"Upstairs, changing," Lucas replied. He then looked down and softly said, "I think she is going out on a

"He is in the living room, waiting for Mommy. He is dressed very nicely and brought flowers and

share. Andy, Mark, and I stopped by the Century Hotel before making our way here," Evan revealed,

Evan turned to the car and found Andy and Mark, the bodyguards who had picked him up from the airport.

Evan shifted his attention to Miguel, the other bodyguard, standing behind Lucas. He asked, "Where is

Evan walked into the house, holding Lucas' hand. He saw Keith, and their eyes met. The temperature

inside the living room went down to near zero degrees. Keith and Evan were zapping electricity with their

Just then, Evan heard Shantelle clear her throat, and he turned toward the staircase and found himself

Shantelle was wearing an off-shoulder gown in the solid tone of Persian blue. It highly emphasized her

slender neck and shoulders. The dress hugged her body tight, flaunting her long legs through a slit that

Her hair was tied into a neat bun. She wore dangling earrings with a sapphire blue stone and a necklace

to pair. Matched with her blue eyes and confident stance, she looked like a goddess from the sky. From

excitement, Evan's heart ached again. He wondered why he had let this woman slip through his fingers?

"Shanty, you look so beautiful in the dress I bought." Evan snapped from his trance, hearing Keith's words.

Evan turned to Shantelle. Controlling his jealousy, he gently reminded her, "I gave you a dress recently,

"Excuse me, Mister Henderson, but I need to inspect the flowers. I'm sure you know the recent threat to

"But it's protocol, Doc," Miguel said. "I owe you my life. I will never fail to follow protocol. I was trained to

turned to Keith, saying, "If you have nothing to hide, Mister Henderson, you will let me inspect the flowers

"Fine," Keith surrendered the flower to Miguel, and everyone watched as he pulled out one stem of rose to

When he was done, Miguel carelessly put them together, not bothering to tie the ribbon back to its place.

Miguel ended up eating half of each truffle before giving it to Shantelle. "Here you go, Doc. It's safe. No

He told Shantelle, It's safe, doc, but very poor quality. I easily dismantled the arrangements."

Next, Miguel opened the box of chocolate truffles. He tasted one and then another.

After which, he suggested, "But how would we know if the rest don't have poison?"

Shantelle held back from laughing. She said to Miguel, "Um. You can... have it, Miguel."

Eventually, Andy and Mark walked in. They each carried two sets of flowers arranged in

seasonal flowers. Not only that, Mark returned to the car to fetch boxes

Evan proudly said, "Shanty, these are for you and your family."

a box. They were a combination of roses, hydrangeas, ranunculus, clematis, sweet peas, and other

"You need to inspect Evan's gifts, too. Just because he is your boss doesn't clear him from being a

The three bodyguards looked at each other, but Mark answered, "We picked up the flowers with Mister

Evan smiled triumphantly, and Keith hissed. As if laser beams left their eyes, they looked

Thompson and saw how each one was made. We were also present when the pastries were bought from

Shantelle coughed to clear the air. She said, 'We should go, Keith. It's getting late." She glanced at Evan,

convinced her it was unnecessary. She said, Miguel is enough. Besides, even he won't be able to make it

Seeing how Evan and Miguel had stepped out of the house, he walked up to Evan and said, "You may

have ruined my flowers, and fucking have your minion eat the chocolates, but I'm the one with Shanty -"

"Jesus, Evan. It's just a party. Much more, it's the mayor's party. What could go wrong? "Keith said, but

Keith turned his back without letting Evan recover. Miguel hastily followed inside the car, and they drove

the night. Just when Evan thought that evening could not get any worse, William walked out of the dining

William said, "There you are, Evan. I have been waiting for you. Before you bring Lucas

"No. No, uncle. I'm up for the challenge," Evan said, his head silently praying it would

We recommend you read these novels after this one. Please check them out we hope you will like them.

"You make it sound like you are dating her, but you are not. You are just conveniently accompanying her to

together with my gifts for Lucas? I think that would have fit you better. It's your favorite brand, Sarah

Evan caught Keith smirking his way, and his blood boiled. Later, he witnessed Keith

"For you, Shanty," Keith said, but Miguel stepped in between before reaching

doctor receives, including your flowers and the chocolates," Miguel said.

"Miguel," Shantelle cut him off, saying, It's not necessary. Keith is a friend."

swallowing his own spew. Immediately, he hated himself for not admiring this side of her in the past.

Shantelle was so beautiful. She took his breath away, and his heart fluttered.

His eyes immediately narrowed. 'What did he say? The fucking

"I brought flowers for your mommy too. I also bought boxes of treats for everyone to

He then gave Miguel that look, and as if they had a silent agreement, Miguel nodded.

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arms.

that?"

his watch and confirmed he still had an hour

Evan bit his lip. He asked, "Why do you say

chocolates for Mommy, "Lucas weakly replied.

He ordered, "Bring in the flowers and gifts."

"He is off today, boss," Miguel answered.

Keith stood up, and he was leveled with

Evan, further increasing the tension in the

went up three inches above her knee.

"Oh." Shantelle frowned. "I'm sorry. I

approach Shantelle, giving her the flowers

haven't opened those, Evan."

and the box of chocolate.

Doctor Shant's life. Since we

have not identified the culprit, we must

follow protocol and inspect every gift the

Shantelle's hands.

follow it." He

and the chocolates."

another from the

"What the -" Keith glowered.

Shantelle's eyes rounded.

I'm not so fond of chocolates."

of treats from Century Hotel.

suspect," Keith suggested bitterly.

suspicion." 1

at each other intensely.

the Century Hotel. The boss is clear from

saying, "Evan, take care of Lucas. Bye."

"Very well," Keith said. He placed his hand

on the small of Shantelle's back and smiled,

giving Evan that 'I got the girl' look.

Mark with them, but Keith had fully

"Evan, please," Shantelle insisted.

Not wanting to make Shantelle upset, Evan

gave up, but before allowing them to leave,

Keith first ushered Shantelle into his car.

"Doesn't change the fact that I am with her and not you," Keith said.

Evan wanted to punch Keith, but held back. He hissed and said, "You better protect

Shanty, Keith. If anything happens to her, I swear to God, I will have you pay."

to the party. He will just wait

he said to Keith, "A word."

the party," Evan pointed out.

later swore, "I'll protect

and me, I love her more."

away.

area, finding him.

Uncle?"

Enjoy!

Shanty with my life, because between you

When Evan returned inside the house, he

saw his son shrug as if feeling his defeat for

to the hotel, have dinner here. I have a meal

specially cooked for you. It's from Argentina.

Evan gulped. He loosened the buttons on his

"Something special," William said. "What? Giving up now?"

tie and asked, "What – what's for dinner,

not be as bad as the bull's testicles.

outside."

11

Evan urged Shantelle to bring Andy and

"Oh, what kind of man doesn't know you

remarked before returning to Evan's side.

that well, doc? Tsk. Tsk. Tsk." Miguel

signs of poison."

This time, Evan smirked at Keith.

bouquet.

dress is from him?'

Kate?"

"Yes, boss," Mark and Andy said simultaneously.

date with Uncle Keith."

exciting Lucas. (1)

Duane?"

eyes.

area.

"Daddy!" Outside the Scotts' home, Lucas ran to Evan, and his father carried him in his

"Sorry I'm late, Lucas. I got stuck with work, but I still made it," Evan said. He looked at

before dinner time. He whispered to Lucas, "Where is your mommy?"

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