

## Taming A Billionaire

### #Chapter 181 - One Hundred And Eighty-one: We Cant Find The Kids - Read Taming A Billionaire Chapter 181 - One Hundred And Eighty-one: We Cant Find The Kids

*Chapter 181 - One Hundred And Eighty-one: We Can't Find The Kids*

Niklaus point of view

"I'm sure your predecessor must have briefed you on everything about me," I said to Lucas who stood upright before me without a slant in his posture.

"Yes, sir Niklaus" the man acquiesced.

"I don't care about your negative traits. After all, we are all humans with flaws but what I can never condone is betrayal- I need your unquestionable devotion and loyalty"? I said to him firmly.

"I give you my life, sir Niklaus" Lucas bowed his head.

"Fine then, that would be all for today. Just go with him, he would fill you in on anything else" I directed him to the head guard who then ushered him out of the living room.

Lucas was my new shadow guard and was personally hand-picked by Judy - I trusted his judgment. Lucas was not from our family's security department rather I purchased his services at a handsome price.

Adam was still the family head and currently had power over the security system of the spencers. It was his responsibility to assign shadow guards and all, ensuring that every spencer by blood, marriage, or adoption was adequately protected.

So, this was the reason why Eden was struggling to be the next Family head; he would possess absolute power even if I was the president of our conglomerate.

After declaring war on the old man, I was not foolish enough to get a shadow guard from his security department. Even if the moron of a guard pledges service to me, he would still be a double agent.

He would not be entirely honest with me since my father has a strong dominance over him - he would spy for both father and son. I needed someone who would be honest and stick with me through thick and thin.

So I hired the guard from the outside; a mercenary Adam has minimal control over and someone who would not divulge my whereabouts to my father- it was time to build my people.

Appearance-wise, Lucas was not tall nor huge framed like Judy, he looked scraggly. In fact, I questioned his capability that if not because of Judy's affirmation, I? wouldn't have hired him at all.

Not to mention the fact that Lucas had an effeminate look that did nothing but remind me of Eden - my cousin possessed the same epicene features.

This new Shadow guard of mine was so tender looking that I wouldn't be surprised if he turned out to be a girl crossdressing for God knows why.

Lucas had voluminous black hair that was brushed and slicked back with gel while featuring low fades on both sides.

At that moment, Amanda came around and placed a cup of tea on the stool beside the sofa while I? went through my tablet, occasionally glancing at the wall clock.

"Where did you say Isabella went again?" I asked for the umpteenth time already.

"Isabella is at Maya's place. She? organized a small party to celebrate her release from the hospital"

"Hmm" was all I muttered, returning my gaze to the headline I was going through. Since she was at Maya's, there was no cause for alarm.

Isabella being at Maya's place somehow calmed me because my dear daughter could spy on her - I'm not saying that's a good thing but who cares.

At least, with her around, I could get updated on Maya's relationship status. Gosh, how worse could I get? This is driving me crazy.

The call that came in afterward, did drive me insane.

"Hello?"

"Hey brother, it's Emily"

My face was neutral, Emily recently has been avoiding me for reasons best known to her.

"What is it?" I asked. Since my sister called me finally, she probably needed something from me.

"Umm, how am I going to put this?" She cleared her throat, dilly-dallying my time away.

"Call me when you're ready to talk" I dismissed her, about to end the call when she yelled

"Isabella is missing!"

"What?!" I shot up to my feet, bewildered, "How is that possible, wasn't she with Maya?"

"That's the problem, I'm with Maya but we can't seem to find your daughter," she said.

"I'm coming over" I informed her, hanging up the call.

I gulped, my hand shaking unconsciously. I didn't want to believe it. Isabella was too smart to get missing yet what if she was truly missing? Worse, what if she was in the hands of my enemy or something - Sakuzi, to be precise.

No, I had to be sure before disturbing the balance between both of us that's resting on a thin line. Starting a war with the Falcon Gang on false grounds would be a huge detriment to our business.

"Follow me" I tracked down Lucas who was still going over the dos and don'ts with the head guard.

Lucas didn't complain, he obeyed by following me silently- he didn't even call into question where I was heading to.

Just from these few minutes of interaction, I discovered he did possess a bit of Judy's temperament- Maybe, he was his mentor.

My mind was all over the place during the journey as I kept mulling over where my daughter was.

As soon as we arrived, I literally jumped out of the car and headed to Maya's apartment.

Expecting my arrival, the door to her apartment was left open and I let myself in.

My vision fell on the women in the living room: Maya was pacing up and down the room while chewing on her nails out of worry; Cecil was no better than Maya, just that she kept tapping her feet repeatedly while staring at her phone as if waiting for a call from her son; Emily was on her feet and kept tugging on her hair out of frustration.

"What is going on here?" I asked, drawing the attention of the panic-stricken women.

"Oh my God," Emily placed a hand on her chest, startled by my appearance. They must have been lost in thoughts not to have noticed me come in.

"Thank God, you're here. We have a bit of a situation " Emily scurried over to me.

"We can't find the kids," Maya announced.

I stared at her longer than usual, her voice was a bit hoarse and her eyes swollen and red as if she had been crying. I felt the urge to take her into my arms, hold her tight, and stroke her hair while assuring her we'd find my kids - wait a minute, kids?

"Did you say, kids?" I questioned, my ear must have heard wrong.

"The trio- Isabella, Anabelle, and Pedro- we can't find them anywhere"

My brows furrowed. But then, I loosened up a bit. If those three partners in crime were together, then it wasn't a kidnapping but a prank.

"They could be playing hide and seek, have you searched the whole house?"

"I did but then, the door to my apartment was left open which means they must have snuck out while we were engrossed with our discussion- you do know how mischievous the kids are"

Maya was right, Anabelle was a good kid but when around my daughter Isabella, I wouldn't exactly vouch for her conduct.

Something clicked in my head," Did you call Eden?"

Maya swallowed - a gesture I noticed quite well, which made me slightly uncomfortable. Maybe, she's just scared of relaying this bad news to him and not what I'm thinking.

She shook her head, "No, I haven't. I didn't want to give him such bad news. I was hoping you would find the kids with your influence"

Just as I thought, phew!

Somehow, it warmed my heart that I was the first person she thought to call and not my cousin. It gave me hope that I still had a place in her heart.

I turned to Lucas who had been scrutinizing the arena since we arrived, " If the kids really snuck out of here, they would be captured by the building's surveillance cam - "

"This is an old cheap building, Niklaus, not your mansion" Maya interrupted me with a hint of sarcasm in her tone "It doesn't come with a camera"

Somehow, this news didn't sit well with me. How could she live in a place that doesn't have an ounce of security? I wanted to just grab her hand and drag her out of this pithouse forever - that is after I rescue my kid.

But knowing her personality, she would probably kick me in the crotch for deciding for her without consenting her opinion.

"Though there's a convenience store just opposite the building with surveillance cameras. I'm sure one of them would capture anyone who leaves here" She directed me.

I gestured to Lucas to go and check it out leaving me with the women.

I didn't sit, just leaned against the wall with my arms wrapped across the chest while studying everyone.

Cecil was a bit comforted by my presence - this made me feel like I was superman or something. She had stopped tapping her legs but you could see the restlessness in her eyes.

Emily was still not looking at me in the eyes and I knew why. She was nervous I would begin to criticize her new careless lifestyle but that's none of my mistakes.

If my own experience had not taught her anything, then she's the greatest fool. Moreover, she's old enough to take responsibility for her actions.

Maya was still pacing up and down the room but that moment she looked up, our eyes met and held. My breath hung in my throat while my heart slammed against my chest, she looked as beautiful as ever.

With the way she looked at me, it was obvious the attraction between us still existed. Shivers ran down my back as my mind turned dirty; what I would do to her if she were in my arms right now.

Maya looked away, cheeks burning but I was grateful for that. I had literally stripped her with my eyes; the huge bulge on my trouser evidence of what I had in my mind. This was so unbelievable, Maya still had this much power over me.

Almost immediately, Lucas returned with her finding.

"None of them left the building"

"What?!"

Everyone was shocked.

"If they didn't leave that means - "

"They're here and neatly hidden"

"But where could they ...."

Cecil was still asking when the so thought missing Anabelle staggered into the room, walked past me, and lied down on the empty couch.

What in the world...

*Chapter 182 - One Hundred And Eighty-Two: Worried Over Someone's Child*

Maya's point of view

I thought I would go crazy with worry, the kids have gone far this time. Where could they have gone?

I ran to the kitchen where I expected them to be: I caught Pedro earlier doing some sort of concoction with the juices grandma helped me make.

But they were nowhere to be seen.

My heart hammered against my chest, a feeling of dread washed over me but I refused to conclude yet.

Like a madwoman, I raced to the room, my eyes darting around in search of them yet there was no one in sight. I moved to my bathroom, still couldn't find a single soul.

I grabbed my hair and tousled it frantically, this was making me go bananas.? I didn't like this tight knot in my stomach.

All of a sudden, my eyes fell on my wardrobe that looked like someone tampered with it - could it be that they were hiding in there.

I moved towards my wardrobe but just as I was about to reach out for the handle, Emily called for my attention.

"I think you might want to see this," she told me which prompted me to follow after her at once.

"Cecil discovered the entrance door was open and surmised the kids must have snuck out while we were engrossed in the? attention"

"Oh my God" I gasped from shock, she was right.

Isabella was crafty, she must have rounded up everyone and deceived them into going on this unknown power trip without proper supervision.

Before both women could stop me, I had left and covered the flights of stairs in search of those kids.

"Isabella! Anabelle! Pedro!" I yelled their names once downstairs.

The sun had set, and dusk had fallen over the environment yet electric bulbs from stores and street lights shone brightly, illuminating my path.

I didn't mean to cry - I hated showing this level of weakness- but these annoying tears keep falling off my face without my permission.

I was panicking- I knew that but I had to find them. Yes, Isabella was smart but these were little kids and who knew the kind of trouble they might have led themselves into.

What if a kidnapper or child traffickers or worse, child molesters captured them? What would they do? Pedro was still young to defend them.

I stopped a stranger who was going down the street, "Excuse me sir but have you seen these three unique kids - two girls and a boy. The girls are ten years old and - "

"Maya!" My name was called and I whipped my head around to Emily and Cecil while the stranger shook his head and left.

"Get a grip on yourself, you're not even putting on footwear!" Emily shook me hard.

I looked down, realizing apprehension had made me come down barefooted.

"I know my niece, Isabella, she would not purposely lead them into danger," Emily said.

I took a deep calming breath, she was right. I had to get my senses back to gear if I wanted to find those brats - and when I get my hands on them, they would regret ever coming into this world.

"We should report this to the Police," Cecil suggested.

"No" I wiped my eyes with my hands, smoothing my messy strands, "Call Niklaus, he would find them faster and smoother without drawing attention"

"And Eden as well, he has the right to know what happened to his kid" Emily added.

"No," I objected, " There's no need to burden him with such negative news. Once Niklaus arrives and finds his kid, we'll send her back to her people - hopefully, unharmed"

"Alright, call Niklaus already!?" Cecil snapped at me.

I knew she didn't mean to, she was probably anxious over her son. I wasn't a mother, yet was troubled over the girl's safety talk more her.

Emily's gaze and I collided.

"Why are you staring at me that way?" I asked her, bothered by that odd look.

"Shouldn't I be asking the same thing? You're giving me that expectancy glance" she defended.

"Of course, I'm waiting for you to call Niklaus"

"Why should I be the one calling him? You have his number too ! "

"Because I broke up with your brother, moron! And I'm trying to keep my distance from him so his girlfriend doesn't misunderstand my intentions !"

"You know what, damn the both of you! " Cecil cursed again.

She strode over to Emily, snatched the phone from her grip, scrolled down her contacts and found her brother's number, and pressed the call button.

"Now answer" She pushed the phone onto Emily's chest who caught and pressed it against her ear.

I could not help but feel that there was some sort of tension between her and Niklaus judging from the way she bit her lower lips and the nervousness in her voice when he picked the call.

Perhaps, she was worried that Niklaus would be against her sleeping with his bodyguard. Well, that was their business, not mine.

Niklaus arrived quicker than expected and sprang into action. He sent his guard to go and investigate the CCTV surrounding the convenience store here since this building didn't have one.

Silence enveloped the living room once the guard who I captured his name to be Lucas left.

Everyone was alone with his or her thoughts until I felt a fierce gaze and turned around only for my eyes to lock with Niklaus'.

My breath caught in my throat while my pulse quickened. Why was my body reacting like this? Why was he the only one capable of melting me slowly?



The look in Niklaus' eyes made me weak at the knee, it was so hot and scalded my skin even though it did nothing but bring back memories of that night.

I looked away, this was dangerous. It was as if Niklaus was having sex with me with his eyes. Gosh, I was beginning to feel wet under.

Maya, cut it out! I scolded myself, this wasn't time to salivate over my irresistibly hot ex-boyfriend.

Thank God, Lucas returned that moment before he continued the lust of the eyes.

"None of them left the building"

"What?!"

Everyone was dumbfounded.

"If they didn't leave that means - "

"They're here and neatly hidden" I took the words right out from Niklaus' mouth

How was that possible? Does it mean the kids were still in my place? Where had I overlooked?

Then why was the door open? Unless Anabelle had forgotten to lock it after she escorted granny out.

Oh my God, it was beginning to make sense.

"But where could they ...."

Cecil was still asking when the so thought missing Anabelle staggered into the room, walked past Niklaus, and lied down on the empty couch.

Everyone was bewildered, what just happened?

As if someone said "Jack Robinson" we all rushed to the unconcerned sleeping girl.

"Anabelle! Where are the others?" I shook her but the girl just fluttered her eyelashes, mumbled some indecipherable words, and went back to sleep.

"That's it !"

I was about to yank her off that sofa with the anger in me when the others stopped me but something else happened.

My brows lifted and my nose wrinkled when a familiar scent wafted into my nostrils causing me to freeze. The others noticed the change in me and loosened their grip.

I leaned closer and sniffed Anabelle like a police dog sniffing a crime scene. My face turned Scarlet from fury as I finally put two and two together. That brat, Isabella!

"I know where they are" My voice was deep yet taut, a sign of me trying to curtail my anger.

"You really do?"

Cecil asked but I stormed off in the direction of my room while they followed after me briskly.

"Pull up the bed"

I commanded no one in particular but Lucas who looked like something a heavy breeze could blow away any moment, stepped forward and lifted the bed effortlessly.

Lo and behold, Pedro and Isabella were sleeping on their sides with their backs touching each other. There came sharp gasps from the stunned audience.

I picked up the half remaining limited edition bottled Smirnoff

green appletini that I had kept hidden for future purposes- so granny doesn't take notice of it.

"Did they drink that?" Cecil lifted a trembling hand to her mouth.

I gestured to the glasses in the little bucket that brat had also hidden under the bed, which contained liquid droplets - evidence of the consumed drinks.

"Take your drunk kids home everyone, this party is over " I announced and vacated the room.

I left my apartment entirely and climbed further up the stairs, reaching another floor before I sat down on the bare cemented ground.

I took a huge sip out of the remaining drink. I was in so much pain at the moment and I needed to get drunk to take away the pain. Sadly, this drink wouldn't do.

About to take another drink out of the bottle, it was snatched away from my grip by Niklaus who I glowered at.

"Give it back!"

"Look, I'm probably sure this is all my daughter's fault and I know? you're angry - I'm not even proud of what she did - but getting yourself drunk is not the right way to get rid of the fury"

"Do you know how scared and anxious I was today because your daughter was missing? I was so stricken with anxiety that I couldn't think straight, I was so anxious over someone's daughter that isn't mine! " I screamed at him.

I was so angry, I wanted a release and he was the perfect candidate.

"I'm sorry " he apologized yet it made me further angry but the funny part was that he wasn't even the source of the anger.

"I was dead worried over someone's child yet my own mother has never worried over me" the tears began to stream down my eyes.

"Does she even have a heart?"

*Chapter 183 - One Hundred And Eighty-three: Never Forget Me*

Niklaus' point of view

Guilt gnawed at my heart, this was all caused by my daughter because I didn't give her a proper upbringing or so I thought until I heard Maya's next comment.

"I was dead anxious over someone's child yet my own mother has never worried over me" Tears burst out of her eyes.

"Does she even have a heart?" She cried.

I was stunned, I thought she was crying because of the stress and apprehension Isabella put her through this evening, who knew she had another thought in mind. But again, there was no denying that Isabella was the one who triggered this reaction in her.

"It's okay" I tried to assuage the sorrows of this broken woman by bringing her close to my chest, running my hands through her hair soothingly.

"It is not okay" she objected, " If I could care for Isabella to this extent, how much more her daughter? What did I do so wrong?" Maya sobbed aloud and clung to me, pulling me as close as she could.

"You didn't do anything wrong " I murmured, rubbing her back. But it seems the more I talked, the more she cried, so I kept my mouth shut.

With her hand, Maya fisted my white crisp shirt, snot mixed with saliva, drooled down their respective organs, and dripped onto my clothes.

This was the first time I was caught in this kind of emotional blackmail- as I would call it then - and would have hightailed it out of here if it was the old me. Surprisingly, I found myself embracing her further, her head resting on my shoulder as she cried her heart out.

Women were crafty creatures and ninety- percent of their tears were deathtrap designed to lure their unsuspecting victim aka the men, into their sharp claws.

Which was why I evaded the cry babies during the years of my lustful indulgence. Sadly, I still ended up with a crier.

But I didn't feel revolted since I knew this one wasn't manipulative tears meant to seduce me - in fact, I'm having the urge to seduce her instead; quite unfortunate that I can't cry.

Maya cried till her tears duct could no longer produce the salty transparent liquid anymore and she fell asleep on my shoulder.

"Hey" I tapped her but she didn't react at all which made me really uncomfortable.

Maya was snuggled close to me, her nose repeatedly fanning hot air upon my neck which made the hair on my body stand on edge.

God, she was doing funny things to my body unconsciously. Fine, Nik close your eyes and let this pass.

With Maya clinging unto me, I lifted her in my arms and headed down to her apartment. Recalling she was still injured, I handled her with absolute care, afraid to worsen her condition.

Everyone had left when I got into her flat, including my daughter- Lucas must have taken her home. Maya's place was a huge mess thanks to the recovery party or whatever she organized, plus the search.

Fortunately, her room was a bit habitable for human beings instead of monkeys, so I laid her down on the bed gently.

Other than her red and puffy eyes, she looked so peaceful and beautiful in her sleep. Once I was done adjusting her head, I sighed and got to my feet.

I needed to leave, the last time I spent the night with her, Gerald attacked her the next day. Who knows what would happen this time? Sakuzi might make true of his threat; I was not to be seen with her.

But that determination to leave her place faded the moment I walked into her living room that looked like it was ravaged like a storm.

Wasn't Maya injured? How was she going to manage to clean up this mess all by herself?? I contemplated calling a cleaning crew but that stubborn ass might refuse my help and send them back.

Seriously, women were a huge problem for humanity.

I ended up rolling up the sleeve of my white shirt and began to clean up the whole place. I first began by picking up the wastes- disposable paper cups and snack wrappers- and dumped them in her bin.

But in the process of clearing the leftover juices, one spilled and stained my shirt.

"Shit" I cursed out loud, I hated dirtiness.

I pulled off the shirt and dumped it in her washing machine, hoping to do that one later.

I cleaned the table surface, vacuumed the whole place before proceeding to the kitchen where I washed and arranged the dishes, cleaned the counter, and a lot more.

Sticky with sweat by the time I was done, I took a quick shower in her bathroom and came out smelling like her.

Common sense told me I should leave her room but my desires overwhelmed me, so I squatted down beside her bed and took in her sleeping form.

Her chest fell up and down with regular, repetitive moves, the tautness in her face gone and the muscles relaxed.

I brushed away a strand from her face but didn't expect her eyes would snap open at that moment.

I froze and gulped as our eyes met, we just kept staring at each other.

Her hands moved of her own volition and clasped my face, stroking my chin softly which made my heart pulse against my chest

"I guess this dream is the luxury the heavens gave me to see you once again," Maya said, leaving me dumbfounded.

She thought this was a dream? The alcohol must have helped muddle her senses. Well, this makes it better.

My hand closed in on her hand, caressing the top of her palm lovingly and guiding the tips of her fingers which rubbed my clean-shaven jaw.

"Yeah, it's a luxury" I concurred, wiping away the tears that slipped from her eyes with my other hand.

It made my heart hurt, why was she crying even in her dream.

"Would this dream last forever?"

This strange question got me tongue-tied, why would she want to remain in dreamland forever?.

"Why don't you want it to end?" I asked out of curiosity.

There was a slight quiver in her voice, "Because that's the only place I can be happy"

There was an unfamiliar emotion that built up in my chest but it gave me the urge to want to whisk Maya away; away from all her troubles.

It was possible to skip town with Maya, find a place where we will lay low and have a good time together as long as we wanted, but I'll never be fulfilled.

It took me time to admit it but I wanted a family that consisted of Maya and Isabella and the future demon baby - if the child looks anything like Isabella.

The dream was achievable yet distant; I would not want to give Isabella that kind of unstable life. It was obvious my father would chase the three of us to the end of the earth and God knows what he would do to Maya then?

Though I could harden my heart and leave Isabella behind with Adam who would have no choice but to make do of my absence with my daughter.

But I couldn't do it.

Isabella was this pernicious with me around, who knew what monster that success-driven man called Adam would turn her into when I returned, I couldn't even imagine it.

I couldn't be with Maya - not now.

"I'm sorry but unless you're dead, you can't dream forever,"? I said to her, removing her palm from my face. The above thoughts returned me to my senses.

Her expression showed she was hurt by my abrupt dismissal but this wasn't time to take her emotions into account, I had to leave. Now.

"You want to leave" she realized.

"This is a dream, it doesn't matter where I leave or not cause I would eventually leave" I pushed her back onto the bed when she tried to sit up but I didn't see her next action coming.

Her hand went around my neck and pressed me to her body as she kissed me.

I was stunned. The scene I was trying so hard to avoid since the time our eyes met in the living room had caught up with me in the end. Alright, I just had to lull her back to sleep - with pleasure.

My heart fluttered even though her kisses were sloppy, evidence of the sleep still in her eyes but knowing I had no time left made me take over.

Getting on top of her properly, I pinned her hands above her head with one hand, grounding my lips harshly against hers while the other fondled her breast.

Maya moaned which made blood rush to my head. The alpha trait I possessed willed me to conquer and taste this delicious prey set before me.

I lost control and would have taken her right there and then had I not remembered she was still under the influence of alcohol and the fact we've broken up.

Gosh, I was a bastard - but that still did not stop me from pleasuring her body.

My hand found her wet core and began to rub her while swallowing her moans with my intense kisses. Maya whimpered, not out of pain but pleasure when I entered two fingers inside of her.

She strained beneath me, her head lulling back from the intense pleasure as I pushed faster and deeper inside of her until she met her climax with a loud moan.

I moved my hand out of her, kissed her head while she let out a purr of satisfaction, she was wiped out.

She smiled at me which made my heart pound so hard I thought it would leap out of my chest. I leaned my head and kissed her slower, mentally taming my little brother that craved her touch.

Not long, Maya fell asleep when the narcotic effect of our sexual activity took over and I used that opportunity to slip out of her apartment- with my wet shirt.

I got into my car waiting for me downstairs with a wish that the girl would forget this night - but never forget me.

*Chapter 184 - One Hundred And Eighty-four: Hack Her Bodyparts*

Maya's point of view:

There was something different about this morning, how was I going to put it? I felt light, energized, and ready to start the day or so I thought until I awoke fully.

"Gah! " I moaned out of pain, a throbbing headache assaulted my head. I hadn't drunk much last night ...oh, the emotional torture I put myself through - the headache must be from crying too much.

I dragged myself out of bed and swaggered to the bathroom. I didn't feel hungover since that appletini wasn't my magic, give me something harder and you'd find me knocked out dead.

I screamed when my eyes met the mirror, not because I looked like a baboon because my bushy hair did justice to that look -? I was just missing the huge anus - but because of my busted lips.

What happened to my lips? Did I bump into something last night? Talking about last night, the only thing I recalled was crying on Niklaus' shoulder.

Suddenly, my eyes widened when I remembered the dream I had last night; an erotic dream with Niklaus. My cheeks heat up just thinking about it, but for some reason, it felt real.

No, no way, it didn't happen.

After I cried on his shoulder last night, he must have taken me back to my room under the watchful eyes of Cecil, Emily, and .....

I faltered, realizing my assumptions had major flaws in it. What was the possibility that Cecil and Emily waited for my return after I had dismissed everyone?

Furthermore, she was a protective mother who just found out that her son was drunk for the first time, why would she wait for me instead of going home to take care of her son?

But then Emily....

Fine, wouldn't Emily take the drunk Anabelle home to explain the whole turn of events to her cousin, Eden?

But Isabella...

Would be taken home by the bodyguard leaving you and Niklaus alone in a room.



I stared at my reflected horrified look through the mirror, that bastard! Who gave him the right to touch ...

"Oh," I said when I went through the memory to discover I was the one who kissed him in the first place.

"Seriously Maya, what's with you and cute faces" I gripped my hair tight out of frustration. Why can't you keep your hands to yourself? Why was I so tactile?

But still, he was a man and the only one in his right senses at that moment, why didn't he resist me. Who knows what his excuse would be if I confronted him about this?

That I was too strong, huh? Would that be his excuse? Pfft, what a pathetic excuse! Does that mean that I was strong enough to [email?protected] him?

Well, Maya, you're raping no one especially Niklaus who has a girlfriend....wow, that was a killjoy.

I was suddenly annoyed when I thought of Tina. I hoped Niklaus was discreet in his journey to my place because I do not need that crazy witch coming to harass me for seducing her fiancé, especially now I had no excuse nor plan.

Once I was done with my morning ritual, I put on casual clothes consisting of a tank top and bum shorts, having known that it was time to clear the waste in my living room and kitchen; my house was a great mess after the party yesterday.

But I got the shock of my life when I walked into my living room.

"Holy biscuit! " I cursed out of shock when I saw my place was as clean as it could ever be.

"What in the name of God happened here?" I wondered.

I don't know what magic was this but I inwardly prayed it was the same with the kitchen because I just wanted to be lazy today.

Just as I prayed, the kitchen was clean as well. Whoever cleaned it even did a better job than me.

But who did it? That was the question. I had a strong intuition that it was probably Cecil or Emily or Lucas because there is no way on earth, Niklaus would clean that - he can't even locate the dishwasher in his place.

So I called both Cecil and Emily respectively. Inquiring about their welfare, then thanked whoever cleaned those rooms but their response startled me, none of them did it.

"What are you talking about?" They had asked me with confusion in their tones.

In the end, I found out that none of them was the cleaner, then who? My heart told me Niklaus but logic was telling me it was impossible and even if it was, he must have commanded Lucas to do the hard work - I would thank the guard for this kind gesture later.

Since I was at home and had nothing to do, I was planning on sleeping throughout the day- take bed rest as the doctor suggested - when my doorbell rang.

This time I was very careful since I had received a dinner invitation from that strange man, Sakuzi. Who knew whether it was his people at the door?

I squinted my eyes, looking through the peephole to ascertain who was at the door only to discover a blonde woman standing right outside.

"Who are you?" I asked, safety-conscious.

"I'm Camille," she replied.

"How do I know you and what do you want from me?"

"I'm your manager and Eden sent me "

Manager? Eden? Ah right, I forgot I had signed the contract documents with Eden's agency and as custom demands, would be provided a manager.

I opened the door and ushered her into my flat, "Please, come in"

The pretty blonde woman walked into the house with a curious gape and she looked quite familiar even though I can't place my finger where I had exactly seen her.

"I apologize for the interrogation but this district is not exactly crime-free" I lied to her.

Well, what was I supposed to say? I can't specifically tell her that I'm escaping from a creepy mafia lord who's insisting on having dinner with me - the girl he's intent on killing.

Who knows whether this is Sakuzi's ploy to make me lower my defenses, so they can drug me through the meal and when unconscious, they would send my body to a secret butchering house at night. There they would hack it to pieces and send my decorated body parts to various members of Spencer's family as presents - what a vicious man!

I refuse to play right into his hand, so I would avoid him at all cost. But what if he barges into my place- he has the power to do so - what would I do? I had no backer anymore.

Well, I would think about that later, Camille doesn't have all the time in the world.

"No worries, I understand. But you don't need to worry, your housing is being arranged as we speak" she notified me.

Oh, I was surprised, that fast? I'm going to miss this apartment which had journeyed with me throughout my impoverished years. Thanks a lot, buddy.

"I'm not trying to pry or something but have we met before?" I couldn't hold back my curiosity anymore.

Camille chuckled, "I was beginning to wonder when you were going to ask that "

My brows furrowed and I pointed to my chest, "You know me?"

"Yeah, we met during the Spencer Group gala event, I was Niklaus' dancing partner-briefly"

"Oh," I nodded. For a minute, hearing her say she was Niklaus' dancing partner made me a bit jealous until I heard the "briefly"

You wouldn't exactly blame me for being jealous since Camille was quite beautiful with her blonde hair, charming hazel eyes, a normal breast size, a few inches taller than me and she had a qualified backside- if you know what I mean.

"Your boyfriend Niklaus' was so jealous that you were dancing with Eden so I came up with a plan which made you switch partners with me"

Now I remembered, it was that time Niklaus cut in on my dance with Eden, so it was her.

She continued, "I don't care what the rumors say about you but I'm one hundred percent sure that Niklaus loved you. You are not a relationship wrecker"

Wow, good to know that my manager is a fan.

"Alright, back to business," she said and made herself comfortable on my couch and started.

"It's quite a relief that Lisa got the lead role instead of you else there would have been a huge delay in shooting"

Oh, that scaredy-cat got my role, congrats to her.

"When are you going to be verified healthy by the doctor?" She asked, taking a bite out of the biscuit I served her.

"In two weeks, I'll be going for a check-up but the doctor says I'm free to go about my activities normally as far as I don't do anything extremely strenuous"

"Alright, I'll draft up a schedule for you then," she said, putting down some stuff into her tablet.

"And again" she bit on her lips nervously, " I did some sort of survey," she said, bringing out a sheet of the document from the file holder she was carrying.

"I'm not going to lie, Maya. Your fate in this industry is not looking bright, you're one of the most hated upcoming actresses of all times"

"That got to be an achievement, right ?" I attempted a joke which didn't elicit the desired effect.

"Your accident bought a few sympathetic fans but that's akin to your life hanging on a thin line. I'm sorry to say this but if you encounter one more scandal, you might have to kick your acting career goodbye"

Wow, this just keeps getting better.

*Chapter 185 - One Hundred And Eighty-five: You Married A Player, Live With It*

Isabella's point of view

I knew I was busted by the time I awoke on my bed. This wasn't where I was supposed to be: I was meant to be under Maya's bed not on top of my bed.

This could only mean one thing, Maya and my whole family members discovered my plan - I was in trouble.

Definitely wasn't how I plotted this to end, those two losers have ruined it! I had sorted everything in such a way that Maya wouldn't even notice anything was awry until we left for our respective homes.

But who knew those two losers couldn't handle their alcohol at all, they lost it immediately. If they had only hung on a bit longer, I would have thought of a way to send both home without arousing suspicion.

I must have fallen asleep under the bed while awaiting Maya's departure from the room, how unlucky I am.

But then, Maya's abrupt appearance was a great factor that destroyed my plans.

I had not expected her to search for us that quickly, I wonder if there was some sort of secret alarm she had on that reminded her of us; she just can't take her eyes off us!

The feeling of being watched after is nice but disturbing especially when I want to erect one of my fun pranks.

I got out of bed and didn't bother to leave the room having an inkling it was being guarded by Niklaus' men.

This was so frustrating, I shouldn't have trusted Pedro and Anabelle's words. The voice of reasoning had somehow warned me before then that these two were first-timers and might get me exposed but I just wanted them in because... well, the many, the merrier - look where that got me now.

My stomach growled for food and I was having a slight headache from the drink last night, I guess. I had already prepared myself for the worst when I turned the doorknob, expecting Niklaus to lock me in as punishment but no, he didn't lock me at all.

Instead, guards lined up from my door to the living room. Seriously, wasn't this over the top, I'm just a kid notwithstanding what I did last night.

The guards' vigilance gaze followed my every movement till I found myself in the kitchen. But what made my mouth drop was instead of seeing Amanda, Tina was the cook instead.

"Hi, little one " Tina welcomed me who stood like a frozen pole as she pulled off the gloves she had on.

My shocked gaze shifted into an unpleasant one, " What are you doing here?"

"I'm your future mommy, I have every right to be here" She declared as if that was the grandest achievement in her life.

"My mother's name is Kay Wilson, so get that into your retarded brain," I told her fiercely.

Our gaze met like two great swords clashing against each other powerfully but she surprised me by taking off her gaze - I was prepared for this stare down.

"You should have breakfast, I heard you get yourself drunk yesterday - by the way, I had my first drink when I was around your age too" she disclosed with a secret wink.

I was taken aback by her unexpected sociability this lovely morning, perhaps this was another of her tactics to buy me over.

Refusing to be deceived, I called out the housekeeper who happened to come inside the kitchen that moment.

"Amanda, when did you start accepting strangers into the kitchen?"

Normally, I called Amanda with more respect because she's being a mother figure to me ever since Niklaus dragged me to live with him. But right now, I was too irritated to care.

"You don't need to put the housekeeper in a tight spot, if you got scores to settle it's with your father" Tina chimed in.

That witch was trying to pit me against Niklaus, does she think I'll fall for that.

She continued, "He's the one who permitted me to make breakfast for you, Amanda won't be taking your request."

"Oh," I said as realization dawned on me, this was his way of tormenting me for what I did yesterday. But I had only drunk, why was he making a huge deal out of it? - he drinks too.

"You can give that meal to the devil" came my acerbic comment and turned in my heels, ready to bolt out of the kitchen when she said,

"With the way your father was fuming on his way out, I'll have you assured that this is the only meal you'd be getting today"

Of course, I got her hint. I have angered Niklaus to the point I'll be punished by starving.

I wanted to refuse but my stomach chose that moment to roar like an angry lion plus the aroma from the food she was placed on the counter was tantalizing.

Come-on Isabella, do something. Don't fall into her trap! My mind cautioned me but there was no way my brain could function properly without a proper meal.

Fine, I'll fall into her trap and fill my stomach, once satisfied, I'll be strong enough to think of a way out.

I did a reversal, dragging my lazy butt to the counter, and sat on a tall stool, taking in the sight of the soup and side dishes set before me.

I had to admit, the food was healthy and appetizing to the eye but the side dishes were not filling at all. I'll rather eat the junk food prepared by Maya as far as my stomach gets satisfied than this.

But there was no choice, it was either this meal or no meal at all.

"I heard everyone went crazy searching for you guys" She started a conversation which I would have ignored normally but its abstrusity confused me.

"What are you talking about?" I asked.

"Don't you remember? They said you and that peddy guy- "

"It's Pedro," I corrected firmly.

"Whatever" she waved away, "But you two hid under the bed when everyone thought you kids were missing"

Oh boy, I now understood the reason for Niklaus' anger. The dense Maya had not searched for us properly and must have called my father to report we were missing - I'm doomed.

The once sweet soup in my mouth suddenly tasted like ashes with this tight knot in my stomach, my punishment was far from over.

I was not afraid of Niklaus' punishment, the man was too soft to give me a good spank on the butt- he was going to ground me or take away a cherished electronic gadget, nothing much.

I'll get my freedom or the gadget after a long delay. So it's irritating at first but I'll get over it in a day or two.

I ignored Tina after getting the news, forcing the now tasteless meal down my throat. I had lost my appetite but I had to eat to have the stamina to face whatever Niklaus throws my way.

"So," Tina began all of a sudden, "By chance when your father came to take you home, did he get too close to err...Maya or did Maya try to get close to him?"

I gave her a dirty look, "Is that what you should be asking a child?"

She scratched the back of her head, nervously.

"Moreover, between Maya and my father, who's more liable to seduce each other" Came my question which made her mouth twitch.

I leaned towards her, "Even if my father doesn't marry Maya, there are many other better Mayas' out there. You married a player, so live with it "

Tina was stunned by my words that she didn't even blink until someone's voice was heard coming in our direction.

"Alright" Austin, the head guard ended the call and said to me,

"Let's go"

I frowned, "Go where?"

"No questioning, it's your father's orders"

Oh, had the punishment begun already? Fine, take me away, jailers.

So I followed after Austin peacefully knowing I was going to spend the day or two in my room; loneliness was my friend already.

But I was surprised when we didn't head to the floor leading to my room instead to the basement level. Had Niklaus changed his tactics?

"Go in," Austin held onto the metal door, urging me to move inside.

I gave him a suspicious look but relaxed otherwise having known that whatever they had in store would not kill me.

So I stepped in.

"What in the name of abomination is this?" I muttered as soon as I stepped into this empty room.

The room wasn't exactly as large as my bedroom, more like Maya's and the walls, painted hot pink with glitter galaxy stars. The paint was still fresh judging from the freshness and texture - Niklaus must have it fixed this morning while I was still asleep.

Bright bulbs illuminated the room which had no window and had surveillance cameras mounted at the corners of the room.

This was a nightmare.

The moment I turned around to leave this hellhole, the door was bang shut.

"Shit!" I cursed and rushed at the door, pounding hard on it.

"Let me out of here!"

But no effort was made to open the door, they purposely lured me in here.

Fine, they think I would break? No way, I was a tough little girl and I would win this fight.

There was no furniture in the room so I sat on the floor which was painted pink too, much to my disgust.

This was Anabelle's wonderland, not mine, the color was nauseating to me; I really wanted to puke. The room was deadly silent and seem to be wall proofed since I couldn't hear any sound from outside.



The pink wall clock was the only thing that reminded me that time was passing. Aside from the hourly chimes of the clock which was heightened in this silent room and the repetitive tick-tocks, my breath and the momentarily adjusting of my legs were the closest thing to a sound made.

I know what Niklaus was doing, he was punishing me mentally but I won't concede, I'm a strong girl.

There must be an AC somewhere since cool air somehow flowed into this windowless room. Truth be told, I have lived in this mansion for months and I had no idea a room as this existed.

Amid the cold air, I was beginning to sweat, my fingers were shaking while my breath came in gasps. I wasn't claustrophobic but this closed space and scene were slowly turning me into one.

The presence of these cameras was beginning to wreak havoc on my nerves- someone was probably laughing at my predicament behind those cameras.

I strode at once to the door, raving as I had finally lost it.

"Get me outta here! Get me the fuck? out of here !"

*Chapter 186 - One Hundred And Eighty-six: Take Back The Authority*

Niklaus point of view:

Cold showers became the norm of the night. Each time I closed my eyes, erotic dreams featuring Maya as my companion dominated my senses.

I knew it was my subconscious playing tricks on me. It was taking advantage of the memory of Maya in bed and replaying in my mind with its twist borrowed from my past imagination and I'm not going to lie, I enjoyed it but not when I had to relieve myself for the umpteenth time in the bathroom.

Seeing that sleeping was an unachievable feat, I stayed awake the rest of the night, using that opportunity to go about how to punish my daughter.

Isabella had inherited her mother's manipulative trait or rather her late mother inculcated it in her. She knew I was feeling guilty for her mother's death and tended to take advantage of that.

That was why I didn't have the heart to spank her instead resorted to giving her punishments but it seems the girl was now immune to them.

Moreover, the idea of smacking my idea on the butt with a cane didn't sit well with me especially after what I had experienced in the hands of Adam in the name of toughening me up; I was a man and had to be strong. So spanking my daughter was a no-go area.

But I had to come up with something, the girl was getting naughtier to the point of being morally reprehensible. Her deplorable character was beginning to become a cause for concern and if I don't do something about it soon, I'll truly lose this daughter of mine or she harms someone in the name of fun.

I don't want to raise a daughter that can't accept what's morally right, no! I have to cut short her overgrown wings before she's beyond redeemable.

So I went over the plans in my head throughout what's left of the night that when the early morning came, I took a quick bath and called Austin over, giving him a list and briefed the head guard on what I wanted them to set up.

Just as I was through, my phone rang and I glanced at the caller ID, my brows furrowing when I found out it was Eden; I'm about to be given an earful.

"What is it?"

"Keep Isabella away from my daughter" Eden spat before I was even through with my words.

Well, that was expected. My villainous daughter Isabella tainted his innocent angelic daughter, Anabelle.

"There's no need to be tense, they're just kids who are overly curious and tend to be mischievous at times," I said.

"I should not be tense?" There was mocking anger in his tone, "Your daughter fed my daughter alcohol and now she's experiencing her first hangover at age ten"

"They would be eleven the next month" I blurted out before I could swallow back my words - I shouldn't have said that.

"Are you trying to say you're in support of what Isabella did?" Eden asked in disbelief.

"I'm not in support- heck, I'm ashamed of what the girl did and I assure you that she would be punished appropriately but what I can't accept is you dissing my daughter "

" What?"

"Yes, I admit that Isabella led them into drinking but did she shove the drink down Anabelle's throat?" I defended my daughter fiercely, my tone a bit higher than normal but not to the point of yelling.

"You claim your daughter is innocent, then why didn't she refuse the drink? If she's as good as you said, why did Anabelle accept the drink when she clearly knew it was morally wrong to do so at her age?"

It was apparent that Eden was so stunned by the turn of events that he couldn't speak back.

"Isabella is not perfect but I would not have you guys oppress my daughter for the crime of everyone. Do have a nice day" I hung up the call, feeling like a huge weight was lifted off my shoulder.

I would not sit back and watch my daughter become the sacrificial lamb. Perhaps, in the past I wouldn't have cared since I saw Isabella as nothing but a nuisance then, but now? After Maya taught me the joy of being a father, I could now be proud of the little devil God gifted me.

Yeah, I'm a proud father.

Pedro and Anabelle were at fault as well, they should have reported Isabella's doing to Maya but they didn't, which makes them as guilty as Isabella was; they all were partners in crime.

Done with dressing up, I headed to the kitchen to get my morning coffee and was shocked to behold Tina.

"Good morning, darling" Tina greeted and tried to peck me on the cheeks but I grabbed her chin and turned it the other way, she has grown bold.

My voice reached a frosty level as I asked, "It seems you have grown tired of living, do you want to pay a visit to hades?"

To my surprise, Tina laughed coyly and hit me on the chest playfully which left me perplexed.

"You're such a good joker" she patted me on the chest again.

But this time I held her hand off my body," What do you think you're doing? Didn't I warn you not to set foot here again?" Came my reminder.

"I had a talk with your father and he came to a conclusion that I should spend more time with Isabella since our engagement party is fast approaching and I'm going to play a huge role in her life in the future. So your father thinks we should start creating the mother and child bond before we get married"

I rubbed the inside of my ear with a finger, God knows I filtered out everything she said save "my father". No wonder she grew audacious, Tina had renewed her guts by meeting up with my father - my nemesis.

"So I want to strengthen the connection between Isabella and me by cooking her meals every morning before leaving for work" she explained.

I snorted inwardly, I could see her plan. From preparing breakfast for Isabella to sending lunchboxes to me at the office, to spending the night at my place in the guise of waking up early to prepare breakfast, to getting into my bed, does she think I'm stupid?

"Thank you for your nonessential services but I don't need my daughter suffering from food poisoning," I said and turned to prance out of the kitchen since I had lost appetite for the coffee.

"Niklaus, just give me a chance to show my good intentions to Isabella. This is just not about you anymore" She pleaded, grabbing onto my hand.

I glared at her touch prompting Tina to withdraw her grip at once. About to ask her to leave, an idea suddenly struck her.

Isabella detested Tina, leaving my daughter with her seems like a pretty good punishment when added to the impending ones.

"Fine, do whatever you want," I quickly added, " For today"

I knew women, once you permitted them once, they would continually seek for allowance.

Knowing this woman was foxy and would seek a way to get into my bed or bother me to no end, I decided to leave for work.

I just had to endure for a short while, soon this shit would be over - just pray Maya hangs in there.

Austin notified me through a call that everything was set up as I wanted. I Instructed him on what to do next and in a few minutes, I was connected to the surveillance camera capturing Isabella in the closed room.

The girl had proved that all my grounding did not affect her so I resorted to this method.

Sometimes, physical punishment wasn't the best approach at taming a rebellious child, the silent approach works better.

I had studied my daughter for a while and understood she had a strong disgust for the color pink, claiming it was childish and nauseatingly girlish.

So imagine what would happen to? Isabella when stuck in a room painted pink with glitters to make it worse - that's her worst nightmare.

Adding silence, even the world's most deadly criminal when stuck in a place of inactivity with no means of contact or recreation for quite some time - depending on their mental strength - would crack under such psychological pressure talk more Isabella, the little imp.

I watched her through my laptop, it was not up to an hour, Isabella was beginning to get agitated and she was bored out of her mind.

Isabella wouldn't have been this disturbed if I had sent a gaming device to help her spend the time away. Sadly, if I do that, what's the point of the whole punishment?

During this duration, because she has nothing to do, her brain would be hyperactivated by the loud ticking of the clock in that soundproofed room - hence its function.

She would get restless and the next snap!

"Bingo"

Isabella stood to her feet, spaced up and down around the room before glaring at the door, then rushed at it, pounding her small fist against the metal door.

The video was without sound but I could read lips, so easily deciphered what she was saying.

"Get me the fuck out of here!"

Not long after, a call came in from Austin.

"Sir, she looks hysterical, should we let her out?" He asked out of worry.

"Don't worry, she still has abundant energy to curse" I said, watching Isabella gush out torrents of profanities highly unsuitable for children her age.

This scene made me realize I had given this little daughter of mine too much power, it was time to curtail it.

"Release her in thirty minutes"

*Chapter 187 - One Hundred And Eighty-seven: Search Isabella's Room*

Tina's point of view :

"What have you been doing?" That was the first question that was thrown my way when I stepped into Adam's office.

I had been surprised, excited yet anxious when Adam demanded my presence. I was surprised because it's been a while he asked of me and excited that he still remembers my existence and the fact I'll be engaged to his son soon yet anxious over the fact that I knew not the reason for my summoning - had I done anything wrong?

Confusion broke across my face, " I don't understand, sir "

"You don't understand?" He snorted with a derisive pull of his lips to the side, "I gave you something as precious as my son yet you misused it? I had thought you were capable but it seems I made a wrong judgment"

Adam was the current patriarch of the Spencer family and someone I had to be extremely careful with.

Even Niklaus' power was limited but that was until an appointed time.

If things go well without any disturbance like natural death or internal force-Eden-Niklaus would be the next family head and I the matriarch.

And since all the past matriarchs were dead, it meant I would have absolute power once my future husband Niklaus comes into power. How perfect!

"I'm sorry sir Adam, forgive my incompetence but can you please break down your words a little bit" I implored of him.

"Maya, why does she still have much influence over Niklaus?" He asked which made my mood turn sour.

It was not like I could put a noose around Niklaus' neck and keep him from meeting Maya. The son of a biscuit just keeps returning to her pants.

"I'm trying my best here but your son isn't making it any easier for me," I told him straightforwardly, there was no need hiding this annoying truth from him.

But this cold-hearted man wasn't affected by my words, "I didn't give Niklaus to you so I could hear some pathetic excuse from you"

"I have a way of ridding Maya once and for all this, but I need just a little more days" I divulged.

Kimberly already told me the good news this morning as if she had a hunch Adam would ask about that.

"Alright," He said, "I'll lend a helping hand when you're ready"

"Really?" My face brightened.

"Just don't disappoint me this time,"

"Sure, I promise not to fail you" I thanked him, almost to the point of falling to my knees out of gratitude.

"Also, Isabella is the way to Niklaus"

"What?"

He glanced up at me, "If you want Niklaus to love you, get Isabella's heart first"

"Oh,"

So this was what I've been missing all this time, the key person to use to get Niklaus' attention; the way to his heart.

"Do you know why I chose you?" The old man asked all of a sudden.

"Because I'm rich and powerful?"

But Adam pointed to the side of his brain, "No, you have the burning mindset to succeed, I can see it in your eyes" he moved his hand to his close-set eyes, "Your background is just a bonus"

Well, whatever he says? Lucky me. I was definitely in luck for coming from a prominent family, unlike a certain gold digger.

"So, don't dare fail me. I don't tolerate failures" He added without warning which set shivers traveling down my spine.

"Yes, sir Adam" I gulped visibly

"You can leave now" He dismissed me and I gladly left.

If not the fact that the man was the one in power, I wouldn't even glance at him twice not to talk of visiting him. Honestly, that man scares the shit out of me. I just keep on having this vibe that no matter how close we are at the moment, I shouldn't mess with him.

But the thought of finally getting Adam's support made me feel better. These past days I have been feeling like shit ever since Niklaus hit me for that bitch Maya but now I had to change my tactics.

It appears that me being headstrong would do nothing but infuriate him further so I had to try the soft and friendly approach.

But I almost blew my plan before it even began. All my rational thoughts flew out the window when I heard that Niklaus went to Maya's apartment last night from Amanda.

The house was abnormally quiet so I inquired from Amanda the housekeeper what happened and got to hear the whole story of Isabella getting herself drunk in Maya's recovery party or whatever she calls it.

Jealousy tugged at the strings of my heart, I couldn't help but feel this was a set-up. That imp Isabella must have purposely got herself drunk to get Daddy to come over and spend more time with that bitch in the guise of finding and taking her way home.

I was not a fool to believe that something wouldn't happen between Maya and Niklaus- that man was a Cassanova for Christ's sake. The thought made my blood boil but I eventually calmed down.

Even if Maya pleases him in bed to his heart desire, I was still the one who would get married to him. In the end, I would be the official madam of Spencer's household while she remains a mistress at my mercy.

No matter how much Niklaus hated me, there would come a time when he would have no choice but to surrender his body and heart to me - his wife.

I had come to his manor quite early in the morning so it wasn't a fright seeing him come into the kitchen to get his usual coffee.

When would that guy trust anyone enough to let them prepare his morning coffee? Sometimes, I can't help but think that capturing Niklaus' heart is an impossible dream. Yet, I needed him and his power and in one way or the other, I'll get both.

As usual, his face scrunched up in disgust upon seeing me which wasn't always like that between us from the beginning - Maya is the cause of his drastic change towards me.

"Good morning, darling" I tried to peck him on the cheek, see if he could get turned on by chance. But that asshole gripped my jaws tight, moving it the other way.

"It seems you have grown tired of living, do you want to pay a visit to hades?" He threatened me coldly.

Normally, I wouldn't be this daring considering his sheer dislike of me but my confidence has been boosted by Adam's promises, what's the worst he can do to me?

So I laughed his threat off, hitting him on the chest, "You're such a good joker"



For a moment there, I saw a look of astonishment until his expression darkened and he clasped my hand tight to the point it hurt.

"What do you think you're doing? Didn't I warn you not to set foot here again?"

Yolk, that threat again.

"I had a talk with your father and he came to a conclusion that I should spend more time with Isabella since our engagement party is fast approaching and I'm going to play a huge role in her life in the future. So your father thinks we should start creating the mother and child bond before we get married"

That wasn't a lie but the whole point of Adam calling me over this morning, right?

For the first time, Niklaus was quite attentive to my words so I went on.

"So I want to strengthen the connection between Isabella and me by cooking her meals every morning before leaving for work"

Who was I kidding? This was just an avenue to get more involved in their lives. Niklaus can go after Maya, I'll go after his daughter, then him finally.

"Thank you for your nonessential services but I don't need my daughter suffering from food poisoning," Niklaus was once again poised to ruin this great plan of mine when he knew I could cook.

"Niklaus, just give me a chance to show my good intentions to Isabella. This is just not about you anymore"

I was quick to grab onto his arm before he left, but his scalding look made me let go of him. With that murderous look, it was obvious I had to come up with another plan so it was highly shocking to me when he said.

"Fine, do whatever you want, for today" I was so stunned that I didn't move until he left. Wait, he just gave in like that, without a fight? Strange, but welcoming.

Without wasting time, I went ahead to cook her nourishing and delectable food. As someone who enjoys the fine things in life, I have acquired a lot of cooking skills from top chefs while traveling across the globe - Isabella would not be able to resist my food.

But then, the girl in question gave me a cold reception amid my gentleness. If not because this brat belonged to Niklaus and the fact I needed her help, I would have spanked her hard till she cried blood- no one speaks to me that way.

Still, I was able to put Isabella in her place nicely, which was totally unlike me; fine, I'll endure. But while she ate my meal - as expected- I used that opportunity to inquire of

her if she had seen any monkey business between her father and Maya even though it was highly inappropriate - but I was too anxious to know the truth.

"Is that what you should be asking a child?" Isabella of course deadpanned with a dirty look thrown in my direction.

"Moreover, between Maya and my father, who's more liable to seduce each other"

My mouth twitched. Of course, it was Niklaus but that bitch would definitely take advantage of that opportunity.

"Even if my father doesn't marry Maya, there are many other better Mayas' out there. You married a player, so live with it "

I was dumbfounded by the girl's words. Are you sure she's a ten-year-old kid?

So embarrassed was I that I tried to make fun talks to ease this awkward atmosphere yet the girl ignored me as if it was just air passing through.

I was already thinking of a way to get her to like me when the guards came to take her.

"Where are you taking her?" I stood to defend her.

"It's Niklaus' order"

"Oh"

Sorry, but I can't fight this one. The girl did wrong by drinking, so deserved to be punished and I can't stand against Niklaus's order when he barely welcomed me into his house.

But I can find another way of making Isabella happy by finding out what she desires, how brilliant!

Isabella was rich and had everything money could ever buy, so if I needed to know what she lacks, I had to search her room.

Moreover, I had never been to the girl's room, so it'd be a chance to explore her preferences; the room would reflect her personality.

I guess I never knew her personality because when I turned the knob to Isabella's room, my world went blank from intense pain.

*Chapter 188 - One Hundred And Eighty-eight: Crush Her Dreams Before It Began*

Kimberly's point of view

I was about to grab a drink from the refrigerator when my phone rang. It was Tina, she must have seen the pictures I emailed to her earlier.

"Hello" I trapped the phone against my ear with my hunched up shoulder while searching through the fridge for a specific juice.

"Hello" Tina's voice came from the other end, "What's keeping you from revealing the pictures to the world. This time it's obvious the bitch wouldn't be able to excuse her way out of this one?"

Of course, Miss authority questioned me as if I was her personal maid.

I finally found the juice I was looking for and brought it out, balancing the phone properly with my hand.

"I thought of doing just that but I have a better idea. Why don't we let Maya finish the movie and just when she's about to reap the fruit of her efforts, we expose the pictures.

"Announcing to the world that she had gotten that role by selling out her body. And not just by sleeping around, but sleeping with Eden, the cousin to Niklaus- the man she had been accused of trying to break up his relationship months ago.

"Her barely restored image over the months would crumble instantly. Public opinion would be against her once again and people would label her as a golddigger, vile, and promiscuous woman.

"I work in the PR department and know how this industry works. Parents would insist that her behavior was morally loose, a toxic role model to their kids. Netizens would boycott the movie and demand her scenes be removed.

"We all know how everyone is anticipating this long-awaited movie - It's causing quite a frenzy on the internet. Even as powerful as Niklaus or Eden is, they can't do anything cause this time they're facing millions of netizens from across the globe.

"With no one to help her and a reputation destroyed beyond repair, Maya would have no alternative but to quit the entertainment industry since no director would be willing to work with her.

"Who knows? She might even leave the country and go into hiding all together considering how reactive some fans are "

There was silence from Tina's side which didn't surprise me, she was taking in the details of my plan. I felt so proud, only I could come up with such an incredible scheme.

"Your plan is impressive"

My head swelled with pride, even Tina couldn't help but compliment me this time.

"But I have to reject it" she dropped a bomb.

"What?! " I spat out the juice from my mouth, mystified. I must have heard wrong.

"Why are you rejecting it? What's wrong with the plan? There is not even a? flaw in it! " I argued.

I stayed up all night stressing my brain to come up with this awesome plan yet she threw it into the bin like it was nothing!

There was a hint of anger in my tone even though I tried my best to hide it, "Tell me you have a good reason for opposing this"

"Your plan is good but it has one flaw: Time" Tina singled out.

"Elaborate"

"Shooting that movie would take months which I don't have and Maya is a notable threat to my position. Who knows what would happen within those months of carelessness- she might even find a way of altering Adam's view about her; she's a green snake in a green grass.

"Also, there's nothing more heartbreaking than getting one's dream crushed before it even manifested. Maya disappearing into thin air now would do more good than in the future. "

I thought hard about it and Tina's words did make sense. Her engagement party was upcoming and each time wasted doing nothing was an advantage to Maya.

Moreover, those pictures would have more impact now the memory of the past scandal was still fresh and she had gotten an eye-catching role.

"Fine, I understand and have just the right plan in mind. It would take effect a few days from now"

"Better, hurry up then. Time is against me "

" Of course, I - "

Tina hung up before I was through with my statement. What was I even expecting from her?

With a snort, I went through my contacts and sought out a certain person.

"Hello, Lily"

"Hi, Kimberly"

"Are you available this afternoon, I have important news that would increase your viewer ratings effortlessly" I threw the bait.

"Oh my God!" She gasped in wonderment, "Did you discover a celebrity with a sugar daddy?!"

I smirked, "Trust me, this has more weight than that and would cause quite an Internet sensation"

"O.M.G, you know what? I'm coming right away, just send the address"

I ended the call, sent the location to her, and turned around only to bump into my mother.

"Mom?" I was startled.

There was a frown on her face and she wrapped her arms across her chest and oh, I knew that look: I'm about to be interrogated.

"Who were you on the phone with?"

I gave her an awkward laugh,

"Mom, why are you being like this? You're treating me like I'm some teenager"

Though it was an excuse to evade her stern demeanor, it still pissed me to be dealt with this way

"Answer my question, Kimberly, Who were you speaking to?" She demanded.

" It was just Lily, satisfied?" I mocked.

"Lily?" She thought over the name, "Isn't she the television presenter at that broadcast company?"

"Yes, that Lily" I rolled my eyes, annoyed.

"Why are you meeting up with her? "

"Mom, seriously? I'm aged past being handled this way" I spoke out on her unreasonable treatment - I wasn't that teenage girl she could manage the way.

Since she was standing in my way, I walked around her, hoping to get some peace before meeting up with Lily, but that woman followed after me.

"Tell me you have no bad intention towards Maya," She said after me, causing me to turn around with a drained look.

"What do you mean?"

"I hope you're not about to release any defamatory news about Maya?"

I was stunned, how did she know about that and why was she even concerned about it? She never involved herself with how I treated Maya, so why intervene now.

But to give her the benefit of the doubt, I appeared indifferent, "What are you talking about?"

"If you're thinking of distressing your sister in any way whatsoever, I'll advise you to get rid of that plan of yours," she said.

I scratched the side of my eyes,

"Why do you think I would harm that fool?"

"First of all, that fool is your sister and has a name, so mind the way you refer to Maya if you don't want to get into trouble"

I was short of words hearing those words from my mom, why was she even protecting Maya and what trouble would I get myself into for calling that "fool" a fool.

"Also, I knew that you were the one who released that information to the press about Maya's background- "

"And yet you did nothing, mom" I threw my hands up in the air, "So? why are you telling me this now?"

"I'm just informing you for your safety" she clasped my face tenderly, " You know nothing about that girl like if she has a powerful backer supporting her; I don't want you to get yourself into trouble"

"Trust me, mom, I know everything there is to Maya," I told her.

"No, you don't know everything!" She yelled at me, her clasp tightening with her fluctuating emotions.

"Are you keeping something from me?" I couldn't help but sense she was hiding a very important secret

from me.

"O-of course not," She stuttered,

" I'm just concerned about you"

She was lying, that was obvious but the fact she was defending Maya vexed me more.

"And what makes you think my life revolves around Maya?"

" Huh?"

I pulled her hand away from my face.

"Maya!Maya! Maya! Why would you think that I have time to plot against that scum that isn't worth my attention?"

"Kimberly, I'm - "

"Does this mean you don't trust me?"

"That's ludicrous! I trust you but I'm also your mother and know when you're up to no good"

I came closer, " Lily and I are friends who just want to catch up on things since we've been so busy lately. So take it or leave it!"

I stormed out of the living room, walked up the stairs, and walked into my room.

Mom was getting protective of that witch Maya so I had to do that. If I didn't deny her accusation, she'd probably try to stop me from achieving my goal.

After confirming my mom left for work before me, I dressed up, got into my car, and drove off to the restaurant.

Thanks to the delay, Lily was already there before me.

"You're five minutes late" she observed, checking her wristwatch that graced her slim wrist.

As an on-air personality, timekeeping was very crucial to her.

"I'm sorry, there was some unforeseen delay"

"Alright, feed me the juicy news that has been keeping me on tenterhooks"

"I would. But before that, I want you to host this woman on your show" I gave her a picture of Maya.

Her eyes narrowed, "Hey, isn't this that newbie celebrity that had that intense scandal with - "

"Yes,"

"How is this related to the...." She trailed off when I showed her the picture of Maya and Eden K-I -S -S- I-N-G.

"This..." Her eyes dilated as she began to connect the dots mentally.

"Holy biscuit!"

*Chapter 189 - One Hundred And Eighty-nine: Visit My Princess*

The third point of view

"Do you think she would make it?" Asked Sakuzi whose chin was propped up by his hand on the table.

The gang members were shocked by the sulky look on their leader's face, he looked like a puppy abandoned by his master.

All this was happening because their future lady boss refused to have dinner with him. Of course, not all of them knew about the truth, just a few. Even if they knew, they wouldn't dare to expose that secret to the public or Spencer family until the boss ordered it.

Everyone was afraid of Sakuzi for one reason, the man was an eccentric killer and could think of an unimaginable way or situation to end your life.

Who would have thought that he would end Gerald and his gang on that day and that manner?

Without warning, he had dived like an eagle and struck his prey. Some people might say he enjoyed in killing but few knew he touched those who touched his people.

"What do you want to hear? The truth or the white lie?" Questioned Emerald who was his companion at the table.

"Hmm" Sakuzi breathed, rubbing his chin. He was hoping for the truth but his mood was sore right now that he might not need such gospel to dampen his mood.

"Fine, hit me with the truth" He gave in grumpily.



The big, brawny man readjusted in his seat and began, "The girl is scared of you"

"What?" He snorted, relaxing against his seat, "Why should she be afraid of me? Isn't there some sort of bond that exists between father and child unconsciously"

"Well, congratulations, you ruined the little of the non-existent bond by kidnapping her," Emerald said sarcastically.

He was Sakuzi's right-hand man and the only person who could talk to Sakuzi that way aside from his children without fear of getting a bullet through their score.

"Well," he agreed reluctantly, "I did kidnap her but I recognized the bond which was why I didn't kill her. Besides, you were the one who suggested the idea of kidnapping her in the first place" he held Emerald at fault.

Emerald was calm, his voice indifferent, and spoke in a monotone

"Why are you blaming me? You were the one who inquired of me what to do to Niklaus' little birdy. Also, you didn't kill her because she bore resemblance to your late mother"

His mouth twitched, can't this boy save him some face? He lifted his hand and wanted to smack him on the back of the head but his hand hung in the air when his eyes met his and the elevated hand returned to his side.

Tsk tsk, he couldn't go through with the plan, not because his hand wasn't tall enough to reach for his head but the sudden prick in his heart. He had always treated Emerald as his son even though the bastard doesn't want such preferential treatment.

Sakuzi had taken in Emerald at age ten after he had been abandoned by his parents. As a seven-foot six tall man, his parents had been worried over the boy's drastic growth spurt from birth. At age three, the boy was already three feet tall and as one with a fast metabolism required lots of food which his poor parents couldn't provide.

Unable to feed themselves, talk more about a kid that ate as if his stomach was a bottomless pit, they sold him.

The village was quite poor with barely accessible roads which made it a good site for his drug trading business. Most villagers were not educated, they were the poorest of the poor so they couldn't report his activities thanks to the fear he had induced in their minds.

Most villagers were employed to cultivate and manufacture the drug while his men and some capable proven youths from the village did the distributing and selling of the drugs following special routes known as directed by him.

Sakuzi treated and paid everyone handsomely for their hard work as far as they don't steal from him; that one attracts hefty punishment or tells on him to the so-called authorities he bribes; that offense attracts instant death - to both officer and traitor. You can't take his money and also work with his enemies against him, that was blasphemy.

Society might condemn his way of living but this was business, you had to do everything to survive on this battlefield called earth. But as obscene as he was, he wasn't into human trafficking, sexual exploitation nor organ harvesting no matter how lucrative it was.

He ran much illegal business and legal - to cover up his crime life - but none went past drugs, money laundry, illicit arms trafficking, cargo theft, you name it. As bad as Sakuzi was, he still had his own code of morals.

Thanks to extreme poverty, it was common to see frustrated parents selling their children to him at a good price.

At first, Sakuzi would buy and let them go because he was against modern slavery but the estranged children would still return to the parents which results in them almost beaten to death since the poor parents think they must have been rejected because of their stubbornness.

So, he learned to keep them and train them as his men, giving them a choice to leave and find a suitable and decent life once they were up to age. And that was how Emerald came to him.

He could still remember that day, the boy had been beaten black and blue due to the fact he had eaten the last meal the family intended using for supper that night, upon the fact they had given him some loaves of bread and water that morning.

"Would I be given enough food and a place to sleep?" Young Emerald had asked.

That question had stunned and attracted him to the boy instantly. Upon his busted lips and bleeding nose, he didn't sniff nor shed tears at all, he was more concerned about his stomach.

Sakuzi wanted to adopt him as a son but the big boy refused his kind gesture, he only wanted to assist by his side.

"Fine, hence princess won't come to me, I'll go to her" Sakuzi decided.

"Huh?" Emerald was startled.

"Let's go and visit my princess"

*Chapter 190 - One Hundred And Ninety: My Life Is At Stake*

Maya's point of view

After the somewhat sad news from Camille, my manager, my mood plunged faster than the force of gravity on a body. I felt anxious, overwhelmed, weepy, and angry at the loss of what to do. It felt like everything I planned so far was drifting away right in front of me and I was helpless to stop it.

This wasn't how it was supposed to go, my revenge hasn't even begun yet and here it was failing. No! I had to think of something - right after this sleep. My brain was a hubbub of thoughts so I had to sleep to calm down. Yeah, sleep out this gloomy feeling.

And so, that's what I did. Sleep without giving a thought to Sakuzi's invitation, that man could go to hell as long as I care.

I can't tell how long I fell asleep but from my snoring, it was definitely a long one and would have slept further if I didn't have this urge to wake up.

Goosebumps climbed up my arms, I felt eyes on me and someone's breath hitting my face softly.

"Wakey, wakey, up on your feet, you've got a date with me, my princess"

The voice sounded dreamy and distant yet oddly familiar that my sleep muddled brain couldn't process where I had come across it.

I turned to the other side of my bed, I didn't want to wake up -? sleeping was so fun.

"Seriously princess, I could let you enjoy your beauty sleep but I haven't got all day"

Wait a minute, wasn't I dreaming? Why does that voice now feel so real and awfully familiar? My eyes snapped open, Sakuzi!

I woke up to a face looming over me, releasing an ear-splitting scream as a defense mechanism.

What the fuck was going on here? It was really that son of a biscuit! What was he doing here and how did he even get into my room? This has got to be the most disturbing occurrence ever.

I continued screaming so hard to the extent my throat hurt, backing into the wall with my sheet wrapped around my chest though I was with my clothes on.

"What are you doing here?!"? I panicked, my breath coming in short, sharp gasps. This creepy scene was going to haunt me for eternity.

He smiled, a spooky smile - in my definition, that couldn't be sincere and even if it was, it was freaking me out!

"I invited you to dinner and since you declined, I decided to take you to dinner myself," he said, quite enthusiastically.

How does that even make sense? He just barged into my house without an invitation to have dinner with me? Me of all people? Why me?

"How did you get past my door?"

He looked back at the door with a full scowl on his face, "Princess, If you call that chap of wood a door, then I should advise you not to sleep with your eyes closed"

So in one word, he hacked my door. He invaded the only source of security keeping me from harm, this was borderline crazy.

"If this is some kind of emotional manipulation to kill me mentally, congratulations, it's working"

For a moment there, I thought I saw a look of disbelief as he said,

"Why would I kill - I mean, it's not yet time to kill you, I'll inform you when it's due"

Great, this man has lost it! I have a killer who gives his victim a death date on my tail, how worse could this get?

"Go and get dressed" he ordered

Oh, it just got worse.

"I'm not going anywhere with you," I told him stubbornly, backing further into the wall.

He snapped his fingers "Emerald" then looked towards me with a victorious grin, "Would you dress up real quick or should he help you out?"

"You can't be serious, this is outrageous!"

"Try me"

"Fine" I agreed, having come up with a plan already in my head.

With a hasty grumble, I moved out of bed but secretly picked up my phone from the side, rushing into the toilet.

Once inside the safety of my bathroom cubicle, I whipped out my phone and called Niklaus, trying my best to calm my heart that was pounding against my chest.

My hand was shaking so terribly I had to support my phone with both hands.

"Come on, come on, pick up your phone" I pleaded in-between tears of frustration, that psycho would kill me today.

God knew how grateful I was when the line finally went through.

"Oh my God, Niklaus, I need your help- "

"Ugh!" Tina's annoyed groan came from the other side that I had to check the line again to confirm I had really called Niklaus.

"Seriously, can't a woman have a man here?" She complained.

Yeah, she had the right to be vexed at me, I wasn't supposed to communicate with her fiancé but I had no choice; desperate time calls for desperate measures.

"Christina, I know you have every right to hate my guts and every right not to trust me but right now, I need you to put Niklaus on the line, please"

"Dearest Maya" she laughed, the cause of her mirth unknown," If you think I'll be a fool and fall for this carefully crafted scheme of yours, then you're in for a loss"

The veins in my body boiled with anger, "Do you think I have time to waste my saliva playing chase with you?" I released a low growl, eyeing the door, "My life is at stake here"

"Oh," Tina was undoubtedly surprised by my confession but her next comment left me dumbfounded.

"That makes it all the better"

"What?"

"Disappear from the surface of the earth and let's see if I can have peace of mind. I pray you to die for real this time "

Wow, I breathed, she did hate me to the extent of wishing me death

"Also, Niklaus and I just had mind-blowing bed-breaking sex which is why he's asleep and unable to pick up. I hope the next you call at an appropriate time - If you're still alive" she mocked me.

Tina blew me a loud kiss, "Have a nice voyage to Hades, Adios"

The line disconnected at once.