruptly, I heard the gate rattle and commanded them, "Quick, kill the light! "

The chauffeur turned off the light with our car parked securely a few yards away from Eden's property blending in with the night.

The street light revealed Eden and Maya leading a man out of the house. They had small talks before the man entered his own car and went off.

I watched Maya say something to Eden and he took off the blazer he was wearing and draped it around her with a hug before urging her back into the house.

My heart sank.

"Let's go back " I announced.

"What?! " yelled Judy from surprise.

"It was a mistake coming here "

"But you should at least talk to her"

I glared and spoke to Judy with a firm tone, "I can never give Maya the kind of life she wants! She's better off without me "

It was obvious Judy was not satisfied with my answer but he had crossed the line several times today, he knew when to stop.

"Fine " he agreed reluctantly and instructed the chauffeur to leave right away.

"Also " I added, " Bring my daughter home tomorrow "

It was time to move on with my life - without Maya.

Maya's POV

When night came, Isabella had become a nightmarish version of Anabelle.

"Maya! " Isabella screamed so hard my ear hurt, anyone hearing her now would think she was being tortured in an interrogation room.

"Give me a sec! " I yelled back from the bathroom while checking the temperature of the water; it had to be lukewarm.

"It's really itchy, I want to scratch back "She whined with an irritated look on her face, I could already imagine.

"I swear to God Isabella, if you scratch that blister I am going to spank you hard on the bottom " I warned her while sprinkling the recommended amount of powdered oatmeal I had Eden buy from a health food store into the bath.

I was preparing a colloidal oatmeal bath for Isabella to help stop the itching. The itchy rash with red blisters had begun to appear more on her body and she was driving me nuts. The more it itched her, the more she irked me.

The oatmeal bath eases irritated skin by sticking to the skin and forming a protective skin. Let's just hope Isabella lasts in there.

"Why can't I scratch it? I'm dying here " Isabella cried out in agony which tugged at my heart. I could relate to her suffering.

"You could get your skin infected while scratching it besides, you could scar yourself big-time!" I hollered so she could hear me.

"I don't care about the damn scar! I have enough money to last a century, I could always get a surgery done " She hurled back impatiently.

"Alright sweetie, tap the itch alright? I said 'tap ' not 'rub' or 'scratch' " I clarified, having known she was bound to do whatever pleased her.

Once I was done setting the bath, I was grateful to see Isabella "tapping" the blisters and not "scratching"? it.

"Alright, strip, " I told her and she happily bounced down the bed amid taking off her clothes until she was in nothing but her pants.

Thankfully she wasn't a teenager, else this moment would have been a lot awkward. I hardly know how to take care of myself, talk more a teen? Pfft, oh please.

I led her into the bathroom and watched her stop in her tracks when she saw the milky white water.

"What's this? " She gave a puzzled look.

"Liquid from a cow's tit " I deadpanned, " Get into the tub Izzy, it would help stop the itching a bit " I explained with a huge unladylike yawn.

God, I was so tired. The girl has stressed me today beyond human limits.

The little imp gave me a dubious look yet obeyed nevertheless. It was satisfying to know that as smart as Isabella claims she is, she still doesn't know everything.

"Soak in the tub for about.... " I stretched my neck out from the bathroom door and checked the time on the wall clock.

"Fifteen minutes. Soak in the tub for fifteen minutes, though I'll be back - "

"Where are you going? "

She didn't even allow me to finish my statement.

"I want to receive air that hasn't been contaminated with chickenpox particles " I gibed, leaving right away.

Eden was already waiting in the living room so I didn't need to search for him. I plonked down on the nearest couch without care to manner while releasing a languid sigh.

"How is it going? " Eden inquired curiously.

"She's impossible. I'm so tired I can't even lift a finger right now. My whole body is aching " I complained dramatically.

"Do you need a massage? "

I was stunned by his comment, "W-what massage? " I choked, " Who says anything about a massage? "

"But you said your muscles are aching? You need to loosen those tensed and knotted flesh else the pain would elevate " Eden said with all seriousness.

"Fine " I laughed nervously, "I'll have it done later or perhaps Anabelle would help me or any of the - " I was still saying when he began to approach me.

"I didn't say you should - "

"Stay still " Eden ordered with a stern voice as he climbed onto the couch and took his place behind me.

I was wearing a really plain baggy oversized shirt with its sleeve turned up while I tied the hem at the side of my stomach accompanied by a knee-length short.

"You don't need to ... " I was still saying but he had already positioned himself properly and tugged down my collar, exposing a side of my creamy shoulder.

I took a deep breath, alright Maya, let's play it cool. He says it's just a massage nothing else and, if he dares tries anything stupid, we always got our fist to support us.

Okay, fighting!

I felt Eden place his hand on my shoulder, then began to knead it gently, adding just enough pressure at the right time - he seems to be so good at this.

"God, this feels so good " I groaned in pleasure with my eyes closed

"In case you ever quit your job as a CEO, you're free to become my massage therapist." I teased him, "Having a masseur like you is definitely not a loss "

He chuckled, " I don't think you would be able to afford me "

"Yeah, I know. Which is why I have to work harder and become a rich, popular celebrity "

"There is a shortcut to achieving all of your dreams, " He said, leaving me curious.

"By marrying me, " Eden revealed, just as he moved to the other shoulder. Digging his thumbs into those knotted muscles until they had loosened.

I laughed, "Tempting offer but no. I don't need a man to climb to the top. I am strong and smart enough to achieve whatever I want to, without the dominant Alpha by my side "

"Your loss then" He replied me nonchalantly, "But the offer is always? available by the way "

"Fine " I answered in order to conclude that topic.

Just then the doctor who had gone to vaccinate the others came out with Mrs.El by his side and the massage session came to an abrupt end.

"How did it go? " Eden asked with concern

The doctor cleared his throat, "Due to the fact they had been exposed to chickenpox, I had to give them a shot of varicella-zoster immune globulin to help prevent the infection"

" What about Isabella? " I queried this time.

"Take this, " The doctor said and handed a Tablet to me," This acyclovir would help make her symptoms less severe. Just give her a dose today and the other tablets, five times for a whole week "

"Thank you doctor " I appreciated his services.

"I'll be leaving then, " The doctor said, prompting Mrs. El offer to see him out but Eden refused and suggested the both of us should escort him instead.

Well, I had no objection, so I agreed.

"You should let the little girl drink lots

of fluids for her body to eliminate the virus faster " The doctor advised just as we reached the entrance.

"Of course " I concurred to his every word.

"See you then " The doctor bade us and stepped into his car and the driver drove off

"Of course doctor " Mimicked Eden, as he perfectly copied my tone.

"Cut it out " I warned him while running my hands down my arms, the weather was so chilly? and I was so concerned about Izzy that I had forgotten to grab a coat on my way out.

" You're cold? "

"Isn't that obvious? " I snarked at him while giving him the look.

With a sigh, he began to pull off his blazer he had probably picked on his way out.

"Oi, what are you doing? " I took a step back while eyeing his moves carefully, but Eden ignored me and draped his coat that smelled good - but I won't admit it - on my shoulder

I tried to wriggle out of it but he hugged me tight, stopping me from pulling it off.

" Fine, let go. I won't take it off " I told him but he passed me a skeptical gaze.

" I don't trust you "

I retorted, " I'm the one who doesn't trust you "

"Fine, fine, trust, or not. Let's go in " He said and pushed me inside gently.

"Huh? Is there anyone outside? " I asked Eden when I saw him staring out of the gate with rapt attention.

He turned back to me with a smile, " It's nothing. Just a trick of the eyes, I thought I had seen a bear "

"A bear? " I snorted, " Who are you trying to fool? Me?? What do you think I am? Five? Ten? "

I pulled off his blazer and tossed it at his face playfully, "Thanks but no thanks "

Eden scoffed in disbelief, but the mirth in his eyes was obvious.

"Maya! " Isabella hollered from upstairs which made me close my eyes and take a deep, slow breath.

This humble maidservant called Maya totally forgot she had a tyrannical crown princess to serve.

"Wish me good luck," I remarked.

He winked at me, "Go get 'er Maya"

I smiled at his childish attempt at flirting but the smile came to an abrupt halt when I came to a startling realization.

When did I start being comfortable with Eden? I had been on guard against him but these few days made me question why I disliked him from the initial start.

Yes, he was full of tricks but his personality wasn't that bad as my ex described. He just seems controversial. Well, I hope I was making the right choice by trusting him a teeny bit.

"Maya! "

"I'm coming, your highness! "