

3. "You're inviting trouble."

"A great marriage isn't something that just happens; it's something that must be created." – Fawn Weaver a

Chapter Three

Adonis' POV

"Good swings!" Eros said, as our eyes followed my ball that flew to the ground. a

Eros Petrakis, a good friend of mine and former classmate in Harvard. Just like the Stavrakos, the Petrakis belonged to one of the oldest powerful Greek dynasties. Both of us were born to continue our families' lineage - to rule, to multiply wealth and become very powerful. a

It was Saturday at noon, and we were playing golf, in my family's exclusive golf course, inside the Stavrakos estate. We had been hanging out lately, talking about our family's latest venture - a luxury cruise ship that the Petrakis would manufacture for us. a

It was Eros' turn to hit the ball, and he hit his ball nicely. a

"Yes!" he exclaimed, laughing, "it's been a long time since I played golf."

"Me too," I chuckled, "this thing is kinda boring, but at least it keeps us moving a er last night."

"I agree. We need to exercise," he said and we both laughed. a

We went to a party last night - a reunion with our university friends. We got drunk but still managed to get up and meet to play golf. a

"You said you have an important thing to say to me. What is it?" he asked, a er he took a big gulf of water. a

I pressed my lips together, my forehead furrowed.

"Oh no... it must be something really bad, huh?" my friend looked amused, "tell me what's going on."

I let out a long sigh, before saying, "I'm getting married." a

His eyes grew so big in surprise, "holy shit! Are you serious?"

"Very serious."

"Fuck, man. You sounded desperate," his expression field with disgust, "I thought you're done with her! She's a liar. She cheated on you for almost a year! Open your eyes bro, you're a good man. You deserve an honest woman who will truly love you." a

"I'm not marrying my ex." a

He eyed me with a confused expression, "I'm relieved, I swear. But if it isn't her... then who? You broke up with her a few months ago, and I haven't seen or heard you dating anyone."

"I agreed to marry Constantine Pallis' granddaughter," I said firmly, "it's a marriage of convenience. It would unite two old Greek dynasties and patch up our ancestors' longtime conflict." a

"Oh fuck! Seriously? But that's not your thing," he chuckled, "you're the type who would marry for love." a

"That's what I thought too. A er my bad experience in love, I don't want to get through it again. It only gives heartache, sleepless nights and failures. I lost too many deals in the first month we broke up. I felt I was crippled. Physically, mentally and emotionally." a

"That was a terrible breakup. It was hard for you."

"Absolutely. I'm done with love and romance. It's hard to find an honest woman nowadays. I don't think I can ever trust any woman again a er my experience." a

"So you agreed to marry Pallis' granddaughter," he let out an amused smile.

"Yeah, as soon as possible."

"Asap? What's the hurry?" a

"Pallis condition. It's either now, or never," my lips tightened.

"That old crook," he sighed, "look, you don't have to do it. She could be worse than your ex." a

"I don't give a damn if she's promiscuous. I'm not marrying her for love. She can do whatever she pleases, and I'll do mine. To each his own." I put my hands inside my pants' pockets, "all I want is to get back that huge land that belonged to my ancestors. We lost it from a stupid poker bet." a

"Your grandpa Pablo insanely did that, and now, you're paying for the price," he clicked his tongue, "but man, don't get married. You're just inviting trouble." a

"Come one, just support my decision. I'm telling you this, because you agreed into an arranged marriage too, to Stella Valiente. You're the best person who could understand my situation right now, because you don't believe in love." a

"True. I saw how it ruined people. Like my parents. I don't find their love story ideal. They experienced too many hardships before they found each other. Tragedy happened. Dad was tortured that ruined his face. He undergone facial plastic surgery and changed his name," he raised his hands briefly in the air, "I won't endure that kind of thing for love, that's stupid. Same thing with my sister, Chloe. You know her story, right?" a

"Of course, with Inigo," I nodded, "so you agree on my decision?" a

"No. You're brought up believing to marry in love. You could not even stop talking about it. This arranged marriage thing is not for you." a

I shook my head, feeling disappointed, "you're just like my parents, especially dad, who disagreed on this." a

"Because he's right. If it's your way of forgetting your ex... to move on, then you're just adding problems in your life. It's not the solution, bro. Just love yourself first and enjoy the freedom of dating women. You have been stuck in a good for nothing relationship for four years. It's time to explore." a

"You're not making any sense to me. You yourself are into it."

"I'm not against an arranged marriage, but man, do you have to do it right now? We're still young. Marriage is for middle-aged men." a

"I can't wait, dude. I need that land for our next property development project," I told him about the prospective plan for the next five years.

"Goodluck. I just hope your bride won't break your heart." a

"I won't let that happen," I said confidently, then we continued playing golf. a

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I never doubted my decision. I followed my gut to get married.

I remembered telling my parents about it last night. They disagreed intensely with the idea. They were concerned that my future would be ruined if I married without love. a

"Who would ever do that nowadays! We're in the future, Adonis. People only do that during medieval times!" My mom, Pia Rosi Stavrakos, was really upset upon hearing the news. a

"How could you agree to him, without consulting us first," Dad looked disappointed.

"I'm not a kid anymore dad, I can make my own decision."

"But son, that's a major decision. It would change not only your future, but ours." a

"Exactly," Mom butted in, "you haven't even met the girl yet and you agreed to marry her! What are you doing? You're ruining your life. If this is your way of getting back at Trisha, then don't do it." a

"This had nothing to do with her," I let out a frustrated groan, "I told you my reasons."

"Yeah, to unite two old Greek dynasties and get the land back," Dad's lips curled in anger, "your grandpa should find a way to own it back, not you sacrificing for what he did." a

"He already did, but Constantine Pallis is stubborn. He won't sell the land even ten times more than its market value. That land is very important to us, it belongs to our ancestors. It is part of our heritage that made who we are now. For years we wanted it back, and now is our chance."

"Your grandpa is crazy, losing it in a bet," Dad hissed in rage, "I disagree on this, Adonis, I want you to have a happy and fruitful life ahead of you. How can you achieve that if you don't love the woman you're going to marry?"

"I don't want you to live a miserable life," Mom was teary eyed, she turned to Dad and they hugged. a

I stood immobile, looking at them with a heavy heart. For peace of mind, I assured them.

"Constantine told me that she's young, beautiful and smart. For sure, I'll fall in love with her easily." a

Mom's eyes immediately brightened, very hopeful, "I have no doubt that you'll win her heart too. You're a very charming guy, Adonis, you're not hard to love." a

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One month later, I got a call from Constantine Pallis.

"My granddaughter just arrived here in New York. She's ready to see you."

"Good. My family and I will see her tomorrow." a

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AN: Hey Dreamers! Are you having a wonderful day? Hope you enjoyed reading Chapter 3.

Now you met our hottie MC, Adonis. Let's see what will happen when he meets Elena. For sure, it would be memorable. Are you excited? a

Yes, Eros is here, you'll read more of him. I'm planning a guesting from Jade also, I know you miss her too. a

See you on Tuesday!

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