

Wild Night 151

Chapter 151 - In Shock

Lucy drew in a shaky breath, "I tried not to leave my house except it was absolutely necessary, like going to school. I avoided Sonia's house or anywhere else I might easily run into him..."

"You didn't tell your parents about it?" Tom asked with a frown.

"I wanted to, but what was I supposed to tell them? I just couldn't bring myself to tell them about it," Lucy said with a shake of her head.

"And they didn't notice the changes in you? Like you not wanting to go out and stuff?" Tom asked since he knew changes like that would never go unnoticed by his parents.

"Sonia was almost always in my bedroom with me, so it wasn't a big deal since I've been spending most of my time at her home," Lucy explained with a shrug, and Tom nodded in understanding.

"You are doing that deliberately, aren't you?" Lucy asked curiously as she looked into Tom's face.

"Doing what?" Tom asked innocently.

"Interrupting me at intervals," Lucy pointed out, and Tom's lips twitched in a smile.

"Yeah. I don't want you reliving those awful memories. Go inside your head, get the information needed, and come back. Don't get lost in there," Tom explained, "It is working, isn't it?" He asked hopefully, and Lucy gave him a nod.

"Yeah, it is."

"So tell me what led to his death," Tom urged her when he glanced at the clock and realized that they didn't have much time left to talk. He wasn't sure she would willingly want to talk to him about it after now, so he wanted to know everything so he could better understand her.

"Hmm... It was our prom night, and I didn't want to go to prom. There was no way I could tell my family that I wasn't attending prom, so I pretended to fuss over my dress when the car came to pick us. I assured them that my date was coming over to pick me up, so Lucas left with his girlfriend, Rachel. Sonia knew I wanted to stay back at home, and she wanted to stay with me, but I urged her to go as I didn't want to ruin prom for the both of us, especially her boyfriend who had been looking forward to it. That day coincidentally happened to be the anniversary of my parent's wedding, so they were going out on a dinner date with plans of spending the night away from home," Lucy said with a distant look in her eyes once again.

"Don't tell me you were left in the house all by yourself?" Tom asked with a concerned frown as he was beginning to get a horror movie vibe from her story.

"I was. I dressed up and let my parents take pictures of me. They wanted to wait for my prom date to pick me up so they could get pictures of us, but I urged them to leave as they had booked a reservation and they were running late already. So no one knew I was going to be home alone," Lucy explained.

"Sonia didn't know your parents were going to be out that night?"

"I didn't tell her. I knew she was going to want to stay home with me if I told her, so I kept it from her. It wouldn't be the first time I was staying in my house alone, so what was the big deal?" Lucy asked with a rueful smile.

"I saw my parents off and while I stood there waiting for them to drive off, I noticed someone dressed in a hooded sweatshirt, standing in the shadows just across the house. I tried not to make a big deal out of it as the person wasn't even looking at our house. I returned inside the house once my parents drove off, locked up the doors and windows, and turned off the lights before going back to my bedroom to take off the dress. Just as I was about to unzip my dress, I heard the sound of the doorbell, and I ran out thinking that my parents had probably forgotten something. I quickly turned on the lights and opened the door..."

Lucy abruptly stopped speaking when the memory of that night flooded her senses and left her breathless and immobilized.

"Lucy breathe," Tom said, sitting up and pushing her forward so that her back was no longer resting on the couch when he noticed that her eyes were dilated and she was looking right ahead of her with her mouth hung slightly open as though she was trying to speak but no word was coming out.

Lucy could see him standing there again, dressed with the hoodie over his head and with a creepy smile pasted on his face.

"Hello, Lucinda!" He greeted, waving his right hand, while his left hand remained behind him.

Seeing the creep standing there, Lucy panicked and quickly tried to shut the door, but he was faster. It was almost as if he had been anticipating her move. He quickly grabbed her arm with his right hand and before she knew what was going on, her back was pressed against his body and he brought his other hand which was holding a hankie that smelled of chloroform, and placed it under her nose. Her eyes involuntarily rolled back in her head and she lost consciousness.

"Lu? Come on, look at me Lu. You need to snap out of it, Lu," Tom called out in a worried voice, cupping her face in his hands as he knelt in front of her, urging her to come back to her senses, but before he could do anything else, she gasped out loudly and her eyes rolled back in her head as she fell forward.

To anyone else, she might just have fainted, but Tom didn't need anyone to tell him that she was in shock. She was still very traumatized by the experience. So he quickly snatched up both his phone and the car key from the table and carried her out of the house immediately.

He had no idea about what he was going to do about all of this, but one thing he knew was that Lucy needed help.. She needed urgent psychological evaluation and help, and his being in her life under this guise wasn't going to help either of them.

Chapter 152 - Pervert

"Judging by all you have said, she is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. She is still in psychologic shock," The doctor informed Tom, who was seated opposite him, staring at him without giving away his emotions.

Although Tom hadn't given him the details of the nature of Lucy's trauma, he had told the doctor that Lucy had been sharing a traumatic experience with him when she suddenly froze and fainted, "So what can be done?" Tom asked, his concern evident in his tone.

"Well, for starters she needs to see a psychotherapist. Is she your girlfriend?" The doctor asked curiously since it was the first time he was seeing Tom with a lady, and Tom sighed.

"She doesn't even know who I am, so do me a favor and keep my identity to yourself. She is a staff here, and as far as we are concerned, I'm just her driver... At least for the time being. When can she leave here?" Tom asked, glancing at his wristwatch. It was past seven already, and knowing Lucy, she would want to go to work.

Although the doctor was very curious about how a person like the CEO ended up becoming one of his staff's driver, he knew he couldn't ask. They weren't close enough for him to ask him such questions.

"I think we should let her rest for a while. Maybe when she is up I could talk to her if you don't mind," the doctor suggested, and Tom gave him a nod.

"See what you can do. And if she needs professional help, then get her the best you can find. Tell her the company will take care of the bill so she doesn't have to worry about that," Tom instructed the doctor who was under his payroll, as he stood up to leave the office.

Once he stepped out of the doctor's office his phone started ringing, and he dipped his hand into his pocket to get it out. Seeing that it was Jade, he received the call at once, "Where have you been?"

"I know, I know. I'm so sorry I didn't take your call yesterday. I was so busy with work that I lost track of time and I couldn't even remember where I left my cellphone, until late at night, and then I didn't want to disturb your sleep," Jade explained apologetically as she yawned.

"It's okay. I hope you're fine?" Tom asked even though he could hear the tiredness in her voice.

"Sure I am. What about you? How is it going with Lucy?" Jade asked with a yawn as she looked around her office and ran her fingers through her short mop of pixie-cut hair.

"Everything is okay over here," Tom lied since he was far from being okay himself. All he needed was a quiet place where he could sit down to think about all Lucy had said, and how he could resolve the mess he had gotten himself into.

"Great! Any good news from Harry yet?" She asked hopefully.

"That was the reason I was calling. Could you give Harry a call? He wants to ask you a couple of questions that could help him in finding your witness," Tom said, making Jade sit up.

"Why not just give my contact number to him?" Jade asked with another yawn as she rubbed her eyelids which were still feeling kind of heavy. The whole of her body ached.

"That's the third time you are yawning, are you sure you're getting enough rest?" Tom asked with a concerned frown.

"I'm fine. I'm just feeling very exhausted," Jade confessed as she stood up from her seat.

She couldn't believe that she had worked all through the day and night, and had dozed off on her desk. She must have been really exhausted to have been knocked out that way. She needed to leave now so that she could go home and freshen up before the others started coming to work unless she wanted to be seen this way.

"You really need to take a break from work. If anything happens to you, I can assure you that your boss is going to get someone else to take over from where you stopped that very minute," Tom said with a concerned frown.

"Spoken like the cold CEO that you are. I like to think he will replace me the next minute, not that same minute," Jade teased, "Don't worry, I'm going to get plenty of rest. Just ask Harry to give me a call," Jade added and stifled the urge to yawn again as she picked up her handbag and looked inside it to be sure that her car key was in there, before turning off the light in her office and walking out.

"No, you should call him yourself. It is difficult enough to reach you as it is. I will text you his number the moment I hang up, so give him a call immediately, and save him the stress of trying unsuccessfully to reach you," Tom said, making Jade sigh.

"Alright. I will be waiting. Love you, Tommy," Jade said, blowing him a kiss before hanging up.

Once she hung up she quickly rushed out of the company, making sure not to be seen by anyone. Once she was seated in her car, she checked her appearance through her rearview mirror and groaned when she noticed the dark circles under her eyes. It wasn't like the circles haven't been there for a while, but they stood out more on her pale face now, and she didn't like it. She really needed to create time to rest, else she was going to break down.

Perhaps she should take the day off, and go to a beauty spa? Maybe get a good massage and a makeover. Makeovers always gave ladies the needed lift.

Just as she turned on her car's ignition, her phone beeped with a message notification. She picked up the phone and clicked on it when she saw that the text was from Tom. He had sent her Harry's number as promised.

Harry Jonas... She tried to remember what she could of him. She had seen him just once, and that was the same year after she just started her practice... Four years ago.

It had been during the Christmas holiday season, and Tom had invited Harry to meet his family, while her late boyfriend, Todd had been around to spend the holidays with her and her family as well.

She remembered getting into a fight with Todd because he had seen her seated at the Porch with Harry, late at night having a nightcap. Todd had accused her of flirting with Harry... Thinking of it now, Jade scoffed as she drove off.

It was funny how Todd had been the cheat in their relationship, yet he had been the most insecure between them both. He had accused her of cheating and flirting with other guys when he had been the one doing all of that. How could she have been so blind to all of that? Jade let out a sigh and shook her head to get rid of thoughts of Todd as she dialed Harry's line. She turned on her car's Bluetooth speaker so that she wouldn't have to hold the phone to her ear.

She listened to it ring for a while until it disconnected since Harry didn't take his call. Now, who was difficult to reach? Jade asked herself with an eye roll as she dialed his number again. It rang for

a while again, and then disconnected, "At least, I called," Jade said out loud as she focused on the road ahead of her.

She really hoped that Harry would be able to help her find her witness, as he was her only hope. She knew that there was no way Candace was going to agree to come out of her hiding and get involved in Jero's case again, not after it almost cost her her son's life.

Although Candace would have been the perfect bait to bring Jero out of hiding, Candace would freak out if she heard that Jero had escaped from the correctional facility where he had been locked up for the past two years.

The first sight that greeted Bryan when he opened his eyes was Sonia's face. They were both lying on his bed facing each other with a little space between them. He watched her face as she slept and a smile played around his lips when Sonia smiled in her sleep.

Instead of watching a movie as they had initially planned to do the previous night, they had settled for Kevin Hart's 'Irresponsible' and had shared a good laugh at his humorous jokes. At some point, Sonia had offered to get them a night snack and had left the room only to return with two cups of hot chocolate drink and a bowl of chips. They had fought over the last chip in the bowl until Sonia had suggested that they play a game, where the winner gets to eat the last chip.

Thinking about the whole silliness of last night under the sanity of dawn, Bryan grinned as he took a closer look at Sonia's face.

She looked so innocent and beautiful, that he could spend all day watching her and not even be bored. He grinned when Sonia giggled in her sleep. The sound of her laughter was like music to his ears, and he couldn't help wondering what she was dreaming about. He was certain that whatever it was she was dreaming about was just as exciting as she was.

Yes. Sonia was very exciting. No matter what he did with her, it was always fun. Whether they were arguing, exchanging bants, playing games, watching a movie, making out, or even just sitting next to each other without saying a word, it was all exciting for him.

Oh, Bryan! Look how hard you have fallen! Bryan thought with a shake of his head, and a wide grin on his face.

Once he noticed that Sonia was beginning to stir in her sleep, he quickly closed his eyes and pretended to be asleep.

Sonia opened her eyes, and the first sight that greeted her was Bryan's face. Her heart fluttered in her chest as she looked into his beautiful face, and a smile tugged on her lips when she remembered how she had fallen asleep while listening to him tell her some dry jokes.

Her fingers itched to touch him. His hair, his face, his lips... but she tried to stifle the urge. This wasn't Sonia Smith. If she had not developed feelings for Bryan, touching him however she wanted wouldn't have been such a big deal to her... But now she was being so careful, and she didn't like it. She preferred her carefree self, Sonia thought with a sigh as she tentatively let her hand cover the distance between them.

She brought her hand to rest on his face and then grazed her thumb softly over his five o'clock shadow. She moved her thumb from his chin to his lips and let it brush his soft lower lip.

Bryan's heart skipped a beat, and then his heartbeat quickened as Sonia's hand moved over his face. Slowly he opened his eyes.

Seeing Bryan's eyes flutter as though he was about to wake up, Sonia quickly snapped her eyes shut, pretending to be asleep, but Bryan's soft chuckle as he reached out to pull her nose made her blink at him.

"You pervert!" Bryan said with a playful grin.

"What? You were awake?" Sonia asked, struggling not to look embarrassed as she slapped his hand off her nose and sat up on the bed.

"Were you hoping I wouldn't be, so you can steal a kiss?" Bryan asked, seating up as well.

"Steal a kiss? Why would I want to steal a kiss?" Sonia asked with a scoff as she tried to get off the bed, but Bryan pulled her back.

"I don't know, you tell me."

Chapter 153 - Esquire

Harry stepped out of the shower and picked a towel from the towel rail as he walked out of the bathroom. He dried his short mop of black hair using the towel, not minding the trail of water he left in his wake as he went to his bedside to pick up his phone which he had heard ringing immediately he stepped into the shower.

Seeing he had missed two calls from the same unknown number, he narrowed his eyes as he tried to figure out who it possibly was. Jade Hank. She was the only one whose call he was expecting, so he dialed her number immediately.

Harry briefly wondered if she was still the same person she was when he had met her four years ago. She had been really cute and funny then, with her long brown hair and intelligent blue eyes. He remembered the irritation he had seen on her boyfriend's face when he had seen them both discussing at the porch that night, and how he had later overheard them fighting because of him.

She had promised to show him around her neighborhood the next day, but after the argument with her boyfriend, she had begun to avoid him. She wouldn't join the family for dinner, but would rather have hers alone in her bedroom with her boyfriend. And once she walked into the living room and saw him sitting there she would return to her bedroom. He had pretended not to notice, but nothing she did had gone past him unnoticed, so he had used work as an excuse to cut short his holiday with the family. He didn't want her being uncomfortable in her home because of him.

Harry shook his head to get rid of those thoughts as he focused on drying his body while waiting for her to take the call.

Jade who had just walked into her bedroom and slumped on her bed, sat up when she heard the vibration of her phone in her handbag quickly took it out. She received the call when she saw that it was from Harry, "You are a difficult man to reach, Mr. Harry Jonas," Jade greeted.

Harry's lips twitched in amusement when he heard her voice, "Coming from someone I've been waiting to hear from since the last twenty-four hours, I'm flattered," Harry retorted with humor in his voice, and Jade smiled.

"Well, better late than never, right?" She asked as she kicked off her shoes.

"Sure. Good morning Jade Hank, Esquire," Harry greeted with a smile in his voice, making Jade giggle at his humor as she placed her phone on the bed and put it on speaker so that she could take off her clothes.

"I see you haven't forgotten," Jade said, remembering their conversation that night four years ago, and how he had asked about her title as a lawyer, and she had told him she would prefer to be referred to as 'Esquire' rather than 'Miss'.

"How have you been?" Harry asked as he stood in front of his dressing table, checking out his nude reflection in the mirror as he talked to her. If she knew that he was dressed in his birthday suit while talking to her, she was definitely going to freak out and probably call him a freak too.

"Busy. I hear you've been making my brother a lot of money, thank you," Jade said, quickly switching the subject as she didn't want to talk about herself.

There was nothing to talk about anyway. She had spent the last four years since their first meeting being busy. After her misunderstanding with Todd over her harmless conversation with Harry, she had avoided being in the same room with Harry just so that Todd wouldn't misunderstand her. And then Harry had left two days later to take care of Tom's business. Todd had lost his life some weeks after that Christmas holiday, leaving her angry and devastated. So yeah, she had kept herself very busy since then.

Busy? Quite an unusual response, Harry mused, "Making your brother money, makes me money too, so there's nothing to thank me for," Harry pointed out, before clearing his throat.

Enough of the chitchats now, "So, I wanted to talk to you about the case involving your witness. You do realize that I need to understand what is going on, so I can find your witness, right? I mean knowing what the case is about would help me to know the possible places to look, I don't know if you get what I'm saying?" Harry asked as he walked to his nightstand to pick up his Bluetooth earbuds so that he could keep talking to her while he getting dressed.

"Hmm..." Jade hummed thoughtfully as she stood in front of her dressing mirror looking at her naked body. She looked thin. Too thin. Her mother was going to freak out if she saw her in this state.

"What I'm saying is that I need to know some of the possible suspects. That way I can easily check them to see if they know anything about your suspect's disappearance," Harry explained as he connected his Bluetooth earbuds before proceeding to wear his undies.

"I get what you are saying, Mr. Jonas..."

"Harry is fine, Esquire," Harry cut in.

"Yeah I'm sure Harry is fine," Jade said playfully, making Harry chuckle. He was glad to know that despite the years she hadn't lost her playfulness. That was the first thing he had noticed about her the first time they met. The way she loved to play with words.

"So, you were saying?" Harry reminded her.

"I was saying... Oh, my God!" She exclaimed when she suddenly heard a loud bang that sounded like a gunshot outside her apartment.

"What was that sound?" Harry who had also heard the bang, asked as he paused buttoning his shirt to listen.

"Uhm... I don't know," Jade said, her mouth had suddenly gone dry and her heart was beating very quickly as she picked up her phone from the bed, "I need to check it out. I will have to call you back..."

"No! Don't hang up," Harry rushed to say, "Just remain on the line while you check," Harry said in concern as he could hear both the concern and fear in her voice.

She was his best friend's younger sister, and there was no way he could allow her to hang up the call after hearing something like that. He owed it to Tom to make sure that his sister was alright.

"Uhm... okay."

A part of Jade was grateful that he was willing to remain on the call with her while she checked out what was going on. She took in a deep breath before she quickly picked up her bathrobe from where it was hanging and shrugged into it as she headed for the door.

Her heart was beating fast against her chest as she approached the door, and Harry felt just as nervous as he waited for her to tell him what was going on. He didn't know what was worse between the silence and the suspense. Perhaps he should try to say something to calm her or maybe he should just keep quiet while they waited for them to see what it was?

He opened his mouth to say something, but shut it when he heard her open a door, and then shrieked in shock.

"Oh, my God!" Jade exclaimed as she took a step backward inside her house. Blood drained from her face, and she gripped the phone even more tightly as she looked down at what looked like blood splashed all over her doorstep. Lying face up in front of her door was a dummy's head that looked exactly like her, with what looked like a bullet hole on its forehead, and a white paper on the ground beside the dummy.

The words on the paper were also painted in red, "GIVE UP THE CASE, BITCH. IT WON'T BE A DUMMY'S HEAD NEXT TIME"

She looked down the street, but nothing seemed out of the ordinary. She noticed that the few houses around, had their curtains drawn up as though every one of them was scared to find out what was happening outside.

"What is wrong?" Harry asked, making her gasp in shock as she threw the phone down. She had forgotten that she was on the phone with Harry, even though she had been holding the phone to her ear the whole time.

"Jade? Jade?" Harry asked in alarm, wondering why she had suddenly gasped. Was there someone in her house? "Damn it!" He cursed when he remembered that Tom had said she was receiving death threats.

He quickly hung up and dialed her line once again, while he hurried to wear his clothes.

Jade closed her eyes as she tried to calm herself. Her brain wouldn't function properly if she was too scared. Some of her colleagues had experienced worse things, and even though this was the first time something like this was happening to her, she needed to remember that it was normal. This was normal for a lawyer. Some cases were dangerous and she had to live with it.

Taking in a deep breath, Jade picked up her phone, "We will have to continue this conversation some other time," she said with forced boldness once she accepted Harry's call.

"Can you at least tell me what that was about? What is going on?" Harry asked, feeling relieved to hear from her.

"A displeased defendant left me a present.. I need to call the police," Jade said making Harry frown, "You can't tell my brother about it," Jade warned before hanging up.

Chapter 154 - For Sale?

Once Jade hung up the call, Harry quickly dialed Tom's number. He wasted no time in considering her request to not tell her brother about what was happening with her. He had heard the fear in her voice, and he owed it to his best friend to not keep something that concerned his sibling's wellbeing from him.

"Hey! I was just about to call you," Tom said immediately he received Harry's call.

He was in a cab going to his office as that was the only place he knew he would have the space he needed to think. Going to his home would be pointless as the nosy butler would be all over him like a dog trying to sniff out what the problem was, and that was the last thing he wanted at the moment.

"Where are you? We need to talk," Harry said with a note of urgency in his voice as he picked up his phone and car key, and walked out of his bedroom, leaving his apartment.

"I'm on my way to the office... You can meet me there," Tom said, and then added, "But first, could you arrange for someone to pick Lucy from the company's hospital? The car is there, I just need someone to take her home," Tom asked, making Harry frown.

"Hospital? Why is she there? And why are you not there to pick her up yourself?" Harry asked as he got into the car and turned on the car's ignition.

"It's complicated. Just help me get someone to be there before she wakes up, and you can give her the day off," Tom added as the cab pulled to a stop in front of the company.

"Alright, I will do just that. I'll meet you at the office in ten minutes," Harry said before hanging up.

Tom got out of the cab, and after paying the driver, he headed in the direction of his private garage and elevator.

"Tom?" The beautiful lady who the private investigator had spoken with the previous day, waved at him.

Tom stopped and turned around when he heard his name. He looked around him just to be sure that he was the one she was waving at, as he didn't recognize her as someone he was acquainted with.

"Hi?" Tom asked with a polite smile as he dipped one hand in his pocket and walked towards her when he noticed that she was barely able to walk in the heels she was wearing. He couldn't help but wonder why women liked to wear things they weren't comfortable in.

She smiled at him as he approached her, "I'm sure you don't know me. I'm Cora," she said extending her hand to him for a handshake.

Although Tom wasn't in the mood for any conversation he shook her hand, "You already know my name."

"Yeah. Uhm, did you get to meet the cab driver yesterday?" She asked with a curious smile as she held on to his hand.

"What cab driver?" Tom asked with a slightly raised brow as he pulled his hand away from the handshake.

"The cab man that brought you to work. He said you left your package in his car, so he was looking for you," she explained with a smile pasted on her lips.

"Yesterday? What time?" Tom asked with a slight frown, and she gave him a nod.

"During the lunch break."

"Did he mention my name? What did he say to make you believe that I was the one he was looking for?" Tom asked curiously, not liking the feeling he was having about this.

She narrowed her eyes and pursed her lips as though she was trying to remember something, and then she shook her head, "He didn't exactly know your name. He only described your features," she explained.

"And the package he claimed I left in his cab, did he give it to you or to anyone else?" Tom asked thoughtfully, and she shook her head.

"I was informed you weren't in, so related the information to him, and offered to help you keep the package, but he insisted he wanted to hand it to you himself and left almost immediately," she said, and Tom gave her a nod as he turned his head to look at Harry who had just arrived and seemed to be in a hurry.

"Thanks for the information, I need to have a word with Mr. Harry if that is all," Tom said as he quickly left her and walked in quick strides to catch up with Harry before she could say anything else.

"You just got here?" Harry who had been expecting to meet Tom in his office, asked as he turned around to make sure no one was watching them.

"Don't look around like that," Tom chided, walking slightly behind Harry so that no one would suspect them of being close, "Did you get someone to pick her up?" Tom asked, and Harry nodded as they both continued to walk.

No one paid them any attention, as it looked like they were having a normal conversation between one of the company's drivers and the CEO's right-hand man.

"Yeah. I sent her secretary to pick her up from the hospital. What happened to her? Hold on, before that, I need to talk to you about your sister," Harry said once they both walked into the elevator.

Thankfully they were alone in the elevator going to their floor, so Tom turned to look at him, "Jade? What about her? She called you already, right?"

"Yes, she called. Something strange happened while we were on the phone. I heard the sound of a gunshot..."

"A gunshot? Is she okay?" Tom asked, looking alarmed as he reached into his pocket to take out his phone.

"She wasn't hurt, but she said she received a present from a displeased defendant. I don't think it was something pleasant as I could hear the fear in her voice even though she told me not to let you know," Harry explained, and Tom paused.

"She asked you not to let me know?" He asked, looking at Harry who gave him a nod.

Tom sighed, "She is too stubborn and self-sufficient for her own good," Tom said as the elevator bell dinged, and they both stepped out of it and headed for his office.

"So what are you going to do about it?" Harry asked looking around to make sure they were both alone in the hallway before opening the door that led to the CEO's office.

"Me? I don't think I have to do anything. What is on the schedule for the remaining days of this week?" Tom asked as they both walked past Lucy's desk and walked into his office.

Once they walked into the office, they both sat down, facing each other, while Harry looked at Tom curiously, "Just a couple of meetings here and there, why? Do you want to travel?"

"No. I'm hoping you will. I will take care of the company in your absence. I need you to help me make sure that Jade is alright," Tom said, making Harry turn to look at him like he has just lost his mind.

"You want me to go and take care of your sister? Me?" Harry asked, pointing to himself incredulously.

"Who else can I ask? Apart from Bryan, you are the only other person I can trust to look after my sister. Don't forget that she asked you not to tell me about it," Tom pointed out reasonably.

"And how am I going to explain the fact that I left her brother's company to babysit her without her knowing that you are aware? Your sister is smart, you know?" Harry asked with a slightly raised brow.

"You could tell her that you're on leave," Tom said matter of factly, "Besides, since you're helping her find her witness, you should be near her," Tom pointed out with a shrug as though he had everything figured out.

"You are not even scared that I might hit on your sister? I am a full blooded single man, remember?" Harry said, wanting to knock some sense into Tom.

"Even better, as she is single too," Tom said with a grin, as though he liked the idea of Harry hitting on his sister.

"Did something happen to your brain that I don't know of?" Harry asked, looking at Tom with a concerned frown.

"Quit looking for excuses and just go. You need the break anyway. I'm very worried about her, and I really need you to be there to help me make sure she is okay," Tom pleaded making Harry sigh, "You know I would do the same for you," Tom added.

"You don't know that," Harry said dryly.

"Sure I don't. But you do," Tom said with a grin.

"How do you intend to run the company in my absence while also playing around as Lucy's driver and boyfriend?" Harry asked, wanting to change the subject.

"Uhm... About that, I think I'm going to take a break for some time..."

"A break? What do you mean?" Harry cut in with a confused frown.

"Just let her know I quit my job. Get her someone else to drive her around, or get her a new driver if she needs one," Tom said, standing up from his seat to go stand beside his office window.

"Why the sudden change? Did something happen between you both? And why is she in the hospital?" Harry asked curiously.

"She isn't feeling too well. Nothing happened. I just need some time to sort out some things in my head," Tom said with a sigh before turning to look at Harry, "How soon can you leave?"

"You are sure you want me to go?" Harry asked, looking at Tom who was massaging his temple like his head was aching.

"Very sure."

"Then I will leave immediately."

"Thank you. Before you leave, I need you to help me do a couple of things. Could you help me reach the agent who got us the apartment next to Lucy's? Ask them to put it up for sale," Tom said, making Harry's brows pull together in a frown.

"For sale? Are you moving in with her, or do you want to move out?"

Tom chuckled at Harry's question, "I'm moving out. I think it is best I stay away from her for some time."

"Then you can just give her a break without selling the place," Harry pointed out.

"I no longer need the house. Just get rid of it. Also, I think someone is sniffing around the company for information about me, could you help me look into it before you leave? I learned the man was here around lunch break, and he talked to the lady I was speaking with earlier. I think her name was Cora," Tom said, making Harry roll his eyes.

"What would you do without me?"

"Nothing.. And that is why I trust you to take care of my sister too."

Chapter 155 - Perfect Picture

Was it a dream or did she really have sex with Tom? That was the first question on Lucy's mind when she opened her eyes. Lucy's heart skipped a beat when she opened her eyes and saw the unfamiliar environment. Her brows pulled together in a frown when she perceived the familiar smell of antiseptic, and she quickly sat up to look around her.

A hospital? What was she doing in a hospital? Why did Tom bring her here? Perhaps he thought she was crazy after hearing all she had told him? Oh, shit! She had actually opened up to him about Jamie, she thought in alarm, as the events of the last couple of hours returned to her, and she remembered how she had frozen while talking to Tom.

Why did she really tell Tom about Jamie? That was mighty bold of her to revisit her past that way, Lucy thought with a sigh. So where was Tom? And what time was it? She still needed to get to work.

She felt a weight in her pocket and reached into it to find her house key in her pocket. Where was Tom? She wondered.

Lucy looked up when the door opened, expecting to see Tom, but to her disappointment, her secretary walked in, "Good morning, Amy. What are you doing here?" She asked with polite curiosity.

"Good morning, Miss Perry. Mr. Harry asked me to see if you are okay and to take you home. He also said I should inform you that you don't need to be at the office today," Amy said as she walked inside the room, dressed in her office wears.

"What's the time?" Lucy asked Amy curiously, and Amy checked her wristwatch.

"It's just five minutes past ten," Amy said, and Lucy gave her a nod. That meant she had been sleeping for almost four hours.

"You don't happen to know where Tom is, do you?" Lucy asked, and Amy shook her head.

The doctor opened the door at that moment, "I see you are awake," He said with a polite smile as he walked in, "How do you feel?" He asked when he stopped by her bed and took her hand to check her pulse.

"I'm okay. I guess I was just very exhausted," Lucy said with a smile, wondering if Tom might have told the doctor anything, "Where is the person that brought me here?"

"You mean your driver? He said something came up, so he had to quickly leave. If you don't mind, I would like to have a word with her in private," the doctor said to Amy, who gave him a nod as she excused herself to go wait outside.

Lucy looked at the doctor curiously, wondering what it was he wanted to talk to her about, "I'm in perfect health condition. My twin brother is a medical doctor and did all the necessary checks before I moved down here," Lucy rushed to assure him before he could say anything, and the doctor gave her a reassuring smile.

"I'm sure he did. However, Tom told me you froze while talking to him about a past traumatic experience... Although he didn't give me the details," the doctor added when he noticed how Lucy visibly stiffened.

"It is nothing," Lucy said with a stiff smile as she looked away from the doctor, not wanting to maintain eye contact with him.

"You are still suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, and you need to see a psychotherapist. I could arrange for you to meet a very good psychotherapist," he offered.

Lucy shook her head, "I'm okay. I just need to rest that's all," she assured him with a forced smile.

The doctor looked at her curiously before giving her a nod, "If you say so. But if you happen to change your mind, you can stop by. The company will take care of the charges, so you have nothing to worry about," he assured her, and Lucy gave him a small smile, relieved that he had dropped the subject.

"So can I leave now?" She asked, and stood up when the doctor gave her a nod. Thankfully she was still dressed in her sweatpant and sweatshirt, but she was barefooted.

"I will ask someone to bring you something for your feet," the doctor said when he noticed how she glanced at her feet and looked around the room as though she was looking for her footwear.

"That will be very much appreciated. Thank you," Lucy said with a small smile as she watched him leave.

Amy returned some minutes later with a pair of white crocs, "I hope this fits," she said, looking at Lucy's feet.

"It's better than nothing. Thanks," Lucy said with a faint smile as she took the footwear from Amy and slipped it on before walking out of the room.

Once they got outside the hospital, Amy led her to the parking lot where Tom had parked the car, and Lucy was surprised to see her car there. She had thought Tom left with the car. Without saying a word she got in and gave Amy directions to her home.

As Amy drove, Lucy couldn't help wondering what had come up that had made Tom leave. Perhaps he had a job to attend to? But he hadn't mentioned that when they were talking earlier. She sighed as she let her head rest on the headrest of the car, and shut her eyes.

"We are here," Amy announced as she parked the car in front of Lucy's apartment.

As Lucy hit out of the car, her eyes flew to Tom's apartment which was next to hers. Was he in? Or had he truly gone out for a job? Somehow she felt bad that he hadn't waited by her bedside to take her home.

"Is everything okay?" Amy asked when she noticed how Lucy was looking at the apartment next to hers with a slight frown on her face.

"Yeah. Thanks for bringing me home, you can leave," Lucy said with a small smile as she held out her hand for Amy to hand her the car key.

"Not so soon. You haven't had breakfast yet, have you? I should fix you something to eat while you freshen up," Amy suggested as she led the way to Lucy's apartment while Lucy followed her. Once they got to the door, Lucy took out the key from her pocket and unlocked the door before walking into the house with Amy.

"You can freshen up while I fix you something to eat," Amy said as she dropped the car key on the table, and picked up the bottle of wine and wineglass which was still half-filled before heading for the kitchen.

Lucy looked around her apartment before heading for her bedroom. Her heart skipped a beat when her eyes fell on her rumpled bedspread, bringing flashes of the events of the last evening.

Lucy lowered herself on the seat opposite her dressing table and stared at her reflection in the mirror as though she was in a daze. Her face flushed a bright red and her breath quickened when she remembered all that had happened the previous night. Her eyes drifted to the reflection of the bed in the mirror, and she raised a hand to her cheeks and shut her eyes as she tried to steady her breath. This was supposed to be the least of her worry at the moment, but she couldn't help it.

She opened her eyes once again, and this time her eyes fell on her phone which was on the nightstand. She stood up and walked over to the nightstand to pick it up, hoping to at least see a text from Tom explaining the reason for his absence. When she picked it up, she saw several missed calls from Sonia, her parents, and Lucas, but none from Tom.

It seemed like everyone always tried to reach her whenever she was spending the night with Tom, Lucy thought as she checked the time of the call. Her parents and Lucas had called her the previous evening, and then called again this morning, and so had Sonia.

Lucy sighed as she sat down on her bed and dialed her mother's line. She knew her mother had probably asked everyone else to call her when she couldn't reach her. So her mother was the best person to call first.

"Why haven't you been taking your call?" Her mother asked in a worried tone once she received Lucy's call.

"I'm sorry, the phone was on silent and I overslept," Lucy lied.

"Overslept? You never oversleep. Are you okay? Is something wrong? Are you ill?" Her mother asked, sounding very worried now.

"I'm okay. I guess I just needed the rest. How are you?" Lucy asked, changing the subject.

"Are you sure you are okay? Do you need me and your father to come..."

"No! I'm okay. You don't have to worry about me."

"If you say so. Your brother's wedding is coming up soon, you're not coming alone, are you?" Her mother asked, and Lucy rolled her eyes.

"Mom..."

"Why can't she come alone?" She heard her father's voice in the background before she could speak, and she smiled.

"Good morning, dad."

"Hey, Princess! What have you been up to?" Her father asked, taking the phone from his wife.

"Nothing much. Just working and... dating," Lucy said with a small smile and laughed out loud when she heard both her parents squeal happily.

"I thought you were okay with her being single, why are you so happy now?" She heard her mother ask her father.

"Is that what is important right now?" Her father responded.

"So, tell us about your boyfriend. Who is he?" Her mother asked curiously.

Lucy pursed her lips thoughtfully. Although this wasn't how she had planned to break the news to them, she just wanted to get it out of the way. Tom was her temporary boyfriend after all, and she was sure he wouldn't mind stepping in to help her get her family off her back.

"Yes. Who is he? How did you both meet? What does he do?" Her father asked, making Lucy's brows pull together.

She couldn't possibly tell them how she had met Tom, or that he was her driver. Although she knew that her parents weren't going to look down on him simply because he was a driver, still she felt that she needed to come up with something better. It was her first time being in a relationship, and she needed to make sure she gave them a perfect picture so that when she tells them of the breakup, they won't need to pressure her anymore about getting into a relationship.

So without thinking it through Lucy blurted out, "His name is Thomas Hank."

Chapter 156 - The Hanks

After her phone call with her parents, Lucy closed her eyes and facepalmed herself. Thomas Hank? Really? Of every other name to mention why did she choose to lie that she was dating her boss? Now they expected her to attend the wedding with her wealthy boyfriend. Perhaps she could claim that it was over between them a few days before the wedding? Her mind flashed to Tom who seemed to have a couple of similarities with her boss. Maybe he could pretend to be her boss? Lucy quickly shook her head to discard the thought. Was she going crazy? How could she even think of such an outrageous thing?

She looked up, slightly startled when she heard a knock on her door, "Miss Perry? Are you okay in there?" She heard Amy ask.

She had almost forgotten that she wasn't alone in the apartment, "Yeah. I'll be out soon," Lucy called out, and then glanced at her phone when it started ringing. It was Lucas.

"Hey!"

"Hey? What's going on Lu? I just received a call from mom saying you're dating your boss? The last time we spoke you were talking about your driver, so how come you're suddenly in a relationship with your boss?" Lucas asked, making Lucy sigh as she lay on her bed and closed her eyes.

How had she forgotten that she had told Lucas about Tom? Of course, Lucas had every right to be alarmed by this. How had she gone from not dating anyone to being in a relationship with two people, her driver, and her boss, even though she had nothing to do with her boss in reality.

"I'm dating my driver, not my boss. I just didn't want to tell them about him being my driver," Lucy confessed making Lucas sigh.

"What do you mean you just didn't want to tell them about it? That lie was completely uncalled for. You know mom and dad. They have no problem with either of us dating someone who isn't doing so well financially," Lucas pointed out.

How could she explain to him that the relationship wasn't a long-term relationship and she intended to end it before her family starts getting any funny marriage ideas? "Just keep it to yourself. I will tell them the truth when the time is right," Lucy said dismissively.

"I really think you should just call them back and tell them the truth now. You're going to embarrass that young man and make him feel less of himself when he finds out that you were too embarrassed about his job to tell your parents about it," Lucas chided.

"Cut it out, okay? I said I'm going to fix it!" Lucy snapped at her brother impatiently.

Lucas sighed, "You better fix it. How is your health? Have you been sleeping well? Or do you still require sleeping pills?" He asked with concern in his voice.

"I'm okay. How is Rachael?" Lucy asked, not wanting to talk about herself as she wasn't ready to think about the nightmare she had.

"She is okay. She has been busy with the wedding preparations and... Hold on," Lucas said to her when he heard a knock on his office door and raised his head, "Yes?" He asked when the door opened, and his senior colleague's secretary poked her head in.

"If you're not too busy can you see some of Dr. Drew's patients? He is out of town, and the couple insists on having their monthly checkup done today," she explained, and Lucas glanced at the clock in his office, "Alright, send them in."

"I'm sorry, Lu. Work calls. Let's talk later, okay? I love you," Lucas said before hanging up.

He pasted a smile on his face as the door opened once again, and stood up when a couple who looked like they were in their early sixties walked in with the secretary carrying their medical file which she placed on the table in front of Lucas.

Lucas picked up the file and glanced at their names. Mr. Desmond Hank, and his wife Evelyn.

"Good morning, Mr. and Mrs. Hank, I'm Dr. Perry," He greeted with a welcoming smile.

"Aww, he looks so young and handsome," Evelyn whispered to her husband loudly as she smiled at Lucas who in turn grinned at her.

"But nowhere as handsome as I was when I was his age," Desmond said with a scoff.

"I'm sure," Lucas said with a grin as he gestured to both couples to sit down.

"Are you single?" Evelyn asked, glancing at his bare fingers.

"Only until next month's end, so if you're going to hit on me you still have the next couple of weeks to do so," Lucas responded, and Evelyn giggled, while Desmond merely shook his head.

"That's such a shame. You would have been a good fit for our daughter, Jade. She's a lawyer. Very beautiful too," Evelyn said with a proud smile as she fished out her phone from her handbag to show him the picture displayed as her wallpaper.

"I'm sure Jade can find a man for herself without your help," Desmond muttered under his breath.

"Seeing how beautiful you look, I'm sure your daughter would be breathtaking," Lucas said with a small smile as he took the phone from her to check the picture she was showing him.

"All three of them are your kids?" Lucas asked when he saw the picture of two grown-up men and a lady standing between them.

"Yes. We took that picture two years ago when they were home for the Christmas holidays. The guy standing by her right is the oldest. I'm sure you must have heard of him. His name is Thomas, and he's the CEO of I-Global. The guy by her left is our second child, and his name is Bryan, you should recognize him, he's an actor. And that is our lawyer girl, Jade," she said with a proud smile.

"Is there anyone you have met to who you haven't shown this picture?" Desmond asked his wife in amusement as she was always showing off her successful children at every slight opportunity she got.

Lucas stared at the picture in disbelief. Was it coincident that Sonia's fiance just so happened to be the younger brother of Lucy's boss? The same boss she had just lied to her parents that she was dating? And now here he was having a conversation with the parents of both men?

Meanwhile, after her call with Lucas, Lucy tried to reach Sonia, but when Sonia failed to respond, she decided to give Tom a call instead and find out where he was.

She held the phone to her ear as she waited for him to take his call. After ringing for some time, the call disconnected when Tom failed to pick up. She tried two more times before finally giving up, "Maybe he is busy," she murmured with a sigh as she reluctantly dragged herself from the bed so she could have her bath.

Once she took off her clothes, she walked over to the bathroom and stood by the door as she remembered how Tom had walked in there only a few hours ago to carry her out. Why did it suddenly seem like it had been such a long time since she last saw him?

She couldn't take the day off in this state. She needed to do some serious work to get her mind off the nightmare, and Tom... At least until he calls her.

As Lucy turned on the shower and let the warm water hit her body, she closed her eyes, and flashes of last night came back to her. How Tom had looked at her, how he had touched her. Her heart fluttered in her chest, and her pussy pulsed when she remembered how he had worked on them with both his lips and fingers.

She opened her eyes when she started to feel herself getting aroused by her thoughts, "I'm going to be in serious trouble if I keep having these thoughts," Lucy murmured to herself as she tried to focus on scrubbing her body.

Once she was done bathing, she dressed up in a cream-colored pantsuit, with a pair of pink stiletto and handbag to match, before going out to join Amy who was just setting the table.

"Are you going somewhere?" Amy asked as she looked Lucy over, wondering where she was going to dressed like that.

"Yes. I'm going to work. I don't need the day off," Lucy said, making it clear that her decision was not up for discussion.

Amy clamped her lips shut and gave her a nod, "I made pancakes. You can have it with tea."

"Thank you," Lucy said as she sat down to eat while Amy cleaned up the kitchen.

Once she was done eating they both left for the company. As Amy parked the car and Lucy got out of it, Tom who was standing by his office window looking outside, shook his head when he caught a glimpse of her before she could walk into the building.

Stubborn woman! What had he been expecting? That she would gratefully take the day off? He shook his head as he walked into his office closet to put on his costume. He had been hoping he wouldn't need to as he had no intention of leaving his office today, but now that she was here he would have to use the costume.

Once he was done dressing up, he opened the door, and stepped out of his office, startling Lucy who had not been expecting him to be at the office talk more of coming out of it.

"Good morning, Miss. Perry," he greeted, standing by the door while watching at her with a very strange expression in his eyes.

"Good morning, sir," Lucy greeted as she stood up with her head bowed. She couldn't meet his eyes as she feared that if she looked at him, he might somehow find out that she had just lied to her parents about her relationship with him.

"I was told you were ill. Why are you here when you should be taking the day off?" He asked, cocking his head to the right as he watched her closely. He had thought they were past this stage where she feared to look him in the eyes, but it seemed like they weren't past it yet.

"I feel okay now, so there was no reason to stay back at home," she said without meeting his gaze.

"Still, you should have taken the day off. Mr. Harry won't be around for some time, so it's going to be just you and I working together... Closely," Tom added, and Lucy's brows pulled together in a slight frown.

Why did he have to add 'closely' to it?

"Are you sure you don't need to take the day off? The next couple of days might be pretty intense," Tom said, and Lucy raised her head to look at him.

"I'm okay. I need to keep busy," she said, and Tom gave her a nod.

"Well, I'm certain you can be busy without having to work. Let's go out," he offered, slipping one hand in his pocket.

"Out?" Lucy asked in confusion.

"Yes. We need to know each other better to work productively together. Do you have a problem with that?" Tom asked, and Lucy shook her head.

"Good.. So let's go."

Chapter 157 - Big Brother

"Are you expecting a call from someone?" Tom asked Lucy without sparing her a glance while keeping his gaze on the road as he drove the car.

Lucy shook her head, "No. Why?" Lucy denied too quickly as she slipped her phone inside her handbag and turned to look at him.

She couldn't really understand why she was waiting to hear from Tom, but she was. He had disappeared all of a sudden and she hated to admit that this somehow bothered her. Maybe if Sonia had taken her call or returned her call, she would have had someone else to rant to, but apart from Sonia and Lucas, the only other person she could talk to was Tom. The very person that was making her worried.

"Then are you worried about something? You have been taking your cellphone in and out of your handbag ever since we left the company," he pointed out, and Lucy looked away feeling slightly embarrassed that he had noticed that. To some people, her actions could be seen as rude, and maybe he was one of such persons.

"I'm sorry. It's just that I tried reaching Sonia earlier but she wasn't taking her call, so I guess I'm kind of worried about her," Lucy explained, as that was the only logical explanation, which was also partially true, that she could give him. There was no way she could tell him that she was worried because of her driver who had disappeared after leaving her in the hospital after their intimate night together.

"I see," Tom said, feeling slightly disappointed as he had thought that perhaps she was waiting to hear from him, "I suppose they are both busy with the reality show. If you're very worried about her, perhaps I could give my brother a call. That way you could speak with her and find out how she is faring," Tom offered.

"What reality show?" Lucy asked in confusion, making Tom realize that Sonia had probably not told her about it.

"I suppose she forgot to mention that she was going to be featuring in a reality show with my brother. You can check it out on any of the social media apps. Yesterday's interview has been trending all morning," Tom suggested, and Lucy gave him a nod as she took out her phone to do as he had suggested.

Tom turned to spare her a glance after some minutes and a smile touched his lips when he noticed the smile on her face as she watched the video on her phone with her earpiece tucked in her ear.

When she called earlier he had been too upset and confused to receive her call, as he didn't know what to say to her at that point. And then he had been even more upset when Harry returned to inform him that the so-called cab driver who had been asking questions about him the previous day was a well-known private investigator among the elite class.

Someone somewhere was curious about him, and it didn't come as a surprise to him as he had suspected that a car was following him the previous evening, but he had ignored it when the car drove past him as he parked the car in front of Lucy's house. Now that he knew for a fact that he was being watched, he knew he had to be more careful. Tom Handy had to disappear for some time.

Although Harry had sent someone to find out who the investigator was working for and what they wanted from him, he knew that there was a need to hurry up with all he was doing and tell Lucy the truth before someone else beats him to it.

He still didn't know exactly what to do about the whole thing yet, but one thing that was certain was that he couldn't be her next-door neighbor or driver anymore, and neither could he stay away from her. All he could do now, was stay beside her this way as Thomas Hank.

Lucy who was watching the interview between Bryan and Sonia, had a wide smile on her face as she watched the easy and natural flow of the interaction between them. Somehow it felt really nice just being able to see Sonia this way with someone. She had to admit that they looked really good together. Her best friend was gradually becoming an A-list celebrity, Lucy thought with a grin.

Taking a closer look at them, she was no longer sure if Sonia was still just playing games with Bryan or if they really had something serious going on between them now. She hoped they did. It would be good to see Sonia in a stable relationship instead of her usual lifestyle of changing boyfriends every time she gets bored.

'Look who is talking. Wanting to see other people be in a happy relationship while running away from every form of emotional attachment with the opposite sex.' she thought with a mocking smile.

"You must love your friend a lot," Tom observed after a while.

"Did you say something?" Lucy asked, removing the earpiece from her ears to look at him.

"I said you seem to love your best friend a lot."

Lucy smiled softly, "I do. You have been driving for a while now, where are we heading to?" Lucy asked when she looked through the window and noticed that they were on the highway, somewhere far away from the city.

"Somewhere you can relax. How is your boyfriend? The childhood friend?" Tom asked, turning to look at Lucy who was now looking out the window.

"He is okay," Lucy said with a soft sigh.

"Does he stay here in Ludus? Or is it a long-distance relationship?" Tom asked as he returned his attention to the road ahead of him.

Lucy pursed her lips as she considered the most suitable way to answer his question. If she said he lives in Ludus, he might want to meet him, or find out more about him, or even ask why she had been alone at the hospital without her boyfriend. On the other hand, if she told him he wasn't here in Ludus, then he might want to get closer to her more than was necessary.

"It's a long-distance relationship, but he plans to move down here pretty soon," Lucy said with a small smile, and he gave her a nod.

"I hope he doesn't mind you hanging out with me this way?"

Lucy opened her mouth to respond, but her breath hitched when Tom suddenly took the left turn, and she caught a glimpse of the scenery ahead of them.

She had thought he was taking her to a restaurant or perhaps a cinema, or maybe a game arcade, but this was completely unexpected. Ahead of them was a landscape of proud rocky mountains, and somewhere between the large rocks was a sparkling waterfall. Now she wished she could wind down the window and stick her head out the window to inhale the air.

As if he could sense her desire to wind down the window, he automatically wind down all the windows in the car, and Lucy stuck her head out the window and inhaled the fresh mountain air as she admired the view ahead of her, "This is so beautiful," she whispered in awe.

"I've been here a couple of times, but it still leaves me completely breathless each time I take the turn," Tom confessed as he looked at the mountains that lay ahead of them.

Reluctantly breaking her gaze away from the mountains she turned to Tom, "How did you find such a place?"

"The first time I came here was ten years ago. It was my second year in college, during a school camp trip. The moment I saw this place, I felt an instant connection to it. I wanted to own it. I always thought it would be a good spot for vacations, honeymoons, weekend getaways, and all of that. It took me quite some years before I was able to purchase it," Tom revealed with a small smile as he parked the car somewhere away from the mountains, and turned to look at her.

"You can't bring anyone else here. It's currently off limit from the public as I'm working on building an exclusive hotel and resort here."

"Oh!" She exclaimed quietly as she looked away from him with a slight frown, wondering why he had brought her here if he wanted to keep the location a secret from the world. She knew from

novels and the few movies she had seen that men only took women to such special spots if they were interested in them. He wasn't interested in her, right? Although she had lied to her parents that he was her boyfriend, she had no desire in getting involved with him. Not when she had Tom.

She quickly shook her head to get rid of that thought. Thinking this way was going to get her in trouble. She didn't have Tom. He was a temporary boyfriend. She needed to keep reminding herself of that.

"So? What do you think?" He asked, watching her intently with his head slightly cocked to the right side as he tried to figure out what she was thinking.

"About what? This place?" Lucy asked, turning to meet his gaze with a slightly confused frown.

Tom gave her a nod, "Yes. I also want to know what you think about building a Resort here."

"You don't intend to demolish the mountains, do you?" Lucy asked looking around them.

It was only after asking the question that she realized that she was talking to him casually, as she would to a friend, instead of her boss. This made her wonder why she was no longer feeling so anxious around him. It seemed like the more time she spent in his company, the more relaxed she became around him. This wasn't good.

Tom smiled, "How can I when it is the center of attraction here?" He asked as he unbuckled his seatbelt and reached out to open his door, "Hold on," he said to her as he got out of the car and went to her side of the car to open the door.

Why was he doing this again? He didn't have to. He wasn't interested in her in any way, was he? Lucy mused as she picked up her handbag.

"You should leave the bag behind. And your heels too," Tom suggested as he bent down to take off his shoe, leaving only his stockings on.

"But..."

Before she could protest, he reached into the back seat of the car and dropped his shoes before picking up a pair of new stockings, "It's going to be more comfortable for you to wear this, trust me," he said, as he urged her to put on the stockings.

Lucy knew that he was right as it was going to get tiring for her to walk around in her heels, but she doubted that was the case for him as his shoes looked pretty comfortable, "Why did you take off your shoes?" She asked as she collected the stockings from him.

"So that you don't feel silly walking around in the stockings all by yourself," Tom said with a silly grin, which made Lucy suddenly giggle, surprising them both.

Who would have thought the cold and aloof CEO she had seen in action just yesterday could have such a good sense of humor? "Thanks for being so considerate," she said to him as she took off her shoes and put on the stockings.

"You're welcome," Tom said with a small smile, happy to see her laughing this way.

As Lucy stepped out of the car, she decided to straighten some things between them before proceeding.. She cleared her throat and pasted an innocent smile on her face as she said, "I'm so thankful that I have a big brother like you to rely on."

Chapter 158 - Lose That Thought

Big brother? Did she just say she was glad to have a big brother like him? Tom asked himself, not knowing whether to be amused by the idea, happy that she wasn't interested in her wealthy boss, or feel offended that was brotherzoning him already. If only she knew that this big brother had been responsible for all her moans last night, Tom thought in amusement as he looked at her.

"Make no mistake, Lucinda. I have just one baby sister, and her name is Jade Hank," Tom said, every trace of humor gone from his eyes as he took a step closer to her, startling her.

Why did he look so serious? She had not meant to annoy him. All she had wanted to do was straighten out things between them so he that wouldn't begin to develop any romantic feelings for her or think about pursuing any romantic relationship with her, Lucy thought.

She gave a burst of awkward laughter, "I know, right? Well, I don't mean you're my biological brother. I just mean..."

"I know what you mean, Lucinda. And I'm telling you right here and now that I don't intend to be a big brother to you, so lose that thought," Tom said, taking off his glasses so that he was now looking directly into her eyes.

Lucy swallowed nervously as the smile on her lips wavered, and her heart started to beat really fast. What was he talking about? Perhaps she had said the wrong thing? She should have gone about it a different way instead of calling him her brother? Lucy thought as she looked into his blue eyes. There was something very familiar about his face now that he was no longer wearing his glasses, but this wasn't the place or time to think about that.

"What do you want to be then? My boss?" Lucy asked hopefully even though she knew this wasn't a very smart question. What had possessed her tell him something like that when they just arrived here? She should have shut her damn mouth and waited until after he took her back to the company before saying that.

What if he had anger issues? What if he got angry and left her here to find her way back on her own? What if he was the type to be violent when he was angry? What if he got angry now and killed her? And then goes on to bury her body between the rocks or something? No one would know about her whereabouts, Lucy worried as she bit her lower lip anxiously and shifted her gaze away from him to somewhere above his shoulder.

Tom watched as different emotions skittered across her face and he wondered what she was thinking that made her look so pale, "What do you want me to be to you?" Tom asked, watching her calmly, sensing that he was making her anxious, and that was the last thing he wanted, especially after this morning's episode.

Lucy's gaze returned to his. What did she want him to be to her? A friend? A friendly boss? An acquaintance? It had to be a friend since there was every possibility that Sonia was going to develop something tangible with Bryan, and as Sonia's best friend and nonbiological sister, she had to be able to relate with Bryan and his family as her in-laws, and that included her boss.

"Just a friend?" Lucy asked, looking at him hopefully, and Tom's lips pulled up in a smile as he shook his head.

"I want to be much more than just a friend to you," Tom said, making her heart skip a beat.

"W..what?" She stuttered, blinking at him. What was he talking about?

"You heard me. I'm interested in you, Lucinda Perry. I've been from the very moment I set my eyes on you, long before I found out about your relationship with my brother's fiancée," Tom said, taking a step closer to her and placing his hands on both sides of her, on the roof of the car in a way that she was trapped between him and the car.

Lucy shook her head in disbelief as her heart started beating very quickly, "I have a boyfriend!" She reminded him, avoiding his gaze. How had she slept with one guy last night, and was receiving love confessions from another the next morning?

"So you said, and I'm not in a hurry to change your mind. I just want to let you know that if I could wait for years to own this place, then I can as well wait for as long as you need me to, just to make you mine," Tom said with an easy smile.

"Is that what you brought me here to tell me?" Lucy asked with a slight frown as she managed to look into his eyes.

Tom shook his head, "No. I only brought it up because you tried to brotherzone me, and I'm letting you know right now that I'm never going to be a brother to you, and neither am I going to remain just your friend. So get that thought out of your head."

There was a moment of awkward silence between them before he put down both hands which were on the car and took a step away from her, "I will show you around," Tom said, turning away from her and walking in the direction of the mountains.

Lucy swallowed nervously as she followed him, while putting some distance between them. Both his words and actions were supposed to scare her, but for reasons she didn't understand, they didn't scare her one bit. It only bothered her that he was interested in her. Somehow she felt safe with him, even though she didn't exactly welcome his advances.

As they walked around the vast expanse of land that surrounded the mountains which was covered in white sand on some areas, and green grass on other areas nearer to the mountains, Tom pointed out some landmarks to her while explaining what structures were going to be built on those areas. Lucy paid close attention to all he was saying and offered her opinions and suggestions whenever he asked for them.

After walking around for some time Tom turned to her abruptly, and asked, "What makes you think you love your boyfriend? What do you like about him?"

Lucy blinked at him in confusion, startled by the sudden question as she had thought they were done with that line of conversation already. Why was he asking her that?

"Hmm... Do I have to like him for any particular reason?" She asked, and when Tom gave her a nod, she narrowed her eyes thoughtfully. What did she like about Tom?

"Well, for starters, he is caring."

"So am I," Tom countered, making her raise a brow.

"He is thoughtful and considerate," Lucy added.

"And so am I too," Tom informed her once again with a small smile. He really hoped he was the person she was talking about, and she was not just making up all of these qualities.

She opened her mouth to say some other things, but hesitated, knowing that he was just going to say he was all of those too, so instead, she said, "He isn't proud, or arrogant, and he doesn't talk down people," Lucy said daring him with her eyes to say he wasn't proud or arrogant too.

"Why do I feel like you are indirectly saying I'm proud and arrogant?" Tom asked with a slightly amused smile.

"Are you?" Lucy asked, not understanding where this sudden boldness was coming from. Why was she talking to him this way?

"Perhaps I am. Is he as wealthy and successful as I am?" Tom asked cocking his head to the side.

"Does he have to be?" Lucy asked with a slightly raised brow.

"Shouldn't he be? Women want wealthy and successful men, don't they?" Tom asked, looking at her as he waited to hear what she had to say about that.

For some reason, Lucy felt slightly annoyed that he could think that way about women. Or maybe what was annoying her was the fact that he was indirectly talking down Tom. So because Tom wasn't as wealthy or successful as he was, she wasn't supposed to date him? It was because of men like him, that other ladies looked down on average wage earners like Tom. A person like him really deserved someone like Anita, "Do they?"

He could hear the slight annoyance in her tone, and he couldn't help wondering why, "What kind of a man do you want, Lucinda?" Tom asked, looking at her curiously now. Whatever she said now was going to determine whether or not she was going to see Tom Handy again.

While they were busy talking, the private investigator was seated on the floor of his studio apartment with several photos of Tom littered on the floor.

He had a wide smile on his face as he thought about how pleased Mrs. Miller would be to know that he had gotten her the information she needed on such short notice. It felt really satisfying to know that despite the fact that he was aging, he was still the best there was when it came to digging out important information on short notice.

After his brief conversation the previous afternoon with the lady during lunch hour, he had decided to follow his hunch and return to the CEO's private parking lot.

Although he had been very tempted to tail the CEO and his right-hand man when they were leaving for their meeting earlier, his instincts told him to stay back, as the answers he needed might be with the young man whose name he had been told was Tom.

He had been keeping watch over the parking lot when the CEO returned to the office after work hours, and he had watched as he went into the private elevator. Less than thirty minutes later he had also closely watched as Tom the driver came out from the elevator. He had then tailed Tom.

At first, he had been trying to make sense of the situation, asking himself if perhaps Tom was the CEO in disguise, especially when he tried to make the connection between the names, Thomas and Tom.

When Tom parked the car in front of an average-looking building that didn't look anything like where the CEO of I-Global would choose to make his home residence, he had started questioning himself again to know if he had been too hasty in drawing his conclusions.

Still following his instinct, he had remained in his car somewhere down the road from where Tom had parked the car and had kept watch for most of the night. Thankfully, he had woken up in time to see Tom rushing out of the house very early the next morning carrying an unconscious lady in his arms.

Once again he had followed Tom to the hospital and had eavesdropped on his conversation with the doctor, confirming what he already suspected that both Thomas Hank and Tom, the driver were the same person.

Chapter 159 - Fantastic Pair

"Cut!" The producer shouted, clapping his hands in satisfaction, "You both make a fantastic pair!" He said with an approving smile as he looked from Bryan to Sonia.

"This doesn't even look like a commercial. I felt like I was watching a movie," A member of the camera crew observed with a wide smile, and the others nodded in agreement, while Bryan's gaze remained locked on Sonia as he moved from the couch onto the wheelchair.

"We need to take a break before we continue," Bryan announced moving his wheelchair away from the living room, and Sonia nodded in agreement as she followed Bryan.

"How do you do all of this?" Sonia asked under her breath as she walked into his bedroom. They had been busy all morning first with the reality show which covered them fixing breakfast together, and then they had moved on to film a coffee drink commercial ad.

"Do all of what?" Bryan asked, turning in the wheelchair to look at her as she went to stand in front of his dressing table to check her appearance and outfit in the mirror.

"Live this way," Sonia said as she turned to look at him, pointing in the direction of the living room where the production and camera crew were waiting, "I suppose every day of your life is like this show, isn't it? There are always cameras out there waiting for you to make a mistake so that it can be captured," Sonia said with a small frown as she went to sit on his bed.

"You mean like the way our engagement was captured?" He asked with a chuckle as he turned his wheelchair to face her, "Well, I guess that's the price you pay for success. You should start getting used to it, as that might be your lifestyle soon. I heard your fanbase has increased since our engagement."

"And that's all thanks to having you in my life. But that can never be my lifestyle. I'm never giving up my privacy and freedom all in the name of success. I won't," Sonia said with a shake of her head, making Bryan feel slightly concerned as this was the second time she was hinting that she couldn't live the way he did.

"Does it make you feel that uncomfortable?" Bryan asked, wondering how Sonia was going to cope with being in a real relationship with him if she didn't like being in the spotlight. Her life was always going to be public business as long as she was in his life.

He loved what he did, and in as much as he didn't like the idea of everybody having an opinion on how he lived his life, he loved his life the way it was.

"It isn't just uncomfortable, it is frustrating. You can't imagine all the times I've wanted to do something nasty to you today, and call you names, but I had to hold back because of those damn cameras," Sonia complained with a pout, and Bryan chuckled, while Sonia watched him laugh with a small smile on her face, wishing she could kiss him at that moment.

"Seriously?" Bryan asked with an amused smile, and Sonia gave him a nod, "When was that? And what did I do?" He asked with an innocent smile.

"Are you really asking me that because you don't know what you did?" Sonia asked with a roll of her eyes.

"I really don't know what you're talking about. What did I do?" Bryan asked with a grin, even though he knew exactly what she was referring to.

Every time he wanted to mention her name all through their shoots, he had deliberately called her Sonia Bardi, and then he had gone ahead to grab her boobs or squeeze her ass at every slight opportunity he got. She was certain that by the time the show would be over, everyone everywhere would be referring to her as Sonia Bardi.

Sonia shook her head, "You did nothing then. Just bear it in mind that I'm going to return the favor," Sonia threatened.

"You are free to grab my butt and chest wherever and whenever you want to," Bryan said with a wink which made Sonia giggle.

"I don't think I need your permission to do that," Sonia said, and then raised a brow when Bryan stretched out his right hand to her with a soft smile on his face, "What?"

"Come," Bryan said, looking directly into her eyes. How could the mere sound of her laughter sound so beautiful to him? How was he going to be able to keep his feelings hidden from her when he always had the urge to touch her whenever she smiled at him this way?

Sonia's heart skipped a beat when she saw the look in his eyes. If she didn't know better she would have thought that he had genuine feelings for her. Sonia cleared her throat as she stood up, "We should probably return to join the others..."

"I don't care about them," Bryan said as he dropped his hands to his side and moved his wheelchair closer to where she was standing before taking both her hands.

Sonia's eyes went to the door, as she didn't want a repeat of what had happened the previous day with Jeff barging in on them, "What if someone walks in?"

"When did you start worrying about things like that?" Bryan asked while holding her gaze.

"Since I overheard your conversation with your manager I suppose?" Sonia said, making Bryan shake his head.

"You mean since you eavesdropped on our conversation? You don't have to worry about that. No one will barge in on us again, and you won't hear something like that from me either," he promised as he pulled her down so that she was sitting on his thigh.

"What are you doing?" Sonia asked in a weak voice without resisting his pull.

"Relax. I just want to hold you," Bryan said, as though it was the most natural thing in the world.

Sonia didn't know what to make of it, but she didn't mind either, so she relaxed against him and let him wrap both hands around her waist while she rested her head in the crook of his neck, inhaling his scent.

Somehow after their little misunderstanding the previous day, and their exchange earlier that morning, there seemed to have been a shift in the dynamics of their relationship. Although he hadn't made any grand proclamation about being in love with her, he had made her feel that her feelings for him were welcome.

One of Bryan's hands moved from her waist to her back and he patted her softly as he thought about his feelings for her and how to go about handling them since he was yet to completely understand what he was feeling. Was he perhaps feeling this way about her because she was the only available woman around? Was it a case of the available becoming desirable because the desirable is unavailable? Bryan wondered.

After all that transpired between them the previous day, and how they had been able to resolve it last night, followed by what had happened earlier this morning when he caught her wanting to kiss him, he was beginning to suspect that the feeling was mutual between them, and that made him feel even more drawn to her now.

He was very tempted to tell her how he was feeling, and find out from her if it was mutual, but first, he needed to get out of the wheelchair and go out to see other girls. He needed to be absolutely sure of what he felt before telling her about it.

"You know we don't seem like a fake couple right now, right?" Sonia asked with a sigh after some time.

"Does it bother you?" Bryan asked, making her sit up to look into his face.

"No, it doesn't," she said with a shake of her head.

"Then let's not worry our head about any of that, okay?" He asked, and she gave him a nod.

"Have I told you that I don't like your new hairdo?" Bryan asked, making her raise a brow.

"That wasn't the impression I got when you were drooling over me with dropped jaws the other day," Sonia said dryly.

"I don't remember drooling. I want to bury my fingers in your hair, but I can't do that with this hairdo," Bryan said with a sigh.

"Too bad I'm going to keep rocking this hairdo until further notice, so get used to it," Sonia said with a grin.

He hadn't expected anything better from her anyway. She was still the stubborn Sonia he knew after all, "Suit yourself. By the way, weren't you trying to reach your best friend earlier?" He asked, reminding her that she had been worried over not hearing from Lucy earlier.

"Yeah, thanks for the reminder! I should go check my phone," Sonia said as she started to get off his thighs.

"I didn't say you could leave yet," Bryan said with a grin as he kissed the crook of her neck.

Sonia giggled as she tried to push his head away, "Stop doing that! It tickles."

"Why should I stop?" Bryan asked with a slightly raised brow.

"Because I need to go check on her again, and we have people waiting for us, so quit fooling around," Sonia said, laughing uncontrollably and trying to get off Bryan's thighs when he moved from her neck to her ears and began to tickle her sides.

"I will let you go on one condition," Bryan said, enjoying the sound of Sonia's laughter.

"What is it?" Sonia asked curiously.

"First promise me you will do it," Bryan said.

"You first have to tell me what it is," Sonia insisted.

"Well, it's something you can easily do, trust me."

"You're not going to ask me to disappear from your life, are you?" Sonia asked, narrowing her eyes suspiciously.

"Move back into this bedroom."

Chapter 160 - Happy

Sonia's face lit up with a bright smile at his words, "Is my hearing poor? Or did you just forget to include a please in your request?" Sonia asked, making Bryan grin as he stopped tickling her.

"I guess your hearing is poor, cause I actually said, could you please move back into this bedroom? How could you not have heard that?" Bryan asked incredulously making Sonia giggle merrily.

"Yeah. I thought I heard that," Sonia said with a satisfied smile. The previous night when he had been about to leave her bedroom and she had called out his name to stop him, she had wanted to ask him if he would love for her to move back into his bedroom. She was glad that she didn't have to be the one to bring it up anymore.

"So? Will you?" Bryan asked, looking at her with hopeful eyes.

Sonia sighed. Call her confused, but in as much as she wanted to move into his bedroom with him and do a lot of things with him, she knew her feelings were involved, and she still needed to be very careful lest she gets hurt, "What are we doing, Bryan?" She asked, still sitting on his thighs and looking into his face.

He should have known Sonia was the type to ask such direct questions. Knowing how sensitive she was, he wanted to be as honest with her as he could.

Bryan let out a long breath, "I don't know if it's too early to say this, but I think I might be falling for you. However, I don't want to give this thing between us a name yet, until I'm very sure about my exact feelings for you," Bryan confessed looking into her eyes as he raised a hand to pat her cheek in a loving gesture.

Sonia's heart fluttered at his words. He was falling for her? How? Why? When did he start feeling this way? Not that she didn't know that she was someone who was very lovable and all, but she was

just surprised at how quickly he had admitted his feelings. She wanted to ask him a lot of questions, but the happiness that was bubbling inside of her at his words rendered her speechless.

Bryan smiled at her when he saw the happiness on her face, and relaxed a bit, knowing that the feeling was mutual.

They both turned to the door when they heard a knock, "You two lovebirds need to wrap up whatever you're doing in there, you have people waiting," Mia's teasing words came from the other end of the door.

"Let's continue with this conversation later in the day," Bryan suggested and Sonia gave him a nod as she slid off his thighs.

"I was hoping for at least a kiss," Bryan muttered in disappointment, and Sonia grinned at him.

"You can always get that later. Let's join them," Sonia said as she walked ahead of him, humming a happy tune.

"You should try to reach your best friend again. I will stall," Bryan suggested, and Sonia turned around to blow him a kiss before walking out through the door.

Once she walked into the living room, she made eye contact with Mia who was standing at one end of the living room, and Mia gave her a wink. She flashed Mia a happy smile as she approached her.

"You look really happy today," Mia observed.

"I'm happy. Bryan just confessed to me that he thinks he is falling for me," Sonia whispered under her breath for Mia's ears only.

"Bryan actually admitted that out loud?" Mia asked in a surprised whisper, and Sonia smiled again bobbing her head.

"Yep! You have to keep this to yourself though," Sonia warned, and Mia used her fingers to make a zipping gesture on her lips to show her lips were sealed.

Of course, she had counted on Bryan falling head over heels in love with Sonia, but she hadn't expected that they would both make such fast-paced progress in their relationship.

"By the way, Lucy called twice," Mia informed Sonia as she handed her the phone which she had been holding on to during the shoots earlier.

"Thank you," Sonia said as she took the phone from Mia and dialed Lucy's line before walking away.

Meanwhile, Lucy and Tom stood there staring at each other under a tree shade. Although she liked and respected her boss, Lucy wasn't impressed by his words and attitude.

"I already have the kind of man I want, so you don't have to worry about my choice in men," Lucy said in a harsh tone that told Tom that she didn't want to talk about this anymore.

"I'm sorry. I didn't mean to offend you," Tom said when he realized that she was annoyed.

Lucy didn't bother to deny that she was angry, "Thank you for showing me this place, SIR. Perhaps we should head back to the company now. Unless of course there are other things you need to know

about me, aside from my love life, in order for us to work together productively, SIR," Lucy added the last part of her sentence in a brittle voice, making it clear that he was still her boss, and if he wanted her to continue to respect him, then he shouldn't cross the line.

She hoped she wasn't crossing the line, but she also didn't care if she was crossing the line. He had crossed the line first by talking to her so proudly about dating her, and by trying to underrate her boyfriend simply because he wasn't as wealthy as him.

Tom could tell by her words and tone that she was trying to put him in his place. He looked at her, wondering how she suddenly became so bold, going from not breathing in his presence to speaking harshly. She must have felt pretty insulted by his gesture. This was the time when he really wanted to know what was in her head. The only way he could for that was by talking to her as Tom. Unfortunately, he couldn't present himself to her now, especially not when someone was out there trying to find out about him. He needed to first know who it was, and what it was the person wanted from him before showing that face again.

"I guess we can leave now," he said to her, and without receiving a response from her, they both returned to the car.

Once inside the car, Lucy picked up her phone and noticed she had a missed call notification from Lucas. Just as she was about to dial his line, Sonia's duo video call came in. She quickly connected her earpiece to her phone.

"Hey, baby!" Sonia greeted, making Lucy's lips curve in a smile. Somehow she always felt happy merely by hearing Sonia's voice and seeing her face.

"I guess you no longer care about me because you are a celebrity now," Lucy teased, trying to keep her voice down so that Tom who was driving the car wouldn't overhear her conversation.

"I know you don't mean that. I'm sorry I've been too busy to talk to you. I'm featuring in a reality show with Bryan so it's taking most of my time. I barely even have time to work on my story anymore," Sonia complained with a pout.

"Yeah, I watched the interview. You look really happy," Lucy observed with a small smile.

"So I've been told. I guess I'm happy," Sonia said with a happy smile as she looked across the room at Bryan who had just come in. Their eyes met, and Bryan winked at her making her grin as she returned her attention to Lucy.

"Are you busy at the moment? Or do you have time to chat right now?" Lucy asked curiously when she noticed that Sonia seemed distracted. She wanted to know if it was a good time to tell Sonia about all that had happened between her and Tom.

"Can it wait? Is it something very urgent?" Sonia asked, looking around as she tried to come up with an excuse to leave so she could give Lucy attention.

Sensing that Sonia was busy, Lucy shook her head as she didn't want to bother her, "It can wait. Let's talk when you are less busy, okay?" Lucy asked, and Sonia couldn't help feeling sad that she couldn't give Lucy her attention at that moment.

"I'm very sorry, Lu. I promise to make it up to you, okay?" Sonia said apologetically.

"Sure. It's fine. Don't be sorry," Lucy said with a small smile.

"What about your boyfriend? And your boss?" Sonia asked curiously.

"Uhm, let's talk about that later," Lucy said, and Sonia nodded, realizing that Lucy wasn't alone.

"I will give you a call the moment we are done, okay?" Sonia asked curiously.

"Sure. Let's talk later then, I love you," Lucy said before hanging up.

Once the private investigator was done with organizing all the information he had gathered, he picked up his phone and dialed Mrs. Miller's line, as he wanted to deliver his findings to her.

"I have some interesting findings that I need to share with you," he informed her the moment the call connected, without bothering with pleasantries as the relationship between them was strictly business.

"Interesting. Have it delivered to my residence," she said, before hanging up the call.

Once the private investigator dropped his phone, he heard a knock on his door and stood up to go see who was at the door.