

Taming A Billionaire Chapter 51-60

Taming A Billionaire

#Chapter 61 – 70

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Chapter 61 - Sixty-one : Nik's Illegitimate Son.

Maya's POV

I couldn't wait to get home, so when we finally pulled up at the mansion, I climbed out as quickly as my legs could carry me and shut the door close without a side glance nor goodbye.

Eden was beginning to scare me, not that kind of intimidating fear Niklaus always carries about but the creepy fear that sends shivers down one's spine.

He didn't complain as well and drove away as if the devil was on his heels. Perhaps because I was a lot distracted, I didn't notice the figure standing beside the huge intimidating gate that guides Nik's mansion and when I did notice, I was stunned.

What is this woman doing here?

She was incredibly beautiful, definitely Niklaus type - that is if he prefers women with soft curves in all the right places and not those broomstick like models that graces his arms times without number.

I looked down and saw a kid probably around Izzy's age holding her hand. They were looking around the mansion as if looking for someone, could it be *gasp* my imagination running wild at once.

Could it be that she was once Nik's lover and the kid.... Oh my God. Does it mean Niklaus has an illegitimate son?!

I felt dizzy all of a sudden. No Maya calm down, I tried to assure myself.

Suddenly a white miniature version of myself wearing a white gown that covered her legs with real white feathers attached to her back while having a circle of light over her head appeared on my right shoulder.

I wiped my eyes, What the fuck .

But the tiny angellike me still stands there and softly says to me "I have come to remind you that throughout the years of Nik's lustful rendezvous, there has never being reports of Nik fathering an illegitimate child nor has any woman claimed to have birthed a child for him, So why worry yourself? "

My eyes widened, was this angel here to help me out with this situation? Wow, thank-you God! This was definitely help sent from above.

But thinking about it, which women would dare allege they have a child for Nik - His dark gaze alone was enough to make anyone pee in their pant. So think this through like the smart girl you are, Maya.

As if that was not enough, a red miniature version of myself with pointed horns at both sides of her head, short tail but having a triangular shape at the end while clasping tight a trident, appeared on my left shoulder. She was wearing nothing but an adhesive cup bra and some skimpy material tied at the edge of her waist while two white fangs were sticking out her mouth.

The red devillike 'me' pulled me by my ear and said " What are you , ten ? would Niklaus even tell you he has an illegitimate kid somewhere? He hardly even opens up to you so what makes you think he would tell you of his hidden kid. Besides, look at the kid."

The red devil pointed with her trident and I turned to look at the kid , they were still focused on the gate and so had their back turned to me.

The red 'me' continued " Can't you see the colour of his hair, looks the same as Nik's and I bet when he turns around, he'll be Nik's spitting image ! " She declared firmly and I couldn't help but begin to have doubts in my mind.

She was indeed right, though we have been progressing in this relationship of ours slowly - Yeah slow but steady wins the race.

But Nik has being holding out a lot on me - he practically knows everything about me but I know zero to nothing about him aside from the ones I already know which are quite obvious to everyone already.

But anything deeper, he doesn't let me in. I feel like he thinks I can't handle the shock, the weight , the responsibilities but I'm not some fucking China doll!

Yes, I'm weak but I'm not fragile, I've had quite my own share of life too. I've seen things , gory, depressing, you name it, I've seen and experienced such things too but I survived.

And how in the world am I supposed to trust him if he can't share a little of his past ? His childhood?. cause whenever I bring up such topics, he just filters through his memories and tells me the usual happy ending stories.

But unfortunately I want to hear the bitter ending stories too. I want to know the circumstances that forced and shaped him into being the man he is today. Is that a lot to ask for?

" You! " Tiny Angellike 'me' thundered " Don't confuse the young girl and return to wherever you came from"

Tiny Devillike 'me' gibed " Hey you goody two shoes ! mind your business, don't you see I'm trying to open her eyes here?! "

Tiny Angellike 'me' threatens " Don't let me banish you to the abyss again ! "

"Y-you! " Tiny devillike 'me ' chokes and then disappears in a cloudy puff only to reappear on my right shoulder, right beside the tiny Angel.

The both of them suddenly begins this loud chattering and heated arguments that began to make my heart throb painfully.

" Stop! " I screamed and the both of them disappears in a cloudy puff while I was teleported back to reality.

What the fuck, I've being indulging myself in my own fantasy all this while?

Unlikely for me, my scream earlier attracted the little boy's attention , who then tugged on his mom who had earphones in her ears, moving her head to the music she was listening to.

" This is it " I took a deep breath when she finally noticed me and braced myself for whatever was to come.

But contrary to what I expected, she put on the most friendliest smile I've ever seen and began to walk towards me.

What even baffled me the most was the boy's hair I had interpreted earlier as brown was actually blonde - the same as his mom. So what actually happened? why did I see differently - tsk tsk, no wonder the devil is the father of all liars, he almost tricked me.

" Hi, I'm Cecil and this is my son Pedro " She introduced herself with a handshake while pointing to her son afterwards.

"Hi, I'm Maya " I accepted the handshake " Nice to meet you Pedro "

"Nice to meet you too, miss Maya" Pedro greeted in his clear childish voice.

Maya fought the urge to ruffle him on the hair, the boy was too adorable, where did this cute little angel come from?

"How may I help you? " Maya asked and gulped nervously. She started chanting "Please don't be Nik's lover in her head " in her head.

"I just moved into the neighborhood today and want to get acquainted with my neighbors, so that my son at least can get a playmate " Cecil introduced herself.

Maya sighed heavily - mentally. She released the breath she has been holding for a while now, no one knows how happy and relieved she was right now.

"You must be the mistress of the house, the security wouldn't let in me without an approval from the mistress or master " She asked inquisitively.

I blushed hard at her words, seriously I wasn't the mistress yet *blush * blush

"Well, sort of " I answered, palming my heated cheeks.

Behave like a sensible lady, Maya!

"Truth be told" Cecile confessed with a solemn expression "I'm a single mother and I'm might not always be available in the future, its my son permitted to come over incase of an emergency "

" Of Course, he's permitted right away " I accepted her request right away. Contrary to what I was thinking earlier, this woman was surprisingly gentle, humble and friendly, moreover I didn't sense any malevolent intent from her - Yeah, I'm trusting my sixth sense.

Moreover I respect hardworking single moms.

" How rude of me! " I gasped "please let's go inside, even if for a cup of tea " I offered her but she shook her head.

" No, I don't want to impose on you guys "

"That's impossible" I laughed and took her son's hand in mine tenderly and said

"Besides, I'm sure Pedro and Izzy would work out just fine "

Chapter 62 - Sixty - Two : The New Plaything

Maya's POV

"Finally, you decided to return. I thought you were planning on " The rest of her words dies off when she saw the woman beside me.

Izzy's eyes narrowed down suspiciously on the woman and there was an edge to her voice as she asked " Who is.... "

But her voice trails off again when her eyes rested on the boy who just emerged from behind his mother.

For the first time ever, I saw Izzy stare at someone for a good five minutes without blinking, not in an intimidating manner but in a shocked, curious way.

To my surprise, Pedro made his way towards Izzy and thrust out his hand for a handshake while introducing himself " Hi, I'm Pedro and you are? "

Izzy didn't reply for a few seconds but kept staring at the boy, regarding him intently. Suddenly, she snorted and turned around to leave but after a few meters, turned back again and approached the boy.

"Hi, I'm Isabelle Spencer " She said and though her face was stoic, her voice was much warmer than usual.

I had to like really wipe my eyes twice with the back of my hand to make sure I was seeing right.

When Izzy had turned away initially, I had thought in my mind ' Game over. Izzy has done it again ' but then when she turned around, I was totally dumbfounded.

Moreover, when did Izzy start introducing herself as ' Isabelle Spencer ' ? Even at class, no one dares call her ' Isabelle ' but 'Izzy '.

Now why ?

Suddenly, my eyes widened. Could it be...?

"Oh my God " Cecil squealed at my side with adoring eyes "They look so good together "

They indeed looked good together. too good together. - What the f*ck! Who are we deceiving here!

Izzy looks like a devil, a lion about to devour its prey while Pedro looks like an innocent lamb, a lamb to the slaughter.

Pedro had blonde hair that was slicked back, the palest of blue eyes I've ever seen with thick brows that framed his face perfectly and he was four or five inches taller than Izzy.

Though his chiseled face was still hidden with a bit of baby fat but it was obvious Pedro was going to be drop-dead gorgeous when he grows up.

Yes, the both of them together were aesthetically pleasing to the eyes but then this innocent soul was not meant to be with Izzy, she would taint him beyond redemption .

"Yes, they do "I replied just to please Cecil but no matter what I was saying , Izzy definitely isn't smitten by this boy.

Suddenly Izzy asks an outrageous question ,

"Is he my new plaything? "

There was a shocked and awkward silence afterwards while the smile on Cecil's face remained stuck .

"Hahaha " I laughed nervously just to ease this awkward moment "I'm sure she means playmate, Izzy here has a weird sense of humour " I tried my best to remedy this situation while secretly sending warning gazes at Izzy.

I can't tell if she believes me but Cecil laughs along with me and to be sincere, it helped ease the tension.

"It must be a slip of tongue then " Cecil laughs and thankfully Izzy didn't say anything to aggravate the barely savaged situation.

"I'm Izzy " Isabelle introduces herself to Cecil but I couldn't help but groan inwardly.

The message was loud and clear making me wonder if Cecil gets its too. Izzy is clearly drawing the line here, her son only is permitted to call her 'Isabelle "

"Nice to meet you Izzy, I'm Cecil " She waves and smiles back at Izzy and yes, she did get the message.

"Nice to you meet too " Izzy acknowledges with less enthusiasm as Cecil had displayed. She then turned and grabbed Pedro's hand saying " Let's go to my room "

"No! " I shrieked scaring everybody in the room, Izzy excluded - the girl was so calm as always.

" Why? " Izzy asked with an innocent look that I knew would only fool Cecil and Pedro. As if she doesn't why.

"I want you where my eyes can see you, besides Pedro is new and you might make him uncomfortable if you rush him through things." Came my most reasonable excuse of the century but Izzy and I , whose eyes just met and held knew the truth.

I couldn't trust Izzy with the boy and yes, she wouldn't do anything evil to Pedro since his mom is here and she's quite taken by him , but it's Izzy we're talking here, one shouldn't lower their guard around her.

"Fine then " Izzy readily agreed surprising me.

I thought she was going to start another of her

undisruptable arguments but she simply led Pedro to the sofa and made him sit beside him.

Though Izzy didn't talk much and as excited as Pedro was , but she was sure to give him enough attention and responses like 'umm', 'yes' , ' no ' , 'lift eyebrow ' and 'shrugg shoulders ' - that was all.

Although Pedro being near Izzy seem like a good thing! Since she hadn't given him her evil eye or taunt him to tears, that means she accepts him, right?

Izzy might be tough and smart but it concerns me a lot with the fact she can't communicate with kids her own age normally. She has this twisted sense of humour and sometimes her aura alone scares off potential playmates.

The worst part is that she doesn't even desire what kids her own age want . while her mates are busy thinking of getting a pony, do their hair, feed well, hangout with friends and probably get a boyfriend - kids these days surprise me, but that's not the point.

The point is that Izzy's desire is to overthrow her father and make everyone around her miserable without even realizing she's hurting herself in the process.

I switched on the television for their entertainment and went into the kitchen to get them some refreshments.

Because it was sunny and they waited for long, I made Cecil a fruit Iced tea while I put some chilled strawberries on a plate, cut it in halves and served it to the boy.

Cecil was going through a business magazine Nik normally leaves around while Izzy was going through her phone with Pedro trying to get her attention every now and then.

The way Izzy stared at me when I walked into the living room made me uncomfortable, as if she wanted to say something to me but decided against it eventually, but I pushed it to the back of my mind, Izzy was always weird anyway.

"Your husband must be a businessman? " Cecil commented while going through the magazine.

I blushed " Not really my husband, we aren't married yet " I explained and she nodded.

"Thank you " Cecil said accepting the iced tea from me and took a sip. She closed her eyes and savoured it, releasing a sound of approval afterwards.

"Taste good " She complimented and I smiled down on her and sat beside her on the sofa.

"What made me you move here, anyway? " I asked curiously.

She pursed her lips " I've been living abroad with Pedro for years now, so I decided to bring him back to his country. Atlest for him to get to know his people and connect with his root " She explained and I nodded.

Speaking of Pedro.

He was enjoying his strawberry and then picked a piece with the fork and brought it to Izzy's face but the girl scowled at him.

Right, Izzy doesn't eat strawberry- Is not that she dislikes it or have an allergy or something but I haven't seen her eat it at all.

The boy frowned "You don't like it?"

But Izzy replies instead " Feed me "

Beside me Cecil chokes on her drink , sputtering and coughing in the process while I had no choice than to rub her back.

It was during this process of giving Cecil a good rub on the back that my eyes somehow flickered to the news on the television and I froze.

Chapter 63 - Sixty-three : The King And Queen

Nik's POV

"Hi Father, you've finally called " I said, my voice so thin and inhumanly cold like a Popsicle.

I didn't want to call him 'Old Man' this time but 'father' as a reminder that the person who had betrayed me was my own flesh and blood, someone that birthed me. Someone who was supposed to wish for my everyday progress and happiness above any other thing.

"What do you think you're doing ?!" Father snapped from the other end but my lips quirked up .

Oh, I knew what he was talking about.

The engagement news and then my own official statement was a complete slap to his face.

The Old Man had organized the news as a means, a platform to inform the whole world that he has chosen a daughter-in-law but then his own son, his flesh and blood, someone he had done everything on his behalf, turned everything around.

I knew right now he must be feeling I betrayed him, but then he betrayed me first, it was just an act of returning the favour.

"What do you think I did father? perhaps we should meet up so you can specify exactly what I did wrong " I requested , emphasizing exactly on ' meet-up ' .

For a few minutes, he said nothing and I smiled internally, he was probably weighing the pros and cons while setting up the place where my influence would be at the minimal- that is if he would agree to meet-up.

"Fine then " My father agreed " I'll send a car to pick you up "

Just as I thought.

Without wasting time, I changed out of my suit and donned a comfy ware - a nice breezy T-shirt and jeans .

I knew what I was about to face , a war. It was time to make my stand known, I wasn't that same little boy he had wrapped around his fingers years ago.

As if on cue the moment I was done, my office was notified of my ride so I made my way downstairs and wasn't surprised to see the driver was one of his own people.

I nonchalantly stepped into the car and his chauffeur driver drove away at once. Truthfully, I wasn't bothered about my safety cause I knew he would do nothing to me as his son but I was more concerned about Maya which was why I sent Judy to keep an eye on her wherever she was until I return.

Throughout the ride, a million thoughts were running through my head. Unlike earlier, the boiling anger had cooled and now I was just feeling plain disappointment and betrayal.

I pressed my hand on a side of my head, I could feel a severe migraine headache ; the pounding and searing pain promising to tear my head apart. Today had been a hubbub of activities, I had not gotten the chance to get even a little rest.

This new development made my mood sour and cranky, I wanted nothing at the moment than to have this matter solved, period - the idea of a bed was super tempting.

Funny that the picture of Maya, the both of us sleeping soundly on the bed popped up in my head out of nowhere.

"We're here " The chauffeur announced and I climbed out of the car once the door was opened by another of my father's men stationed outside.

He led me inside the expensive looking coffee shop obviously bought and emptied out for the night and for this special meeting.

I saw my father in all his glory, sitting languidly in a chair with tapered leg , inhaling and savouring the stem evaporating from the coffee in his hand.

The coffee shop was obviously designed for comfort, coziness and a charming atmosphere unlike what I was feeling right now.

Twinkly string lights decorated the walls painted a cream and light greys with soft texture and patterns giving the place a laid-back feel.

"Sit " He ordered and gestured with his hand for me to take a seat.

I dragged out a chair producing a squeaking sound and sat opposite him, all smiles gone from my face.

My father gestured to the barista who served me a black eye coffee and though I literally salivated once the mouthwatering scent wafted into my nose but I couldn't , caffeine at the moment would only make the migraine worse - judging from the fact I had already consumed tons of that during the process of cleaning my father's mess today.

My father didn't react when I shifted the coffee to the side, the sight alone was tempting. He simply took a sip of his own coffee with a calm demeanor that was capable of fooling others, not me.

I knew he was warming up, preparing for a war only one of us must emerge victoriously.

"I don't know what you're thinking but I oppose whatever it is you're thinking " He said straight away and dropped the porcelain teacup on its saucer creating a clinking sound.

His eyes tore away from the chinaware and focused on me, eyes boring into mine " I can and would never accept that girl as your wife" He declared decisively

But I countered " I wasn't asking for your opinion father, I'm the one doing the marrying, not you " I stated firmly.

He made a contemptuous snort " And who are you marrying? A wannabe actress? an illegitimate daughter you already removed from her family's registry? "

I laughed, coldly amused. He indeed has been keeping a lot of tabs on me. It seems he has nothing better to do.

I lifted a mocking brow " And who do you want me to marry? Tina? That scheming viper?" Suddenly my countenance changed and I vowed out loud " That would be over my dead body "

"That scheming viper is exactly what we need " My father emphasized "She has skills and is quite outstanding in her family business at such a young age. The both of you would make a perfect match not that simpleminded girl that has no clue about our family business! "

Truth be told, the Old Man made a point.

Unlike Tina, Maya was too softhearted and wouldn't have the heart to come up with any scheme or underhanded tricks.

But that doesn't mean she's stupid. I've seen it in her eyes, her will and passion to stand when pushed to the wall.

"Maya is smart and perhaps when taught , she would be able to handle the family business well. Moreover, I'm already the king of my domain and only need a queen to rule alongside me not a queen to rule over me "I spat with a viciousness that shocked my father " I need a wife, not a partner "

I watched him jerk up from his seat, banging his hand hard on the table "Why don't you ever listen! " his teeth gritted and seething in white hot anger "I don't know what she has done to you but that girl would be the death of you ! "

I stood up too saying " I can't help but think dying by her hands sounds blissful"

Wagging a finger at me, he choked " Y-you - ! "

"Call me crazy but I don't care if she knows about our skeleton in the wardrobe or not! " I roared "Call me selfish cause I won't let go of her even if she finds out " I declared with incredibly fierce red eyes.

"I won't let her ruin you! "My father swore and I began to laugh in a long, cold, unpleasant way.

My expression suddenly darkened " Thank your God father ! that I woke on the right side of the bed today cause the next time, you and Tina pull such shenanigans, I won't be courteous enough!" I warned and turned on my heels and strode away when I suddenly remembered something.

I turned to face my dad and added " And If you cherish Tina that much, why don't you both get married, I won't hold back my blessings "

Chapter 64 - Sixty-four : The Dam Was Broken

Maya's POV

Truthfully, I wasn't able to recall how I was able to compose myself and entertain Cecil and her kid for the rest of their stay until they left.

Perhaps the news had numbed my senses or I just pretended I was seeing things . But inwardly I knew the news wasn't a figment of my imagination, it was real.

So I woke up . From my dreams.

"Tina Is engaged to Niklaus " Kept playing in a loop in my mind as the severity of the situation dawned on me.

I didn't know I was shaking until Izzy held my hand and said to me in her coldest voice ever "Don't dare leave until you give that man a piece of your mind "

I looked down at her and nodded while giving her a wry smile. Izzy doesn't know how to comfort people but her words somehow brought warmth to my heart, at lest she cares.

Izzy then let go and swaggered out of the living room without looking back. A tired smile crept up my face and I shook my head, this girl - her pride sometimes was as huge as a corrupt politician's bank account!

But the moment she left, my brave front collapsed, the news was a real slap in the face. I wanted to call Nik and ask what's happening? Ask him whether this was some sort of prank or something? But I was scared .

I was scared that I would discover that I was nothing but a game to him. Discover that I was a fool to believe all his words and sweet nothings. Scared that I would discover that I was nothing but another of his conquered playthings now about to be added to his glorified collection.

"What if this is a fake news and Nik's indeed honest with you? " I somehow thought but Nik's history makes it quite difficult to fully trust him.

Besides why hasn't he called me yet? At Lest even if he can't explain things right now but assure me, tell me everything is alright and I shouldn't worry much.

But nothing , not even a text !

I ended up going into my room and packing up my stuffs , my vision blurry with tears - I've made a fool of myself again. why wasn't I that lucky in relationships? Why do I always end up being used?!

My hands began to shake again , my thoughts so?scattered, I wasn't able to think rationally.

I screamed and swept everything on my study table to the ground and toss my parking bag to the side, the folded clothes pouring out in all directions.

He lied to me - he said he was going to make our married life exciting.What a joke ! , I laughed. No wonder he hasn't put a ring on my finger yet, he was leading me on , playing me to the tune of his harp and I was a fool to dance to it .

After some moments of sobbing and mentally reviewing some things. I clenched my fist and looked up with a renewed determination.

Fine, I'll give him the benefit of the doubt by waiting for him to return - If he would . And then I would hear the whole story from the horse's mouth and if it's as I thought , that this whole thing was just for fun, for his own amusement.

I'll gladly leave here without looking back, with my head held high and swear never to have anything to do with the Spencers ever again.

After spending the next minutes rearranging my stuffs that lay scattered in every direction - fat thanks to my mad fit earlier, I climbed into my bed and quietly lay down hoping to get some rest before Nik returns.

But curiosity wouldn't let me be and the next thing I knew, I had opened my phone browser, hoping to read the news in depth but I was shocked to get zero result when I searched for it.

I thought my eyes were playing tricks on me so I sat up abruptly and searched for the news again but still got no result.

Rubbing my eyes to ensure I was seeing right, I stared at my phone again but the result was still the same. News that was trending all over the internet was no more as if all the posts were deleted.

Suddenly, a flicker of hope rose in my heart, could it be oh my God, Niklaus . It had to be him cause it was so strange that such a trending news was cleared out without a trace.

Could it be that it was a fake news ?!

"Oh my God" I groaned running my hands through my hair.

I was a moron, an idiot , how could I have jumped into conclusion like that - but thankfully I was able to get my shit together and didn't do anything stupid .

I called Nik's line but it didn't connect at all making me feel uneasy. I was no longer comfortable, I just wanted to confirm everything and get this suffocating lump off my chest.

I can't really narrate how the next hour went but I found myself in the garden as I perambulate up and down the outdoor octagon gazebo with pagoda style copper roof.

It was already late at night and Nik wasn't home yet back while I was chewing on my nails from nervousness.

I thought he wasn't really going to return home, until my ears picked up a peculiar movement from behind me. Breath held, I slowly turned around and gasped.

There stood Niklaus Spencer in all his shinning glory, he wasn't wearing the same clothes he had chosen earlier in the day but was donning a casual outfit instead - not to forget he looked outrageously good in it.

I stood rooted to the ground while he strolled towards me, hands in pocket , with an unexplainable expression on his face.

I started a countdown in a descending order.

5....4....3... 2....1

He was now standing right in front of me.

My breath hitched, what was so special about this man that made my heart go pit-a-pat ? His special cologne wafted into my nostrils and my throat dried up.

Come-on Maya, say something.

I blurted out " I saw the news "

Alright, keep going.

"So? " Came his only bland reply making my brows furrow together.

" And I saw the other news " was all I could say again

" And? " He prodded with an arrogantly raised brow.

I didn't like this sound of his tone, why was he behaving this way. Was I somehow mistaken here?

"And eh ... " I went on but tears couldn't let me continue " I'm sorry but I can't do this anymore " I sobbed and turned to leave but an unexpected tug , jerked me against the length of a body, knocking the breath out of me.

"I'm sorry " I heard a voice whisper into my ears and bang ! the dam was broken.

I cried harder.

Chapter 65 - Sixty-five : A Dance With Danger

Maya's POV

For a good thirty minutes, deep uncontrollable sobs wracked my body and robbed my lungs of breath while his shirt was stained with my tears and snots.

I really thought he had used and left me like the others. I had to admit it, I was scared to be lonely ; all my life the people I ever wanted never wanted me and it was quite tiring to be honest.

It was like a cycle : I meet people, we get incredibly along at first, I help them out, then they use and finally betray me and it keeps repeating - I was definitely cursed. It made me quite lonely cause I couldn't tell who I could rely on any longer .

But fate was real funny, it's games were quite unpredictable and f*cked up . The only person who surprisingly hasn't betrayed me so far is the only person I supposed should have left me already.

Truth be told , when Nik made that mouthwatering proposal, I had only anticipated but not wholly trusted his words - I just thought, perhaps that's a fling in his own language moreover I wanted to stop being a good girl and indulge myself a bit.

The option was limited, it was either I plunge in deeply with Niklaus or succumb to the loneliness that has been snapping at my heels my entire life.

But fully trust his word? impossible! . After all this guy was someone who within the snap of his finger can have any lady of any height, weight, race and caliber on his bed - What was he lacking anyway? He had the looks, body and cash - everything most ladies wanted from a man - everything that would make their life comfortable.

And Christ ! Who knows whether the words he told me were the same as the words he told the thousands of ladies he had bedded ; but then I didn't care, I wanted to dance with danger this time - I was done being careful.

But unfortunately, things began to change or perhaps things weren't the way I thought it would be - Nik began to do things I would never imagine him doing to the extent I thought he was obsessed with me.

I mean, what guy would plunge headlong into cooking when he knows his fingers were in danger of being amputated? But him ?- that crazy rich boy was capable of doing it.

What guy out there was crazy enough to remove his lover out of her family's registry and threaten to destroy them, just because they laid a finger on her?

No one but Nik

I sighed in contentment when I felt Nik rub his hand in a circular motion on my back and the other smoothing my hair, it had a soothing effect on me.

When I tried to pull away from the hug he instead pressed me closer to his body , murmuring firmly into my ears "Don't move. Let's just stay like this for a while "

So I complied with his command but our stance was reversed a bit this time - Niklaus was now the one resting his face on my shoulder while my arms enveloped his lean hips.

The scene was so romantic that I wished a camera was here to capture this exotic moment : Two figures standing with body pressed against each other as the silvery moonlight filtered in through some open parts of the gazebo surrounding them in a hazy shimmer with the tantalizing smile of roses blooming all around the garden.

This scene reminded me specifically of that song :

Place - park, scene - dark

Silvery moon is shining through the trees

Cast - two, me - you

Summer kisses floating on the breeze

Act one, be done

Dialog - where would ya like to spoon?

My cue, with you

Underneath the silvery moon

By the light of the silvery moon

I want to spoon

To my honey I'll croon love's tune

Honey moon, keep a-shinin' in June

Your silvery beams will bring love's dreams We'll be cuddlin' soon by the silvery moon

But the romance was killed the moment I felt him slouch against my body , his whole weight now resting on me almost bringing us both to the ground.

" Niklaus " I called and shook him but there was no response instead his soft, even and relaxed breath warmed the back of my neck and I stiffened.

At first I was too stunned to respond until I realized indeed, Niklaus was sleeping on my shoulder.

I sucked in a cold breath and let it out slowly, trying to think on how I was going to get him inside the house.

My battery had already died thanks to my obsessive search for the engagement news and checking on the time for Nik's return.

None of the security guards who took turns in guiding the mansion were anywhere near the garden and no amount of shaking awoke the sleeping Beauty.

I realized at once the universe was set on f*cking me today .

In the end, I ended up half carrying and half dragging Niklaus into the house and thankfully Amanda met me halfway through the journey.

But because we sure couldn't carry Niklaus up the stairs leading to his room - my waist would definitely snap in two - So Nik ended up in my room.

I breathed in relief while stretching my body. God, my body was aching. I'm going to need my painkillers later.

I simply changed Nik out of his shoes and shirt - He likes sleeping bare and besides ,today was quite hot - while giving me an avenue to stare at his hot , well toned abs to my satisfaction without interruption or fear of being caught - I was definitely drooling at the sight.

Snap out of it Maya ! , I slapped my cheek to arouse me from my useless fantasy - I had literally used my eyes to strip the poor guy.

"You lewd girl " I hit my head with my palm twice and tore my eyes away from his yummylicious abs reluctantly.

Squatting down beside the bed, I watched him sleep and I had to admit his features looked soft and incredibly cute unlike his usual stoic expression when awake.

My hand moved of its own volition to his hair but my palm brushed across his forehead in the process causing my face to scrunch up - he was having a fever.

That was when I realized how flushed his face looked at the moment.

Honestly, I was quite surprised; Niklaus was amongst the healthiest and strongest people I've ever known. Seeing him this weak and vulnerable made me realize he was still the same as I am : Flesh and blood.

I grabbed my first-aid kit and took his temperature with the thermometer, he was having a fever of about 40.5 Celsius.

I fed him paracetamol which I literally shoved down his throat cause he clamped his teeth so tight I couldn't get access to the inside of his mouth - I think he bit my finger in the process.

But the problem was solved the moment I kissed him and was granted immediate access - yeah, I know what you're thinking, been there.

So I used my tongue to guide it down his throat and fed him lots of fluids with the same method.

So I , Maya, spent the rest of the night sponging his exposed skin with tepid water amidst checking his temperature until it went down.

Chapter 66 - Sixty-six : Good Morning My Angel

Nik's POV

I dreaded going home.

Home? I chuckled , but mirthlessly , since when did I began to think of that place as a home. Sure I have properties scattered across several countries which normally houses me whenever I go on a business trip but I've never thought of anyone as a real home filled with warmth , joy , and a certain person called Maya until now.

Though I asked Judy to keep an eye on her but I didn't ask about her location, I wanted to confirm it with my own eyes , check whether she has departed as she normally does.

The ride way was torturous and filled with anticipation - I was feeling uncomfortable, I just wanted to see her. Once we reached home, I didn't even wait for my chauffeur to land a proper halt and literally flew out of the car.

At first it was just a brisk walk , then a leap, and the next I knew, I was sprinting into the house at full speed.

Heart hammering against my chest, I rushed into the living room almost knocking Amanda down in the process.

" Where is she?! " I asked Amanda without looking back, my feet already leading me to Maya's room.

I opened the room but I couldn't find her and the room was arranged neatly aside from the packed duffel bag resting on top of her bed.

I was somehow bothered , relieved and angry ; I was bothered that she was leaving but relieved that her things were still here, and angry she contemplated leaving again upon everything I did today to make things clear.

But that didn't matter at the moment , we would talk about that one later, the pressing issue at hand was finding her wherever she was.

As soon as I walked out of her room, I met Amanda and she said to me " I think she's in the garden "

Oh , the garden.

"Sir Nik , it's there something - " Amanda was asking but I was already walking through the backdoor leading to the garden.

The moment I stepped into the garden, my eyes instantly captured the lean figure of Maya silhouetted there in the gazebo, unmoving. She seem to be lost in thought and didn't notice my presence until I mistakenly stepped on a twig.

Having sensed me, she slowly turned and the air was knocked out of my breath. Why did she look so beautiful tonight ? I stared at her with a dreamlike fascination without even realizing that my feet were already leading me to her.

I only roused from my fantasy when I was standing right in front of her. Oh my God, what was I going to say to her? For the first time ever, I experienced clammy hands but I didn't show it. What would she think?.

Just as I was battling what to say to her, she did me the favour "I heard the news " She said and my heart sank.

Why did she begin with the news first ? She could've started with something light like 'You're back ' or ' Hi ' or..... infact I don't know anymore ! But wait a minute, is she about to break things up with me? Is this a goodbye?

So I replied with my usual tone "So? " and for a moment I saw something akin to confusion flash across her face. I frowned , Why was she confused, wasn't I the one supposed to be confused?.

"And I saw the other news " She said again but this time a flicker of hope rose in my heart, could it be she wasn't going to break up with me?

"And? " I asked inquisitively with brows raised. I wanted to confirm if what I was thinking was right. Was she really staying?

But this time she didn't continue instead burst into tears saying " I'm sorry but I can't do this anymore "

She turned to leave but I grabbed her arm and jerked her against my body, my arms wrapping around her waist and realizing slowly she wasn't breaking up with me.

A wretched cry tore from her throat as she broke down while I hugged her helplessly. I didn't even know to comfort her, I wasn't used to this. Maya clung to me as deep sobs ravaged her body and she cried for a really long time.

Suddenly, I remembered something from my childhood, how my mom would comfort me whenever I started my usual tantrum that would end up in tears.

So I started rubbing her back in a circular motion while the other smoothed her hair. I continued this gesture until her dark mood retreated.

She composed herself and tried to pull away but I didn't let her "Don't move. Let's just stay like this for a while " I murmured into her ear and buried my face in her neck, inhaling deeply - she still smelt like sweet white strawberries and mood-boosting mint , my favorites .

Her scent was so comforting to the extent I decided to just close my eyes and savour the feeling for a minute or so I thought cause I couldn't tell what happened next .

I kept drifting in and out of consciousness.

A feeling of warmth surrounded my body and I tried to move but I couldn't, my muscles were aching. I moaned and tried to move again but instead felt severe pain in some parts of my body.

Suddenly I felt someone tear my lips open and tried to put something in my mouth but I clamped my teeth tightly.

Though I might be too weak and unable to defend myself right now from this attack but the training I went through made my body react that way.

The foreign attack came again but I didn't give it access until it finally gave up. My body relaxed and I was internally grateful I had defeated this villain but that victory was short-lived cause I felt a sudden softness on my lips.

This softness moved against mine and successfully pried my mouth open, defeated my teeth and forced something down my throat.

I would've fought against this intrusion but surprisingly, I didn't feel threatened instead craved it - which was the last thing I felt actually.

I woke to bright sunlight streaming through the opened window and a foreign object resting under my tongue. My hands reached out and took it out of my mouth only to discover it was an oral glass thermometer.

What the f*ck

I sat up at once as a slightly wet towel fell off my forehead while my eyes focused on the figure sitting on a chair beside the bed with her head against the wall, asleep.

I looked around my environment, this wasn't my room but Maya's. Suddenly my brain fed me with bits and bits of information from last night - I must have developed a fever.

Though my eyes were sore and my muscles aching, I still stood up from the bed and carried Maya off the chair and placed her on the bed instead - She'll definitely feel sore for lying like that all through the night.

I headed to my room and for some reasons felt exceptionally good - She had taken care of me all night? She was not leaving? My heart was full of joy and happiness.

I freshened up and headed down to the kitchen to make my usual coffee when my ears picked up a loud music playing in the background and smiled, Amanda must have begun her morning dance. She has this culture of starting her day with a dancing session.

Soon enough I was moving my body to the beat of the song while my coffee beans went through its gradual process.

Girls hit your hallelujah (who)

Girls hit your hallelujah (who)

Girls hit your hallelujah (who)

'Cause uptown funk gon' give it to you

'Cause uptown funk gon' give it to you

'Cause uptown funk gon' give it to you Saturday night and we in the spot

Don't believe me just watch (come on)

Don't believe me just watch uh

Don't believe me just watch

Don't believe me just watch

Don't believe me just watch

Since there was no one watching , I did a moonwalk in the middle of the kitchen and concluded it with a spin turn, only to come face-to-face with Isabelle who was staring at me as if she'd seen a ghost.

In the heat of the moment , I bent down and clasped her cheeks before dropping a sweet peck on her forehead saying " Good morning my angel "

Then spin back to wherever I came from while my daughter stood rooted to the ground wide-eyed.

Chapter 67 - Sixty-seven : What Is Wrong With Niklaus

Maya's POV

I awoke, startled.

I looked around , I was lying on the bed ? Why was I lying on the bed ? Where is the sick guy supposed to be lying on this bed?

I groaned - What a caregiver you are, Maya.

It seems I fell asleep and Niklaus must have been the one who lay me on the bed cause I couldn't imagine myself crawling into the bed and kicking him off.

Wonderful ! the patient ended up caring for the caregiver.

I groaned and stretch myself out on the bed, my head was pounding and my body sore all over - especially my neck.

I barely slept a wink last night all thanks to taking care of Niklaus. His temperature kept fluctuating last night but thankfully cooled down in the morning.

I checked my clock , It was still quite early and sufficient enough to get some rest. So I lay back on my bed , staring at the ceiling and hoping to God my eyelids would begin to droop - but nah , it didn't happen , Instead sleep flee from my eyes cause I kept thinking of Niklaus.

Ahh ! I screamed and got off the bed, deciding to go brush up instead. Once done, I grabbed the tumbler which I had used to feed Niklaus the medicine last night , intending to return it to the kitchen where it belongs.

On my way to the kitchen , I wasn't kind of surprised hearing a song playing in the background.

Amanda has the culture of doing this set of choreographed dances every morning as some sort of workout exercise even though we have a gym somewhere in the house - can't exactly remember where since I haven't tried it .

Nor does she even consider an outdoor exercise - you know jogging, running and all or yoga even ? But no one quibbles over that anyway , after all, what is food to one man is bitter poison to others - no one's complaining about the music though.

I was nodding my head to the music and heading to my destination when I saw Nik and Izzy in the kitchen - what a weird combination .

But I actually did a double take when I saw Nik suddenly sit on his haunches and clasp Izzy's cheeks before dropping a heartwarming peck on top of Izzy's head .

What the f*ck

As if that first shock wasn't enough, before my very own eyes , I saw Niklaus do an incredible spin dance without losing his balance and stopping exactly at the kitchen counter where the coffeemaker was brewing his coffee.

The tumbler slipped from my hand, fell to the ground and shattered into bits. What just happened ? What was I seeing ?

The same was said for Izzy , she just stood at the spot unmoving as if someone had press pause on her .

The sudden crash attracted Nik's attention cause he looked up and saw me while a bright smile capable of shaming even the sun curved his lips. I was so stunned that I stood with my mouth agape.

He then began to walk towards me and pulled me away from the mess on the ground. But before I could recover from the shock of all this episodes , he lowered his head and kissed the life out of me.

I just stood like a stick , more like a frozen Popsicle as Nik plundered my mouth. I was unable to yield to the intensity of his fiery kiss cause my brain was totally fried.

He pulled away afterwards but before I could thank God for the air, he captured my lips again with a violent passion.

This time I melted in his embrace, eagerly returning his hungry, demanding and consuming kiss which would've continued if I hadn't placed my hand on his chest, creating some space.

I was so lightheaded that I didn't have any strength left in my legs which wasn't surprising when I staggered and almost fell if Nik had not been there to grasp me tightly

I tried to think but I was emotionally drained - what would I even think anyway? His kiss had left me short of words except one : What is wrong with Nik ?

" Are you OK? " He asked with the softest expression ever while his arms came around my waist.

I stared at him in a daze . No way , who is this man?

I screamed bloody murder when he suddenly scooped me up in his arms saying " This won't do, you need to rest. You look so confused right now "

I almost retorted " Of course why wouldn't I be confused when you're acting this strangely and totally not Nik-like " but decided to keep my mouth shut.

"Put me down this instant ! " I ordered "You're a sick patient, you shouldn't be stressing yourself but getting enough rest! "

But he gave me a look that made me look stupid " Aren't you a patient either? " he challenged.

I rolled my eyes " My case is different -"

" How different ? " He raised a brow still carrying me to God knows where.

"I'm all better now but you " I pointed at his chest " You were sweating profusely last night because you had a high fever. Do you know how difficult it was feeding you the drug , I had to put the medicine in my mouth and kiss it..... "

I faltered at once when I realized I was treading into dangerous territory. Even Nik stopped dead in his tracks, he looked down at me with a burning gaze causing me to blush uncontrollably.

His lips curled up " So that wasn't a dream? " he thought aloud.

I glowered at him " Oi, how can it be a dream?! Do you know how much I suffered just carrying you to my room?! O my poor waist ! " I exaggerated on purpose.

Then I looked around and noticed he was climbing the stairs and that was when I realized he was taking me to his room. I began to squirm in his arms like a fish out of water but a single warning gaze from him shut me up.

Immediately we got to his room, Nik wasn't gentle at all but threw me on the bed as I sank into its softness . But there was no time to savour the sensation cause danger was around the corner.

I crawled backwardly into the bed as he started towards me with this gleam in his eyes. Without notice, I tried to roll out of bed but he was quick and smart. Nik grabbed my hands and pushed me back on the bed, cutting any form of escape.

I gulped " What are you doing? "

A smirk appeared on his face " You said you hurt your waist while carrying me last night, so I'm thinking of massaging it "

My eyes at once widened to the size of saucers " w-what " I choked " M-massage what.. who said I needed a massage " came my sputtering .

"Oi, how can it be a dream?! Do you know how much I suffered just carrying you to my room?! O my poor waist! " mimicked Nik, as he perfectly copied my actions moments ago.

I stared at him dumbfounded, what's gotten into this guy today. I tried to sit-up in order to launch my own argument but he pushed me back onto my back.

My head jerked up exasperated, only to meet his mischievous face as he said,

"Shall we begin the massage then, my tigress ? "

Chapter 68 - Sixty-eight : Her Puppy

Izzy's POV

I hated Red. Hated strawberries. It had the colour Red. Red is so childish and feminine. But why does this strawberry look so tempting in his hand?

I gave Pedro a quizzical look, does he want me to actually eat that ? Though the idea of eating that disgust me to the core and gives me the urge to swat him but when I stared into his eyes - his tempting blue eyes , I found myself asking, why was I resisting it anyway?

His thick and strongly arched brow drew together, his expression sullen " You don't like it ? "

My mouth twitched, why did it look like my puppy was unhappy ? Does he really want me to actually eat that? Fine Izzy, let's do this just this once and no more - you can't make your puppy unhappy.

I saw a flicker of sadness cross his features and I found myself saying "Feed me " and as expected, his brows shot up and his eyes twinkled.

But I heard someone from behind choke and then I saw Cecil, Pedro's mother coughing terribly - did I say something wrong? I've watched that man called Nik use this line a lot of times, why can't I use it too?

And then Maya, my nanny and future mommy - Which I'm sure wouldn't happen anymore judging from the news I saw on my phone moments ago - Nah , who cares. She came and started giving Cecil a gentle rub on the back

I was kinda mad at Maya at the moment. She didn't let me take Pedro to my bedroom - I wonder why she thinks I'm a bad kid. I just wanted to show him alot of things including pictures of my puppy.

I once had a puppy with furs the colour of Pedro's hair and same eye colour as Pedro's when mommy was still alive. I loved Nano my puppy, it was my only friend aside from my late mommy and understood me well but then it died too.

Though I do not believe in reincarnation and the timeframe doesn't exactly match and the fact this sounds stupid - totally unlike me, but I strongly believe Pedro is my puppy's reincarnation.

And this time I wasn't going to lose him but would take good care of him. Nobody was going to take him away from me this time - not even death.

Suddenly, I saw Maya's eyes flicker to the news being broadcasted on the television - At Last , this secret is off my chest.

I saw Maya freeze for a complete five minutes oblivious to whatever Cecil was saying - even my puppy noticed it cause he wanted to ask why she was stiff as a board , but I quickly pressed a finger against his pink lips - albeit a mistake - I quickly withdrew my finger.

"Are you alright " I saw Cecil ask Maya with a concerned look on her face " What are you staring - "

"Nothing! " My Nanny jumped out of her skin and quickly changed the channel before Cecil could see the news.

Though Cecil had a doubtful look on her face but there was nothing she could do, moreover, it wasn't her business by the way.

I was startled when I felt a sudden weight on my shoulder and tilted my head to the side only to discover Pedro was resting his head on my shoulder.

"What are you doing? " I asked, my voice slightly tensed and brows drawn together in a barely perceptible frown. Was my puppy taking advantage of my kindness?

"I'm tired, just want to rest for a bit " He replied languidly, eyes closed and though I wanted to toss his head to the side but I remembered it's my puppy and I should treat him with utmost respect.

So I adjusted my shoulder to make him more comfortable and I heard him sigh in contentment which brought a lopsided smile to my lips - anything for my puppy.

My eyes refocused on Maya , whom by the way was pretty shaken up and so distracted. Cecil might not know about the news but she wasn't stupid and must have figured out that something had happened for maya to be acting this way , cause she suddenly announced she and Pedro would be leaving.

Pedro's head jerked up and though he wanted to stay, but my eyes gestured him to leave with his mom and he reluctantly agreed. But before he left, I made sure to have a good feel of his hair and I had to admit it was the same feeling I get when I run my hands through Nano's furs.

Immediately they left, Maya began to panic without even realizing it. Her hands were shaking while she kept pacing up and down the room making me dizzy.

I groaned and massaged my temple, I hated this - I enjoy seeing Niklaus in pain not her or the pain I cause him using her. But then watching her be like this, I couldn't stand it.

I didn't even know when I walked towards her or when I grabbed her hand. She looked down at me genuinely surprised but I said to her sternly "Don't dare leave until you give that man a piece of your mind " and left for my room.

I wasn't good with this kind of situation and didn't like it either - thankfully Maya wasn't a crybaby like Anabelle else I would've kicked her out ages ago.

I shook my head , I thought that man had changed a bit but I guess as long as a zebra wouldn't be able to change its stripes, he wouldn't change either.

But something seem amiss, this wasn't his usual modus operandi - foul play seems to be at work here - or maybe not , it's Niklaus Spencer we're talking for Christ sake.

I just hoped Maya beats the life out of him before leaving , how could he play her like that? I knew she wouldn't stay after this humiliation - I wouldn't either - but I wasn't crazy enough to fall for someone like that man.

Left for me alone, I would make that Tina girl disappear from the surface of this earth, that is if I was the one in her shoe - but Maya wouldn't do it even if I suggested it to her, she's a goody two shoes.

I was alert throughout the day , hoping to witness how this would end up but unfortunately my mood turned sour when I discovered the official statement that man released moments later. So I wasn't going to experience any fight ? How disappointing.

But instead of going to bed that night , I persisted and stayed awake until that man came back home. I knew Maya was in the garden and that Nik would go to find her there, so I positioned myself comfortably near my window ; binoculars in hand.

I watched their interaction with keen interest but my face scrunched up when I discovered she didn't do any of the scenario I made-up in my head - tsk tsk, what a disappointment .

So much for putting my hope on her

But just as I was about to go to sleep and leave those couples to themselves, something caught my attention. I immediately brought the binoculars to my face and zoomed in on them - Wait a minute, was he sleeping?

Suddenly, a malevolent smirk appeared on my face : I was going to give Maya a piece of my mind for failing to meet up to my expectations

I instinctively knew she was going to look for help in getting Nik to the house, so I grabbed my phone and called the patrol team who normally strolls that area every five minutes and kept them busy.

I observed her, waiting for that moment when she tries to call for help with her cellphone while I come up with another plan to counter her effort. But when she didn't reach for her phone, I figured out it was already dead cause I saw her with it earlier.

It seems the universe was on my side today.

I watched her struggle for a good five minutes before she managed to get him into the house and I went to bed with a smile on my face.

The sunlight filtering through the curtains woke me up and I groaned in annoyance - I was late to witness it.

I had already planned a prank on that man and hoped I wasn't too late to witness the look on his face.

That man enjoys a strong cup of black coffee every morning without sugar, milk, cream or added flavours, which he prepares by himself. So he normally purchases this high-quality Arabica beans cultivated at high altitudes.

But unknown to him, I had already bought and mixed fenugreek seeds which blends in with the colour of his roasted coffee beans which I'm sure he wouldn't take a second glance at before brewing it in the coffeemaker .

Fenugreek seeds are bitter and are considered unpalatable without the addition of a flavoring agent - So you can imagine the look on his face when he sips his well-prepared coffee drink -

mwahahaha.

So I rushed downstairs hoping I wasn't too late to witness this prank of the century. I could hear Amanda's music playing in the background but who cares - I have a face to watch.

But what I saw next wasn't what I expected, I arrived in the kitchen only to see the man doing a moonwalk accompanied by a spin turn, stopping right in front of me - what the f*ck .

He was startled just as I was , but what he did next to cover his shame wasn't what I expected at all .

This man called Niklaus squatted down and placed a chaste kiss on my forehead saying " Good morning my angel " while I stood frozen like the North Pole.

What just happened? Why was my heart beating so fast ? Was this some kind of trick? A new plan to make me lower my guard around him? A sort of mental attack cause I was thinking in zeroes and one's at the moment?

" Are you OK ? " Amanda asked out of nowhere scaring the wits out of me.

I shook my head and stuttered " W- where is that man?"

Amanda frowned " Which man? "

I rake my hands through my hair, " I don't mean Niklaus but the man impersonating Niklaus?" I asked Amanda whose frown deepened.

There was no way that man was Niklaus, my so called father ? That man had never held my hand since mommy died so there was no way the man who just pecked me on the head was the same Niklaus Spencer. There had to be a reasonable explanation for that - maybe it's his secret twin or doppelganger - this is stupid!

" Your father just went to his room with.... "

I didn't stay to hear the rest of Amanda's words cause I rushed upstairs to his room - I had to confirm something else I'll go crazy.

The door was half opened so I just pushed the door and... oh.

Yelp, that man is definitely Niklaus Spencer.

Chapter 69 - Sixty-nine : Niklaus Is In Deep Shit

"Daddy, can't aunt Maya be my nanny instead" Annabelle who have been updating him about her school experiences today asked out of nowhere stunning him.

Annabelle was back from school but instead of heading home, had convinced the chauffeur to drive her to his office instead . His daughter might not be as smart or crafty like Nik's daughter Isabelle, but she could charm her way out of any situation.

" Why this sudden request? " Eden asked, pausing whatever document he was going through and looked towards her surprised. This was the first time his daughter had gotten attached to a total stranger aside from him.

Annabelle pouted her lips and looked up at him "I like aunt Maya but Izzy doesn't even let me spend time with her, Izzy's a bully " she complained.

Eden smiled and gestured for her to come to him and she excitedly ran into his arms. He lifted her up and placed her on his laps, asking "Why do you let Izzy bully you? "

Annabelle sighed "Its not that she bullies me, well kind-of, but she makes it incredibly hard to understand her. She doesn't have any friends and I want to be her friend but she doesn't like me at all "

Eden sighed mentally wondering where she got this softheartedness from, infact the only thing Annabelle had inherited from him was his good looks and charisma.

While his daughter uses her charm to her advantage, Izzy has this great persuasive tongue that she could even talk the strips off a zebra.

Nevertheless he loved her either ways and wouldn't want any other daughter than her, though Nik's daughter was smart and all but he wouldn't be able to condone any of his seed that wishes nothing but for his downfall.

Eden laughed inwardly, perhaps whatever Nik was passing through in his daughter's hands was just karma paying him back in his own coin.

"Then you shouldn't be her friend then " Eden suggested " Instead of wanting someone that doesn't want you, why don't you take away something that person wants the most and make that person want you instead? "

Annabelle looked up intrigued " I can do that?"

A smile approached his lips " Of course, you can do whatever you want my beautiful pumpkin " Eden encouraged her, running his hands through her silky and well-maintained hair.

Then suddenly Annabelle sighed, dispirited, drawing her father's attention.

"Why? What's wrong? " Eden asked, brows drawn together into a frown.

Annabelle slumped her shoulder and threw her hands " I can't tell what Izzy wants cause she's overprotective of everything "

Eden smirked and then raised his daughter's chin with his hand, making sure her eyes were on the same level as his and said to her, "Then you can start from those little insignificant things that doesn't seem much cause trust me, they're the ones that matter the most "

But Annabelle scratched her scalp awkwardly

"That looks like too much work " Then she clasped her father's face with her little palm and said to him in a straightforward manner

"Daddy, Aunt Maya is all I want, I'm not that greedy"

A wry smile made its appearance on Eden's face - he wanted her to be her greedy - Greed was a very good motivator. But since she didn't want that at the moment , he wouldn't force her, perhaps with time , he'll hone her skills.

So he told his daughter "I'm sorry pumpkin but it seems this ungreedy request of yours would take time in getting granted "

"Don't worry daddy, I have lots of patience " She replied him with a sheepish smile that tugged at the strings of his heart - he would give her the best.

"And daddy? "

"Yes? "

Annabelle bit down on her lips " Can I go visit Aunt Maya , I haven't gone to her place since she fell sick "

"Sure " He agreed without hesitation "Anything for my pumpkin " dropping a peck on her forehead, he let her down.

"I love you daddy " She stood on her heels and took him by surprise by also dropping a kiss on the side of his cheek

Annabelle then ran out of his office while waving and shouting "See you later " without looking back.

Eden snorted , was she that in a hurry to go see Maya? " Hmm, Maya " murmured Eden, leaning back into his seat and clasped his hands behind his head.

Suddenly the door to his office opened and his secretary came in with a report in his hand.

"I'm done compensating all the actresses

affected by Sir Nik's firing spree and they've agreed not to bring up a scandal " his secretary briefed him and placed the report on his desk.

Eden took the report and glanced through it before dropping it back on his desk , satisfied. Though this subdivision of the company was given to him to manage, Nik still had an influencing power as the president and caused quite a ruckus that almost cost him half his A-list artistes.

"And the role? " He asked his secretary who stood as stiff as a board

"The female lead role is still open as of the moment we speak as Sir Nik wanted " The secretary explained and Eden listened with rapt attention, resting his jaw on his knuckles

"But I sincerely hope that whoever he chooses matches Issac's taste else we might stand a chance of losing - "

"*The?emperor?is not worried, but the eunuch is worried to death." Eden interjected and looked up at him

"This one is on Niklaus , moreover even the almighty Isaac wouldn't dare to cross him so don't fret about it " Eden told the secretary who released a deep sigh of relief.

Isaac was one of the world famous casting director and known for his incredibly difficult-to-please personality and he was in charge of the casting for this particular movie that hasn't even be shot but was already making waves in the internet.

"And this " The secretary added and removed an A4 paper from his leather document holder and placed it on Eden's desk

" What's this? " Eden asked, his face scrunched up as he went through it.

" That's Maya's personal background information "

Eden raised a brow and waved the paper " And what am I supposed to do with it? I already know everything about her "

"Well, that's the problem " Liam, the secretary and Eden's shadow guard answered before dropping a pile of pictures on Eden's desk.

Eden picked up the picture in curiosity but his eyes widened the moment he recognized the figure in the picture. Then he began to laugh, a long, hard, hysterical laughter.

"If this is what I'm thinking , then it means Niklaus is in deep shit"

*The emperor is not worried, but the eunuch is worried to death : The person involved is calm and collected, but observers are very worried.

Chapter 70 - Seventy : An Enemy's Enemy Is A Friend

Niklaus and Sakuzi were like fire and ice, they couldn't and would never coexist with each other . Kay issues set aside, there was a reason why Nik had to avoid love at all cost.

The Spencer family were in constant danger because of the nature of their business , potential competitors whether legal or illegally would go to any length just to bring them down .

So using their love interest to blackmail or threaten them was a common occurrence which never bothered Niklaus cause he had no real feelings for his playthings.

But unfortunately he has being captured by cupid's arrow even though he wouldn't admit it, but just caring for Maya alone has created an avenue for his enemies to step in and not just his enemies but his enemy of all enemies - Sakuzi

Nik's bad blood with Sakuzi wasn't something that could be resolved with mere words of apologies but with the death of one of them - two alphas can never exist in a pack, one has to submit or die.

" If Sakuzi is looking into Maya's background then nothing good can come out of it " Eden commented rubbing his jaw thoughtfully.

"Possibly true, we all know this feud began after that incident that caused lady Kay's death " Liam opined, adjusting his tie.

"Nik has made a huge mistake this time, he has gone soft, he let Maya weaken him while forgetting the crown is on his head "

Eden knew whoever bears the thorny crown of

the Spencer family must have a heart of stone which is the only way of trampling upon their enemies.

At this rate, Eden was sure Adam would never agree to this marriage Niklaus was planning - Maya was like a touch of sunshine and was slowly infiltrating the darkness - Adam would never stay still and allow such a thing to happen.

Eden chuckled, humorously ; It seems he would get Maya sooner than expected cause an internal war would soon begin in the Spencer family.

Though Nik might be as stubborn as a mule but Adam was as tenacious as a bulldog and if push comes to shove - he might even conspire with Sakuzi just to set his son straight - that was just how scary Adam was.

" What do you think about this? "

" Huh? " Liam looked up surprised " What do you mean sir? "

"Do you think it's just a coincidence that Sakuzi returns the moment Nik is receiving a bit of happiness after so many years? "

Liam's brows knitted together " Are you suggesting someone must have tipped Sakuzi off about the girl... " he trails off.

Eden met his eyes and smiled " Bingo ! "

" Who would do such a thing? Niklaus would definitely skin that person alive if he gets an idea of this "

"I know that but Sakuzi has been lying low, waiting patiently for this moment and God has finally answered his prayers "

But Liam tilts his head to the side, a look of doubt on his face " What if you're mistaken and all this is nothing but a coincidence? "

Eden throws his head back and gave out a hearty laugh " That's the problem, Liam! I don't believe in coincidence but in causes and effects ! Just like now " He said and his eyes darkened scaring the hell out of Liam.

Liam feeling something was not quite right instinctively took a step back and was about to flee when a muffled crack of thunder filled the room as a figure came out from under Eden's desk and pulled the trigger once... twice...thrice... until he dropped to the ground.

The room was enveloped in a cloud of smoke which soon cleared away, revealing a figure which had the same face with the Liam lying on the ground in his own pool of blood.

"I told you?the barrel is threaded for a suppressor, and would work just fine " said the original Liam blowing smoke from the end of the Beretta M9A3 barrel.

Eden ignored him and walked towards the fake Liam convulsing rhythmically on the ground and squatted down beside him " I told you I don't believe in coincidence but causes and effects; you trying to fool me is the cause while I ending you is the effect "

Eden's hand then moved to the fake Liam's neck and pulled off the fleshy mask, revealing a different face beneath it " This is your real face, isn't it? " He said scrutinizing his features "Tsk tsk , what an eyesore "

" Clear the body , that face can give me nightmare for ages " Eden stood to his feet and commanded Liam who didn't look too shocked.

" Why do you think Sakuzi sent him if he didn't want to assassinate you ? " asked Liam curiously, eyes still fixed on the corpse resting in the middle of the room.

A smirk curled up Eden's lips " He never wanted to hurt me in the first place , it was just a welcome gift " his eyes twinkled " I wonder what gift he sent to my dear cousin Niklaus "

Kim looked left and right before she climbed into the luxurious leather seat beside her. The car was packed at the entrance of an abandoned warehouse, away from prying eyes.

" Why did you ask to see me? " Kim asked the lady who turned to face her with an unreadable expression on her face.

"You should have known by now why I requested this meeting, Kimberly " Tina said, calling Kim by her full name and flashed her usual killer smile "Cause you're a very smart woman"

" What would a socialite like you possibly require from a commoner like me " Kim acted coy but inwardly she was delirious with joy.

Though Debra group wasn't a conglomerate like the Spencer group but the girl has family members in diverse high-ranking governmental positions. If she could befriend her, it would benefit her family and company a lot.

Tina sneered inwardly, she could already tell what this idiot was thinking - but who cares if she can get what she wants.

"I'm sure you heard the news " She told Kim who nodded her head. Of course how could she not , everybody in the socialite circle had seen and knows the truth even though the commoners might see it as just a publicity stunts

"It seems my dear sister has bite off more than she can chew and awoken the sleeping giant in the process " Kim said to Tina who looked entirely pleased with her bootlicking.

"Then what do you suggest we do? " Tina asked, albeit a test she set on purpose.

A malevolent smile appeared on Kim's face " Of course cut off her claws , but then ..."
She hesitated, a frown wrinkling her forehead " You can't take away a cub in front of its mother "

Tina perfectly understood what she was implying, as far as Nik still cherishes and protects the girl, there was little to nothing they could do to her.

Tina breathed deeply " Don't worry about Niklaus, I have my own way of dealing with him. So you should focus on your own task " She said and brought out a check before inscribing some numerical figures on it and handed it to Kim.

"I believe Niklaus's tantrum must have caused some setback on your side, so take this and recuperate and I believe we have a deal already "

"Of course " Kim smiled, accepting the cheque " An enemy's enemy is a friend "