

Wild Night 251

Chapter 251 - LuSon Interview (2)

"What? Their engagement wasn't real? You knew about this, didn't you?" Harry asked as he and Jade watched the show together on the large flatscreen television in the living room.

Jade simply shrugged without breaking her gaze away from the screen, "Didn't you think that engagement was too ordinary for someone of Bryan's status?"

"What was ordinary about that engagement? Why would you consider it ordinary? Is there some particular way someone of his status is supposed to engage a woman he loves?" Harry asked with a confused frown, and Jade turned to look at him this time.

"Don't tell me when you meet the woman of your dreams you're just going to pop the question to her with a ring?" She asked with a small frown.

"Is anything wrong with that?"

"You mean there would be no head swooning grand gestures?" Jade asked again.

"Is that important? What matters is that we are both in love and are willing to share the rest of our lives with each other," Harry said, and Jade rolled her eyes.

"You're very unromantic, and I wish the lady that ends up winning your heart good luck. If and when I eventually decide to settle down, my man would know better than to just pop the question. I need a dramatic proposal," Jade said with a smile as she returned her attention to the screen, while Harry just stared at her.

Jade's phone started ringing almost immediately, and she rolled her eyes when she picked up the phone and saw that it was her mother who was calling, "Another victim of Bryan's lie," Jade muttered as she received the call.

"Tell me that you didn't know that your brother lied about the engagement?" Her mother snapped at her angrily.

"I don't understand why you are yelling at me when I also feel hurt, betrayed, and heartbroken. We all fell for Bryan's act," Jade said dramatically, and Harry raised a brow as he looked at her, while she winked at him.

"You mean you didn't know that the engagement was fake?" Their mother asked doubtfully.

"How was I supposed to know? I doubt that Tom knew of it either. But what does it matter? He ended up falling for her after all, and that is the most important thing, isn't it?" Jade asked, and Evelyn frowned.

"You know what they say about relationships that start on the foundation of lies," Evelyn pointed out.

"That is if they lied to each other. But in this case, they didn't. They both lied to the world. Besides, only a person like Sonia could have tamed that randy son of yours. So you should be grateful to her," Jade said, and Evelyn sighed this time.

"I really hope that there are no more lies. I don't understand why both your brothers ended up in such complicated relationships."

"Well, at least you got what you wanted. They're both dating, and from the looks of things they will be getting married and giving you grandchildren in the not-so-distant future," Jade said with a smile.

"And what about you? Why are you not in a relationship yet?" Evelyn asked, and Jade rolled her eyes.

"How does this have to do with the fact that Bryan deceived us? Isn't that why you called?" Jade asked, trying to change the subject.

"Don't try to be smart with me! Why are you still single?" Evelyn repeated testily.

She knew that telling her mother that she wasn't interested in getting involved with anyone would be pointless. "I'm busy with work. And you are distracting me right now. I need to return my attention to the interview. Your other soon-to-be daughter-in-law just joined Bryan and his ex fake fiancée turned girlfriend on the set," Jade said, and Harry's lips twitched in amusement at the description.

"Jade... Make sure you clear up whatever case you have. The moment your brothers are settled, I want to see all of you. And this conversation you are avoiding, we are going to have it then," Evelyn said before hanging up.

Jade sighed as she dropped her phone, "What is it with parents and wanting their kids to be in a relationship anyway?" Jade asked Harry whose eyes were fixed on the screen.

"What is it with you trying to hook me up?" Harry asked dryly, and Jade grinned at him.

"Perhaps it's my motherly or sisterly instinct towards you at work?" Jade asked with a little giggle, and Harry turned to look at her with an unreadable expression before returning his attention to the screen where Alicia was questioning Sonia.

"Sonia, earlier you mentioned something about having a half-brother who hated your existence, Is he the same person as the college student who was supposedly murdered by your best friend?"

Sonia paused for a moment and turned to Lucy who she noticed had become tense, "Yes. His name was Jamie," Sonia said as she took Lucy's hand once again, as though to reassure her that she wasn't alone.

Lucy looked down when she felt the slight tremble of Sonia's hand and then looked into Sonia's face. Only then did she realize that Sonia was as tense as she was. Of course, this had to be difficult for Sonia too, yet she was here doing this for her. She had to pull herself together if for nothing else, but for Sonia's sake.

Straightening her back, Lucy squeezed Sonia's hand reassuringly.

"If you don't mind me asking, can you tell us a little about your relationship with Jamie?" Alicia asked curiously, and Sonia's eyes became distant as she thought of him.

"Jamie was my mom's first child before she got married to my dad, but I only found out about him after my dad's death. He hated the mere sight of me and never got along with me. Both he and his father did their best to make me feel uncomfortable and unwelcome in the house so I spent most of my time at Lucy's home. So it's safe to say that there was really no love lost between us," Sonia said

with a shrug, knowing that some people would likely want to use all that she had just said against her. It would be easy for them to say she was taking Lucy's side because Lucy was more like family to her, unlike Jamie who she didn't get along with.

"I suppose that is understandable," Alicia said with a nod as she turned to Lucy, "What about you, Lucy? What was your relationship with Jamie?" Alicia asked, and Lucy took in a deep breath.

"There was..." She paused to clear her throat, "There really wasn't any relationship between us. All the time I visited Sonia's house, he would treat me like I didn't exist. He barely responded to my greetings or anything, so whenever I was in the house we would stay up in Sonia's bedroom. All he was to me was Sonia's half-brother. There was no special relationship between us," Lucy said with a shrug.

"That is surprising. You mean you were friends with Sonia for about fifteen and you never got along with her half-brother? Like not even a crush? Am I to assume that he wasn't cute?" Alicia asked, and Lucy winced.

"He wasn't bad looking, but there was no form of communication between us to make me want to have a crush on him," Lucy said with a shake of her head.

"Unlike I who had a crush on Lucy's dad," Sonia supplied with a grin, and Lucy giggled.

"Seriously? You had a crush on Lucy's dad?" Bryan asked, leaning forward in his seat so that he could take a good look at Sonia.

"She still does. At least judging by the blush on her face when she saw last night," Lucy said with a grin, and Sonia giggled, while Bryan's brows furrowed.

"You're not going back there today. Bring your luggage over here once we are done here," Bryan instructed, and Sonia giggled.

"Do you realize that we are in front of the camera?" Sonia asked in amusement, and Bryan scowled.

"I'm serious," he told her before returning his attention to Alicia. He cleared his throat, "Sorry. I got distracted," he murmured.

"It's fine. So, what was your childhood like? I mean, Sonia already mentioned that you were a model student. What were you like outside school? Did you love parties? Seeing how beautiful you look, I'm sure so many boys would have been vying for your attention. Did you have lots of boyfriends?" Alicia asked with a curious smile, slowly leading up to the question of what had happened between Lucy and Jamie. She had read the articles released online in favor of Lucy, and she had seen the testimony which some of Lucy's admirers had given in court about being harassed by Jamie.

"Growing up, I was invited to a lot of birthday parties, so I attended my fair share. I loved parties like the average teenage girl but if it wasn't a birthday party or a school party, I wasn't allowed to go. My parents were always careful about such unauthorized parties that teenagers loved to hold in the absence of their parents," Lucy explained, and Alicia looked at her with disbelief.

"And you never sneaked out?"

"Nah. I was too scared to do that. I always had this deep-rooted fear that if I went out without their permission, something might go wrong at the party, and then I might end up in juvenile prison," Lucy said with a wry smile, thinking that even the trouble she had tried to avoid had found its way to her.

"Well, I never thought about that. I attended my fair share of those juvenile parties and even hosted some. And believe me, it was always mad fun!" Alicia confided with a wide smile.

"Me too. My mother would think I was passing the night at Lucy's, but I would sneak out for a party," Sonia said with a mischievous smile.

"I guess I should have done that while I could," Lucy said with a wry smile.

"What about boyfriends? Your parents didn't let you go out with guys too?" Alicia asked in a teasing tone, and Lucy took in a deep breath.

She knew without a doubt that they were about to get into the serious part of their conversation. Once they started this, there was no turning back.

Her eyes moved to Tom who was standing behind the camera with Jasmine, and he gave her a nod and a thumbs-up, encouraging her to speak.

Swallowing past the lump in her throat, Lucy returned her attention to Alicia, "My parents didn't have a problem with me having a boyfriend. It was Jamie who didn't let any guy come close to me." Lucy revealed.

Chapter 252 - LuSon Interview (3)

Without taking off her sleeping mask, Brandy groaned in her sleep as she reached for her phone when it started ringing and picked it up from the top of the bedstand. She had barely had enough sleep since the moment she returned from the club.

"Hello!" she greeted in a hoarse voice once she received the call, half expecting it to be Candace since she was yet to hear from her since the previous day.

"Hey, Brandy! Are you still in bed? Wake up. Work calls," The familiar male voice which belonged to her boss greeted, and Brandy groaned as she sat up.

"C'mon! I worked all through the night. I deserve to get my beauty sleep!" Brandy complained irritably as she sat up on the bed.

"Well, it's not my fault that you're so damned good at your job. A client wants you. He is hosting a bachelor's eve party for his best friend, and he specifically requested for you and Candy. He's paying a lot of dough," her boss said excitedly. They all knew how much he loved to make money off the ladies who worked for him at the club.

"Well, let whoever the client is know that I can't make it. Besides, Candy is not around," Brandy reminded him as she took off her sleeping mask.

"Yeah, I told him that. He is willing to compromise. Maybe you and another one of the girls. He's willing to pay double the price for your services. You know you're one of the bests here," her boss reminded her.

"Have you checked out the client? Is he legit? A regular client?" Brandy asked thoughtfully.

"Of course. By now you should know that I wouldn't ask you to take on a job without being sure of the client," her boss pointed out.

"Sure. I still need to rest though. When is this party holding? And where?" Brandy asked as she got off the bed.

"Well, he said it's tonight. He will send a car for you girls by 8 PM."

"No. I'd rather he gives us an address and we find our way there than he sends a car to pick us up. That is too risky and you know it," Brandy protested as she went to stand in front of the mirror to check out her appearance.

"He is paying a lot of money, Brandy. And you know that the rich customers are ALWAYS right. I think the client is very wealthy and he has trust issues. So he doesn't want you knowing the venue," her boss said reasonably.

Although Brandy was not convinced, she knew better than to argue with him, "Fine. I will be there. But know that I'm taking seventy percent of this money. It's either that or I'm not in," Brandy bargained.

"Seventy percent? Come on! How do you go from receiving forty percent to seventy?" He complained.

"Okay, I need to rest. Get someone else," Brandy said dismissively.

"Okay, I will give you forty-five percent," he rushed to stop her before she could hang up.

"I'm not kidding, Joey. It's either seventy or nothing."

"Fifty percent?" He asked, wondering why she was being so unnecessarily greedy.

"Get someone else to do the job."

"Come on, Brandy."

"It's the same thing, isn't it? You said he doubled the pay because he wanted me. I get to keep the extra money. Why is that a problem?" Brandy asked reasonably.

"Fine, what about you keep sixty percent and I take forty?" He pleaded greedily.

"Fine. You can keep thirty-five percent. That's how high I can go. If you have a problem with it, get someone else."

"Fine. I will send you the money. Make sure you are here before the time," he ordered before hanging up the call.

Brandy smiled to herself, pleased with her bargaining skills as she pulled out the last drawer on the dressing table and took out a notebook and a pen. She jotted down the amount of money she was expecting for this job and summed it up with the rest of her savings. She needed to save up enough money for her studio sessions. She wasn't planning on continuing in this line of job forever, especially not now that Candace was working hard to become a lawyer. She also needed to do something worthwhile with her life so she wouldn't be a source of embarrassment to either her sister or her nephew.

Once she closed the notebook, she returned it into the drawer and her eyes fell on the jewelry box that Matt had gifted her. He had returned to see her the next day after sending off Candace and Jamal, and he had brought her the gift. She was meant to wear the earrings and necklace whenever she was going out, as it would not only enable them to track her at all times but would also record whatever was happening around her.

Thus far she had been very reluctant to wear it to the club since she didn't want to violate the club's laws, but seeing as she was going to work for someone she didn't know at an undisclosed location, she thought it wise to use the jewelry tonight, so she took out the jewelry box before closing the drawer.

"My parents didn't have a problem with me having a boyfriend. It was Jamie who didn't let any guy come close to me."

"Jamie? Do you mean Sonia's half-brother? The one who always treated you like you didn't exist? How so?" Alicia asked, unable to hide her curiosity.

"That is the crazy thing," Lucy said with a sigh, as she started recounting all she had told Tom regarding how she and Sonia had discovered Jamie's obsession with her.

"Hold on! You mean he threatened and beat up any guy who showed any interest in you even though he completely ignored you whenever he saw you?" Alicia asked in disbelief.

"Crazy, isn't it? How each of these guys had stayed away from me thinking he was my boyfriend. I would never have known had I not confronted the last guy," Lucy said with a shake of her head.

"But why? Why would he do that? And how did he find out about all these guys? It's not like he was your classmate or something," Alicia asked in confusion.

Sonia decided to respond this time, "I still can't understand why he never said anything and had to do all of that. So we can't tell why, other than the only logical reason that he was crazy and was obsessed without her. We tried to figure out how he could have known about all these guys that approached Lucy, and we discovered that he set up a camera in my room," Sonia said with a shake of her head, as though she still couldn't believe that Jamie had done that.

"What? A camera in your bedroom?" Alicia asked in horror, while Bryan listened with utter disbelief.

Both Sonia and Lucy nodded. Sonia turned to look at Lucy, "I'm sorry," she murmured, not sure she could ever forget the look of shock and horror on Lucy's face that day when they saw the pictures and videos which Jamie had compiled.

"You mean he had pictures of you? He set up a camera in your bedroom?" Alicia asked, still trying to get past the surprise. Although it had creeped her out earlier when she read about it in the articles on Twitter, hearing it directly from both ladies was even more horrible.

"Yes. We searched his bedroom and saw several nude pictures and videos he had of Lucy in his system. Not all the pictures were taken from my bedroom. Some of them were taken without Lucy's knowledge while she was going about her normal daily activities. I always wondered why he refused to move out of the house after he started college. But I guess he didn't want to leave because of Lucy," Sonia explained.

Alicia shuddered involuntarily, "So what did you girls do? Who did you report to?"

Lucy's eyes glazed over, and she had a distant look in her eyes as she gazed at Alicia who could tell that she wasn't looking at her, "Nobody. I was scared and ashamed, and couldn't bring myself to speak with anybody. Instead, I started hiding from him," Lucy said in a distant voice that sounded like it was coming from somewhere far away inside her. It was like she was trying to separate herself from what was being discussed, and this made Tom's brows pull together.

"I would stay locked up in my bedroom unless I had to go to school. I stayed away from Sonia's house and every other place that I might run into him."

Alicia's heart broke as she watched Lucy, and she could tell that talking about this wasn't easy for Lucy. She wanted to call for a break, but Lucy continued. She told them all that she had told Tom concerning how Jamie had abducted her on the night of her prom.

Bryan handed Sonia a hankie when tears kept dropping from Sonia's eyes, and Alicia reached for her hankie to also wipe her tears as they listened to Lucy's narration.

The information Lucy was sharing now was not in the papers since she had not told anyone about it other than Tom. All they knew was that she had been abducted but they didn't know the exact details of how it had happened.

"I killed Jamie," Lucy said after a while as she tried to refocus her gaze on Alicia, "I didn't mean to kill him, but I was glad he died," She confessed as her hands began to tremble.

Chapter 253 - LuSon Interview (4)

"Are you saying that because you think he deserved to die for doing that to you?" Alicia asked Lucy knowingly since she did not doubt that she too would murder the motherfucker in cold-blood if he came an inch near her with his madness.

"I don't know how I would have lived sanely knowing that he was alive after all of that," Lucy said in all honesty.

"What did he do to you, Lucy?" Alicia asked as she tried to put herself together, while Sonia took Lucy's trembling hands, wanting her to focus on her so that she would remember that she wasn't alone.

Tears fell from Lucy's eyes as she turned to meet Sonia's teary gaze while her mind traveled back to the events that took place eight years ago.

Although she was still feeling drowsy, seventeen years old Lucy opened her eyes slowly and then shut them because of the sudden onslaught of light in the room. The first thing she realized as she came to consciousness was that there was something inside her mouth, and her lips were sealed. And then she shivered involuntarily because of how cold the room was. She stiffened when it occurred to her that not only was the room cold, but she was also lying there naked without her clothes. She tried to move her arms but soon realized that she couldn't move either her arms or her legs. They were tied. She realized that she was lying on a bed.

Where was this place? What was happening to her? Lucy wondered, and then her heart skipped a beat, and she panicked when she remembered what had happened. Jamie! He had come to her house. She remained on the bed with her eyes closed as she tried to calm herself while also listening for any sound to know if someone was in the room with her. Where was this place? She wondered

without moving any part of her body so that she wouldn't alert anyone in the room that she had regained consciousness.

What could she do? Fight? She could neither fight nor scream for help. Not when he had sealed her lips and tied her arms. She was at a disadvantage already because she didn't even know where this place was.

She slowly opened her eyes again this time as she tried to take in her environment. The place looked like an apartment that was under reconstruction. The paint was peeling from the walls, but the ceiling still looked new.

"I see you are awake," Jamie greeted from behind her, his head hovering over her, and immediately Lucy twisted her neck so that she could look at him with her eyes which were wild with fear.

She made a sound in her throat as though she was trying to say something but Jamie only smiled at her as he moved closer to the bed, "Don't worry. You don't have to say anything," he said as he reached out to comb his fingers through her hair.

"Did you know that your hair is what first caught my eyes the first time I saw you?" Jamie asked with a creepy smile that made her skin crawl as she tried to move away from his touch.

"Your hair is too long. It hides your beauty," Jamie said with disapproval as he brushed her hair away from her face, and his fingers grazed her face in the process making her cringe.

"We should get rid of some of it. Only then will you look perfect," Jamie said as he walked away from her and then returned a moment later with a pair of scissors.

"Don't worry. I'm not going to hurt you. I wouldn't have brought you here in this manner but it seemed like you were avoiding me so I had to come to get you when I couldn't bear it anymore," Jamie said with a sigh as he grabbed some of her hair and cut them off using the scissors. Lucy closed her eyes as tears rolled down her cheeks when she felt her hair fall to the ground.

"Your body is responding to my touch," he said with excitement in his tone when he saw her hardened nipples, and Lucy's eyes widened as she quickly shook her head, trying to let him know that it was because she was freezing.

She tried to roll away when he reached for her boobs, but her movement was limited because she was tied so he grabbed her boobs effortlessly and smiled as he teased her nipples, while she made pleading sounds as she squirmed.

"You are enjoying it, aren't you?" He asked, misinterpreting her plea to stop as a go-ahead.

Lucy shut her eyes tightly as she tried to endure the violation of her body, and the humiliation she was being faced with. Her whole body shook with shudders each time she felt his hands on her.

"You mean he did all of that to you?" Alicia asked in a shaky voice, cutting off Lucy's narrative.

"He did so every day. Sometimes he would just stand there and jerk off while leering at me. He said that was what he did with the pictures he had of me. He said watching the real thing was even better," Lucy said, and they could all hear the tremor in her voice as she spoke with tears running down her cheeks. She had to be one hell of an actress to be able to sound so convincing.

By now Sonia was crying profusely as she listened to Lucy who was sharing her tale as emotionlessly as she could manage even though her body was trembling in reaction to the memories. She wished she could stop Lucy from going on with the story, but she also knew that Lucy had to get it all out, and if this was the method Lucy chose to use, then she could only offer her support.

Tom who was standing behind the camera was seething with barely controlled anger. He hated that Lucy was being made to share such a personal and humiliating experience to the entire world because of a silly stunt that Anita had pulled. He wanted to walk away and stop listening, but he couldn't because he knew that his presence there meant a lot to Lucy.

In Lucy's apartment, Lucy's father held her mother as she sobbed helplessly, "My baby went through all of that and I had no idea. How did she manage to bottle all of that up this whole time? How did she ever keep it to herself?"

"This whole time I pressured her about getting into a relationship without knowing all these details. I failed my daughter. We failed her as a family. We just assumed that she lost her memory of it while she kept it all inside. We should have insisted that she get help! We shouldn't have let her be," Lucy's mother continued beating herself even as her husband held her.

"She will be okay now, don't beat yourself over it," he tried to assure her even though he was very upset himself. He wished the bastard wasn't dead already so that he would deal with him for hurting his daughter.

Although Lucas wasn't happy with Lucy over what had transpired between them earlier, he couldn't keep still as he watched his twin sister on the screen sharing her painful story. He knew that he had his faults in all of this. If only he hadn't been so focused on Rachel. If only he had paid more attention to his sister, maybe she would have confided in him from the start. If only he had insisted she go with them that night, instead of leaving with Rachel because she didn't want to wait for Lucy... If only. He had many regrets, but this wasn't the time for regrets. He had failed as her twin brother in the past, he wasn't going to fail now. Seeing how glazed her eyes were, he feared that something might happen to her if she continued that way and he doubted that there was a doctor in that apartment with them.

He stood up and walked out of the apartment without saying a word to his parents. He needed to be there for her. He wanted her to be able to look across the room and see him standing there for her.

At the hotel where Harry and Jade were still busy watching the interview, Jade sobbed quietly as she listened to Lucy, and Harry stood up and walked away. He returned a moment later with a box of tissues and handed it to her before picking up his phone and walking away. He didn't know how to comfort her, and he didn't want to keep watching the interview. His anger seemed to be increasing with each passing second and he could only imagine how angry Tom was feeling about this.

Once he walked into his bedroom he dialed a number, "Have you been able to find anything about the transactions she made yesterday?" He asked once the other person received his call. Although he had said he was going to get back to Tom regarding it the next day, he wasn't sure he could wait that long for it.

"Yes, sir. I checked her bank records. She was at the bank for two separate transactions. She made a withdrawal the first time, and then she did a transfer the second time," the bank manager said. Tom and Harry were two of their biggest clients, so it was an honor to help Harry in whatever way he could.

"Did you check the account she transferred the money to?" Harry asked hopefully.

"Yes, I did. It was to someone called Simon Bell. I will send you the details of the transaction."

"Simon Bell?" Harry asked thoughtfully.

"Yes, sir."

"Alright, then. Thank you for your help. I will recommend your bank to some of my friends," Harry promised before hanging up.

Now all he needed to do was to confirm who Anita had made that transfer to. She might have made the transfer because she couldn't give the person cash, and that was likely because the person lived in a different city.

First, he would need to confirm from either of the Hank siblings if someone named Simon Bell worked for Bryan. That would enable him to narrow down his search. Walking out of the bedroom he returned to the living room where Jade was still staring at the television screen.

He cleared his throat to get Jade's attention, "Sorry to interrupt you. I need to confirm something from you. Do you know if anyone named Simon Bell works for your brother Bryan? Or maybe he is a friend?" Harry asked curiously even if he doubted that the person was Bryan's friend.

Jade turned to him with a slight frown, "Simon? Yes. Why?"

Chapter 254 - LuSon Interview (5)

"We should take a break," Alicia said when she was no longer sure that she could listen to Lucy without breaking down in tears herself. Anyone watching the show would be able to tell how affected she was by Lucy's confession. Her eyes showed that she was seriously trying to hold back her tears.

"Let's just go on," Lucy pleaded, wanting to just get on with it. It had taken all of her willpower to do this, and she didn't want to stop now simply because everyone in the room was feeling emotional.

"He only unsealed my lips whenever he wanted me to eat or drink water. But I felt too disgusted with him and myself to eat anything. Sometimes he would try to force me to eat, and the few times I would try to eat because of hunger I would end up throwing up everything. Because I was not eating and was barely drinking enough water, I became weaker by the day," Lucy continued.

"He made sure I didn't do a thing. He said he wanted to treat me like the angel I was. So he would clean my body with a towel and water so that there was no need for me to bathe, and whenever I needed to ease myself, he would lift me to the toilet himself and clean me up afterward. Sometimes he would let his hands linger on my vagina, after which he would have a hard-on and then jerk off in front of me," Lucy said with a shudder.

"So what happened? How did Jamie die? The news articles said that by the time the police arrived a week later they found him dead," Alicia cut in, not wanting to hear any more sordid details of all Jamie had done.

"He soon got fed up with jerking off, and he wanted to rape me," Lucy said flatly.

They all turned to the door when the doorbell rang and Tom walked away to see who was at the door, "Let's just go on," Lucy said, and Sonia gave Alicia a nod to continue, while Bryan who had been trying hard not to show any emotion, stood up.

"Please excuse me," he said as he walked away from the set, leaving Sonia alone with Lucy. He wasn't sure he wanted to remain there and listen while Lucy talked about how she had been raped by the monster.

"I guess this isn't an interview anymore, but a reality show," Alicia tried to joke, but even her laughter rang false. There was nothing funny about the situation. Not for her, and certainly not for the viewers who were beyond horrified by what they were hearing.

"Hi! You're Tom, right?" Lucas asked once Tom opened the door, and both men stared at each other.

"Yeah. Lucas?" Tom asked with an outstretched hand.

"Yeah. I want to see Lucy," Lucas said as he shook Tom's hand. This wasn't the way he had envisioned meeting his sister's boyfriend for the first time, but they could always correct this later when everything has been settled.

"Come in," Tom said as he stepped back and opened the door wider for him to get in.

"Thank you for doing all of this for my sister," Lucas said as he walked past him into the apartment.

"You're Lucy's twin, aren't you?" Bryan asked curiously, intercepting Lucas when he noticed the resemblance between the young man and Lucy.

"Yes. I would have said it's nice to meet you, but not under these circumstances," Lucas said politely as he stretched out his hand for a handshake, and Bryan nodded as he shook hands with him.

"I understand," Bryan said as he stepped aside for Lucas to go in, while he walked over to where Tom had shut the door and was returning inside.

"It must be tough listening to all of that," Bryan said thoughtfully. He couldn't imagine how he would have reacted if it was Sonia who was being made to recount such an experience.

"You have no idea," Tom murmured as he ran his fingers through his hair.

"I wonder how her twin brother must be feeling right now. I know for a fact that I would beat the life out of any bastard that brings that psychopathic nonsense anywhere near Jade," Bryan swore angrily and reached into his pocket for his phone when it started ringing.

"Excuse me," he told Tom as he walked away from there into one of the bedrooms when he noticed that the call was the producer in charge of the reality show.

"Is there something you want?" Bryan asked coldly assuming that he was probably calling because of his announcement about the cancellation of his contract with Golden Stars Entertainment Agency, or because he was one of the persons behind the scandal.

"I'm not your enemy. You don't need to be rude," the producer scolded when he noticed Bryan's unfriendly tone. Although he had never really liked Bryan because of his arrogance, he had always respected Bryan's professional attitude towards his career, and during the course of the reality show, he had gotten to like Bryan more because of his relationship with Sonia.

Bryan paused, "My apologies. If you're following the interview then you will know that I'm not in a very good mood right now," Bryan explained as he paced around the bedroom.

"I'm busy at the moment so I'm not following the interview. I was calling regarding the scandal between you and Sonia," the producer explained, and Bryan paused.

"Yeah? What about it?"

"I don't know how you're going to take this, and I apologize for doing this without your knowledge..." The producer started, making Bryan's brows pull together in a frown.

"What are you talking about?" Bryan cut in impatiently.

"While I and my camera crew were looking for spots to place the cameras so that we could get a good coverage of your apartment, we noticed that someone had already planted a camera in your apartment," the producer said, making Bryan's heart skip a beat.

"What? Why didn't you mention it to me?" Bryan asked in a slightly pissed tone.

"Listen calmly or I will hang up," the producer threatened.

"Fine. Go on," Bryan said coolly.

"Initially I thought you did it. But then again it didn't make sense to me. I didn't think there was any reason for you to do that when you could make use of normal security cameras. I also confirmed from Jeff if you were the type to have hidden cameras in your home, but he said you didn't like having cameras in your private space. However, I didn't tell him about what I found," the producer explained.

"So what are you driving at?" Bryan asked impatiently, feeling uncomfortable with the thought that someone had planted a camera in his home. Who could have done that? Jeff? Mia? Those were the major people that had unrestrained access to his home.

"I had one of my men look around the room for other cameras or listening devices and he found one hidden under the table in the living room. So I had him set up a hidden camera so that I could see who was behind it," The producer said, explaining the reason for his apology.

"So? Were you able to find the person?" Bryan asked curiously.

"Yes. Luckily the person sneaked into your apartment some minutes ago to take out the camera and listening device, and my camera captured him. I will send the footage to you, maybe you might recognize him," the producer offered.

Bryan narrowed his eyes, "You're not doing this for free, are you?"

"You're right. I'm not. You owe me. If and when I need your help in the future, I will let you know," the producer said as he hung up, and immediately he transferred the footage to Bryan's phone.

Immediately Bryan received the notification, he clicked on the video, and his brows furrowed when he recognized the young man who walked into his apartment. Simon?

"Yes? You know him? Who is he to your brother?" Harry asked in surprise since he hadn't really expected the person to be someone close enough to Bryan for Jade to know him.

"Simon is Bryan's housekeeper. Does he have anything to do with this?" Jade asked, torn between talking to Harry and listening to Lucy's interview.

"Bryan's housekeeper?" It made a lot of sense. It wasn't news that some household staff of celebrities often sold private information on their employers to the press.

"Anita sent him some money. Unless they're related, we both know that money wasn't for free. And even if they're related it is the same thing," Harry pointed out.

Jade gave him a nod, "I thought as much. Both cases are related. It isn't a coincidence. Unfortunately, my mother is going to deal with Simon if this happens to be true. She personally recommended him to Bryan the same way she recommended Tom's butler. They both report to her," Jade said with a slight frown.

"I should give Tom a call."

Chapter 255 - LuSon Interview (6)

"Jamie attempted to rape you?" Alicia asked, continuing with the interview, and Lucy drew in a deep breath as she nodded her head.

"By that time he had taken off the tape from my lips because the tape he used had caused me to have wounds around my lips, and he figured that I was too weak to scream so it was safe."

"On that day he stripped off his clothes completely and then came to where I was lying near the bed. He rubbed his manhood over my body. And then as though he was pushing his luck he tried to stuff it into my mouth," Lucy said with a shudder.

"I have no idea what he was thinking doing that. Perhaps he thought I was too weak to bite him, or maybe he was delusional enough to think that I wanted him too."

"So what did you do? You didn't bite it off?" Alicia asked with a slight frown.

"I knew that I couldn't fight him. I was too weak to win a fight against him, especially not when I was still tied up," Lucy said and squeezed her eyes shut.

Seventeen years old Lucy turned her head to the side, away from Jamie's erect manhood, "If you care about me as you claim you do, you won't want to have me this way, like I'm a prisoner," Lucy said in a weak voice.

"You're not my prisoner, you're my angel. I love you," Jamie assured her as he ran his hands over her chest.

"How can you say you love me yet you treat me this way? Even prisoners are not tied up in this manner. I can barely feel my hands or legs," Lucy complained as she tried not to shudder in disgust when she felt his hands on her.

No matter how many times he touched her, she could never get used to the disgust and fear she felt each time she felt his hands on her skin. It was as scary and as disgusting to her as the imagination of having spiders or worms crawl over her.

"I don't even remember the last time I had a real bath," Lucy said to him, trying to distract herself from what he was doing.

Jamie looked down at her uncertainly as though trying to determine whether she was trying to plan a trick on him, "I can't let you do that. You will try to run away from me. I can't do that," Jamie said as he moved away from her.

Seeing that her plan was working a little, seventeen years old Lucy decided to continue, "So how long will you keep me tied up in here? Until I die? How can I believe you love me when you treat me this way?"

"I can't untie you," Jamie insisted stubbornly.

"What about just for a few minutes so that I can shower. You can have me after that," Lucy bargained, and Jamie's brows pulled together as he considered her request.

"You can stand by the door and keep watch until I finish bathing if you want," Lucy offered when she noticed that his resolve was beginning to weaken, "I've never asked you for anything before. You can't turn down my first request if you love me," Lucy pointed out.

"You won't try to run away?" Jamie asked after giving it some thought.

"Can I escape even if I tried?" Lucy asked, since she had already made up her mind to kill herself. She would rather take her own life than let him violate her body any more than he had already done. It was most likely that she would be dead before either her parents or the police finds her. What were the chances that she would be able to live a normal life after now?

Jamie looked at her for a moment before reaching for her hands and legs to untie her, "If you try to run this will be the last time I untie you," he threatened, and Lucy nodded meekly.

Once he untied her, Lucy stretched out her hands and legs which truly felt numb, and although she still felt embarrassed because she was naked before him, she didn't mind. All she wanted was to take her own life and save herself from this torture.

"You wanted to take your life?" Sonia cut in, looking horrified as what happened finally dawned on her.

Tears dropped from Lucy's eyes as she turned to Sonia and nodded her head, "While he was making sure the lock was in place, I stole the pair of scissors which he had used in cutting my hair, and went to into the bathroom, ready to end it all. I guess he didn't remember to get rid of the scissors since he obviously never planned to untie me. He came into the bathroom before I could stab myself, and while trying to stop me from harming myself I pushed him with all the strength I could muster. He slipped and hit his head in the bathroom while trying to stop me from taking my life."

She remembered that moment when it dawned on her that she had killed him. Even though he had abused and hurt her, she had been horrified to see blood oozing from the back of his head. She had fainted at the sight of the blood and had woken up to find herself in the hospital.

"I know that I should be sorry that he died, but I'm not sorry. I would never have been able to live with myself knowing that he was alive. I found the courage to live only because he died. This might be selfish of me, but I'm sorry that I am not sorry," Lucy concluded with a sob, and Sonia broke into a sob of her own as she embraced Lucy and held on to her tightly.

"I'm sorry you went through all of that. I'm so sorry, Lu. I'm sorry," Sonia pleaded as she cried, while Alicia wiped her own tears.

"We will be taking a break right now. We will attend to all your questions and comments after now," Alicia said with a snuffle, and Jasmine turned off the camera.

Alicia covered her face in her hands as she wept, and Jasmine walked over to where she was and patted her back softly, "You did a good job," Jasmine said with a snuffle as she consoled her wife.

"Lulu," Lucas called, his vision blurred with tears as he looked at his twin sister, and Lucy pulled away from Sonia's embrace when she heard her brother's voice.

"I'll leave you both to talk," Sonia offered as she stood up and walked away from there to go and find Bryan who wasn't in the living room.

"I'm sorry I wasn't there for you. I'm sorry you had to go through all of this alone," Lucas said guiltily. Even after Lucy had returned from the hospital after she was rescued, he had still not given her enough of his attention as he should have done as her twin brother.

"It's alright. I'm fine," Lucy said with a shaky smile as she tried to wipe her tears with the back of her hand, but Lucas reached out and wiped her tears with his thumb.

"I will make it up to you, I promise. You will never have to feel alone again," Lucas promised as he embraced her.

Tom watched both siblings from a distance but didn't approach them. He knew that they needed the moment together. He could always have his moment with Lucy later.

He glanced down at his phone when it started to ring and received the call when he saw that it was from Harry, "Is everything alright?" He asked as he walked into his bedroom.

"Anita transferred some money to someone called Simon Bell, and Jade says he is your brother's housekeeper," Harry informed him.

"Simon? That is unexpected, but it makes sense," Tom said with a slight frown.

"What should I do?" Harry asked, and Tom sighed.

"I will talk to Bryan. Let's just clear up this mess first, and then we will figure out what to do."

"Alright. Is Lucy okay?" Harry asked, his concern evident in his tone.

"Maybe not at the moment, but she will be fine," Tom said confidently.

"You should get back to her. I will let you know if I find anything else," Harry said before hanging up.

In the room next to Tom's bedroom, Sonia stood by the open door as she watched Bryan who was looking at something on his phone, "Is everything okay?" She asked in concern as she shut the door behind her and walked in to meet him.

Bryan raised his head, "I'm not sure Anita is involved. I think my housekeeper sold the information to the press," Bryan said, and Sonia's brows pulled together as she approached him.

"What do you mean? But your housekeeper hasn't been around since I arrived. You said you didn't want him in the apartment so that your mother wouldn't find out about our fake engagement. So how did he find out?" Sonia asked, and then took the phone from Bryan when he handed it to her.

The crease on her brows deepened as she watched the video, "He planted a camera in your house?" She asked in disbelief.

"This explains why the tabloids always had something to write about me. He was selling me out to them," Bryan said, feeling very disappointed since he had considered Simon as a part of the family.

"Bryan?" Tom called from the doorway since he had gone to the living room to find him, only to realize that he was still in the bedroom.

"I'm in here," Bryan called to him.

Tom opened the door, and paused when he saw Sonia inside, "Are you okay?" He asked when he noticed that Bryan seemed upset, and he reasoned it had to do with the phone call he had received.

"Simon planted a camera in my apartment," Bryan said as he handed the phone to Tom.

Bryan looked at Tom as he watched the video, "Why don't you seem surprised?" He asked curiously.

"Harry called. Anita transferred some money to Simon yesterday," Tom explained.

"So she is really behind this as we suspected," Bryan said with a shake of his head, "Mom is going to be upset when she finds out that Simon did this."

"Let's finish up with the interview and then we can talk about that," Tom suggested as he walked out of the bedroom.

Once he returned to the living room this time, he went to where Lucy was seated with Lucas and squatted in front of her, "You did very well.. I'm proud of you," he said with a soft smile as he kissed her hands.

Chapter 256 - LuSon Interview (7)

"I kind of feel relieved that it wasn't Jeff or Mia. I feel sorry and embarrassed that I suspected them in the first place," Sonia said once she was alone in the bedroom with Bryan.

"I suspected them too. Everything pointed to them," Bryan said as he lay his back on the bed while his legs remained on the ground.

"So what is your plan?" Sonia asked Bryan with concern.

"About Simon?" Bryan asked in confusion.

"No. Your career. You have a plan, right?" Sonia asked as she looked at him with a slight crease on her brows.

"I will just be a freelance actor until I find a befitting entertainment agency. Don't worry, I'll be okay. I'm Bryan Hank after all," Bryan said confidently.

"I'm sorry."

"Sorry? About what?" Bryan asked in confusion as he sat up and turned to look at her, "If you're going to start apologizing because you think it's your fault or Lucy's fault that any of this happened then you should probably not say anything. You're smarter than that."

Sonia sighed.

"Instead of apologizing, I'd rather you spend the time plotting out different ways we can make Anita pay. I don't think pulling her hair is good enough," Bryan said, and Sonia giggled.

"Yeah. I should do that."

"It's past 7 PM already. Let's join them in the living room," Bryan suggested as he stood up and held out his hand to Sonia. Once she stood up, he kissed her forehead, "I'm glad we told the truth." He said.

"Your mom..."

"Oh, shit! I forgot about her. She's going to be pissed," Bryan complained, knowing that she was going to give him hell.

"Not as pissed as she would be when she finds out the help she gave you is a traitor," Sonia pointed out.

"Yeah! You're right," Bryan said with a grin since Simon's betrayer was like a silver lining in the cloud.

"We should join the others," Sonia reminded him.

"Remember what I said, right? You're passing the night with me," Bryan said, and then quickly walked out of the bedroom before Sonia could argue.

In the living room, Lucy smiled as she gazed at Tom, "You know I never would have done this without you, right?" She asked, looking at him with serious eyes.

"I think you would have," Tom said confidently.

"You have met Lucas?" She asked, turning to Lucas so that she would do the introductions.

"Yeah. You can tell him about our dinner plan," Tom suggested.

"Dinner plan?" Lucas asked curiously, and Lucy nodded.

"He is inviting us to his home to have dinner with him," Lucy explained.

"Mom would love that," Lucas said with a grin, and Lucy giggled, while Tom watched both siblings with a smile.

"That reminds me, I should inform Samantha of the plans. Excuse me," Tom said as he walked away.

"He is a really cool guy," Lucas said as they both watched Tom.

Lucy sighed, "Yes, he is. Do you like him?" she asked as she turned to look at Lucas,

"If I say I don't like him what are you going to do? Will you end your relationship with him?" Lucas asked with a snort.

Lucy grinned, "No. I'll just ask him to give you lots of money. I'm sure he can buy your affection," Lucy teased, and Lucas chuckled.

"Lucas," Lucy called in a serious tone, "I'm sorry about what I said earlier. It was insensitive of me."

Lucas let out a sigh, "Yes, it was insensitive of you. I would have preferred you consoled me instead of saying that, but it's fine. You had every reason to feel that way. I never should have let Rachel come between our friendship. I realized today that somewhere along the line I stopped being your friend, and only related with you as just my sister. Not even as my twin sister. I'm sorry," Lucas said apologetically.

"If you love her you can make things work with her. I just..."

"You don't have to do that, Lu. I loved her. Maybe I loved her more than she deserved to be loved. I will get over the hurt and move on."

"Hi! You're Lucy's twin brother?" Alicia asked with a wide friendly smile as she approached them. Thanks to Jasmine she had been able to put herself together and was back to her cheerful self.

"Yes, I am Lucas. Thanks for helping her," Lucas said with a smile of his own as he tried to stand up to shake Alicia, but Lucy tugged the edge of his shirt when she saw his dimples.

"She's married to the lady behind the camera so don't waste your dimples on her," Lucy teased under her breath, and Lucas slapped her hand away as he stood up.

"I can see you're fine now. I should go and inform mom that we are having dinner with the in-laws," Lucas said with a smirk before returning his attention to Alicia.

"It's nice meeting you, Alicia. I need to leave now."

"Same here. See you around," Alicia said with a wave as Lucas walked away.

"Lucy, I don't know what to say to you. Thank you so much for proving me right. I'm glad to know that I wasn't wrong about you," Alicia said as she took the seat Lucas had just vacated and embraced her.

Lucy smiled as she embraced Alicia, "Thank you so much for your support, it means a lot to me," Lucy said in gratitude. She was still very surprised that Alicia and Jasmine had both come through for her in this manner.

"You are so strong, Lu. It takes a lot of courage to live through that and still turn out this way," Alicia said with a smile as she pulled away from Lucy.

"Congrats, Lu. You said your truth, and now the netizens are on your side," Jasmine who was now reading the comments, announced and Alicia hurried over to check some of the comments, while Sonia returned to Lucy's side.

There were over four thousand comments and most of them were in Lucy's favor.

'I'm nineteen, and I have been struggling with self-harm since I was raped a year ago. I can't believe you found the strength to live after that. Thanks for sharing this story, it gave me hope'

'I'm sorry for all the mean things I said about you and your family without knowing the truth. Please forgive me'

'That is a horrible thing to experience. It's a nightmare. I'm glad you got through this. I take back everything I've said against you'

'I should find the son of a bitch that brought such false accusations to the internet!!!'

'I couldn't keep a dry eye as I watched this interview. I could feel your pain. I pray you heal completely'

'This is the most emotional piece I've seen on the internet. I hope that bastard keeps burning in hell'

'Please can you continue with the interview? I will like to know about what happened after she was found'

'I'm glad your experience didn't ruin your friendship with Sonia. I'm officially rooting for you all!'

'You're so brave. I never would have survived something like that'

'I'm a full-grown man, yet I cried watching this. I can't imagine how your family must have felt'

'How do we know you're not putting up a show? It's not like he is here to tell the side of his story'
Alicia scrolled to the responses under this comment.

'Someone finally spoke my mind!'

'Shut the fuck up if you have nothing reasonable to say'

'You're a bastard for trivializing her tears and pain'

'Why don't you go to hell and find out his side of the story, you asshole?'

'She would have to be one hell of an actor to be faking this.'

'I think this guy is a rapist and a stalker just like Jamie. Psychopath alert!!!'

"It's getting late. We should continue with the interview so that we can finish up quickly. Let's leave the comments for later," Jasmine suggested.

"Yeah, let's do that," Alicia said as she looked around for Tom, "Where is Tom?"

"I'm here. What's up?" Tom asked as he returned from his bedroom.

"Are you still willing to reveal your identity and your relationship status? If you're doing it for Lucy's sake then you don't have to anymore. Her name has been cleared already." Alicia pointed out.

"We are sticking to the plan."

"Okay then," Alicia said with a nod as she returned to her seat while Tom returned to Jasmine's side.

"You know something? I still can't believe I've been living opposite a billionaire this whole time," Jasmine said, making Tom grin.

"What does it feel like?" Tom asked in amusement.

"It's actually embarrassing," Jasmine said with a sigh, remembering the first time they were flirting with him, and the time she had collected his phone number.

"How so?"

"Alicia told me that she told you about our initial plan," Jasmine said in embarrassment, and Tom couldn't tell if the subject was more embarrassing for him or her.

"Let's forget about it, please."

"Yeah. We probably should," Jasmine said with a nod, and then turned on the camera once she received the signal from Alicia who was seated now, ready to resume the show.

"Hello, viewers! Welcome back!"

Chapter 257 - Better Late Than Never

"Now that we have heard about all that happened between Lucy and Jamie, and how it led to Jamie's death, Sonia do you mind telling us how the police were able to find them? Did you reveal everything to your parents? Or Lucy's parents?" Alicia asked curiously, wanting to know how Sonia had chosen Lucy over her family.

"I went to Lucy's home the day after prom to check on her, and that was when I found out that she wasn't at home, and her family assumed she was with me. We all panicked when we realized that she was missing. Lucy's parents went to some of their neighbors' apartments to ask if they knew anything about her disappearance and only one neighbor who happened to be a doctor said that he had seen a young guy dressed in a hooded sweatshirt walking up to the door as he was driving to the hospital around 8 PM. I didn't know what to think so I ran back home, and the first place I checked was Jamie's bedroom. Lucy wasn't there, and neither was Jamie. I knew that now that Lucy's parents were aware that she was missing their next step would be to contact the police. Somehow I suspected that Jamie had something to do with Lucy's disappearance, so I went to my mother," Sonia said as she remembered what transpired that day.

Eighteen years old Sonia ran down the stairs in search of her mother, "Mom? Mom!" She called as she headed for the kitchen when she didn't find her mother in the bedroom.

"I'm in here. And can you please stop yelling?" her mother called to her in a scolding tone as she stirred the sauce she was preparing.

Once Sonia walked through the kitchen door she looked at her mother, "Where is Jamie? When last did you see him?"

"Jamie? Last night. Why are you asking?" Her mother asked, turning to look at her curiously since she knew that both her children never got along.

"Last night? Around what time exactly? Do you know where he went to? Or where he is right now?" Sonia asked her heart beating really fast as she prayed that Jamie had nothing to do with Lucy's disappearance. There was no way Lucy could have run away from home. Absolutely no way.

"Why are you asking so many questions? He said he would be at his best friend's place for some time. Is something wrong?" Her mother asked, beginning to feel anxious.

"What was he wearing?" Sonia asked once again without answering her mother's question.

"What is going on for christ's sake? You're scaring me. Did something happen to Jamie?" She asked, looking frightened. She had been apart from her son for over ten years, and now that he was part of her life once again, she couldn't bear to lose him.

Sonia shook her head, "No. But I think he must have done something that would cause a lot of trouble. Just tell me, mom. What was he wearing?" Sonia asked in a pleading tone which sounded desperate.

"The hooded sweatshirt I got the both of you last winter. Now tell me, what is wrong?" She asked again, but Sonia was already deathly pale.

"The hooded sweatshirt?" Sonia repeated with wide eyes.

"What is going on?"

"Is something wrong?" Sonia's stepfather asked from the doorway since he had been standing by the doorway long enough to hear Sonia's question.

"Lucy is missing. I think Jamie abducted her," Sonia said in a fearful voice.

"What nonsense are you saying? Why would he do something like that? He doesn't even talk to the girl," her stepfather said defensively.

"Lucy is missing?" Sonia's mother asked with a concerned frown before the other part of Sonia's words sank in, "Why would you think Jamie has anything to do with Lucy's disappearance?" Her mother asked with displeasure.

"Have you seen his laptop?" Sonia asked looking from her mother to her stepfather, and her mother turned to look at her stepfather.

Without saying a word, her stepfather walked out of the kitchen, and her mother followed suit as they all went to Jamie's bedroom. Once they got there, Sonia opened the folder and showed them all the pictures and videos of Lucy in the laptop.

Her stepfather turned to her with a glare in his eyes, "This doesn't prove anything. You better not cause any problems for him with this nonsense," he warned as he picked up the laptop and walked out of the bedroom.

"Mom! You saw that, right? Lucy's neighbor said he saw someone dressed in a..."

"You heard your father. Jamie isn't involved in this. You better don't mention this to anyone," her mother warned.

"MOM! How can you say that? Lucy is my best friend, and we both know that Jamie might be responsible for this!" Sonia yelled as angry tears dropped from her eyes.

"What proof do you have?" Her mother snapped at her, "Even if he did it, are you going to choose an outsider over your own brother?" Her mother asked in an equally angry tone.

"MOM!"

"I don't want to talk about this anymore. I will call him, and prove to you that Jamie isn't responsible for your best friend's disappearance," Her mother threatened as she walked over to the living room where she picked up her phone from the table before dialing Jamie's line.

She placed the phone on speaker the moment it connected so that Sonia would hear their conversation, "Jamie darling, where are you?" Her mother asked curiously while looking at Sonia.

"I told you I'll be at Abel's crib for some time."

"Is he there with you? I will love to say hello to him," her mother said.

"Sorry, mom. He is in the bathroom right now. Maybe next time," Jamie said apologetically, and at that moment the doorbell rang, and Sonia's mom walked over to the door to get it. She paled when she saw Abel standing by the door.

"Hey! Is Jamie in? I need him to help me fix something," Abel asked with a hopeful smile.

"He didn't spend the night at your place?" Sonia asked before her mother could stop her, and Abel blinked in confusion, as though he was wondering if he had busted his friend.

"You can cover for him all you want. I'm going to let them know that Jamie has her," Sonia threatened as she headed for the door while her mother tried to stop her.

"Has who? Did something happen? Is something wrong?" Abel asked in confusion, but neither mother nor daughter said a word to him.

"The moment you go through that door you cease to exist to me!" Her mother threatened, but Sonia didn't think twice about it as she ran out of the house. All she could think of at that moment was that her best friend was in danger because of her.

She had gone straight to Lucy's home where Lucy's mother was distraught crying her eyes out, "I think I know who took her," she had informed them in a trembling voice.

"You do? Who is he?" Lucy's father had asked, grabbing her shoulders so that she would look into his eyes.

"I think it's Jamie, my half-brother." She went on to explain everything to them, and this made Lucy's mother cry even more, while her father returned to the police station with Sonia to report the new findings. The police had then gone to Sonia's home to interrogate her parents concerning Jamie's whereabouts and to see the laptop which Sonia had told them about.

Jamie's father presented a clean laptop to them which was devoid of all the pictures and videos of Lucy, and even when Sonia led them to her bedroom, there was nothing in there to prove that Jamie had set up cameras in her bedroom, thus they had to rely on Sonia's testimony and that of their other classmates who had been harassed by Jamie.

"Although it took them a while, the police checked all the security footage around the apartment, and they were able to find the cab driver who gave them a lift that night. According to him, Jamie had said his girlfriend was drunk after a party and they needed to go home. Thanks to the prom gown Lucy was wearing he easily believed Jamie," Sonia said as she returned her attention to the present.

"So how did you feel about Jamie's death?"

Sonia cleared her throat, "I only felt sorry for my mother who was hurt by his death. Other than that I didn't feel anything else. He was never really my brother, so I will be a hypocrite to say that I was devastated by his death. I wasn't. Especially not when my parents kept trying to put the blame on Lucy. It was just so annoying," Sonia said with a shrug.

"Yeah. I would have been pretty annoyed too. Fuck it! I'm very annoyed," Alicia said with a shake of her head, "So did they really cut you off? Are both your parents dead?" Alicia asked, and Sonia nodded.

"After they lost the case, they cut me off and left the country. Three years later I received a call that they both died in a car crash," Sonia said with a sigh.

"You must have been hurt."

"Maybe. I don't know. I was still too angry to care. I didn't even attend their funeral. It took Lucy a long time to come out of her shell, and I wasn't going to leave her to attend their funeral."

"What about you, Lucy? How did you cope afterward?" Alicia asked, and Lucy in turn explained how she had struggled with nightmares and had been unable to sleep without pills or alcohol, and how it had made it difficult for her to be involved with the opposite sex.

"So are you trying to tell us that you still don't have a boyfriend yet?" Alicia cut in.

Lucy smiled, "Well, I only just recently started dating a super amazing guy. Better late than never, right?" Lucy asked with a smile and both Alicia and Sonia giggled as they nodded in agreement.

"I'm sure you're all dying to know who this super amazing man behind her smile is! I'm dying to reveal his identity to you too," Alicia said as she rubbed her hands together excitedly.

Chapter 258 - Miss Perry's Driver Is The CEO?

On his way back to Lucy's apartment, his phone started ringing, and Lucas stopped to take it out of his pocket to see who was calling.

His heart squeezed painfully in his chest when he saw that the call was from Rachel, so he ignored the call as he had been doing since the moment he called off things with her earlier that day.

Although it hurt very much, he meant it with every fiber of his being when he said that he was done with the relationship. He was well aware that his feelings for her ran deep and it wasn't going to end abruptly just because he wished it to. It was going to be a slow and painful process, but he was going to forget her no matter how long it would take or what it would cost him.

He stood by the car and tried to calm himself since he was already beginning to feel upset merely by thinking about her. Soon his phone vibrated with a text message notification, and he didn't need to be told that it was from Rachel.

'You are not really going to call off the engagement, are you? We both know that my father won't take it likely with you if you do. Don't forget that you work at a decent hospital thanks to my family, and the apartment is a benefit that came with the job, so I'm not moving out.'

Reading the text, Lucas' heart squeezed in his chest even more painfully this time. How hadn't he realized this whole time that this was the kind of person he was in love with? It made him sick to know that he had cared so deeply for someone who cared only for herself. Someone whose only desire was to own him. Of all things how could she try to blackmail him to get back with her by

threatening him with his job? His love for her had not only been blind, but it had also been very foolish.

If anything, this only showed all the more reason why he should completely put an end to their relationship. Once he was done here, and he returned to Heden, the first thing he was going to do was quit his job and move out of the apartment. He didn't want to be connected to her in any way anymore. No matter how painful it was, Lucy was right. Good riddance to Rachel. He was better off without her. It only hurt him now that it had taken him so long for him to realize this and he had wasted too much time with her.

Taking in a deep breath, he blacklisted Rachel's line before returning his phone into his pocket and heading for Lucy's apartment.

"I can't believe that she wants to show her boyfriend to the world when we are yet to see him," Lucy's mother who had stopped crying now, complained to her husband with a frown as they continued to watch the show.

"But we are about to see him too," her husband pointed out as the door opened and Lucas walked inside.

"At the same time as everyone else?" She asked with disapproval and her husband rolled his eyes.

"A moment ago you were weeping..."

"Don't even start, Drew! I'm just saying it's not fair that we get to see our daughter's man this way. We should at least meet him in person," she said with a scowl.

"He wants us to come to his home for dinner," Lucas announced as he joined them in the living room.

"Really? Did you speak with him? When? Hold on, Lucy is having the interview somewhere around the house, right? I want to see him before everyone else does," Lucy's mother said as she quickly stood up.

"But..."

"Are you going to take me there or do I have to find my way there by myself?" She asked as she headed for the door.

"We can just see him during dinner, honey," her husband called, trying to discourage her from leaving.

"Are you coming with me or not?" She asked as she opened the door, and Lucas followed her. With a sigh, Lucy's father got off the couch and followed his wife and son out of the house.

Lucas led them to Tom's apartment, and after taking a deep breath, he tapped the knocker on the door this time instead of using the bell, since it wouldn't be loud enough to disrupt the interview as the sound of the bell would.

Inside the house, Tom who was getting ready to be introduced by Alicia turned to the door when he heard the knock, "Should I get it?" Bryan asked, and Tom shook his head.

"I don't want the entire women in the neighborhood gathering in front of my apartment when they realize that you're in here," Tom said as he walked to the door and then pushed it open.

He blinked in surprise when Lucas flashed him an apologetic smile before stepping to the side for Tom to face his parents. Tom's heart skipped a beat when he came face to face with Lucy's parents. Now he could see that Lucy's stature and long curly hair came from her mother, but the jet black color of her hair and her beautiful gray eyes were from her father. Even though he had been dying to meet the people who gave life to the lady he was in love with, he suddenly began to feel anxious.

He cleared his throat, "You're welc..."

"Hi! I'm Janet Perry, Lucy's mom! I've waited forever for this day to meet Lucy's boyfriend," Lucy's mother said with a happy smile as she pulled him in for a hug, startling Tom who hadn't been expecting that from her.

Tom smiled as he hugged her back, and then they both pulled away from each other but Lucy's mother kept holding his hands, "Thanks for being with her through all of this. You have no idea how much it means to us," she said as her eyes gleamed with tears of joy as she let go of his hands.

"It's my pleasure. Your daughter... She is an angel," Tom said with a small smile, relieved that her mother was easy to get along with. The only problem now was the man who was staring at him with an unreadable expression.

Lucy's father watched Tom for a moment, and Tom tried to hold his gaze without looking away. Both men stared at each other for some time, and then Lucy's father grinned at him, "I'm Andrew Perry, Lucy's first love, and Sonia's first crush," he said as he held out his hand for a handshake.

"I'm Thomas Hank, Lucy's one true love," Tom said with a grin of his own as he shook the man's hand, and both Lucas and Lucy's mother chuckled as Lucy's father scowled at him.

"Please come in," Tom offered, but Lucy's mother shook her head.

"I only wanted to see your face before you appear on the show. Lucas says we are having dinner with you tonight, I'm looking forward to getting to know you," Lucy's mother said, and Tom smiled. It was so easy to love Lucy's family.

"You don't mind moving to my home, right? I will accommodate you for the rest of your stay here. I can assure you that it'll be more comfortable than your stay at the hotel," Tom offered looking from Lucy's father to Lucas.

"All of us?" Lucy's mother asked curiously.

"Yes. I have enough room for everyone," Tom said, and Lucy's mother sighed dreamily.

"Lucy picked the right man," she said with a nod of approval, and her husband chuckled.

"We will think about it. We have to get back to the apartment to follow the show," Lucy's father said and placed his hand over his wife's shoulders to lead her home.

"Sorry. You can get back inside," Lucas whispered to Tom, thinking that he must have been flustered to meet their parents this way.

"It's fine," Tom said with a wave as he returned inside in time to hear Alicia's next question.

"So did you tell your boyfriend about your experience, or did he just find out about it? What was his reaction to it,"

"He is aware of it. He was actually the first person I told about what happened even though I couldn't exactly finish the story because halfway into it I fainted and he had to take me to the hospital," Lucy explained with a small smile, "As for his reaction you will have to ask him that yourself," Lucy said with a giggle.

On hearing that, Anita who was watching the show in her living room stood up. Tom was already aware of it? He knew of her past? She had thought that it would be too shameful for Lucy to tell him about it, especially since her source had told her that Lucy had never mentioned what happened to anyone in her family. What was this? She had done all of this for nothing? And what was this Alicia lady talking about revealing Lucy's boyfriend? Tom was ready to reveal his identity to the world? It seemed like instead of tearing them all apart, she had only succeeded in bringing them together.

She bit her nails as she paced around her living room, and then paused when she realized what she was doing. She dropped her hands to her side and turned to her television screen once again when she heard

"This makes me even more supercharged to introduce your boyfriend to the world. Ladies and gentlemen, without wasting any more time, I'd love to welcome the wonderful man Lucy is dating. He is no other than Thomas Hank, the CEO of I-Global, and the only brother of Bryan Hank who is also in a relationship with Lucy's BFF. Isn't this so cool?" Alicia squealed excitedly, as Tom walked into the set to join Sonia and Lucy who were both laughing and clapping happily.

"WHAT? Isn't that Miss Perry's driver, Tom?" One of the men in Lucy's team asked as they watched in horror.

"Miss Perry's driver is the CEO?" One of the ladies asked in surprise, while the man who had been rude to Tom and had called Lucy a murderer in front of him slid off his seat.

"WOW! This is super cool." Amy had a wide smile on her face as she watched the screen. It explained a lot. Especially why Lucy was working in the CEO's office, and the CEO's reaction to the rumors in the office.

Anita picked up her wine bottle and threw it against her television screen in a fit of anger as she screamed in anger scattered the apartment. Her eyes were red and the veins on her forehead stood out. She wasn't going to lose to someone like Lucy.. NEVER.

Chapter 259 - The End

As Brandy prepared to leave for the club a few minutes past 7 PM, she couldn't help the feeling that there something was off about this arrangement even though nothing had happened to make her feel that way.

Something about the client didn't sit right with her. Why did the client specifically request for her and Candy? Why did he double the pay just to see them? Yes, they were both good at the job, but there were also other strippers at the club who were far better than them, and even though she knew that most of the VVIP clients usually asked for both of them, this job was away from the club, at an undisclosed location, so it set off the alarm bells in her head.

She had grown to trust her instincts. Whenever she sensed danger, she always tried to pay attention to it. Since she needed the extra money and couldn't turn down the offer, she did the most logical thing that came to her. She briefly contemplated calling Candy but decided against it as she dialed Matt's line. There was no need to worry Candy unnecessarily.

"Hey! What's up? Is everything okay?" Matt greeted immediately he received her call, and she could hear the tension in his tone as though he was expecting her to be in danger.

"I'm fine. I'm getting ready to leave for a job, and I'm wearing the necklace and the earrings," she said, knowing that he would get the hint.

"The job is not at the club I suppose?" Matt asked just to be sure.

"Yes. It's at an undisclosed location. The client is sending a car to pick me up from the club by 8 PM," Brandy explained as she paced around the living room with her purse in hand.

"Okay. I'll let Jade know, and I'll be there just in case of anything," Matt promised.

"I don't mean to bother you. And you should know that it might not be anything. I just thought I..."

"I understand. I'll be there just to make sure that everything is okay. The undisclosed location thingy already set me off," Matt said, trying to reassure her.

"Thank you, Matt. Thank you," Brandy said before hanging up. Now that she knew that she was covered, she added a finishing touch to her make-up before walking out of the apartment and flagged down a cab to take her to the club.

The cab stopped her in front of the club at exactly two minutes to 8 PM, and as she got off the cab and paid her fare, her boss ran up to her, "For Christ's sake! What took you so long?" The manager asked irritably.

"I said I will be here by 8, and it's not 8 PM yet. Why are you upset?" Brandy asked with a roll of her eyes as she looked around, and then relaxed when she noticed Matt's car parked some distance away from there.

"I thought you changed your mind..."

"Well, I'm here now, so what is the big deal?" She asked, shutting him up as she walked past him to join her partner who was already standing in front of the club.

While Brandy was dressed in a black leather trench coat which covered the black see-through teddy with attached garters, the other girl was wearing a skimpy bodycon dress with a halter neck.

"Hi!!" Brandy greeted the girl who turned to look at her with a smile.

"I'm so glad that I'm doing this with you," the girl said, her eyes gleaming with excitement as a limousine rolled to a stop in front of them.

"Brandy and Cookie?" The chauffeur asked without getting out of the car. He didn't see any reason to hold out the door for the strippers.

"Yes! They're ready to leave," the manager said as he joined them, and then turned to look at Brandy, "Remember that the rich..."

"...rich customers are always right," Brandy finished with a roll of her eyes as she let the girl get into the car first before she did.

"With all due respect your Joey, this is not the first time I'm doing something like this, so let me do my thing," Brandy said as she got into the car and shut the door.

"You know it's my first time doing something like this?" Cookie asked as she looked around the car.

"I would never have guessed," Brandy said with a note of sarcasm, but her lips twitched with an amused smile as she found Cookie's enthusiasm to be cute.

Cookie giggled, "I've always admired you and your sister. And now I get to work with you in her place? Wow! You have no idea how happy I was when Joey chose me!"

"Well, you shouldn't be too excited. How long have you been a stripper?" Brandy asked curiously, wanting to pass time with the conversation.

"A year and about three months. What about you?" She asked curiously.

"Two years."

"Oh! That's not long. So when did you get your boobs done? Before you started or while you were on the job?" She asked, making Brandy raise a brow.

"I didn't realize my boobs are so popular."

Cookie shrugged, "Well, you know? People talk. I heard from one of the other girls," the girl said, and just continued talking while Brandy zoned out as she looked out of the window.

Soon the car stopped at a dockyard, and Cookie screeched excitedly when she caught sight of boats, "It's a boat party!"

All the alarms in Brandy's brain went off and she tensed the moment she realized that they were not going to be on land. This meant that if anything was going to happen to her, no one would be able to save her until long after the deed had been done.

"We are here," the chauffeur announced as he got out of the car, expecting them to do the same.

Cookie quickly opened the door and jumped out of the car, leaving Brandy with no choice but to do the same, "This is going to be fu..." The rest of her words died when the chauffeur brought out a gun and pointed it at her.

"You're cute, but you talk too much and you're not needed on the boat," the chauffeur said as he pulled the trigger.

Brandy's eyes widened in shock and a gasp escaped from her lips as Cookie crumpled on the floor. She took a step back, wanting to run away, but the chauffeur scoffed, "You think you can escape from here? Don't be silly. Two of you should take her to the boss, and the rest of you should clean up this mess," he ordered and Brandy turned around to see who he was talking to.

She was even more startled to see six men, two of which she recognized standing behind her. This wasn't Jero's handwork. It was the Legion.

Alicia had a wide smile on her face as she looked at Tom who was now seated between Sonia and Lucy, "WOW! Who would have thought that I'd be the lucky one to reveal your identity to the world?"

"Who would have thought that I would reveal my identity to the world in this manner?" Tom asked in return as he took Lucy's hand.

"You brothers are so romantic. I think Bryan should be here too, what do you think?" She asked them, and Tom shook his head.

"He had his moment. He can come in after I leave. I'm not ready to compete with his celebrity aura," Tom said with a smile and glared at Bryan when he joined them in the set.

"I heard my name," Bryan said as he sat down beside Sonia, grateful that the seat was large enough to accommodate all four of them.

The ladies giggled when Tom glared at him, "Your name was mentioned but you were not invited," Tom insisted.

"My time wasn't up before I left. Right, Alicia?" Bryan asked, and Alicia looked from Bryan to Tom who was daring her with his eyes to support Bryan.

"Tom is right. Our time is up. The focus should be on Tom and Lucy now, let's excuse them," Sonia offered when she noticed that Alicia was having a hard time.

"But I'm addicted to the camera," Bryan complained as he looked at the camera with a grin, while Tom shook his head Sonia dragged him away.

"Well, I did say it was a reality show after all," Alicia said with an embarrassed giggle since there was nothing professional about the interview.

"So you are Mr. Thomas Hank," Alicia said as she looked at Tom.

"That's what my birth certificate says," Tom said with a shrug.

"Although I'm very curious about your relationship with Lucy who happens to be your personal assistant, I want to know about you. Why did you choose to stay hidden this whole time? I mean, you are very wealthy and extremely good-looking, so what made you decide to keep your identity away from the public?"

"I just wanted to live like every normal person. Go to normal places and have normal conversations. A normal life without having people judge everything I do, or people respecting me just because they know how much I have in my account," Tom said with a shrug.

"And you no longer want a normal life now? Why did you choose to reveal your identity?" Alicia asked curiously, and Tom smiled as he turned to look at Lucy.

"I need to protect the woman after my heart. I want to love and care for Lucy openly even if that means giving up my privacy," Tom said confidently.

"Awww, you're so sweet! Now I'm curious about your relationship! I'm dying to know how you both started dating. Did Bryan and Sonia match make you both? Or was it an office romance thingy?" Alicia asked even though she already knew the answers.

"Perhaps you should answer the question since I don't know how much you would want to share," Tom suggested as he looked at Lucy who was giggling in embarrassment when she recalled how they met.

"No. We actually met at the club the first night I arrived in Ludus, and I had no idea that he was my boss," Lucy said and her face flushed in embarrassment making Tom chuckle.

"Lucy, you're blushing! Something interesting happened at the club didn't it?" Alicia asked in amusement as Lucy hid her face behind Tom who was laughing.

"We would rather keep that secret," Tom said in her defense.

"C'mon! Okay, I will try and fill in the gap. So after meeting at the club you walked into the office the next week and realized that the guy at the club is your boss?" Alicia asked, dying to know their story, but they both shook their heads.

"I didn't know until a few days ago that my boyfriend was my boss," Lucy confessed, and Alicia pretended to look surprised.

"That must have been a really exciting discovery," Alicia reasoned.

"Not for me."

"Not at first you mean?" Tom asked, and Lucy giggled.

"Yeah, not at first. I was upset initially. And then after giving it some thought I was like, fuck it! Better for me I'm dating a rich CEO than a driver," Lucy said dramatically making Alicia laugh out loud, while Tom just grinned as he watched her.

"So he pretended to be a driver? Let's talk about that," Alicia said, and Tom raised his wristwatch to check the time, reminding Alicia that they were supposed to finish before 8 PM.

"I'm sorry there won't be enough time to get into that right now. We are having dinner with Lucy's family tonight and I don't want to keep them waiting," Tom said, making Alicia nod.

"Aww! Alright. We have come to the end of the show. Is there anything you'd like to say to the viewers before you leave?" Alicia asked, and Tom nodded.

"Messing with my woman, is synonymous to messing with me. I'm going to find the people behind this rumor and deal with them as I should," Tom promised.

"What about you, Lucy?" Alicia asked, and Lucy nodded.

"Thanks to everyone that gave me the benefit of doubt. And thank you for having us Alicia," Lucy said with a soft smile.

"Alright. Thanks for joining us. And please do not forget to subscribe to my YouTube channel. See you next time!" Alicia said, and Jasmine turned off the camera.

"The end!" Alicia announced happily as she rushed to Jasmine's side to check her YouTube page.

"You really had to tell the world that you're having dinner with my family?" Lucy asked incredulously.

"Yes! Anita should know about it," Tom said with a wink, and Sonia embraced him.

"I love you already, Tom. You're totally my type!" She said, making Bryan roll his eyes while Lucy giggled.

"Petty people," Bryan muttered under his breath, and Lucy nodded in agreement.

"We should leave now if we don't want to be late. And just so you know, I already invited your family to stay at my house," Tom informed Lucy.

"My family? When?" Lucy asked in confusion.

"Yes. Your parents were here earlier. I met them already," Tom said, and turned away from her to look at Alicia.

"Alicia, you're both invited too."

Chapter 260 - Speechless

"Wow! I really wish I was there with them right now," Jade said with a relieved smile as she scrolled through the comments and saw that all was well with her brothers' worlds again.

"We can go there if you want," Harry offered as he watched her.

"Nah. I don't want to leave until I'm done with this case. Once I'm done, I'll officially resign to start my own practice..."

"Or you could just join the legal department at I-Global. The pay is good, and it's less stressful and dangerous," Harry offered.

"Are you offering me a job?" Jade asked with a grin, and Harry nodded.

"Yes. The company needs intelligent lawyers like you," Harry said, making Jade's smile widen.

"I like it when you compliment me."

Harry scoffed, "Will you at least think about it? At least that way I don't have to be deployed to be your babysitter when next you have a life-threatening court case," Harry said making her scowl at him.

"Who knows? I might have a boyfriend by that time so I won't need you here to babysit."

"For your sake, I really hope so. I don't think my girlfriend is going to like that I babysit a full-grown lady either," Harry retorted.

"That's if you are able to get yourself a girlfriend by then," Jade said with a tsk as she stood up to leave for her bedroom.

"Is that a dare?" Harry asked with a slightly raised brow, but before Jade could respond her phone started to ring.

"It's Matt," she informed him as she received the call and placed it on speaker.

"Did you..."

"Brandy is in trouble. The so-called bachelor's party is a trap. The other stripper who went with her was shot," Matt said with a note of urgency in his tone making Jade's heart skip a beat.

"Is it Jero or the Legion?" Jade asked curiously.

"How am I supposed to know? Is that important right now? Her life is in fucking danger! I'm calling the cops," Matt informed her.

He had been unable to follow the limousine into the port because it would have been too suspicious and he would have been in danger too. So instead he had driven to a different location closest to the port where he stayed back in the car to observe what was happening around Brandy.

"You do realize that some of the cops are under the payroll of the cartel, right? She will be dead long before the cops arrive there. If you want to save her, then just listen to me. You said you gave her a recording device, didn't you? First, find out who they are and what they want from her. If possible I want to see and hear whatever is going on there," Jade said, making Matt's blood boil with anger.

"Your case is more important to you than her life?" Matt asked angrily.

"Are you deaf or just stupid?" Jade asked impatiently, beginning to feel very angry herself, "Andy knew what was at stake before she decided to put her life on the line for us to crack this case. She knew the risks before offering to stay back instead of leaving with Candace. Now set aside your fucking sentiments and help me do this, or Candace and her boy's life will be in danger after Andy is killed!" Jade snapped at him irritably.

Matt took in a deep breath, "So we are just going to leave her there to die while we observe what is happening around her?" He asked, thinking about his promise to Candy to make sure Brandy was safe.

Jade took in a deep breath to stop herself from exploding with rage, and Harry who had heard enough to know what was going on stepped in and took the phone from Jade.

"Hey, it's Harry. I understand that you're worried, but you really need to relax. Andy won't die. Jade cares about her a lot too. Once we know who is holding her and what they want, we will know how best to approach them. So just share whatever you see and hear with us. We will take the next available flight and join you wherever you are," Harry said in a calm tone and Matt sighed.

"Okay, I'll see what I can find while I wait for you," Matt said and hung up the call.

"You need to calm down," Harry said as he returned her phone to her, and Jade glared at him.

"What did you just say to him that I didn't say already?" She asked, feeling angry that Harry had only spoken once and Matt listened, whereas he hadn't listened to anything she said.

"Or what did you say that I didn't say? I didn't lose my temper, and I didn't call him deaf or stupid. Go and get dressed while I give the pilot a call. We will meet him at Sogal," Harry said as he picked up his phone and walked away.

As Lucy opened the door of her apartment, her parents rushed over to the door to meet her, and her mother embraced her, "I'm proud of you, baby," her mother said as she hugged her tightly and patted her back.

"Thank you, mom," Lucy said with a smile as she held on to her mother. She had tried not to break down because she knew that her family and Tom were watching her and she didn't want them to be upset.

"And I'm sorry I wasn't such a good mother. Maybe if I was, you wouldn't have gone through any of this," she said making Lucy pull away from the hug to look at her.

"You're the best mother I could ever ask for. What happened to me had nothing to do with you being a good parent. It's not your fault," Lucy assured her mother as she reached out to wipe a tear from her mother's cheeks.

"I'm so proud of you Princess. You handled yourself really well," Her father said, and Lucy smiled at him as he stepped forward and embraced her while her mother stepped out of the way to look at Sonia who had just stepped in.

"Sonia you did well too. Thanks for being here for her," Lucy's mother said as she embraced Sonia.

"So we need to get ready for dinner. Tom is sending a car over to pick us," Lucy informed them, and her parents exchanged a look.

"He offered to accommodate us for the remaining duration of our stay here. Is it okay by you?" Lucy's father asked.

Lucy sighed. Grateful that her parents had not jumped on the offer but had waited to seek her opinion first, "It'll be more convenient for you. I don't mind," Lucy said with a shrug and her mother smiled happily.

"I like him, and both your father and Lucas approve of him," her mother informed her, and Lucy rolled her eyes.

"Isn't it too soon to give your approval?"

"If you waited this long to have a boyfriend, then we are sure you made the right choice," Her mother said with a wide smile.

"Where is Lucas?" Lucy asked when she didn't see any sign of her twin brother around.

"I asked him to go get their stuff from the hotel," her mother said, making Lucy raise a brow.

"So you already made up your mind to move to his house before asking if I was okay with it?" Lucy asked, looking at her father.

"You know your mother. I insisted that we ask you first but..."

"But I thought it would be okay by you, and I was right. Besides, there is no harm in asking Lucas to bring their stuff over before asking you. It saves us time. Now instead of arguing over this, you ladies should go in there and put on something lovely, while you get your stuff ready to leave," Lucy's mother said excitedly, changing the subject. She couldn't wait to get back to Heden so that she could brag to everyone that cared to listen about her son-in-law's house.

She and her husband had received a couple of congratulatory calls from some of their neighbors who had watched the interview already, and somehow it turned out that this whole thing had been a blessing in disguise.

Once Sonia and Lucy walked into her bedroom they both turned to look at each other with a big smile on their faces, "I really can't believe that the nightmare is over," Lucy said feeling very happy that she had finally been able to face her fears and put it behind her.

"That bitch wanted to ruin us, but she ended up giving us a platform to face our fears and announce our relationships to the world," Sonia said with a smirk, "I'm sure she is boiling with anger right now. I wish we could see her face."

"I should probably send her a thank you note," Lucy said thoughtfully, and Sonia giggled.

"I'd rather we return the favor. It's better that way," Sonia said as she opened her luggage box to find a suitable dress to wear to dinner. She smiled as she looked at the dresses in the box, remembering Bryan's reaction the day she had gone shopping for the dresses. So much had happened in such a short time.

Lucy watched as Sonia picked up a very skimpy red bodycon dress which exposed more parts of her body than it covered, "If I were you, I wouldn't wear that. Tom's butler reports everything to their mother."

"I'm supposed to care about what she thinks about my dressing?" Sonia asked incredulously, "You worry too much, Lu. Besides, I was picking out this dress for you, not myself," Sonia said with a giggle as she threw the dress at Lucy.

"You can wear that. It's the most decent indecent dress in my luggage, and I can bet my last dime that it is the most indecent dress in your wardrobe," Sonia said with a grin.

"No, I'm not wearing that. Especially not when my parents are here," Lucy said with a shake of her head as she returned the dress to Sonia's box.

"We both know that your parents don't have a problem with such clothes. Besides, you should know that now that Tom has revealed his identity to the world, there will be thousands of women who want to have your man, so you have to be on top of your game at all times. You don't have to worry though, I got you. Let's make both brothers speechless," Sonia said with a wink as she picked up the dress and handed it to Lucy who took it from her reluctantly.