

## Wild Night 181

### Chapter 181 - Good Girl

Jade raised her head from her laptop when she heard the knock on her bedroom door, "Yeah? You can come in," she said, and returned her attention to her laptop since she could tell that it was Harry knocking on her door.

Harry who was still dressed in his blue flannel pajamas opened the door and walked into the bedroom. He did a double-take when he saw Jade seated in the center of her bed with documents sprawled all over the bed, and her laptop in front of her.

"Did you even sleep a wink last night?" Harry asked with a frown. He knew that he was a workaholic, but this? This was just too much, and he didn't like it one bit.

"I tried," Jade said with a yawn as she raised her head to meet his gaze.

When he saw her for the first time yesterday he had thought that she looked like a hybrid panda, but today she looked more like a zombie, "You slept for how many hours?" Harry asked as he made his way to her bed with a displeased frown.

"I don't know. Maybe an hour or less. Why do you ask?" Jade asked as she set aside some of the documents so that she could get off the bed. Once she stood up, she groaned loudly as she stretched out her body, and it made cracking sounds.

Harry noticed the way her black silk satin nightdress which stopped on her mid-thigh, rode up her smooth thighs as she stretched, and he looked away from her, "You need a break. You have to take a break from all of this. You are overworking yourself and at this rate, you're not going to be conscious or sane enough to make an appearance in court," Harry said in a stern tone as he shut her laptop and started packing the documents which were scattered on the bed.

"I need to be prepared to appear in court in the first place," Jade protested as she tried to take the documents from him, but Harry stepped away from her.

"I don't know about the judge, but I won't trust the words of a lawyer that looks as sleep-deprived as you. When was the last time you did something that wasn't related to a case? When was the last time you hung out with your friends and spent an evening just watching a television show?" Harry asked as he continued picking up the documents while Jade followed him around the room.

"I only have colleagues, no friends. And I do watch CSI Miami and Law & Order," Jade said defensively.

"Yeah, maybe if you spend your time doing things other than work, you'd have friends. And I'm sure while watching those television shows you were busy thinking about your case," Harry countered.

"I never imagined you would be such a nag. Look, I was planning to go to a beauty salon yesterday before your call came in," Jade said defensively, and Harry turned to look at her.

"So what changed? You were too scared to step out of your apartment after the little present you received on your doorstep?" Harry taunted softly, knowing that if he could annoy her with that, she would want to prove him wrong.

Jade raised her chin defensively, "I became busy with looking for more evidence to nail those fuckers, and then you showed up and I haven't found the time to do that since then," Jade hissed at him even though she knew he was right. She had been too scared to step out of her apartment after the warning she had received. She would rather swallow her tongue than admit to him that she had been so scared until he arrived.

Harry took in a deep breath as he dropped the documents on the bed and faced her, placing both hands on her shoulder and staring directly into her eyes, "How about you let old uncle Harry take care of you for today? Let's spend the day doing things that don't concern your case, while we wait to hear from my men, okay?" Harry asked wiggling his brows playfully, and Jade's lips twitched in amusement as she looked at him.

She had to admit that he had a beautiful pair of honey-brown eyes, "You're not my uncle, and you're definitely not old," Jade pointed out as she broke her gaze from his compelling eyes.

"It doesn't matter. I'm here to make sure you're okay, and your physical wellbeing is part of it. Right now you don't look so good," Harry said, and Jade stared at him for a moment, and then she gave him a nod.

"Fine."

"That wasn't so hard now, was it?" Harry asked with a grin as he let go of her shoulders, "So freshen up, while I go in to do the same. Let's meet in..." Harry turned around to glance at the wall clock which was hanging over the bed, "Let's meet in the living room by 8:30. That means we have forty-five minutes to get ready for breakfast," Harry said as he picked up the laptop and documents from the bed, and turned to leave.

"Where are you going to with those?" Jade asked as she stepped in front of him, pointing to the laptop and documents he was carrying.

"To keep them away from you. You don't leave drugs with an addict," Harry said with a small smile, "Don't worry, I will keep them safe. You will get them back by this time tomorrow," Harry assured her when he saw the worry in her eyes.

Jade heaved a deep breath, "Okay."

"Good girl," Harry said with a small smile as he headed for the door while Jade watched him leave.

Although he could be annoyingly blunt, he wasn't so bad. At least he was very good-looking, and he was also very wealthy too. She also knew that he could be charming when he wanted to be, so why was he single? Jade wondered, and then giggled when she recalled what he had said about his mouth being his problem. Surely that was a big problem, Jade thought with a shake of her head as she took off her nightdress and walked into the bathroom in the room.

It would probably be best to spend her day getting to know old uncle Harry since she was obviously stuck with him for the next couple of days. Who knows? Maybe before the end of their time together she could hook him up with someone.. That was if he didn't ruin it by saying something stupid, Jade thought with another giggle.

Chapter 182 - Cute

Sonia's eyes fluttered open slowly, and she blinked in surprise when the first thing she saw was Bryan's blue eyes gazing directly into her face with an amused smile.

"Good morning, beautiful. Seeing how soundly you slept with all that snoring sounds you made, I'm sure you slept well," Bryan greeted with a cheerful smile as he leaned forward and brushed her lips with his.

"I don't snore. How long have you been staring at me?" Sonia asked with a scowl, trying not to look too embarrassed at the thought that he had been watching her while she slept.

"Long enough to know that you dreamt of me. You kept calling my name in your sleep," Bryan said with a grin.

Sonia hit his arm in embarrassment as she sat up, "I didn't dream of you, and I know I didn't call out your name either. When did I sleep off anyway?" She asked, turning to look around for her laptop and jotter. She remembered that she had been working on her story last night.

The previous evening Sonia had remained sullen while trying to get Bryan to apologize to her, but Bryan had remained bullheaded about it and had tried to convince her that she was making a big deal out of nothing. Being Sonia, she had come around, and then they both decided not to talk about Lucy and Tom until the next day when their heads were clear. So after having dinner, Bryan had busied himself with checking his social media page and reading comments concerning their reality show, while Sonia had busied herself with her story.

"You dozed off while working. You need to thank me for exercising a high level of self-control by not going through that story while you slept. I was very tempted to sneak a peek," Bryan said, and Sonia looked at him suspiciously.

"How can I be sure you didn't?"

"Because I don't tell lies. I either say the truth or choose to stay quiet and withhold the truth," Bryan said, and Sonia considered his words carefully, trying to think about anytime he could have lied to her.

Sonia's face lit up when she remembered something, "You lied to everyone that we are in a relationship and we are engaged," Sonia pointed out triumphantly.

"Did I propose to you or not?" Bryan countered.

"But you lied that we are in a relationship?" Sonia pointed out.

"I didn't. You did. You were the one who was busy granting so many interviews and telling so many lies that you made my head spin," Bryan countered even though he knew he had lied to his family.

Sonia narrowed her eyes, "But you lied during our interview," Sonia said accusingly, and Bryan rolled his eyes.

"All this argument simply because I asked you to thank me for not reading your story?" He asked in disbelief, "You should probably have studied law," Bryan said with a shake of his head.

"So you really didn't read the story?" Sonia asked, disregarding all he had just said.

"You asked me not to. So I didn't read the story. But I did see your scribblings on the journal though," Bryan said with a grin, and Sonia's eyes widened in dismay, making him chuckle, "You didn't say I couldn't read your journal..." Bryan protested with a chuckle when Sonia pounced on him.

"It is basic manners to not read a person's journal," Sonia hissed at him, and suddenly giggled when he tickled her waist, "Stop that! I'm mad at you!" She said, unable to stop her laughter when he continued to tickle her. She squirmed away from his hands, and put some distance between them so she could glare at him without distraction.

"Fine. I'm sorry. The journal was open, and when my eyes fell on my name I couldn't resist the urge to check it out to see what you had written about me," Bryan said with an apologetic smile, but she didn't miss the mirth which was dancing in his eyes.

"Don't even laugh or think about talking about it," Sonia warned when she noticed the subtle twitching of Bryan's lips.

"But why?" Bryan asked as his body shook with laughter.

Sonia picked up the pillow closest to her and threw it at him in embarrassment as she tried to roll off the bed, but Bryan caught her before she could leave.

"You know you're cute when you act this way?" Bryan asked as he held her in place while she kept trying to get off him.

She knew very well what he had seen. While plotting her story she had been distracted for a moment that she had written his name and had drawn hearts all of it. She had gone as far as making a caricature drawing of the both of them with some embarrassing naughty dialogues in the boxes.

"Shut up," Sonia warned, but it only seemed to make him laugh the more.

"There's nothing to be embarrassed about," Bryan said with a chuckle when she jabbed his sides with her elbow. He had been waiting for her to wake up so that he could tease her over it, and he was really having fun right now seeing how embarrassed she looked. The wait had been worth it.

"Fine. I will just pretend I didn't see anything," Bryan promised with a grin as he kissed her cheeks and her forehead. They both remained silent for a while until Sonia broke the silence.

"So what do you suggest we do about your brother and Lucy?" Sonia whose head was now resting on Bryan's chest asked as they lay on the bed, while Bryan patted her back and drew circles on it with his finger.

"You could try convincing your friend to forgive my brother. He really means her no harm," Bryan said as he moved his hand to cup her ass. He squeezed gently, making Sonia sigh softly as she snuggled closer to him.

"Naughty girl," Bryan teased as he spanked her ass softly, and Sonia giggled

"And what about Anita? What if she finds out who he is and comes back wanting him? How can we be sure that your brother wouldn't leave Lucy and go to her?" Sonia asked curiously.

"You mean his gold-digging ex? Tom doesn't care about her. He wouldn't go through all this stress to get Lucy, just to leave her for a golddigger like Anita, trust me. I know my brother, and he cares about your best friend," Bryan assured her.

"If you say so. I will call her and try to talk to her. We should probably start getting ready, they will all be here soon," Sonia said as she tried to get off the bed, but Bryan held her in place.

"Tom wants to speak with you. He needs both your help and your advice," Bryan explained.

"Let's talk to them both after we freshen up. We will both talk to Lucy together, and then we can talk to your brother," Sonia suggested as she got off the bed and headed for the bathroom.

"Sounds like a good plan," Bryan said with a nod as he rolled off the bed and stood on both feet, "Babe? I was waiting to show you this," Bryan said with a grin.

"What?" Sonia asked as she turned to look at him, and then her eyes rounded in surprise when she realized what he was showing her, "It doesn't hurt to stand on it anymore?" Sonia asked, looking at his ankle.

"Nope," Bryan said as he slowly walked towards her still favoring his ankle, "Let's shower together," he suggested with a wink.

## Chapter 183 - Set Up

Candy who had just finished preparing a breakfast of sausage french toast quickly washed her hands and picked up a napkin to dry them as she hurried to the door when she heard the sound of her doorbell. She didn't need to ask to know who it was as the only person she was expecting was Matt.

Once she opened the door, a smile split her facial features when she saw Matt standing there dressed in a gray-colored long-sleeved turtle neck top and black jean trouser and holding up a bouquet in front of him, "I didn't know which you would prefer," Matt said with an apologetic smile.

"So you decided to get a mix of them," Candy observed as she received the bouquet from him which consisted of tulips, sunflowers, daisies, and roses, "Thank you. It's beautiful," she assured him as she held open the door for him to walk in.

Although she had wanted them to talk the previous evening, the music had proven to be too loud and the environment unsuitable for such a serious conversation to hold, hence she had invited him over to her house for breakfast instead.

"Where is Jamal, and Andy?" Matt asked, looking around the apartment as he stepped inside.

"He went to school already, and Andy is out visiting a friend. I'm still busy fixing breakfast so you'd have to give me for a moment to wrap up," Candy said as she headed for the kitchen with the flower in hand.

"Little wonder the whole place smells delicious," Matt said with a small smile, "Perhaps I should join you in the kitchen if you don't mind. I'd love to see what smells this nice," Matt said as he followed her into the kitchen.

"Can you cook?" Candy asked as she reached for a flower vase in one of the cupboards, and after placing the flowers in the vase, she dropped it on the center of the round table in the kitchen.

"Sure. Do you need me to help you with something?" Matt asked as he looked around her very homely kitchen which reminded him so much of his grandmother's kitchen, especially with the cookie jar sitting on the center of the table, and the tray of Sausage french toast beside it.

"Nah. I'm fine. Just sit still while I clean up and set the table. What would you like to have? Coffee? Tea?"

"Coffee," Matt said as he pulled out one of the four chairs which were around the table and sat on it, "This looks nice," Matt said as he reached into the tray to pick up a toast. He stopped halfway when he noticed the stern look on Candy's face as she watched him, "Sorry," he said with an apologetic smile as he dropped his hands.

"You behave like my grandmother," Matt muttered with a playful scowl, and Candy smiled.

"You behave like Jamal," Candy said with an amused smile as she took out a cup and rinsed it, "You want it black or with cream?" She asked as she poured him a cup of coffee

"Black. You know, after the last time you threw me out of your home I never expected I would be seated here in your kitchen watching you fix me a cup of coffee with a smile on your face," Matt said with a shake of his head as he watched her.

Candy turned to look at him, holding the cup of coffee with both hands, "Well, I didn't exactly throw you out. Besides, if you never expected that, how come you showed up at the club again despite everything I said to you?" She asked with a slightly raised brow as she approached him with his cup of coffee.

"Perhaps I was trying my luck to see if you would have a change of mind. I'm glad you did. Thanks," Matt said as he took the coffee from her.

"I'm sorry I was harsh," Candy apologized as she poured herself a cup of tea and came to sit on the chair opposite him at the table, "You can have as much toast as you want now," Candy said as she picked up a roll and bit into it.

"Thanks. I don't know if my ego was more hurt by all you said and did, or if it was my heart that got hurt. You were really mean getting off that bed and asking me not to bother you again," Matt said with a shake of his head as he picked up a roll of toast and bit into it.

Candy sighed as she looked at him, "I did what I had to do. You could be in danger simply by associating with me. Fuck, we might all be in danger already," Candy said with sad eyes.

"So you didn't think that being in a relationship with anyone might put you in danger before signing up on that dating site? Or is the danger specific to dating just me?" Matt asked as he eyed her over the rim of his cup as he raised it to his lips and took a sip.

"That's not the point of all this. Sure, anyone could be in danger by associating with me, but this would be worse because you are a public figure. I and my family will be at risk of being found out because of your high profile. Jamal's father is a very dangerous man, and I just really want you to have a fair idea of what you're getting up against if you really decide to pursue a relationship with me. It would be unfair of me to allow you blindly get involved with me," Candy explained, and then raised a finger to stop him before he could say anything.

"Listen, Matt. If I date you, our business becomes public business. If Jero or any of his men sees a picture of me with you, they can easily find out where I am by following you. These people won't hesitate to kill you just so that they can get to me, trust me. I've been hiding from them for the past two years with good reason," Candy explained desperately wanting him to understand the implication of being with her. The last thing she wanted was to get involved with him now only for him to regret it months down the line.

"And you don't think that maybe it is high time you stopped running from them and deal with it once and for all?" Matt asked with a concerned frown.

"You think I'm running just because I have long legs and love to exercise them? I don't have what it takes to fight them, so I have to run. I chose to study law because of them, hoping that some day I might be able to do more than just run for the sake of Jamal. I need him to have a normal life like every kid his age and not always have to be on the move," Candy explained with a sigh.

"Then you need me in your life, Candy. Allow me to protect you and Jamal," Matt offered as he stood up from where he was seated and took a step towards her.

"As what? You don't even know what you want from me yet, do you? We had good sex and maybe that's what you are still after. You shouldn't risk your life trying to protect us when you don't even know whether or not you love me," Candy pointed out when Matt stopped in front of her and dragged another chair closer to her before turning her seat so that she was directly facing him.

"Don't do that, Candace. Don't trivialize what we share. We both know that what we have is much deeper than mere sex. I liked you even before I had that awesome sex with you, and you know it! Yes, I would love to have you under the sheets with me again, but don't try to make it sound like sex is all there is between us," Matt said, sounding mildly offended as he looked into her eyes.

"Fine. Let's assume it's more than sex. Dating me would still be dangerous. Why date an exotic dancer like me who is a single mother and also has danger lurking all around her, when you can date someone more sexy and classy with an uncomplicated past?" Candy asked as she looked away from him.

"Why don't you let me worry about the whys?" Matt asked as he placed a finger under her chin so that she would look at him.

"You still can't protect me from them, Matt. As a matter of fact you're going to be needing all the protection you can get if Jero finds out about you. I've watched Jero chop off a man's fingers merely because he touched me," Candy said with fear in her eyes and Matt dropped his hand from her chin and raised his fingers to look at them.

"I love my fingers. It would be such a shame to have them chopped off," he said, making Candy smile, "If I may ask, how did you get involved with someone as dangerous as Jamal's father anyway?" Matt asked curiously, and Candy sighed as she raised her cup of tea to her lips and took a sip from it while Matt patiently waited for her response to his question.

"After Andy and I left the orphanage home where we were raised, we took up waitressing jobs at a bar. Jero was one of the regular patrons at the bar where we worked and he acted like a perfect gentleman. He took me out on a couple of dates, and he lied to me about the nature of his job. When he found out I was pregnant for him, he said I and Andy could move in with him since he had a

spare bedroom and that would save us the extra money we spent paying for rent," Candy explained, and paused to take a bite from her toast.

"Can't the toast wait?" Matt asked with a frown, wondering how she could eat when they were having such an important conversation.

"It can't. I like my toast hot and crispy," Candy said as she chewed.

"Anyway, I was in love with him and was really eager to start a family of my own, being an orphan, so I agreed. I was able to convince Andy and we both moved in with him. Next he asked that we quit working at the bar. He insisted that he could take care of all our needs, and he didn't like the idea that pretty girls like us would be out there and different men would be ogling at us. Andy protested, but once again I managed to convince her to quit. We both quit our jobs, and soon ran out of our savings and had to rely on Jero for all our needs. Next thing we know he's complaining about how we are both lazy and can't do anything. He soon starts forcing Andy to meet with some of his bosses and sleeping with them for money. When she fails to do it, he hits her and sometimes locks her up without food. When I protest he locks me up too. But he never raised his hands on me... He loved me too much to hit me," Candy said in an emotionless voice.

"As time went on, he became more and more possessive of me especially after I had Jamal. The more possessive he became, the more annoying, controlling, and abusive he became too."

"Why didn't you both just leave?" Matt asked in confusion.

"We didn't have enough money. Every time we managed to save up some, he would always find out where the money was, and he would steal it thus leaving us incapacitated. He also threatened us that we could never get away from him. Once when Andy tried to run away she was caught by some of his men a few hours later," Candy said with a shrug.

"So how have you been able to hide away from him for so long?" Matt asked, and Candy turned to look at him with blank eyes.

"We sent him to jail. I and Andy mixed the stash of drugs he kept at home with some poisonous chemicals. So when he gave it to those kids and they died, I supplied the lawyer with all the evidence she needed to send him to jail and I testified against him in exchange for my freedom. He knows I set him up," Candy confessed, and Matt blinked at her in surprise.

"You mean you killed those kids?" He asked in confusion.

"No, I didn't kill them. They killed themselves. They would have died sooner or later at the rate they were going. I never asked them to be drug addicts or to get drugs from Jero. They were merely victims of our quest for freedom from that monster. I'm not good, Matt. And neither am I innocent. There is nothing I wouldn't do to keep my sister and son safe. Nothing.. I'm telling you all of this so that you can make up your mind whether or not you want to be with someone like me."

#### Chapter 184 - Frustrated

"You are not listening to me, are you?" The managing director of I-Global healthcare and pharmaceuticals asked with a wave of his right hand when Tom just kept staring at him with a puzzled frown on his face.

The middle-aged man with a receding hairline had been surprised when he walked into the CEO's office and saw Tom looking completely different from what he knew him to be. Seeing how



distracted the usually sharp-witted CEO was, he could tell that his mind was very far away from whatever was going on in the office.

Tom blinked at the director when he waved a hand in front of him, "I'm sorry. What did you say?" Tom asked with a shake of his head, feeling slightly embarrassed that he had been caught in his distracted state.

"If I'm not crossing the line, we could always leave the meeting for some other time. It's not something urgent, and I don't think you are in any state for a work-related conversation," The director suggested.

"You are right. I'm sorry," Tom said, still feeling very apologetic.

This was so unlike him. Before meeting Lucy he had been all about his business and making money. Not even Anita or the other ladies he had dated had captured his attention to the point of distraction in this manner. Lucy was really messing with his mind, Tom thought in frustration.

The director smiled knowingly, "I know that look. Woman problem?" He asked curiously since the CEO wasn't known to be in a relationship with anyone. Not that they knew much about the CEO anyway. The CEO always kept to himself and in the four years since he had been working in the company he had only seen him a couple of times, as most of his meetings were usually with Harry, and the only time they saw the CEO was during board meetings. He had been surprised when he went to Harry's office for the meeting, and Harry's secretary informed him that he would be meeting with the CEO and not Harry.

Tom looked at the director for a moment, "You are married with two girls, right?" Tom asked, and the man looked at him, a little taken aback that Tom knew that much about him.

"How did you know?"

"Shouldn't I know that much about my directors?" Tom asked, and the man smiled at him. Pleased that although Tom wasn't a very present CEO, he at least cared enough about the directors of his company to know such details about their life.

"If you don't mind me asking, how long have you been married?" Tom asked curiously.

"My wife and I dated for three years, and we have been married for fifteen years

So we've been together for eighteen years," the director responded with a proud smile.

"That's nice. How do you resolve conflict with your wife?" Tom asked, and the director chuckled as he thought of his wife.

"I think it depends on the nature of the conflict. When I'm wrong, which according to general women psychology men are always in the wrong, I apologize to her and buy her expensive gifts that she likes. I take her out on dates and just try to make her butter her up," he said with a shrug.

"But the most important thing is that you must talk about it. Unlike men, women love to talk about things and trash out issues. She might yell and cry and even hit you, but allow her vent. I think the first step in getting her to stop being mad at you is letting her exhaust all the anger inside her. When you know how she feels, you understand better how to fix whatever is wrong," the director added before standing up.

Tom thought about it for a moment and gave him a nod, "I think that is very helpful. Thank you very much, and I'm sorry once again for not paying attention to all you said," Tom said with an apologetic smile.

"Don't worry about it. I completely understand," the director assured him, "We can just reschedule. I hope things work out well with her," he said with a polite smile as he turned to leave.

"Thanks for your time," Tom said as he watched him leave.

Once he was left alone in his office, Tom heaved a deep breath. This was bad. He had it really bad for Lucy. If she had decided not to talk to him he would have understood that. If she had also decided to take some time off work and not even come to the office he would have also understood that as well. But asking him to keep pretending to be her driver? That was something that he still couldn't understand no matter how much time he spent thinking about it.

The only question he had been asking himself all morning was what Lucy had up her sleeves.

Now that she was probably over most of her anger why couldn't she look at the bright side of things? Wasn't she supposed to be happy that her boyfriend wasn't actually a driver but a wealthy CEO? Why was she more particular about him remaining her driver? Did she have something against wealthy guys? How was his keeping up the pretense of being her driver going to help her in any way? What was she going to achieve from it? Or was this a sort of punishment? Probably her own way of getting back at him for deceiving her? Tom wondered as his eyes moved to the large wall clock in his office.

He still had about thirty minutes before his second meeting of the day and he was yet to go through the email which Harry had sent. How was he supposed to concentrate on his job if Lucy was on his mind this way, Tom wondered with a worried frown on his face as he stared with unseeing eyes at the email which was displayed on his laptop's screen while still wondering what Lucy was up to.

He couldn't reschedule all his meetings as he had just done now. He needed a clear mind to be able to attend the other meetings. And more than that he needed to resolve this issue with Lucy which was messing with his focus. Maybe it would be best if tried reasoning with her once more before his next appointment, he thought as he dialed Lucy's office line.

Lucy who was seated outside the office with a pen in hand as she tried to plot her next move concerning Tom's punishment as well as dealing with Anita, raised her head when her intercom buzzed. Lucy stood up at once and walked over to Tom's office door. She knocked on the office door softly and opened the door when he gave the go-ahead to come in.

Lucy stepped into the office and stood by the door without shutting it, and to Tom's utter frustration she bowed her head as she had always done each time she walked into his office in the past as if she was scared to look at him.

Oh, for christ's sake! "Lu..."

"You sent for me sir," Lucy cut him off, reminding him that he was her boss at the moment and not her driver, so he should address her appropriately.

Tom stood up and stepped away from his desk as he approached her, "Can't we just cut this out? Let's talk things over, please," Tom said in a pleading tone.

"Did you want something, SIR?" Lucy asked once again without meeting his gaze, indirectly asking him to stick to business.

Tom sighed. This was going to be very frustrating, "I have a meeting with the CEO of Happy Homes Interiors and the managing director of I-Global hotels and resorts. They should be here thirty minutes or less. Let them in when they get here," Tom said, and Lucy gave him a bow.

Although she was tempted to ask him why he was the one telling her about his schedule when she was his assistant, Lucy decided to take that up with Harry instead. She was certain he was the one who was responsible for the CEO's to-do list, so she was just going to ask him to send it to her. He wanted her to be his personal assistant, she was going to do a good job of it.

"Is that all, sir?" Lucy asked politely as she raised her head to look at him.

"Can't we talk this over? We should be able to reach a sort of compromise. I'm not comfortable with the mustache or the hair. How about I just open up to the entire public and let everyone know what I look like?" Tom asked when he stopped in front of her.

"If that is all I would like to return to what I was doing, sir," Lucy said with a polite bow and turned to walk out of the office but Tom grabbed her arm before she could leave.

"I've said I'm sorry..."

"I have told you I'm in a relationship sir, and my boyfriend is not going to like that you're touching me this way," Lucy said with a straight face as though she wasn't listening to anything he was saying, making Tom wonder whether she was suffering from a case of multiple personality disorder.

Wasn't he her boyfriend! Why was she acting like they were two different people? "I've told you that I'm sorry. You even said you understood my reasons for doing what I did, so why are you bent on frustrating me? What else should I do to make it up to you?" Tom asked desperately as she tried to shake off his hand.

"I don't know what you are talking about. And I've told you already that I'm not interested in you. Now if that's all I would like to return to my desk as I have....,"

"Ahem!"

The rest of Lucy's words trailed off when they heard the sound of someone clearing her throat outside the door, and she quickly spun around to see who it was.

Lucy's heart skipped a beat when she saw Anita standing by her desk, and she quickly snatched her arm from Tom's grip, "I have to get back to my desk sir," Lucy said with a bow as she quickly stepped out of the office and shut the door.

How was she going to face Anita now? She wasn't ready for this yet, Lucy thought as she tried to mentally recall her conversation with Tom in her head to see if she had said anything wrong.

"Hi!" She said, flashing Anita an awkward smile as she wondered just how much of their conversation Anita must have heard.

Chapter 185 - Great!

"Good morning, Lucy. I'm so sorry I came in unannounced and barged in on you like this. You didn't respond to my text, so I decided to stop by and see how you're doing," Anita said with her usual smile while she watched Lucy's face closely.

"You could have saved yourself the stress of coming all the way here by just calling," Lucy pointed out with a smile of her own as she sat down on her seat while watching Anita closely and trying to discern what she was up to now.

"Well, I'm here already so I guess it doesn't matter," Anita said with a short laugh as she took the seat opposite Lucy, "So what was that about?" She asked with an innocent smile on her face as she jerked her head in the direction of Tom's office.

"What was what about?" Lucy asked looking at her with an innocent expression. Lucy was glad now that she had been playing dumb with Tom a while ago, else Anita would have heard everything and found out who Tom was before she had enough time to equip herself to fight her.

The smile remained on Anita's face as she watched Lucy play dumb. She needed to find out what the CEO had been apologizing to Lucy for as soon as possible. She had guessed that something was going on between the CEO and Lucy considering all the attention the CEO had bestowed on Lucy in front of them at Ocean Airlines the other day, but today she had heard enough to know that something was definitely going on between Lucy and the CEO. The only challenge was that she didn't know exactly what was going on between them. Although one thing she knew for sure was that Lucy wasn't interested in the CEO, and she intended to keep it that way, at least until she was able to convince the CEO that he was giving his attention to the wrong person.

"Were you just having an argument with the boss?" Anita asked, even though she knew that such a direct question was beneath her. It was uncouth of her to show interest in a conversation that wasn't her business. Especially one that she had eavesdropped on.

"No, we weren't having an argument. You probably misunderstood us," Lucy said, and picked up her phone when it vibrated with a text message notification, "Give me a moment," Lucy told Anita politely as she clicked on the text from Tom.

The text read, 'What is she doing here?'

"It's a text from my boyfriend," she informed Anita with a small smile before returning her attention to the phone, 'What do you think? She wants to hang out of course, and probably find out more about the CEO,' Lucy texted back with a rolling eyes emoticon before dropping her phone.

"You have a boyfriend now? I thought you said you weren't interested in men because your job was important to you?" Anita asked, not feeling too comfortable about the changes she was sensing in Lucy. She no longer seemed as naive and gullible as had been the last time they were together at her house.

"Well, you know what they say; Change is the only thing that is constant in life," Lucy said with a slight shrug and then her eyes moved to the wall clock, "You're not going to work today?" Lucy asked in time as Tom's office door opened and Tom stepped out to join them.

Anita quickly stood up the moment Tom stopped by Lucy's desk, and she turned around to face him, "Good morning sir. I'm sorry I didn't get the chance to greet you earlier," she said with a pleasant smile.

"Miss... Miller, right?" Tom asked, ignoring her greeting.

"Yes, sir," Anita said with a nod as she kept her smile in place.

"What's it by your time?" Tom asked, glancing at the wristwatch she was wearing.

Anita's smile wavered slightly as she glanced at her wristwatch, while Lucy subtly rolled her eyes at Anita's stupidity since it seemed like she didn't understand what Tom was trying to say. Or perhaps she was just being stupid because it was the CEO?

"It's 9:32," Anita said, looking at Tom curiously.

"Great! It works. For a moment there I thought your watch was broken. Shouldn't you be at your office? Why are you hanging around mine?" Tom asked, watching her with a stern expression on his face.

"Uhm, I came around to have a word with Mr. Harry and decided to stop by and say hello to her," Anita said with a shaky smile and she nervously licked her lips.

"Mr. Harry? And have you seen him now?" Tom asked, and Anita gave him a nod.

"Yes, sir. I was just about to leave now," Anita lied, and Lucy's lips twitched in amusement at the unnecessary lie. She almost felt embarrassed on Anita's behalf.

"Then you should leave now. And it would be best if you don't randomly show up here during work hours next time unless you are invited. This environment isn't a place for such visits, and you are not being paid to laze around. Don't forget that Ocean Airlines isn't a family-owned company anymore," Tom said, jerking his head to the door for her to leave.

Anita's cheeks burned bright red and Lucy couldn't tell if it was because she was embarrassed or angry, "Yes, sir. See you around, Lucy," Anita said with a shaky smile as she turned to leave.

"Uhm, I will give you a call later," Lucy called out after her as she left and shut the door behind her.

"Do you treat her that way because she is your ex, or is that just the way you are?" Lucy asked with a slight frown, and Tom raised a brow.

So she was willing to talk to him now? He thought with a scoff and walked into his office without responding to her question.

The corners of Lucy's lips curved in an amused smile when he shut the door. She could tell that he was very annoyed by how she had treated him earlier. Served him right. She intended to keep their personal business outside the office.

Lucy picked up her phone, ready to give Harry a call, but before she could do that her phone started ringing with a call from Sonia, "Hey, love!" She greeted cheerfully, and Sonia pulled her phone away from her ears to confirm that she was talking to Lucy.

"Hey, baby! How are you feeling today?" Sonia asked as she turned to glance at Bryan who was still sulking over her refusal to share the shower with him earlier.

"Great! How're you?" Lucy asked making Sonia's brows pull together in a frown.

"Great?" Sonia asked in confusion, standing up to excuse herself from Bryan so she could find out what was happening with Lucy but he quickly pulled her down, "You agreed that we were going to speak with her together?" Bryan mouthed to Sonia grudgingly and she rolled her eyes.

"Yeah, great! How are you?" Lucy asked with a smile as she could picture the confusion on Sonia's face.

"I'm fine I guess. What's happening, Lu? Are you sure you're okay? You can talk to me, you know?" Sonia asked with a worried frown.

"Sure. I'm fine so you have nothing to worry about. As a matter of fact, I'm at the office and everything is perfect," Lucy said, surprising Sonia even more.

"You are at the office? Does that mean you have forgiven Tom?" She asked, making Bryan move closer to her so that he could hear what they were saying.

"Not exactly. But almost."

"Almost? What is happening Lu?" Sonia asked curiously, wanting to know what was going on in Lucy's head.

"Were you able to talk to Bryan? What did he say?" Lucy asked, changing the subject as she wanted to know just how many people knew about her and Tom.

"Uhm... well, he knew about it," Sonia said and then paused when she and Bryan heard the sound of the doorbell.

"I will get the door," Bryan mouthed to her as he got off the bed and on to his wheelchair.

"I thought as much," Lucy said thoughtfully. If Harry was aware, and Bryan knew about it too, then it was possible that his sister was aware too, right? Who else knew?

"Will you like to talk to Bryan? He swears that Tom didn't mean to make a fool of you. Tom really likes you," Sonia assured Lucy once Bryan had left the room.

"It's his brother we are talking about. Were you really expecting that he would tell you otherwise?" Lucy asked with a scoff even though she knew deep down that Tom genuinely cared about her.

"Trust me, Lu. I'm on your side," Sonia said, hoping that Lucy wasn't thinking that she was taking Bryan's side.

"Sure. Your loyalty isn't one I can doubt," Lucy assured her, and then glanced at the office door when it opened and a man who looked like he was in his mid-forties walked in with a lady in her early thirties, "Duty calls. I will call you back," Lucy told Sonia as she quickly hung up, "Good morning," Lucy greeted with a polite smile.

"Good morning, we are here to meet with the CEO," the man explained, and Lucy gave him a nod.

"He's expecting you," she said gesturing with a hand for them to go into the office.

Once they shut the door behind them she picked up her phone and dialed Harry's line this time.

## Chapter 186 - Intelligent Beauty

"So what's the plan?" Jade asked Harry once they were done with breakfast and were heading for his car.

"Let's get you to a spa where you can get a good beauty treatment, and then we can go to the salon to take care of your hair and nails," Harry said, glancing at her untidy fingernails.

Jade followed his gaze to her nails and then curled her fingers into her palm to cover them from his view, "Yeah, let's do that," she said with an embarrassed smile as she let him unlock the car doors and hold out the door for her to get in.

"And then once you look presentable we could just drive around the city, go see a movie, visit wherever you'd love to go to, and then have dinner before returning to the hotel," Harry concluded and once she was seated, he shut the door and went around the car to get into his own seat.

Before Harry could turn on the car's ignition, his phone started ringing, and he picked it up to see that it was Lucy who was calling, "Give me a moment," Harry told Jade with an apologetic smile before receiving the call.

"Good morning, Miss Perry," Harry greeted in a cheerful tone, and Jade looked at him curiously as she wondered who Harry was talking to.

"Good morning, Mr. Harry," Lucy greeted back with a smirk.

"I was informed by your driver that you weren't feeling too well yesterday. How are you feeling now?" Harry asked curiously, wanting to know if her state of health had anything to do with the reason Tom was in a foul mood.

"I'm fine. Thank you, sir. I was calling to find out if you could send me a copy of Mr. Hank's schedule. Seeing as you are absent, I would like to do a good job as his assistant," Lucy explained.

"Oh! I'm not sure about that. I would have to ask the CEO before doing that as you know that he doesn't..."

"You don't have to worry about that sir. I already told him, and he is okay with me asking you. I just think it's awkward that the CEO should be the one telling me about his schedule when I am the assistant, don't you think?" Lucy asked.

"Oh, yeah! You do have a point. I'm not close to my system at the moment but I will send you an email by the end of the day if that's okay with you," Harry suggested, feeling slightly confused by the sudden boldness he could hear in Lucy's tone.

"Sure. That works. Thank you, sir. Another reason I called... you asked me to let you know when my driver is misbehaving and I need you to get me someone else, right?" Lucy asked, and Harry's brows pulled together since he had only been pulling her legs when he said that and he didn't expect her to really bring it up.

"Yeah," Harry said in a less enthusiastic tone.

"Well, I was hoping you could change him now," Lucy said, making Harry frown.

What exactly was going on between Tom and Lucy? Harry wondered, "But the other day you said you were okay with him and didn't want someone else," Harry reminded her.

"I've changed my mind now, or can't I?" Lucy asked.

"Sure, you can. But if I may ask, what did he do wrong?" Harry asked curiously.

"My fiance doesn't like him..."

Fiance again? What fiance this time? Wasn't this lady ever tired of lying? "Your fiance? But I thought you both broke up?" Harry asked in confusion, wondering just what was going on.

"Yeah, but we got back together. He decided that he couldn't live without me, so he's back, and he wants my drive gone," Lucy said, struggling not to giggle at the confusion she could hear in his voice. He had toyed with her so it was only appropriate that she toys with him too. He could consider it as her way of bonding with him as her boyfriend's best friend.

Harry raised a hand to his head and massaged his temple which was beginning to ache because he was trying too hard to understand what was happening. He really needed to talk to Tom and find out what was going on, "I will talk to the CEO and see what I can do," Harry assured her.

"Alright then. Thank you, sir."

Once Lucy hung up the call, Harry sighed as he turned to look at Jade who had a curious expression on her face, "That wasn't my brother's girlfriend, was it?" Jade asked curiously.

"It was. You wanted to say hello to her?" Harry asked, and Jade chuckled as she shook her head.

"You want us to blow my brother's cover? How is she doing? And what did she say that's making your headache?" Jade asked with a small smile when she noticed that he was still rubbing his temple.

"I don't think she is alright, and I'm not sure your brother is okay either, seeing how she is asking for a new driver. I wonder what he must have done this time," Harry said thoughtfully as he tried to connect the dots.

Just yesterday Tom had asked him to get her a new driver and sell off the apartment next to hers, and then today he had changed his mind about selling the apartment. And now Lucy was asking him to change her driver. Was it just a lovers' fight? Harry wondered.

"She's asking for a new driver? What has Tom done this time?" Jade asked with an equally worried expression.

"I guess we will find out sooner or later. We should leave now," Harry suggested as he dropped the phone on the space between both their seats and then started the car.

"So, what kind of a person is she? Do you think she suits Tom?" Jade asked as Harry drove out of the parking lot.

"She's a workaholic... Or at least that was the way she was until your brother entered the picture. She's calm, a bit naive..." Harry let his words trail off when he remembered what Tom had said about him earlier that morning, and then he cleared his throat.

"Can I ask you a question? I need your honest opinion," Harry said as he turned to spare Jade a glance.

"Hm. I will try. Shoot!"

"Do you think I'm boring?" Harry asked, and Jade giggled.

"Boring? Why are you asking me that? Did someone tell you that? Perhaps a lady?" Jade asked curiously.

"Well, you've been in my company now for almost twenty-four hours. That's more than I can say for most people, apart from your brother, so tell me what you think," Harry urged her on.



Jade pursed her lips thoughtfully as she considered his question, "I think it's too early to form an opinion..."

"Oh, come on! You're a lawyer and so you should be a good judge of character. From all you saw yesterday, what do you honestly think about me?" Harry asked, cutting her off.

"Well, I don't think you're boring. But I could be wrong. You know different strokes for different folks," Jade said with a shrug, and Harry smirked.

"So you don't think I'm boring, right?" Harry asked, just to be sure that they were on the same page.

"If I'm to judge by the first time we met four years ago, you're not the least bit boring. Why do you ask?" Jade asked curiously.

"Your brother thinks you'd consider me too boring to..." Harry let the rest of his words trail off and silently cursed his big mouth when he realized what he had been about to say.

"Too boring to what?" Jade asked when she noticed how his face flushed in embarrassment. Something told her he had been about to say something very interesting.

Thankfully Harry's phone chose that moment to ring, saving him from responding to her question, "I'm sorry. It's my dad," Harry said as he picked up his phone, reached into his pocket for his Bluetooth earbud so that he could connect it to his phone, but he couldn't find it, so he quickly connected the phone to his car's Bluetooth speaker and then received the call.

"Hey, son! What are you up to? Still being a workaholic as usual?" His dad asked immediately the call connected.

"Hey, dad! I'm fine. How are you doing too?" Harry asked dryly.

"Aging daily while waiting for my only child to bring someone home. It doesn't have to be a lady, you know? If the reason you're yet to bring anyone home is because you're into guys and not ladies, then you shouldn't worry. I'm okay with any partner of your choice as long as it isn't an animal," his father said, making Jade burst into a peal of laughter.

"DAD!" Harry hissed in belief, suddenly regretting his decision to use his phone's Bluetooth speaker while Jade was in the car.

"Wait, that sounds like feminine laughter. Why didn't you tell me you were with your girlfriend?" His father asked while Jade kept laughing.

"She isn't my girlfriend. If this is the reason you called I should go now. I'm driving," Harry said irritably.

"She isn't your girlfriend? Who is she? Is she single?" His father asked, making Harry flash Jade an embarrassed and apologetic look.

"Dad, I'm using my car's speaker, and she can hear you. Can you just change the subject?" Harry pleaded.

"Oh, she can hear me? Great then. Hello, there young lady!" His father greeted, and Jade glanced at Harry uncertainly.

"Hello, sir!" Jade greeted politely.

"What's your name?" Harry's father asked curiously.

"Jade. Jade Hank."

"Hank? You're related to Tom?" He asked curiously.

"Yes. I'm his younger sister," Jade confirmed.

"Oh, right! The intelligent beauty Harry told me about," he said, making Harry's eyes grow round in surprise.

"What are you talking about dad? You know what? Let's talk later. I don't think you're sober right now," Harry said and quickly hung up before his father could say anything else.

"Don't pay attention to anything he said. I'm sure he was just pulling your legs," Harry said awkwardly as he prayed that Jade would let it go.

"So are you trying to say I'm not an intelligent beauty?" Jade asked, cocking her head to the side as she looked at him with a slightly raised brow.

"Uhm... Sure you are. I'm just saying..."

"So you did tell your dad that I'm an intelligent beauty?" Jade asked in amusement, making Harry turn to blink at her in confusion. What was she doing?

"I didn't tell..."

"But you think I am. That means you must have told him that at some point.. Thanks," Jade said with a happy smile which let him know she wasn't going to believe anything else.

## Chapter 187 - Lovebirds

Matt had different thoughts running through his head as he drove his car away from Candy's.

He wasn't sure if he had done the wrong or right thing by walking away from Candy, but this wasn't a movie where he could play the role of being her hero. He didn't want to be with someone with such a horrid past. Even his upbringing wouldn't let him.

He liked her no doubt, and if her past had nothing to do with being involved with a drug cartel or murder, then he probably would have considered sticking by her regardless of anything else, but now he couldn't. He wasn't sure that he could live with the thought that she had taken such extreme measures which had caused those teenage boys to lose their lives. And the fact that she wasn't feeling remorseful about it, was something he couldn't wrap his head around, especially seeing that she was a mother herself.

He was going to do his best to help her out of the mess she had gotten herself into, but he was going to do it all from a distance, and not get emotionally involved with her. She had too much emotional baggage and was associated with dangerous people, and he couldn't involve himself with any of that. Not just because of himself, but because of his family too. He knew that getting involved in something like this wouldn't affect just him, but would also be detrimental to his parents and siblings too, and he didn't want to bring trouble to them for any reason whatsoever.

He remembered the sad smile he had seen on Candy's face when he shook his head and told her that he needed a bit of time to process all she had just told him, "You can't stomach it, can you?" She had asked as if she had been expecting him to run out the door the moment she finished her story.

"I like you, Candace. I really do. But maybe you are right. Maybe I need to really sit back and critically think about all you have said to be sure if I want to be with you," Matt had said as he pushed away from the table ready to leave. Even as he said that they both knew that he wasn't returning.

"Be honest with me, Matt. You don't want to be with someone like me, do you?" Candy had asked without standing up.

Matt who had been trying not to hurt her feelings sighed, "I do care about you, Candace, but I'm not sure I can get involved with you. Not after everything you just told me," Matt said apologetically, and Candy gave him a nod.

"I understand. I'm glad I told you everything then. You can leave now," Candy said with a small smile, ignoring the tears that had gathered in her eyes.

She wasn't going to cry. Especially not in front of him. This was exactly what she had wanted. She had wanted him to leave her alone and not put her and her son at risk of being caught. Although she felt hurt that he was leaving so easily, but this was exactly what she wanted, "Goodbye," Candy said as she picked up her cup of tea and took a sip while waiting for Matt to leave.

Matt had walked over to where she was seated and pecked her cheeks, "Goodbye, Candace," he had said before walking away.

It wasn't until Candy heard the click of the door as he shut it behind him that the first tear slid down her cheeks. She raised a hand to her cheek and brushed off the tear, "Don't cry, Candy. You did good," she had assured herself as she stood up to clear the table.

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"Are you expecting someone?" Sonia asked Bryan curiously when they all heard the sound of the doorbell while they were still shooting the reality show.

"Not exactly," Bryan said as he signaled to Mia to go find out who was at the door.

Once Mia opened the door, "Hello, Matt!" Mia greeted with a pleasant smile when she saw Matt standing there.

"Hey, Mia! It's been a while!" He greeted politely and then raised a brow when Mia used her hand to motion to him to lower his voice. He turned around, curious to find out why, and then slapped his forehead with his palm when he saw the production crew and remembered that Bryan was still shooting the reality show.

"I totally forgot about the show," Matt whispered apologetically, as he approached the camera crew.

He hadn't known he was headed here until he drove into the garage. Now he just wanted to hang out with Bryan and Sonia and distract himself as he didn't want to dwell on all that had just transpired between himself and Candace. The last thing he wanted was to be around other people who would expect him to make small talk or pretend to be cheerful when all he really wanted was to drink as much alcohol as he could until he was knocked out. He didn't have the energy for small talk right now.

"Don't worry, I'm sure it's okay," Mia whispered to him as she walked behind him to go join the production team.

"Hey, Matt! Since you're here you can as well make an appearance on the show, right? I'm sure your fans would love to see you," The producer whispered to Matt who quickly shook his head.

"No, thanks. You're not paying me for it, are you?" Matt asked dryly.

"Hey, sugar!" Sonia waved to Matt from where she was seated on the couch with Bryan, "Come over and say hello," Sonia said with a cheerful smile, leaving the camerawoman with no other choice but to focus on Matt who was now standing alone as the others had quickly moved away from him.

Seeing how excited Sonia was to see him, he didn't have the heart to turn her down so he walked over to where she was seated with Bryan and dropped on the space between them, "Hey, girlfriend!" He greeted as he pecked both sides of her cheek, earning him a giggle from Sonia, and a glare from Bryan who didn't like the interference.

"I've sorely missed you. What have you been up to?" Sonia asked as she snuggled closer to him with her head on his chest, ignoring the camera that was filming them. It was a reality show anyway, so it wasn't supposed to be scripted.

"Nothing much. Just giving you two lovebirds the space you need to mess around the house," Matt said as he patted Sonia's hair fondly, while Bryan roughly grabbed Matt's arm and pulled him away from Sonia.

"What are you doing, babe?" Sonia asked in amusement since just a moment ago Bryan had refused to talk to her.

"I'm the only one who should be touching you that way," Bryan said irritably, and Matt turned to give Bryan a knowing wink.

"How the mighty has fallen! You have fallen hard for her, haven't you? Tsk tsk!" Matt said with a shake of his head as though he was disappointed in Bryan, and both Mia and Jeff chuckled as they watched the scene in front of them. Love was something a person could choose to hide and deny as they wanted, but jealousy and possessiveness weren't as easy to hide.

"Quit teasing my man," Sonia chided Matt with a playful smile as she stood up from Matt's side and went to sit on Bryan's thighs, "I guess you are no longer mad at me?" Sonia asked as she looked into Bryan's face with a wide smile, and he scowled at her.

He had been sulking all morning and giving her monosyllabic responses until Matt showed up, "I'm still not happy with you," Bryan said stubbornly. He had felt both hurt and disappointed when he asked that they shower together and Sonia had turned him down.

"You are kidding, right?" Sonia had asked with an amused smile when she heard his unexpected request.

"Why would I be kidding? I want to share the shower with you," Bryan had said as he started to take off his shirt.

"We can't possibly do that. At least not yet," Sonia said with a shake of her head.

"And why is that? My ankle? I won't stand on it," Bryan had rushed to assure her, and Sonia shook her head.

"That's not it. I just don't think we are there yet. Sharing the shower is an intimate affair. We can't do that now."

"I don't see why not. Besides, I've seen you stark naked before, so it's not a big deal," Bryan had said, wriggling his brows playfully, and Sonia hit his arm.

"What do you mean it's not a big deal? Are you trying to imply that I don't look attractive?" Sonia had asked in mild annoyance.

"Of course not! I'm just saying that I've seen you naked before, so sharing the shower with you shouldn't be a big deal," Bryan had said as his shirt fell to a heap beside his leg.

"I'm sure you have seen a lot of naked females at some point in your life, and I'm also very positive that you didn't share a bath with them all. I'm not doing this with you. At least not yet," Sonia had stubbornly insisted.

"All those naked ladies I saw were not you. And why can't we do it yet? You have feelings for me, as I do for you, so what's with the chaste modesty now?" Bryan had asked in confusion.

"Bryan Hank, I'm not sharing the bathroom with you. You said you need to be sure how you feel about me, didn't you? I also need to do that..."

"But that didn't matter last night when we were making out on the couch, did it?" Bryan had cut it.

"Yes, it didn't matter to me then, but I know it mattered enough to you that you had to stop, so now it matters to me too. So you can either wait until I finish using the shower, or you can use the shower in the next bedroom, but you are not getting in here with me, period!" Sonia had said with a stern expression on her face before walking into the bathroom and shutting the door from the inside.

"Were you lovebirds having a fight?" Matt asked when he noticed the scowl on Bryan's face and the smile on Sonia's face.

"Your best friend is such a big baby. He had been acting up all morning," Sonia confided in Matt before placing a peck on both sides of Bryan's cheeks, "Cheer up, baby," Sonia said as she kissed Bryan's lips.

"Aww, what a big baby!" Matt said with a chuckle as he watched them both while wondering if he had made the right decision by walking away from Candy.

## Chapter 188 - CEO Versus Driver

"What? Why are you still grinning?" Harry asked Jade, suspecting that she was probably still thinking about his father's phonecall.

"Nothing," Jade said with a giggle as they both got out of the car and started walking in the direction of the building that housed the spa.

Although Harry didn't exactly believe her, but he decided to let sleeping dogs lie, as he wasn't ready to have an awkward conversation with her.

"How old is your dad by the way?" Jade asked curiously, making Harry look at her with a slightly raised brow.

"He is in his early fifties, why?" Harry asked as he held out the door for her.

"Thanks. He's not too old. He has a very attractive voice, and he sounds fun," Jade said with a wink.

Harry stopped to look at her in disbelief, "You're not crushing on my dad right now, are you?" Harry asked making Jade laugh out loud.

"Why not? You want to report me to your mom?" Jade asked in a teasing tone, as she led him in the direction of the spa which was on the fifth floor of the building.

Harry was silent for a moment, "She is late. My mother I mean. She died while giving birth to me and he never remarried," Harry said as they both stepped into the elevator, and Jade turned to look at him.

"I'm sorry about that. I had no idea," she said apologetically as she pressed the button for the fifth floor.

"It's fine," Harry assured her with a small smile.

"Your father must have really loved her to have not remarried," Jade said sadly.

"She was his first and only true love according to him," Harry said with a shrug.

"Aww, I guess that explains it then," Jade said with a small smile.

"Explains what?"

"Why you're not so good with ladies. Assuming your mother was around or you had sisters, they probably would have been giving you good advice..."

"You mean like the advise you gave to Tom to get piercings?" Harry cut in dryly, and Jade giggled.

"I didn't exactly ask him to do that, but I don't think piercings would look bad on you though," Jade said as she looked at him and tried to picture him with his hair dyed and a nose and ear piercing.

"Wipe that smile off your face, I'm not doing anything so juvenile!" Harry warned when he noticed the way Jade kept staring at him with a grin, and he quickly got off the elevator while Jade hurried after him.

"Come on, don't be such a spoilsport! It will look good on you, I promise," Jade pleaded with a giggle as she caught up with him.

"I'm not doing anything of the like, so get that thought off your head!" Harry said as he kept walking ahead of her with quick strides.

"So uptight. Tsk," Jade said with a shake of her head, "But seriously though, you mean your dad never got involved with anyone else after your mother's death?" Jade asked, sounding serious once again.

"None that I know of. It has always been just the both of us," Harry said as he kept looking ahead of them.

"Well, I guess that explains why you are this way. That's the spa," Jade said, pointing to one of the beauty spas which was at the left wing of the floor.

"What explains what?" Harry asked in confusion as he wondered what she was talking about.

"What I mean is, because your dad is a one woman kind of man, you didn't really associate much with ladies and you didn't have the opportunity to watch him flirt around either, else with your looks, you would have been quite popular among the ladies," Jade explained as they walked into the spa.

"I see," Harry murmured and then reached into his pocket for his cellphone when it started ringing, "Excuse me for a moment," Harry told Jade as he stepped out of the spa to find a quiet spot where he could receive the call.

"Good morning. What do you have for me?" Harry asked curiously once he received the call.

"The private investigator is searching for a lady. Her name is Candace Roberts," the man at the other end of the line informed Harry without beating around the bush.

"Candace Roberts?" Harry asked, narrowing his eyes thoughtfully when he remembered that that was the exact same person Jade had said she needed to find in order to find Jero as her back up plan.

"Yes, sir. Candace," he confirmed.

"Okay, thanks for the information. Keep following him around, and the moment he finds the lady, I want you to get her first before he does. I want to meet with her," Harry said without giving away more information than was necessary.

Once he was done with the phonecall, he returned inside to join Jade, "Hello, ladies!" Harry greeted the four ladies who were seated at the reception with Jade, and then paused when he noticed the way the ladies there stared at him with interest as though Jade had told them something about him in his absence.

"Hello, handsome!" One of the lady's greeted with a flirtatious smile, and Harry gave Jade a suspicious look while she merely grinned at him.

"As I told you, I and my old uncle Harry are here to relax, so please take good care of him," Jade told the youngest of the four ladies with a wink.

"You didn't tell me he was this hot!" The lady whispered to Jade before returning her attention to Harry.

"I'm not here to relax. I only brought her here," Harry explained with a shake of his head when the beautiful lady approached him.

"Come on, uncle Harry! Don't be shy. Your father would be very upset if he gets to know that you're refusing to cooperate with me," Jade chided softly.

Harry glared at Jade as he had no idea what she was up to, "I'm not shy..."

"Hello! My name is Aurora, but you can call me, Aura. You're welcome to my spa." the lady said with a cheerful smile as she extended her hand to Harry.

"Hi! My name is Harry," Harry said politely as he shook her hand, and let go of it almost immediately.

"Hm. Aura and Harry... There's a nice ring to it," Jade said with a girly giggle making Harry give her a weird look.

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Lucy who was busy tapping away on her laptop suddenly paused when something occurred to her and she glanced at Tom's office door with narrowed eyes. Since Tom was the CEO, that meant it was Tom who had put the policy about everyone leaving the company environment once it was closing hour. And it was also Tom who had banned the act of taking back office work to the house.

Why hadn't she thought of that? That law had been put in place just the next day after she kept him waiting at the office because she was busy with work. She had to admit that he was pretty sneaky.

Once Lucy glanced at the wall clock and realized that it was almost time for lunch, she picked up her phone, 'Hey! I hope I'm getting lunch soon?' she texted Tom.

Tom who was in the middle of a meeting, picked up his phone when it vibrated with a text message notification, "Give me a moment," he said as he clicked on the text.

He blinked in surprise when he read the text, and then glanced at the door in the direction of her office as he tried to figure out if she was okay. How could she be asking him for lunch when she knew that he was in the middle of a meeting?

He glanced at his phone when it vibrated once again, and this time he sighed when he read the text, 'I'm missing you. Let's see a movie when we get home'

What was she playing at this time? He wondered as he decided to respond to her text, 'I'm sorry, the CEO sent me on an errand. I will have him send someone to deliver your lunch' Tom texted back, and then dropped his phone.

Lucy giggled to herself as she read his text, "Errand indeed," Lucy murmured.

She glanced at her office telephone when it started ringing, and picked it up, knowing that it was Tom, "Hello, sir!" Lucy greeted politely.

"Your driver just informed me that he was supposed to deliver lunch to your office. I sent him on an errand, so I'm sorry you'll have to pick it up yourself, for today. I hope you don't mind?" Tom asked curtly, and Lucy grinned to herself.

"I don't."

"Good. You should get ready. We are leaving for Oceans Airlines the moment this meeting comes to an end," Tom instructed her, and then hung up before she could say a word.. Since she wanted to be silly, he was going to be ridiculously silly with her too.

Chapter 189 - Petty Debate

Once Tom's meeting ended and the others left his office, Lucy walked over to his office door and knocked on it. She waited until he gave her the go-ahead and then walked in.

"Is there a problem?" Tom asked curtly without bothering to glance at her. His gaze remained fixed on his laptop.

"When are we leaving for Oceans airlines, sir?" Lucy asked while looking around his office curiously since that was something she had failed to do each time she had entered his office the previous times.



She noticed the door which led to his mini bedroom, and also another door which she guessed led to his private elevator. It all explained how always managed to play the boss and her driver at the same time.

Tom reached into his drawer and took out one of his cars key. He set it on the table and jerked his head towards it, "Take the elevator to my private parking lot and get the car started. I will join you soon," Tom instructed her.

Lucy walked over to his desk and picked up the car key, "Yes, sir," she said before walking out of the office.

Once she left the office, Tom raised his head from the laptop and glanced at the door. From her behavior, it seemed to him that what she really wanted was for him to act like a different person at the office, and then as her driver outside the office, and as her boyfriend at home. It was going to be difficult, but he was going to try. He would do exactly that until she got frustrated, Tom thought with a smirk as he shut down his system and then stood up.

A few minutes later Tom got out of his private elevator with a newspaper in hand as he joined Lucy who was waiting for him beside the car. He had not gotten himself a company driver because Harry often drove the car most times they were out together, and the few times he went out alone he preferred to drive himself or have any of his household staff drive him.

Without saying a word he got into the backseat of the car, leaving her to drive the car.

It was even better for him this way. She would be his assistant and driver during work hours, and he would be her driver off work hours. It all suited him as either way he got to spend time in her company.

Lucy adjusted her glasses on the bridge of her nose as she got into the car. At least this was way better than having her boss hold out the car door for her. She didn't want anyone, especially Anita to be suspicious of her relationship with him.

She glanced at him through the rearview mirror and noticed that his gaze was fixed on the newspaper he was holding. So now he has gone from trying to get her to talk to him, to completely ignoring her? Very nice, Lucy thought in amusement.

"Is there any particular reason why the car is still on one spot?" Tom asked coolly without glancing up.

"Uhm, sorry sir," Lucy apologized and quickly turned on the car's ignition.

Was she weird for finding this whole role-play thingy very sexy? She kind of really liked how he was being a mean boss to her right now. She was looking forward to seeing the switch from mean boss to caring driver in the evening, and then to boyfriend later at night. Now she was beginning to feel like a weirdo. Who knows? If something like this was a turn on for her, then maybe she was going to be into the whole BDSM shit too, Lucy thought with a small giggle, and then Tom glanced up from the newspaper to meet her gaze in the rearview mirror.

"Is something funny, Miss Perry?" Tom asked, trying not to sound as curious as he truly was.

"Nothing, sir. I'm sorry," Lucy said apologetically as she quickly returned her gaze to the road. Hot!

Tom shook his head as he continued to watch her. This had to be the most silly and ridiculous punishment ever. As simple as it all looked, it was difficult, pretending to be just her boss. He paused when something suddenly occurred to him, and his lips twitched in amusement.

"You were trying to get in touch with your best friend the last time, have you heard from her yet?" He asked, setting aside his newspaper. Although she didn't want him to talk to her as Tom her

driver, he had established a kind of brother-in-law slash boss relationship with her by virtue of Sonia's relationship with Bryan, and as such he could talk to her freely that way.

Lucy glanced at him briefly, "I have sir. Thank you," Lucy said, wondering what he was trying to do.

"Remember what I told you at the resort development center?" Tom asked, and Lucy met his gaze in the rearview mirror.

"What was that, sir?"

"About waiting for as long as you want me to, to make you mine," Tom said in a very confident tone, causing countless butterflies to flutter in Lucy's belly at his words.

She quickly cleared her throat and looked straight ahead without responding. She had to admit that Tom's acting skills were beyond good. Listening to him, no one would guess that he was her driver or the same person that had made her cum countless times few nights ago.

At the thought of the sex together, she felt the hot fingers of lust clench around her pelvic region. She had been so focused on his confession and everything that she was yet to really think about what had happened between them that night. She wanted to experience all of that again with him.

"You don't have a response for me, do you?" Tom asked in a mildly taunting tone.

"I don't expect that you need one, sir," Lucy said in a mocking tone as she continued to drive.

A few minutes later they arrived at Oceans Airlines, and like before a couple of the staff were all lined up waiting for him there. Once the car stopped and Tom got out of the car, Anita looked at him with a slightly surprised expression on her face as they had all been expecting Harry, and not Tom.

She turned to look at Lucy who stepped out of the driver's seat, and she couldn't help wondering what was happening between them. Just few days ago the CEO had held open the car door for Lucy and had driven the car himself, and now Lucy was driving him? Perhaps was this about the misunderstanding she had caught them having that morning? Was the CEO angry with her now and had decided that he had had enough?

"We weren't expecting you. We were supposed to have a meeting with Mr. Harry," one of the men present there informed Tom as they shook hands.

"That I'm aware of. Mr. Harry had to travel for a business meeting yesterday, and he will be away for some time, so until his return I will be meeting with you," Tom said as he gave Anita a pointed look.

Anita's face was flushed in embarrassment upon the realization that her lie earlier on had been a stupid one, and she glanced at Lucy who quickly turned away as if she didn't know what was going on.

"Let's go in," Tom suggested as he led the way and they all followed him to the meeting room.

Once they were all seated, Lucy took the spot next to him, and Anita sat on the seat opposite Lucy, where Harry had occupied during the last meeting.

Anita looked from Lucy to the CEO and she couldn't help noticing that there seemed to be some sort of friction between them as the CEO wasn't giving her as much attention as he had given her the last time. Perhaps Lucy was right, and she had heard wrongly? Or maybe it was just the CEO who had lost interest in Lucy? Whatever it was she didn't care to know. All she wanted right now was to find her way into the CEO's heart.

Anita tried her best to remain quiet all through the meeting while the others took turns to answer all of the CEO's questions. Seeing how he had shunned her during the last meeting, she didn't want a repeat of that episode. If he preferred docile women, then she was going to try to be a docile woman, at least until she finally got him where she wanted him.

"Do you have any contribution to make, Miss Miller?" Tom asked when he was done hearing from the others, and Anita glanced at him surprise, while Lucy tried to stifle the sudden jealousy that rose inside her upon hearing Tom refer to Anita.

Anita cleared her throat as she tried to appear modest, "I think all they have said is correct, but may I also suggest that to better improve our services, we could take out time to hear from the passengers who use our airline, and find out if there is any service they would like us to add to our services?" Anita asked, and Tom considered it for a moment, before turning to look at Lucy.

"What do you think?" He asked with a slightly raised brow.

Lucy wished Anita's suggestion was stupid so that she could counter it, but she couldn't, "I think Ani... Miss Miller has a point. Maybe questionnaires or a survey form could be given to passengers during each flight or online to those who book their flights on the company's website," Lucy added.

"I don't think the passengers would like to go through the stress of doing that as most of them just want to relax during their flights instead of answering such questions," Anita said, countering Lucy's point as she didn't like that Lucy was stealing her spot once again.

Tom looked from Lucy to Anita, "So how do you suggest we go about getting feedback from them?" Tom asked Anita curiously, making Lucy shift in her seat uncomfortably as she didn't like that it was beginning to seem like a debate between her and Tom's ex-girlfriend.

"Maybe we can get some top celebrities to get on the flight with them. The celebrities will hand out the questionnaires to them and make it seem like it is from them and not the company. I think they will be more willing to give their feedback this way. Say, male celebrities hand out the survey forms to the females, and female celebrities do the same to male passengers," Anita suggested.

"Isn't that what I just said?" Without thinking Lucy blurted out in a tight voice, and Tom had to stifle the urge to laugh when he heard the annoyance in her voice.

"You didn't mention celebrities. I did," Anita pointed out with a polite smile while the others on the table kept moving their gaze from Lucy to Anita in amusement as they tried to understand why it seemed like both ladies were having a petty argument.

"But I did say we could hand the passengers the survey forms during their flights and you countered it, yet managed to suggest the same thing. The only thing you added to my suggestion was the person who should hand out the forms," Lucy said pettily and Tom couldn't stop the amused twitch of his lips.. She was the one who wanted him to treat her like a regular staff, so why was she getting annoyed already? Be careful what you wish for.

## Chapter 190 - Very Crazy

Tom cleared his throat to get the attention of both ladies, "Miss Miller, although you have a good idea, I don't think it is cost-effective. We are trying to find out how to improve the company's services as lots of people have stopped using this airline, and we don't know why. Getting celebrities on board would cost us a lot of money that the company doesn't have," Tom said, and Lucy tried not to snort.

"We might not need to pay them. I have some friends. I could call in a favor," Anita suggested, not wanting to lose to Lucy.

Show off! Lucy thought to herself, "And you think that the CEO whose brother is an actor doesn't have the ability to do that?" Lucy asked in amusement and Anita's face flushed in embarrassment.

"I suppose you're right. My apologies," Anita said with a polite bow at Lucy, surprising everyone.

Lucy narrowed her eyes as she wondered what Anita was up to. She was very certain that Anita had something up her sleeves.

Anita turned to Tom, "With all due respect sir, and no offense to Miss Perry, but she may be a very efficient assistant to you, but I don't think she should be a part of this meeting. Perhaps you need an assistant from Oceans Airlines who understands the intricacies of the business and how the company works," Anita suggested in a calm and polite voice.

"Hm. Perhaps you have a point," Tom said as he glanced at Lucy with a thoughtful expression on his face. He knew she wasn't going to like it, but perhaps this was going to make her choose faster that she wanted him as the CEO and not just as her driver.

"Miss Perry, go wait for me in the car. I will join you when we are done with the meeting," Tom ordered, surprising Lucy who had expected him to take her side.

"With all due respect sir, I was sitting here quietly until you sought my opinion," Lucy reminded him in a tight voice, feeling like he was being unfair to her and taking Anita's side.

"I'm aware. Thanks for your opinion. You can excuse us now," Tom said politely, making everyone at the table wonder if something was wrong with the CEO.

Just the previous day he had taken his assistant's side and had completely ignored Anita, and today he was taking Anita's side and was ignoring his assistant.

Anita subtly smirked at Lucy, feeling happy that she had won this round against her. Maybe she didn't need Lucy's friendship after all. All she needed was to stun the CEO with her brilliance, especially now that he was taking her side, and it was obvious that he no longer really fancied Lucy.

Lucy tried her best not to glare at Tom as she stood up and picked up her handbag. Without making direct eye contact with anyone on the table she walked out of the office.

Once she shut the office door behind her, Tom turned to Anita, "I will let this slide just once because it's the first time. I won't tolerate any disrespect to my assistant. Like you said, she is very capable and efficient and she is going to remain my assistant. She will attend every meeting with me as long as this company remains mine, so it'll be in your best interest to accord her the same respect as you accord me," Tom warned, making the executives who were seated on the table and their secretaries

look at each other. Why had he sent his assistant out if he was going to scold Anita? They all wondered.

"She is my friend, and I didn't mean to disrespect her. I'm sorry." Anita's hands balled into a fist under the table as she uttered the words. It seemed like the CEO still fancied Lucy. To think he was embarrassing her this way once again.

"You are apologizing to the wrong person," Tom said before clearing his throat, "So any other idea apart from what Miss Miller suggested?" Tom asked, moving on with the meeting.

Once the meeting ended and Tom was about to leave, Anita sat up, "Can I have a word with you? Alone?" Anita asked politely in a quiet voice meant for Tom alone, making his brows arch in curiosity.

He glanced at the others around the table who were waiting for him to stand up so they could also leave, "You can leave," Tom told them, and they all got up and started walking out.

"Is there a problem?" Tom asked after the last person left the office, leaving them alone. He knew he was keeping Lucy waiting, but that was what she deserved for trying to frustrate him. He needed her to realize that although he deserved to be punished, the punishment she had chosen was like a double-edged sword, and was going to affect them both equally.

"Uhm, I heard from my mother concerning what she did with the private investigator..." Anita started, and Tom tilted his head to the side to look at her when he remembered what Harry had said. He had almost forgotten about the private investigator because of his issue with Lucy.

"...I'm sorry, and I want you to know that I didn't have a part in it," Anita concluded.

"If she had found out something interesting about me, how do I know you wouldn't have used the information to your advantage? You are only denouncing her now because it didn't pull through, aren't you?" Tom asked coolly.

"No, sir! I never would have..."

"I'm not interested in your response. If that's the reason you wanted to see me, then you shouldn't worry about it. I have no business with you. My business is with your mother and I will handle it accordingly," Tom said as he pushed away from the table and stood up.

"Let's not have such an awkward conversation next time," Tom advised before walking out of the office.

He had a grin on his face as he walked over to where the car was parked, and he couldn't help the chuckle that bubbled through him when he saw Lucy's face.

Lucy had a scowl on her face as she listened to Tom's not-so-silent chuckles as she turned on the car's ignition, ready to drive them back to the office. She couldn't understand how Tom could find the whole exchange funny. Anita was a very petty person, and if for nothing this exchange had strengthened her resolve to win Anita on every level. Since Anita wanted the CEO she was going to have him wrapped around her little fingers and show the bitch who owned the man.

"Miss Perry, why do you seem so upset?" Tom asked in amusement when he noticed the way she was glaring at him through the rearview mirror.

Lucy cleared her throat, "I'm not upset."

"Then do you mind explaining to me why you're glaring at me?" Tom asked again.

"I'm not glaring. That's the way my eyes are," Lucy muttered as she drove out of the parking lot, and Tom chuckled quietly. He couldn't believe that he had fallen for such a crazy woman. How she managed to look so calm yet do and say crazy things was beyond him.

Tom took out his phone from his pocket when it started to ring and received the call when he saw that it was from Harry, "Why do you keep calling me?" Tom asked dryly making Lucy look at him through the rearview mirror as she wondered who he was talking to. She briefly wondered if this was how Tom felt each time he was the one driving the car and she was making a phone call from the backseat.

"Why do you think? Because I miss you, of course. You should know that you are the closest to a girlfriend I have," Harry said in an equally dry tone as he looked around the beauty parlor where Jade was now having her manicure.

"Here I was thinking that you were calling to inform me that my sister is pregnant for you," Tom said with an eye roll.

"You're just foolish," Harry said with a chuckle and cleared his throat when he remembered that he had actually called for a different reason. "What's happening with Lucy? She called me earlier on," Harry said, and Tom glanced at Lucy through the rearview mirror.

"She did? Why?" Tom asked even though he could roughly guess why.

"She wanted to get your schedule. And she also asked that I change her driver. What did you do?" Harry asked.

Tom sighed inwardly. Was this girl possessed? Why was she making things complicated for him? She was the same person who had asked that he shouldn't tell Harry that she was aware of everything, and she had asked him not to quit his job, yet she was also the one calling Harry to fire him. What did she want?

"Miss Perry wants you to change her driver?" Tom asked out loud so that Lucy would hear him, and both their gaze met in the rearview mirror.

"Yes, she did," Harry confirmed.

"Didn't you tell her what I said the last time? If her driver goes, she goes too," he reminded Harry.

"Well, yes. But the thing is I promised to fire you the moment she asks me to. I didn't expect that she was going to do so considering that you're both in a relationship now," Harry complained, and then Tom finally understood what Lucy was doing. This was part of Harry's punishment.

"Well, I didn't ask you to make such a promise. Deal with it," Tom said and hung up the call.

Immediately he hung up the call he dialed another number, and Lucy glanced at her phone when it started ringing. She raised a brow when she noticed that the call was from Tom. Why was he calling her when they were in the same car?

She met his gaze in the rearview mirror and he raised a brow, as though asking her why she wasn't taking her call. Lucy narrowed her eyes as she reluctantly reached for her phone and received the call.

"Hey! Can you call me back? I'm with the mean CEO right now," Lucy whispered into her phone, convincing Tom beyond reasonable doubt that she was not just crazy, but very crazy.