

Taming A Billionaire Chapter 41-50

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Chapter Fourty - one : Kim's Mom

Maya's POV

I felt like someone literally fed me vinegar, my mood turned sour immediately. I tried to slow down my beating heart, the last time Kim called me, I was drugged and almost raped had it not been for Nik's timely rescue.

I cut the call and added her number to my blacklist. What in the world does she want with me ? I already made it obvious from the start that I have no say in matters concerning Nik's business.

Yes, Nik was beginning to warm-up to me and though we just started dating, I knew when to draw the borderline. I wasn't going to play nepotism with some contract I wasn't even sure their company was worthy of receiving.

I sighed, why won't they let me rest? I already left their residence years ago and yes, I'm thankful to them for raising me- it's their responsibility anyway, but I wanted nothing to do with them.

Pushing Kim's matter to the back of my mind, I decided to concentrate on the task at hand. After everyone's departure, I discovered my place was a very untidy mess so I decided to clean up.

By the time I was through with my lazy cleanup it was already mid-afternoon, so I took a refreshing bath and decided to go stock up my literally empty fridge.

Even though I hate cooking but the Spencer's intrusion today taught me to be prepared at all times.

Once I was out of my apartment, I hardly stepped out of my street when a car suddenly swerve to a stop right in front of me.

Before I could tell what was going on, two good-looking men in black suits and black glasses with a Retevis 2 Pin Walkie Talkie Earpiece?secured to the back of their ear stepped out of the car.

Whoah , I was stunned. Were they shooting a spy movie nearby?

But the moment I realized this was no cosplay and I was their target, I turned to flee but my little feet hardly took a step before I was grabbed and lifted off the ground as if I weighed nothing.

One of the handsome unfriendly men tossed me over his shoulder while I squirmed around, screaming my lungs out for help.

Unfortunately as if everything was working against me, there was nobody in sight save playing kids whom were now watching the unfolding scene with interest.

The man ended up dumping me inside the car unceremoniously like a sack of potatoes.

"Ouch " I cried out in pain massaging my poor butt. *Sob*sob* how could this handsome face be so cruel ?

Immediately the two men swiftly got into the car before I could think of escaping and was sandwiched between two stiffly looking, unsmiling eye candies.

I would've struggled with them but I felt something was off. They didn't try to gag me, nor blindfold, nor try to drug me like normal kidnappers would do , but merely wanted me inside their car. And it can't be a coincidence this happened just a few hours ago of snubbing Kim's calls .

My fist curled, Kim's parents.

" Kim's parents sent you, didn't they? " I tried to confirm from the horse's mouth but non of them answered instead they rigidly stared into the distance like statues.

Oi, what's wrong with this people? I wondered. Why aren't this people fun to stay with at all ? Nobody's watching so why do they appear so strict and catatonic? Their blank face was so stressed and unnatural to the extent it actually looked like they were in pain.

I should be the one with such look not the other way around! I wailed internally. Beside, why look so miserable when they were the ones who kidnapped an innocent victim?

Throughout the ride, the silence was so depressing that I gripped my hair and just wanted to scream out my frustrations but thankfully, we arrived our destination before my outburst.

Once we arrived the all too familiar villa, Mr Handsome Rough Hands tried to drag me mercilessly out of the car but I cursed and punched at him - sadly, they never reached his face, he was a lot taller and skilfully avoided them.

But I didn't give up, no-one mistreats me and goes scot free. I finally managed to throw a blow which caught him on the side of his mouth and his lips began to bleed.

A satisfied grin plastered my face but it seemed to have agitated him cause he released a feral growl and tried to reach for me but a warning from his other comrade halted his progress.

"Easy on the young miss " The guy who did the driving said but Mr HRH simply sneered and grabbed my waist amidst my protest and threw me roughly over his shoulder, again.

Who said this position was romantic?

I moaned in pain when my stomach impacted on his hard shoulder . What was this guy made of - rocks?

I knew he was torturing me cause he didn't slow down through out the bumpy ride until I found myself in the living room where the whole family was assembled already.

This time, he let me down gently unlike the previous time and did a simple bow to my family who nodded in response and left.

I turned to leave but was blocked by the other bodyguard, so I gritted my teeth in frustration and was forced to face my family.

"Is that how you greet your family you haven't met in years! " The so-called dad roared as soon as he saw the contempt in my eyes.

"Family? " I scoffed " How amusing "

"Yo-you! " He tried to speak but Kim's mom was quick to interfere.

"Darling, remember your health " She reminded him tenderly "Also, Maya just arrived, you don't have to be so hard on her " She added and my eyes flew open.

When did Kim's mother become such a good actress?

"Yes daddy, mom's right. Maya must be stressed out from the journey " Kim contributed this time and I felt the urge to throw up, their act was so sickening.

I stared at the drama going on and thanked God I looked nothing like them.

Kim was an exact photocopy of her mom except she took her father's eyes. She had same long dark hair, height and mannerism, infact they could be mistaken as sisters once out in the public , since her mom takes good care of her skin.

It was quite funny since Kim took her father's gray eyes while I took exactly her mom's black eyes. That was the only thing I know reminds me of her whenever I look into the mirror.

"Sister " Kim called destroying my thoughts . She approached me, moved to take my hand and though I felt the urge to tear my hand away, I decided to go along with her facade.

"I'm sorry for the words I said to you that day" She apologized with this sincere gaze that would've fooled me too if not for the fact I knew this was all an act.

I tried to speak but she put in

"But how could you say you won't help us ? the company ? when you're in the right position to do so?" She asked leaving me stunned.

My jaw tightened and I glared at her.

"That will be discussed over dinner " Kim's mom announced and I inhaled sharply, this people were not going to let me be.

Chapter Forty- Two : A Place For Sinners

Nik's POV

I was very angry, a hot seething anger that blinded me. I never expected it to be Tina, sure she has a tendency to throw a tantrum and chase off my playthings in her own ways but I specifically warned her about Maya.

She was not to be touched.

I understood perfectly why Tina was being this way - she wanted affiliation with the Spencer's which she thinks would be strengthened by marriage.

But Tina knew it was an impossible dream, so she jealously wards off any girl near me ; fearing I would end up choosing one as a wife. After all, who wouldn't want a piece of me?

The Spencer Group is one of the world's most diversified businesses and has built up a large number of different subsidiaries. We were the world's largest luxury goods conglomerate, also operating an entertainment agency .

But unknown to the common people, we were an Arms-producing company - producing and selling, arms and munitions and other military hardwares for the armed forces of states and for civilians.

So in one word , we were ' loaded ' and also the most 'targeted' family on earth. Unknown to most people, their own government often had shady business or deals we carry out in their stead , so we often had affliction with some mafia organization .

"Why did you call me?" Fredrick said sliding into the stool next to me at the bar counter while I signaled the bartender to get him a drink.

The curvy female bar-tender took his order in a flash, while Fredrick's eyes dropped to her low-cut neckline. He licked his lips when she passed his drink to him with a knowing look while I ignored the drama going on.

With unusually?cigarette in hand,?which was spurting smoke from the butt, I took a long slow puff .I wasn't a smoker but when I'm angry and bloodthirsty, I take one to calm down and reorganize my thoughts.

"Who ruined your mood?" Fredrick asked lifting his drink to his lips and taking a sip.

"Someone you're going to drive to crazed ecstasy " I answered fixing him with a look that revealed my intentions clearly.

A sharp smell of drink mingled with the stagnant stench of cigarette wafts through my nostrils, as Fredrick leans towards me.

He meets my gaze with the smile of one who knows what he's about to receive " Degree? " he asked.

"Enough to go about her daily life " I answered

"Appetizer? " He asked again but this time with a disgruntled face.

With a sigh, I stubbed the cigarette and dug my fingers into the pocket of my pants and handed him a small sachet linen bag.

"This should be enough to make you last a day while keeping you sane " I explained while a lopsided smile graced his face.

Through the corner of my eyes, I saw Judy gesture to me with his hands and I understood at once - she was here.

I patted Fredrick on the back and stood from my seat and headed for the fourth floor; the home for sinners.

As I paused through the hallways with lots of rooms, I let myself wander in thought. What had push me to establish Cloud9 , I couldn't tell but all I knew was that, that period was the darkest part of my life.

Yes,I have a dark side, I admit that but instinctively knew I'd probably feel much better about myself if I could find a way to both accept and embrace, rather than hide, my jagged edges.

So I just thought, why not create a place where you could be yourself without fear or judgements, a place you could let out your inner demons .

Then Cloud9 came to life, its pinnacle of success being the fourth floor aka The Home For Sinners.

I kept on walking to my destination, sweet pain moans, screams and grunts assaulting my ears but I kept a straight face - I was here today for another thing.

I walked into the room I had them reserve and began wasting myself with whisky. My blood was still boiling , just the thought of that day made me see red.

' If Tina had succeeded ' was the only thought echoing in my head.

Soon enough a knock sounded on my door and I commanded her in. She came inside swaying her hips and looking incredibly sexy in that dress which would have turned me on instantly before, but not anymore.

"Baby " She called in her smoky voice and tried to kiss me but I looked away - just the thought of seeing her face disgusted me.

" Drink " I commanded instead and she grumpily tried to take my drink but I referred her to her specially prepared wine.

Once done, she tried to give me her signature sultry look but I questioned her

"Why did you do it? "

She looked taken aback for a while before trying to pretend she had no clue what I was taking about but I didn't let her be

"You know what I'm talking about,Tina. So don't make me repeat myself " I said with a warning tone.

She paled and I snorted internally, did she seriously think I wasn't going to find out? I knew about her dirty tricks with the other girls but I turned a blind eye to her because she was doing me a favour by chasing off those golddiggers.

But Maya was different and I warned her severely about her

"I told you not to touch her! " I growled and she flinched in fear.

But her reply made me go crazy , she had Maya almost raped because she was angry with her? Because I dumped her over a lowlife?!

"Your drink was spiked with two times the amount of drugs you fed her " I confessed to her after a brief contemplation.

She became this way because I gave her her some slack, I let her do whatever she wanted and it was all my fault.

"You did what? " She asked, eyes wide in disbelief.

"You heard me right, Tina " I faced her with a dark gaze "I would've done much more but I began to consider our time together, but unfortunately that doesn't mean you'll go unpunished "

Almost immediately, the door to the room opened and Fredrick came inside as planned while Tina who seemed to have figured out what was going on , began to tremble.

I stood at once " He's a close business associate and absolutely clean , entertain him for today and you can consider your sins forgiven " I announced and turned to leave but she immediately rushed and grabbed my waist from behind, crying

"Please, I'm sorry. I've learnt my lesson, don't do this to me " She pleaded holding onto my body tighter.

I didn't move and listened to her yet my face remain aloof, disinterested until I brushed her off and left.

"Nik no! " She called after me but I wasn't moved and shut the door close.

I wanted to pay her in her own coins and had Originally, planned a gangbang but when I calmed down , I realized it would be extreme.

Moreover Tina was a socialite, though they weren't halfway near our status but her family would definitely cause trouble - which I could handle but I wasn't sure Maya would approve that.

Fredrick was a close business associate and though he seem like a well mannered gentleman but he had a BDSM fetish - Tina sure likes it rough anyway, she would have a great time for the rest of the day.

" Has it arrived? " I asked entering my car as soon as I left the goddamned club.

"Yes " Judy answered handling the blue led ring box to me while I opened and examined the custom-made ring I ordered after the night I ridiculously proposed to Maya.

Funny, she thought I was bluffing then

"I'm sorry but I don't think you can visit her place right now " Judy said as soon as the car roared to life.

My countenance darkened 'Why? what happened? "

God help them if I find as much as a scratch on her.

Chapter Forty-Three : Those Who Love You Hurt You The Most

Maya's POV

"You should eat more, vegetables are very good for the body " Kim's mom gathered a spoonful of broccoli and added it to my plate while I just stared at their drama, amused mirthlessly.

" Sister, Ahh " Kim said bringing a spoonful of rice to the direction of my mouth but I shot daggers at her with my eyes and the spoon did a three sixty degrees turn

"Don't you like the food, sister? " Kim pouted her lips pitifully.

God, I feel like puking.

This sister of mine definitely deserves an Oscar award for best actress of the year ; doesn't she ever get tired of this act?

Well unlike her, I was sure to show my dislike. My stepfather can hate me for all I care - who needs his opinion anyway.

"The food is good infact awesome, it's just the face serving it that makes me want to puke " I gibed without a care.

" You ingrate! " Stepfather hissed at me but Kim's mother was there to calm him down.

" Honey dear, calm down. She's just a kid " Kim's mom placated the man who calmed down immediately.

"Maya dear " She started and turned to face me with this very bright smile that could even shame the sun.

Too bad, I'm already immune to them.

"I know we didn't have a great start but we're very willing to bury the hatchet and become friends again, revive this family !" She made her point.

Yeah revival, because you guys need me now

"We can still be the once loving family we were before, if only all of you can work together with your heart and soul. " She continued her motivational talk.

As if this family was loving before .

I yawned loudly in boredom " Doesn't it hurt stretching it this wide? "

" What? " Kim's mom stared at me confused.

"I mean doesn't your muscles ache smiling at me that way? " I asked again .

This time realizing what I meant , her expression became unreadable while the smile on her face froze

"Oh my God "I snickered aloud " The look on your face is priceless! you should take a look at the mirror "

A long silence reigned before he began " U&Q wants to donate to society by creating an Art center that goes by the name "My Eden " taking its inspiration from the Bible - Garden of Eden "

I breathed, taking in his words. Everyone knew the company 'U&G' was one of the largest electronics manufacturing company in the world that have built up a large number of different subsidiaries.

"So U&Q needs an architecture firm to collaborate with for this huge project and because of their close relationship and partnership with the Spenser's, they choosed Nik Spencer as their final decision-maker on the architectural contract and that's where you come in - You convince Nik Spencer to pick us "

I stared at my so-called family in amusement. In one word they were trying to say, they need me in order to get to the top of the ladder.

I might not be knowledgeable about business and all , but I knew that contract alone was a ticket to massive international growth and if they get that, boom! They're now on top of the food chain. Most people knows a deal with U&Q was always worth three or four million dollars at the minimum.

"And what makes you think he'll listen to a word I say?" I retorted with arms folded and a curious expression.

"I heard he has a soft spot for you " Came his reply.

I stared at him, then at Kim's mom and finally at Kim, suddenly bursting into laughter ; laughing with a maniacal?cackle.

" You guys are so funny " I laughed till my stomach hurt before my countenance turned serious.

"If you guys think you're so capable and worthy to receive the contract, then the Nik I know would definitely award it to you guys . So please, don't come pressuring me when you know you're not worthy of such a project " I spat and stood from the dinning chair.

"This is where I'll be drawing the curtain for tonight but it was nice catching up with you guys, see you never " I finalized and stood to leave but Mr HRH was there to block my path.

" What now?! " I yelled at the family who though were acting all lovey dovey with me earlier, were now outrightly scorning at me.

" Lock her up till she comes to her senses " My mom commanded and disbelief descended upon me - She wouldn't really do that, would she? Like come-on, we're talking about Kim's mother here!

But when I saw the guard approaching me and her unfazed expression, my heart sank. I swallowed numbly, she was serious.

"Mom? " I gasped, my voice filled with emotion but no response. "Mom ?" I called again and this time my shaky voice ended in a sob

" You can't do this to me! " I screamed when I felt his hands on my body, trying to take me away "I'm your daughter too, why do you hate me so much! " I shouted, punching and thrashing around as Mr HRH tried to carry me off my feet.

I watched in growing horror when my mom simply turned her back on me and instead prompted the guard to take me away.

" No, let me go! Let me down, you moron! " I screamed, squirming and hitting that idiot on the back but he was undisturbed and strode towards God knows where.

Next I knew, I was dumped into a room like a rugdoll. Immediately, I pushed from the floor and spirited towards the only source of escape - the door but it was snapped shut before I could reach it

"Idiot ! let me out of here! Who do you think you are! " I screamed out all my anger and frustration, kicking at the door furiously but it didn't budge .

A terrible anger filled my heart but it couldn't extinguish the overwhelming ache I felt deep down.

By the time I was done with my ravings , I had already burnt out all my energy and crumbled to the ground.

I clutched my heart, my breath were coming in gasps. Why was it hurting so much? Throughout this years I've taught myself to stop caring what or how they think about me but it still hurts.

No matter how much I tried to ignore their contempt, disgust and disapproval in their eyes whenever they look at me but it still hurts.

My heart feels as if someone was twisting it from inside-out, I felt like dieing. Nothing breaks the heart more than having the people who are supposed to love and care for you instead hurt you the most.

Lying on the bare floor, I drew my knees up to my chest and used my arms as some sort of pillow and stared into the distance. I was very tired, I just want to rest.

Lost in a state of nothingness, I didn't even realize the sudden, loud noise and screams coming from downstairs nor when the door was forcefully opened with a bang.

Chapter forty-four : The Apple Of His Eyes

Nik's POV

It seems everyone was set to ruin my mood today - First Tina, now this.

"Get everyone ready, we are going for a raid " I ordered after a few moments of silence; after digesting the news Judy fed me.

I was boiling with anger, they dare to abduct my fiancée ? What did they take me for? Did they think I would stand still after receiving such news?

Well, it's wasn't too surprising since I never bothered about the affairs of my playthings. They probably thought she was one of the many women on my bed and wouldn't even care if they took her away - but they're wrong.

I might not love her but she's someone I've decided to spend the rest of my life with, they've touched the apple of my eyes.

I understood perfectly well what they wanted, ever since U&Q made me their final decision maker on the My Eden contract bid, I became the instant target of several architecture firms .

Like a fish surrounded by sharks, they have been persuading and cajoling me in one form or the other while the rest encircled me like a moth drawn to a flame - I was trapped .

I surmised that they probably wanted Maya to convince me to offer them the contract , thanks to our sizzling relationship - as the Tabloids portrays, but knowing my little Tigress, I'm sure she shut them down at once .

Judging from the little time we spent together, I was sure she understood - love or not, I was not the type to play around with my business. All that mattered to me was success and gains.

It didn't take long to drive to her parent's place, thanks to my constant prodding but I didn't get down immediately .

I waited for my men to clear the dirt.

Soon enough bloody screams and grunts began to fill the arena, the once serene villa became a beehive of activity as my men took out every single one of their security at sight.

I began an internal countdown, wondering how long it will take them to wipe this place clean. At the fifteenth count, the car door was opened from outside and one of my men bowed his head, saying

"The coast is clear, sir! "

Without sparing him a look, I got out of the car, swinging one long leg over the other while he locked the door.

My gaze was so chilly that none of my men dared to even look me in the eyes save Judy. I wasn't in the mood for smiling.

Judy led the way as I walked into the villa and could witness diverse men in black suits clutching different parts of their bodies and moaning in pain.

They had the guts to moan - it seems my men didn't do a good work, I would extend their training hours after this mess.

I stared at the villa with seething anger, they had this much resources yet Maya had to live like a beggar. Yes, they might not be a business Empire like the Spencer group but K Group has made a name for themselves through their other divisions.

By the time I got into the living room, the family was huddled together at a corner of the room , frightened out of their wits.

"Where is she?! " Was the only question I barked and a girl with long black hair whom I guessed to be Kim pointed shakily to a room upstairs.

Without wasting time, I covered the first flight of stairs with strong strides and kicked open the door caging my tigress with brute force.

I wasn't certain what to think at the sight of the girl huddled on the floor. Today was in fact a very cold evening and she was wearing nothing but a high-waisted bun shorts and a crop top with long-sleeved shirt; practically useless in warding off cold.

I clutched my fist and swallowed hard, a murderous gleam in my eyes but I took a deep breath and approached her

" Hey tigress " I called her name but there was no response, she was just stiff and kept staring into the distance almost appearing to be much like a pillion.

I froze when I realized what was going on - she was in a catatonic state.

I clasped her cheek and called her again "Hey, it's me Nik. Look at me " but still no response, Her gaze was just so glassy, unfocused and withdrawn.

She was not moving or reacting to the point she could be mistaken for dead but thankfully, her uneven breathing told me she was very much alive.

Sitting down on the bare ground , I lifted her upper body and carefully placed it in the crook of my arm, cradling her close to my chest.

"I'm sorry for being late but I'm here now, please come back to me " I breathed, hugging her so tight as if I let go she was going to slip from my hold and disappear forever.

I felt a tight , painful yet oddly familiar sensation in my chest, it was as if something was cutting my breath, my hand began to tremble and I was suddenly scared - What if she remains like this for a very long time?

Immediately I stood up with her held securely in my arms, carrying her bridal-style and rushed down the stairs yelling like a maniac

"Get me a doctor! Get me a doctor! "

Judy moved into action and called my private doctor while I carried her to the car ; her family will be dealt with later.

Throughout the journey my heart was pounding in my ears, sinking with alarm and terror and overweighted with ache.

My head was in chaos, I didn't even realize when I got home or when the doctor arrived, I only snapped back to reality when Judy snapped his fingers sharply at the face.

"Seriously men, don't scare me like that too " He warned and I blinked unsure what was going on.

That was when I realized I've been staring off into space for a while now. I sighed and looked down at Maya, she was now sleeping peacefully while Doctor Sam was checking her vitals.

Even though we eventually fell apart but I grieved bitterly when Kay died , but it was nothing compared to the anger, pain, confusion and ache I felt when I saw Maya lying on that floor - almost lifeless.

" What's wrong with her? "I questioned the doctor, my voice totally dry thanks to lack of water.

"Akinetic catatonia " Doctor Sam said adding another medication to the IV bag through the infusion port.

" Akinetic catatonia? "I asked softly

"The most common form of catatonia, the victim often stares blankly and won't respond when you speak to them. If they do respond, it may only be to repeat what you said. Sometimes they sit or lie in an unusual position and won't move."

My Jaw tightened and I clutched my fist tightly asking " What causes it? "

Doctor Sam pursed his lips thoughtfully while digging his hands into the pocket of his white coat

"I'm not exactly sure what causes one to become catatonic but It happens most often with people who have mood disorders or psychotic disorders, like depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia. "

I frowned, deep in thought. I had a feeling Maya suffered some emotional damages from her families constant berates, but I couldn't exactly tell if she suffered from depression or had any disorder.

"But don't worry " The doctor assured me "I've administered benzodiazepines which is used to ease anxiety, muscle relaxants, and tricyclic antidepressants. But after five days, if there's no response to the medication or if symptoms worsen, I may recommend other treatments."

I stared at him stunned " This would last for five days?! "

" Not really but Catatonia can last anywhere from a few hours to weeks, months, or years. It can reoccur frequently for weeks to years after the initial episode. I just need to

observe her closely for the next five days and determine if there would be a change of treatment "

"Fine " I sighed and rubbed my palms on my face. My head was throbbing and I felt like I just aged ten years in such a short amount of time.

" I'll be taking my leave then " Doctor Sam said and left right away with his medical kit.

I groaned and slumped heavily on the chair beside Maya's bed. I was totally exhausted, so much had happened in just one-day.

Suddenly Judy appeared from the shadows and asked right away " What do you want me to do to her family? "

My eyes darkened " She doesn't have such scumbags as a family from now on, so remove her name from that family register by all means possible " I breathed deeply, thinking of my next plan.

" Since they love money so much, shake their business and make their life a living hell. Let's see how they survive this time "

"As you command " Judy accepted the mission and was about to leave when I called him back.

"Her mother " I said, memories of Maya on the cold floor haunting me

"Throw her into a cold room and let her freeze to the brink of death but keep her alive "

Chapter Fourty - Five : There's Beauty In Chaos

Isabella's POV

I shook my head staring at Emily and Annabelle, the two were bickering about the movie they binge-watched at Maya's place. Idiots.

Talking of Maya.

She seem pretty decent, She wasn't as dumb as Annabelle neither was she smarter than me - Maya's perfect.

Moreover, she has Sir Nik wrapped around her fingers - even though he won't admit it . But it's good to know I can easily manipulate Maya who has Sir Nik at her beck and calls ; she doesn't even know her power.

I sighed and tsk, the both couples were idiots - the man doesn't know he's in love with the lady and the lady doesn't want to acknowledge the man's in love with her.

But it was fun watching their cat and mouse game, just a little boring since I can't predict how long it'll last.

Sir Nik has been changing and I can tell it's because of Maya, she was making him soft, slowly killing him from the inside and he doesn't even know that.

Truthfully, Maya is not the best company to hang out with : She's like a ray of sunshine. Unfortunately, I've being introduced to the family business and totally understand we're the darkness. Light and darkness can never exist together, one must conquer or be conquered.

" Izzy " Annabelle the bimbo called me and I turned to face her.

"What? " came my cold reply.

" I heard grandpa bought another island for you?" She inquired with this twinkling eyes that made me frown, she was probably about to ask me for a favour.

Humans were pretty predictable

" So? "

" Can I have a little tour with my - "

" No " I interjected before she could finish her statement.

"Come-on Izzy " Emily joined in the persuasion "It's just a little tour, huh? "

"I'm sorry but my island is not an amusement park " I deadpanned without blinking an eye.

Emily stared at me in disbelief before shaking her head pathetically " Tut Tut, Like father like daughter "

"Why can't you be nice for once? " Annabelle whined and I rolled my eyes.

"This is my nicest form " I retorted and stepped out of the car. We've arrived at grandpa's house already and I couldn't wait to see him.

My grandfather was the person that challenges my intelligence the most save Sir Nik, but everything about him intrigues me, he's my most trusted confident ever since my mom died.

"Grandpa!" Annabelle screamed from behind and ran into his open arms as soon as we stepped into the large living room.

"My little pumpkin ! " He exclaimed and swept her off her feet, threw her up in the air and caught her as she fell, his muscles rippling with strength while Annabelle screamed and giggled in delight.

I snorted, she was totally converting my grandpa.

Technically speaking, Annabelle's is the grandniece here - her late grandfather and my own grandfather were siblings .

"Isabelle " Grandpa smiled at me once he let Annabelle down. I gave him a short warm hug while Emily pecked him on both cheeks.

"Hello papa, how was your night ?" Emily greeted and asked right away.

"It was well spent " Came his answer but I knew he was lying, I could see it written clearly all over his face ; perhaps, I'm the only one in the family who could read him well.

"And you trio look joyous, from whence cometh you? " He asked us but I scoffed inwardly.

What game was my grandpa playing this time? Even though the ignorant relatives in front of me might not know this, but it's an obvious fact that grandpa has his eye on everybody.

He has his men everywhere, looking out and protecting us hence, how he gets his info's - he's watching everyone and probably knows where we went last night.

" We had a sleepover at our Nanny's place -It was so awesome, and oh, we had a lot of fun! we drank and ate" She yakked without realizing I had already set a trap for her in the long-run.

"Even Izzy joined in the fun and it was a total blast " Annabelle continued her high-pitched chattering and I cringed inwardly.

She didn't even realize grandpa had stopped listening and was giving out orders at the servants while Emily was absentminded - the perfect time to accomplish my plan.

" Netflix and chill? " I inputted in an undertone and she foolishly borrowed my words.

"Yeah, we totally Netflix and chill " She said aloud to the other's horror.

Emily went red in the face while my grandpa stared at her bewildered and the servants around him stunned.

As dumb as Annabelle is, she too realized something was wrong.

" D-did I do something wrong? " She asked softly, not liking the way everyone was staring at her.

No, you didn't do anything wrong, sweetheart : You said something wrong, dumbass! I snickered inwardly.

This would be fun to watch.

"Who taught you that? " Grandpa asked with a stern voice.

Annabelle flinched, and then turned to me with an aggrieved look but unfortunately, my silicone earbud was fixed into my ears since her chattering began - Don't ask whether the music is playing or not?

" What? " I asked with a blank face " Why are you all staring at me like that? " I asked, putting on a confused expression and further removed an earphone from my ear which perfectly insinuated I was oblivious to what's going on.

"I-I... I " Annabelle tried to speak but she couldn't seem to find the right words to use, a huge thanks to my intense orbs staring straight at her's - the warning was clear.

Left with no choice, Annabelle began to bawl her eyes out, so loud and uncontrollably like a child deserted by its mother while I nonchalantly reattached my earphones to my ear; I was already used to it.

I sat on a nearby sofa and crossed my legs while Aunt Emily was busy coaxing the crybaby and Grandpa ordering for her favorite smoothie to be prepared for her.

I slowly leaned back on the sofa piled with cushions and sighed in contentment while the music now playing directly into my ears, helped blocked the noise - There's beauty in chaos.

Chapter Forty-six : I'm Sorry

Maya's POV

It has been three days since my shutdown and now, Nik is treating me like I'm fragile. He wouldn't let me stand, without help; Change, without help and even walk, without help.

At first it was thoughtful of him and you know, romantic, but now it was getting irritating and depressing - For christ sake, I am not a doll !

But Nik wouldn't listen , the guy was so sturbborn and... ugh ! Self-willed , not a word I say enters his ears unless he decides otherwise.

Sitting on the bed with a bored expression, I grabbed the newspaper he had left on my Nightstand desk and flipped through the pages.

I was carelessly scanning through the headlines when my eyes snapped open as I came across a report,

' K Group on the brink of bankruptcy '

According to the news, it says the company's stock price plunged drastically overnight and lost market value of approximately a billion dollar.

I shivered when I read the news, there was no need stressing my brain trying to figure out if this was a coincidence or not, considering this happened after my short encounter with them.

It was obvious who did it, there was no need guessing. As if on cue , the door to my room slowly opened.

Nik came into my room, a tray of food in his hand as he used his elbow to close the door. He swiftly dropped the tray on my nightstand and sat on the edge of my bed, very close to me.

"You shouldn't be reading that " He said and snatched the newspaper from my grip , folded the paper in half up-to three times and dropped it on top of my nightstand.

"Why did you do it? " I asked and he assumed his usual poker face that always makes me want to rip my own face off.

"What do you mean? " he asked in a monotone, his eyes boring straight into mine.

Gosh, this intimidating gaze of his!

I bit into the inside of my mouth " I mean, don't you think pushing their company to the point of bankruptcy is a little bit too much? They value that company more than their own life "

A cruel smile that sent more shivers than butterfly to my stomach curled his lips as he stated " Which is exactly why I did it " He leaned towards me and cupped my cheek with his hand, stroking it tenderly, saying

"They touched something that belongs to me, something I equally value, so it's an eye for an eye "

" I don't belong to you " I retorted and slapped his hand away " Am not a property to be owned Niklaus "

Nik's eyes hardened and I saw him clench his Jaw tightly, It's being ages since we had such an intense argument. The last time we had an argument akin to this moment, was the night I left his place after discovering he was intercepting Eden's calls.

"I won't let that viper of a family destroy you" he declared, his hand reappearing on my cheek again and I just let him be.

I sighed inwardly , I knew there was more to Nik than this devoted and loving side he shows me everyday but I was still conflicted. I mean, Yes, my family did me wrong but at the end of the day,blood is still thicker than water, right?

Or maybe, I'm just being stupid.

"You don't need to worry about your family ever again" Nik announced jerking me out of my thoughts.

" What do you mean? " I asked confused, but I was getting a bad feeling about this.

"They removed you out of the family register"

Shocked was an understatement, I was utterly flabbergasted. I tried to stand but Nik held me back.

" You made them do this, didn't you?! " I spat, eyes seething with anger and hot tears.

"They were planning on removing you once and for all, the moment they win the contract bid, so I just gave them a helping hand " Nik explained but I didn't want to believe him, he was probably making up an excuse to escape the blame.

" No "I shook my head "I don't believe you, now let me go! " I yelled, struggling against his hold.

I just wanted to confirm with my own eyes. I want to walk up to my family, look them in the eyes and ask them if they really did it? why they hated me so much? Was I an alien? I mean, some families have illegitimate sons or daughters yet live normally, but why was my own case different? W-why do they despise me so much?

" Won't you seriously wake up?! " Nik roared at me for the first time, completely stunning me. I mean, I've seen him get angry before but not this kind, never seen him show his outburst in this kind of way.

" Your so called ' Family ' doesn't give a shit about you and that's the fucking truth " Nik cursed out loud for the first time while I just blink and swallowed hard.

"You see all my actions as cruel but have you thought about me? Me, who was so nervous that I fucking couldn't think straight all this time you were out, huh? Me, who

has been trying all kinds of shit just to prove myself to you! Have you thought about that me?! "

After his unrestrained furious outburst, Nik didn't say anything more while I stood in stunned silence, unable to come up with a response.

"I'm sorry" I finally managed to say when I couldn't think of anything more. I moistened my lips and went on

"I'm sorry for thinking you were nothing but a cold, selfish, emotionless bastard. I'm sorry for not thanking you after saving me from the wicked claws of my family. I'm sorry for being so unappreciative of your helps "

I paused, then added " But I'll really love it next time if you seek my consent before taking any decision concerning me "

That said, I stood up from my bed but he grabbed my hand asking,

" Where are you going? "

"I need to get some some air" I replied blandly, pulled my hand away and left the room.

Chapter Fourty - Seven : You Shouldn't Be Doing This

Nik's POV

No matter how many times I look at it, I don't see where I did wrong. I mean, who would want to remain in such toxic family? Yes, my relatives and I, we do compete and struggle for everything but we don't starve one another, we know our limit. But them ? They've totally crossed the line.

Fine, let's forget about her step or half dad or whatever. Let's talk about her mother. Her daughter she hasn't seen for how long, three? four? five years? She didn't even give a shit about her! Didn't ask about her well-being, how she's been living? But then goes on ahead to ask for a favour right away? what a nerve.

I scoffed in disbelief, they should be lucky I wasn't there when it happened, else I'll would've chopped them to pieces; just like I'm doing to this onions right now.

"Sir Nik " Amanda tried to take the knife from me but I sent her a glare "You should leave this to me, you shouldn't be here " She still tried to reason with me and in the process cut myself - thanks to her distraction.

My face scrunched up from the pain while Amanda let out a dramatic gasp.

" Look what you've done to yourself now !" She chided, while glaring at me. I knew if I wasn't an adult and her employer, she would probably be pulling my ear by now.

I ignored her ravings and simply turned on the faucet and let the water from the kitchen sink wash away the blood.

"Sir Nik " She called after me again when I placed the chopped onion in a container after my wound had successfully stopped bleeding.

Gosh, her voice was beginning to hurt my ear.

I ignored her and simply nudge her to the side with my hips when she tried to stop me from adding the chicken stock and the bay leaves around the onions.

"Sir Nik! " She cried while stomping her feet exasperatingly.

"Your madam refuses to eat " I said to her and her mouth shut at once "I think it has to do with the fact the food was prepared by you, I feel she's craving mine "

Amanda gave me an 'Oh really? ' look , while trying to keep a straight face. It was obvious this situation was quite funny to her considering this was the first time I was preparing a meal in my entire life - not for me but someone else.

Aside from making my coffees, I had no other idea about the kitchen- I was just too lazy to learn how to cook anyway.

" Did you guys have a fight, again? " Amanda asked.

I turned to face her and when I saw the concerned look on her face, slowly nodded my head as an answer.

" Thought so " She sighed.

Even if I didn't tell her, Amanda was quick to catch on things and obviously knows my intentions towards Maya.

" Let me guess " She said rubbing her hand on her jaw "You did something to her without her consent, right?"

" Am I that obvious to read? " I queried

"Nope" came her answer "You're just one hell of a difficult man to understand " She deadpanned and I cast her a playful glare.

"No, seriously, what did you do this time?" She asked folding her arms across her chest.

"I kinda forced her family to remove her name out of the family registry - "

"You did what?!" Amanda boomed.

But I was quick to add " But that was after I found out they were planning to do the same thing after they get her to get me to sign the contract " I said in one clean breath.

But seriously why am I explaining myself to her, what is wrong with you Niklaus? You're your own person, why are you asking for her opinion?!

"Hmmm" Amanda sighed deeply " What you handled is not a small issue "

" Atlest someone understands me " I mumbled under my breath until I heard her next comment.

"But you're in the wrong" She said eliciting a shocked " What?! " from me

"Tell me, what did I do wrong? I perfectly payed back her family in their own coins for the vicious acts " I cried out, laying out my points.

"You see, that's the problem!" Amanda retorted " Her family is evil? Check. You payed them back in their own coins ? fine ! But removing Maya from the family register is akin to exiling her from that lineage ; You've practically made her an orphan "

"She was literally an orphan at the first place" I countered grimly.

"But atleast, she had a background "

"My wife doesn't need such background " I stated firmly.

"Are you guys married yet? No. Is she a Spencer by marriage yet ? No. So maybe you should've asked for her opinion or atleast given her a heads-up before making her familyless" Amanda concluded, heaving and red in the face as a result of the intense argument.

I felt slightly uncomfortable with this feeling settling in my chest, guilt? Oh no.

But was I really wrong in removing her from the registry?I mean aside from marrying Kay, I've haven't had time to question my decisions or rather didn't care enough to question them.

Why was everything concerning Maya so different, cause it can't possibly be love. It's quite obvious I care and extremely devoted to Maya cause I promised her that . I want to stand true to my word but love? No, it can't be.

I'm just trying to be a faithful and devoted partner.

"So what are you going to do now ? " Amanda asked, interrupting my train of thought and I returned back to reality.

I gestured my head towards the recipe book with its pages opened, resting on the kitchen counter.

Amanda followed my direction and chuckled upon seeing the page "You want to bribe her with a meal ?"

"That's an apology meal " I corrected her.

"What are you cooking by the way? "

" Baked Onions with Fennel Bread Crumbs" I replied curtly and transferred the coarsely crushed fennel seeds to a small bowl.

"Mmmm, smells good" Amanda inhaled deeply approaching me, she tried to take a sneak peak of my yet to be done food but I blocked her with my body and turned her towards the direction of the door.

"Have a nice day " I said dismissively and turned her towards the door.

Amanda left with an aggrieved expression but I ignored her and went on ahead with my cooking.

So engrossed was I in my cooking that I didn't notice someone sneaking in and stiffened when I felt an arm snake around my waist.

Chapter Forty-eight : We Are In This Together

Maya's POV

Was I too harsh? After all he was looking out for me cause I'm hundred percent sure Nik means me no harm. But it still hurts, how could he take such decision without consulting me? Yes, I know my family is the epitome of evil but forcing them to remove me out of the family register? Wasn't that too extreme?

I would've loved knowing my family removed me from the registry themselves - how comforting. It would give me a reason to hate and want nothing to do with them, than hearing Nik took over the whole procedure from where they stopped.

It felt like a betrayal.

I spent a lot of time thinking and decided to put myself in Nik's shoe. If I was the one who found my love - umm, scratch that, my wife to be, sprawled on the cold floor and unresponsive , I'll probably do the same - after giving her a heads-up.

But who am I kidding?

Nik is one domineering and tyrannical man! Asking for permission? Pfft, how absurd! Any Day he does that, I'll dance in front of him in nothing but a bikini.

But as a matured adult, I decided to go and fix things instead of acting childish and ignoring him.

So I began to search for him cause I couldn't find him in his favorite spots until I saw Amanda leave the kitchen with an aggrieved expression on her face , so I put two and two together, figuring out that the only person that can make someone's face contort to that level was either Nik or his daughter.

But I bet it was Izzy, after all what would Nik be doing in the kitchen? If not for his scheduled morning coffees, I don't think he would know the direction of the kitchen in this large house of his. Moreover, the last time Nik handled a kitchen knife, he almost amputated his fingers.

Unfortunately, Izzy being in kitchen too was highly suspicious and another mystery to be solved . I wondered what cruel prank she was up-to this time.

So I slowly sneaked in , intending to catch her red-handed but when I saw this tall figure standing with his back to me and an apron tied around his waist, I was momentarily confused.

WTF

What was Nik doing? cooking? No way, my eyes must be deceiving me! So I squinted like a bag of nails in order to get a clearer look but the scene was still the same.

Oh my God, I chuckled inside.

I slowly took out my phone, silenced the shutter sound and took a picture of him. Wow! I gasped starring at the photo with a dreamlike fascination, even his back looks so sexy.

God is so unfair. Nik was definitely created on a Sunday. I mean look at him, God must have taken a good rest, refreshed and fed before deciding to sculpt him - Jealous me.

Jeez ! what is that sweet aroma? I inhaled deeply.Nik was so concentrated in his cooking cause all the noises I was making didn't reach his ears nor make him turn at all.

So I slowly approached him and hugged him from behind, resting my face on his back - I would've tried his shoulder if I was tall enough. At first he stiffened but slowly relaxed when he recognized my scent.

He dropped whatever he was doing and swiftly turned around, drawing me towards him and enveloped me with his arms.

"I'm sorry " I said against his bare chest - Yes, you heard me right. His upper body was with no clothes which I'm kinda used to. Aside from wearing clothes when going to work or accepting visitors, it was not a secret that

Nik loves to bare his skin as much as Judas Iscariot loves money. Sometimes, I wonder if he's a werewolf or something.

" No, I should be the one apologizing " He refuted, running his hands through my hair. Gosh, this feels like heaven. I seriously wouldn't mind falling asleep now.

" No, I was being a pain in the ass too, even Though everything you did was for me " I countered and looked up, while my hands absentmindedly began to draw circles on his chest.

"Fine, we both were asses, satisfied ?" He asked jovially and we both chuckled.

I concurred " Yeah, we both were asses"

Suddenly his expression turned serious and my brows drew together, as I wondered what went wrong.

I slowly drew back to get a clearer view of his face "What? " I asked.

" Why do you stick by me though I'm one hell of a difficult man to understand ? " Came Nik's cryptic question.

My eyes twitched, what in the world is he talking about? I shook my head " I don't understand"

"Why do you stay with me even though I said I was never going to love you ? I'm not the best man and hell! there are many men out there who would love you the way you've always wanted. Come to think of it, I'm rude, arrogant ,domineering, possessive, sometimes selfish and -"

"Sarcastic " I added on my own accord.

"Well " He shrugged those broad shoulders and gave me a wry smile " You've said it yourself , Maya. So why do you still stand by me? I only promised you dedication and care, and I'll definitely wouldn't beat you if you decide to leave . So why haven't you walked away for all you care? "

"Hmm" I breathed, pursing my lips thoughtfully "Well" I said, leaned closer and flung my arms around his neck.

"I'm not going to lie to you , but I've thought about it and I've been searching for the one "

For someone talking about letting me go If I wanted to leave,his expression said otherwise; He looked like he would murder any guy who dares to approach me.

I went on "Truthfully Niklaus, I've found him " His grip on my waist tightened to the point of hurting which I'm sure he hasn't noticed.

But I continued nevertheless " And to tell you the gospel truth he's the best out there. He is

187.96 centimeters in height " I described, looking at him from the head to the sole of his feet while his hand on my waist loosened, confusion now apparent in his eyes.

"He has this silkiest of hair that I just want to run my hands through all day " I said, acting out my word as I raked my hand through his soft chocolate coloured hair.

" And these sharp straight brows " I said tracing his brows " His long lashes " I traced it too - his lashes could make a woman jealous.

"And his lips, attractive and irresistibly kissable " I said and gave a short smooch on his lips " I love everything about him "

"As hot and distracting as you sound right now Maya, I still need the truth " He stated once he realized I was referring to him.

"Simple, you gave me your word and you're doing your best to keep to it."

" May-" Nik tried to argue but I didn't give him the chance.

" No Nik , let's tell ourselves the truth 'How many years does the feeling of love lasts in a marriage? Eight? Ten? Eleven? no, tell me? " I questioned and I saw his mouth open and close helplessly.

"But then what keeps those marriages going after the feeling of love expires is the dedication, commitment, promise, trust and care they have for one another. These days, even the most perfect couples made in heaven break up and divorce." I said firmly. It was time to pump some sense into his head.

"So next time you begin to question my decision in staying next to you, be sure to remember these very words ' we are in this together ' " I summarized.

Nik didn't say anything but just gazed into my eyes with this fathomless expression I couldn't describe so I looked away, his gaze was penetrative and burning.

"Moreover" I added with a silly smile "Who would want to leave a mogul like.... "

My lips was sealed with a fiery kiss that left me disoriented. This was nothing like the other kisses we've shared , it was as if he was pouring out his soul to me.

But just as I was about to respond to the kiss, two stainless pots were banged together, the noise scaring me out of my wits.

Chapter Forty-nine : Damn, I Am One Lucky Girl

Maya's POV

"Eww" said Izzy in disgust "You both should get a room, there is still a kid in the house " She stated and hanged the stainless steel pots back on the metal railing attached to the wall.

" Oh "I gasped and drew back at once much to Nik's annoyance. "Ummm" I cleared my throat "What are you doing here? "

"What do you think? " She threw back at me "Of course I came to check up on you but it seems someone beat me to it " She insinuated that her father was filling her role.

Today was wednesday and it happened that Izzy skipped school with the excuse of 'Taking care of her sick nanny ' and no one objected. The few days she left for school without me, testimonies of her great exploit - note the sarcasm , has already filled my ears . It seems I've become one of the few persons capable of making Izzy be in her best behavior.

Nik didn't say a word to his daughter, he was still pissed at her for destroying our moment, so he simply went to the oven and brought out a baking pan full of golden brown baked onions what the fuck. Was this what he was preparing ?

" Forgive me " He said, presenting the vegan comfort food before me as I chuckled, the flavourful aroma filling my nostrils and my mouth watered but something else was on my mind.

I took the pan from him and placed it gently on the counter and instead grabbed his hands, taking him unaware and checked for cuts and per my expectation, I found one.

"Oh this " He mumbled, trying to slip his hand away from my grip with a guilty expression but I passed him a glare that froze him on the spot .

"I was really careful this time " He began to explain "It's Amanda who caused this, the blame is on her"

"And the pain's on who?" I countered sternly

" Me" He answered truthfully with an apologetic look " Fine, I'll be careful next time" He told me decisively and wrapped his arm around my waist drawing me close to him.

" Alright? So stop being angry" He pouted his lips in an such an adorable manner that I forgot why I was even angry in the first place.

I shook my head inwardly, Nik would be the death of me.

All of a sudden, out of the the corner of my eyes, I saw Nik slap Izzy's hand away when she tried to steal one of the Baked Onions With Fennel Breadcrumbs.

"Ouch" She cried out in pain examining her hand " What was that for? "

"You're not permitted to touch these, it doesn't belong to you " Nik's stated as a matter of fact, pushing the pan far from her reach.

"Nik behave " I warned him "She's just a kid "

"I'm not a kid " Izzy repudiated, wrapping her arms across her chest in a stern manner.

"Darling, you said so yourself less than ten minutes ago " I gloated and grabbed one of the vegan side dish and took a huge bite.

"Wow " I moaned as the rich taste exploded in my mouth. It was so tender, sweet, crispy and savory - the dish was perfect.

I continued my chewing , knowing it was further irritating Izzy who just realized she did call herself a kid during her epic entrance.

"Want some?" I asked her but she just glared at me and left for the living room, an irritated moue on her face.

"Here,take this " Nik passed a glass of coconut milk to me, to drink and help wash down the food.

Wow, how thoughtful.

Come to think of it, why do I feel I'm the one benefiting the most from this marriage of a thing. I mean he's rich; I probably won't get broke ever again, he's handsome; I can get used to staring at that face for the rest of my life till death do us apart, he's caring ; what more could I possibly want?

Yes, he's a chronic player but he's being trying lately to live up to his word and I strongly believe with time, this is definitely going to work out.

"Aren't you going to have a taste of your handiwork?" I asked gesturing to the few food still remaining.

" Sure" He replied, tilted my chin upwards as his lips seeked mine hungrily.

What the... oh , my brain malfunctioned at once. His tongue without wasting time, slid into my mouth and savoured mine, as if it was a fountain and he was taking water to fulfill his thirst.

"Definitely delicious " He responded when he pulled away and at this point, I couldn't tell if he was referring to the food or the kiss.

" Huh? "

" Come with me to the office " Nik requested while I swallowed.

" You mean your workplace? "

"Yeah " He answered.

"Don't you think it's a little bit too early?"I asked, feeling hesitant about this.

"I don't think it's too early and besides it's time people start paying you respect as the future mistress. Moreover you've been cooped up in the house for these past days, it's time to get a change of air " Nik concluded while his hands cupped my cheeks.

"You still haven't gone on your knees nor do I see a ring on my finger" I pointed out, stretching forth my hand to make my point.

"Well, that's a work in progress " He chuckled, a deep rumble that made me get butterflies in my stomach "Unless you want it that badly " He teased on purpose, playing with my hair.

I slapped his hand away "Fine, I'll go with you then. Go and prepare while I do the same " I finally gave in, besides there was never going to be a time I would defeat Nik Spencer in an argument - I've already given him the crown, the guy should've been a lawyer.

I left for my room to search for a suitable outfit out of the many Nik had gifted when he changed my wardrobe.

After rummaging through my wardrobe for hours, I finally settled on a light grey turtleneck sweater with white slim ankle pants and a nude patent heels while I tied my hair into a ponytail.

Done and dusted, I made my way downstairs and removed the black wayfarer sunglasses I was donning when my eyes fell on Nik.

"Wow" I whistled, this guy looks good in practically anything.

He was wearing a sky-blue blazer with a crisp white shirt under it and teamed with black trouser and Loafers.

His face was framed by a round polarized sunglass while his shirt obviously lacking a tie was left open at the neck.

Damn, I am one lucky girl .

Chapter Fifty : I'm Going To Murder Niklaus Today

Maya's POV

As soon as we went through the revolving door that led to the large obviously maintained lobby, we instantly became the target of several curious and gossipy orbs .

All eyes were on us.

I knew my appearance with Nik was going to garner attention but I didn't imagine it was to this extent.

Everyone was watching, whispering and talking about us - well me in particular, making me wish the earth could open and swallow me whole.

Unlike me Nik was facing forward, his steps light but firm while he walked with grace and decorum, and his arms following the rhythm

of his stride

"Is she another of our boss plaything?" I picked up one of the discussions and my throat tightened.

What was I thinking anyhow, I probably wasn't the only girl he took to his office . Like seriously, we're talking about the world's number one pla- well ex-player at the moment.

"Lift your head up "

Nik's deep voice roused me from my thoughts and I realized at once I was literally shrinking back from him.

He grabbed my hand and pulled me along, speaking to me with a low voice enough for me alone to capture.

"Pull those shoulders back , lift your chin and look them straight in the eyes, don't let any of them intimidate you " He said and as if operated by a remote, I obeyed with immediate effect just as a board member approached us.

"President Niklaus " A middle aged man with a receding hairline welcomed him with a handshake.

"Director Alfred " Nik accepted his handshake with this wide smile that even stunned me.

I blinked my eyes, Nik could stretch his lips this far?

"How are you today? " Nik asked breaking the handshake.

"Oh, it's fine. Just had a bit of issue to settle today " Alfred explained with a smile too before his eyes rested on me.

" And? " Alfred gestured with his eyes.

"Meet Maya , a V.V.I.P to me " Nik introduced briefly, not bothering to go into details.

"Nice to meet you Maya " Alfred said and took my hand, placing a short peck at the top of my palm.

Judging from the knowing smile on his face, I could tell he had already formed an opinion of me : I was probably Nik's plaything to him.

"Nice to meet you too, Mr Alfred " I said with a smile that didn't quite reach my eyes while drawing back my hand.

"See you later then " Nik said dismissively and strode away with all smiles disappearing from his face while I followed suit, trying to keep up with his long legs.

"I didn't know you could smile that wide ?" I questioned as soon as he pressed the elevator button.

He gave me a hard stare saying " It takes a monster to defeat a monster " and stepped in as I followed along.

Even without him explaining, I could already tell where he was heading from. As a CEO, he had many works and responsibilities on his shoulder while battling greedy competitors veering for his position.

"You're the second person" Nik said with an expressionless poker face.

" What? " I asked surprised.

"Out of the many women I've dated, you're the second person I've ever taken to my office " He answered with more details this time.

"Oh" I scratched my scalp awkwardly. He heard that? How awkward could this moment get?

I stared at Nik while biting my lips nervously, should I ask? or should I not ask?

"Tina was the first " Nik replied as if he knew the question on my mind. Was I that obvious?

"OK " I simply said and looked away.

Well, this seems better. Maybe it was good and therapeutic for our still growing relationship; exposing and confessing our dirty laundries to one another than finding out from the public and taking either of us unawares.

Thankfully the elevator opened with a ding and we walked out simultaneously, the air in there had grown thin, hot and suffocating.

"Good day Sir Nik " A guy who I surmised to be his secretary welcomed him - saving me from this awkward silence.

Nik ignored him and walked straight into his office while opening the door for me to pass through like a true gentleman.

"Make yourself comfortable" He said, gesturing to the couch sitting in the middle of his and took off his blue blazer, hanging it on the sturdy coat rack stand.

His secretary who I just discovered was named 'Ned' thanks to the name tag on his perfectly ironed shirt walked in hurriedly and began to spread out documents on Nik's desk.

"Niklaus Spencer, CEO Spencer Group " I read out loud the words written on the beautiful laser engraved office name plate resting on his desk.

Nik smiled at me as I ran my fingers through the engraving, admiring it. Sometimes it feels surreal, dating one of the richest bachelor on earth. It felt like something out of a story book, like Cinderella ; unfortunately I had a wicked biological mother and no fairy godmother.

"These are the documents for today?" I watched him ask his secretary with a businesslike tone.

I carefully observed that Nik at the office was totally different from the Nik at home. At the office he was rigid, careful, intimidating, authoritative and a bit frightening. If I might say - his scorching gaze was enough to make someone buckle at the knee from fright.

But at home, he was more relaxed, playful, approachable, though domineering yet happier - when he isn't having an argument with his daughter.

He was like a chameleon, adopting effectively to his environment, dancing to the tune of any music played for him.

"Yes sir, though you have a meeting by four with D shopping complex " Ned said and I checked my cellphone.

It was one in the afternoon, meaning I had only three hours to spend with him before he leaves for the meeting.

I had to make effective use of it then.

"Get her a cup of coconut milk " He ordered his secretary as soon as he was done with his report.

I pouted my lips " Why coconut milk? " came my complain.

He's been feeding me a lot of that these few days I was down.

"Coconut milk is packed with vitamins C, E, B1, B3, B5, and B6 as well as iron, selenium, sodium, calcium, magnesium and phosphorus while increasing high-density lipoprotein cholesterol " Nik stated with a straight face leaving Ned and I dumbfounded.

"Besides " He added " It might help enlarge those" He gestured to my mammary gland with a wink.

My face burned scarlet red while my hands instinctively flew to my chest protectively before hot scorching anger made my blood boil.

I would've pounced on Nik at once had it not being for his secretary standing before him, still waiting for his final orders with a red face.

I know I didn't have much of a boobs but did he have to point it out aloud.

I'm going to murder Niklaus today.

"Get her a coconut milk drink and some waffles " He completed his order while I waited patiently for my time to strike.

The secretary nodded and left finally as I got my claws out.

