

## **Taming A Billionaire**

### **#Chapter 201 - Two Hundred And One: Stay Away From Danger - Read Taming A Billionaire Chapter 201 - Two Hundred And One: Stay Away From Danger**

*Chapter 201 - Two Hundred And One: Stay Away From Danger*

Maya's point of view

"Aren't you going to miss your flight, it's been thirty minutes already?" I asked Niklaus who was busy stroking my hair. We were tangled together beneath the sheet with the smell of sex lingering in the air.

"No, sweetheart. Perks of being a private jerk owner," Niklaus replied, tucking his face in the crook of my neck and tickling me with his feather-like-kisses.

"Niklaus, stop it!" I laughed, squirming like a fish out of water.

But Niklaus went ahead to aid his attack with his hands on my ribs to the point of tears escaping my eyes.

"Fine, you win" I gave up.

"Really? What's my prize?" He pouted his lips in such a silly way that made me burst into laughter.

"Seriously?" I laughed, "You need to take a look at yourself in the mirror sometimes"

"Don't care, I just need my prize" he demanded, his hand roaming down my bare body - there was no need guessing what he wanted as a reward.

I clicked my tongue, sometimes this handsome grown-up man could behave as if he were a four-year-old kid. I could already imagine Isabella giving him a pathetic look if she were to see this.

"Fine," I gave in.

Releasing his grasp, I got on top of him while his throat bobbed down as he gulped. Having let me mount him, he knew what was to come.

Placing my hands on his chest, I held Niklaus' gaze and began to move forwards and backward against his arousal in a slow dance that made Niklaus release a sharp gasp.

His hands tried to reach for my backside but I grabbed them, pinning his hands against the bed.

"You wanted a prize, here it is" I smirked at him devilishly and felt him throb bigger and harder. I rode Niklaus like a friggin pogo and just when he was about to come, he broke free from my grasp without warning, grabbed my ass, and stabbed his arousal into my walls.

A throaty moan was released from my mouth when suddenly Niklaus thrust into me since all this had happened before I could premeditate his action.

His hand grabbed my ass and began to move up and down against me who had no choice but to hop on.

"Gosh! faster!" I urged him, throwing my head back and gripping my scalp as I felt my climax around the corner.

As usual, Niklaus indulged me without delay and both of us moved harder and faster until we came at the same time with a blissful cry.

I collapsed on Niklaus exhausted which induced laughter from his lips while I hid my face in his warm muscled chest.

"At this rate, I'll miss my flight" Niklaus chuckled but my expression shifted at the moment. I had been distracted by our passionate activities that I had forgotten he was going to leave any time from now.

I was sure no one would hurt me in his absence as far as I don't go looking for trouble and Tina and his father leaves me alone. Still yet, I didn't want him to leave; maybe, I was missing him already.

"Hey, Tigress, don't be sad" Niklaus encompassed me with his strong arms," I won't be gone for long, a week at the latest" he comforted me.

I gulped, "Niklaus, I have something to tell you,"

Niklaus' expression shifted when he saw my sudden intense countenance, "Hey, what's wrong?" He asked with a frown.

My heart slammed against my chest, this was the moment I've been waiting for. So I took a deep breath and said, "I think you were right, Niklaus"

His confusion grew," Right about what?"

One..two ...three...

"I'm pregnant, Niklaus" I finally dropped the bomb.

Dread filled my heart when Niklaus went catatonic for five good minutes; His facial expression froze with his mouth agape.

My heart sank, what was I thinking? That he would leap up for joy? Who was I kidding? I was just the side woman he loved while Tina was the chosen one who would enjoy all the privilege of being Mrs.Spencer.

"I shouldn't have said this..." I was already on the verge of tears when Damon suddenly lifted me in the air along with the sheet and twirled me in the air which made me scream from terror; that was so unexpected.

"Niklaus" I screamed, holding onto his neck for my dear life.

He finally placed me on the bed with excitement screaming all over his face.

"You're pregnant?"

"Yes," I answered a bit shy.

"You're really pregnant?" He asked again.

"Yes, Niklaus"

"You're really, really, pregnant" he asked for the third time which made me lose my fragile temper.

"You fucking planted a baby inside of me, Niklaus !" I yelled at him, hoping he got it into his head this time.

"Oh," It dawned on him," I'm going to be a father"

"Yes, you are" the anxiety which gripped me earlier loosened up.

Before I could tell what was on his mind, Niklaus flipped down the sheet covering my nakedness to my astonishment.

"Niklaus!" I yelped.

To my utmost surprise, Niklaus lowered his head and pressed it against my stomach as if trying to make out the baby's heartbeat. I was lost for words but his gesture made happiness bubble in my heart.

"Niklaus, I think the baby is pea-sized as of now," I smiled at him.

"I-I-I...." He found it hard to express himself.

"I know, Niklaus" I squeezed his hand appreciatively and he intertwined our hands together.

But a frown made his way across his face causing my heart to race, had I done anything wrong?

"Do you think what we just did, affected the baby?" He asked referring to our sexual activity.

I pursed my lips contemplatively, "I don't think so else I would have felt uncomfortable"

Niklaus breathed a sigh of relief, it was apparent my baby, no, our baby, meant a lot to him.

"I don't think we should have sex anymore"

My brow arched.

He restated, "At least, until you've met the doctor who confirms it's safe,"

Ugh, this is so much work.

"Niklaus, how are we going to make this work?" I was suddenly scared for my baby's future.

"What?"

"You're engaged to Tina and I grew up as an illegitimate child, I won't let my child also grow up as an - "

"Don't say it," He pressed a finger against my lips, "You being pregnant with a child has solved everything" he said.

"Huh?"?What was he talking about?

"We have this code in our family, 'we protect our own' " he went on, "As far as that child has my blood, no one would dare touch you and I'm free to make you my wife unless I don't want to, but I'll still get the child,"

My blood ran cold, "You're trying to say if I don't become your wife, you'd take my child from me?"?Hot searing anger coursed through my veins, how dare him!

"Our child" Niklaus corrected and tightened his arm around me when I tried to move away, "Hey, that's Spencer's rule, okay? But that is not going to happen in our case. We

would train this child together as husband and wife and her parents," he assured me yet, I was not settled.

"What if your father finds something to hold against you and blackmails you into marrying Tina?" I shared my feelings with him.

"That is not going to happen but if it does, I'll leave everything behind; my title, wealth, everything; we'll escape from this hellhole together with Isabella," he said with all manner of seriousness.

"Alright," I calmed down. Maybe I was just overthinking things and they say emotions fluctuate a lot during pregnancy.

"Do you think Isabella would accept this new development, she's going to have a new sibling soon?"

Niklaus guffawed, "She'd go crazy with joy, you don't know how long she has been expecting a baby sister"

"Baby sister, huh? I think I'm carrying a boy" I contradicted his claim.

"How are you so sure? Don't tell me you're psychic?" He joked.

"I'm his mother," I informed Niklaus, unconsciously stroking my still flat stomach.

His phone rang disrupting this memorable moment and my mood turned sour since I had a feeling it was his people calling.

Niklaus looked up, pressing his lips together with a heavy heart, "It's time I left already, Maya. I'm way behind schedule"

I swallowed, "You're going to return as soon as possible, right?"

"Of course" Niklaus kissed my stomach, "I'll finish up earlier than intended for you and our baby boy"

A smile curved my face, he finally agreed the child was going to be a boy- placing a bet would have been a lot more fun.

"Please Maya, stay away from trouble at all cost. Keep yourself and our baby safe. We'll sort this out once I'm back" he kissed me on the lips one more time before heading to my bathroom to wash up and leave.

Sure, I'll keep away from trouble, but I hope trouble keeps away from me.

*Chapter 202 - Two Hundred And Two: Who Ordered You?*

The third point of view

"Keep Maya safe," Judy read out the text Niklaus sent him carefully. Fine, he would keep an eye for his honey pie right after this.

He must have arrived in Country B already, Judy surmised before putting his phone back in his pocket and knocking on her door.

"Hey," Emily opened the door and smiled upon seeing him, "You made it," She hugged and kissed him briefly.

"I didn't know which one to get you so I got a bunch of everything," Judy told her, bringing a bouquet into view.

Just as he said, it was a bit of everything; the bouquet was a mix of diverse flowers known to man.

"Wow," Emily tried to find the right word to express herself, "This is multi special,"? she said laughing, letting the man into her house.

Alright, lately, things have changed between her and Judy and she decided to give the relationship a try. She knows, crazy, right?

After that encounter with her brother at Maya's place and the short conversation they had days after, Emily saw how dangerous she was living.

Having multiple partners put her at risk for sexually transmitted disease and pregnancy, moreover, she was getting tired of that kind of lifestyle. Inwardly, Emily still desired a man who would love and treasure her with all his heart.

At first, Judy had been totally against it considering the fact he doesn't do relationship and she was Niklaus' sister but Emily was one stubborn woman who never gave up on what she wanted and so managed to change that insensitive man's heart.

"I hope you slept well the previous night," Emily inquired, closing the door after him and turned around only to bump into him.

"I didn't," Judy replied straightforwardly.

Worried lines wrinkled Emily's forehead as she asked, "Why didn't you?"

"Because you weren't with me," Judy said, took the bouquet from her, tossed it to the sofa, pushed her up against the wall, and began to kiss her.

Judy knew he was playing with fire by being with her but he couldn't stop, she had slowly made her way into his hardened heart and now he couldn't stop loving her; she had enraptured his mind, body, and soul.

Emily shivered when he trailed kisses down her neck, the beard he had grown out tickling her.

"Alright, we are so not doing this," Emily laughed, pulling away from his hold and knowing what would happen if they continued down that road.

"We are eating out, Judy," she reminded him, pulling away from his grasp again as he tried to reach for her.

Judy was dismayed, "I'll rather eat you here"

Emily was stunned at his bluntness, "Nice try but no. By the way, give me a minute, I need to change out of this clothing,"

"Can I watch?" He requested before she was even through speaking.

"Again, no" she refused him and went into her room before he changed her mind- Judy can be quite persuasive sometimes.

Emily knew if she had agreed to his request, there was no leaving the house today. They would engulf their body with the flames of passion till God knows when.

A smile unconsciously tugged Judy's lips to the side as he waited for his girlfriend to do whatever she did in there. He was seated on her sofa, absentmindedly drumming his hand against the armrest, waiting patiently until he picked the barest of sound from behind him.

As someone who was once in charge of Niklaus' security, his senses were more developed than the average human as a result of hard training over the years.

So he picked up her footsteps before she actually came in but was speechless at the sight that greeted him.

Emily had added curls to her brown hair that cascaded down her shoulder and donned baby blue high waist pants that showed off her curves in the right places and a hot crop sweatshirt which showed her toned midriff with white sneakers.

"How do I look?" Emily twirled around for him to take a good look at her, beaming with smiles until her boyfriend's next comment struck her dumb.

"Go in and change" he ordered with a huge scowl on his face.

"What?" She must have heard wrong.

"You heard me right, Emily. Go and change right now," He rephrased.

"Why? Why do I have to change? Huh, why? What is wrong with my clothing?" She threw questions after questions at him.

Judy towered over her, "If you're going to go out looking like the goddess of seduction out of a fantasy book, I'll be the one enjoying the view alone, do you hear me?"

Oh, Emily finally understood what was going on. Judy was jealous which was kind of cute.

"Babe" she purred, wrapping her arms around his neck, "They can stare all they want but they can't touch me, remember?" Emily attempted to bribe him by kissing him sweetly on the lips.

"Nice try but no" Judy said the same words she used on him minutes ago.

"Go and change" he stood his ground after receiving her bribe.

Emily stomped her feet out of irritation and headed back to her room where she changed out of the sweatshirt, wearing a white blouse that left no part of her body exposed.

"Satisfied?" She scowled at him, attempting to move past him to the door but Judy reached out and grabbed her by the waist, pressed her against his chest, tilted her head upward, and kissed her till her anger dissipated.

"You look good," he complimented her while she tried to catch her breath.

"Seriously, I don't understand why I love you," Emily shook her head before she lowered his head by grabbing onto the lapels of his shirt and kissed him the way she wanted this time.

They almost lost control had she not remembered they had a date to catch.

"And you came with your car," Emily admired the blue sports car he had brought.

"I'm not as poor as you think," he said.

"I was not implying that," Emily clarified.

"I know," he winked at her, "I was just messing with you. So my lady,

get into the car," Judy opened the other side of the car for her to get in.



"Where are we going?" Emily asked as he started the car and began to drive out of her place.

"It's a secret," Judy stated.

"I hate surprises," Emily threw her head back, slumping against the seat and blowing air noisily through her mouth.

Something clicked in her head and she whipped her head around to him, "Come to think about it, you've never told me about your parents,"

"I don't know about them which is why I haven't told you about them," he said without hesitation.

"I don't understand,"

"I was raised in an orphanage, so I don't know whether they're dead or alive," he explained, his eyes glued on the road.

"I'm so sorry," Emily squeezed his head gently.

"There's no need to be sorry, I don't even know anything about them- "

Judy was still saying when a car from nowhere suddenly overtook them and blocked them forcing him to step on the brake abruptly to avoid running into it.

"What was that?!" Emily screamed, her hand on her chest while tugging back her hair getting in the way of her sight.

"Don't get out of the car," Judy ordered her and stepped out.

"What are you doing?" Emily asked but he had gone to meet the bastards who almost got them in an accident.

Wait a minute, why were they familiar? Emily scrutinized them and her eyes almost bulged out of her sockets when she discovered it was her father's people.

"Oh my God," Emily's heart skipped a beat when they all emerged with baseball bats.

"Judy, look out!" She screamed, her heart in her throat when they charged at him. Why were they doing this to him? Who gave them the right to do this to him?

As usual, Judy proved himself to be capable of warding off their attacks but more cars pulled up and more of her father's men arrived at the scene.

"Judy!" Emily screamed and this time, got out of the car and rushed to intercept their plans.

"Stay in the car!" Judy ordered her amid being beaten all roundabout.

Emily had almost reached him when someone grabbed her from behind.

"No! let me go!" She screamed, kicking her feet in the air furiously but whoever held her was very strong.

"No, don't hit him! Stop hitting him!" Emily cried out, struggling to be set free but they wouldn't let her run to him.

The girl screamed for help until her voice turned hoarse, her hair was disheveled with swollen eyes and tear-stained cheeks that left a streak of smeared rouge and mascara.

At last, they had stopped hitting him and she somehow freed herself from her capturer clutch and ran to him.

"J-Judy" she choked on her tears.

Emily cradled his head on her lap, tears streaming down her face like a waterfall.

Even though he was bleeding from the head and had a busted lip and a black eye, Judy was bloodied that it looked like he was bleeding from everywhere.

"Why are you crying?" He wiped away tears that flowed down her cheek, " You look ugly when you cry" he smiled at her.

Yet that gesture made Emily cry harder, " Who ordered you to do this?!" She yelled at the men who remained unmoving.

Suddenly, a magnificent looking car screeched to a stop a few meters away from her and Emily saw her father step out of it.

*Chapter 203 - Two Hundred And Three: Put A Bullet In His Head*

The third point of view

Emily looked up, watching Adam walk over to her with his signature indifferent look. Unable to take it anymore, She decided to meet him halfway.

"Father, why did you- "

Crack

The impact of the slap whipped Emily's face to the side and she stood unmoving, her hands reaching out to rest on the assaulted side of her cheek.

Tears slipped down Emily's cheek, this was the first time - the first time her papa ever laid a finger on her.

It took a minute for her to fully comprehend what just happened, he slapped her?

"W-why?" The question slipped out of her mouth before she could take it back.

"I'm so disappointed in you," Adam shook his head with sheer disappointment.

He had not said anything about her moving out of his house since she wanted that but who knew that his previous daughter would end up rolling in bed with that commoner. Also, an ex-shadow guard at that? How lowly could she get?

"I-It was my choice" Emily choked on her tears, "I was the one who wanted him so don't take it out on Judy. He did nothing wrong, father" she pleaded on Judy's behalf with trembling lips.

"Stop it, Emily!" Judy yelled at her, the scene was hurting him too much. His heart was aching so much he thought he would die from the pain.

Since the time he worked for the Spencer's, this was the first time he had seen Emily kneel not to talk of pleading for someone this helplessly.

Though she wasn't as proud as a peacock, the girl naturally had an air of superiority around her which made her look like a rare exotic flower that can be viewed but not touched.

But because of him, this rare flower was not only kneeling but pleading for his life. He'd rather die watching her stand with her head held high than stay in this pathetic situation.

"Stand up now!" Judy roared but she didn't listen.

Emily rubbed her palms together, interceding against Judy's wishes, "If you have any problem, it should be with me. Father, let him go, please, I'm begging you,"

That scene infuriated Judy so much that he got to his feet but he was knocked down before he could get to her.

"Judy!" Emily screamed, running to him and hugged him protectively, shielding him with her body as she glared daggers at those men in suits.

"Don't you dare touch him!" She roared a warning like a mother Hen protecting her chick.

"Take him," Adam issued the command to his men, turned his back on his daughter, and entered his Maybach.

"Drive," Adam ordered.

"Father!" Emily screamed after the car that sped off leaving a trail of dust in its wake.

"No, no, don't you dare!" She ranted at the men approaching both of them. Her father must have ordered them to take Judy away. No, she would not let that happen!

One of them approached them amid her threat and she struck the son of a bastard in his stomach with her knee.

Anger blinded her to the extent she was seeing red. At that time, Emily was so bloodthirsty she didn't care if she killed one of them. All that was in her mind was to keep Judy from harm, nothing must happen to him!

But then, the girl wasn't as strong as Maya because when she went for another strike at the next opponent, her move was anticipated and intercepted.

Emily struggled to set herself free but she couldn't and within her watchful eyes, an injection was pierced into her neck.

"No!" Judy shouted and stood to his feet before anyone could stop him. He ran to them but another person shoved him to the ground with all his weight and he was incapacitated.

With his head pressed to the ground, Judy was administered the same drug that was injected into Emily, and the last thing he saw before he lost consciousness was her limb form being carried away.

When Emily awoke, it was already evening and she was back in her room at her father's mansion, she observed. At first, it seemed like a dream but when she recollected her memories, Emily tossed away the sheets, sprinted down the stairs and to her father's office with record-breaking speed.

"Where is he?!" She demanded as soon as she flung the door to her father's office open.

But Emily stopped short when she saw Judy kneeling in the middle of the room while one of her father's men had a gun pointed at his head while her father watched.

Her heart literally leaped out of her chest, she approached her father cautiously, "What are you doing?"

But her father's response was to fling a bunch of photos at her. Of course, it was nothing but photos of her casual flings the past months.

What was she expecting? The man had been keeping tabs on her, she should have known that.

"You asked for freedom and I gave you one and this is how you use it?!" Adam's temper got the best of him.

Emily laughed bitterly, "I admit that was not the best of a lifestyle but I chose them because I wanted to know what it felt like, I wanted to taste that kind of freedom you took away from me," she retorted!

"This life of luxury you despise so much, there are millions of people out there who would give anything just to experience it once!" Adam said.

"I only wanted more freedom!"

"Is this how you thank me for raising you all these years?!" He banged his hand hard on the desk.

"I'm thankful for all you've done for me all these years, father but this time, you've got to let me live my life" Emily begged him.

Adam released mocking laughter,

"Live your life with who? Him? Do you even know what he did for a living?"

"Father, Judy was once Niklaus' personal assistant and I know you dislike lower class people but Judy has a big vision and in a few years he'd -"

"He told you he was your brother's

Personal assistant," Adam was amused further, "In case you don't know Emily, your sweetheart here was a shadow guard," he pointed.

"I don't understand," Emily was puzzled.

"I'm sure you've noticed the strange traditions in our family but the truth is that we're a private security company with the license to manufacture, possess and transfer firearms, parts, and components and you should know the risk that comes with such business. And this fella here..."

He gestured to Judy and continued, "Belongs to a department of guards whose responsibility is to die in our place in a dire situation and to do and cover up our dirty works"

Emily was stunned, "Is that true?"

Judy's eyes met hers, "Your father is right," he admitted, taking his eyes off her with his head lowered.

"Still, that doesn't make him any lesser than a human. He did that to survive and we were the ones who encumbered him with such illicit tasks," Emily defended Judy which made tears threaten to spill down his face.

This was the first time someone had not judged his kind of work but rather stood for him sincerely. His heart felt so light and fulfilled.

"What charm has this boy used over you?" Adam was flabbergasted. This Emily he was seeing was not his once obedient daughter.

"Father, it's not a charm. I love him and he loves me too- we love each other. And I believe you'd understand what I'm feeling since you once had this wonderful experience with mom before she left us," Emily tried to persuade him.

Adam's eyes flashed, "How dare you compare what I had with your mother with this childish, outrageous infatuation of yours!"

"Father-"

"Get prepared, you're getting married to Ahmed. Your days of frolicking is over," He announced.

"What?" Emily felt as if a second slap was landed on her cheeks

"You can't be serious! I'm not getting married - "

She was still saying when her father himself focused a gun on Judy's temple from that distance.

"W-what are you doing, father?" She gulped, fear evident in her eyes.

"You would marry governor Ahmed or I will put a bullet in his head" his tone was firm.

"No, you don't mean it, father!" She refused to believe that her father would murder the man she loves.

"I mean every word," Adam said, cocking his gun.

"Please don't do this father,"

"You have until five counts to make your decision....one.."

"Emily, don't do it. You deserve your freedom" Judy said.

"Shut up you bastard!" She howled at him out of frustration.

"Two ....three "

"Father, we can settle this "

"Four ...."

"Emily, don't do it"

"Five..."

"Fine, I'll marry him!" She shouted before her father could pull the trigger.

"I'll marry him, just leave Judy out of this, okay" Emily finally buckled under pressure.

"Take him out," Adam motioned his men with his gun.

"Wait, where are you taking him, I already promised to marry Ahmed" Emily panicked.

"I'm sending him abroad where he won't be a nuisance to your marriage" Adam responded with no ounce of emotion.

Emily at once ran to Judy and kissed him hard and long before they were finally separated.

"I'm going to come back for you, promise me that you'd hold on and wait for me!" He shouted after her as he was being led away.

"I will!" Emily promised him, crying more bitterly than she had earlier.

A bag was placed over Judy's head before he was dumped into a car amid his vigorous struggle with his hands bound backward.

They drove for hours until they reached their destination and Judy was dragged to God knows where and was forced to his knees before the bag was pulled off his head.

His blurry sight finally adjusted to his environment, it was night and he was currently in a shipping port.

"You're going to kill me, aren't you?" He laughed bitterly.

"I'm sorry pal, but we got to follow orders," One of the men apologized and focused his gun to fire.

But gunshots from nowhere rained down on all five of them when he closed his eyes, awaiting his death while muttering an apology to Emily- he wouldn't be able to come back for her.

"Who are you?" Judy asked, scared when several men in dark dark articles of clothing emerged out of nowhere.

"We are sorry for coming late my prince" One of the men who moved to untie his hands said.

"What?!" Judy was confused, what the hell was going on?

"All enemies have been vanquished, it's safe to return home now, my prince"

Someone should pinch him.

*Chapter 204 - Two Hundred And Four: Insecurity*

Maya's point of view

I was sad after Niklaus' left. Heck, I didn't want him to leave me, I wanted him glued to my side, twenty-four hours, seven days a week, was I asking too much? Holy shit, why was I becoming too clingy? Yes, this must be it, pregnancy hormones! I heard pregnant women get too emotional for no reason at all?

Gosh, was I going to be that way too? Oh my God, this was horrible. What if I got too demanding and Niklaus leaves me to my fate? Oh my God, there were a lot of things I didn't know about pregnancy!

I heard that pregnant women craved odd and unnecessary food. What if mine is so weird that I yearn for freshly baked bread from across the world? Would Niklaus do that for me?

The worst of all, what if I sniff my way to a neighbor's place and beg for their food which seems more pleasing than my freshly cooked ones. This is so crazy.

Moreover, I was going to get fat. What if I get so fat that Niklaus leaves me for Tina or a better-looking woman? He was once a player, so it was possible. The horrors Maya, what in the name of God is wrong with you?



"I swear to God Maya, I'll puncture your eyes if you don't stop fidgeting," Fiona, one of the company's makeup artists warned.

Right now, she was applying mascara on my eyes and I was so lost in thought that I didn't realize I was unconsciously disrupting her work.

"I'm sorry," I apologized

"She was normal during shooting, don't know what's suddenly up with her" Said Lisa who was sitting beside me and was being attended to by another makeup artist.

Thankfully, I had aced through my first shooting today and the emotional mayhem had begun right after that. Perhaps, it was because there was nothing to occupy my idle mind.

"I've told you, Maya, if it's because of the interview? Don't worry about a thing, I'll guide you through it," Lisa smiled warmly at me.

Unlike my expectation, I found out that Lisa was actually a good person except the fact she was painfully direct and a pompous ass.? With her type of fame, it was no wonder she turned out that way.

"Thank you," I flashed back a smile.

If they knew what was going on with my life, their mouth would hang open from shock. Yeah, it was not that encouraging. I barely just landed a role that's supposed to bring me to the limelight and here I am pregnant with a child.

The movie was supposed to be shot for three months, which meant that my bump would become obvious and people would begin to speculate and gossip if I wasn't married by then.

Marriage? Yes, I would love to be married to Niklaus but I just never expected this outcome. I was planning on making a name for myself before settling down but fate has made its own plans for me which I can't change.

"How do you manage your career and your family?" I blurted out.

Fiona was stunned by my question, it came out of nowhere - I didn't even know when it slipped out of my mouth.

Fiona was a mother of two and pregnant with another, so I couldn't help but want to ask an experienced mother since I would be one, soon.

"That's surprising, why do you ask?" Fiona questioned with narrowed eyes.

My pulse quickened, was she suspecting I was pregnant? Wrong choice, I should have asked Cecil. Who was I kidding? Cecil hardly had time to look after her son.

"Umm," I cleared my throat awkwardly while readjusting in my seat, " I have been observing you for a while now and am pretty amazed how you handle your job and family at the same time, not everyone can achieve that," Inwardly, I prayed my excuse was convincing.

"Thank you for the compliment," Fiona appreciated me, " But all I can say is that it wouldn't be easy but the success depends on both of you"

"Both of us?" I blinked in confusion.

"My husband and I, but in your case, your future husband and you,"

"Oh," I nodded my head like an attentive student in a class.

"Understanding matters a lot in marriage, Maya. My husband knows the kind of job I do and what comes with it, so he does his best to support me while I make out time and try not to take advantage of him helping out.

Both of you should work like the wheels on a bicycle; the cyclist needs two not one wheel to keep it moving. So the success of my marriage and work also, is not my effort only, your man needs some credit too," she finished with a wink.

I swallowed, that kind of odd look? Does she know I'm ..? How did she..? You know what, I'm done asking before I run crazy.

"You should wear this," Fiona brought a nude-colored stiletto for me to wear.

"I hate heels," I told her, " They make me sick,"

"Heels are a celebrity's best friend, you'd get used to it and it's not even that much," she dropped it on the floor for me to fit my foot in.

I was wearing a short black elegant pencil skirt with graphic details which brought out my hips-? which sadly, I didn't have much but the clothes fit so much that the little of it was emphasized. It was paired with a ruffled top and a purse of course. My straight hair was curled, it's waves resting on my chest while my lips were a shade of glossy pink.

Lisa was not bad looking either, she was also donning an ivory frill pencil skirt with a lacy top. We were going for a conservative look tonight and though the clothes looked simple, they were from renowned brands and cost a lot of money.

Fiona and her team left as soon as they were done, leaving Lisa and me alone.

"It's alright to be nervous, Maya, since it's your first time of being in a television interview which I've done times without number by the way, and I've featured in Lily's shows before and knows what she's like, so I've got your back, you're covered"

Lisa's excessive concern was beginning to bother me. I knew she meant good but my nervousness was a stroke to her big ego. But I was not nervous about the show, God knows I've never been afraid of camera's - aside from the time where they're shoving one to my face during a scandal- rather my baby's future.

Niklaus has promised to take responsibility for the baby but I still can't help but get nervous, what if he changes his mind? What if that old fox Adam tricks Niklaus into marrying Tina? My son would become an illegitimate child like me - if the Spencers don't take him away from me.

"What is it?" Asked Lisa who was taking selfies to post on her social media accounts. She had heard me groan out loud.

"Nothing, just a minor headache," I lied, rubbing my temple to make it look convincing

Suddenly, the door to our lounge was opened, and lo and behold, Eden walked in, to my bewilderment. I was not expecting him, not even in my wildest dream.

"Give us some privacy," he ordered Lisa who didn't complain and left right away, though I could feel her questioning gaze. But she wouldn't bother me, not after the threat from Isabella.

"How have you been doing?" He asked while pulling Lisa's seat closer to mine.

"I'm fine. You?"

"Good."

As if a spell of silence was cast, no one talked after exchanging pleasantries. The atmosphere was so awkward that I looked everywhere but at him. Fine, this was childish, let's get this over with.

"About that..." Both of us said at the same time.

"You go first," I told him.

"I'm sorry about the way I spoke to you weeks ago," Eden apologized.

"No, it's nothing," I shook my hands, "You just said what was on your mind, I'm the one who should apologize for assaulting your innocent lips," I rendered my apology.

"You don't have to apologize, my lips aren't exactly innocent. Also, some desperate celebrities have done more than just seizing and kissing me," Eden explained.

"Okay," I breathed, tapping my fingers on my laps. So now we're good, now what? I couldn't see him anymore knowing Niklaus was the jealous type plus their bad blood.

Additionally, I wouldn't want the news of that kiss with him to get to Niklaus' ears, who knows what he would do? That man was a bull who refused to listen once angry.

"Have dinner with me after the shows over," Eden said.

Just what I was avoiding.

"I'm sorry-"

"It's the company's policy: All new artists have to share a meal with the president to strengthen bonds and working relationships," stated Eden.

"You're the president, you can break a few rules," I told him.

"It's been an unbreakable tradition, don't be the one to interrupt that streak, Maya," was his reply.

"Fine, after the show,"

"Alright," he acquiesced.

This would be a good opportunity to end any personal relationship with him. I was going to be a mother soon, it was time to draw the line.

*Chapter 205 - Two Hundred And Five: Sleep With Eden*

The third point of view

"Hi everyone, you're welcomed to another episode of Inside Life" introduced Lily, the television presenter looking fabulous in her pink belted pegged pants and a floral crop top accompanied by high heels amid her tall height.

The show's theme song played in the background the moment they went live while the audience clapped.

"Today would be another exciting adventure with me as usual. As we all know, the much-anticipated movie 'finding paradise' has been causing a lot of waves on the internet and today I have with me two important cast members," the words flowed from her lips with ease as she stared straight at the camera with a smile and unintimidated.

She announced enthusiastically, "Join me and welcome, Lily and Maya!"

A round of applause went off alongside a brief welcoming song as Lily and Maya emerged from the backstage with all smiles and pinned by a spotlight.

Even without being instructed, Maya forced a smile and waved at the live studio audience.

They made use of a thrust stage, which means that the stage extended into the audience on three sides and was connected to the background area by its upstage end. Thus the audience could view them from a variety of perspectives.

"Welcome," Lily welcomed them with pecks on both cheeks which they reciprocated.

She gestured to them to sit on the plush white couch with both ladies directly facing her.

"I'm so excited to have you, two beautiful ladies, on my show tonight. I mean, look at you both, looking so wow" Lily flattered them causing a blush to stain Maya's cheeks while the audience giggled.

Just as Camille promised, she had inquired about the questions to expect and they were mild compared to what she had feared. So all her uneasiness vanished, though Maya still felt nervous since this was her first time participating in a television show.

"Thank you," she and Lisa replied at the same time as if choreographed.

They had both gone over the script with Lilly before coming on stage so they had to put a few of their acting skills to make the show interesting.

"Issac sure has a knack for adding a lot of eye candy to his movies. I can't wait for Finding Paradise to be out - I need to choose my husband " Lily joked, fanning her face with her hand which elicited laughter from the crowd- Maya included.

If there was one thing she noticed on the audition day, all auditioners were aesthetic facially, but the same couldn't be said for their attitude.

"So Maya, how do you feel with this ongoing movie project?" Lily asked her first which was surprising - Lisa was supposed to go first.

She glanced at Lisa's way with concern but the girl gestured to her to go on with a tilt of her head.

"Honestly," Maya began, " All this feels surreal like I could wake up one morning only to discover it was a dream - which would seriously piss me off if it were to be true"

A roar of laughter ensued.

Maya was surprised at the way she controlled the crowd, it seems she was in her element here.

"It's relatable, anyone in her shoe would feel that way. I once felt that way too," Lisa chimed in to which Maya didn't complain.

Lisa naturally enjoyed the attention so it was understandable she was uncomfortable with this new unplanned development.

"I'm kind of curious how you would be able to catch up with the scenes you missed during those weeks of absence judging from the fact your first scene was shot today," Lily asked again when it was obviously Lisa's turn.

"A-hem," Maya cleared her throat but it was done purposely to remind the strange forgetful presenter that the next question was supposed to have been thrown at Lisa.

"Just thinking about it gives me headaches but as you all know, I was involved in an unfortunate incident which left me with some broken ribs, a concussion, and other injuries which required me going through surgery. I was advised by the medical practitioner to get enough bed rest and avoid strenuous activities which meant no shooting since my role involved a lot of action.

"But now, I'm good to go which means I have to cover up my missed shoots to meet up with the production team, I refuse to be the reason why the movie's delayed," Maya spoke sincerely.

"Yeah, we saw the news regarding the event and I have to say you're a fighter," Lily summarized while the audience clapped, cheering Maya.

Thankfully, Lisa was asked the next question while Maya made a little contribution after she was cued in by the presenter.

Maya frowned, wasn't Lily supposed to be the center of attention since the attention-seeking actress was the main lead while she had the supporting role? But the way things were going, it was almost as if the interview was reserved for her.

"So Maya," Lily started, glancing through her script, "As an upcoming actress, your career had been webbed in a series of scandals, do you think this movie would help reshape people's view on you?"

Maya licked her lips, this question was a tricky one which when not answered correctly might spark a scandal over her choice of words.

"You're right," she agreed with Lily, "Over the months, I've been termed a controversial actress which isn't favorable when making a career in this industry, and netizens tend to form their opinion based on what was fed to them by the media. So I'm going to put my

whole heart into this movie, so people can feel the goodness- I'm different from what the media portrays" Maya stated.

"Are you trying to say that you were falsely accused in that scandal?" Lily interviewed her.

Maya responded, " Let bygones be bygones but I believe that nothing is hidden beneath the sun forever"

"No, if you insist that you were falsely accused, we have to deal with that. I hate seeing innocent people falsely accused" Lily insisted which made Maya frown.

They had agreed there would be no prying into her private life but if they do, it would be subtle. Yet this woman was dwelling on a sensitive topic for her while ignoring Lisa who was willing to share those juicy gossips with her.

"Are you trying to say you never dated Niklaus?" Lily asked.

Maya didn't want to answer but this was a live television show, it would rouse jeers from fans watching from the internet If she said nothing and stared on like a moron. Maybe, this was an opportunity to clear her name.

"I dated Niklaus, I mean, who wouldn't?" She shrugged, "The man's a walking sex," Maya added humor to her tone not to seem too hung up on the issue.

The audience's laughter showed they acquiesced with her words.

"But the point is, Niklaus broke up with Tina before I dated him, the media should get their fact straight on that one," Maya summarized when out of the corner of her eyes, she caught Camile from backstage making an x gesture with her arms, meaning she shouldn't say a word anymore.

Lily smiled at her, "So when you failed to get Niklaus, you considered Eden?"

"What?" Maya was stunned, "What are you talking about?"

Suddenly, the large screen lit up with a picture of her and Eden kissing.

Maya instantly went pale.

"That picture was just released on the internet two minutes ago," Lily disclosed, eliciting a great murmuring from the audience.

Everyone at once reached for their phones to search up the news while Maya sat glued to the chair, stricken with shock.

"Maya Octavia, did you sleep with Eden to get the role of Maddy in Finding Paradise?" Lily asked her pointedly.

Maya tried to speak but no words came out, her lips just kept trembling.

"Those photos are photoshopped" Lily, the more experienced actress, stood to her defense. This was not the first time she had witnessed such a scandal and had a bit of experience to curb the damages.

"I'll assure you Lisa that our station does not support fake news and as you can see, Maya had been wearing her hospital gown. There are several footages from the hospital to prove that the photos are real," As Lily was still speaking, the photo slides to reveal another of Maya leaving for the garden with Eden at first and others from the hospital hallway.

Lily continued "Moreover, rumors are circulating that Maya was not the initial cast intended for the role of Maggy but was given that due to her strong backing,"

Another great roar came from the crowd; a murmur of disgust and disapproval.

"I'll ask once again Maya, did you sleep around for the role?" Lily pressed.

Meanwhile, Camille was yelling backstage.

"What the hell are you guys doing?! This was not part of the script?! I'll sue you all for any damages made to my actress! End that show right now! End it now !"

*Chapter 206 - Two Hundred And Six: The Scandal*

The third point of view

"We would be going for a short break and once we are back, would give more insight into the story. Stay tuned to Inside Life, " Lily smiled sweetly at the camera just as the production director switched to commercials.

"What the fuck was that?" Maya rushed at Lily the moment they were off air but Lisa held her back.

"What do you mean what was that? You came for a television interview, you should have been prepared for that?" Lily defended herself.

"That was not in the script?!" Maya yelled at her, she was boiling with so much anger that what she wanted was to reach out and pull out her hair till she goes bald.

"Violence is never the right answer, Maya," said Lisa who was having a hard time holding her back.



Meanwhile, Camille strode over to the stage with the same furious expression and pushed Lily on the chest, "You must have gotten information beforehand that such news would be released which was why you invited Maya to your show, isn't it? You gained exclusive right to interview her and thus, spiked your viewership ratings," she accused.

"I don't know what you're talking about," Lily denied vehemently, "I just happened to glance through the internet and stumbled upon it which isn't really hard to find since it's one of the trending news right now," she claimed.

"Who are you deceiving?" Camille asked her, "Do you think I started show business this morning?"

"Then you should have managed your actress better. It's not my fault she slept around for a role," Lily spat at Camille.

"Come here, I would show you how to manage your ugly face!" Maya pulled out of Lisa's grasp and sprang on Lily, pulling her tight at the hair.

"I slept around for a role?!" Maya fumed while pulling Lily's hair tighter as she cried in pain.

And of course, the audience couldn't let go of this juicy scene and they all began to film it with their cellphones.

"Maya, stop it!" Camille tried to separate them but she was pushed back instead, the girl was too strong.

"I slept around for a role, huh? Am a gold digger? What do you know about me? How dare you judge me? Who gave you the right to judge me" Maya raved, pulling her hair furthermore with some strands coming off.

"She has lost it, help me!" Lily screamed for help.

Show or not, all the staff rushed out of the backstage to separate the ladies. But Maya was so strong that it took four men to pull her away from the weeping Lily clasp her fallen strands and crying in horror.

Maya was naturally strong but the adrenaline pumping through her veins had overpowered her.

"If you think you're so powerful, come and fight like a lady you bitch," Maya gushed out more colorful words.

"Maya, we need to go," Camille shook her to get her head back in gear.

"Wait? Go where? The show hasn't ended yet " Lily demanded notwithstanding her ruined makeup and disheveled hair.

"I'll be damned to let you ruin my artist further," Camille spoke through gritted teeth and pointed at her, "You'd be hearing from our legal team soon,"

"Like I'm scared of you, bring it on" Lily sassed, then turned to Lisa who hasn't said a word since, "You're staying back, right?"

Lisa folded her arms, " I like you,"

Lily's grin widened.

"But now, I liked you," Lisa said right in her face, picked up her pulse, and strutted out of the stage.

Lily's once bright face fell as she watched the two important guests left. Well, she had anticipated this response while plotting this.

"How much time do we have?" She asked her assistant who had come to redo her makeup and hair.

"We're running late by five minutes," the girl replied.

"Damn it," Lily cursed, "Get me their replacements, the show must go on," ordered.

Lily didn't care if those losers left, she had already gotten what she needed. Now, all eyes would be glued to the station for more news and their viewership had soared already. She was an expert presenter and knew how to handle the rest.

Maya didn't leave right away, Camille led her into the private performer's lounge earlier reserved for them by the broadcast company to cool off some steam.

"You should have just let me punch the living hell out of that disgusting face!" Maya seethed in anger.

"Maya, you're an actress, not a gangster, so calm the hell down," Camille insisted.

"I had a feeling something was unusual when she focused all attention on you, she treated \*moi like air," Lisa who went in with them sounded hurt.

"Lisa, you did a good job out there," Camille complimented her for standing up for Maya.

"There is no need thanking me, Maya and I are entertainers from the same company, look out for each other; that's what we're supposed to do," said Lisa

As furious as Maya was, she still knew how to show appreciation, "I should be the one thanking you, Lisa"

"What are partners for?" She smiled at her.

"Eden must have seen this but I still need to inform him in case he's caught up on work or something and the PR department, we have to start with damage control immediately," Camille informed her.

"There's no need,"

Maya's remark drew a "What?" from their mouth.

"You already told me one more scandal and my career's over, isn't it?"

Camille licked her lower lips, "We can still salvage something out of this. Go with Lisa's idea and insist that the pictures aren't real but photoshopped,"

Maya scoffed, "And the video evidence?"

"You don't know how powerful the Spencers are, they can turn an impossible situation around," Camille disclosed.

"It's quite obvious that this was a set-up and I know perfectly who would do such a thing," Maya told her.

"Are you talking about Tina?" Camille scowled.

"The one and only," Maya confirmed acridly, "And I'm going to show her what a mad dog does,"

Once Maya moved, Camille grabbed her arm and whispered into her ears, "You're an expecting mother and your emotions influence the growth of your child and anger is a negative one,"

Camille pulled away yet continued audibly this time, "Moreover, you tend to aggravate situations when furious. Leave this for me to handle, please" she begged.

"Fine, for now," Maya told her and sat down on the sofa as Camille began to make a series of calls.

Maya chewed on her lips while tapping her foot on the ground nonstop, it was a habit she exhibits when unsettled and angry.

"Don't worry, it would be alright," comforted Lisa who had mistaken her gestures as nervousness while all the girl wanted that moment was to strike someone on the face.

Maya nodded at her yet didn't stop. She had a feeling that Tina would pull some lousy tricks now Niklaus was not around, but it was her fault for not being careful.

That kiss with Eden was a mistake she came to regret yet the whole world was now making a huge deal out of it for the wrong purpose, fat thanks to a certain someone.

Maya took long, deep breaths to calm herself down for the sake of her baby. She didn't have anger management issues but she was hot-tempered and always needed to blow off some steam to calm down.

"We should leave first," Camille announced and they picked up their properties and walked out of the lounge.

Unknown to them, a mass of angry fans had already barged into the station and laid siege for them. The moment the trio walked into the lobby, they encompassed them and pelted raw eggs at them.

"What the hell is this?" Lisa screamed as an egg yolk trailed down her face.

Camille having known Maya was pregnant shielded her with her body and was flour-bombed in her place.

"Get out of the industry, you golddigger!"

"We don't need prostitutes like you!"

"You're a disgrace to our generation!"

"Cut her roles! Vile women like you don't deserve to be in Finding Paradise!"

"Yes, cut her off or we boycott the movie!"

"You're a bad influence on our children!"

The fans chanted while they were being egged before security sent by the company arrived and rescued them.

The professional security men dressed in black suits covered them with their bodies while the others made a way for them to pass through amid the pushing fans.

"Go, go now!" Camille urged them into the car.

"What about you?" Lisa asked, discovering she wasn't getting in with them.

"Don't worry, I need to sue those assaulters, now go!" Camille beat the roof of the car as a signal for the driver to leave.

"Hey, it's going to be okay," Lisa attempted to reassure Maya who had a darkened murderous expression and was chewing on her nails.

Though Camille had shielded her it was of no use, she was soiled by that trash thrown at them.

"Mind your business, You should care about yourself instead!" Maya snapped at her.

Lisa having noticed Maya had transferred her aggression on her kept mum at once, now was not a good time.

They drove in silence for a long time until Maya announced.

"Stop the car,"

"What?!" Both the driver and Lisa were startled.

"You can't go out looking like that," Lisa pointed at her hideous appearance.

"I feel like I'm underwater and I need a release right now before I lose it. So stop the car" Maya spoke through gritted teeth.

"I'm sorry but I can't do that," the driver insisted.

"Fine then," Maya mumbled.

She had already pulled on the handle, attempting to open the door of a speeding car on the road when the driver cursed and pulled up at a corner at once.

"You're one crazy woman," the driver swore as she stepped out of the car.

"We are going to wait for you!?" Lisa shouted after her.

Maya didn't glance back, instead, she crossed over to the other side of the road and went over the bridge barrier.

"What is she doing? Is she about to commit sui-" The driver was about to panic when Lisa assured him.

"Let her be, she won't kill herself,"

Maya didn't know for how long she stared at the river beneath the rigid-framed bridge but she screamed all of a sudden at the top of her voice. She let out all her anger, frustration, and disappointment in her shouts.

The expecting mother continued that therapy and until she felt better did she stop screaming; although her voice being hoarse was another reason.

But for Maya to turn around, she discovered that another batch of fanatic fans was coming in her direction.

"Get her!" One of them, supposedly their leader ordered and they swarmed around Maya like vultures on a carcass.

Maya couldn't even run before she was surrounded thanks to surprise and her heels-God, heels were bad luck to her.

"Where do you think you're going, you golddigger?!" Some of them jabbed her on the chest.

Maya was relieved when she strained her neck to see Lisa and the driver coming to her aid.

"Ouch!" She cried out and turned in the direction of whoever pulled her hair.

Already distracted, Maya felt someone push her and she lost balance as a result of her heels, tumbled, and fell from the bridge and into the cold river.

*Chapter 207 - Two Hundred And Seven : Godfather*

Niklaus' point of view

I wasn't stupid enough to leave Maya without protection. Though my father claims this was just a trip to resolve the issues at country B, I felt he purposely sent me away, but why?

Adam wasn't stupid enough to hurt Maya in my absence, I had warned him. Our relationship lately was tense, just a tiny cord keeping us from becoming enemies.

"Keep Maya safe," I sent the message to Judy as soon as I arrived in the country. I had privately employed Judy to keep her safe yet couldn't help but send the message.

Maya was pregnant with my baby, our baby, and it made me a whole lot uncomfortable leaving her alone back home.

I don't know much about pregnancy but when Kay was with child, the doctor pleaded I spent time with her and said women needed the physical and emotional support from their partner.

Who knew whether Maya was alright with my absence? Was she lonely? Anxious? Would that negative emotion affect our child? Gosh, I needed to hurry up, I needed to be with the mother of my child.

"Sir, your sleeping arrangement has been made. Perhaps, we should drop off at the hotel before going to the factory," Lucas suggested.

We had arrived in the morning time plus the fact that Country B was four hours faster.

"No, there's no time to rest. Head to the Arsenal right away," I instructed, knowing if I wanted to return home earlier than intended, I'll have to work myself as a donkey.

I was stressed up and needed rest - I did not get much sleep during the ride here thanks to online meetings with my executives- but the thought of Maya and my child kept me going.

Lucas obediently drove to the Arsenal and I wasn't surprised at their warm reception since they had all been informed of my arrival beforehand.

"I hope you had a pleasant journey, sir?" The chief director of this branch led me into the Armory with the rest of his officials trailing after him.

"Yes, it was as expected. Let's go to the point shall we?" I didn't beat around the bush.

He led me to the gun factory where the attack and explosion had occurred. It turned out that one of their people working in the security department, who knew all their protocols, collided with some gangs who infiltrated the Arsenal and carted away with a reasonable amount of firearms.

"They came prepared," He explained, " They broke through our defenses as easily as a knife goes through a pie and I hate to say this but their weapons were better than ours. Which keeps me wondering why they bothered with our lesser grade weapons?"

"The Falcon Gang," I murmured.

Sakuzi, my jaw clamped. He must be the one responsible for this. I was so engrossed with protecting Maya that I forgot his attacks on our businesses.

"What about the storehouses?" I asked, knowing the best weapons were stored there.

Those attackers had left with entry-level weapons but still, yet, ammunition was ammunition no matter the grade. This has caused an overflow of our weapons in the black market which wasn't good for business plus garnering the attention of the country's government.

Our business wasn't illegal - at least not in this country- but the government has the responsibility of protecting its citizens and if a commoner could easily get his or her hand on ammunition, our ammunition, it could bring unrest in the country thanks to the spike in manslaughter.

"About that, our -" the Chief director was about to answer when a baby's shrill cry cut through the air.

"What's that?" My expression shifted, "Who has a baby at work?" There was a frown on my face.

Due to the nature of this work, no one was permitted to bring a kid in here for the safety of lives. Children were unruly demons that would never stay at a place and could end up touching the wrong thing.

My eyes roamed around the spacious room to rest on a woman who looked away in fright as soon as our eyes met. She was one of the laborers clearing the ruins of the attacks.

"I'm sorry Sir Niklaus," the director bowed his head, nervous sweat trickling down his forehead as he explained, "Her husband just died recently and she needed this job to be able to put a meal on her table-"

"And then, I pardon the next person who comes with the same sob story?" I asked with a cold gaze.

He gulped and lowered his head, unwilling to stare at my fierce gaze.

"I won't sabotage my company because of a sympathetic story, this is not a voluntary organization but business, be warned,"

I strode towards the woman who shrank away with fear while trying to calm her agitated child. She must know who I am hence knew she broke the rule or the rule was broken for her sake and was in trouble.

But when I saw the way she clutched the child to her chest protectively, my thought wandered to Maya and my child she still had in her womb.

My anger dissipated at once.

"Have you fed her?" I surprisingly found myself asking.

She blinked at my question, she must have expected me to bark her head off.

"The child's a he" she corrected.



"Oh," I realized, "Then have you fed him?"

"Yes, I did but I can't understand why he keeps crying," she said, still attempting to coax the child.

"Give him,"

"Huh?"

"Give him to me" I stretched out my hands expectantly.

"You're kidding, right?"

"Do I look like I'm joking?" I asked her.

Skeptically, she handed the baby over to me however, I caught a trace of fear in her eyes. Does she think that I have no experience with kids, that I'd drop her child? How amusing.

Thankfully, Isabella's birth made me gain a bit of experience- I had forgotten by the way- but my instincts took over. I used both arms to grasp the child and held him securely to my chest.

"How old is he?" I asked, gently rocking the crying child.

"Five months," she answered but her eyes were glued to her child, ready to butt in if things went wrong.

Suddenly, I began to make funny faces at the child who stopped crying automatically, watching me with rapt attention.

Everyone around me froze, including the chief director. They didn't know much about me but they had an opinion that I was a scary playboy CEO who doesn't joke with his business. How was he able to calm a crying child? They must be so curious.

"What's his name?"

"Neon,"

"Neon? Sounds catchy" I commented before lifting the baby's shirt and blew raspberries on his tummy eliciting giggles from his mouth.

"Who's a good boy?" I said against his stomach, drawing more giggles as he reached for my hair, pulling at my strands - ouch, that hurts.

"He likes you," the mother's earlier frown had vanished and was all smiles, "You're a natural and going to make a good father,"

"You think so?" I was genuinely surprised.

"Babies can tell good people," she claimed.

"I'm not a good person," I told her.

In fact, why was I even telling her this? I'm not the chit chat type.

"My boy says otherwise," she tilted her head at her child attempting to mimic my facial expression.

"I wasn't a great father to my first child and now, the woman I love is expecting my child, do you think I'll make a good father?"

"Do you want to make a good father?" She threw back at me.

"Of course" I responded briskly.

"You have a manganous heart and would make one, a good father worthy of emulation," she pep-talked.

"Do you think I'll still be magnanimous when I tell you that you won't be coming back here tomorrow," I disclosed.

She went pale and went down on her knees to my surprise, "Sir, I need this job desperately. Without it-

"Listen here," I called her attention, "This type of job is not suitable for you and your child. I have much connection and would find you a better one where you work with ease and nurse your child alongside,"

The woman was stunned for a while before she burst into tears and began to thank me vehemently.

"Thank you so much!" She bowed down to my embarrassment.

"Please get up already, I'm not God," I urged her to her feet.

"Also," I added, "I want to be the godfather to Neon, can I do that?"

Before she could even answer, a round of applause reverberated from around the room- wasn't even expecting that.

"Of course," she said amid tears.

I handed over to her the now smiling and babbling Neon still attempting to reach for my hair. The boy made me anticipate the coming of my own child, I couldn't wait.

Having settled that issue, I left with the executives to sort the rest of the problems out. The day was so stressful that the moment I got to my hotel, I went to bed without taking a bath.

But I hardly rested for two hours before Lucas woke me up with his calls.

"What is it?" I was quite angry about being woken up from the much-needed sleep.

"Something happened,"

*Chapter 208 - Two Hundred And Eight: Misfortune*

The third point of view

Eden glanced at his wristwatch, he was restless. It was way past the time the show ended already yet, Maya had not arrived. Did she change her mind by chance? Or was the interview taking long?

He was just about to call her when the phone he used for work-related calls rang. At first, he ignored it but picked at the second ring.

"What is it?" He was vexed.

"We have a problem," His assistant went ahead to brief him on the current happening.

"Shit," Eden cursed, took out his other phone, and searched the internet at once.

"Fuck it," he cursed as he scrolled down the numerous news from various sources on the web page.

"I need the news brought down at once," he spoke into the other phone hastily, "And contact the public relations department! I want them back to work -"

"But sir, this is nighttime. Who would leave their -"

"Whether they work at home or return to the office, I don't care but tell them that there would be a fifteen percent increase in their salary as far as they resolve this issue," he offered.

"Of course sir," the assistant acquiesced, ending the call.

Eden was not comfortable at all with this development. How had that picture surfaced? Paparazzi? How could he not have been careful?

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Her sight was blurry when she awoke and a physician was attending to her with an IV drip attached to her wrist.

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"You're awake" their family doctor felt her forehead with the back of her head," You lost consciousness and was brought to my hospital"

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*Chapter 209 - Two Hundred And Eight: Misfortune*

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"But sir, this is nighttime. Who would leave their -"



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