

Taming A Billionaire

#Chapter 81–90

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Chapter 81 - Eighty-one : His Own Personal Sunshine

Nik's POV

What was I even thinking coming into her room yesterday? See her once more before going to bed? kiss her goodnight? or was I expecting something more?

Fine I'll be truthful, I was expecting something to happen last night . Like damn it, it has been so long since I did it. Initially, I could pride myself on being sexually active but now I was probably turning into a monk - all because of one woman.

Sometimes I would sit and let my thoughts wander and then keep wondering what makes Maya so special? why I felt so drawn to her? what makes her so different from the others? why do I like her more than the others?

Is it the way she smiles? or the way she pouts her lips and the legendary vein standing out on her forehead whenever she's angry? or the way she falls into ridiculous situations while I'll be the one to rescue her always ?

But one thing was for sure, with her around there was never a dull moment. It's like she's my own personal sunshine; a sun made specially for me and no one was going to take her away from me. Not now, not ever.

I took a glance at my wristwatch, picked up a magazine and sat down on the chaise lounge

instead of pacing up and down the room without purpose.

My mind was awl with thoughts even though I was flipping through the pages of the magazine featuring fashion shows and models clad in bikinis barely covering some essential parts.

Perhaps because I was hypersensitive, my ears perked up the moment I heard a creaking sound. I glanced up immediately the door to the fitting room slowly opened .

Tossing the magazine to the side, I stood up the moment Maya came into view and my breath stopped without even realizing it.

It seems the world froze for a while as I stared at the goddess standing a few meters away from me - she looked unbelievably beautiful in it and I was right to pick that outfit.

Maya was wearing a red strapless satin sweep gown that had a high slit at the side exposing a bit of toned thigh. The dress emphasized her lean waist and though it was not pouring at her feet but it would've be if she wasn't wearing a matching stiletto heel.

Her hair was picked and pulled to one side before braiding, giving it a voluminous look while leaving a few tendrils hanging at the other side of her face.

The makeup done on her face was flawless especially with that lustful colour on her lips that made my below tighten and my pulse to quicken.

It seems I stared for too long cause Maya was beginning to shift on her feet uncomfortably while scratching the back of her head, eyes staring everywhere but me.

I didn't even realize when a smile tilted my lips and I covered the distance between us with just two steps, reaching out an arm to pull her closer.

"You look incredibly beautiful " I said to her and she blushed in reply.

Maya has always being pretty but now she was dressed up and all, her features were amplified, not to mention she looked hot and elegant in that dress.

But suddenly I felt a pang of jealousy hit me, If I could find her pretty and considering the fact I have an eye for beauty , then the men at the party would definitely ogle her on sight.

Was it too late to change her out of this dress? I once saw a baggy styled dress on the garment rack, that would suit her right?

But I knew I was sounding ridiculous, the women at the gala wouldn't dress any less than Maya did, moreover it was a formal occasion, she has to look her best ; the men can stare as much as they want, they could only watch but not touch her anyway.

I ran my hands down the curves of her body and felt her shiver as I spoke softly into her ears " I think I've changed my mind, we should go to bed and forget all about this party "

Maya rolled her eyes and shook her head with a smile having figured out the hidden meaning behind my words.

She reached out and adjusted my bow tie saying " There is no way that's happening especially when you're dressed this sexy, I want to show you off to the world "

I knew she was intentionally flirting back but my heart couldn't help but skip a beat - that was one of the most sexy things she has ever said to me.

My grip on my her body tightened and I pulled her hips flush against mine - against my arousal - and looked down into her eyes saying, "This is what you do to me Tigress"

I watched her gulp nervously and I knew she felt it, knew it, my voice was deep and husky with desire and tonight I was going to cause a very big commotion at the party - she doesn't have to know yet.

Maya pulled away quite clumsily, did my blunt confession stun her that much?

"We have to leave remember? " she breathed and I smiled, she was trying to escape again.

" Fine then, let's go " I said and tried to hold her hand but she pulled away causing my brow to raise questioningly .

But to my surprise, she hooked her arm through mine and said excitedly " Let's go "

And so we left the departmental store which belonged to me anyway and walked outside to the limousine driven by Judy. I opened the car door for her and slide inside after her.

I watched her take in the interior of the limousine and when I thought she was about to gush on how beautiful it looked, she asked instead

" Why is Isabella not here yet ? "

My expression changed at once. Oh that, what a buzz kill.

"Where is Isabella? You said she was going to catch up with us , why is she not here yet? " She peppered me with questions when she didn't get a response from me.

Finally I answered, speaking with a drawl

"Don't worry about Isabella, she's fine. Just currently under house arrest "

Chapter 82 - Eighty-two : A Deal With An Angel

Maya's POV

"You had your daughter under house arrest?!" I asked dumbfounded.

Like seriously? who in the world locks his daughter up on a day he should be showing her off to the world?

"I know Isabella can be quite a disturbance sometimes but locking her up, isn't that a little bit extreme? " I asked Niklaus who had his leg crossed over the other and a side of his head resting on his knuckles .

"Thank God you called her a disturbance " He pointed out causing me to open my mouth , trying to defend myself but apparently he wasn't done yet

"You've perfectly described her Maya. So what makes you think I'll have such a disturbance near a party graced by important personalities from all walks of life? "

I swallowed but not because I was scared but because I've just realized there was some sense in what Niklaus was saying but still...

"Can't you have a little faith in your daughter?" I pleaded with him but inwardly had a feeling that request fell on deaf ears.

Niklaus's hardened gaze focused on mine and he said to me "I'm not taking any chances here Maya, If Isabella wants to show she has changed? she's got to prove it " Niklaus replied dismissively and I knew better than to push forward .

So I just let him be , Niklaus was someone who wouldn't be easily convinced once he has made-up his mind on something ; his stubbornness was quite an admirable yet irritating trait sometimes.

Since the atmosphere was already awkward and quiet after this not - so - heated argument, I decided to let things cool off naturally and rummaged through my purse for my smartphone only to discover it was not there.

I grabbed my silver clutch purse and poured out the contents on my laps, searching thoroughly but still couldn't find anything.

"What is it? What's wrong? " Niklaus who noticed the grimace on my face asked.

"I can't find my cellphone" I replied, my face taunt with distress while still going through my stuffs.

"You sure you left the house with it? " he questioned with concern.

I bite the inside of my mouth " I can't really tell but I know I'm not such a careless human being "

Out of the corner of my eyes, I saw Niklaus move " Here " he took out his smartphone from the inside of his suit and handed it to me saying " You can use my phone to call yours "

I flashed him a grateful smile and took the phone from him, flipping through the address book in his phone " What's my - "

" My Tigress " he answered before the words could leave my mouth. I looked up and though I didn't say a word but my heart was giddy with excitement .

Yes I knew my number by heart but I was just curious, wanted to know how he named me in his contact , even though it was not all romantic and mushy, I still loved it - the 'My' made it sound so possessive.

I dialed the number and waited while the phone rang but after a while no one answered. I dialed the number again and again but still got the same result.

" No one's answering " I replied and handed his phone back to him when I saw his questioning gaze.

"You must have left it somewhere at home probably but don't worry, I'll have them find it as soon as we're back " He assured me and circled his arms around my shoulder, snuggling me against his chest.

Satisfied, I closed my eyes and relaxed against him, enjoying the warmth that would be interrupted once we arrive at the gala. But unknown to us both, Isabella was already orchestrating plans of her own....

Back at the mansion :

Isabella opened her door a bit and peeked through the little space and for sure, the two guards were still standing firm, stationed outside her door. She sighed and closed the door, leaning against it but a crooked grin curled her lips as her face fell on the cellphone in her hand.

Tsk Tsk, her future mom might be smart but she was nothing when compared to her own prowess - thankfully she wasn't that witch Tina.

Izzy disliked that woman so much, Tina was incredibly smart and wasn't easy to manipulate like the sometimes dense Maya, neither was she fun to be with.

Moreover, Izzy knew perfectly what Tina wanted from that man called Niklaus and she wasn't going to stand still and let that happen ; Maya was a better choice for her.

For once, Izzy planned to be a doll at the party tonight but since that man had moved the first chess piece and played against her, she wasn't going to let him off at the gala - she would attend that party at all cost.

Though she was literally cringing and her inside clenched, but Izzy knew she had no other choice and so she called Annabelle.

"Hello aunty Maya " Annabelle picked up the phone at the first ring excitedly until a frosty voice came from the other end.

"I need your help "

Annabelle stiffened but took a deep breath "Y-you need my help? " She asked still trying to confirm she heard right.

"Yes dumb head, else I wouldn't be calling you , moreover with Maya's cellphone? "Izzy spat and of course that woke Annabelle from her slumber.

"Dumb head?" She scoffed "You don't even sound like you need help " Annabelle goaded and Izzy gritted her teeth together.

Her father's advice suddenly came to mind and Annabelle's mouth lifted in a mischievous smile, now was the time to take what she wanted.

"I need your help, your royal highness " Izzy said, her firm words dripping with sarcasm as she gripped the phone tight.

"Fine " Annabelle said satisfied and then asked " What code is it? "

"Code purple " Izzy breathed.

Though parents from the Spencer clan were a lot generous with their kids but their punishments were quite harsher and worth something to write home about. So thanks to that, the kids came up with diverse codes to describe their situations in time of dire needs.

" That's quite huge " Annabelle murmured into the cellphone " Fine then, what do I get out of this "

A crooked grin raised the corners of Isabelle's mouth and her eyes sparkled " A private tour on my islands with your friends for as long as you want " she offered what she thought was tempting enough.

Annabelle snorted derisively " I might not be as smart as you are but I wasn't born this morning and that request is so yesterday --try harder "

Izzy closed her eyes and swallowed, she was pretty sure she was about to lose something dear to her " Fine then, what do you want? "

A cheeky smile graced Annabelle's features as she said "Since you're under house arrest on a special day like this, I'm pretty sure they don't want you attending the party "

Isabella repeated firmly " What do you want?"

"It's obvious I'm going to get into trouble for helping you and for that, I need something worth my efforts. Yes, give me Pedro " She demanded.

Izzy's eyes snapped open as she spat " You can consider this deal off "

"Fine, You can give him to me for two weeks " Annabelle compromised.

"A day " Izzy insisted.

"A week " Annabelle bargained.

"Two days and don't push your luck further " Izzy told her straightforwardly but of course She didn't listen but ordered instead,

" Fine, five school days then "

There was a momentarily silence before Isabella spoke up " Deal, now come and get my ass out of here "

" Of Course, a deal is a deal "

Chapter 83 - Eighty-three : The Gala

Maya's POV

"Take this " Nik said and handed a pair of glasses to me while I had a confused expression on my face.

I took the glasses from him and examined it carefully " Why do I need this? "

His smirked " You'll know soon enough " he said just as the car pulled up outside the hotel and one of his men opened the door.

The moment Nik stepped out, he reached out a hand and helped me out of the car but I was flabbergasted when what seem like a million camera flashes attacked me.

"What the hell " I gasped and finally understood why celebrities wear glasses to such events ; it was too much.

I gave Niklaus a grateful smile, if not for the eye glasses, I bet my eyes would be shut close throughout this ordeal.

" Mr Niklaus " The paparazzo swarmed towards us like bees to a honey but Niklaus's security team were there to make sure none of them went past the barricade nor do anything stupid all in the name of getting their questions answered.

I immerse myself in the atmosphere to the extent I was quite startled when Niklaus suddenly stopped to pose for pictures and questions .

Everything felt so unreal and nerving cause I was the instant target of news hungry reporters.

"Sir Niklaus , who is your date for the night?" One of the reporters stepped close enough to ask and Niklaus looked towards me .

"Should I or should you? " He threw the ball in my court and I smiled and stepped forward.

"I'm Maya... " I introduced but faltered having realized I couldn't use my surname anymore, I had already been removed from the family registry

"I'm Maya, just Maya " I said, making sure my voice didn't crack at the end while fighting against the tears threatening to pool at my eyes and flashed them a smile instead .

"Maya? " the reporter asked with a trace of surprise on his face and I couldn't help but sympathize with him.

It was obvious he couldn't recognize me and I couldn't blame him, I couldn't recognize myself either with all this makeups and luxurious dress - it was like I was another me.

"Isn't she the nanny working under your roof ?" another reporter took advantage of the momentarily distraction and directed the question at Niklaus this time.

I bite the inside of my mouth, my gaze darting between Niklaus and the reporter but the person in question just stared at the reporter with a cool and collected expression as he replied " Yes, she is. So? "

The reporter pressed on " Does she have any connection with the alleged engagement claim you rejected earlier this week? "

This time, Niklaus let go of my hand and moved towards the reporter and his assistant who brought the camera and microphone closer, almost to his face.

But Niklaus stood calm and poised and replied "If you're that curious, you're free to come and live under my roof " and that being said, he walked back to me and gave me his arm.

I looked at him surprised and then slipped my arm around his with a smile and was about to cover the rest of the red carpet when a question from the crowd of reporters stopped us in our track.

"Is she the latest collection to your infamous harem ? "

My insides clenched but that was nothing compared to the ugly scowl on Niklaus's face. Anger was rippling through him and I felt it through the way his nail was digging into my arms and the way a muscle ticked in his jaw as he fought to keep his composure.

"Let's go " His grim voice came alive and he led me up the stairs to the exclusive ballroom already filling in with guests and familiar faces.

My stomach did a double flip the moment Eden's eyes and mine met and held from across the room .

What was I expecting anyway, that he would be absent? Oh come on, this was a family business and he was obliged to be here.

Even without that, how could he miss a chance to irritate Nik the rest of the night, he'll rather die than do that and I've just realized just how much Niklaus has suffered.

Though his presence was unsettling but that didn't mean I did not take in his appearance. Eden was dressed in a burgundy two piece suit with his hair slicked back and I had to admit he looked pretty good - maybe a tad bit better than good but who cares! shut up Maya.

"Where is your mind? " Niklaus asked breaking my reverie.

" Oh sorry " I smiled sheepishly and he shook his head.

"Just don't land yourself in an unusual situation as you normally do " He pointed out causing me to pout a mean moue.

"I can stand my own, I'm not that clumsy " I defended myself.

With an amused look he pointedly said " Says someone who glugged coffee laced with - "

"Don't say it " I cut him halfway and pressed a finger against his lips, not wanting to hear that embarrassing memory.

How could I have known Izzy had planned such a cruel prank? Suddenly my tongue began to produce more saliva than necessary as if reliving that bitter experience.

Without warning, Niklaus opened his mouth and captured my finger pressed against his lips with his teeth causing my eyes to widen.

" What the - "

"Ahem! " Someone cleared his throat from behind and I withdrew my hands, turning to meet Sir Adam who looked like he hadn't aged a day since the last time we met.

"Nice meeting you again Adam " I greeted him and placed a kiss on both sides of his cheeks .

" Nice meeting you too Maya " he replied and his eyes flickered to Niklaus " And it's obvious Niklaus has been taking very, very good care of you " he said but I couldn't help but feel there was a hidden meaning to those words.

"Of course, why wouldn't I? Else the vultures around would eat her flesh without even leaving her bones behind " Niklaus replied his comment with an edge to his voice.

I looked between the father and son and couldn't help but notice there was a huge tension between the both of them. What the hell is going on?

But before I could say a word, an all too familiar voice rang from behind causing me to stiffen.

"What a pleasure to finally meet you here Niklaus "

Chapter 84 - Eighty-four : Jealousy

Maya's POV

Though I held my head high but I couldn't help but feel outclassed, Tina literally looks flawless in whatever she puts on - I bet even a rag would look good on her.

I can't explain it but she has this certain aura, like the world was her stage and belonged to her alone while everyone else was meant to dance to her tune.

Staring at her from her head to the sole of her feet, I took in her appearance ; she was wearing an orange spaghetti strap mermaid dress.

The dress was backless and dipped temptingly to the small of her back while revealing toned back muscles.

With the high low plunge neckline that barely covered her breast, she achieved quite a cleavage that left men around her drooling at the sight.

A front slit added a finishing touch to the dress while a simple diamond necklace resting on the swell of her breast complemented her looks - it was obvious she was dressed to kill.

Then before my very eyes, even before Niklaus could react, Tina initiated a hug with him.

Since they were of the same height - huge thanks to her God knows how many inches heel - she wrapped her arms around his shoulder, making sure to run her hands on his back.

Though the hug seemed innocent and was for a brief moment but to me it seem to last forever and for sure, it made me see red.

I watched a hidden smirk curl up Tina's mouth the moment our eyes met just as Niklaus broke off the hug.

My fists clenched so tight that I was grateful I hadn't grabbed a champagne flute from the passing waiters else I would've literally crushed the whole thing to smithereens.

I was angry but I knew inwardly that was jealousy speaking. When did I become like this?

I rarely experienced this emotion called jealousy back at home cause I knew everything I had belonged to Kim so there was no need fighting or converting what would be taken away from me soon.

Then I was more envious than jealous, until I decided to just leave and go away, get a life for myself - which hasn't been going well.

But now why was I jealous? Why was I so adamant on converting this one? But the question is, does Niklaus truly belongs to me?

I saw Niklaus pull away from her and instantly kept quite a distance as he replied her,

" Nice to meet you too Miss Tina "

Suddenly my breast swelled with happiness, though his words were respectful and formal yet it was clearly drawing a boundary between the both of them.

Niklaus grabbed my hand and intertwined his fingers with mine and I felt a blush stain my cheek. Jeez I hate this, why was I so easy to please?

"My dearest Tina " Adam welcomed her and she placed a peck on both of his cheeks.

"Hope you have been doing well, Adam? " She asked with this warm smile on her face causing my brow to raise.

Wasn't Tina an ice queen? what's with her entire demeanor this evening? I couldn't help but feel disturbed all of a sudden , where was these feeling coming from?

Adam replied " Am fine dearest "

Then I saw Tina bit down on her bottom lip like someone who was too nervous to say what was on her mind - not to talk of her expression - what is she planning?

"I'm sorry for the rumours that was spread a few days, though it wasn't my wish nor my doing but I'm sure it affected the company stocks and your son's reputation and for that I'm deeply sorry " She apologized bowing her head

I heard Nik snort derisively by my side and my brows couldn't help but knitted together, I felt like something was being kept from me and the feeling was getting stronger by each passing seconds.

Adam chuckled heartily " You don't need to apologize dearest, besides the rumours weren't far from the truth... "

I couldn't wait to hear whatever else he said cause my throat constricted and my stomach did a bad flip while my body trembled but Niklaus squeezed my hand assuredly.

That gesture helped but still did not clear the unease in my heart. Yes, I wasn't as smart as Izzy but I was definitely not stupid either. Moreover I had my sixth sense with me and I have somehow figured out the reason for the tension between father and son.

Adam must have figured out Nik's intentions towards me - no wonder he made that remark earlier, I just thought it was strange and totally unlike him - and from the look of things, it was obvious he wasn't in support of Nik's plans nor me.

Then my eyes flickered towards Tina, I couldn't make out what they were saying because of the thoughts running wild in my head , but it wasn't too hard to figure out the rest of the puzzle afterwards; Tina was the chosen one.

Adam did not approve of me, it was not that easy to hide. A mirthless smile tugged at the corners of my mouth , I couldn't blame the man anyway .

Who in the world would want their million dollars worth son to marry an illegitimate daughter? A girl with no power, money? Marry a girl removed from the family's registry ? That was just a Cinderella dream!

But strange enough, even though it was nothing but a Cinderella dream, I still had faith, hoped for my own fairy godmother.

I felt Niklaus's arm tighten on my waist and I looked up. Despite the fact that no words were spoken but from the look in his eyes, It was obvious he knew I had figured out everything.

But the moment he opened his mouth, about to say something, we were interrupted.

"Niklaus " Someone called out and he looked up with an irritated frown on his face.

But his expression softened the moment he saw the person in question and quickly plastered the usual fake smile on his face .

"Governor Ahmed " he said and thrust out his hand and they shook hands.

My head spiralled when I saw governor Ahmed, not on television but in person - live and direct- one of the youngest and handsomest governor in history! Niklaus was not kidding when he said a lot of political leaders would attend this event.

"I'll be going to the washroom " I said quickly to Niklaus and hurried away before governor Ahmed would take notice of me and begin to ask questions.

Ahh!, I screamed and palmed my face when I entered the washroom and began to fan myself with my hands.

Why was I behaving like a fangirl? Maybe I was indeed a fangirl, I had crushed on Governor Ahmed the numerous times I watched him on television - Niklaus doesn't have to know that by the way.

Yeah it's just a crush, nothing else. But still seeing him in person ; why was I blushing so hard?

Suddenly the door to the washroom opened and I whipped around to see the one and only Tina strutting into the room like she owned the place .

Chapter 85 - Eighty-Five : The Couples

Maya's POV

My eyes moved towards the direction of the door and rested on the figure strutting into the washroom and I rolled my eyes, here we go.

I turned on the faucet and began to wash my hands slowly, hoping and praying to God that she'll be done soon and leave me the hell alone this time.

Tina stood in front of the sink and began to check her appearance through the large rectangle wall mirror . She brought out a lipstick from her clutch purse and began to reapply it on her already red lips.

I sighed inwardly and tore a piece of tissue from the toilet paper dispenser and dried my hands before tossing it into the open bin.

I guess I can't hide away in the restroom anymore, it was time to return to the party - fat thanks to Tina for destroying my alone time with my thoughts.

I grumbled inwardly, just when I decide to take a mental break. With nothing else to do, I turned to leave and just as expected, Tina began " Your dress looks nice "

With a bored expression, I turned back to face her "Thanks. Anything else? "

"Your dress is simple yet classic and eye-catching, Niklaus has always had an eye for fashion " She said all this while fixing the make-up on her face and staring at me through the mirror.

"But then " she went on " Niklaus prefers bold, wild and exploring styles " She said, washed her hand and walked towards me before reaching out and tearing off some pieces of tissue from the dispenser behind me.

"What's your point then? " I asked her with my arms folded across my chest while she dried her wet hands with this nonchalant expression on her face.

Tina lifted her head " The point is he prefers bad girls to sweet, innocent, and sly goldiggers who don't know where they belong " she emphasized , dumped the toilet paper on the ground instead of the bin and stepped on it with her heel.

I laughed, a long, hysterical that made her brows raise as she asked in bewilderment,

"What is so funny? "

I laughed " Since he loves girls who like to flash their private parts in public, don't you think it's a great change and a bad one for you since he suddenly switched to the sweet, good, innocent, type?"

Tina eyes flashed " I never exposed my private part in public! "

I snorted " Incase you did not read my lips well, but I never mentioned a name." I reminded her " So if you're feeling guilty ? not my cup of tea and I'll you reminded incase you've forgotten that private or intimate parts for females include the vulva, vagina, buttocks , anus, mons pubis and breasts "

I stepped closer and intentionally stared down at her breast which looked two times bigger than mine. Nah, I bet she had an implant, there is no way those boobs were natural and I'm not saying that because I'm jealous - note my word.

I went on " I'll have you know that the female breasts are considered as parts that should be covered in most contexts and intentional exposure of one's intimate parts is a form of exhibitionism"

I informed her while she had this shocked look of disbelief on her face and I summarized with a fake sweet smile " That would be all for now Miss Tina and I hope you learnt a lot from my lessons "

Flashing her a victorious smirk this time, I turned to leave when I felt someone tug my hair so tight it hurt.

"Ouch! " I exclaimed and grabbed her hand on my hair " What do you think you're doing?!"

"You think you're so smart, huh ? " She spat with hatred "But by the time I'm done with you, you will regret ever messing with me "

Tina made her intentions known and increased her grasp on my hair, so tight that a tear slipped down my face ; I was sure I've lost a few strands already.

Infuriated, I took both of my hands and grabbed Tina's hand clutching my hair, held it steady and somehow twisted my body to face her before bringing up my knees to her stomach.

Tina yelped in pain the moment I kneeled her, released her grasp on my hair and took a step back, almost stumbling in the process.

"I might not be a rich bitch like you with bodyguards at her beck and calls but I'm definitely a black belt holder "

"Y-you ! " She raged " I'll sue you for this! " she threatened me and I scoffed derisively.

I pursed my lips and shrugged my shoulders

"Sure go on but you have forgotten that your DNA is on my hair already, let's see who would win in the court of law" I countered her threat

"Speaking of which, I should be the one filing for assault, you attacked me first ! But then you can go ahead, I give you my permission and I'm not afraid cause I've got evidence already ; it's just an act of self-defense "

I flicked an invisible dust off my finger and continued, "Moreover, I've got Niklaus on my side already and you of all people should know how stubborn he is when he sets his mind on something " came my shameless boast which had Tina tongue-tied.

" Y-you " She choked while pointing at me and the other one clutching her stomach.

But Tina began to take backward steps when she saw me closing in on her menacingly. This predator and prey game continued until her back hit the wall.

Her lips were trembling and expression pale, it was obvious she was scared of me cause it seems our Ice queen Tina is scared of physical pain and probably thinks of me as a gangster already - how nice - but I love it.

I planted both hands down on the wall beside her, making sure to cut all forms of escape and felt her tremble , then I bent my head and whispered into her ears,

" The next time you come at it, do it face to face, don't launch an attack from the back like a coward - " A footstep interrupted me and I turned to look at the intruder.

"I'm sorry for interrupting you both. Just go back to what you were doing, I'll pretend like I didn't see anything " The lady apologised and hurried into one of the toilet cabinet.

I scoffed in disbelief but I didn't blame the woman anyway . With my body pressed against Tina's, our position was ambiguous and could - no scratch that - would sent wrong ideas.

"See " I told Tina and tucked back a stray curl of her blonde hair to the back of her ear while she stared at me wide-eyed shocked. " Nobody believes I bullied you, they think we're a couple "

Then I pulled away and strode out of the restroom with my racey heart, what in the name of Christ did I just do?

And for the record, I'm straight.

Chapter 86 - Eighty-six : He Wants To Murder Me

Maya's POV

I must be crazy ! No, I am crazy ! How and where in the world did I get such boldness ? No that can't be , a spirit must have possessed me!

After I walked back to the gala, I realized how foolish I had been, engaging in a bathroom fight? Yeah it was pathetic but I wasn't going to sit and watch some spoilt rich brat step all over me.

Now the adrenaline was spent, the feeling of nervousness overwhelmed me and I stopped a waiter carrying a fresh tray of champagne glasses, grabbed one and gulped it down.

"Wow!" I exclaimed internally and my eyes rolled in delight, that was strong and invigorating. So I took another one and downed it and another and another and ano-

"What do you think you're doing?" Eden questioned and snatched away my fifth drink much to my annoyance.

"Give it back!" I demanded but he simply moved it out of my reach and before I could say a word, drank it till there was nothing left.

"Make sure no one serves her any alcoholic drink again tonight" Eden placed the empty champagne flute on the tray and ordered the waiter who nodded his head and left.

I gritted my teeth and glared at him "I can hold my drink, I grew one-quarter of my life in the slums" I reminded him incase he thinks am one of these barbies in the party tonight that needs protection.

"Drinks from the slums and drinks made from luxury aren't the same, but if you feel you're in the mood to exhaust yourself, let's take it to the dance floor" he told me and that was when I realized the area of the ballroom reserved for dancing was slowly being filled with couples swaying to the romantic number the band were playing.

That area of the room had their lights dimmed and coloured, setting a romantic ambience while the live band played the song to perfection.

My gaze lifted back to Eden's "I'm so not doing that"

He had a curious expression "Why not?"

"I'm just not doing it, okay"

His eyebrow rose in a challenge "Why? Because you're a chicken?"

My nostrils flared as soon as I caught the scorn in his voice "I'm not a chicken!"

"If you're not a chicken then, is it Niklaus?" he guessed but I knew it wasn't far from the truth.

I followed the direction of his gaze and it rested on Nik who was engaged in some discussions with three or four people I would like to think of as his business associates.

I took a deep breath and turned to face Eden, looking him straight in the eye " Niklaus doesn't have to say anything to me, but a wise woman knows better than to associate with you "

Eden chuckled, he was amused " Sweetheart, You've signed a contract with my agency already, so you'll be seeing a lot of me from now on. Now will you stop being such a pain in the ass and have a dance with me? " a knowing smile curled his mouth as he extends a hand to me.

"Don't think this changes anything between the both of us, I still hate you for using me " I spoke to him in a whisper.

"As you wish my lady " He drawled and I put my hand in his as he led me to the dance floor, in the midst of other dancing couples.

My heart was pounding in my chest while a tiny voice in my head was telling me this was a mistake but I didn't heed.

"I might be a little rusty with this dance cause I haven't gone to this sort of event in years. So expect a few stepping on toes disaster " I confessed and his eyes twinkled in amusement.

"Duly noted . " He said but my breath hitched in my throat when he suddenly held me close, his hips pressed flush against mine while bracing his hands on my hips.

" What are you doing? " I asked alarmed.

"Shhhh, relax and just follow my lead " he hushed me and began to sway to the music and I had no choice than to keep up with him. I had one hand in his while the other rested on his shoulder.

Unconsciously , I looked over my shoulder and met many gazes and though we weren't the only one dancing but their eyes were trained on us excluding Nik's . Where the hell was he?

My eyes caught a few reporters at a corner of the room who were given exclusive invitation into the ballroom take pictures of us and my stomach churned.This would definitely make the tabloids tomorrow.

Suddenly Eden spined me around and slowly lowers me in the direction of his knee, letting his hand run down my curves and causing tingles down my spine .

As much as I would love to bash him on the head for such foul play but I held unto his shoulder for support else I'll lose my balance and kiss the ground.

Though Kim's family was an asshole but I was grateful they gave me dance lessons when I was little, though I knew they did it so I don't embarrass them in social events but it sure came in handy now .

With one of his hands wrapped firmly around my waist and the other cradling the base of my neck, Eden pulled me back up and I couldn't have been more grateful.

Breathless, I was still trying to catch my breath when I felt his hand suddenly travel down my side and found the slit in my gown, moved his hand inside the skirt and stroked the skin of my inner thigh causing my eyes to widen.

I tried to pull away but I couldn't move an inch, his grip around my waist was iron and like an impregnable fortress, I couldn't escape.

"What do you think you're doing? " I literally spat fire from my eyes.

He smirked and gestured with his head and my gaze followed as he said "Trying to unruffle my dear cousin "

My breath hitched when I discovered Niklaus was in same dancing floor with us, and even with the distance between us , I could feel the anger coming off of him.

Though he had a partner in his arms - which thankfully was not Tina - but he was the least interested and instead trained his eyes on us in such a way that will make someone feel self conscious .

To others watching we were waltzing perfectly across the floor since such dance requires intimate contacts and movements but Nik knew otherwise. And Eden was making it worse by creating ambiguous postures.

He pulled me closer, leaned in and whispered into my ears " Do you see the fire in his eyes? He wants to murder me "

I couldn't even bear to look Niklaus in the eye, I've seen those furious eyes before and what happens afterwards.

Suddenly there was a general twirl as all the male dancers turned their partners as if choreographed but there was an interruption.

Instead of spinning back into the arms of Eden, there was a switch and I ended up with Nik instead while Eden ended up with Nik's own partner.

Oh - boy

Chapter 87 - Eighty-seven : The Bolster

Back at the mansion :

Hands on hips, Isabella asked her " How sure are you that this stupid plan of yours is going to work? "

Anabelle glanced up and scowled at her before refocusing her attention on the long, thin , almost invisible yet firm cord in her hands, fastening it around both chairs placed at the sides between the entrance.

She heaved as she tightened it " First of all, this plan isn't stupid. And secondly, I learnt from the best "

Then Anabelle stood up and admired her work. It? would take a very, very close look to discover? something was tied there - how perfect ! Her eyes twinkled and she rubbed her palms together in gleeful anticipation.

"What next? " Izzy asked in a bored tune and wrapped both arms across her chest with a stern expression.

Anabelle tugged a stray lock of hair behind her ear " I scream and you act "

"What -?!" But before Isabella could understand what she meant, she let out an ear-piercing scream, like a banshee, leaving her dumbfounded.

"Ahh! Help me,Isabella is hurting me!? Oww! Somebody help me! " Anabelle wailed with all her might.

By the time the doorknob began to turn as the security tried to open the door, Izzy got a hint of what she was trying to do and she collaborated with her at once.

"You dumbhead! I'm going to kill you today?! " Izzy began her own acting and was grateful when the pounding on the door began.

"Open this door ! " They commanded from outside since the door was locked from inside but the kids giggled inwardly and made faces .

To come inside the room, they would have to grab the spare key from Amanda who should be having her beauty sleep by now.

"Ouch! Not the hair ! Let go of my hair! Somebody help me please ! " Annabelle screamed eliciting a boom from outside.

"Hurry up and get the damn keys! " One out of the two guards stationed at her door ordered his partner.

Then added, but this time directed at Izzy " And Isabella, let go of the girl! "

"Who made you my spokesman?! " She fired back " I have the right to do whatever I want! "

"Ouch! Izzy no, let go of me " Anabelle faked-cried causing panic to break out on the face of the poor guard.

He knew Isabella was a troublesome kid which was why he was given charge to keep her from attending the party tonight.

Sir Niklaus had warned him strictly not to let anyone into her room whosoever be.

But he had taken pity on the poor? child, who had lost her mother at a tender age since he experienced the same thing too and thought letting her cousin Annabelle to entertain her for the night would lift her mood.

Moreover that girl Annabelle had the power to bring even the strongest of men down to their knees with just her eyes.

He had refused her entry at first but when she fluttered her eyelashes, let the tears pool at her eyes and her lips quivered, he had no choice than to give in at once.

But who knew Isabella would be so cruel as to hurt that sweet, innocent girl and her cousin at that.

"I swear to God Isabella If you hurt as much as a hair on her body, I would not let you off " he threatened hoping to God it would work.

Izzy snorted and rolled her eyes, this lowly guard was trying to scare her ? Oh please, she had seen scarier things than him.

She retorted "Why don't you know your place first !"

Watching the scene,Annabelle shook her head, tsk tsk, her cousin was simply original. No one would even tell this was nothing but an act.

But the moment they heard the keys working on the door, their eyes widened and Annabelle hurried over to Izzy saying;

"Quick, grab my hair "

Isabella did not need to be told twice but just as she reached out, her cousin added,

"Just don't pull tight, this is all just an act ." Anabelle reminded her but she rolled her eyes towards heaven

"Whatever, let's get this done "

The moment Isabella gripped her hair and began the drama, the door snapped open with a bang and the two guards rushed in .

But they had hardly stepped inside the room, both with the aim of separating the two kids when they tripped on something and fell face first on the ground.

"Now " Annabelle yelled and they both with lightning speed grabbed a wrapped paper out of nowhere, opened it, pressed their noses with a hand to cut their breath and blew the substance on the faces of the guards who were almost on their feet.

"What the f*ck! " One of the guards cursed, waving his hands here and there and trying to wipe away the powder flying in his direction.

It seems they have been tricked, and though he couldn't tell what was blown on them but it certainly wasn't something good.

Isabella was the epitome of mischief and though Anabelle might be a good girl as praised by her father, but they've heard tales of her pranks too. So if the two were in cahoots, then chaos was sure to follow .

And he must stop them before it is too late.

Isabella shrunk back, doubt and fear mixed in her eyes as one of the guards stomped towards her.

"I thought you said this was going to knock them out? "

Anabelle let go of her nose and took a step back too.

"Yeah, that's what I thought "

Izzy's eyes flashed, " That's what you thought?! "

Anabelle nodded and bit on her lower lips nervously.

Izzy let out a frustrated groan while the urge to throttle this stupid cousin of hers rippled through her - it definitely wasn't a bad idea - but that would be after dealing with this figure looming over her.

Without warning, she tried to make a reach for the door but that nuisance of a guard grabbed her .

"Where do you think you're going? " he questioned, a victorious smirk on his lips which didn't last for long.

Out of the corner of her eyes, Izzy saw the other guard who tried to capture Anabelle fall to the ground suddenly and she turned when she felt his grip on her loosen.

Glancing up, she saw the guard press his hand on his temple while staggering and her eyes widened - he's gonna fall.

But before Isabella could make a move, he landed straight on her and brought them both to the ground.

"Oof! " She suffered the impact as he used her as a bolster.

"A-ha " Anabelle jumped and launched a blow in the air " I told you it was going to work "

But Izzy wasn't in the mood for celebration, this unbearable weight was slowly crushing her. She stretched forth her hand towards her cousin,

"A little help here "

No response

"Please? "

And the help came.

Chapter 88 - Eighty-eight : The Escape

"Ugh" Annabelle groaned with the effort as she pushed the heavy man off her niece.

Izzy took a deep, long breath as soon the guard was pushed to the side. The man weighed a ton; she thought she was going to die.

" Bless your heart " Anabelle pitied Izzy and gave her a hand,helping her rise to her feet.

"Thank you " Izzy blurted out and when she had realized what she said, added immediately;

" I don't really mean that, so don't let it get into your head. "

Anabelle hid her face away and smiled, though Isabella pretends to be cold, tough and aloof, but she believes she is one big softy at heart.

Sensing the awkward moment, Izzy cleared her throat and asked " By the way, how and where did you get that powder? "

Anabelle waved at her face " Hello? Have you forgotten my father runs an entertainment agency? you would be shocked to see the things in his possession. So I quietly sneaked out the item that fit my plan " she explained with a triumphant glee.

Truth be told, Izzy was totally impressed but she didn't let it show on her face .

So her cousin had a bit of a brain after all, but then her countenance changed suddenly .

If Anabelle continued in this way, she might become a formidable opponent in the future.

Isabella wasn't stupid, even if her cousin doesn't want the position, she had no say in the matter.

She had seen the look on Eden's face, he would do anything and everything to put her daughter there. And because Anabelle loved her father so much, she would have no choice than to abide by her father's wishes.

Besides greed was a very good motivator, by the time her dear cousin grows up a bit more, who's to say she won't strive for her position?

"I need to go, the other guards should have been notified already" Izzy surmised and grabbed her backpack from the bed, filled to the brim with unknown items.

She glanced up at Annabelle " How do I get out of here?"

"My chauffeur is out there, so all you have to do is make it past the entrance " She pointed out and sat down on Izzy's bouncy bed.

Izzy asked in disbelief " That is all? "

Anabelle shrugged " I've done enough damage for tonight, and it's quite obvious that my dad would skin me alive once he gets news of this adventure ."

Izzy mocked her " Whatever, daddy's girl "

Then she turned to walk out of the room but Annabelle's words stopped her in her tracks,

"Be sure not to get caught, I can't have all my painful efforts go to waste "

Izzy darted a haughty glance her way "Don't worry " she began " I've got brains and balls unlike you "

Done, she sprint down the stairs while Anabelle released an unbelievable scoff.

Walking into Niklaus mansion was easy but leaving was like escaping a prison yard with no backup plan.

There were security cameras here and there and patrols at different time intervals, security was insanely tight.

Thankfully because of the gala tonight , the number of security placed at the house reduced drastically. But that didn't mean, the house was penetrable.

As much as Izzy was smart and confident, sweat still broke across her forehead as she hides behind a wall each time a guard passes her by without noticing her .

She knew the interior and exterior of the mansion like the back of the hand, knew the number of cameras available, their positions, and therefore manipulated their blindspots to her benefit.

Thankfully her clothes were dark which camouflaged with the darkness of the night once she made it outside.

She observed the patrols and per her knowledge carefully worked her way to Annabelle's car parked at a corner of the long, tree-lined drive.

She tapped on the front side window twice and it slide down exposing Lionel, Annabelle's chauffeur

" Get in " he ordered her with a stoic expression on his face.

Isabella didn't care anyway, she didn't need to be told but it was obvious the man didn't support Annabelle's actions tonight .

Once she slid into the seat, she told him " I need to change " and he wordlessly pulled up the car partition.

Grabbing the clothes from her backpack, Izzy changed out of her casual wear and donned a simple beaded champagne V-neck dress.

She pulled her hair into a tight yet high ponytail and applied nothing but powder on her face.

Once they arrived, Izzy didn't go through the red-carpet entrance as expected, but thought of sneaking in through the backdoor accessible to staff only the moment Lionel dropped her.

Yes she was smart but so was that man called Niklaus. He might not know how but he surely knew she would attend that gala if she wanted to, and so must have stationed guards at the entrance as a backup plan incase she did escape the ones at home.

They would definitely capture and take her home the moment they lay their sight on her.

Her eyes narrowed into slits the moment she discovered there were security doing checks at the entrance.

Heck, why can't things be easy for once. For five minutes, Izzy couldn't come up with a good plan but she still refused to give up.

She sighed and rubbed her forehead before her eyes caught a van offloading vegetables probably meant for the kitchen.

A smile graced her lips and she quickly joined the small queue amid the intense stares from the people - her dress and height definitely didn't match the occasion.

When it came to her turn, the offloader paused and gave her a quizzical look.

Izzy scratched her head shyly, boomed a sheepish grin and said in her most childlike voice ever "Ahh, I'm here with my mom, I'm helping her out in the kitchen "

The man stared at her with a doubtful look but Izzy turned, waved and smiled at a woman standing a few metres away from them and the strange woman waved back too with a smile .

Though there was still a hint of doubt on his face but after that little scene, it was not as vivid as earlier.

He simply cleared his throat before giving her a smaller load to carry inside and she thanked him in her tiny fake voice.

Once out of earshot, she gagged and cringed inwardly. Isabella couldn't believe she just imitated her cousin Annabelle - how disgusting!

To be truthful, she had taken a gamble but it seems the universe was on her side after all.

Still debating on how to convince the offloader, she had turned and that moment her eyes connected with that woman.

Izzy decided to wave at her and she surprisingly waved back - albeit confusedly - but the man was in a hurry, so he didn't take time to notice the difference.

Izzy walked towards the entrance confidently though her heart was in her mouth. Her head was not lowered but she didn't dare to look the security in the eyes and almost stepped into the hallway that would lead the journey to the ballroom when she was stopped.

"Stop! " she heard one of them order and she froze.

"Turn around " came the second order.

Fist clenched and eyes burning, Izzy? cursed that man called Niklaus in her heart over and over - he was really out to get her tonight.

But just as she decided to turn around, someone draped an arm on her shoulder, stopping her and spoke to them in a resolute manner ,

"She's with me ""

Chapter 89 - Eighty-nine : The Punishment

Maya's Pov

With my heart pounding in my throat, I looked up, but it was a mistake.

Though Niklaus tried to keep his expression neutral but I knew he was fuming inside, judging from the way his jaw was clenched tightly and his nails digging into my waist.

"Niklaus , I can explain.. " I tried to say to him but I found out my voice was unusually breathy and shaky, not to talk of his stopping gaze.

I lost whatever I was going to say when I met his eyes , he looked like he was really ready to murder someone.

Suddenly his face lit up with a smile that didn't look halfway near the word called " sincere " .

uh oh, I don't like this.

"So " he began " You were having a good time with my cousin " he bent and in the guise of whispering into my ears, he kissed my neck.

My breath hitched and I looked up, but remained speechless. His scorching gaze made me think of a scenario : A situation where a wife was caught by her husband, sleeping with his cousin - that was how judgy his gaze was.

"Niklaus, nothing happened "I finally managed to speak.

"Really, you seem to know Eden more than I do? " his lips twisted into a humourless grin.

My mouth quirked, he didn't believe me.

"I really - " I didn't get to finish what I wanted to say cause he spun me around suddenly and I misstepped, slipped and almost fell, had he not caught me.

Thanks to the distraction, I forgot we were still on the dance floor. But I couldn't help but feel he did this on purpose, was he punishing me intentionally?

Because of the fall, I instinctively hung my hands around his neck for support while my back was lowered a few metres away from the ground.

Niklaus had his arms wrapped around my waist while the other gripped my raised thigh.

I can't tell if people knew I almost fell but the look I got from a few looked impressed, as if we just did some random improvise.

Niklaus slowly drew me back to my feet but made sure his hands ran down my thigh that was exposed through the slit.

"Niklaus " I gasped, looking over my shoulder frantically " There are people watching "

Thankfully, It was reliving that the part of the dance floor we were walzing was a lot dimmer than the rest - thanks to the romantic light bulbs - alongside the fact that Niklaus had pulled that shenanigan subtly.

"I guess you didn't think of that when you were with Eden " he growled into my ears and pulled me flush against his body, and let his hands curve down my sides slowly.

I guess I was stupid, forgetting the fact that Niklaus was extremely jealous and possessive.

He continued " Where did he touch you? "

My eyes widened while I gulped and he caught that action - I was definitely dead meat, Niklaus wouldn't let me off easily tonight.

"Just as I thought " He chuckled, but I felt the hairs on my body stand on edge ; now was a really good time for that ejector seat to appear.

"Since you won't talk I would get the truth out of your mouth myself, let's go "

I was definitely hearing wrong

"G-go where? " I choked, confused and a bit scared if I might say.

The last time this kind of scene happened, I ended up in an interrogation room . Who knows where he's taking me this time?

I continued " Niklaus, Please - "

"Shhh " he pressed his hand against my lips and made sure to stroke it in the process as I shivered.

"Be a good girl and follow me " he said, but it sounded more like an order and my feet instinctively obeyed.

As he began to pull me away, I looked over my shoulder and my eyes met Eden's.

He was now dancing with another lady and though he was resting his head on her shoulder and swaying to the music, but his eyes were fixed on me with a burning intensity and a scowl.

My brows knitted together, why was he angry? I should be the angry one here after all, he lured me into this mess in the first place.

And now I had to find a way to placate Niklaus tonight - which would have been a lot easier if only I knew what was going on in his head at the moment

My stomach was in knots when we stepped into the elevator, I still had no idea where Niklaus was taking me and he wasn't talking to me - I suddenly wished I had a gauge to show me how angry he was.

Once the elevator opened and we walked out, Niklaus stomped down the hallway and I trailed behind him.

He stopped at a door, swiped his card at the sensor and ordered,

"Go in "

Reluctantly, I obeyed but let out a quizzical look the moment I walked into a suite.

All of a sudden, Niklaus was all over me before the door was even closed. His mouth crashed on mine with a ferocity that knocked the breath out of me.

I hardly comprehended what was going on when he pushed me against the wall drawing a startled gasp.

Of all our kisses, Niklaus has never been sweet nor gentle, instead passionate and consuming but this time he was hard and demanding.

"We are alone now " he bent and whispered into my ears, his heated breath tickling me.

"So you can tell me where and how he touched you, I want to kiss away his prints on you "

" Oh " I swallowed.

My breath hitched while my body shivered with anticipation, what was the probability I was going to leave here without Niklaus having his wicked way with me? Probably null .

"Niklaus you're the CEO, you're highly needed at the party ... "

I let out a sharp gasp the moment he bit my earlobe. He then glanced up "I saw him do that, am I right? " he asked, intentionally intercepting my plans of distracting him.

"The night is still young, we can make it long or short , what do you say Maya? " He asked, looking into my eyes with his intense gaze while my heart raced.

Niklaus didn't call me 'Tigress' but my name, which could only mean one thing ; He was down to business .

Chapter 90 - Ninety : The Punishment -2

Note : This particular chapter is not meant for the young and innocent minds, so shoo away. But don't worry no major plot happened, just try again later.

Maya's Pov

I was breathing raggedly as if I ran a marathon, it was so deep and loud that I wondered if he could hear my breathing.

Pushed against the wall, Niklaus leaned over me with brooding eyes while his hot breath blew on my neck.

I looked up and my throat dried up, I had not taken time to appreciate his appearance earlier, but right now with his face so close to mine, I realized how much he put into dressing up for tonight.

He was wearing a blue silk dinner jacket with black shawl collar and combined with a black trousers.

Though Niklaus's handsomeness was quite a showstopper, the stylist did apply light makeup on him to highlight his breathtaking features.

His mass of hair was pulled into a quiff and I felt the need to run my hands through his hair, tousling and messing it up to my contentment.

"So what do you say " His deep baritone murmured into my ears, sending tingles down my spine.

I gasped when he nibbled on my ears and placed his hands on either side of me against the wall.

"I'm sorry, let's forget about this alright " came my earnest plea, I seriously couldn't fight against Niklaus.

Just these few advances already but I could feel my control slipping away? and can't tell how long I'll last without giving in to his seduction.

He chuckled against my skin making me shiver before he moved away, lifted my chin until our eyes were on the same level and said,

"You should know by now I bear grudges a lot "

"I know but - "

The rest of my word was silenced with a short kiss that shockingly left me craving for more.

" Where did he touch you?! " he repeated, this time a lot firmer.

The change in his tone was a warning, he was slowly losing his patience and I had no choice than to blurt out the truth.

" My thigh " I breathed " He touched my thigh " I confessed finally.

His eyes darkened and I swallowed, he really wasn't letting me escape this one.

Suddenly he grabbed my wrist and held them above my head with one hand and pressed his body so close to mine that I could feel his toned muscles.

" Did you like it? " He inquired grimly, looking me straight in the eyes.

My mouth dropped open, was he seriously asking me that? Doesn't he trust...wait a minute.

I chuckled inwardly, Niklaus was insecure? The world greatest player was jealous and uncomfortable, thinking I would prefer his cousin over him.

Suddenly an idea crossed my mind, what if I played with him for a while? Ruffle his feathers a bit, that would be exciting.

My heart pounding, I leaned in slowly and kissed my way up his neck and said into his ears " What if I liked it? "

I felt him stiffen and my brow rose, was he seriously buying that? Anyway, the look on his face was priceless so I continued.

" What would you do if I told you I liked the way he - "

The rest of my words died off the moment his hands grabbed my thigh and grind against me.

I threw my hand back and moaned, my body shivery with excitement but he wasn't done.

He pulled my head back by the hair, exposing my neck to him while his other hand caressed up my thigh, purposely avoiding that wet center.

His other hand laced around my waist pressing me up against his hard, hot and lean body .

I let out a sharp gasp the moment his lips brushed against my neck and he murmured " I bet he didn't make you feel this way , did he? "

"No, he didn't " came my raspy reply, my body was being overwhelmed with so much sensation making it hard to think.

Then his hand began to move towards my centre and he tugged my panties to the side and worked between my legs eliciting a cry of pleasure from me.

"Oh my God Niklaus " I cried and arch my back as my inside clenched and my legs almost gave out had he not held me.

He kissed me, swallowing my moans as his hands worked faster and faster, riling my body with pleasure and just when I was close to coming, he stopped.

Niklaus pulled away leaving me with a bewildered look on my face and unsatiated, I've never felt so sexually frustrated until now.

Chest heaving,I summoned the courage to ask "Why did you stop? "

He answered blandly "Since you love Eden so much, go to him "

Being flabbergasted was an understatement, I was exasperated, can't he tell when I'm fooling with him?

"Damn you Niklaus, can't you - "

"I'll go for Tina since you're going for Eden "

I couldn't tell if it was a joke or not - no I didn't care if he was serious or joking, cause I grabbed the front of his jacket, stood on tiptoes and said to him " You ain't going anywhere, not on my watch "

Then I crashed my lips on his, kissing him with every ounce of anger and frustration in me.

I was never possessive but I couldn't help but feel my blood boil when I heard him mention the name "Tina " . I didn't want Niklaus anywhere near her especially with that scene from earlier, so I had to mark my territory.

Though I felt guilty, thinking I stole Niklaus from her but after the character she displayed tonight ? To hell with that guilt.

Though every lady wished for a handsome partner, Nik's breathtaking features were becoming a headache to me. I wish I could just wear a sack mask over his head - highly impossible.

Niklaus stood rigid, perhaps he was surprised at my action since this was literally the first time I'm being initiative aside from that time I was drugged.

But that didn't last for long because he responded back, his teeth biting down and sucking on my bottom lips until we came up for air.

"So this is what it takes to make you aggressive in bed? " Niklaus said as soon as we pulled away.

My forehead creased in confusion, what's he talking about?

I shook my head "I don't understand"

"You only feel protective of your man when you're jealous " he laughed and my eyes widened, everything finally making sense to me.

I thought I had played Niklaus but in reality, he was the one who did. He was a good actor and led me on with the belief 'I was ruffling his emotions'.

"Get lost "I pushed him on the chest but he grabbed my hand.

"You're still not free " he said

My brows raised "What?"

A smirk graced his lips, he began to kiss my fingers and my breath hitched " You let Eden touch your body, there's a punishment for that "

My breathing was a mess, especially with the way he pinned me with his intense eyes and doing funny things to my fingers.

"What if I wasn't exactly willing to participate? " I argued diplomatically and tried to withdraw my hands which was unsuccessful.

His eyes twinkled " Doesn't matter cause you danced with him Tigress moreover, I set the rules " he then tugged me towards his body and hoisted up in his arms.

My gown skirting up as my legs latched around his waist. "What if I don't play by your rules? " I said and intentionally threaded my fingers through his hair before slipping my hands into the inside of his shirt.

He smirked "We'll go by your rules then "

I groaned when he cupped my ass as our eyes met and held, our lips met hard.

His tongue found mine and we began a game of play and chase while his caresses sent electric current coursing through my veins.

Niklaus's skilled tongue and hands stroked and teased me until my brain went haywire.

Pulling away from the kiss, I yanked his jacket off his shoulder and delightfully watched it slide to the ground.

"Your turn " he murmured and peeled off my gown tossing it to God knows where and leaving me clad in nothing but my undies.

I watched him breathe sharply and his chest rose as his hungry gaze roamed over my body. His eyes were dark and hungry ; the desire was evident.

"You're perfect " Niklaus murmured and used his hand to trace the curve of my body.

His hands touched my flat stomach, and continued his upward exploration until it rested on the two mounds on my chest.

"Time to pay homage to the promoted boobs " he tried to provoke me but I couldn't retaliate since my mind was swimming with blissful pleasure.

A shudder ran through me as soon as he dipped his head and bit my nipples through my bra.

"Niklaus " Came my soft moan and my head pulled back in pleasure.