

Taming A Billionaire

#Chapter 151 - One Hundred And Fifty-one: Coming Of Gerald - Read Taming A Billionaire Chapter 151 - One Hundred And Fifty-one: Coming Of Gerald

Chapter 151 - One Hundred And Fifty-one: Coming Of Gerald

Maya's point of view

I ignored the pessimistic imp and parked the rest of my things, prepared to leave for my home. After last night's strenuous exercise with Niklaus, I needed my beauty sleep.

"I'm grateful for both of your support but it's time for me to take my leave, "I told them but both of their gazes met before returning to me; the expectant look on their faces made me uneasy.

"What ?"

Why were they staring at me like that?

"We were wondering if we could spend the rest of the day at your place?" Anabelle fluttered her brows enticingly and pouted.

"No way" I rejected the idea right away, no wonder she was being suddenly gentle.

"Why?" Anabelle whined.

"I'm not bringing trouble to my doorstep"

"But you said we're lovely angels"

"When both of you are on your best behavior"

"Fine, I promise to be a good girl" Anabelle promised with a swearing gesture.

I looked towards Isabella, she threw an exasperated shrug, "Are we leaving or not?"

With a deep sigh, I had no choice but to take these two devils home. It was obvious I was going to regret this but for some strange reason, my fate was deeply intertwined with them - the more I tried to escape, the deeper I encountered them.

"Taxi! " I flagged down one and ushered the kids into the cab while giving the driver the address of my place.

"Do you think you got the role?" The ever-inquisitive Anabelle asked.

Sometimes I wished she was as smart as Isabella - her questions could get tiring at times. Well, I guess children her age should be like that - Isabella was definitely abnormal.

"I don't know yet but they would be in contact with me" I answered, then fixed my gaze on Isabella asking,

"You're quiet, what's the problem?"

"I'm trying to hold back my tongue, else someone says I'm rude," She said with a bored expression hinting I wasn't going to let her be if she made a rude remark.

"Then keep up the good work" I complimented her and laid back on the headrest with a sigh.

Hardly had I closed my eyes for a short rest, did our car skid to a halt, my heart almost jumped out of my chest at the unexpected braking.

"Are you okay?" I asked the kids who looked fine aside from their shocked expressions.

Our driver was panicking causing me to look out only to discover our car was overtaken by another who crossed our path - it was a lonely lane to crown it.

Figures emerged from the car and they didn't look friendly at all, my heart raced but I composed myself and screamed at the driver, "Drive back now! Get the hell out of here!"

Though he was frightened, he obeyed nevertheless and moved back only to bump into another car which blocked us from behind -God, we're surrounded.

"Don't move out, remain seated - " I was still firing orders but the driver had already left the car with his hand in the air.

He was knocked down to the ground with a punch eliciting a scream from the frightened Anabelle who was sitting beside the other edge of the passenger seat.

Chaos ensued and it happened all too quickly.

I was trying to calm the screaming Anabelle and locking the driver seat from inside so they didn't get access but it was too late.

They were faster and grabbed Anabelle out of the car while I kicked the car door open, slamming it against the head of one of the men who was trying to get to my side of the car.

With quick reflexes, I swung a fist at the same man sending him to the ground while dodging another attack that came from behind.

I sidestepped his attack once more causing him to aim awry, grabbed a fistful of his strands from behind till some fell off and brought it down hard on the car roof and he collapsed.

A kick at my back knocked the breath out of me but there was no time to consider the pain.

Lying against the car with a breath heavy, I dropped down in time just as a punch landed on my previous position, his fist connecting with the car window; the momentum shattering the glass.

I rammed my knee into his gut causing him to bend over before finishing him with a vicious kick that made him rotate in the air before kissing the ground.

Whipping around with my hands clenched and a fierce gaze, I stopped short when I saw a knife being held against Anabelle and Isabella's throat.

"Let the kids go, it's me you want right?" I said to Gerard with my hands raised in the air as a form of surrender.

How could I not know him? After that night with Sakuzi, I was curious to know how much of a sacrifice Niklaus had made on my behalf- what value did the ledger hold for someone determined to kill me willingly exchange me for it.

I found out Gerald was the leader of some gang who specializes in luring women with cash loans and when they couldn't pay back, uses them for prostitution - they run a loan shark business that rips people off.

But that was just one of the many illegal businesses and crimes they committed. They must have given the Spencer group a tough time which led to them risking their lives just to get in possession of their ledger.

It was no secret that an enemy getting their hands on one's business transaction record was trouble. So Gerald had no choice than to steer clear of the Spencer's but now the ledger was in Sakuzi's grip, he was free to strike.

"Smart bitch " He cursed, licking his lips while his lewd eyes rested on my shoulder where my shirt was torn thanks to the intense fight earlier.

"You sure she's the girl?" Gerald asked one of his men.

"Quite sure. We kept vigilant and saw that son of a bitch enter and leave her apartment this morning"

Great, Niklaus unintentionally led me to them, I should have known.

I wasn't stupid, I could surmise what was going on in that mind of theirs. They were probably thinking I held a special place in Niklaus' heart and would kidnap me with the hope of using me against him.

Damn it! I could have fought my way out of here if these kids weren't being a liability to me right now. Isabella was calm but the same wasn't said for the other cousin who was crying with snots running down her nose.

So far I haven't seen any gun - no matter how quick and strong I was, I couldn't outrun a bullet - but that doesn't mean they didn't have one on them.

Gerald was a crazy man and wouldn't hesitate to end the kids life if I pushed his button, I had to tread carefully here.

"I would go willingly with you once you let them go "

"Whether I let the kids go or not, you're still coming with us, " He told me firmly.

I took a step forward but guns were automatically aimed at me - so much for hoping there were no guns around, things just got complicated.

"You're a good fighter, I don't trust you so get down on your knees" He commanded me and let go of Anabelle, pushing her to his nearest men to catch.

I glowered at him yet plonked down to the ground, their lives were more valuable than my pride.

Gerald approached me, gripped my chin too tightly, and tipped my head upward as he examined my looks.

"Not bad," he said, scrutinizing me the way a merchant would to goods before purchasing, "With your skills and looks, you would be a good asset to me "

"In your dreams," I told him through gritted teeth, then spat at his face with pure disgust.

His face darkened and scrunched up, before I could guess his intentions, that bastard punched me straight in the stomach.

My world swirled while a sharp cry of pain was drawn from my lips as I clutched my stomach and fell sideways to the ground. He didn't even let me catch my breath and pulled me up by the hair causing me to wince.

His breath hit my face, "You and I are going to have a lot of fun sweetie "

Shivers ran down my spine, the creepy twinkle in his eyes told me I was not going to like his idea of fun.

He shoved me roughly to the ground.

"Tie them up and toss them in the booths " Gerald was still giving his orders when gunshots from nowhere took them out one after the other.

The shooter was an expert since his shots were with precision and hit their targets at vital points.

There was a hot exchange of bullets and Isabella was smart enough to grab Anabelle and they hid behind a car for cover.

While holding their own in the shootout, Gerald ordered one of his men to take me away.

I pretended to be weaker than I already was and the moment he was within reach, sprang up like a cat and kicked his gun away.

He backhanded me with this force that made me see stars that I had to shake my head to rid the dizziness, but that allowed my assaulter the opportunity to hurl me over his shoulder.

I wanted to retaliate but I had reached my limit; my body was aching all over - I resigned myself to fate.

Suddenly I heard a bang and a grunt, the man buckled to his knees and I fell from his shoulder, hitting my head hard on the concrete ground and lost consciousness.

Chapter 152 - One Hundred And Fifty-two: Protect The Girl

Niklaus' point of view

I couldn't sweep away the uneasy feeling of being watched, but no matter how much my gaze darted around, I came up with nothing.

Why was I uncomfortable and restless? Was it because I was feeling guilty knowing I endangered Maya by coming to her place last night?

I picked up my phone and called Judy at once. For some reason, my eyebrows kept twitching and I had this premonition that something bad was about to happen.

"Judy speaking"

"I need status on Maya" I ordered him the moment he answered.

"Sure, give me a few minutes," He said to me and ended the call.

I tapped my finger on my laps uneasily while tousling my already messy hair, anxiously waiting for Judy's report.

My phone rang two minutes later, it was Judy.

"Where is she?"

"In E-building for the audition"

Oh right, I forgot about that. No wonder she woke up quite earlier than usual.

"Alright, keep an eye on her. Report to me if anything unusual happens" I was about to end the call when he added

"Your daughter is there too"

Well, that was not surprising, Isabella had now formed a tight bond with Maya; if she didn't go to show her support, who would?

"Watch my daughter with care? - especially what she purchases and ensure she doesn't cause trouble " I emphasized.

Since she was out in the open where she could get her hands on whatever she wanted, who knows what that little imp would bring into her possession this time?

Well, I would order a thorough search once she was back, yet my daughter was smart; prevention was better than cure.

"Alright sir "

The call ended, I took a deep sigh of relief and relaxed against my car's headrest.

"Where do we head to, sir?" Micheal, my chauffeur who I had called to drive me back, asked.

"To the company'

Though the unsettling feeling in my stomach didn't go away, I could now breathe since Judy was watching over them- he would keep them safe or so I thought.

In the company, I hardly settled down when my secretary walked into my office with a nervous look and a file in hand.

I looked up vexed, "What is it?"

He gulped before placing the file on my desk, opened, and revealed the list beneath for me to take a glance while making a sigh of the cross when he thought I wasn't looking.

My brows scrunched up as I glanced through the engagement arrangements in which the budget rounded up to a hundred billionaire dollars.

I pinched the space between my brows out of irritation while I went through the list just to be sure my eyes weren't deceiving me.

This wasn't even our wedding but an engagement party and she was going all out like this? Does she think I plunk my money from a tree?

Yes, I had enough money that I could not exhaust in this lifetime but it was a product of my blood and sweat. It would have been a lot understandable if I was funding a project, not this!

If our engagement could cost this, our wedding arrangements would probably be an astronomical sum.

With a glare, I tossed the file back to him which he caught swiftly.

I barked, "Return to me when you've made reasonable adjustments "

"But sir, she -"

"Are you the one marrying her or me?" I cut him off.

He swallowed nervously and wiped the sweat dripping down his forehead, "Of course not, I wouldn't dare to "

"Your girlfriend is high maintenance, I can't even date her " I could see the look plastered all over his face but didn't say anything.

"Make the door your friend"

"Yes sir " He bowed and left.

I loosened the tie on my neck but took it off eventually, tossing it to the back of my seat - I needed to breathe and it was ceasing the little air I could get into my lungs.

Tina was definitely my retribution for all the heartbreaks and bad things I have done to all the women I've ever dated and slept with. This was karma paying me back in my own coin by using Christina, f*ck the universe.

Today was destined to be a bad day because after the witch pissed me off with her ridiculous list, there came another tragic news: Maya and my kid were involved in an accident.

I raced to the hospital like a madman - my employees would never forget the sight of me speeding to my destination like the Flash.

My mind blanked, what happened? Didn't Judy have his eyes on them? The thought of losing my daughter and Maya made my heart pound so erratically, it felt like it would leap out of my chest.

"Where is she?" I roared at Judy once I reached the hospital and didn't wait for him to direct me since my gaze found her.

I engulfed my daughter in a tight hug; so tight that Isabella complained.

"At this rate, I'll die from suffocation"

I loosened my hold but didn't let her go, pressing her flush against me; relieved to feel her beating heart; relieved to feel her hot breath on my neck.

I pulled back and rained kisses on her face while the girl just tensed up in my arms. I was so close to losing her today and the thought frightened me greatly - the fear made me numb.

Aside from a scratch on her face and bruise where she had scraped her hand on the concrete, she looked okay.

I was still checking her when Eden burst into the room and engulfed his daughter in a tight hug, his behavior similar to what I've done to my daughter moments ago.

"What happened?" I inquired.

I was too anxious over my daughter's safety to ask what had happened earlier.

"We were attacked; some brawny scary looking men with guns surrounded us "

"Maya fought against them but they were just too many " Anabelle contributed.

Speaking of Maya," Where is she?"

"She's in the operating room. From what I know so far, she suffered a concussion, two broken ribs, and some bruises "

"What?!"

"It was Gerald's doing " Judy disclosed.

The shock was yet to wear off when a punch met me straight in the face. My face swiped to the side as I staggered before glancing up at Eden with a glare.

"This is all your fault!" He growled and moved for a second blow but I intercepted him, grabbed his arm, and threw him over my shoulder eliciting a shriek from the frightened Anabelle.

We both launched to our feet with quick reflexes and prepared to charge at each other when Judy got between us.

"Would you two lovestruck fools behave for once" He scolded the both of us sternly with a fierce gaze.

"Idiots" Isabella mumbled under her breath, shaking her head with her arms folded across her chest.

"What would Maya say if she saw you two behaving like hormonal teenagers ?" Judy queried sternly.

"She would punch some senses into their retarded brain probably" surmised Isabella once again.

Once the anger died off, I indeed realized how stupid both of us were.

leaving the room and far away from the children's earshot, I began my interrogation - not giving a damn to Eden who was standing beside me with an expressionless look.

"How did this happen? Didn't I ask you to keep an eye on her?"

"I did but his men fooled me. I had been following at a safe distance when his men disguised in police uniform erected a roadblock. Before I could get to them, they had already been rescued with Gerald and his men eradicated"

"Who rescued them?" Eden asked this time.

"I have no idea, they cleaned their trace perfectly" Judy answered.

"Fine, what's important is that Maya is alive and I hope like hell I don't see you near her "
" Eden said his piece and left.

"Is Sakuzi, isn't it ?" I asked Judy after ensuring our discussion wasn't being eavesdropped on.

"I couldn't find any evidence linking them, but the killing pattern? That's their MO" Judy pointed out, then asked in confusion.

"It's confusing, why would he go through the trouble of saving the girl? He could have just ended Maya's life and blamed it on Gerald- heck, why would he even save her from Gerald?"

I faced him, " He has marked her, Judy. Aside from him, no one else is to end the girl, and ending her in such a manner, is a great loss to him - he would do it right in front of me "

" What are you going to do?"

"You're relieved of your services " I dropped out of nowhere.

Judy was dumbfounded," What?"

"From now on, you're free from serving me "

"You can't be serious"

"I'm never been serious than now "

He grabbed my arm "Do you understand the implication of what you're doing? Who would protect you?"

"You're not the only shadow guard available, Judy. You're no longer under me but your job from henceforth is to protect the girl "

"Maya?" His hand fell, "No wonder"

Chapter 153 - One Hundred And Fifty-three : Did She Die?

The third point of view

"What have you been doing?! " Angela yelled at her daughter.

Kim was startled, her face scrunched up in confusion, "I don't understand"

She had not been home last night to cover up for the works piled up on her desk she had missed the past few days thanks to Tina's whimsical errands. But what she never expected to meet was her mom's cold and furious reception.

Her mother smirked mirthlessly with her brows slightly raised, "You don't understand?"

Before Kim could guess her intention, Angela picked these papers from the empty side of the sofa and threw them at her face.

The look of fury on her mother's face made her question herself, had she done anything wrong? But when she thought about it, the result came up null.

Perplexity flashed across Kim's feature as she went through the papers but that look soon evolved into bewilderment.

Her lips quivered, "How is this possible?" She glanced up at her mother, searching for answers.

"You're asking me? Whose responsibility was it to keep her from getting involved with the company's matters?"

Kim wet her lips and tucked her hair behind her ear after taking a deep breath, "Fine, I admit it. This was a mistake on my part but it wouldn't repeat."

She waved the papers and went on "There's no need to panic, it's just? seven percent share compared to my massive shares with yours and dad's altogether; she can do little to nothing with it as far as we get the other shareholders on our side"

"I've invested so much on you Kimberly and don't plan on losing, let's hope everything goes as you said, " Angela told her and marched back to her room.

With seething anger, Kim envisaged Maya as the papers; she scrunched it into a ball, threw it to the ground, and began to step on it.

"Die you witch! Why can't you die?! Must you ruin my life?!"

"Ma'am, are you okay? " Her angry outburst attracted one of the maids who asked out of concern.

"Are you okay in the head?" Kim gestured to her brain.

"What?" The maid was now confused.

"Who invited you here? Did I ask you to interfere?"

"No ma'am, I was just worried over-" she was still talking when a slap met her face causing her to let out a sharp gasp.

"Ma'am?" The poor girl questioned in disbelief, hand pressed against her red cheek while tears welled in her eyes.

Kim scoffed, "Worried about me? More like you're here to laugh at my misery?"

The girl's lips trembled causing tears to trail down her cheeks as she shook her head frantically, "Of course not Miss, why would I dare to laugh at you?"

"Perhaps, you're Maya's spy?" She accused her outrageously.

"Miss, that's impossible -"

"Did she send you to spy on me?" Kim dropped her clutch purse on the floor and grabbed the girl on the hair, pulling tight at her strands.

"You lowly thing, she sent you here, didn't she?!" She took out her anger on the maid.

As much as the maid wanted to fight back, she couldn't. Though Kim wasn't her employee, Angela granted her daughter's every request. So she couldn't get fired, she needed the money desperately even if it meant taking Kim's cruelty.

"Ma'am please have mercy on me, I didn't do anything wrong" The girl pleaded continuously, the tears streaming from her eyes while trying to loosen Kim's grip on her hair.

"Oh my God, young miss! " The housekeeper whose attention had been grabbed by the painful sobs and grunts coming from the living room rushed to separate them.

"Help me, someone should help me!"

"You b*tch! You should go and die"

"Miss Kim, enough already"

The wrangle drew other staff who finally succeeded in ripping Kimberly away from the maid.

She was kicking furiously in the air and her hand, a few strands came out due to her forceful grip. The maid cried, burying her face in the chest of a staff who had no choice than to rub her back comfortingly.

Kim cursed furiously as the maid was led away, her face livid with anger.? "Pray I never see that ugly face of yours around!"

With a murderous glare, she brushed off the fallen strands from her hands,

shook free their grip on her arm, then picked her purse from where she had dropped it earlier and stormed into her room; the door closed with a bang.

Kim swept everything off her vanity table and stared into the mirror: her eyes were red and thirsted for blood.

Upon everything she had done, that bitch managed to secure some shares right under her nose?

Thinking about it irked her, she just wanted to strangle the life out of Maya!.

Everything belonged to her, that bitch was nothing but an illegitimate seed, her mother's greatest mistake was allowing her to live; she should have aborted her when she had the opportunity.

Nothing but sheer hatred was seen in Kimberly's eyes. Though she had everything and her parent's affection from childhood, she still wasn't content - she wanted even the very ground she stepped on to be worshipped.

Right from childhood, she had seen the way Maya was loved by all and sundry save her parents who showed little to no attention.

Grandmother and even the servants held admiration for her plus it was easy for her to form friends - Maya had a likable attitude which drew people easily to her like a magnet which Kim didn't like one bit.

Maya was nothing but filth - she didn't belong in the same social standing as her, sister, or not -so why should she get that much attention? Everybody was supposed to treat her indifferently!

At that moment, young Kim decided she would never let her younger sister be happy and took matters into her own hands.

The first step was getting Maya's friends to her side which was pretty easy with gifts and money.

Thankfully, both attended a school full of pompous elites who looked down on commoners and bastards.

Kim didn't do much, just exposed the fact she was an illegitimate child and a country pumpkin and the rest was history working to her heart desires.

At home, she ostracized the maids from communing with her with a threat of losing their jobs once caught.

Then she purposely sabotaged the little attention her parents showed Maya - she didn't even break a sweat on that one.

It was not hard to get her relatives on her side, her only obstacle was grandmother from the beginning to now. Kim had nothing on the old woman moreover, she had always been scared of her.

Who knew after all this, Maya would still get to the position she was today.

Fine, she was Kimberly, she would come up with something to ruin that devil's spawn once and for all.

With that determination, Kim went into the bathroom and had her shower. The cool water running down her head calmed her, enough to think and strategize.

Hair dry blown and ready to rest, Kim lounged on her bed going through the Internet when certain news caught her attention.

She sat up with immediate effect while going through the news once again to confirm her eyes weren't playing tricks on her.

Suddenly, her lips slowly stretched to the side before bursting into boisterous laughter.

What the hell was this, the universe was on her side for once? Kim hysterical laughter tore through the quiet room that one would think she was going crazy.

She picked her phone and called her newly formed partner in crime, Christina.

Unlike the other times, the rich witch picked at the first ring.

"What is it? "

Talk about attitude.

Kim contemplated just ending the call but the thought of sharing this joyous news with a partner, made her body tingle with excitement.

"Have you seen the news?" She asked.

"What news?"

"Maya was involved in an incident "

"Did she die?"

Kim smirked, great minds think alike.

"Still in surgery as of the time of report"

"Huge disappointment then," she said with no hint of sympathy.

"Shouldn't we pay a visit to the hospital?" Kim suggested.

"I told you, no one should suspect we're working together. I'm going with Niklaus, find yours "

The call ended

"Find yours" Kim made a face and mockingly mimicked Tina's voice.

"Who wanted to leave with you, anyway?" She mumbled to herself.

Kim frowned, with everything that has happened between her and Maya so far, there was a probability the bitch would kick her out butIf she came with her mother and grandmother, she wouldn't act recklessly.

If luck is on her side and Niklaus sees her with a remorseful look on her face, it might change his opinion of her and provide an opportunity to attract him to her body - where was her low cut top.

But first thing first, she had to play the good granddaughter looking after her sister role.

Kim took a deep breath, cleared her throat, and called her grandmother.

"Grandmother..." Her tears filled voice faltered.

Chapter 154 - One Hundred And Fifty-Four: I'm Her Mother

"There has been a bloody clash between two gangs which has left eight members dead and four innocent victims injured. Among the victims is a newly booming celebrity who goes by the name of Maya Octavia and the two kids Anabelle and Isabella Spencer with their driver who were caught in the middle of the battle. Although the victims lost no life, Maya has been in intensive -"

The television was switched off.

"When did this happen?" Asked Adam who was sitting on his seat with a clenched fist, a hardened expression with fierce orbs.

"This afternoon Sir, " The guard who had been sent to answer the query said with a nervous expression. Though the air conditioner was on but sweat could be seen trailing down his face.

"And what were you doing during that period?"

"Sir, I followed after them but I was fooled by Gerald's men, they apparently -"

Bang.

A gunshot went off.

The man groaned when he felt a sudden pain in his left abdomen. All breath left his body while his legs gave out causing him to buckle to the ground, his face a twisted mess.

"Oops, sorry. I was aiming for the heart but mistakenly missed vital organs since I'm not a perfect shot" Adam said nonchalantly, blowing away the smoke that left the gun.

The man paled, he wasn't a fool! Adam didn't miss by mistake, he intentionally spared his life - but not without the pain.

The smile on Adam's face disappeared and was covered by a malicious shadow.

"You're a shadow guard, your responsibility is to ensure the survival of the Spencer heir- you might not get the chance to be reminded next time"

With his eyes, Adam signaled his men who had brought the fool in and remained indifferent to all that ensued in the room

"Take him out of my sight"

"Yes sir," Both chorused and grabbed the man on his arm, his blood forming a trail on the floor as he was being dragged away.

As soon as they left, Adam sank deeper into his seat with an exhausted sigh, pressing his temple.

This Maya of a girl was becoming a huge headache to him, she had all his kids wrapped around her fingers.

First was his son Niklaus, followed by his nephew Eden and his daughter Anabelle put into his care and now his granddaughter Isabella was not left out.

That girl was a witch else why would she possess so much control over them - they were hypnotized by her deceptive acts and beauty.

To make matters worse, his precious daughter Emily he had invested so much into had become a rebel. But what made his heart burn with fury was the fact she was whoring around with a shadow guard.

Didn't she see other reputable men around? Why a lowly shadow guard? Well, he knew how to handle that one, and his daughter would be back to him in no time.

His problem was that witch called Maya and that girl he had chosen for his son called Christina was not even doing a good job - it seems he made a mistake.

He clearly overestimated her, he had seen the fire in her eyes the first time and thought, this was the kind of woman that would have the heart to brave past every obstacle in her way, and the fact she came from a prominent family made things easier.

He didn't need any of those poor wretches for his son; Niklaus needed an asset and not a liability if he wanted to rule in his place.

Unlike him, that stupid son of his amid all the training had always been moved by emotion since young. A little heart-stirring event and he would cower, no wonder Maya easily got under his skin.

Which was why Adam had got his hands on Isabella from a very young age.

The girl was destined to make greater achievements than her father since she didn't let emotions get in her way. But that all changed lately; she no longer listened to him, all thanks to Maya.

Maya, Maya! He had the power to make her disappear out of this world but not when his kids were surrounding her like flocks of sheep - they would never forgive him for that as far as they still got their eyes on her.

The only thing he could do to separate them was make life harder for Maya until she gave up - but that would take time which he didn't have - or sell her off to his enemy which was faster and what he had done - alerting Gerald.

After his foolish son gave that ledger away, he knew it was only a matter of time till that ruthless gangster struck.

So Adam purposely shifted Gerald's attention to that witch by planting his men in that gang who suggested the idea to him.

He had everything planned well, once Gerald took that girl - he didn't care what he does to her - he would intercept his stupid son and nephew from launching a rescue or delay them until the girl was finished by his men going undercover in Gerald's gang.

It was killing two birds with one stone, his kids would not suspect him since all blame would be shifted to Gerald and the girl would be gone.

Yet he failed, and not only was his granddaughter's life endangered but the witch was rescued by his enemy, what was Sakuzi thinking?! Did that sly old man get an idea of his plan and did that to infuriate him?

Fine, this one failed but the next one wouldn't!

Meanwhile

"My poor granddaughter!" Granny Octavia cried the moment she heard the news.

"Grandmother, please watch your health" Kim pleaded.

"What's the use of being alive if Maya dies " The woman wailed louder, "That poor girl has suffered too much, she can't just go like this!"

"Why did you share this news with her when you know she'd be this way?" Angela rebuked her daughter.

Kim pursed her lips, she never expected this old woman would be emotional to this extent. She had done it to be tagged as a caring sister afterward.

She lowered her eyes apologetically, "I'm sorry, I didn't think about it. I just thought she'd -"

"Next time, think thoroughly"? Her mother cut her off.

Kim knew Angela treasured her mother even though she might not show in her actions - it seems she pulled a stupid move this time.

"Mother calm down, I'm going to the hospital to confirm your previous granddaughter didn't die and would get back to you later," Angela said to her calmly.

But granny grabbed her, "No take me to her, I want to see her with my both eyes! " She raved continuously, " I want to see my baby girl, who knows what those evil men did to her. I -"

"And what are you going to do?!" She flung her hand away out of anger, almost sending the poor woman to the ground if Kim and a maid had not captured her on time.

There was a remorseful look on Angela's face which was quickly masked by a passive one, "What are you going to do there? With you being like this, you're going to be nothing than a burden to her! "

Angela took a deep breath when she realized her anger got the best of her, "I'm her mother, trust me for once "

Kim's eyes narrowed into slits when she heard that statement but waved it away, her mother probably said that to placate grandmother.

But inwardly, Kim couldn't help but feel conflicted, was her mom now interested in her other daughter? No that was impossible, mother despised Maya.

"Wait for my news" Angela pressed her mother's shoulder tenderly before instructing the maid secretly, "Feed her a relaxant"

"Let's go" She gestured to her daughter Kimberly who strutted over to her in her wedge shoe.

Angela eyed Kim's lace off shoulder plunge top which showed off quite a voluminous amount of her ample breast yet didn't say anything - she must have her reason for wearing that.

There were some reporters at the entrance of the hospital but not to the point of being overwhelming.

By the time they arrived, the surgery was successfully done but they weren't allowed to see Maya since she was still in the recovery room where her vital signs were being monitored by nurses.

"You must be her mother " Angela heard someone say and turned to meet one of Spencer's kids.

"Yes, I am"? Angela knew him, he was constantly on television so it wasn't hard recognizing him.

"Now I see where she got her eyes" Eden flattered Maya's mother earning a wry smile in return.

It was truly amusing seeing both here, were they here to confirm if she was dead.

Angela saw the way Kim's eyes lit up when the other Spencer strode towards them with a look akin to a grim reaper's

Of course, she knew that one too.

The casanova and the one who blatantly threatened them in their own house all because she disciplined her daughter who has been whoring around with him.

"What are you doing here?" He growled at them without regard for the elderly.

The nerve of the boy.

Chapter 155 - One Hundred And Fifty-five: The Evil Mother-in-law

The third point of view

Anabelle and Isabella's injuries weren't serious, so after a series of check-ups, the kids were sent home - with enough security.

The anxiety in the surgical waiting room almost drove them crazy. Eden and Niklaus weren't talking to each other but they had the same agenda in mind; confirming Maya was okay.

Pacing up and down the room, Niklaus released a string of curses when a number he identified to be Tina's called.

"What do you want? " He spat, not bothering to hide the displeasure in his voice.

"I heard what happened"

"So what? You called to gloat "

"Is that what you think of me ?"

"Can't blame me, your reputation precedes you"

"I'm coming over "

" I swear to God Christina, if you're here to cause trouble I'll make sure -"

She hung up the call on him.

Niklaus took a slow, deep breath to calm himself down, this wasn't the right place or time to be angry.

This was his fault, he led them to Maya; if he hadn't come to her place last night, she'd been safe.

"I came as quick as I could"

Emily ran into the room with a heavy breath. Chest heaving and sweat all over the face was a sign she raced to this place.

"Where is she?"

"She's still in surgery" Eden answered.

"What happened?"

"She was attacked, that's what happened," Niklaus said to her harshly.

Her mouth quirked, Emily knew better when Niklaus was in a bad mood, so she quickly moved away from the fuming king kong and approached the tender looking chihuahua, Eden.

"Why is he like that?" She whispered to Eden, taking a seat beside him.

"He's in his period"

Emily gave him a dirty look, "I'm serious here. I get that Maya means at least a fraction to him and he's worried, but the look on his face is murderous, not anticipatory "

"Who knows? Ask him?" Eden shrugged his shoulder.

Emily knew he was lying, these brothers of hers tend to keep secrets from her.

From childhood, she had sensed her family was doing something illegal else why would the males be trained as if their life depended on it while the female pampered and kept away from all of it.

One time, she had found a gun in her father's study. Sure, once licensed you could carry a gun but discovering a whole armory of it? That was something else but she kept mum; her father would never do anything to put them in danger.

"Why don't you seem affected," Emily asked out of curiosity.

"What do you mean?" Eden glanced up from his cellphone.

"I mean you're nonchalant, heck- look at Niklaus" she pointed to the man pacing up and down at regular intervals.

"He's so worried- watching him makes me dizzy - but the point is the anxiety, fear, and stress is written over his face. But you? You're too relaxed"

"Because I have faith in Maya"

" Huh?"

"The girl's as tough as crap" he added, " And don't compare me to your brother- the guilt is eating him alive," Eden said.

"What guilt?" She queried him but once again, he pretended he didn't hear her question with his eyes glued to his phone.

"How's she, doctor? "

Their head snapped to the smiling face of the doctor Niklaus was currently monopolizing.

"The surgery was a successful one though we moved her to the recovery room to monitor her progress, you should be able to see her in no time, "The doctor explained.

" Alright, thank you "

The doctor left just as Niklaus released a breath he has been holding in for a while now.

His phone rang, it was Tina.

"I'm here, where are you?"

"Wait wherever you are " Niklaus ordered and left to pick her up.

" I'm guessing that's the witch," Emily predicted.

"It's quite obvious, she's the only person capable of producing deep wrinkles on your brother's face "

Emily chuckled, she felt pity for her brother who was tied deeply under their father's clutches.

"I swear to God if my brother marries that woman, I'm changing my surname "

"Then you should go on with your plan now cause your brother won't be getting Maya"

Emily whipped around," What do you mean?"

"I like Maya" Eden confessed

Emily swallowed," You seriously can't be thinking of competing with Niklaus for Maya's heart?"She asked in disbelief.

"There's no need for competing, your brother is fighting a losing battle. I let him have Kay, but this time? I'm not giving up " He declared fiercely.

"But - "

He interrupted her" And here comes my evil mother-in-law and her daughter "

Their eyes settled on the figure who stepped into the waiting room.

Emily's face scrunched up as she regarded Kim, "Did she come to seduce a potential mate or come to visit her injured sister? "

"I wonder, but I'm not complaining about the view though"

Emily glared at him.

"Wish me good luck, I'm about to speak with my mother-in-law " He requested of her while brushing invisible dust off the back of his pants.

"Whatever" She rolled her eyes.

You must be her mother?" Eden inquired, and judging from the look on her face he knew she recognized him - probably from the television, this was the first time they were meeting.

"Yes, I am"? she answered him.

"Now I see where she got her eyes" Eden tried his flattery skills but all he got in reply was a wry smile which signaled the end of their discussion since she ignored him - he was dealing with an ice queen.

"What are you doing here?" Boomed Niklaus' voice from behind with anger.

Eden chuckled mentally, the show was about to begin - he would sit this out.

"And what kind of question is that?" Angela thundered back, she wouldn't take that insult from him; she was old enough to be his mother.

"You have no right to be here"

"She's my daughter, so I have every right to be here"

"No," Niklaus disagreed with her, "You gave up your right the night you signed those documents!"

"The documents you forced us to sign!" Angela clarified.

"Because none of you deserve to be her family"

"And you are ?" She snorted, "Now tell me what did you do for her? Marry her? Or use and dump her cause I'm sure as hell this woman beside you is your fiancée !"

A loud bang came from the lady at the front desk inside the surgical waiting area and she warned, "Please this is a hospital, you can take your disputes elsewhere, don't force me to call security"

Everyone quieted down but battled with their thoughts internally.

There was a prominent frown on Kim's face, she didn't like the unsettling feeling in her chest. This was the first time her mother was getting into a dispute over her other daughter? Was she reconsidering her attitude towards Maya? It made her restless.

Christina tried her best to hide her embarrassment but her mask cracked faster than she thought. Here she was with her man who was engrossed in defending another woman, it was a shame to her pride.

Angela was fuming, yes, she admitted she has not been a great motherly figure but she wasn't a monster, she had to make sure that girl was alright. Then, she would be comfortable enough to continue with her daily life.

Niklaus was feeling a bit of anger laced with guilt, everything that happened so far was his fault - he wouldn't deny that. But what right did those two devils have coming here, did they come to gloat at Maya or confirm if she was dead?

Emily was uncomfortable in her seat, the negative energy in here was so oppressing it was hard to breathe. Why couldn't they settle their matters diplomatically.

Eden was unconcerned, his only desire was confirming nothing was wrong with Maya. Niklaus and the rest could go to hell as long as he cared.

Thus, everyone was alone with their thoughts until they were finally ushered into Maya's room after a warning not to distress the patient who was still asleep.

Maya was moved into a VIP room thanks to the Spencers. She was dressed in the hospital clothes and lay on the bed with a pale complexion.

Her eyes were closed in sleep, there was a band-aid where she had hit her head and the beeping noise from the heart machine pierced the quiet room.

"How is she?" The doctor was questioned as soon as he stepped into the room to record her vitals.

"The blow she sustained fractured two of her ribs but she was lucky, none of them injured her lungs so there is no risk of punctured lungs"

Some people were relieved while a few weren't gladdened by the good news.

"Most broken ribs resolve within six weeks but due to the fact she received surgery in which we used plates and screws to stabilize the ribs, her recovery would be much faster and painless compared to others but ..."

"But what?" Eden inquired.

"When one has a rib fracture, the muscles used for breathing pull on the ribs causing breathing to be very painful, so you should be careful of the emotion you elicit from her. Coughing, laughing and sneezing can send her sharp pain, not to mention if she can't breathe deeply, she stands the risk of pneumonia "

" So what do you suggest?"

"At the moment, the girl needs adequate rest and your presence here might be a bit overwhelming and noisy. I suggest you leave and return tomorrow since it's late already, but a family member can sleepover and take care of her "

"I'll stay, " Angela offered, much to everyone's surprise.

Chapter 156 - One Hundred And Fifty-six: You Know About My Father

Maya's point of view.

My eyelids fluttered open and closed, opened once more, and took in the drowsy environment. Images were a blurry sight until I squeezed my eyes and tried looking again, where was I?

The machines attached to me hinted I was in the hospital but when a certain face hovered over me, my heart skipped a beat.

I jerked upright without warning but the sudden movement caused a sharp twinge to shoot from my stomach to my chest, I groaned in pain.

It was so painful that tears spurted from my eyes, I had no choice but to bite down on my lips and endure the torture as it faded away slowly.

"What do you think you're doing, do you want to end your life that badly?" She scolded me while laying me back on the bed gently - that was very weird.

"What the hell happened?" I ignored her chidings, going straight to my question.

"You don't remember?" Angela asked in surprise.

I shook my head, feeling the band-aid on my temple with my hand. I couldn't remember anything, my memory was scrambled.

"There was an incident, you're badly Injured " she disclosed to me.

My face scrunched, " I still can walk, right?"

I've watched enough movies to know that when scenes like this happen, the female lead ends up paralyzed. The doctor tells her she might never be able to walk and then months later, she begins to even leap.

Kim's mother gave me the look,

"What do you think?"

There was a deadpanned look on her features but I didn't trust her one bit and checked for myself by slightly lifting my leg.

Phew, what a relief. Being unable to walk was a nightmare - least to me. Done with my confirmation, my gaze settled on Kim's mother.

"So why are you here? Of all people, why are you the face I woke up to?" I gave Angela questionable looks. It was super awkward, the way she tended to me like this.

"Why? I shouldn't be here?" She asked with a straight face but I could sense the tightness in her voice.

"Who knows? Perhaps you're here to confirm I was dead so you could live on with your life finally?"

"It would be such a relief if that happened," She taunted me, "But I'm here, so your grandmother doesn't hassle me "

I chuckled, "Does your wonderful daughter Kimberly know you're nursing me to good health? If I could move around with ease it'd be so comforting."

" What do you mean?"

"What I mean is that I don't need someone putting something into my drink out of jealousy," I said, hinting her daughter might harm me now I was disabled thinking I wanted to snatch her mother's attention from her.

"Kim would never do such a thing" she refuted my claim firmly.

I tried to laugh but the side of my stomach hurt so much leaving me with no choice but to settle for a smirk.

"Then you don't know what your daughter is capable of doing at all "

She was annoyed, " I know my daughter like the back of my hand and she would never think of murdering anyone because it is not in her blood!"

"I'm your daughter too! " I blurted.

I regret saying that out loud, but the words flowed out of my mouth before I could take it back.

Averting my eyes, I looked everywhere but her, and thankfully the doctor coming in cleared the awkward tension hanging in the air.

"How do you feel?" He asked and flashed a small flashlight into my eyes that made me blink and squint repeatedly.

"I feel good -"

"She has lapses in her memory" Angela divulged to the doctor causing me to roll my eyes towards heaven - after the doctor had withdrawn his torchlight.

Angela was confusing me, I couldn't tell if she was genuinely concerned about my health or just playing the role of a concerned mother so people wouldn't talk.

Well, she was probably on with her pretense. Someone who wanted to abort me when in the stomach and didn't care about me growing up, why would she care about me now? The truth hurts but it is better than being fed with false hope.

"She suffered a concussion so the loss of memory is common. The effects are subtle and temporary but can last for days, weeks, or months and even years depending on how traumatic the injury was to the brain.

"As her mother, you should be alert, during this period because your daughter might experience problems with balance, concentration, coordination, and memory-as you complained"

I wanted badly to roll on my belly and laugh so hard till tears came off but I couldn't - ugh, this was so frustrating.

But the doctor's words were funny,

"As a mother? Daughter?" Hahaha - ouch, my stomach.

"Sure, doctor" She nodded, "I'll be sure to take note of that. Thanks for your time, doctor"

Angela even smiled at him and the doctor left.

"I'm afraid I'm an amateur," I said.

She took her phone out of her handbag resting on the vanity table beside me, "How so?"

I stared at Kim's mother in mocking awe "I need to tip my hat to you, you're an almighty pretender; it's no wonder both daughters got their acting skills from you"

She gave me a look of disdain, scrolling through her phone unconcerned.

"Doesn't it get tiring?"

Angela sighed vexed, "What is it this time?"

I looked her in the eyes, "Being this way, don't you get tired?"

My badgering must have gotten to her this time cause she dropped the cellphone, scratched the bridge of her nose, and began, "Am a human and it gets tiring always looking out for a daughter whose very existence threatens my happiness"

Her words pricked my heart, but I refused to show it, "What's so bad about being an illegitimate daughter? I get that you're ashamed of my very existence but it's been years -heck, I'm twenty-four! It's been god-damned twenty-four....!?" I winced from the pain in my chest.

F*ck this injury! I needed to give this woman a piece of my mind!

"Your precious daughter Kim, what has she achieved so far if not being a lawyer which she was able to accomplish because of your support. But for me, what have you done for me mother? Tell me ?! "

"The fact you're that man's daughter disqualifies you from receiving anything from me !" She said in an outburst.

I froze, then my eyes narrowed into slits as her words dawned on me, "That man's daughter?" I pointed out.

Angela trembled, I saw a trace of fear flicker across her face proving the fact she knew something about him.

"You talk as if you know my father?"

She threw her face to the side briskly, "I have no idea what you're talking about?" Angela denied it as usual.

"You called him 'that man' with a tone that shows acquaintance not to mention the nostalgic look" My heart hammered against my chest, there was this nervousness mix with excitement coursing through my vein at the thought of uncovering this secret.

"Didn't you say you were taken advantage of? Why do I feel you had a night of passion with another man and blamed it on rape in order not to get caught by your hus-

A slap met my cheek.

I wasn't surprised, I saw it coming and did nothing to avoid it. The slap stung my cheeks but it just proved my point, Angela knew about my father.

"It was a mistake coming here "She picked her bag in a haste to leave my room but I followed after her.

"No, you're not leaving" I grabbed her arm, even though my side was hurting like crazy.

"Tell me about my father, I need to know about him!"

She struggled with me but I felt a sudden ringing in my ears before my vision blurred and lost consciousness

By the time I woke up, a different face was by my bedside, were they taking turns? Eden cast a heated gaze on me, what did I do this time?

"Hey"

The words hardly left my mouth when he pulled me into a hug albeit very gently because of my injury.

I was stunned, simply limped against him while he rubbed my back; I didn't see that one coming.

"Nobody would hurt you anymore" He murmured against my ears before pulling away.

As comforting as his words were, why does it seem like there was a story backing it.

"Your family would never come near you" he tucked my hair behind my ear.

Definitely weird but my attention was on something else, "I don't understand, Eden "

"Your mother would not touch you ever again "

I gulped, an unsettling feeling rising in my belly.

"What did you do, Eden?" There was a slight panic in my voice.

"I saw it when she pushed you to the ground, I came into your room that very moment. But that worry, I had her locked up; she would pay for her crime"

Uh-oh, it seems Eden was misunderstanding something here. Yes, she did slap me but that was because I provoked her, the whole fainting issue was caused by my frail health.

"You don't understand, Eden" I expressed myself animatedly, "She didn't push me, I was the one who lost consciousness "

Eden clasped my face with both palms, "You don't need to cover up for her anymore sweetheart, she'd pay for hurting you"

I tried explaining again but the more I did, the more convinced Eden was that I was covering for my mother. His mind was determined.

Oh boy, what have I done?

Chapter 157 - One Hundred And Fifty-seven: I Want To Invade Your Heart

Maya's point of view

I finally got Eden to drop the lawsuit.

Don't get me wrong, I wanted Kim's mother to suffer but not in this way. The accusation this time was wrong: I fell and lost consciousness not because she pushed me.

With my health right now and Eden's support, I could easily win the case but I wouldn't be at rest.

My conscience would always remind me of the fact I accused someone falsely - God, I hated that I was such a big softie.

But then, Eden didn't do me the favour for free; he would drop the case if I allowed him to take care of me throughout my stay in the hospital.

Well, who was I to refuse such a huge favor? My mom- scratched that- Kim's mother wasn't returning - that was for sure -? I was all alone and his company wouldn't be bad since he's proven he harbors no evil intention towards me.

Right now, I was in my bed while Eden was peeling apples for me. A task he did with so much seriousness one might think he was caving a cultural artifact.

Thanks to him I got to learn about the events that led to the incident which my brain failed to recover. Each time I try to remember that incident, this fog confuses me.

I was just grateful the kids were fine, if anything had happened to them on my watch? I don't think I would be able to live with that amount of guilt.

"By the way, you won," Eden suddenly announced.

"Won what ?"

" The lead role "

My face lit up, my hands flew to my mouth out of surprise," I really got the female lead role?"

"Yes, Isaac got to announce the news after they decided yesterday" he added, "But don't rejoice yet "

I frowned, "What are you talking about?"

"You have the role but I rejected it, You'd get the supporting role instead"

"What ?! " I winced, totally forgetting the pains from stressing my chest.

"Are you crazy?" I whispered, regulating my breath.

"What did you do that for? Do you know how much time and energy I spent just to ensure I got that? Who gave you the right to take that away from me? I earned that with my sweat" came my spite through gritted teeth.

Eden rolled his eyes, "Are you going to listen to my explanation or not?"

I was angry, very angry, even though my injuries wouldn't let me express it the way I wanted. I worked hard but he took my reward away from me with no care? Fine, I'll calm - Let's just hope he has a valid reason for that.

"Niklaus might be the general overseer but I'm the president of this subsidiary for years and I know this industry more than him " he went on.

"That bullheaded cousin of mine caused a huge ruckus for that lead role: a lot of my famous artists targeted it but he threatened them off.

"Some of them couldn't take that disgrace lying down and you of all people should know how pompous stars are ?"

Of course, how wouldn't I know? Some stars are rude and arrogant because their success has gotten into their head.

"Though this incident brought you some sympathy from fans, you're still one of the upcoming stars with the highest number of anti-fans because of the scandal; it'd take a lot of time to wipe that foul impression completely.

"Which would be worse if you get that lead role. You were attacked by gangsters yesterday, tomorrow might be anti-fans"

I wiped my face with my palm, breaking down his words to my understanding capacity.

I had an association with Niklaus and Eden, so as a rookie actress who gets the lead role when there are hundreds of professional and known actresses who could play that role perfectly, it was sure going to attract attention.

Netizen would label me a slut who sleeps around for money and roles. The second role will draw talks too but the intensity would be lesser compared to the first.

Eden thought of it thoroughly.

"It's risky but you can still choose the lead role but the public might always perceive you as a controversial actress and you might need to project a villainess image in future projects and marketing" Eden explained.

"Fine, I'll go with the second role " I decided. I don't want to strive to be who I wasn't just to gain a role.

"But that still doesn't qualify you to decide for me, at least seek my consent first " I chided him.

" I just did "

" What ?"

"I haven't rejected the role yet, just tricked you into giving me your opinion"

Between both of the cousins, I didn't know which one was better: Niklaus who hardly seeks my permission before helping out, or Eden who tricks me into getting what he wants.

"Fine, just do whatever you want " I lay on my bed slowly and carefully.

Breathing was such a huge job to me but the doctor recommended taking deep breaths even if it hurts to keep off pneumonia.

I looked towards the door hoping for a certain person to walk in but nothing happened. I wanted to ask Eden if he visited but I couldn't, both of them disliked each other.

"Here, I am done with this" Eden placed the plate of sliced apples on the table.

"You should take those to get better" he advised after discovering I wasn't interested in the fruit.

"Where are you going? " I asked Eden.

He got to his feet, brushing invisible dust from the back and sides of his pants, "I need to leave "

"Work?"

"Uh-huh," He murmured, then glanced up with a grin at the corners of his lips, "Why? You miss me already?"

I snorted, "Miss, my butt. I just need you around for the errands, you know how demanding I can be sometimes "

Without warning, Eden propelled himself forward, supporting himself by pressing against the wall as he hovered over me.

"What are you doing?" I gulped, "You promised not to do anything to me" came my reminder as his breath ghost over my face.

"Why is it you?" He asked and I blinked in confusion.

What's he saying this time?

"What gibberish are you talking about? Get away please, you're invading my space "

" I want to invade your heart"

His blunt confession made my mouth remain agape for all least two minutes, my eyes widened.

I was stunned, was Eden confessing he liked me? No, this must be one of his tricks again.

"Gotcha!" Eden flicked me on the forehead as he got off me, " You're too gullible"

I pouted, rubbing that spot. I was right, he was just fooling around with me. Thank God I didn't trust him one bit.

"Have a good time, I'll be back " He waved and left.

Whatever, what fun could I possibly have, alone and in pain at a hospital?

Sigh, I spent the next hour flipping through television channels and social media platforms on my phone, none of it eradicated the boringness but it gave me a good opportunity to evaluate my life.

Save for Spencer's dramas, nothing was interesting about my life. I just had two friends - Cecil and Emily - nothing else. Not even a dog or cat was my company in this lonely hospital room - huh?

I glanced up hoping whoever was at the door was either Emily or Cecil or even those two devils - anything was better than nothing.

But I blanched in shock when Adam walked into my room with his authoritative aura and impassive features that twisted into a smile once our eyes met.

That smile did nothing to calm me down instead it sent nerves flying, what have I done this time?

"You look quite shocked to see me," He said and I realized my jaw almost dropped to the ground.

"N-no" I cleared my throat, "Is not every day that I get to receive someone of your magnitude" I replied politely.

"You should bear with me, I'm not fit enough to welcome you" I hinted he should make himself comfortable.

His eyes roved over my hospital gown interestedly, "Of course, I came to visit a patient, that's expected"

That was expected of course, but I didn't expect him to leave the couch at the end, instead took the seat beside my bed- God, this was so uncomfortable.

Grandma raised me to be a respectful person and I showed that -enemies or not - unless you decide to take liberties with me.

I respected Adam for the elder he is but I have never liked him from the very beginning.

My sixth sense plus Niklaus' upbringing history gave me an analysis of him; someone who would go to any length to achieve what he wants.

Even being alone with him right now sent the chills down my spine. Adam hits me as a dangerous man - probably more than Sakuzi - and I could not settle with him around me.

"How are you feeling?" He asked.

"Fine " I answered curtly.

"No need to waste time then, let's go down to the reason for my visit, shall we?"

Chapter 158 - One Hundred And Fifty-eight: The Moral Of The Story

Maya's point of view

I smiled, but it didn't reach my eyes as I said to Adam, "Get down to business? No offense sir, but I don't remember doing any business with you" came my comment.

"Really?" He smiled sheepishly too, but the intelligence in his eyes couldn't be hidden. We both were pretending and he knows it.

"Perhaps, I should start with this story first. As a patient, I'm sure my esteem company would keep the boringness away"

Keep the boringness away my butt! The chills from his nerving presence was now making me shiver.

"My story goes like this: Once upon a time, there lived a very rich man who had a son he loved very much.

"He loved this son that he gave him the best in life; expensive clothes, jewelry, best of education, and made sure his health was probably taken care of.

"This son of his was so pampered that he hardly spoke before his requests were fulfilled. The son loved his father in return and things were going smoothly between them until his son started keeping birds.

"The time they spent together became lesser and the man began to wonder what took his son's attention away from him. In the process of investigating, the man discovered it was the birds.

"His son was training birds which took most of his time. At first, the man was annoyed but because he didn't want to make his son sad, he turned a blind eye and even helped finance their grooming.

"Thankfully the birds were of the highest quality proving the fact his son has a good eye for luxury like him, so he supported his hobby until one day.

The son got a new bird.

"Unlike the others, the bird was so beautiful that it turned head wherever his son took it; the bird's feathers were the color of the rainbow.

"The boy was overjoyed, he had never seen a bird like that; it was rare and exotic and so boasted it.

"The bird was so beautiful that everyone desired to have it; his friends, neighbors, and even family members. But the boy was so smart and protective he kept it away from their greedy claws.

But there was a problem.

"As beautiful as the bird was, it had one flaw: it was always sickly. The bird had a weak constitution that even a slight pull at its feather would cause an injury.

"Because of that, his son spent all his time treating it and became his obsession. The communication between father and son diminished greatly and he didn't care - his concern was the bird.

"As if that was not enough, he abandoned the other birds which had been his first loves and focused on the flashy one. He gave it the best food, a golden cage while the others were neglected and they began to die one after the other save one who had a firm determination to live.

"The man was no longer happy with his son, each time he sent an invitation for them to spend time together, it'd turned down or rejected with the excuse of tending to his sick bird.

"He was so angry with his son that he disowned him out of anger. Sending him away with the birds and shekels of silver to live comfortably for the rest of his life.

"The man would rather his son listen to him and live a comfortable life than spend his resources and time on a bird which brought nothing but sorrows to him - he wanted to teach his young son a lesson.

"But the boy bewitched by the bird still didn't listen nor learn from his disownment. He spent heaven and earth on this bird until the money which his father sent him away with was squandered. Yet the boy was not downcast, he still had the bird with him.

"Until one day, there was a knock on his manor which was now improvised due to poverty. He had sold most of his valuable properties to pay some notes, settle his housekeeper - which was now dismissed out of shortage of resources - and treat his precious bird.

"There stood an unfamiliar man who claimed ownership to his bird leaving the boy bewildered. They had an altercation which led to the case being settled in the courtroom.

"Each provided proof and evidence of ownership and which the boy's documents turned out to be fake. He purchased a stolen bird which was owned by a great king from far away.

"The king was a tyrant and deemed the act abominable and thereby sentenced the boy to death; he was to be executed by sword.

"The bird was taken from him and returned to its rightful home while the boy was locked in prison awaiting his beheading.

"At that moment of despair and hopelessness, he finally remembered his father. As if the scale was lifted from his eyes, he realized how foolish he had been and how much his father loved him - if only there was a way to send a goodbye message to his father.

"Miraculously, the surviving bird he had neglected all those while appeared at the prison window and an idea hit him; he could use the bird as a messenger!

"He had trained the birds for this type of errand all those years. Tears filled his eyes, he never expected the bird he abandoned would remember him in his lowest moment.

"How would he send the message? He had no ink and paper. But after pleading with the prison warden who thought his punishment was unreasonable, received those.

"He quickly wrote a short message, thanking his father for the love he showed him during his stay with him, the trouble he was in, and bade him a final goodbye. Done, he attached the note to the bird and let her go.

"The boy had given up on surviving since his execution was in two days and his father was disappointed in him - he sure wouldn't bother to save him.

"On D-Day, he was forced to the market square where he was forced into the pillory; he was bent forward and his head and hands stuck out in front of him while people watched.

"Some shook their heads piteously, wondering what such a young boy had done to deserve such gruesome punishment while others came up with their theories.

"He closed his eyes and waited for his death when the commandment to begin the execution was given. But the moment the sword was to come down on his head, a halting command was issued.

"He looked up and lo, it was his father and his men. Tears filled his eyes, it was so heart-stirring- his father had not forgotten about him.

"Apparently, his father pleaded mercy on his behalf and because he was a notable man, his request was granted albeit with a warning to his son.

"He was released but the boy was ashamed to meet his father. Though it was two years, he looked older than his father.

"He had become hard and rough as a result of his tough living. His appearance now was a huge contrast to his appearance then. His hair was tousled, unkempt, and smelled not to talk of his body, as a result of being imprisoned for days with no bath.

"His footwear was torn and tattered with his toes peeking out, his clothes dirty and stinking yet his father engulfed him in a hug amid his uncleanliness.

"Like the prodigal son, his father kissed him on the face and welcomed him back. With his newfound love for his bird who rescued him, they returned to their homeland and lived happily ever after. The end."

I was stunned, this man was such a great storyteller. What was he doing as the chairman of a company, he should have been a writer or at least directed a movie already - I would have supported it wholeheartedly, trust me.

"So what happened to the other bird, the pretty one?" I asked.

"What do you think? It died before it could be returned to the king which wasn't surprising; it has always been sickly " he replied.

I was grateful Adam wasn't God, else he would have taken away my life already.

It was quite funny, the bird didn't die when it moved from the faraway kingdom to the boy but died when it was transported back to the king? -thank the heavens, he's not my God.

"And I guess the exotic yet sickly bird is me; the boy's father is you; the boy is Niklaus and the ugly yet heroic bird is Tina?" I asked, wishing Tina knew she was being characterized as an ugly bird.

"That's your submission, not mine" he denied, "But I'll be pleased to hear the moral lesson you achieved from the story"

I smirked internally, this man was an old fox and he was trying to force me to a corner. Adam wanted to hear me say it - berate myself - but he was in for a loss.

"Of course, I learned a lot from this wonderful story" came my reply laced with sarcasm.

"What goes around comes around, the boy shouldn't have boasted with what he had. The universe gifted him the majestic bird but he abused it and karma fucked him. But thankfully, his old man is a good person, kudos to his kind heart since he has one"

Did I even make sense?

But Adam was dumbfounded, was he supposed to be stunned? He wanted me to speak and I've spoken and now he's speechless.

Chapter 159 - One Hundred And Fifty-nine: Awoke The Demoness

Maya's point of view

"This must look funny to you," Adam said after the surprise wore off.

But this time, all smiles were gone from his features which had hardened into something anger could only produce.

Without warning, I was pushed back against the headboard, he clutched my hair so tight it hurt while his other hand pressed onto my side, the place where I was operated on.

My face turned pale from the pain but I refused to cry out, I wouldn't give him the satisfaction of seeing me weak.

Emergency sweat beaded forehead but I bit down on my lower lips to stop the whimpers from escaping my mouth - I would not let him win this fight.

"I've spent so much on Niklaus to let him become a liability to me, now. Who are you to disrupt my plans for him? You're not rich, powerful, or even from a respectable background; you're nothing but an illegitimate child!" He slammed me.

Anger made my body shook, I stared back intensely into his eyes with hatred with my fists clenched by my side on the bed.

I could take people speaking badly of me but being reminded I was an illegitimate child over and over again was my limit.

Not minding the agonizing pain from my stomach, I violently grabbed hold of his shirt and pulled him closer with no regard.

"So what, aren't illegitimate children humans?" I spat

My voice was a bit hoarse, the pain was much but the bitterness in my heart overwhelmed it.

His eyes went wide from shock, clearly, he never anticipated that bold move from me. As I said earlier, I respected elders but not those who took my politeness as a weakness.

"You're just as I expected, disrespectful!" He berated me, his face full of disgust.

"What were you expecting? Didn't you say it yourself? I'm an illegitimate child, an identity worse than an animal " My throat was clogged with tears but I refused to let it flow, I would not buckle.

He pressed further on my stomach causing me to wince and my grab on his collar to loosen, the pain was killing me.

"Children nowadays have no respect for elders," He said while pressing down on my left side.

This time I couldn't hold it anymore, my hands slipped from his collar and went to his hand and tried to move it away but couldn't, though his grip slackened.

"Choose your battle wisely" He advised me without taking his eyes off my face that had already betrayed me by exposing the agony I was going through.

"Do I remind you what to do?"

I didn't answer.

The rippling pain from my scalp drew a reply from my mouth, "No"

"No, what?"

Tears slipped from my eyes, "No sir, Adam"

"Good" He released my hair and slapped my cheeks gently in a derogatory manner.

My scalp stung, it felt like someone shaved my hair with a razor and my flesh came off with it. The throbbing headache and the nauseous sensation didn't do me justice either.

"In your next life, reincarnate as someone powerful and hope we never cross paths," He told me before standing to his feet.

"I'm going to become powerful, " I declared, my eyes renewed with determination.

He turned around, gave me an odd look, and snorted, "Sure, I can't wait for you to come up to my level" Adam said, but there was a hint of mockery in his voice.

"And then on that day, I'll have your head on a platter"

"Ooh, I'm so scared" he feigned he was frightened by my threats.

He retraced back his step and told me grimly, "You should be grateful I haven't wiped you out of the surface of the earth yet "

He probably wanted me to fall to the ground and worship his ass, in his next life.

"Fine, end me but you should know this, nothing is holding me back; no family or loved one, I have nothing but my life so do your worse"

"You never listen, do you " He came towards me again with evil intent but a knock came on the door.

He stopped whatever he had planned in mind while I dried the tears in my eyes, tidied my disheveled hair, and resumed my usual aura.

Adam passed me a final look but it was chilly and filled with a warning, he doesn't want me telling on whatever that happened here.

That old man then went ahead to answer the door. But the surprising fact was that he stood still for like thirty seconds before moving out of the room and exposing the visitors to my view - Niklaus and Tina

No wonder Adam was startled.

Today was clearly f*cked, I just kept seeing people I didn't want to see. Just an attack and the whole of them came to check on me? I never knew I was this loved - note the sarcasm.

Niklaus was certainly unsettled by the emergence of my father from my room and that was further proven when he left, walking towards the direction his father did.

Tina and I were now left alone, what a company.

She pranced over to me and sat in that same seat Adam was on minutes ago.

Why couldn't they just occupy the couch at the edge of the room, do they like being in close proximity with me that much?

"You look well " Her eyes peered over me through her long artificial catlike lashes and scrutinized me thoroughly.

I smirked, "Why? You thought I died? Sorry to disappoint your expectations but I'm one tough cockroach to kill "

She crossed her leg over the other, exposing her healthy and firm thighs.

Today Tina was donning a faux leather dress that stopped at her mid thigh with a belt around her waist. Her hair was brushed and gelled back till no strand was left out of place. She wore dangling earrings and painted her lips yellow today which made her look like someone who came out of a photo shoot.

"I'm not going to lie, I wished for it but then wishes are not horses," she said.

Laughter gurgled from my throat, " You're wrong, this just means God doesn't bother with your prayers"

Tina's face changed but she was quick to cover it up with her fake smile, "Oh don't worry, I don't need to bother God anymore cause I have already gotten what I wanted from him - Niklaus "

She looked smug when she said and it irritated me, I still haven't forgotten what she did at that party. If she had intercepted our plans, everything would have gone fine.

"Unlike someone who fell on her knees to beg for him, mine came too easily " I countered her attack.

"And because it came too easily, you lost him quickly"

Our eyes met, none of us was giving up on this squabble until one emerged a winner.

"No, I didn't lose him " I clarified, "A thief stole him away from me"

Her lips tugged to the side, "That thief must be so smart after all, all is fair in love and war "

I sighed, "I thought of it too and decided to let go of him"

Her face brightened, "You've given on Niklaus?"

"I got bored of him and decided to discard him, used toys are suitable for the likes of you " Came my insult.

"Y-you !" She choked and raised her hand to hit me but I challenged her.

"Do you really dare to hit me? Me of all people? Seems you've forgotten our previous encounters" I jolted her memory.

Tina gulped, paling instantly with her hand falling to her side.

Victory belongs to me.

"Sure, you are free to hit me but don't forget I'm a patient and what would happen if I press? that intercom." I said shamelessly."I'm sure you won't mind compensating me for damages in the courtroom "

She gritted her teeth, "You can have the best laugh at the moment but I promise you, Maya, I'll wipe you out of the surface of this earth sooner or later"

I scratched the side of my face, amused."Sure, get in line"

Seriously, all of them wanted me dead, what did I even do so wrong? Love someone I wasn' supposed to?

"I promise you that" Tina decreed.

I yawned, this was getting too boring and predictable but I was getting started.

Adam awoke something in me today - the taste for blood. They look down on me because of my messy background and now my mission now was to become powerful and conquer the Spencer's which could only be achieved by becoming one of them - by marriage.

Niklaus was no longer in the market and even if he was, I wouldn't pick him. My battle is with his father, so it was expected he would do everything to stop me, unlike Eden.

Adam was only Eden's uncle so he wouldn't give much shit about him. I could use Eden to achieve what I currently wanted - by getting married to him.

And once I was in the family, I would do? everything in my power to destroy that man called Adam - I would make sure he watches with both eyes as I put him through the torture he put me .

He awoke a demoness.

Chapter 160 - One Hundred And Sixty: Stop Loving Me

Niklaus' point of view

"Christ Jesus!" Isabella screamed, her hand on her chest as soon as she came out of the bathroom and saw me on her bed.

"You're done, " I asked, seeing her flushed skin and wet hair wrapped with a towel, evidence of the hot shower.

Her face was furious, she pointed at the door, "Didn't you see the sign on my door and I quote,'No entry unless summoned, forceful entrance results to dreadful consequences' I bet you you're not blind"

Of course, how could I forget that one?

After the thorough search I ordered last time, my smart daughter found a way to make her room aka fortress impenetrable.

Turning the doorknob to her room, I knew the number of booby traps I had to evade on my way in.

Not to talk of the pins that stabbed me on my butt when I sat on her bed- I was afraid of using the chair since I had an ugly experience with it, thanks to my daughter.

Almost going berserk with anger, I had to calm and remind myself this was what all single father's passed through in the hands of their kid - who was I kidding, this only happens to me.

I wondered how Isabella was able to sleep in here, wasn't she afraid of triggering the traps herself?

Save for the required space and lack of state of an art training facility, one would have thought Isabella's room was a military training facility.

"I summoned myself, how's that for a change?"

"Whatever" She waved aside, walked to the door, picked the trap I had disabled, and tossed it to the side with no care.

"What do you want?" She asked, at last, hands seriously folded across the chest.

"Can't I see my daughter? Know how she's doing? Find how she's coping after that incident?" I threw at her but her face was impassive.

"Congratulations, you have a strong daughter who's fine yet tired of being cooped up in the house, I want to see Maya" she demanded.

"You would see Maya but not now, I have to ensure it's safe for you out there " came my explanation which probably fell on deaf ears.

"I'm going to be fine, the man who shot at us is already dead " Isabella pointed out.

"And the man who rescued you, how sure he's not going to be the one shooting at you next and please, do something about your hair before you catch a cold"

I noticed the water sipping through the towel and dripping on her shoulder, wetting the shirt she was putting on.

I added, " You know what? Come let me dry your hair"

Looking around carefully for any sort of trap, I unhooked the dryer hung on the wall and turned around to receive dirty looks from my daughter.

"What?" I asked her, surprised at her odd stare.

"Did you say something?"

"I said, come over here so I could blow-dry your hair " I repeated.

"Creepy" She commented, "No but thanks. I can do it on my own, go show your love to someone else"

Great, only my daughter would think helping her with her hair was creepy. Sigh, Niklaus, see what you've done to yourself.

"I won't repeat myself, Isabella, come over here" I insisted.

"No, I won't. Go away, go show your romantic gesture to another person" She protested.

I stood from my bed and she cowered with a shriek, "Leave me alone! Is loving me by force?!"

"Yes, it is. I must love you as a father" With that said, I dived straight and grabbed her by her tiny waist as she tried to escape.

Isabella squirmed and screamed like one being kidnapped when I hurled her off her feet - she didn't even weigh much, felt like lifting a polythene bag.

With her thrown over my shoulder, I dumped Isabella on the bed but when I moved to plug the blower, she tried to escape.

"Lift a muscle and I'll move your bed into my room, we'd co-ed" I warned her.

"Like grandfather would allow it," she scoffed.

"Try me " I dared her

After an intense staredown, Isabella took her eyes away with a defeated sigh.

"Do whatever benefits you,"

With the socket plugged in the socket at her bedside, Isabella turned her back to me while I kneeled behind, and unloosened the towel from her head.

But the first air that was blown into her hair had Isabella screaming like a banshee.

"Ahh! Do you want to set my hair on fire, don't you know how to adjust the temperature? You want me to go bald at this age, is that your new plan?!" She beset me with questions.

Oh, that skipped my mind. Mine was always at the right temperature hence the forgetfulness.

"Sorry" I apologized.

Perhaps, it was on purpose or not, I couldn't tell, but Isabella was incredibly hard to please or maybe it was just my poor saloon skills - but Maya made it look so easy.

"Hey, not there! Do you want to damage my ear?!"

"Pull gently, it's strands of hair, not sheep's wool!"

"Comb carefully, I don't want my hair falling off !"

"I swear, I'll torment you for the rest of eternity if I get a receding hairline after this! "

"Pull my hair in a ponytail, not a *Hipster Alpaca, who even gave you the qualification to be my father!"

At last, it was done - after Isabella's incessant nagging - the torture of blow-drying my daughter's hair.

Isabella couldn't wait to get off from the bed - away from me- she was quick to dismiss me.

"You can leave now since you've succeeded in giving me the nightmare I would never forget "

"Fine," I grumpily stood up from her bed, " Have fun"

She gave me a look of disdain, "The next time you come into my room without permission, don't blame me if you lose your leg"

I chuckled, "Are you going to plant a mine?"

"Who knows?" She smirked.

I shook my head, she was not going to do it anyway, it was all talks -Isabella knew her limit.

"And by the way, I liked you better when you were an asshole, now I hate you, stop loving me!" She shouted after me and banged her door shut.

Teenagers, who said it was easy to train one? But my heart swelled with joy anyway.

Since she was detesting my affections towards her, that could only mean one thing: I was slowly breaking down her walls and she knows it and was afraid of letting me in.

A wide grin broke across my face, I was slowly capturing her heart - what a great achievement.

But that gladness fell off my face when I walked into a certain figure in my room.

What was she doing here?

"Niklaus" she walked up to me and tried to kiss me but I shifted to the side.

Her face fell, a sign of disappointment but who cares? Ever since that video got into my hands, the sight of her disgusted me.

"Why are you here?" I asked, irritated.

"Is that the way to welcome your fiancée?"

I glowered at her, "Either explain yourself or you get the f*ck out of my room"

She huffed, "Fine! I came so we visit Maya together"

My eyes narrowed, "Why are you so interested in Maya recently?"

"Haven't I always been interested in her?"

"Yes, you have but your recent obsession is suspicious"

She sighed, "I'm engaged to a man who's obsessed with another woman and now she's injured, I have to go with him to ensure nothing happens between the both of them" she added firmly, "How's that for a reason?"

I shook my head in disbelief, this was like the pot calling the kettle black "You're a witch, you know that?"

She clicked her tongue, "Yes, I know which is why I'm trying my best to be nice to Maya since I've gotten what I wanted - you "

"Get out of my room, I need to shower "

"I've seen you naked a lot of times, Niklaus. Getting out of here wouldn't make any difference because I have the memory in here" she tapped her finger against the side of her head indicating her brain.

My face hardened, " Get out of my room, now !" I growled at her.

"Fine, whatever " she sashayed out of my room.

I restrained myself from acting upon my anger and walked into the bathroom. The cold shower helped me calm down and strategize carefully.

Tina's days were numbered, I didn't react for a reason: I was piling and digging up her dirty secrets; our engagement party would be a blissful one.

Done with the shower, I dressed quickly and headed downstairs in the living room where she was nonchalantly going through the television channels.

Fine, let's act the obedient boyfriend for a while.

Thankfully, during the drive, she didn't bring up a discussion. She was smart enough to know I wouldn't contribute a thing, so she busied herself with her cellphone.

I was nervous at the thought of meeting Maya, especially now she was awake but the woman beside me didn't notice it.

When we reached our room, Tina knocked on the door before going in but who I never expected to see in Maya's room was my father.

We stared at each other for a few seconds before he smirked and walked out of the room, shoving past me at the door.

A lot of thoughts passed through my head, what was he doing here? What did he discuss with Maya? Did he threaten? Though she hid it, I could see her pale complexion - he must have hurt her.

I went after the old man albeit it was too late - I lost him. My hands went to my pocket intending to pull out my phone but frowned when I met nothing.

How was that possible... Isabella.