

Wild Night 171

Chapter 171 - Oh, No!

Seeing the worry lines that creased his brows, Lucy could tell that this was very important to him, and as a friend, she owed it to him to at least hear what he had to say, "The call can wait," Lucy decided with a concerned frown as she rejected Sonia's call, and placed her phone on silent before dropping it on the table.

"Thanks," Tom said with a nod, feeling slightly relieved that she was going to let him confess it all to her now, while also feeling anxious about the revelation he was about to make. His heart was beating really fast, and he couldn't blame it. Even his heart knew that its wellbeing going forward was dependent on the outcome of this conversation.

Lucy gave him a nod, "Go on, say what you have to say."

Tom took in a deep breath in an attempt to steady himself and calm his nerves, but it didn't seem to be working, "I..." Tom started but paused to clear his throat when his voice came out cracked.

"Before I say anything, I would first like you to try to keep an open mind, and also understand that whatever I did wasn't because I wanted to make a fool of you, or because I wanted to have fun at your expense," Tom explained, since he knew that once he started telling her the truth she might not be willing to hear all of his explanations or excuses as the case may be later.

Conflicting emotions churned inside of her, and from the way her heart was beating, and her stomach was churning due to the nagging anxiety she was feeling, something told her deep down that she was not going to like what she was about to hear. She swallowed hard as she gave him another nod prompting him to go on.

"Also, I can't exactly say that I'm sorry I did what I did. It was something I needed to do as if I didn't do it, I'm not sure I would have made such progress with you in such a short period. And I probably won't be telling you the truth right now if you didn't open up to me about your past," Tom added.

"You're scaring me, Tom. Please just go on with whatever it is you have to say," Lucy pleaded with a frown as she took off her glasses and rubbed her eyes before replacing them.

"First of all, my name is not Tom Handy... I mean, it's Tom, but Handy isn't my last name," Tom confessed, and Lucy blinked at him in surprise.

What? Even his name was a lie? Oh, my God! What have I gotten myself into? Lucy thought in alarm.

Seeing the surprise and alarm on her face, Tom paused, "And I'm not a handyman either," he added.

Oh, great! His job was fake too. Then was he even her driver? Who was this man that she didn't know anything about? How had the company given a man with an unverified identity a job? "But you fixed my broken tap?" Lucy said, pointing to her bathroom when she remembered that he had fixed it when it broke.

Tom shook his head with an apologetic look on his face, "I brought someone over to fix it," he said apologetically, and Lucy shook her head in disbelief as she looked away from him, trying to gather her thoughts.

"Hold on a minute, I need to get something straight. Did you come up with this new identity because of me or it's...."

Tom shook his head, "No. It was not because of you. At the club where we met, I'm known as Tom Handy, a handyman. Anita knows me as Tom Handy too, and if you remember clearly even the waitress at the bar I took you to the last time also knows me by that name. It's just a sort of pseudo-identity for me," Tom rushed to explain, and Lucy gave him a nod as she let herself partially relax.

Okay. At least she wasn't the only one who had been fooled. But why? "Are you an undercover agent? Or you're a criminal hiding from the law?" Lucy asked as those were the only reasonable excuses she could understand that must have led him to come up with a false identity.

Tom looked at her with an unreadable expression in his eyes. He had actually expected her to first ask him what his real name and occupation was, as that would answer all her questions, rather than trying to understand why he was using a false identity.

"Neither. I came up with that identity some years ago when I realized that people are more honest and real with me when they believe that I'm a nobody. It's easier to know how people perceive me, and I also get to live more freely this way," Tom said, making Lucy raise a brow.

"You think Tom Handy is a nobody?" Lucy asked, looking directly into his eyes. She had felt offended when the CEO implied it earlier, and hearing it from Tom himself she felt kind of disappointed.

"Trust me, Lu, it's not about what I think. From my experience with people over time I've come to understand that if you are not wealthy, and you don't have a white-collar job, most people tend to see you as a nobody. And people usually don't take you seriously when you're a nobody," Tom explained and watched as Lucy tried to process all that he was saying.

"Hold on. That means if you had to come up with such an identity, then you're not exactly a nobody, are you?" She asked, wondering who he truly was. She knew she could easily ask him, but she was trying to process everything he was saying slowly.

Tom gave her a nod, and when he opened his mouth to say something else she raised a hand to stop him as the dots in her head started to connect.

Lucy's eyes widened in surprise when something clicked in her head, "You moved in here because of me, didn't you?" She asked, looking at him with wide eyes.

Tom held her gaze for a moment before slowly giving her a nod. The blood drained from her face and a chill ran down her spine as she quickly put some distance between them and stood up.

Oh, my God! Oh, my God! It's happening again, it's all happening again, Lucy thought in her head, as she hugged herself in a protective gesture, while he just stared at her without saying a word or making any effort to stop her.

What was he expected to say? It's not what you think? I mean no harm? I'm not a stalker like that crazy psycho? What exactly was he supposed to say? He just wanted to believe that whatever friendship they had between them was strong enough for her to understand that he meant no harm.

Lucy looked away from him as she tried to think past the fear she was feeling. Even though she was feeling scared to her bones, the smart part of her brain reminded her that, he had told her he was scared, confused, and worried after hearing her story, and that he had decided to move away from her and had put the house up for sale after hearing her story.

She was also reminded that he had told her before now that he wasn't being honest with her, so maybe it wasn't exactly the same situation. The other part of her brain, however, couldn't get past the fear.

"I could leave if you want me to," Tom suggested when she said nothing after a while, thinking that maybe this was too much information already, considering her health and mental wellbeing.

Lucy turned to look at him, and even though he was not exactly who or what she thought he was, he was still Tom to her. Although his name wasn't the same, and his occupation wasn't the same, he looked just the same.

He was opening up to her by himself and that was supposed to count for something, Lucy thought, and then paused when something else hit her again.

"Wait, the driving job at the company, you got that too because of me? I'm the lady you were talking about, am I not?" She asked, recalling that she had asked him that question some time ago and he had denied it, saying she wasn't his type. Why did he lie about that?

Tom gave her a nod, and before he could say anything, something else clicked in her head, "Oh, my God! That house... It wasn't your friend's house. It's yours, isn't it? " She asked looking at him like he was a ghost.

If she hadn't gone to the club on her own that first night, she would have also asked him now if he had come there because of her, "Who are you exactly?" She asked, still not able to make the most important connection.

Just how wealthy was he to get the apartment next to hers under such short notice and get the occupants to move out? How connected was he to have gotten the job of a driver in that company... Oh, no! The resemblance! Lucy thought with wide eyes as she made the final connection, and she shook her head in denial as she met his gaze.

One look at the shock on her face, and he knew that she had finally made the connection, "Yes.. I'm Thomas Hank."

Chapter 172 - Get Out!

Lucy's brain went blank for a full minute, as she stared at him blankly. Tom waited for her to say something or react, but instead, she walked over to her refrigerator to get herself a bottle of water. She emptied it into a glass and gulped down every drop as though she was trying to calm the storm that was building inside of her.

How had she missed the resemblance between them? Yes, she had thought the body build was similar, but how could she not have guessed that both the CEO and Tom were the same person? Probably because she hadn't been paying much attention to the CEO? Still, how did it make sense

that he would drop her off at work, and then go into his office and act so cold? She should have guessed, seeing the way he had treated Anita that day at Ocean Airlines without good reason.

Lucy replaced the glass on the table, before returning to the living room to face Tom once again, "You mean you are Thomas Hank? As in the CEO of I-Global?" She asked very calmly.

Tom looked at her helplessly, "Lucy..."

"It's a yes or no question," Lucy snapped at him, the first visible sign that she was pissed.

"Yes," Tom said with a weary sigh.

"You mean you're the same person I went out with the other day, and also earlier today? The same person who..." Lucy closed her eyes, trying to calm herself as the anger inside her threatened to bubble to the surface at the thought that he had been messing with her this whole time.

"I did that because I..."

Lucy opened her gray eyes which were the color of a storm cloud now, "Get out!" Lucy said in a very quiet voice even though the blood in her veins was pumping really hard.

She wanted to ask him so many questions, yet at the same time, she was too angry to even say anything to him. She wanted to yell and cuss at him. She wanted to throw something at him and hit him. She wanted to ask him who he thought he was to have toyed with her in that manner, but at the same time she wanted to be left alone. She just wanted to shut her door and crawl on her bed with her duvet over her head. She wanted to sleep and wake up to find that all of this had been a dream.

"Lucy I wasn't trying to mess with you..."

Tom sighed as he stood up and took a step forward, but she shook her head to stop him, "You weren't trying to mess with me? Did you just say you weren't trying to mess with me? You knew from the very first night we met that I was your employee, am I right?" She asked in a calm voice that belied the anger she was feeling.

"Not immediately. I only called Harry after you slept off to confirm your identity," Tom confessed.

"Harry? Oh, yeah! Mr. Harry. Of course, he was in on all of this. Oh, great! I must have looked like a joke to both of you. You both must have made bets, right? Care to tell me who else knows about this at the company?" Lucy asked in a slightly raised voice as she took a step from where she was to where Tom was standing with clenched fists.

"Just Harry, I promise," Tom said apologetically, wondering if she was going to hit him. It was probably going to be best if she hit him. He was willing to take her anger, but he wasn't sure he could deal with her silence. Explosive anger for him was better. At least that way he could know what she was thinking.

"The meeting was canceled that day because you knew I was lying drunk on your bed, wasn't it? How you both must have shared a good laugh at my expense over the silly lie I managed to come up with," Lucy continued as she took another step towards him while remembering all the time Mr. Harry had asked about her fiance and had even offered to fire her driver.

She closed her eyes and took in a deep breath when she remembered sharing a ride with both the CEO and Harry and how she had been exchanging texts with Tom without knowing he was in the

car with her the whole time. "The damned man had been toying with me? How did I miss that?" She asked herself angrily as she flashed back to all the first times she had met him.

First, it was at the club as a stranger, the second first time he was standing by her apartment door as her neighbor, and then the third first time he was standing in front of the company as her driver... She should have known. Her instincts had told her from the onset that it wasn't all a coincidence, but she had allowed Sonia to convince her otherwise. She has allowed him to convince her with his lies about being interested in a strange woman.

Maybe she wouldn't have been so angry had he not pulled that stunt he did earlier telling her how he wanted her, and asking her about her boyfriend. Or maybe she would have been equally mad, who knew?

Trusting people didn't come so easily to her, yet she had so easily given her trust to him. If she hadn't allowed Sonia to convince her that it was all coincidence, maybe her guards would have been up, and she would have easily spotted the similarities between Tom and the supposed CEO to know that they were the same person. Okay, this wasn't a time for maybes.

"I trusted you, but not even once did you trust me. Leave, Tom... Or should I call you Mr. Hank? Please leave, I want nothing to do with you anymore," she said, walking to her door and opening it for him to leave.

"Lucy just give me a..."

"I have nothing to give to you. And even if I did, I'm not giving you anything! You know what? You really do deserve someone like Anita. I want you to leave now," Lucy said as she turned her gaze away from him. She was feeling pained and betrayed.

Tom felt slightly hurt as he looked at Lucy who had her hands on the doorknob and was looking outside as she waited for him to exit her apartment. Although he could understand how she felt he also expected her to understand him better.

He walked towards her and once he got to the door he stopped, "All I wanted was to know you without my social status getting in the way. And all those times I appeared before you as Thomas Hank, were times when I missed you so much and could only spend time with you as the CEO and not your driver. Ask yourself if you would have ever given me a chance to know you had I told you from the first time we met that I was Thomas Hank," Tom said, and then walked away without waiting to hear if she had anything else to say.

Once he left, Lucy shut the door and collapsed on the ground. She felt cold and hot at the same time. Watching him walk away left a sort of void in her heart. Although she was mad at him, she felt like she had just lost a friend. She had gone from a cloud nine to zero. Now she felt empty.

His last words to her kept resounding in her head, but Lucy shut her ears to block them off. No matter what his reasons were, his deceit was inexcusable. She had trusted him, and he had deceived her. That wasn't something she could easily forgive.

She cringed in embarrassment when she remembered all the times she had told him about the CEO in confidence not knowing he was the one. Her blood boiled in anger when she recalled how he had

asked her what she thought about the CEO, and how he had asked her to show him the CEO's picture when she eventually sees his face.

She sat up when it suddenly dawned on her that if Tom was the CEO, that meant Bryan Hank was his brother! Was Bryan in on his brother's deception? Was Sonia aware? Did she possibly know that the same driver she had been telling her about this whole time was none other than her fiance's older brother? She stood up and walked over to the table to pick up her phone. She needed to speak with Sonia.

Once Tom got outside, he let out a sigh and turned to look at Lucy's apartment. How could he make her feel better? He didn't exactly regret his actions, as he knew would do exactly the same thing all over again as long as it helped him get closer to her. He only wished she would understand that he hadn't done any of it merely for the sake of having fun. He had done this just so that he could know her and she would know him too. Was he supposed to give her space now to sort out her feelings, or was he to keep showing up around her until she had no other choice than to forgive him?

He probably should have talked things through with his siblings before telling Lucy the truth. They would have come up with a better approach rather than the one he had just taken.. Perhaps this was the right time to speak with them, Tom reasoned as he took out his phone to dial his brother's line.

Chapter 173 - Tom Is My Boss

As Sonia was unable to reach Lucy earlier, she had decided to use the bathroom and then wipe off what little make-up that was on her face before she returned to where Bryan was still seated on the couch. The only difference between the time she left him and now was that his head was resting against the headrest and his eyes were closed as if he had dozed off.

She leaned forward and pressed her lips against his, making his lips curve in a smile as his hands automatically went around her waist to hold her in place, "Am I to assume you have a thing for my lips, or you just love stealing kisses?" He whispered against her lips, as he opened his pair of amused blue eyes to gaze into her green eyes.

Sonia grinned as she tried to pull away from him, "I wasn't stealing a kiss. I was only paying off my debt," Sonia said reminding him of the kiss she had promised to give him earlier after Mia interrupted their moment together in his bedroom.

"That is really a lousy way to pay a debt. Never mind, I will just collect it myself," Bryan said as he placed a hand on the back of her head to hold her in place as he deepened the kiss, making her blood pound.

He pulled Sonia to himself so that she straddled his thighs, and his hands ran down her back, grabbing her ass and squeezing it softly. Sonia's heart thudded against his chest, in sync with his heartbeat, and she let out a soft moan as she kissed him back, burying the fingers of her left hand in his hair while her right hand moved between them to caress his broad muscled chest.

Bryan kissed around the edges of her lips and then opened his eyes as he kissed his way down to her chin, and then slowly found his way to her neck, dropping light kisses as he moved, while his hands snaked around her waist until they found their way under her gown.

Sonia closed her eyes and threw her head back as she gave him more access to her neck while moaning softly. Her heartbeat increased following the movement of his hands, and her breath came

in shallow gasps as his breath fanned her neck. She gave a throaty moan when he let his teeth graze her jaw, and her hand moved to stroke his back.

Just when she reached to take off his polo shirt, Bryan grabbed her hand, and she opened her eyes to give him a questioning look.

"I intend to frustrate you, Sonia Smith," Bryan said with a wicked glint in his eyes, reminding her of what she had done to him the last time she seduced him on his bed.

Although Sonia was burning with a need for him, she threw back her head to laugh, "Nice one, Bryan. Very nice," she said with a nod of approval as she got off his thighs.

"I know, right?" Bryan said with a grin, even though the bulge in his trousers was visible to them both. He wanted to do so much with her, but not just yet. Perhaps if it was another lady, he would have gone all-in and had sex with her, but seeing just how enthusiastic Sonia was about having sex with him, he wasn't in a hurry.

Sonia smiled at him as she just sat back and looked into his eyes, "Why do you look so fine? Or is it just my eyes?" Sonia asked, making Bryan chuckle.

"Perhaps it's just your eyes. Your feelings are making you blind," Bryan said before remembering to ask, "I thought you wanted to talk to Lucy? Have you done that yet?" He asked curiously.

"Yeah, she busied my call, so I'm waiting for her to call back... Oh! She's calling now," Sonia announced when her phone started ringing and she picked it up.

"Hey, baby!" She greeted as she sat up and turned away from Bryan.

"Are you alone? Is Bryan there with you?" Lucy asked in an urgent tone which caused Sonia's brows to pull together as she turned to look at Bryan while wondering what was going on with Lucy. She didn't sound like she was fine.

"Uhm, sort of. Why?"

"Could you go somewhere else? Somewhere we could talk in private?" Lucy asked, and Sonia stood up at once, but not without mouthing to Bryan to excuse her.

Bryan gave her a sad pout like he was sad to watch her leave, and slapped her ass playfully, making Sonia glare at him playfully too as she hurried away. Before she completely disappeared out of his sight, his phone started ringing and he quickly picked it up when he realized that it was a call from Tom. It was only just then that he realized that he hadn't talked to Tom in a while.

"What's going on, Lu? Are you okay?" Sonia asked as she walked into the guestroom she had been using and shut the door before going into the bathroom.

"I don't think I'm okay. I'm not fine. One moment everything was fine and going so perfectly, and the next minute it just feels like... Like I'm about to lose my mind," Lucy cried as she broke into a sob, unable to hold back the tears anymore.

Sonia's brows creased with a frown as she tried to make sense of what Lucy had just said, "Calm down, Lu. Please don't cry. What's wrong? Did Tom do something?" Sonia asked, reasoning that

whatever was wrong with Lucy had to be connected with Tom as he was the only person who was close to her over there.

Lucy sobbed for a while and then she took off her glasses to wipe the tears off her eyes with the back of her hand, and dropped the glasses on the table. It wasn't like she needed the glasses to speak to Sonia.

"Did you know that Tom is the same person as Thomas Hank?" Lucy asked with a snuffle, and Sonia's heart skipped a beat.

"What are you talking about?" Sonia asked in confusion. Although she had written in the manuscript of her novel that Lucy's driver was also her boss, she hadn't expected it to be true. Lucy's driver was actually Bryan's brother?

"You heard me. Tom is my boss. He deceived me! He lied to me after I trusted him. To think that I was almost falling for him and now this..."

"Slow down, Lu. Just calm down and slowly tell me all that transpired between you both," Sonia said as she cut off Lucy's bitter diatribe.. Had Lucy not been crying, she would have been over the moon with joy that Lucy had said she was falling for Tom.

Chapter 174 - Valid Point

Tears dropped from Sonia's eyes as she patiently listened while Lucy told her everything that happened between her and Tom. Lucy's voice was pained as she narrated how she had finally decided to act like Tom's girlfriend, and how they had ended up having sex. She also told her how she had been woken up by Tom while having a nightmare, and Sonia was shocked to hear that Lucy had fainted while talking to Tom about the traumatic experience, but more than that she was surprised that Lucy had actually decided to talk about it after so many years of keeping it to herself.

To date, Lucy was yet to tell any of them exactly what had transpired between her and Jason when he abducted her. They had all assumed that perhaps she must have lost the memory of the event, and her sleeplessness and nightmares were just the adverse results of Jason stalking her, not what happened in that room where he had kept her. All they knew about it was that by the time the police got to where Jason had been hiding her, he was lying lifeless on the ground in the pool of his blood, while Lucy was lying naked and unconscious too.

Throughout the court proceedings that followed his death, Lucy had remained mute and had just kept staring into space with unseeing eyes. It had been Sonia who testified to the court how Jason had been stalking Lucy and harassing every guy that came around her. Her parents had cut her off angrily since it was Sonia's testimony and that of the guys who had been harassed by Jason, that cleared Lucy. Her parents had wanted Lucy to be punished for the death of their son since they had cleared every evidence from Jason's bedroom the moment Sonia told it to them that Lucy was missing and Jason was the suspect.

Sleeping had become so difficult for Lucy that the few times she managed to doze off, she would wake up screaming and crying. She had been admitted to the hospital for treatment, as the doctors said she was still in shock. Once she was discharged from the hospital weeks later, she had started taking sleeping pills and alcohol to sleep, and that had continued for years. None of them had been able to broach the subject with her, seeing how she didn't voluntarily raise the subject herself.

Seeing now how she had easily opened up to Tom, Sonia could tell that she wasn't just falling for Tom, but rather she had fallen in love with him. It broke her heart to see that now that Lucy had finally managed to come out of her shell after such a long time, she was hurting this way.

By the time Lucy finished speaking, they had stopped crying, and Sonia could also see things from Tom's perspective, but she was smart enough to know that it wasn't the right time to point out to her that it was very possible that Tom hadn't meant to toy with her as she was assuming.

So instead, Sonia did as every best friend would do, "How dare he do that to you? What right did he have to mess with you that way? I should take the next available flight down there and kick his two-faced ass," Sonia said dramatically, and then paused, "Come to think of it, maybe if you had slept with your boss as well, you would have noticed the similarities in action or maybe the shape and size of..."

"Sonia this is not the time," Lucy chided her, even though her lips were curved in a smile at Sonia's joke.

"I know. I'm so sorry, Lu. I honestly can't say I understand how you feel, but I know you're smart and you're going to figure out a way to deal with it... Just don't push him away. Tom is not Jamie. He opened up to you himself. He even put the house up for sale already and quit his job..."

"His fake job," Lucy pointed out.

"It doesn't matter, Lu. If he didn't care about you or let's say if he was toying with you as you think was, he wouldn't care about your feelings, and you know it! He would have easily continued with it until you find out yourself, but he stopped because he didn't want to hurt or scare you. So please whatever you do, don't be too harsh on him. It's the first time you're like this with a guy, so don't allow his own insecurities ruin things," Sonia pleaded.

Lucy's eyes glistened with tears once again, "But he lied to me. He tested me..."

"Tell me if you were in his shoes you wouldn't resort to the same measure to find love. Tell me if you were him and had encountered ladies like Anita, you wouldn't be suspicious of every other lady that comes your way? He liked you enough to leave his mansion and live next to your little apartment. He liked you enough to leave his office and work beside you as your driver. Have you even considered the amount of stress he must have passed through just to keep up with you?" Sonia asked reasonably.

"I didn't ask him to do any of that!" Lucy snapped at Sonia, angry that she was defending Tom.

"You would never have gotten to know him or fall for him had he not done what he did!" Sonia snapped right back.

"Are you on my side or his? Don't tell me you're supporting him now because you have a thing with his brother," Lucy said in a slightly annoyed tone.

"I'm on the side of whatever makes you happy, Lu. I admit that what Tom did was wrong, but it's not an unforgivable offense. I would be just as pissed as you are if I were in your shoes, and believe me I would have hit him with whatever was closest to me at the time. However, I also know that I

wouldn't throw out the baby with the bathwater. Get some rest, Lu, and think over this once again when your head is clear. And you can be rest assured that I will support whatever decision you make at the end," Sonia promised, making Lucy sigh.

She hated that Sonia could speak so wisely a times. And she hated it more because she was still very pissed, yet she knew that Sonia had made very many valid points, "And what about Bryan? You're sure he wasn't aware of this?" Lucy asked, and Sonia narrowed her eyes thoughtfully when she remembered all the times that Bryan had kept pressuring her to tell him about Lucy. Of course, the rat was aware. Little wonder she had been unable to find anything about Tom around the house.

"Let me deal with Bryan myself, just focus on getting over your hurt and forgiving Tom. Now I'm curious to see Anita's face when she finds out she left Tom because he is broke, yet will be going through so much stress to seduce him. Hurry up and forgive him before she shows up again," Sonia urged Lucy, and when she heard the disconnect tone, she could tell that Lucy was still very upset.

With a sigh Sonia got off the toilet seat, and readied herself to go confront Bryan.

Chapter 175 - On One Condition

Harry watched Jade as she ate her food in silence while he sipped from his glass of wine. He wasn't exactly hungry but had come out for lunch because he wanted her to eat as she looked too thin for his liking. He wasn't sure she has had a decent meal in a long while.

"For someone who claimed to be hungry, you haven't touched your food," Jade pointed out calmly without looking at him, although she could tell that he staring at her.

"I've been too hard on you, right?" Harry asked, and Jade's lips quirked as she raised her head to meet his gaze.

"You've been an asshole," Jade admitted with a nod, but she no longer sounded very upset.

"I know. It's probably going to be stupid of me to apologize once again," Harry said with a crooked smile, and Jade gave him a nod.

She cleared her throat, "You really don't have to stay with me though. I'm a big girl, I can take care of myself," Jade assured him, looking directly into his brown eyes.

'Yeah, I can see how well you managed to take care of yourself,' Harry thought to himself but bit back the urge to say it. The last thing he wanted was to offend her in public and have her snapping his head off at the five-star restaurant where they were having lunch, "I don't doubt that you can take care of yourself," Harry said, but Jade narrowed her eyes at him.

"That wasn't what you wanted to say, was it?" She asked, watching him keenly, and Harry chuckled before he could stop himself.

"I'd rather not say that. I've argued with you more times in just a few hours than I have done with anyone else my entire life," Harry confessed, and she raised a brow.

"Not even your sisters?" Jade asked in disbelief, recalling how many arguments and fights she had growing up with her brothers, especially Bryan who always seemed to get her on her nerves.

"I'm an only child," Harry informed her, and her lips rounded in a silent o.

"And your girlfriend?" She asked curiously.

"If I had a girlfriend, I wouldn't be here looking after you now, would I?" Harry asked with a slightly raised brow, and Jade shook her head.

"But you have had girlfriends in the past, haven't you?" Jade asked, and Harry's right brow quirked as he narrowed his eyes at her.

"Are you asking me about my love life, Esquire?" He asked suspiciously, and Jade giggled.

"You wish. I'm only asking because of what you said. So I'm just wondering what kind of angel you must have dated to have never gotten into arguments with her," Jade said with an indifferent shrug as she returned her attention to the shrimp dish in front of her.

"Well, after experiencing the power of my tongue first hand, what do you think?" Harry asked with a wry smile, and Jade looked at him for a second before shaking her head.

"You're kidding, right?" She asked in disbelief, and Harry chuckled when she added, "Don't tell me you've never been in a relationship before?"

"Well, I did meet someone once for a blind date, and she walked out and never returned after I told her the makeup looked funny on her," Harry said with a wince, and Jade burst into a peal of laughter before she could stop herself.

"You're impossible," Jade said with a shake of her head feeling sorry for the lady whoever she was that Harry had done that to.

"Yeah. I know. What about you?" Harry asked, watching her curiously.

"What about me what?" Jade asked in confusion, even though he could still see the mirth in her eyes.

"No man in your life? I heard about your fiance's death, I'm sorry," he added as an afterthought, even though there was nothing in his tone that showed he was sorry.

Harry watched as the mirth died in her eyes, and she pressed her lips together briefly before flashing him a stiff smile, "Now you're curious about my love life?" She asked with forced humor, and Harry could tell she was trying to change the subject.

"Yes, I am. So tell me, do you have a boyfriend?" Harry asked, even though Tom had already told him that she was single. He figured that she might not be dating, but it was possible she had a man in her life, maybe a friend with benefits kind of arrangement, or a lover she was keeping hidden from her family.

"Why? You want to know if there is someone you can hand me over to, who would watch over me in your stead?" Jade asked with a teasing smile as she stylishly avoided his question.

"I want to know if there's someone I might get into a dirty fight with over living with you," Harry said instead, and Jade sighed when she realized that he was not going to drop the subject unless she answered his question.

"No. There's no one."

"Good then. So you won't have a problem with moving from your home to the hotel, right? We could work from the comfort of the hotel suite while having our own bedroom," Harry suggested.

"That would send a message of fear to them. They would think I ran away from my home because I am scared," Jade said with a frown, not liking that idea.

"Why should you care about what the criminals think? All that should matter to you is that you are safe while gathering all the evidence you need against them until the day you have to be in court, right? It's best if they believe you ran away. That way they would let their guards down, thinking you're out of the picture," Harry suggested, and Jade pursed her lips as she thought about it.

"Maybe you have a point," Jade said with a nod.

"So now that we have gotten that out of the way, how about you tell me all I need to know about the case? That way my men can know what to look out for," Harry said, and Jade gave him a nod.

"It involves the lords of a drug cartel. The cartel is known as the Legion..."

"Hold on, the Legion?" Harry interrupted, recalling that the men he had asked to go after the private investigator had informed him a while ago that the private investigator had been picked up by members of a gang known as the Legion.

"Yes. Do you know about them?" Jade asked curiously when she noticed the frown on his brow.

"Yeah... They picked up a private investigator today..."

"What private investigator? How do you know about it?" Jade asked, and she listened with keen interest as Harry gave her the details.

By the time he was done her eyes were narrowed thoughtfully as she looked at him, "Would it be possible for your men to find out who they asked him to find?" Jade asked hopefully, and Harry smirked.

"Sure. On one condition though," Harry said, and Jade's brows furrowed.

"What?" She asked in confusion.

"Admit that you need my help, and you want me here," Harry said with a grin.

Chapter 176 - Fire For Fire

"You could have at least let me know about your plans before confessing to her!" Bryan hissed at his brother under his breath after Tom explained the current situation of things to him.

He could tell that the phone call between Sonia and Lucy had to do with this, and he knew that if he didn't handle things properly he was going to be fighting with Sonia over it.

It wasn't like he was there when Tom decided to be Lucy's neighbor or driver. He had only been brought into the picture after Tom had done all of that, so he wasn't going to allow Sonia to give him hell over this issue.

"You're right, I should have done that. I'm sorry. I was worried about her, so I really wasn't thinking straight," Tom confessed apologetically.

"Well, the deed has been done. What do you want to do about it now?" Bryan asked curiously as he tapped his fingers on the couch thoughtfully while trying to come up with the best way to handle Sonia when she comes flying through the door like an angry dragon.

"I wish I knew what to do. She seemed really upset," Tom said sadly.

"Rightly so. Anyone would be mad in her shoes. But seeing how she didn't hit you, I'll take that as a good sign. I'm certain she would be logical enough to see that you meant her no harm," Bryan said, sounding optimistic.

"I really hope so. What do you suggest? Should I stay away from her and give her time to think things through, or do you think I should keep showing up on her doorstep until she chooses to hear me out and forgive me?"

"For starters, I'll suggest you hold off on the sale of the house until you're able to sort things out with her. So don't move out of that apartment yet. Allow her to make that decision herself. It's good enough that now she knows you are there because of her, so there's no need to sell it off unless she wants you to," Bryan suggested, and it was Tom who sighed this time.

When it came to women, he was clueless. He had spent the earlier part of his life trying to be rich while guys his age focused on chasing girls.

"Don't let it bother you too much, she will come around. I will see what I can get from Sonia on it. She is on the phone with her at the moment," Bryan said, reminding Tom that his fiancée was Lucy's best friend.

"Oh, yeah! That's right. Please I would love to speak with Sonia after you talk to her," Tom pleaded, and Bryan turned when he heard Sonia slam a door.

"Sure. I'll give you a call later," Bryan said and quickly hung up. He opened his Instagram page and pretended to be busy scrolling through pictures as Sonia walked into the living room.

His gaze remained on the phone's screen even and he heard her footsteps stop in front of him. When she said nothing after a while, he raised his head to meet her gaze and saw her glaring at him with her arms akimbo.

"At least my real name is Bryan Hank," he said, offering her a sheepish smile.

"So you knew about it? You were aware the whole time," Sonia said in an accusatory tone, and Bryan's brows shot up.

"Yes, I knew. And so?" He fired back, returning her glare. He knew that with Sonia a simple apology wouldn't cut it, and he wasn't even ready to apologize for a crime he didn't commit, so it was best to fight her back fire for fire.

"And so? You pretended not to know that..."

"Did I? You mean the same way you pretended not to know that my brother was your best friend's boss and kept asking me questions about him so that you could feed Lucy with information about him?" Bryan asked accusingly.

"That was different! At least she didn't go to him pretending to be someone she wasn't!" Sonia said defensively as she folded both hands in front of her.

"Seriously? Do you really want us to fight over something like this? My name is not Tom, and the last time I checked your name is definitely not Lucy either, so I don't see any reason why we are having this ridiculous argument right now! I'm not going to fight with you over their lover's spat!" Bryan said in a warning tone.

"You call this a lover's spat? How can you call something like this a lover's spat? Your brother deceived my best friend! He broke her trust, and trust doesn't come easily to her!" Sonia snapped at him.

"Then shouldn't he be the one at the receiving end of your anger? Why am I the one you're glaring and yelling at? Do I look like my brother? Were you there when they met? Was I there? Listen to me, if you're not going to be helpful in this situation, then stay out of it!" Bryan snapped at her before moving from the couch onto his wheelchair.

Sonia took in a deep breath to calm herself. She knew that he was right, but she hadn't exactly expected him to react this way. She had come out expecting to breathe out fire and for him to apologize, "So you're not going to apologize?" Sonia asked, standing in front of his wheelchair and blocking his path.

Seeing how she was begging for an apology, he could tell that he had won this fight. He had successfully dodged this fight. And although he felt triumphant and wanted to smile, he didn't let it show on his face, and decided to keep up the act instead, "What am I apologizing for? You stubbornly barged into my home as my fiancée, did you expect me to come to you and give you such a family secret?" Bryan asked, meeting her gaze squarely.

"How long have you known about your brother's relationship with Lucy under false pretense?" Sonia asked without answering his question.

"Before you got there," Bryan said with an indifferent shrug.

"And when did you find out that the lady in question was my best friend?" Sonia asked once again.

"The morning after you got here," Bryan confessed, and then reached out a hand to grab Sonia's arm, "Let's not fight over this, okay? Tom really means your friend no harm. He just wanted to be sure about her feelings for him, that's all. So rather than fight over it, let's put our heads together and figure out a way to help them be together," Bryan pleaded as he pulled her to sit on his thighs.

Sonia felt butterflies flutter in her stomach when she weakly sat on his thighs, and Bryan brushed his lips against her neck, and kissed her earlobe, "I'm still mad at you," Sonia said in a weak voice as she surrendered to him, while admitting to herself that she had lost this round to Bryan.

"And I'm still not going to apologize because we both know that I didn't do anything wrong.. I protected my brother's interest the same way you were protecting your best friend's interest, so why don't we kiss and make up?" Bryan whispered in a husky voice as his lips found hers.

Chapter 177 - The Case

On hearing Harry's condition, Jade raised a brow, "Why should I do that?" She asked flatly.

Harry picked up his phone and without her knowledge, and clicked on his voice recorder, "That is the only way I can be sure that you won't be yelling at me later, saying you didn't ask for my help," Harry pointed out.

Like the logical lady she was, Jade considered his request for a moment. She did need all the information he had already as well as all the information he could help her get with his connection. And yes, she also needed him around, not because she couldn't protect herself if push came to shove, but because she would feel less scared if she had someone with her, especially someone as capable as him. She had to admit that since he showed up on her doorstep she had forgotten about her fears and neither had she had the chance to think about what happened earlier that morning.

Jade swallowed hard, "I need your help. And I want you here with me," she admitted, looking him squarely in the eyes.

"Woah! I didn't expect you to agree to that so easily," Harry exclaimed, looking at her in surprise as he stopped the voice recorder.

Jade's lips twitched in amusement at his reaction, "Why not?"

"You seem like the very proud and stubborn type. I didn't think you'd be able to swallow your pride to ask for my help," Harry explained with a shrug, and Jade giggled.

"Well, I may be proud and stubborn, but I'm not stupid. I'm smart enough to know when I need help, and although it hurts my pride to admit it, I do need your help," Jade said as she raised her wineglass to her lips and took a sip from it.

Harry grinned at her, "I'm glad to offer my help then," he said as he played the recorded speech of what she had just said.

Jade raised a brow when she heard her voice coming from his phone, "You recorded that?"

"Yep. I'm dealing with a lawyer, so I need to have my evidence. Whenever you start acting up, all I need to do is remind you that you asked for my help," Harry said with a wink.

Despite her amusement, Jade shook her head as she pushed the meal away from her while nursing her glass of wine, "So, can you ask your men to find out what the private investigator is up to?" She asked, returning his attention to the subject.

"Sure. Excuse me for a moment. I need to make the call," Harry said as he pushed away from the table, wanting to stand up.

"That won't be necessary. Why don't we leave instead? I'm done eating, and it's not like you have any plans to touch yours anyway," Jade pointed out as she gulped down the wine and also pushed away from the table as she signaled to a waiter, "Please pack this up," Jade said, referring to Harry's untouched meal.

Harry watched her in amusement, surprised that someone like her would care about something like that, "You want us to leave with that?" Harry asked incredulously after the waiter left to do as he was told.

"Didn't we pay for it? You didn't touch it, so unless they're going to refund the money, we should leave with the food. I have nothing in my refrigerator, so this could serve as your dinner," Jade explained reasonably, making Harry chuckle.

"I'm surprised."

"Why? You seem to be forgetting that my brothers are the wealthy ones. I'm not at their level yet," Jade pointed out as she stood up and took the food from the waiter.

"Sure," Harry said as he stood up, and took out his wallet. He dropped some dollar notes on the table before walking away with Jade.

They walked out together and once they got to the car, Harry walked over to Jade's side of the car and held the door open, making her raise a brow, "You're actually a gentleman in deeds but not in words, aren't you?" She asked in amusement seeing how he had helped her with the car door despite her mood when they were leaving the house earlier, and also how he had pulled out a seat for her at the restaurant.

Harry grinned at her, "Going forward I will be more mindful of my words around you," he promised her as she got into the car, and once he shut the door he went around the car and got into his seat.

Once he was seated, Jade watched him curiously as he took out his phone and dialed a number before raising it to his ear, "Hey, Boyd! You mentioned earlier that members of the Legion gang picked up the private investigator, didn't you?" Harry asked, and nodded when the man said something.

"Good. Have one of the men on his tail. Find out who he is searching for, and report back to me as soon as you find anything," Harry instructed before hanging up the call.

"Done," he said as he turned to look at Jade.

"Thank you," Jade said with clearly impressed smile, "So who will be looking after the company in your absence?" Jade asked curiously.

"Your brother. Unless you want him here with you while I return to look after the company," Harry suggested playfully.

"You'd probably still be the one doing everything from that end. He says you're very reliable," Jade said with a small smile.

No longer feeling very comfortable with the small talk, Harry cleared his throat as he turned on the car's ignition and drove off "Uhm... Can you go on with the story. Tell me all I need to know about the case," Harry urged her, reminding her that she had been about to tell him about the case she was working on before he interrupted her.

Jade pursed her lips thoughtfully, "Okay... I started working on this case about three years ago when a group of teenage boys Od'd on a hard substance..." Jade started, and then stopped when Harry turned to look at her in confusion.

"I mean overdosed. Their bodies were found alongside the illegal substance they had sniffed. Investigations started, and we found out that the kids were testers..."

"Kids? Why would anyone give hard substance to kids?" Harry asked, looking rather perplexed.

"I know, right? A member of the legion group had cooked up the drug and had given it to one of the street kids to try it out. Unfortunately for them he tried it out with a couple of friends at a party, and

one of the kids present there happened to be from quite an influential family... And so the case was followed up seriously..."

"Oh, yeah! I think I know the case you're talking about. It was all over the news back then, but it wasn't announced on the news that any of the kids was from an influential family, and I also didn't know that you were in charge of that case," Harry said, remembering how that news had made waves for several months.

"You don't expect any respectable family to put out such a dirty detail to the public, do you? They tried to hide it as best as they could while also trying to ensure that the case wasn't swept under the rug. And yes, I wasn't in charge of the case at first... As a matter of fact, our law firm wasn't in charge of the case. The law firm which was working on it withdrew from it without giving the family any tangible reason, hence our firm was brought in to take over. I volunteered to take up the case when everyone else seemed to be too scared to fight against the cartel. That was the first major case I handled, and I guess my superiors let me do it because they probably believed a rookie like me didn't stand a chance against the gang."

"I'm sure you proved them wrong," Harry said with a proud smile.

"You bet I did! I proved them wrong and was promoted above my colleagues after I won the case," Jade said with a grin.

"If I may ask, why did you accept the case when everyone else was too scared to take it up?" Harry asked curiously, and Jade looked away for only a moment.

"I guess I wasn't scared to die at the time. Or maybe I needed the distraction, and I didn't mind death," she said with a shrug, and Harry realized that it was around the time after her fiance died.

"So if you won the case already, why are you on it again?" Harry asked, returning her attention to the subject as he didn't want her to think about the past.

"The first case was about getting justice for the family of the dead kids, and the only person who was sentenced was Jero. He took the fall for the gang as he was the one who gave the kid the hard drug even though it was on the orders of the kingpin." Jade explained.

"I see."

"Yeah. The case I'm working on at the moment involves the kingpin of the cartel. Three members of the gang defaulted in making their payments, and two among them were killed in cold blood. The third escaped but not without getting evidence against the gang. He reached out to me some days ago but has now gone missing. As if that's not enough I went to the correctional facility where Jero was being held a few days ago, and I found out that he's no longer there," Jade explained, and Harry's brows creased with a frown.

"Perhaps the cartel got him out?" Harry asked thoughtfully.

"They didn't. I suspect they tried to get rid of him, but he escaped," Jade with a sigh.

"Isn't all of this too dangerous for you? I understand that you wanted to die three years ago, but what about now? Why are you risking your life?" Harry asked, turning to spare her a glance.

"I handled it the first time, so it's only fitting that I take care of it again. This has nothing to do with me wanting to die," Jade explained, and Harry gave her a nod.

"What would be your plan B if we find out that your only witness is dead?" Harry asked her thoughtfully with his gaze fixed on the road.

Jade looked at him with a worried frown, "Why are you asking me that? Do you know something? Is he dead?"

Harry turned to spare her a glance, "I'm just asking. You need to always prepare your mind for the worst-case scenario," he reminded her.

"Sure. I hope he's still alive... But if he isn't, then I would have to try out my other options," Jade said thoughtfully.

"And what are the other options? Maybe we could start checking those out while still searching for him," Harry suggested.

"I need to find Jero's baby mama. She testified against him at his last trial, and I know that if he escaped from prison, he is likely going to be looking for her. To find Jero, I need to find her first, and maybe I can convince Jero to testify against the gang," Jade said thoughtfully.

"What is the name of this baby mama you want to find?" Harry asked curiously.

"Her name is Candace.. Candace Roberts."

Chapter 178 - Suitable Punishment

"So?" Brandy asked when she opened the door to the dressing room and saw Candy who was humming a tune as she sat in front of the mirror dressing up for the evening.

Brandy was fond of starting conversations with such weird questions, so Candy wasn't surprised by it. Instead, she asked the only question she knew that Brandy expected from her, "So what?" Candy asked as she touched up the red lipstick on her lips and then adjusted the orange afro wig on her head.

Brandy walked further into the room and sat down beside Candy. She had just finished her first performance for the evening and wanted to have a word with Candy who was alone in the dressing room, "Have you heard from him since Sunday?" Brandy asked as she eyed Candy with interest.

"Heard from who?" Candy asked even though she knew who her sister was referring to. The only guy they had seen on Sunday was Matt who had come to her house uninvited.

Brandy smiled since she knew that Candy was trying to frustrate her with her pretense not to know who she was talking about so that she would get frustrated and give up questioning her, "It's not going to work, Candace. Have you heard from Matt since he left the house?"

"Am I supposed to hear from him after I clearly asked him to stay away from me? I told him that I'm not interested in him and I don't want any sort of relationship with him, remember?" Candy asked with a stubborn lift of her brow as she fished inside her makeup bag for her false lashes and started to fix them on.

"So are you going to tell me that you don't miss him? You don't miss the chats and phone calls you used to exchange with him?" Brandy asked, and Candy turned to look at her in irritation, "Don't

even deny it, I've caught you staring at your phone several times like you're expecting a call or text from him,"

"You still don't get it, do you? This has nothing to do with me missing him. I may like him as you believe, but I have to put Jamal's safety before my emotions. If any of you-know-who's men find out where we are..."

"It has been two years already since he went to jail. I'm sure his boys must have forgotten about us, and have stopped searching for you by now. How much longer do you intend to hide? You've put your life on hold long enough because of something we both know you needed to do for us to be free!" Brandy pointed out, and Candy shook her head.

"We both know him. He takes betrayal to heart, and he never lets go of a grudge. He is never going to forgive me for testifying against him, and he is going to want to have his revenge and take Jamal away from me," Candy said with worried eyes, as she thought about the crazy man she had been involved with in the past.

It had taken all of her courage to approach the lawyer in charge of the case with evidence of most of the shady deals that could keep him in prison for the rest of his life. She hadn't wanted to kill him... Or maybe she had wanted to do so but she had been too scared to do it. Hence she had taken the only other option she knew how to get rid of him, and that was by sending him away to jail.

"Did he honestly expect any of us to be loyal to him? After everything he did to you? After the way he treated us? After the verbal and emotional abuse we passed through in his hands? That bastard should have seen it coming from the start!" Brandy spat out angrily, as her blood boiled in anger when she remembered how Jero had constantly insulted and abused them. How he would sometimes force her to go out with his boss and other men while he kept the money. How he emptied hers and Candace's savings without their knowledge and used it for God knows what.

"Get a grip on yourself, Andy. That's not the point. I'm just saying I can't get involved with Matt, so quit asking me about him," Candy pleaded, lowering her voice when the door opened and a stripper walked in.

"And I'm saying, who else to protect you rather than someone as wealthy as he is? Someone who has got the fame? Besides, I think Jamal is old enough to know what his mother and aunty do for a living. We are not whores. We are exotic dancers, and it is a legal profession! We need to explain what we do to him now that we can, that way he won't be confused or embarrassed when he hears about it elsewhere," Brandy insisted stubbornly, and Candy sighed.

"Fine. I'm going to think about it," Candy said and Brandy shook her head.

"There is nothing to think about..."

"What do you expect me to do? Call Matt and tell him that I've changed my mind?" Candy snapped at Brandy who wasn't willing to drop the subject.

"Well, for starters you don't have to call him. You could just walk over to VVIP room 5, and grant him an audience. He is waiting for you," Brandy said with a wink and grinned when Candace's eyes widened slightly.

"He is here?" She asked, glancing at the door in alarm.

"Yep. So don't keep him waiting for too long. You can keep your relationship a secret all you want, but just don't push him away. You deserve to be happy," Brandy said, taking Candy's hand in her own and squeezing it softly.

Candy felt butterflies flutter in her stomach as she stood up, "Why didn't you just say he was here from the start?" She asked Brandy with a scowl.

"Because I was trying to get you mentally ready to meet him. I'm more like a forerunner," Brandy said with a wink as she picked up Candy's makeup bag and got busy with powdering up her face.

"See you later," Candy said as she glanced at her appearance in the mirror once again before walking out of the room nervously while her heart kept beating very fast.

Once she got to the door of the room where Matt was waiting for her, she adjusted the strap of the black lace teddy she was wearing, and then took in a deep breath before pushing the door open.

As it was the last time, the room was dark save for the spotlight which was on both the right and left sides of the room. She shut the door behind her and remained standing there while thinking about whether or not to follow Brandy's advice. If she was going to get involved with Matt as she wanted to, then she had to let him know who she was and what he was getting himself involved in.

"Hi!" Matt greeted from where he was seated nursing a glass of wine. He had thought he was going to be able to stay away from her for a long period, but he had been in a foul mood for the past couple of days since he last saw her, and somehow he had found himself here once again waiting for her. He just wanted to see her.

"I was told you asked for me," Candy asked cautiously as she didn't want to be ahead of herself.

"Yes, I did."

"Why? Are you here for my dance performance or do you want us to talk?" Candy asked in a less guarded tone this time.

"It depends on what you want. I'm fine with whichever you choose as long as I can see you," Matt said, and Candy gave him a nod as she walked over to where the music was and turned on the player.

Matt sat up, expecting her to dance, but instead, she walked directly to where he was and straddled his thighs, "Let's talk."

Lucy lay on her bed thinking about Tom and everything both he and Sonia had said. She suddenly burst into a peal of uncontrollable laughter when she recalled that just earlier that morning she had lied to her parents that she was dating her boss. She laughed so hard that tears started falling from her eyes.

Who would have thought that she was actually saying the truth? Her subconscious had probably picked up on the resemblance between them while she was being too slow to make the connection. She should have known that something was up when she started feeling so comfortable in her boss's presence.

Now she didn't know how she was supposed to feel. On one hand, she was thankful that he had opened up to her about the truth, while on the other hand, she felt sad that he had broken her trust. The most annoying and painful thing about her anger was the fact that she missed his presence despite her anger.

Another thing she found annoying was that although she was angry, she understood him and why he had done what he did. It was annoying too because she knew that if he hadn't done it that way, they truly wouldn't have been as close as they were at the moment, yet she couldn't stop feeling mad that he had fooled her.

Lucy sighed. Did it make sense that she was mad that he had broken her trust yet she also understood why he had done it and knew that she would probably have done the same in his shoes?

Slowly her brain replayed every moment she had spent with Tom from the moment she met him and she tried to remember all they had talked about. She cringed when she remembered how she had asked that they change her driver, and how Tom had spoken to her over the phone and how she had stuttered like a fool.

She raised both hands to her face in embarrassment when she remembered all the time she had sat in the backseat of the car like the boss, and how she had confessed to Tom that she had asked the management to change her driver.

As annoying as the whole situation was, she had to admit to herself that it was also funny. Tom must have had a good laugh at her expense whether or not it was meant to be fun for him, Lucy thought with a sigh as she lay on her bed.

Maybe it was best she focused on the brightest side of the situation... It was better for her that he was a rich person pretending to be poor rather than a poor person pretending to be rich, right? That would definitely have been worse.

She wasn't sure she was willing to let him off the hook so easily after he made her feel like an idiot. She was still mad at him, even though she also wanted to be seeing him while mad at him... That is if it even made any sense.

She was just going to have to come up with a suitable punishment for him... But that would be after she wakes up from sleep. She was too tired right now to think about anything else.. All she wanted for now was to sleep.

Chapter 179 - Go To Hell

While Lucy slept peacefully through the night, Tom was unable to sleep as he kept wondering what he could do to make Lucy see reasons with him. He really wanted to be with her, and he hated to think that he possibly might have ruined his chances of being with the one person he thought might be right for him simply because he had been trying to be careful not to end up with the wrong person.

These thoughts bothered Tom so much that he tossed and turned in his bed for most of the night and only managed to doze off when it was almost dawn. He was jolted from his short sleep by the sound of his phone's ringtone and he sat up and quickly reached for his phone hoping it was a call from Lucy.

He sighed when he realized that the call was Harry and not Lucy, "What do you want?" Tom asked irritably immediately after he received the call.

"I had the best night of my life making love to your sister all through the night. It was soooo hot!" Harry announced, and Tom yawned in boredom.

"Good for you both. I'm sure you both needed to let out some steam. Now what do you want?" Tom asked dryly as he lay down once again, wanting to go back to sleep.

"You're not bothered that I banged your sister? I mean we had sex. Like SEX," Harry spelt it out.

"I don't care about what you both do. Jade is an adult and she is capable of making her own decisions. If she decides she wants to have sex with a boring workaholic like you, then that's her business," Tom said, making Harry scowl.

"For your information, I'm not boring. Besides, I was just kidding. I didn't have sex with her," Harry quickly corrected, and Tom shut his eyes wearily.

"You are boring. Ask her. And for your information I also know that you didn't have sex with her. You're too much of a gentleman to have sex with her. And even if you did, I'm sure you wouldn't tell me about it. So quit fooling around and..."

Harry's brows creased with a frown, "What do you mean by I'm too much of a gentleman to have sex with her?" Harry cut in before he could finish.

"I'm not in a very good mood right now, and even if I was I would rather talk about something that doesn't involve sex and my sister in the same sentence," Tom said irritably.

"Why? Did something happen?" Harry asked in a serious tone as he sat up on the bed.

Tom briefly considered telling Harry about his issue with Lucy but decided to leave that for later in the day, "I'm not in the mood to talk about it right now. What's up with you? How's Jade?"

"I'm fine. She's fine. We are fine. Her apartment is too tiny so we had to move to the reserved suite at the hotel. We would be staying here for the time being, at least until her case is over. Don't worry, we won't be sharing a bed."

Tom rolled his eyes, "That's fine."

"Anyway, I called to remind you of the important meetings you have to attend today, and to also let you know that I was supposed to be at Ocean Airlines today, but since I'm not available you'd have to go there yourself," Harry explained.

"Ocean Airlines? We were there just some days ago. What are you going there for again?" Tom complained with a scowl as he was not in the mood to run into Anita or anyone that remotely looked like her.

"Yes, we were there for the official handover the last time, but this time it is different. I already sent the details of all the meetings you're to attend today to your email. You can check it out after the call. Enough about work, how is Lucy? I hope she is feeling better now?" Harry asked, changing the subject.

"She's okay. That reminds me, ask the realtor to hold off the sale of the house for the meantime," Tom pleaded.

"I told you so yesterday, yet you insisted I ask them to put it up for sale!" Harry hissed at Tom.

"Yeah. I know. I'm sorry. Something came up, so just ask them to hold on, okay? I will explain everything to you later," Tom promised.

"That's fine. I hope you're getting dressed for work already? Your first meeting is by 9 AM," Harry reminded him, making Tom turn to glance at the bedside clock.

He groaned when he saw that the time was past 7 AM already, and he needed to start preparing to leave for work if he was going to be there on time for his first meeting. Now he regretted asking Harry to leave. He could have easily slept in assuming Harry was around.

"Get your lazy bones off the bed! You'll learn to appreciate me more after now," Harry said with a chuckle when he heard Tom's groan.

"Go to hell," Tom said, not feeling the least bit enthusiastic about leaving his bed.

"You too. Have a lovely day at work, boss," Harry added with a hint of laughter in his voice and Tom hung up in annoyance.

Once he hung up the call, Tom remained on the bed with his eyes shut as he tried to plan his movement for the day. Was Lucy going to be at work? Probably not. He knew the way ladies often reacted to stuff like this. She was likely going to want to take a couple of days off to sort out her thoughts and feelings. He hoped she wasn't going to quit her job because of their personal relationship.

He contemplated whether or not he should call or text her, and then shook his head. Maybe it would be best if he let her be. Giving her time to come to terms with everything would probably be better for them both.

Tom groaned when his cellphone started ringing again and without checking who was calling he received the call, "Can you just leave me alone?" He asked irritably, thinking it was Harry.

"Perhaps I should," Lucy said, and Tom sat up immediately he heard her voice.

"No, no. Not you. You shouldn't! I wasn't talking to you. I thought it was Harry," Tom quickly corrected, feeling surprised and also relieved to be hearing from Lucy so soon.

"I'm running late, are you picking me up, or have you tendered your resignation letter already?" Lucy asked, ignoring his explanation.

Tom's heart skipped a beat as he got off the bed, "What?" He asked in surprise.

"You're still my driver, are you not?" Lucy asked, and without waiting for his response she added, "I'm waiting for you to pick me up," having said that Lucy hung up the call, and adjusted the glasses on the bridge of her nose.

Chapter 180 - Punishment

For the first time in the twelve years since Tom started driving, he drove recklessly and managed to arrive at Lucy's apartment exactly thirty minutes after her phone call to him. How he had managed

to brush, bathe, and dress up in that short time frame, was probably going to be one of the top wonders of the world.

Not sure of what to expect, Tom took in a deep breath as he raised his hand to knock on her door, but before his knuckles could connect with the door, the doorknob turned, and then the door was pulled open from the inside. The first thing he noticed about Lucy was that she had tied her hair in a ponytail and her glasses were back on.

They both stared at each other without saying a word as they both thought about the previous evening and how they had been so happy to see each other and had even embraced in the open. Who would have thought that things would become awkward between them less than twenty-four hours later?

"Sorry I'm late," Tom said, breaking the silence.

Without saying a word to him, Lucy stepped out of her house and locked the door before walking past him and heading for the car. Tom watched her in confusion and followed her without knowing what to do. She didn't want to talk to him? Why then had she called him? What was her plan? He had thought that she wasn't going to want to show her face at the office or set eyes on him, so what was she planning to do? He wondered as he followed her to the car.

Lucy ignored Tom who was directly behind her as she got into the backseat of the car. She sat down directly behind the driver's seat and buckled her seatbelt while waiting for him to get into the car. Although she could sense his confusion, she wasn't bothered by it. After having a restful night's sleep, she had woken up early that morning and had spent the early hours of dawn plotting and planning his punishment. This was all she could come up with.

Tom took in a deep breath as he got into the driver's seat, and then turned in his seat to look at her, "Lu..."

"We are going to be late," Lucy said, cutting off whatever he wanted to say.

She was right, they were going to be late, Tom thought when he checked the time on the car's dashboard and saw that it was almost 8 AM. He still needed to get to the office and go through the email which Harry had sent him, before attending the series of meetings that were already lined up for him.

Regardless of the constraint of time, he wanted to talk to her, but seeing that she wasn't willing to talk to him yet, he gave her a nod and turned on the car's ignition before driving off.

Lucy reached for her cellphone in her handbag when she heard it beep with a message notification. She eyed the text warily when she clicked on it and saw that it was a text message from Anita reminding her to let her know when she would be free for them to hang out later in the day.

For a moment there, she had almost forgotten about Anita, and now that she was reminded, she became worried. Getting involved with Tom now that she knew that he was the CEO who Anita wanted, was going to be trouble for her. Anita wasn't the type of person that she wanted to go against.

She had always thought that what she wanted was to be single and not get involved with men. She couldn't believe that just when she had finally met someone she was interested in and had realized

that she liked him enough to want to get involved with him, it was going to be a very complicated relationship.

Lucy glanced at Tom's reflection in the rearview mirror and she sighed inwardly. Why couldn't he just be a driver? Why did he have to be a wealthy CEO? She didn't know what she was going to do about any of this, especially about Anita. This was going to be a very stressful relationship for her.

Once Tom drove the car into the company's parking lot and turned off the ignition after parking the car he turned to look at Lucy, "Can we at least talk about it?" He pleaded even though he knew he was going to be late for his meeting.

"What do you want us to talk about?" Lucy asked innocently without looking directly into his face. She feared that if she did, her resolve to stay mad at him might weaken, and she didn't want to give in so easily.

"Maybe you could tell me how you feel? What you are thinking?" Tom asked hopefully.

"Which is your true personality? The cold Thomas Hank? Or the easygoing Tom Handy?" Lucy asked curiously.

"Both. I am both depending on who and what I'm dealing with. I didn't get to where I am by being easygoing," Tom explained, and Lucy gave him a nod.

She took in a deep breath, "I can't say I'm not mad at you. I'm very mad at you, but I'm even more disappointed and hurt that you lied to me and broke my trust..." Lucy started, and Tom nodded in understanding.

"Although trusting you might not come easy to me again. However, you're the only friend I have here, and I don't think I want to lose our friendship over this."

"I want you to trust me, Lu. I know I might have lied to you in the past, but you shouldn't also forget that I told you the truth myself, didn't I?"

"And that singular act of honesty is the only reason I'm still willing to be friends with you, trust me," Lucy said, and Tom's brows pulled together in a frown.

What did she mean by friends? "I don't want to be just friends with you, Lu. I didn't do all of this just to end up becoming friends with you," Tom said with a mildly annoyed expression, and Lucy had to hold back her smile.

"Well, I guess we will have to see how it goes from here," Lucy said with a shrug, and Tom looked at her with a confused frown.

"What do you mean?"

"Seeing all the stress you must have gone through just to deceive me, I guess this must be very important to you. So the only condition in which I can forgive you is that you have to remain my driver and neighbor," Lucy said and waited for it to sink in.

"You want me to keep being your driver?" Tom asked in confusion.

"Yes. I'm in a temporary relationship with Tom, my driver. Not the CEO. I want it to remain that way. You can maintain your two personalities. You haven't told Mr. Harry about this, have you?" Lucy asked curiously.

"Not yet..."

"Good. You can't tell him I know the truth now. I have to pay him back for toying with me," Lucy said, and Tom shrugged. Harry deserved that.

"So? Am I to assume that you have forgiven me?" Tom asked hopefully.

"We will see about that. See you in the office," Lucy said with a wave as she opened the door and quickly got out of the car before Tom could ask her any other question.

Lucy had a small smile on her face as she headed for her office. With Tom still pretending to be her driver, she could date him comfortably while also buying herself enough time to find out exactly what it was Anita wanted from her this time. She would use this opportunity to also find out the best way to make sure Anita doesn't become a problem for her.. If she was going to date someone like Tom, then she needed to be a step ahead of people like Anita.