

Wild Night 261

Chapter 261 - Job Offer

"That went better than I expected," Bryan said as Tom drove them to his apartment.

"Yeah. Alicia did a really good job. And you all handled your parts really well," Tom said in agreement as he kept his focus on the road.

"So what's your plan?" Tom asked curiously.

"I suppose you're asking in reference to me ending my contract with Paul?" Bryan asked and Tom gave him a nod.

Bryan sighed, "I will just be a freelance actor until I find a suitable agency that I would love to work with. One that would care about my wellbeing and not just about the money I'm bringing," Bryan said with a shrug.

"What if I sign you?" Tom asked, and Bryan turned to look at him.

"Sign me as what? You are not into entertainment..."

"But you are. You're a major star and I care about your well-being. You could be the first star in my entertainment agency," Tom said, and Bryan's brows pulled together.

"What are you talking about, Tom? You're going to establish an entertainment agency just so that you can sign me?"

"It's not necessarily just for your sake. I've been thinking about expanding and creating other subsidiaries for some time now. I already asked Harry to become my Co-CEO since there's going to be so much work for us to do and I want him to have as much authority as I have. He earned it."

When Bryan didn't say anything, Tom sighed, "Because of this interview I-Global's shares are going to go up, and more people are going to want you to endorse their brands too. Although the scandal was terrible for us, we were all able to take advantage of it. If you agree I could have my legal team take care of the cancellation of your contract with Paul and we could work out something," Tom offered.

"You're such a businessman," Bryan said with a shake of his head and Tom smiled.

"If by a businessman you mean I'm someone that takes advantage of a bad situation to make it favorable for my business, then yes I am. You have no idea how much publicity this interview has given Sonia and Lucy too. It worked out for everyone," Tom said with a shrug.

"Is that why you let her do it? She shared really personal and sensitive details of her life. That's the woman you just said you love. I don't think..."

"You're mistaken, Bryan. I supported her to do it because FIRST, it was what she wanted. And I also figured that doing it would help her heal faster and also boost her self-confidence. With this, she has gotten a lot of attention and fame. People will know her now. Not just because she is Thomas Hank's woman, but as someone who survived a terrible experience. She is now a symbol of hope to many people out there. I could easily have asked that Alicia introduce me as my boyfriend before she gets to share her experience, but I wanted that to be the last thing they know about her. They already loved her before knowing about her involvement with me. Now she won't be with me and

feel less than who she is. The business benefits of the interview come last. Lucy's wellbeing, as well as that of the rest of you, came first!" Tom explained, feeling slightly offended that Bryan would think that he had used the interview solely for business purposes.

"I'm sorry. I didn't mean to doubt your intentions. I was just worried..."

"It's fine," Tom said dismissively.

"So about Anita..."

"Let's not talk about her now. I don't want to ruin my mood," Tom said, feeling his blood boil at the mere mention of her name.

"Sure. I can only imagine how you feel. You must really love Lucy a lot," Bryan said, and Tom scoffed.

"You have no idea. Even I have no idea," Tom said, and Bryan chuckled.

"Good. Cause I was gonna say, you better not hurt her else you'll have me to contend with," Bryan warned, making Tom raise a brow.

"And when did you become her protector?"

"When I realized how much Sonia loves her, and even more so after hearing her story. She deserves all the happiness she can get," Bryan said, and Tom turned to glance at him.

"Who would have thought that you were such a softie?" He asked with a teasing smile, feeling glad that his brother was looking out for the lady he was in love with. Although he had noticed that Lucy seemed to naturally make people feel protective towards her. Maybe it was because of how innocent and naive she looked.

"You do know that it's a two-way thing right? You'll have me to contend with if you hurt Sonia in any way. You're more likely to hurt Sonia than I am to hurt Lucy," Tom pointed out.

"Don't be so sure. You do realize that everything is going to change for you now that you've made your identity known to the world, right?" Bryan asked, trying not to sound too worried about it.

"By everything you mean that I'm going to be getting lots of attention, especially from the press and women?" Tom asked, knowing what Bryan was driving at.

"Yes. It's not that I don't trust you, I'm just saying this because I know how easy it is to get lost in all the fame and..."

"Bryan, you don't have to worry about me. I chose to keep my identity hidden from the public because I know how these things work. Lucy is the reason I chose to do this now... But I was going to have to do it eventually anyway. I'll be fine," Tom said confidently, and Bryan nodded. They both lapsed into silence until Tom turned to spare him a glance.

"So have you given my offer a thought?" Tom asked, making Bryan chuckle.

"You're a businessman indeed," Bryan said as the gates opened and Tom drove into his compound.

"Wow! It's been a while since I last came here. I almost forgot how wealthy you are," Bryan said as he looked at the magnificent building ahead of them with different cars arranged there.

"Well, this is a good reminder. At least now you'll know that I'll be a good boss to you," Tom said as he parked the car, and Bryan rolled his eyes.

"Cut it out already. I will sleep on it and get back to you on my decision by morning," Bryan promised as he got out of the car without waiting for Tom.

The door opened before he got to it, and he was surprised to see their mother standing there, "Mom?"

"Oh, my baby!" Evelyn exclaimed excitedly as she embraced him, while Tom who was coming from behind looked in confusion.

"Mom? What are you doing here?" He asked, wondering when she got here and how he did not know about it.

"Is that important right now? I missed you so I came to see you," she said as she let go of Bryan to embrace Tom.

Tom embraced her before pulling away, "What about dad?"

"We came together. He is inside playing with the kid," Evelyn said, reminding Tom that Candace was still in his house with her little boy. He had completely forgotten about that.

Bryan looked from his mother to Tom in confusion, "Kid? What kid, Tom? Don't tell me you..."

"Shut up!" Tom said knowing that Bryan was going to say something stupid.

"What about Lucy and Sonia? I thought you were bringing them along for dinner?" She asked, looking towards the car.

"They're not ready yet. Adolf will be going to bring them over," Tom said as he walked into the house, and then stopped to look at his mother, "Lucy's family is coming over, and they will all be staying for some time, please do not say or do anything..."

"I already apologized for what I said yesterday," she said defensively.

"No, you didn't," Tom corrected.

"Fine, I'm sorry. Besides, after watching that interview I'd be a monster to judge her or say anything mean when I have a daughter of my own. I'm sorry for allowing my judgment to be swayed by public opinion. I should have trusted you and your judgment," she said apologetically, and Tom sighed.

"Yes, you should have trusted us. Now if you are going to scold me for deceiving you about my engagement, do so now or forever remain silent. You can't bring it up in front of Sonia," Bryan said with a sheepish smile and Evelyn hit his arm.

"You're one to talk about trust! You deceived me!" She said, remembering how excited she had been about his engagement and how she had been talking to them about picking a date for their wedding.

Bryan briefly considered telling her about what the housekeeper she had brought him had done, but he decided against it. He didn't want her to be upset, "I'm sorry I lied to you. No excuses," he said as he kissed her cheeks, and Tom shook his head as he walked away from there to find his father.

As he walked into the house, his phone started ringing, and he immediately received the call when he saw that it was from Harry, "Hey!"

"Sorry to rain on your parade, but I need you to tighten security around the house. And make sure Jade's witness doesn't leave the house. We are taking the jet to Sogal," Harry said just in case Brandy told the Legion the truth about her sister's whereabouts. He did not want to give Tom more information than was necessary. He didn't want him to be worried.

"Is everything alright?" Tom asked in concern.

"We are hoping so. If things go well, then Jade might be wrapping up the case soon. Just make sure your house is secure is always," Harry repeated hurriedly since the jet was already on the roof of the hotel waiting to pick them up.

"You both should be e careful," Tom said before the call was disconnected.

As he returned the phone into his pocket he looked around the living room. He needed to first check in on Candace and her son, and then he would go to the security room to make sure all the cameras and locks were in place.

"They're in the den," Evelyn said as she and Bryan joined Tom, and she led them to where her husband was playing mortal Kombat with Jamal.

"Hey, Dad!" Bryan and Tom greeted as they walked into the room, and their father only spared them a glance before returning his attention to the game only to see that Jamal had won the game in the little while he was distracted.

"You little cheat," he said accusingly, and Jamal laughed happily.

He turned to his sons, "I saw the interview. Both girls are pretty. I'm proud of you," he said making Bryan chuckle as he sat down beside Jamal who was now staring at him curiously.

"Are you proud of them because the girls are pretty or because of how they handled the situation?" Evelyn asked her husband.

"Both reasons."

"How have you been, dad?" Bryan asked as he took the pad from Jamal, while Tom remained where he was.

"Fine," their father said flatly as he returned his attention to the screen and reset the game. Both brothers knew that the fastest way to make him cheerful was to bring Jade to him.

"You're the actor," Jamal said when he finally figured out who Bryan was.

"Yes, I am. And you're the kid," Bryan said, wriggling his brows playfully while he concentrated on the game which had just started.

"Hey, kid! Where is your mom?" Tom asked Jamal just as Candace walked into the room.

"I'm here. Sorry. I was just about to take him," she said apologetically, and Bryan paused the game to look at her.

Bryan's brows shot up in surprise when he recognized her, "It's you again?" he asked as he looked her over, and then glanced at Jamal curiously.

"You know her?" Tom and Evelyn asked simultaneously.

"Yes. What about you? What's she doing here?" Bryan asked curiously.

"Jade brought her here," Tom explained, and Bryan smiled in amazement.

"Jade? I guess Matt is involved in this?" he asked Candace recalling how Matt had asked for Jade's contact number the other time.

"Yes," Candace said with a nod, feeling slightly nervous that he might tell his family about her being a stripper.

"Wow! I've never been a believer in fate, but everything that has happened lately has taught me otherwise. Don't worry, whatever it is, you're safe here," Bryan assured her with a grin, and ruffled Jamal's hair fondly as the kid rose to meet his mom. Bryan had a feeling that the kid was going to be his best friend's stepson.

"This would have been perfect if Jade was here..." Evelyn said with a wistful sigh, "You can both catch up with your father while I make sure everything is set for our guests," Evelyn said as she left the room.

"I'll be back," Tom said as he glanced at his wristwatch.. It was time for Adolf to go pick up the guests, and he needed to stop by the security room.

Chapter 262 - An Ally

"Hey! Don't rough handle the lady," Cassidy scolded his men as they walked into his room with Brandy and pushed her to the floor.

Brandy met the gaze of the man who was seated on a chair with a cigar in one hand. The man who was in his late thirties was dressed in a pristine white suit and he looked clean and handsome as she had always remembered him. Unlike the other lords, no one would easily guess his line of business judging by the way he dressed and carried himself.

"What do you want?" Brandy asked, feeling relieved and more confident now that she knew who she was facing. She was glad to know that of all the cruel lords of the cartel, it was Cassidy who had gotten her and not the others. Although he could be heartless, she knew that he had a thing for her. He was the first man Jero had sold her to after all. The one who had deflowered her.

"That is no way to greet your first love, is it?" He asked with a fond smile as he stood up from where he was seated and went to squat in front of her.

"Forcing yourself on someone doesn't exactly make you their first love, does it? What do you want?" She asked dryly and he smiled.

Seeing how they were on a yacht, she could only pray that Matt would be able to do something before they sailed. She did not doubt that the other lords were gathered wherever he was taking her to and that he had probably come to get information from her to save her from whatever the other lords planned to do to get what they wanted from her.

Cassidy clicked his tongue in disapproval, "Don't tell me you don't know what I want. Where is your sister and Jero's little boy?" He asked calmly.

"They left the country. Vacationing."

"They did? Any of you got her phone?" Cassidy asked, his eyes moving to the men who were standing by the door, and one of them who was with Brandy's handbag fished out the phone from her handbag and stepped forward as he handed it to Cassidy, but he didn't take the phone.

"Perfect. Now go through her text messages and her contact list for her sister's number, I'm sure her sister will come back from wherever she traveled to the moment she realizes that her sister is going to die because of her," Cassidy said with a wide smile which was directed at Brandy.

The man who was holding the phone looked at her, "Unlock it," he ordered Brandy who kept a straight face like she wasn't the one he was referring to.

Cassidy took the phone from the guy and held it out to Brandy, "Please unlock it. We don't want to hurt you. Personally I don't want to hurt you. I'd rather give you pleasure. But you have to cooperate with me," he said in a soft tone as he reached out to touch her hair, "You have gotten even prettier," he said with a note of lust in his tone.

"Why do you want my sister? You should at least tell me that before I unlock the phone. She did nothing wrong. We left after Jero was arrested, and we have stayed out of your way the whole time. Why are you still after us?" Brandy asked with a straight face trying to stall while hoping that Matt was doing all he could to get her help and get her out of there really quickly.

Cassidy looked at her for a moment and then he clicked his tongue, "We want Jero. To get him, we need your sister and the little boy. Now open it," he ordered.

"But Jero is still in jail. If you want him, go and get him there," Brandy said, pretending not to know that Jero had escaped.

Cassidy narrowed his sharp blue eyes and looked into her eyes as if he was trying to determine if she was really not aware that Jero had escaped from prison or was just trying to fool him.

"Don't make me force you, Andy. As you must know by now, I like it rough. Unlock the phone," he threatened as the yacht lurched slightly, letting Brandy know that they had sailed, and her time had started counting.

Brandy swallowed as she extended her forefinger to the phone and unlocked it with her fingerprint.

"Good girl," Cassidy said as he handed the phone to one of his men. "Find whatever you can get from it, and give her sister a call. I'm sure her sister will be more than willing to save her life."

Brandy kept staring at him since it was obvious that he thought she was foolish. She couldn't understand how the idiot would think that she would be stupid enough to save her sister's contact number with her name and then bring her phone along with her to such a place, unless of course because he truly believed that she didn't know anything.

"While we wait for the call, why don't we catch up? I paid double for your services after all," Cassidy said with a grin as he stood up and went to sit on his bed.

"You know I still don't like you, right?" Brandy asked with a scowl, and he chuckled good-naturedly.

"That is even more reason why I want you. I was surprised and disappointed to hear that you chose this line of business though. You used to be so shy about being naked," Cassidy said eyeing her with curiosity.

"When you are forced to undress long enough, you get the hang of it. At least I'm doing it out of my free will now," Brandy said with a smirk, and Cassidy's eyes hardened.

"You could have easily agreed to be my woman and saved yourself this stress. I would have protected you and your sister from things like this," Cassidy said, and Brandy rolled her eyes.

"Yeah, thanks. I'm not interested in being your whore."

"Even if it means having a good life and saving your sister's life?" Cassidy asked, and watched in fascination as something flickered in Brandy's eyes.

"Boss, the phone is clean, and her sister's line is not going through," The man announced as he handed the phone to Cassidy who took it from him and waved him off.

"Excuse us. I want to be alone with her," Cassidy said dismissively, and all the men left leaving him alone with her.

"Get off the floor. You can have the chair," Cassidy said, not liking the picture of her on the floor.

"Why are you doing this?" Brandy asked as she stood up and went to sit on the chair.

"Doing what?" He asked innocently.

"Why are you here?"

"Because I missed you. Do you want to know how I found you?" Cassidy asked, wriggling his brows.

"A private investigator?" She attempted.

"Not my style."

"You are not here because of the cartel?" Brandy asked in confusion since she thought that it was the private investigator who had told them where she worked.

"Now you're curious. I love that," Cassidy drawled.

"What game are you playing, Cas?" Brandy asked, making his lips curve.

"I've missed hearing you call me that, especially when you're writhing under me in passion. Wanting me and not wanting me at the same time. My heart just fluttered in my chest at the memory," Cassidy said as he raised his hand to pat the left side of his chest.

"I didn't know you had a heart," Brandy said, ignoring the rest things he had said.

"You're right, though. I'm just here to get you. Although the men don't know that yet," Cassidy said, making Brandy narrow her eyes.

"Then why was my partner killed?" Brandy asked, and he shrugged.

"Unfortunately she was only needed to convince you to come here. The moment you arrived here her usefulness expired."

"That was a human being!" Brandy hissed at him.

"Sorry. I will try to be more considerate towards others in the future. So tell me what I need to know."

"If you want Jero..."

"I don't want Jero. The cartel wants Jero, I want you," Cassidy said, his blue eyes watching her closely.

Brandy sighed, "A few minutes ago you said..."

"A few minutes ago I said WE want Jero not that I wanted him. And the men were in the room at the time so I had to say what they wanted to hear," Cassidy pointed out.

"So if you don't want Jero, why do you want to know where my sister is?" Brandy asked even more confused now.

"I can't tell you that... At least not yet," Cassidy added with a smile when gunshots sounded outside the door.

Believing that it was the people that had come to rescue her, Brandy decided to ask a question that was bugging her before she would leave Cassidy, "So how did you find me if it wasn't a private investigator?" Brandy asked, unable to contain her curiosity.

"Bill. I found out that you were searching for Bill. So I guess you must have been in touch with the lawyer girl who must have told you that Bill disappeared after contacting her. Do you see how much I know? But that's not how I got to know about your whereabouts," Cassidy asked with a grin that revealed his perfect dentition.

"Did you kill Bill?" Brandy asked with a concerned frown. She had only tried to find Bill because she didn't want Candy to take the risk of getting caught.

"What do you think I am? A bloodthirsty monster? I didn't kill him. I only sent him to a safe location, but I have my eyes on his business."

"So how did you know?" Brandy asked again, and the adjoining door opened and Jero walked in.

"I told him where to find you."

"Jero!" Brandy gasped in horror.

"Have no fear, my love. He won't hurt you. I'm your knight in shining armor after all," Cassidy assured her.

"You're late," Cassidy scolded Jero.

"I'm sorry," Jero apologized with a slight bow, making Brandy look from one man to the other. Although she had always known that Jero did Cassidy's bidding, she didn't understand what was happening.

"What is going on? Where are you taking me?" Brandy asked in confusion.

"If I tell you that, it wouldn't be fun, would it?" Cassidy asked with a smirk as he lit the cigar he had been holding the whole time, and took a puff.

"Where is Candace and my son? Don't tell me she traveled abroad. I know she didn't," Jero said looking at her with worried eyes. An expression she didn't expect to see in him.

Away from the port, in Matt's car, Jade's brows were pulled together, and her eyes were narrowed thoughtfully as she listened to the conversation going on between Brandy, Jero, and Cassidy.

"I think Andy has personal business with the man in the yacht. Do you know who he is?" Matt asked turning to look at Jade.

"I think he is in love with her. Probably an ex. At least we know that he isn't going to hurt her or let Jero hurt her. What I don't understand is how or why Jero is in there," Jade said thoughtfully and pursed her lips.

"If the man is truly keeping your witness safe even after knowing that he wants to snitch, and he is also with Jero without the knowledge of the cartel, that means he is likely the enemy of your enemies," Harry supplied sleepily from the backseat.

"Hm. An ally. Let's find out who the lover boy is," Jade said as she dialed Candace's line.

"Hey! Can you talk?" Jade asked the moment the call connected.

"Yes. Give me a moment," Candace said as she excused herself from the noisy kitchen and went to find a quiet spot.

"What's happening?" Candace asked curiously.

"Everything is okay. Do you know anyone called Cas? Probably your sister's ex?" Jade asked curiously and Candace's brows pulled together.

"The name is Cassidy. Andy never dated him. He is a second-line lord. He took over the family business from his late father who was one of the five founding lords of the cartel," Candace explained.

"Alright. Thanks," Jade said and hung up before Candace could ask any question.

"So what are we going to do? Call the cops?" Matt asked curiously.

"Not yet. Let's listen to them and confirm that he's an ally," Jade said and turned to look at Harry who was now fast asleep.. What a babysitter, she thought with a shake of her head.

Chapter 263 - Keep Things Down

"She is calling again. Are you sure you don't want me to take the call?" Lucy called out to Lucas from the bedroom when her phone started ringing again with a call from Rachel as they got ready to leave the house.

"Ignore her," Lucas called back dismissively, and their mother's brow pulled together in concern as she looked at Lucas who was busy packing the bags.

"She has called me several times, she has called your father, and now she's calling Lucy who she despises. She might be trying to reach you for something urgent," their mother said, but Lucas shook his head.

"I don't want to know. I don't care. I'm not interested. Let's leave. We are keeping the driver waiting," Lucas said as he walked through the door with his duffel bag, leaving the others to follow whenever they are ready.

"Do you think he is alright? I mean I know that it's a good thing that he finally ended things with her, but this is Rachel we are talking about. Someone he loved for ten whole years. No breaks or hiccups in the relationship. I don't think he can just turn off his feelings within twenty-four hours like that," their mother complained.

"Yeah, I think you have a point. I will talk to him and find out if something else happened," her husband offered as he went out to meet Adolf and Lucas who were busy transferring the bags to the stretch SUV that Tom had sent to pick them up.

"Are you sure this dress is okay? I think it's too showy" Lucy asked as she looked at her reflection in the mirror after dressing up. She had decided to wear her hair down because Tom loved it that way, and Sonia suggested she lose her glasses for the night and use contacts instead. Sonia had helped her curl her hair, and she had nude make-up on her face.

"That's the point, darling. Less is more. The less you have covered up, the more he wants..."

"Oh, shut up! Less is more means the less you reveal, the more they want to see," Lucy said, eyeing Sonia who was grinning sheepishly.

"An idiom is allowed to have more than one interpretation. I prefer my interpretation," Sonia said with a wink.

"Yeah, right. I just hope I'm not making a mistake by listening to you," Lucy said, taking in a deep breath as she adjusted the mini gown once again.

"What's the worse that can happen? Celebratory sex with Tom while your parents are sleeping in the room down the hall," Sonia said with a giggle and Lucy shook her head in amusement.

"I see you're back to being you. Let's leave then," Lucy said as she picked her purse and walked out of the room leaving Sonia.

"Are you sure Lucas got all my stuff?" Sonia called to Lucy since she had been in the bathroom when Lucas came to get their bags.

"I think so. You can confirm," Lucy called back as she stopped in the living room for her mother to inspect her outfit.

"Sonia is a good influence," her mother said with a wide approving smile as she looked Lucy over, and Lucy shook her head.

"Other parents would disagree with you. This is too indecent," Lucy complained as she adjusted the bust part of her dress.

"I'm sure your sense of decency makes up for the indecency of your outfit. You'll be fine," she said with a proud smile.

"Sonia should be your biological daughter," Lucy said, and her mother giggled.

"Maybe if she was, she would be walking around without clothes on," her mother joked and Sonia giggled as she joined them.

"I heard you, Mrs. Perry."

"It wasn't said in secret. You were meant to hear it, my darling. Wow, you look... Indecent! I didn't think it was possible to look more indecent than Lucy was," Lucy's mother exclaimed in amusement when she saw Sonia's even more revealing clothes.

"Yeah. I was going for that look," Sonia said with a satisfied smile as she hooked her arm with Lucy's, "We are ready to leave."

On getting outside they joined Alicia and Jasmine who were dressed in decent evening dresses as they waited to get into the car.

"Wow! You both look really sexy," Alicia said looking at them with admiration.

"Thanks," Sonia said with a wide smile, while Lucy tried to adjust the dress making the others laugh.

"You look pretty, princess. But I can tell that Sonia put you up to this. You don't have to wear it if you don't want to," Lucy's father said when he saw her.

"It's fine," Lucy assured him with a smile as they all got into the car, while Adolf reasoned whether or not he should tell the ladies that Evelyn was around. He decided that it wasn't his business.

Inside the car Lucas kept to himself while the others went from discussing how lovely the car was, to how wealthy Tom was, and then Alicia started reading through the positive comments on her YouTube channel, feeling excited about how many followers she had made in just one day.

Lucy's parents exchanged a look when they noticed how silent and withdrawn Lucas was, but Lucy's dad shook his head, subtly asking his wife to let Lucas be when she looked like she wanted to say something to him.

Immediately they arrived at Tom's house forty minutes later, Jasmine, Alicia, and Lucy's parents got out of the car and headed for the door, curious to see the interior of Tom's mansion, while Lucas and Adolf stayed back to carry the bags as Lucy fussed over her dress one final time, and Sonia rolled her eyes as she kept assuring Lucy that Tom would love it.

"I don't know why, but I have a bad feeling about this," Lucy said with a small frown.

"You're too much of a good girl, Lu. You need to loosen up," Sonia said as she dragged Lucy along with her.

Once they got to the open door, they stopped when they saw a middle-aged lady standing there. Seeing the welcoming smile on her face transform to surprise, the best friends didn't need to be told who she was. They could see the resemblance. Lucy was more taken aback than Sonia, so she went to stand behind Sonia.

"Mrs. Hank?" Sonia asked with a wide smile as she quickly embraced the woman who was looking at her in surprise, "I had no idea you were here! What a delightful surprise," Sonia said as she pulled away to admire the woman while giving Lucy enough time to regain her composure.

"I see where the guys got their good looks from."

"Sonia..." Evelyn said after she recovered from her initial shock as she glanced at Lucy who was hiding behind Sonia, "...and Lucy," she added, and Lucy stepped to the side as she tried to adjust her dress.

She bowed her head guiltily, "Hello, Mrs. Hank. I'm sorry. I didn't know..."

Sonia placed her hand on Lucy's shoulder and pulled her closer, "Lucy here is very shy and decent to a fault. She is only dressed this way because I blackmailed her into wearing it. So don't judge her by her outfit, please. I'm the indecent one," Sonia said with a wide smile, and Evelyn nodded her head as her eyes remained on Lucy who looked completely uncomfortable.

"Please come in. I'm happy to finally meet you two," Evelyn said with a small smile directed at them both.

"Thank you. Why don't I see Bryan around?" Sonia asked as she looked behind Evelyn.

"He is in the den playing games with his father. Follow the game sounds," Evelyn said as her gaze returned to Sonia.

"I will let him know that we are here," Sonia said as she hurried away, ignoring Lucy who was trying to hold on to her.

Now that she was standing alone with Evelyn, Lucy looked into the woman's face and was surprised to see a smile on her face, "I like you," Evelyn said, surprising Lucy.

"Why?" Lucy asked before she could stop herself.

"I don't think I need to have a reason. I just do. If you'd like to change from that dress before dinner I can show you to a room," Evelyn offered, and Lucy smiled shyly as she shook her head.

"I feel a little self-conscious, but I'll just wear it as long as it doesn't make you very uncomfortable," Lucy said, and Evelyn smiled again.

"I really like you," Evelyn said as she reached out and patted Lucy's arm. She glanced at the door when it opened and Lucas walked in with Adolf, "We meet again, Dr. Lucas," Evelyn greeted with an even wider smile, and Lucas smiled in surprise as he bowed to her.

"I didn't know that I would be meeting you again this way. How is Mr. Hank feeling now?"

"Neither did I. My husband is fine, he is in the den playing games. Adolf will show you to the rooms where the bags should be kept while I catch up with your sister before dinner," Evelyn said as she placed an arm over Lucy's shoulder and led her away.

"My parents..."

"They are busy looking around the house," Evelyn assured her.

Lucy's only prayer at the moment was for Tom to come to her aid since Sonia had obviously deserted her, "Tom..."

"Tom is busy showing your parents around. I told him that I wanted to speak with you before dinner," Evelyn said, feeling slightly amused and concerned by Lucy's discomfort.

"Are you generally this nervous around strangers or are you this way because I'm Tom's mother?" Evelyn asked curiously.

"I think it's because you're Tom's mother," Lucy answered honestly, and Evelyn laughed softly.

"You don't need to be nervous. I watched the interview, and I wanted to talk to you in private before we join the others. I didn't want to keep it until tomorrow. I owe you an apology," Evelyn said, looking at Lucy who returned her gaze with a confused frown.

"An apology?"

"Yes. When the rumors started yesterday, I wanted Tom to end the relationship and fire you," Evelyn confessed, surprising Lucy.

Although Lucy had suspected it the moment Tom started whispering around her while talking to his mother over the phone, she hadn't expected the woman to admit it to her.

"Don't look so surprised. I'm quite a simple and very old-fashioned soul. Although I hate to admit it, I can be very narrow-minded unless it has to do with my kids. I judged you wrongly. You've slept here twice, right?" Evelyn asked, and Lucy's cheeks flushed a deep red at the seemingly harmless yet embarrassing question.

She cleared her throat, "Yes, ma'am," Lucy responded before realizing why she asked the question.

Because Evelyn knew that Lucy had been here twice, and she had probably heard of Lucy's behavior on both occasions she had assumed that Lucy was indecent and so it became easier for her to believe what was said about Lucy.

"I'm really sorry for being so quick to judge you. I think I really learnt my lesson this time," Evelyn said, and Lucy smiled.

"Thank you," Lucy said feeling genuinely grateful, and Evelyn held out her arms for Lucy to embrace her.

"I think we are both going to get along really well," Evelyn said with a happy smile as she pulled away from the hug to look into Lucy's face.

"Sonia isn't bad either. She might look and sound..."

"You don't have to defend her. I like Sonia too however she is," Evelyn assured Lucy, "Now let's go join the others."

As Lucy turned to return in the direction they had come from, Evelyn stopped her, "You're sharing a room with him, right?" Evelyn asked, and color rose in Lucy's cheeks.

"It's not a problem. My room isn't very far from his. I was only going to ask you to keep things down tonight.. Pass the message to Sonia too," Evelyn said with a small smile before walking away, leaving an embarrassed Lucy to follow her.

Chapter 264 - Hot Girlfriend

Sonia let out a sigh of relief once she had put some distance between her and Evelyn. She turned to look behind her and felt slightly guilty that she had abandoned Lucy with the lady, but quickly shook off the guilt. She had at least cleared Lucy's image by telling the woman that Lucy was decent and she had been the one to convince Lucy to wear that dress. Who would clear hers when she was dressed even more indecently than Lucy? Not that she wanted to be cleared anyway. She was sure Lucy would get along with the woman just fine unlike she who had joined Bryan in deceiving her.

Shaking off her concern she looked around the living in awe, "Wow!" She exclaimed in admiration. No wonder they were in the den playing games. No one would dare to undignify such a living room by playing games here, Sonia thought with a smile.

The place looked like something out of a novel. It looked more like a castle. A perfect castle for Princess Lucy. The whole place was a mixture of gold and white colors, and it gave her a royal vibe.

She looked up at the golden staircase that extended from one end of the room to the top, with two white king-sized chairs at one side of the foot. She could hear Lucy's mom talking with Alicia and Jasmine at the other end of the room which she assumed to be another living room. The whole place looked spacious and impressive.

She moved further down the living room towards another glass door when she heard Bryan's laughter, and her lips curved involuntarily as she followed the sound.

Bryan who was busy trying to win the Kombat with his father turned to the door distractedly when it opened and did a double-take when he saw Sonia. His eyes roamed over her body as he dropped the pad in surrender and stood up, making his father shake his head in disappointment.

"After fighting so hard to win, you give it all up for a woman?" His father asked, making him chuckle.

"I gave it all up for MY HOT woman, dad. I guess you're old now, so you won't understand," Bryan said as he walked over to meet Sonia with an appreciative glint in his eyes.

"Dad, meet my hot girlfriend, Sonia. Babe, meet the senior Mr. Hank," Bryan said, and his father dropped his pad as he stood up and looked at Sonia.

"It is nice meeting you, Mr. Hank," Sonia greeted with a polite smile.

"The pleasure is mine, Bryan's hot girlfriend," he said as he looked her over in amusement, "Has my wife seen you yet?" He asked curiously.

"Yes, she has. I met her at the door," Sonia said with a small smile.

"What did she have to say about your dress?" He asked again, but from the expression on his face, Sonia could tell that he wasn't asking because he was against her outfit. He just wanted to know his wife's reaction.

"Why? What is wrong with her dress?" Bryan asked, looking at Sonia's dress curiously.

"She seemed okay with it," Sonia said with a shrug, and he gave her a nod.

"Good then. What about your friend?" He asked, looking behind her for Lucy.

"I left her with your wife," Sonia said, while Bryan snaked his hand around her waist.

"Enough with the interrogation already, let's go somewhere private," Bryan said with a naughty smile before waving at his father, "See you at dinner, dad," Bryan called to him as he led Sonia out of the den.

"Where are we going to?" Sonia asked as Bryan led her towards the stairs.

"Somewhere I can appreciate your dress best," Bryan said with a wink as he led her to his bedroom.

Meanwhile, in another part of the mansion, Tom showed his tourists the ballroom, "Although I've never held a party here, I'm planning to host one soon. Perhaps a Christmas ball with a retro theme," Tom said.

"That would be awesome! I hope we will be invited?" Alicia asked hopefully.

"You're my neighbor, how can you not get an invite?" Tom asked as he glanced behind him, wondering what his mother was talking to Lucy about, and when she was going to join them.

"Did you buy the house? Or you deliberately built and decorated it to look vintage?" Jasmine asked curiously, cutting into his thoughts.

"The building is over a hundred years old so there is no way I could have built it myself," Tom said with a chuckle, "I bought it. Although I've done a lot of renovations, I didn't want it to lose its originality," Tom explained as he led them out of the room and the others nodded in understanding as they followed him.

Lucy's father who had just been following the others silently while observing Tom, sneaked away from the others when he caught sight of Lucas heading upstairs with their bags, and he quickly followed him, "Hey, Luc!" He called as he caught up with him and took one of the bags from him.

"I thought you were busy looking around with the ladies," Lucas said as he let his father take the bag but continued walking.

"I'm not interested in the house. That's women stuff. I was too busy monitoring him. Are these all the bags?" His father asked, and Lucas nodded.

"Adolf already took the other bags to the bedrooms," Lucas said, and he stopped walking when Adolf came out from a bedroom ahead of them after dropping off Lucy's luggage in Tom's bedroom.

"That is your bedroom. And the one opposite it is for your parents," Adolf said pointing to the doors before walking away.

"Thanks, Adolf," both Perry men greeted and Adolf gave them a polite nod as he walked away.

Once Adolf disappeared from view Lucas walked into his parents' bedroom with their bags, and his father followed him.

His father watched him as he set the bags on the bed, and he cleared his throat to get his attention, "Are you okay?"

"Sure. The house looks really grande," Lucas said as he looked around the bedroom which looked like a hotel room.

"Why are you refusing to take Rachel's call? Did something happen?" Mr. Perry asked, not letting him change the subject.

"What do you mean? You are aware that I ended things with her. There is no reason to take her call," Lucas said with a shrug, not wanting to tell his father about Rachel's threat.

"Are you sure that is all?"

"Yes. That's all. I should check out my bedroom," Lucas said as he picked up his duffel bag which his father had also dropped on the bed. As Lucas walked out of the room his father called out to try and give Rachel a call to find out what she wants, but he said nothing.

Once he walked into the bedroom Adolf had shown him, he locked the door behind him and dropped his bag on the floor before lying face down on the bed. His chest felt tight like something was lodged in there. He had been trying to focus on every other thing going on around him and not to dwell on Rachel, but she was making it difficult for him to ignore her.

Taking his phone out of his pocket, he sat up on the bed and ran his fingers through his short crop of black hair as he contemplated whether or not to give Rachel a call to hear what she had to say.

He took in a deep breath as he dialed her line, and almost immediately the call connected.

"Baby! Why are you doing this to me?" Rachel cried the moment she received his call. From her tone, he could tell that she had been crying.

His heart squeezed painfully in his chest on hearing her voice. "What do you want?" Lucas asked coolly.

"I'm sorry, babe. Maybe I overreacted..."

"Maybe?" Lucas asked incredulously.

"I'm sorry. I shouldn't have been upset with you for going to be with your sister. Now that the issue has been resolved can you come back so that we can make up?" Rachel asked hopefully and Lucas pinched the bridge of his nose.

Lucas knew that it would be so easy for him to want to believe her words and makeup with her just so that he would stop being hurt by this break-up, but this wasn't just about Lucy. It was about Rachel being a spoilt brat, and how he had been enabling her the whole time. If he forgave her and continued with the relationship, he was going to be subjecting himself to Rachel's irrational possessiveness and emotional blackmails, and he couldn't live that way.

"No."

"Please, baby. I'm so sorry. Forgive me, please. I love you. I can't live without you. I don't want to," Rachel cried, but Lucas was past being deceived by that.

He knew that the only reason she was being this way was just so that she would get her way again. Her threats failed to work, and so this was the way Rachel knew how to get her way. This was what she called love.

"I thought you knew me, Rachel."

"I do, baby. I know you."

"I don't think so. If you did, you would know that I wouldn't have ended things with you if I didn't mean it. I'm not coming back to you, Rachel. It's over. You can keep the house since you seem to want it. I'll pick up my stuff when I get back. And please... Do not call either my parents or Lucy anymore. I already told them not to take your calls..."

"How can you do this to me after all I've done for you? I love you! You're hurting me!" Rachel cried, and her mother took the phone from her.

"Lucas?" Her mother spoke into the phone, and Lucas took in a deep breath.

"You possibly can't end things with Rachel over something as insignificant as this. You of all people know how much she loves you, and how much this family has supported you because of your relationship with her," Rachel's mother said in a tone that sounded more like a threat than a plea. He didn't want to be married into a family like this either. They were the reason Rachel was the way she was.

"I appreciate your support thus far. However, marrying Rachel isn't going to be a means of expressing my gratitude to you. I won't subject myself to a lifetime of emotional torture just because I'm grateful to your family. I'm hanging up now," Lucas said as he disconnected the call, and Rachel's mother turned to her.

"Your father is going to be very cross with you when he finds out about the Perrys' relationship with the CEO of I-Global. Do you know how such a connection would have been good for your father? How could you not have known that your fiance's twin sister is in a relationship with someone as influential as Thomas Hank?" She scolded, and Rachel broke into a sob.

"How was I supposed to know? Can't we just threaten him with something? I could say I'm pregnant for him? He would come back to me if I say that, right?" Rachel asked hopefully.

"You think you can deceive a medical doctor with something like that? Seriously? Are you my daughter?" Her mother asked in a tone laced with disapproval.

"What about his job?" Rachel asked again wiping her tears with the back of her hands.

"His twin sister is in a relationship with the CEO of I-Global. You think he wouldn't get a job easily if he asked for help?" Her mother countered, and Rachel broke into a sob.

"I can't lose him, mom. I love Lucas. I don't want to lose him. Please help me," she cried bitterly, and her mother went to sit beside her to console her.

"Then you shouldn't have acted that way towards him."

"I was only looking out for our relationship! I didn't want his sister's scandal to affect us," Rachel said defensively.

"I don't think he intends to get back with you. So let's just go ahead and cancel all the wedding plans. Don't worry, we will find you someone else," Rachel's mother suggested as she consoled her daughter who was weeping.

Rachel shook her head, "I can't let him go, mom. I don't want anyone else. I'm going to talk to Lucy.. I'm sure he will listen to her if she pleads on my behalf."

Chapter 265 - I AM DEAD

"So you're saying that you don't want to hurt either of us?" Brandy asked uncertainly as she eyed Jero.

"Why would I want to hurt your sister? I love Candace. I love her with every part of me, and you know that," Jero said, making Brandy roll her eyes.

"I don't know anything. I don't trust you. Especially not after everything you did to us. I'm not telling you anything. You've caused her enough pain," Brandy said defiantly, while Cassidy watched her from the rim of his wine glass as he took a sip from wine.

"And I'm trying to make up for it..."

"No matter what you do she is never going to have anything to do with you. The mere sight of you repulses me!" Brandy spat out, more angry than scared now.

"I'm sorry for all I did to you. I just want to see her and Jamal. I owe them both an apology. I want to let her know that I am not mad that she testified against me."

"We don't need your apology, and trust me, she doesn't care whether you're mad at her or not. She did what she had to do to be rid of a monster like you!"

"You can trust him. He only wants to apologize to you and your sister," Cassidy cut in making Brandy scoff.

"I don't even trust you, so why should I listen to you and trust him?" She asked with a roll of her eyes.

"Because I'm the one who let him go to jail. I did that to punish him for hurting you. I'm also the one who helped him escape from jail just to keep you safe. I'm still punishing him even now," Cassidy promised, making Brandy frown in confusion.

"Hurt me? What are you talking about?" Brandy asked, and Cassidy jerked his head, giving Jero the go-ahead to answer Brandy's question.

Jero swallowed, "He found out that I forcefully gave you to other men."

"And so? What has that got to do with anything when he was also one of the men who forcefully had me? It's only okay when you're the one doing it?" Brandy asked Cassidy, boiling with anger at the memory.

"Make no mistake, Andy. I'm your first, and you're mine even though you may not admit it to yourself yet. I don't like other people touching my stuff. I had to punish him for being greedy. I paid him a lot of money just so that he wouldn't give you to anyone else in my absence."

Brandy wanted to hiss at him and tell him that she wasn't his. But her curiosity got the best of her so she ignored that and focused on something else, "You paid him not to give me out to other men?"

"Yes. He paid me," Jero responded.

"You can imagine how furious I was when I found out that despite my instructions he went on to pass you around to the other lords like you were a slut," Cassidy said in anger as he stood up and smashed the glass of wine in his hand against the wall.

"I am sorry," Jero said with a bow, taking a step back when Cassidy stepped forward like he wanted to hit him. Brandy who was comfortably seated was surprised to see that Jero was actually scared of Cassidy. Who would have that the monster was capable of an emotion like fear?

"You gambled away all of the money I paid you and used her to generate more money to fund your dirty habit, and you say you are sorry?" Cassidy asked in a low tone.

Brandy cleared her throat, "First of all I'm not some sort of toy that you pay for..." The rest of her sentence trailed off when Cassidy turned to her and she noticed how his jaws were clenched in anger.

Cassidy took in a deep breath to calm himself "I will keep this simple. Just so you know, I'm aware that three persons are currently listening to this conversation" Cassidy said, making both Matt's and Jade's hearts skip beats as they looked out of the car to see if someone was watching them.

"Three people? What are you talking about?" Brandy asked in surprise, and Cassidy smiled.

"Matt, the lawyer girl, and her boyfriend. You should know that I'm not sloppy. I'm not like the other foolish lords," Cassidy said with distaste as he approached Brandy.

Brandy tried not to flinch as he came close to her even though her heart was beating really fast as he stopped in front of her, "It would be an error to underestimate me, Andy," Cassidy said as he reached for the pendant of her necklace, making her heart skip a beat.

"Do you know who owns Sodom & Gomorrah? The club where you and your sister have been working?" Cassidy asked with a slightly raised brow, and Brandy swallowed as she looked up into his intelligent blue eyes.

Since she worked at just one of the branches which were scattered all over the country, she never really concerned herself with the owner. All she knew was that the S&G club in each city was managed by different people.

Cassidy smiled once again, "Imagine my surprise when I learnt that you were a stripper at my club?"

"Your...club? You own the club?" Brandy asked in shock, and he chuckled softly.

"It's a secret though. Many people do not know that. Especially the cartel. I like to keep my business private. I don't want it tainted," Cassidy explained.

"Anyway, that's beside the point. I was at your apartment last night. I looked around and found this jewelry in a box in your drawer amongst other things. Also, while you were performing last night your phone was bugged, so I listened in on your phone call with someone called Matt," Cassidy explained, and Brandy's eyes widened in surprise, while Jade and Matt exchanged a surprised look.

"I don't understand," she said in a small voice.

"Yeah, you won't. Although I don't like talking too much, I will try to explain it all to you while Jero cleans up the mess," Cassidy said, indirectly ordering Jero to take care of the shattered wine glass on the floor. Jero immediately went out to get the items he needed to clean the floor while Cassidy poured himself another glass of wine.

"After my father's death five years ago, I was forced to take his place on the table. Hence I became the youngest amongst the lords of the cartel. Because I didn't want to be involved in the production or distribution of the drugs, my major duty was to look out for anything that might bring trouble to the cartel, and clean it up. By this, I mean that my duty was to tie up every loose end. This is why until Jero's case came up, the police had no evidence which they could use against the cartel."

"You have something against drugs, yet you see nothing wrong in killing people?" Brandy asked with a burst of humorless laughter, and Cassidy's lips twitched slightly.

"This may come as a surprise to you, but I've never pulled a trigger my whole life. I've never had reason to."

"Because you have people that do your dirty work! Murder is murder! What difference does it make whether you're the one pulling the trigger or you ask someone else to do it on your behalf?" Brandy asked with disapproval.

"The difference is that my hands remain clean, whereas the person that pulled the trigger has blood on his hands. Do you know why? Pulling the trigger was their own decision regardless of my order," Cassidy said with an indifferent shrug as he raised his wineglass to his lips and sipped from it.

"You can believe whatever makes you sleep better at night. So are you trying to say that Jero went to jail because you intentionally failed to clean up his mess?" Brandy asked, returning to the discussion.

"As you must know, I was away at the time. And I had only just found out about you giving your favor to other men the previous day. I was still very mad at Jero and the other lords that touched you. So I asked my men to leave clues that would reveal to the police that the kids were testers. And they left enough proof that would lead them to Jero."

"You exposed the cartel because of something like that? What about the other lords? Didn't they..."

"The bunch of old fucks. They have no idea that I was behind it. They assumed it happened because I wasn't around to take care of it, so they kept trying to buy off every prosecutor that took up the case. They kept doing that until the stubborn lawyer girl took up the case. I convinced the lords to let Jero take the fall as that was the only way we could save ourselves and the cartel," Cassidy said with a smile that told Brandy that he was pretty impressed with himself.

"Your sister made it easier for them to nail him by testifying against him. Can't blame her though, can you?" Cassidy asked Jero who had returned inside to clean the floor even though he didn't think there was any need for it.

"You didn't earn your lady's loyalty, so it's what a piece of trash like you deserves after all," Cassidy said, but Jero said nothing as he continued to clean.

"So why then did you let him out?" Brandy asked curiously as she glared at Jero's back. She wished she could hit him or do something horrible to him for all he had done to her and her sister.

"Bill got into some sort of trouble with the kingpin, and they found out that he contacted the lawyer girl, wanting to expose the cartel. That was the first case I was handed once I returned to the country. I was supposed to kill him and make sure he doesn't meet with the lawyer, so I hid him instead."

"Why? Why didn't you kill him?" Brandy asked curiously.

"Because I returned to the country for only two reasons. First, to get you. And secondly to put an end to everything. By everything I mean the cartel included. He will come in handy in my plans," Cassidy explained.

Brandy ignored both reasons since she didn't want to dwell on the first, "And Jero? What do you need him for now if you were angry enough to get him arrested?"

"The cartel tried to get rid of him in prison because they believe that he might testify against them if the lawyer girl offers to reduce his sentence."

"So you couldn't save his life without helping him escape? Why did you even bother saving his life? You should have let them kill him. Everyone would have been better off that way."

"Let me put it this way; the lords wouldn't hesitate to kill both you and your sister even after killing Jero. You wouldn't have known that the cartel was out to get you had I not saved both Bill and Jero..."

"You are not making any sense!" Brandy said with a shake of her head.

"Jero's first job the moment he got out was to intercept the private investigator before he revealed your whereabouts to the cartel. Only Jero could have helped me find you without the cartel's knowledge of my involvement. And now he will be the one to expose the cartel. He knows that is the only way his son and your sister will be safe."

"Find me? What for? And what happens to you when the cartel is exposed?" Brandy asked, wondering what was going on in his head.

"Are you worried that I might go to jail?" Cassidy asked with a grin, and Brandy rolled her eyes.

"You can rot there for all I care. Why should I be worried about you?" She asked incredulously.

"I will give you a reason to worry soon," Cassidy promised as he picked up Brandy's phone from where he had left it and dialed Matt's line.

Matt turned to look at Jade when his phone started ringing, and he showed her the phone's screen. Jade took the phone from him, "I suppose I'm the one you want to speak with?" Jade asked immediately after she received the call and placed it on speaker.

"You have some really good men working for you. Unfortunately, I'm way ahead of them, hence they couldn't tail Jero or find Bill. I made sure of it," Cassidy said smugly.

"You must be proud of yourself," Jade said dryly, trying to conceal the fact that she found the criminal impressive.

"Yes, I am. This yacht is going to explode in a couple of minutes. The moment it does, I AM DEAD. You can tell Candace not to worry about Andy. She will contact her when I believe it is safe enough to do so."

"You mean you want to take Andy hostage and fake your death..."

"I'm not taking her hostage. She is my woman. I already gave Bill all the evidence you will need to bring down the cartel. He will bring it to where you are once the yacht explodes, and then you can get an arrest warrant. Jero will lead you to the place where you can arrest all the lords at once," Cassidy said.

"You must have thought this through," Jade said, surprised at how organized his plan was.

"You wanted to bring down the cartel, I'm helping you achieve it. In return, help Jero see his son and Candace one last time before he returns to jail. I hope you don't try to find me after now," Cassidy said before disconnecting the call.

"It's time to leave," Cassidy said as he reached out a hand to Brandy.

Chapter 266 - The Bet

After showing his visitors around the house, Tom led them up the stairs where he showed them their bedrooms and encouraged them to relax a bit before coming down for dinner.

As he returned downstairs to find Lucy and his mother, his steps faltered at the top of the stairs when he caught sight of Lucy standing by the foot of the stairs as though she was waiting for someone there, while also holding her phone to her ear like she was trying to make a phone call. She had her back to him but he didn't need to see her face to know that she was the one. He smiled when he noticed that she had worn her hair down for him.

Tom's heart skipped a beat when he finally noticed what she was wearing. His eyes moved from her feet which were covered in gold-colored high-heeled sandals, up to her calf, thigh, and her bare back which was mostly covered thanks to her long hair. The dress seemed to be covering just her ass, leaving her back exposed. He didn't even want to imagine what the front of the dress must look like. How was he supposed to concentrate on anything tonight when she was dressed this way? His gaze shifted to his phone when it started vibrating with a phone call, and he ignored it when he saw that the call was from Lucy.

He noiselessly descended the stairs and stopped a foot behind her. Lucy spun around when she suddenly perceived the scent of his cologne before he could touch her.

"You're not with your phone? I was just trying to reach you," she said with a wide smile, happy to see him even though they had been together less than three hours ago.

Tom didn't say a word to her as he let his eyes move over the front part of her dress. It had a deep V neckline that stopped at the top of her belly button, exposing parts of her midriff and boobs. It seemed like the only thing keeping the dress on her body was the halter neck.

Lucy's face grew hot as she watched him assess her unhurriedly. Although she would have preferred he say something, she patiently waited to hear what he had to when his gaze finally returned to her face, "You really shouldn't have worn this dress, babe," he said with a shake of his head, and Lucy tried to blink back her disappointment.

"But since you wore this, I hope you'll be ready to face my parents and yours tomorrow morning?" He asked with a suggestive smile as he reached out to touch her hair, and Lucy blushed when she recalled what his mother had said.

She cleared her throat, "I wouldn't have worn this had I known that she was around. Why didn't you tell me?" Lucy asked with a scowl, and Tom chuckled.

"First of all, I didn't think that you would come here with your parents dressed to SEDUCE me. So there was no need to tell you that. Secondly, I see no reason why my mother should determine your wardrobe. As long as you're comfortable in what you're wearing, I'm good," Tom said as he pulled her closer to himself and placed his arm around her shoulder, while still standing on the staircase and looking down at her.

"Your mom is pretty cool though," Lucy informed Tom.

"Your parents are cool too. Although, I think I might have a problem with your dad," Tom said, making her raise a brow.

"What sort of problem?"

"I noticed how he has been glaring at me all evening. Maybe it's because I told him that I was your one true love," Tom said, and Lucy laughed softly.

"I think Bryan is going to have an issue with him too. Sonia has a huge crush on my dad," Lucy said, and Tom chuckled.

"So he told me. He really bragged about it. I'm glad I don't have to worry about you having a crush on him," Tom said with a grin and Lucy hit him playfully.

"You should know that he is my first love, and has been my only love for the past twenty-five years of my life," Lucy pointed out.

"Too bad for him. I already snatched you from him. He can be your first love, but I intend to be your forever love," Tom said with a wink as he kissed her forehead, "By the way... Thanks for wearing your hair down and ditching the glasses for my sake tonight. You look delicious," Tom said with a playful smile as he used his tongue to lap at the tip of her nose like a dog, making Lucy giggle as she looked up at him with her arms around his waist.

"Who would have imagined that the almighty Thomas Hank could be so playful?" Lucy asked with a smile as she grabbed the collar of his shirt and tugged it so he would lean forward for a kiss.

"Ahem!" Tom's dad cleared his throat behind Lucy as their lips touched, making her spin around in surprise, but Tom held on to her arms so that she wouldn't fall, while he glared at his father for the interruption.

"You are Lucy," Tom's father said, looking at her flushed face curiously as she unconsciously tried to adjust her dress. This one seemed more naive and innocent than the other one. They were a good combination.

"Yes, I am..." Lucy said, feeling embarrassed at being caught being naughty. She could tell that he was Tom's father, but she didn't know what else to say to him. It seemed like she was tongue-tied around his parents.

"Lu, this old man here, who just stopped you from kissing me is my dad," Tom said, placing a possessive hand on her lower back as he stepped down from the last staircase so that he would be at the same ground level with her.

Lucy felt like strangling Tom for making the introduction that way, but judging by the grin on his father's face, it seemed like the man didn't mind.

"It's nice meeting you, sir," Lucy said with a polite bow.

"The pleasure is mine," he said and Tom watched his father in surprise as he held out his arms for Lucy to embrace him. His father hardly easily accepted people and that was why he and his siblings hardly had friends, yet here he was making it obvious that he liked Lucy. He was glad.

Lucy glanced at Tom in confusion before going to embrace the man, "Feel at home. This is going to be your home after all," he murmured to her before breaking the hug.

"Thank you, sir," Lucy said, wondering if this was the same reception Sonia had gotten from the man. Tom's parents seemed like very cool people. She knew she wasn't supposed to be surprised since the apples couldn't have fallen too far from the tree. Tom and Bryan had wonderful personalities, so it made sense that their parents were just as wonderful.

"When are we going to have dinner? Or is it a midnight meal? Your mother keeps saying I need to avoid late-night meals yet she is the same person starving me," Tom's father complained just as his wife appeared in the living room.

"The three of you can proceed to the dining while I get the others," she said as she walked past them, ignoring what her husband had just said.

"I will leave you both alone. Lucy, you can continue from where you stopped," he said with a wave at Lucy and puckered his lips to remind her of where she stopped before walking away.

Lucy closed her eyes in embarrassment, "Your parents..."

"Speaking about my parents, what did my mother say to you?" Tom asked curiously, and Lucy shook her head.

"She started by apologizing to me for believing the news about me, and for asking you to fire me and break up with me."

"She told you that?" Tom asked, surprised.

Lucy nodded, "And she ended it by asking me to keep things down tonight since her room isn't too far from yours. I think your butler reported me to her," Lucy said with a blush, and Tom chuckled.

"Why didn't I think of making my bedroom soundproof? Oh! I know why. Never mind," Tom said dismissively and Lucy raised a brow.

"Why didn't you?" She asked, and Tom grinned.

"I never imagined that I would meet a screamer like you. And even if I had soundproofed the bedroom, what about the living room? You also couldn't keep your voice down when you were the same person who insisted that we do it on the dining table," Tom said and laughed out loud when she raised both hands to cover her face.

"Now I'm wondering how I'm going to eat on that table tonight without thinking about you sprawled on it with chocolate spread all over your boobs. This dress you are wearing is certainly not going to help matters either," Tom complained as he looked into her face which was flushed. Her lips were still glistening from their kiss. He wanted to kiss her and make love to her. But he knew that wasn't going to happen until after dinner. Only a quickie was possible, and what he craved wasn't a quickie.

Lucy cleared her throat, "I was drunk the other night. It was the alcohol's fault," Lucy said defensively.

"Really?" Tom asked in amusement, and she nodded.

"Alright. I will make sure that you don't taste a drop of alcohol tonight. I don't want you blaming the alcohol for your inability to control yourself when I touch you," Tom said with a promise in his eyes as his hand moved under her hair and he used his thumb to caress her nape before pulling her in for a kiss.

He kissed her slowly, tasting every inch of her lips before slowly teasing his way between her lips and into her mouth with his tongue. Lucy sighed as she leaned into him and returned the kiss.

Tom broke the kiss when he heard footsteps ahead of them, and he looked into her eyes with longing, "How about we make a bet," Tom suggested.

"About what?" Lucy asked curiously as she tried to blink back the desire in her eyes.

"If you're able to keep your voice down tonight, you can ask me for whatever you want," Tom said, making Lucy giggle.

"You're serious?"

"Yes."

"And let's assume that I'm unable to. What happens?" She asked curiously.

"You'll do whatever I want for a week," Tom said, and Lucy narrowed her eyes at him as she licked her teeth.

"Seriously? I can ask for anything?"

"Anything."

"Okay.. I'm game," Lucy said with a nod, believing that the presence of both her family and his under this roof will keep her from embarrassing herself and them.

Chapter 267 - Celebratory Sex

Inside Bryan's bedroom, he pulled Sonia to himself as he fell on the bed so that she was lying on top of him. Sonia raised a brow when he ran his hands down her exposed back, "I thought you didn't like such outfits? You specifically asked me not to get this dress," she reminded him playfully.

"Yet you went ahead to buy it. You should be punished for being such a stubborn and naughty girl, don't you think?" Bryan asked as his hands moved down her back and to her ass where he grabbed both ass cheeks.

Sonia giggled as she angled her head to look at him, "You know we don't have time to fool around, right?"

"Says who? We have all the time in the world," Bryan said as he slowly ran his hands down her thighs and then between her legs, making her shiver slightly before he pulled her skimpy dress up her thighs so that her ass was exposed.

"You are really very naughty," He said when he realized that Sonia wasn't putting on any undies.

"Am I?" Sonia asked with a coy smile as she looked into his face, "I guess I should be punished then," she said with a sultry smile and Bryan shook his head.

"Tell me what was running through your mind as you dressed up," Bryan asked as he sat up, and helped Sonia to adjust on the bed.

"This..." Sonia said as she placed a hand over his boner and rubbed it softly making Bryan suck in a breath, "Yesterday morning started so beautifully in your bathroom, yet it looks like ages ago. We have been so tense since this whole madness started yesterday. We deserve some sort of celebratory sex, don't you think?" Sonia asked, and Bryan nodded in agreement.

"Definitely. But we are yet to deal with the perpetrator," he reminded her.

"Yeah. We will go another round when we deal with her. For now, let's celebrate," Sonia said with a wink as she reached for the front of his trousers and unbuckled the belt before unzipping it.

"I thought you said that we didn't have time to fool around?" Bryan asked, his already erect rod getting even more engorged with anticipation.

"That is why I'm not fooling around. I'm getting right on it," Sonia said, making Bryan grin sheepishly as he stood up to let her take off his trousers.

Sonia pushed him on the bed and took off her dress before getting on top of him. Just as she straddled him, the door was pushed open.

"Bry... Oh, my God!" His mother exclaimed as she quickly stepped back and shut the door behind her.

"For God's sake mom, you are supposed to knock. What am I? Fifteen?" Bryan asked irritably as he looked at Sonia who for the first time since he had met her, looked completely embarrassed as she rolled off him and got off the bed.

"I'm sorry. I wanted to let you know that dinner is ready. Come down when you're ready," she called back to them as she hurried away.

"I can't believe that you didn't lock the door," Sonia said as she picked up her dress from the couch where she had dropped it, while Bryan got off the bed to meet her.

"I'm sorry. I was distracted," Bryan apologized as he tried to pull her back, but she was already heading for the bathroom with her dress.

"It's fine. We should get dressed and go down for dinner," Sonia said as she walked into the bathroom which was en suite.

Even though she was wild and fond of doing crazy stuff, she wasn't sure that having her boyfriend's mom walk in on her while she was seated on his cock was a good start for any good mother slash daughter-in-law relationship. She felt very embarrassed, and she knew that the woman must have felt pretty embarrassed too.

"You're not mad at me, are you?" Bryan asked as he walked into the bathroom to see Sonia standing in front of the mirror.

"Of course not," she assured him with a sigh, "I'm just concerned that your mom isn't going to have a good impression of me," Sonia said, trying not to let it bother her.

He went to stand behind her and gave her a back hug, "Why? Because she caught us almost having a quickie?" Bryan asked as he held her gaze through the mirror.

"Don't you feel embarrassed by it?" Sonia asked, and Bryan shook his head.

"I guess you feel that way because you're the lady. Listen, you're not here to pretend to be someone you are not. You are Sonia Smith, the sexy, crazy, and stubborn witch I fell in love with. Don't try to be anything short of who you are just so that my family can accept you. You are unique and real, and I know for a fact that they will love you just the way you are, I promise," Bryan said as he kissed the spot behind her ear.

"You trust me, don't you?" Bryan asked, and Sonia nodded.

How could she not? He had not only proved his love to her by coming down here and getting involved in Lucy's case, but earlier today he had also put her well-being even before the career he loved so much. So how could she not love and trust him? "I love and trust you."

"Good. So don't let anything bother you. Try to enjoy yourself. See this as a family vacation," Bryan said, and Sonia smiled as she gave him a nod.

"So now that we have gotten that out of the way, how about we continue from where we stopped? It has refused to go down," Bryan said with a playful pout, drawing Sonia's attention to his hard cock which was rubbing against her waist.

"Come on, Bryan..." She protested softly as he raised her gown above her waist once again.

"Don't worry, I made sure to lock the door this time," he promised as he moved a hand up her thighs until he found her feminine folds with his fingers, and he inserted his middle finger to see if she was ready, "You're wet," he said in a husky voice as he rubbed her clitoris in circles, making Sonia moan as she arched her back, and raised a hand behind her to touch his neck.

Not needing any other invitation, Bryan pushed her forward gently so that her abdomen was touching the edge of the wash hand basin while she gripped the edges of the wash hand basin as he penetrated her from behind, "Oh, shit!" Sonia exclaimed in a loud moan as she closed her eyes, while Bryan's gaze remained fixed on her reflection in the mirror as he thrust in and out of her.

The more he watched her and listened to her moans, the more aroused he became. When he couldn't bear it any longer, he pulled out of her. Before she could protest, he turned her around to face him and grabbed her ass as he lifted her off the floor and penetrated her.

"Oh, my god!" Sonia moaned loudly as she wrapped both legs around his waist with her arms around his neck. She kissed his face as he pulled in and out of her.

He wanted more. He needed their naked bodies to rub against each other. He felt like a thirsty man drinking wine without getting filled, "I want you, Sonia!" Bryan whispered to her.

"You have me. All of me," Sonia promised as she covered his lips with kisses.

"Not enough... I can't seem to get enough of you," Bryan confessed breathlessly.

"Then take as much as you want. I'm all yours."

Bryan turned around so that Sonia's back was resting on the wall this time as he fucked her. Since her back was to the wall, she could now see their reflection in the mirror. She laughed softly.

"What's funny?" Bryan asked curiously as he kept thrusting.

"It just feels... like I'm watching pornography," Sonia said as she tried to catch her breath, making Bryan chuckle.

"So is this what celebratory sex looks like?" Bryan asked with a groan when Sonia nibbled in his jaw, and he thrust in deeper.

"I'm... not... entirely sure. I think... My moans are supposed to sound like cheers," Sonia said breathlessly, and Bryan chuckled.

"Cheeeers," Sonia moaned loudly, and Bryan laughed out loud. This was completely ridiculous. He wished he had a recorder or something so she could hear herself.

While Sonia and Bryan were in his bedroom fooling around, the others gathered at the dining. Thankfully Tom's dining table was a huge round table and not the usual long rectangular table, so the seating arrangement was quite easy. Once Tom and Lucy got to the dining table, they sat down together opposite Tom's father who was already seated there. Soon the others started coming down from their bedrooms.

Tom's mother sat down beside her husband, and once Lucas came down, she gestured to him to sit on the seat next to hers.

"Hello, Mr. Hank. How are feeling today?" Lucas asked with concern.

"Are you here as a doctor or as a family?" Tom's father asked with a scowl before adding, "I'm feeling okay. At least I can do whatever I want to do this weekend knowing that there is a doctor nearby." And everyone on the table laughed good-naturedly.

Soon Lucy's parents joined them, and they both occupied the two seats which were between Lucas and Lucy, leaving Lucy sitting down between her father and Tom.

"Dad, mom, meet Lucy's family..."

"We know who they are already," his mother cut in dismissively, "There's no need for such formalities around family, right?" She asked Lucy's mother who smiled back at her as she gave her nod.

"You are very correct."

"You can call me, Evelyn, and my husband is Desmond," Tom's mother said.

"You can call me Janet, and my husband is Andrew," Lucy's mother returned.

"See? That is how it is done," Tom's mother said with a satisfied smile while the men said nothing as they watched their wives.

"By the way, where are the others?" Lucy's mother asked curiously when she noticed that Alicia, Jasmine, Bryan, and Sonia were yet to join them.

"We are here," Alicia called out as she and Jasmine joined them.

"What about Bryan and Sonia?" Lucas asked curiously.

Tom's mother tried not to look embarrassed as she answered, "They will join us later. They are... Busy," Evelyn said without meeting anyone's gaze, making Lucy turn to the side to hide her smile. Knowing her best friend, she could tell that Sonia was up to no good.

"Let's eat then. I'm sure that whatever is keeping them busy is going to take quite some time," Tom's father said in a knowing tone as he picked up his cutlery and the others did the same.

"What about your fiancée? I thought she was going to be here with you. I guess she is busy preparing for your wedding," Tom's mother said, and all eyes fell on Lucas making Lucy wince.

Sensing the awkwardness that hung in the air, Tom cleared his throat, "We should eat.. It has been a long day for everyone and I would love to retire to bed soon."

Chapter 268 - Dad Versus Tom

Halfway through dinner, Bryan and Sonia joined the others, with his hand around her waist as he led her to the table. Although every one of them had been busy talking as they ate, everywhere became silent as they watched the couple take their seat on the table.

"Whatever had kept you two busy until now must have been life-threatening," Lucy's father said in a mocking tone, making Sonia blush lightly as she looked down, while the others laughed.

"Drew stop doing that to her!" Lucy's mother scolded her husband who she knew had said that deliberately to make Sonia blush.

"What did I do? It was just a harmless observation, was it not?" He asked, and Tom's father roared with laughter. He had thought that Sonia was too wild to feel embarrassed.

"Wow! I can't believe that it's true! Sonia, you still have a crush on Lucy's dad?" Alicia asked in amusement, and Bryan turned to glare at Lucy's father.

"She doesn't."

"But, yes she does, isn't that right, Sony?" Lucy's father asked with a grin at Sonia who refused to raise her head, and the others laughed as Bryan placed his hands possessively over her shoulder and mildly glared at Lucy's father who was grinning like he was enjoying himself.

"Stop that dad. You are embarrassing her," Lucy chided, while her father just chuckled.

"Tell me something, princess. Who is your one true love?" Lucy's father asked as he met Tom's gaze, his eyes gleaming with challenge.

"Huh?" Lucy asked, not knowing where the question was coming from.

"Between Tom and I, who would you say you love the most?" He asked, and Lucy's brows furrowed as her gaze moved from her father to Tom, and then back to her father.

"Don't do that to her, dad. You are putting her on the spot," Lucas said, even though he was curious to hear what she was going to say as was every other person on the table who was staring at Lucy curiously.

Lucy cleared her throat, "I love you dad, and I love Tom too. You both have your place in my hea..."

"That doesn't answer the question," Tom's father cut in, making his wife turn to him with scolding eyes. She could tell that both men were going to get along just fine. They seemed to share a lot of things in common.

"If they were both dying and you could save just one of them who would it be?" Jasmine asked while Alicia busied herself by taking pictures of everyone on the table and filming them.

"You can't certainly expect her to answer that question. If they're dying I will save my husband, and then she can save Tom," Lucy's mother answered but her husband wasn't having that.

"What if you are not there, and it's just me, Lucy, and Tom? Who will it be, Lu?" He insisted while the others kept watching in amusement.

Seeing how uncomfortable Lucy was beginning to feel because of the questions, Tom reached for her hand, "Don't worry, babe. I know how you feel about me. You can tell him what he wants to hear. I'm okay with it," Tom assured her in a low tone, knowing that she wouldn't want to embarrass her call. She scowled when she saw Rachel's name displayed on her screen, and although she wanted to 17:39

ignore the call, she needed it as an excuse to avoid answering her father's question, "Please excuse father by saying otherwise.

Lucy remained silent as she thought of a way to answer the question without hurting either her father or Tom. Thankfully she didn't have to answer when her phone started vibrating with a phone call. She scowled when she saw Rachel's name displayed on her screen, and although she wanted to ignore the call, she needed it as an excuse to avoid answering her father's question, "Please excuse me, I need to take this call," she said as she pushed back her seat and stood up.

"You didn't have to do that. It was very immature," Lucy's mother scolded her husband since they all knew that Lucy had chosen to excuse herself just so that she could avoid his question.

Lucas who had caught a glimpse of her face when she looked at her screen could tell that the call was probably from Rachel so he glanced at Sonia, who seemed to read his mind, and nodded her head. She also thought that the call was from Rachel since Rachel was the only person who Lucy's dislike for was that obvious. Lucas pushed away from the table and also excused himself to go after Lucy.

"I'm surprised that you are calling me out of the blue. Why? Because Lucas broke up with you?" Lucy asked without beating around the bush once she walked into the Den and closed the door.

"I'm so sorry, Lucy. Please I love Lucas. I love him so much and I can't live without him," Rachel pleaded tearfully.

"As you must know, I've never interfered in your relationship. Not once in the last ten years have I interfered since you made it clear to me that you wanted him for yourself and you didn't want to share my twin brother with me. You did everything you could to tear us apart, so why do you suddenly want me to interfere now?" Lucy asked, boiling with anger as she remembered snippets of Lucas' conversation with Rachel earlier that day.

"Please, I'm sorry..." Rachel cried.

"You are sorry? Unfortunately, I don't think so. You only claim to be sorry because you didn't expect that he would choose his family over you. He loved you completely, and you hurt him! And I'm NEVER going to forgive you for that. I could tolerate you trying to tear us apart as long as Lucas was happy, but what I won't tolerate is you making his life miserable!" Lucy said angrily and turned around when she heard the door open behind her.

"I asked you to ignore her call," Lucas reminded her with a blank expression as he held out his hand for the phone.

"How could I when she kept calling? You don't intend to make up with her, do you?" Lucy asked as she reluctantly handed him the phone.

"Rachel, I already told you everything I have to say to you. Don't make things any more difficult for either of us than it already is. Please stop calling Lucy and my parents. Nothing is going to change my mind," Lucas said as politely as he could muster and then hung up with a sigh without listening to anything she was saying.

Looking into his eyes she could tell that he was very sad. He might have been the one to end things, but he was heartbroken.

"We don't have to return to the dining yet if you don't want to," Lucy offered with concern in her eyes.

"Why? Because you don't want to answer dad's question?" Lucas asked lightly, trying to sound cheerful.

"There is that. But it's also because I want to stay back and keep you company. I think you might need it," Lucy said with a sigh as she took his hand and led him to one of the chairs in the Den before sitting down.

With a sigh Lucas sat down beside her and shut his eyes as he leaned back in his seat, resting his head on the headrest. His head was beginning to pound now. Although he enjoyed the company of everyone and how their conversations distracted him from his thoughts, what he really wanted was to be alone.

He opened his eyes and turned to look at Lucy, "You could have easily chosen Tom over dad. You know that dad wouldn't have really felt hurt he was only testing you and Tom," Lucas said after they had both been silent for a while.

"It might have been a game to him, but as I said, I love them both and they each have their special places in my heart. I don't see any reason why I have to choose any of them over the other," Lucy said with a shrug as she snuggled closer to Lucas and placed her head on his shoulder.

"I see," Lucas said with a sigh as he adjusted so that Lucy would be comfortable.

"So... did you cry?" Lucy asked, and Lucas snorted.

"I don't think I've found the time to do that yet. I will let you know if I do that tonight," he said dryly and Lucy smiled sadly.

"I know you're deeply hurt, Luc. I wish there was something I could do," Lucy murmured.

"Don't worry about me. I'm sure I'll get over it eventually. I'm just glad that we have been able to clear this issue and you're okay now. I was really worried about you when I saw it. It's good to know that you have such a capable man in your life now," Lucas said, and then chuckled when something occurred to him, "Just when you finally got a boyfriend, I ended my relationship."

"You want me to break up with Tom? I could be single until you get someone else," Lucy suggested making Lucas laugh, and then she laughed too.

"I'm not sure I want to get involved in a relationship anytime soon. Besides, I think I'll need to quit my job and move out of my apartment when I get back," Lucas said, making Lucy pull away to look at him.

"Why? What happened to your job and apartment?" Lucy asked curiously.

"Rachel's family got me the job, and you know that the house came with the position. I'm quitting the job before they get me fired and throw me out," Lucas said with a shrug not wanting to tell her that Rachel had actually threatened him with that.

"Oh, this is even worse than I thought," Lucy said with a genuinely concerned frown now as she looked at her brother, "I'm so sorry. This whole thing happened because..."

"No. Don't bother blaming yourself. It happened because I was blindly in love with someone as selfish as Rachel. Just don't tell either mom or dad about my job. I'll tell them after I've sorted things out," Lucas said, making her sigh as she leaned back on her seat.

"You could just move down here and get a new job here," Lucy suggested.

"I don't know yet. I will figure out what I want to do later. For now, I just want to quit my job, and probably travel to somewhere far away to clear my head," Lucas said with a sigh, and this time he rested his head on Lucy's shoulders, and she adjusted to accommodate him as she patted his hair. It had been such a long time since either of them comforted themselves this way.

"Is everything okay?" Tom asked as he walked into the Den.

"Is dinner over, or you came here because you were missing Lulu?" Lucas asked as he sat up.

"The others are still having dinner, but I'm retiring for the night so I wanted to see if everything was okay before going upstairs," Tom explained.

"I guess I can retire for the night then, I'll just say goodnight to the others," Lucas said as he stood up, "See you both in the morning," Lucas said before walking away.

"Is he okay?" Tom asked after Lucas had left, and Lucy shook her head sadly.

"He is not fine. He broke off his engagement with his fiancée earlier today who he has dated for over ten years. And now he has to quit his job since he got it through her family's connection," Lucy said as she stood up, ready to retire with him for the night.

"You can spend some time with your parents and Sonia before going to bed. I'll join you in bed later. I need to first do something," Tom said as he kissed her forehead before walking away to find Lucas.

Once Lucy returned to the table, she turned to her father, "So I've decided to watch you and Tom play games tomorrow. Whoever wins will be my one true love," Lucy said, making everyone on the table cheer her for her smart answer.

Away from there Tom who was looking for Lucas called out to him as he caught up with him on his way to his bedroom, "Lucas!"

Lucas turned to look at him curiously wondering why Tom had followed him.

Tom flashed him a smile, "If you're not feeling too sleepy yet, would you mind sharing a nightcap with me?" Tom asked hopefully.

"Lucy didn't put you up to this, did she?" Lucas asked suspiciously.

"She doesn't know I'm here. We just met today and we haven't really gotten to know each other. I'd like to get to know Lucy's twin, and then maybe you can give me the password to your father's heart," Tom said lightly.

Lucas considered it only for a moment before gesturing to Tom to lead the way.

Chapter 269 - Good Luck

"How close are you to Lucy?" Tom asked as a conversation starter once he and Lucas were seated in his bar room.

"How close?" Lucas asked in confusion.

"Yeah. Although you both are not identical twins, I've been curious about the kind of connection that exists between you both since the moment she mentioned to me that she had a twin brother," Tom said as he took a sip from his glass, and Lucas smiled sadly thinking that he was no longer as connected with his sister as they had once been.

"Hmm... I really do not know how to answer that question," Lucas said with a sigh.

"Funny, because Lucy said almost the same thing the first time I asked her that," Tom said with a smile as he remembered the first time he had visited Lucy's apartment under the guise of being her neighbor.

"What did she say?" Lucas asked curiously, wanting to know what Lucy genuinely thought about their siblingship.

"I asked her if she felt specially connected to you as her twin brother, but she said she wouldn't know because you are her only sibling. I guess you feel the same way about her," Tom said as he studied Lucas.

"What way?" Lucas asked again, giving Tom the impression that what Lucy thought about their relationship was important to him.

"You both love each other, but you both don't think that the bond you share is just because you are twins. It's nice. I hope Lucy and I have twins of our own. A boy and a girl, or two girls," Tom said with a dreamy smile, and Lucas raised a brow.

"You're already thinking of knocking her up?"

"I'm already thinking of her in my future," Tom countered with a grin, and Lucas found himself smiling at him.

"You don't want twin boys?"

"Nah. I want a little girl that looks and acts just like Lucy. Not as introverted as she is though," Tom added with a grin.

Seeing how he was smiling, Lucas could tell that Tom was completely smitten, "You must really love her," Lucas said with a sigh.

"Of course, I love her. Who wouldn't love her?" Tom asked making Lucas chuckle as he resisted the urge to say Rachel.

"You do know that you owe me big time, right? I put in a lot of good words for you when she asked for my opinion," Lucas confided, and Tom leaned forward in his seat.

"Really? You both talked about me? When was that? And what did you say?" Tom asked curiously and listened with a grin as Lucas related all that Lucy had said when pretending that her colleague's friend was having issues with a one-night stand who coincidentally turned out to be her neighbor and driver.

Both Tom and Lucas were laughing by the time Lucas finished telling him about his advice to Lucy, "I can't imagine giving my kid sister such a piece of advice though. You must have badly wanted her to get involved with someone to have given her such advice," Tom said thoughtfully, and Lucas nodded.

"Yes. I was planning to get married to Rachel who doesn't get along with Lucy, and then Sonia was engaged to your brother. I thought she would be too lonely since she really isn't the type to socialize. So I wanted her to meet someone. I decided that someone had to be you the moment she said that you didn't take advantage of her the first night you spent together because she was drunk," Lucas confessed.

"Was? You're no longer planning to get married?" Tom asked, acting like he hadn't heard from Lucy about Lucas' breakup.

Lucas sighed, "Don't pretend like you don't know that I called off the engagement. I'm sure that is the only reason you picked that part out of everything I just said. That's a cheap trick," Lucas said with a shake of his head before sipping from his wine.

Tom gave him an apologetic smile, "Fine. Lucy mentioned the break-up to me. Are you alright?" Tom asked, his concern evident in his hazel eyes.

"I'm not. But let's not talk about that right now. Tell me why you decided to stalk Lucy," Lucas said wanting to talk about anything else that didn't involve Rachel.

Tom went on to explain how he had been unlucky with ladies, and how he had wanted to get to know Lucy without her knowing his true identity. By the time he was done, Lucas sighed.

"That was a big risk you took though."

"Yeah. I'm not sure I realized just how bad it was until she told me about Jamie. That was when I realized that I had screwed up."

"Thankfully it is because of you that she has finally been able to face all that happened to her. I guess it all worked out well," Lucas said with a small smile.

Tom looked at Lucas for a moment, and then cleared his throat, "I have a vacancy position for a doctor in the company if you're interested..."

"Did the position suddenly become vacant just because you heard that I'm quitting my job?" Lucas asked, narrowing his eyes suspiciously.

"Not at all. I was going to fire the doctor on Monday," Tom assured him.

"Why? Did he do something wrong?"

"He doesn't know how to keep sensitive information to himself, and I can't have such a person working with me," Tom said without telling Lucas what the doctor had done wrong.

He had tried his best to figure out where the leak had come from concerning him pretending to be and Lucas looked at him for a moment without saying a word.

Lucy's driver, and then he remembered that the only person apart from Harry and his siblings who knew about it for a fact was the doctor. He was glad now that he hadn't given the doctor the details of Lucy's psychological trauma, else he would have also thought that was where the leak came from, and he wouldn't have forgiven himself.

"You do realize that people are going to assume that you fired him just so that you could employ your girlfriend's twin brother," Lucas pointed out with a shake of his head.

"I get your point. For your sake, I'm going to give him six months' notice and ask him to quit by himself. You can take the time to clear your head before resuming. How about that?" Tom suggested, and Lucas looked at him for a moment without saying a word.

"Did you discuss this with Lucy?"

"Not yet. I wanted to talk to you first," Tom explained.

"It should remain between us for the time being. I don't have to give you an answer yet, right?" Lucas asked, and Tom nodded.

"I will think about it and get back to you on it when I'm thinking straight," Lucas promised.

"That's fine. So can you tell me about Lucy's childhood," Tom said eagerly, making Lucas raise a brow.

"I thought you wanted us to share a nightcap to know more about me?"

"Lucy's childhood is the same as yours. You can talk about yourself too while telling me about her. I want to hear everything about Lucy. What was she like before prom night?" Tom asked, and Lucas shook his head. He didn't know whether to feel bad for his heartbroken self or be happy about the way Tom was making his love for Lucy so obvious.

Inside the house, Bryan was glaring at his mother as she returned to join them at the table with a photo album, "Mom, no one asked to see!" He said with a scowl as she opened the album.

"I want to see," Sonia said excitedly as she left her seat and went to sit on the chair beside Tom's mother which Lucas had vacated a while ago.

"Awww," Sonia gushed when she saw three separate pictures of three cute babies.

"This is Tom, Bryan, and Jade," Evelyn pointed to each baby, and Lucy stood up to join them so that she could see the picture of Tom.

Tom's father stood up when Lucy stood behind his wife and Sonia, "Want to play games before calling it a night?" He asked Lucy's father who gave him a thumbs-up as he stood up.

"Let's give the ladies room to do ladies' stuff," Lucy's father said as he turned to his wife, "Come get me when you're ready to go to bed," he said as he kissed his wife's forehead before leaving with Bryan's father.

Once the men left, Lucy sat down on the seat which Tom's father had just vacated, and Lucy's mom and Jasmine moved closer to the group to see the pictures, while Alicia continued to take photos.

Seeing how the ladies were laughing together and awwing as they watched the photos, while both his mother and Lucy's mother exchanged stories of their kids' childhood, Bryan stood up and walked away without saying a word to Sonia since she seemed engrossed with the photos and stories of both women.

"We shouldn't let him take her with him! He violated her!" Matt said as he turned on the car's ignition and reversed in the direction of the port.

"Did you listen to anything he said?" Harry who was still lying there with his eyes closed, asked Matt.

"I thought you were having your beauty sleep?" Jade asked, turning to look at him.

"It's difficult to do that in a car."

"Can you both have this conversation some other time? I promised Candace that Andy will be safe. I can't..."

Jade quickly cut in, "Andy won't be hurt."

"How can you be so sure? How can a person like you believe the words of a criminal? Someone who murdered someone else in cold blood?" Matt asked incredulously as he stepped on the gas pedal, wanting to get to the port before the yacht blows up.

"If he wanted to hurt her, he wouldn't have bothered talking to us about his plans. Besides, did you hear her protest?" Jade asked, and Matt frowned.

"She doesn't need to protest for us to rescue her. Are we supposed to not do anything and just let him do as he pleases? Are you doing this because he has promised to give you everything you need to close the case?" Matt asked indignantly.

"Why don't you give Candace a call? And you both can do whatever she says," Harry suggested with a yawn and Jade picked up her phone and dialed Candace's line.

Candace who had just succeeded in putting Jamal to sleep was startled by her sudden ringtone, and she quickly reached for her phone and received the call before moving away from the bedroom, "Sup? It's almost midnight," she pointed out.

"Uhm, Jero is with Cassidy, and they have Andy," Jade said after putting the phone on speaker, making Candace's heart skip a beat.

"What do you mean Jero is with Cassidy and they haveher?" She asked almost panicking.

"Calm down," Jade said and went on to explain everything that transpired between Cassidy and Jero to Candace.

Candace took in a deep breath after listening to everything, "Cassidy said Andy will contact me when it's safe?" Candace asked in a worried tone when Jade finished.

"Yes. What do you suggest we do? Should I ask the cops to go after Cassidy?"

Although it was a difficult decision to make, Candace sighed after a while, "Although Cassidy is dangerous, he loves Andy in his own twisted way, and he is a man of his words. If he says Andy will be fine, then I believe that she will be okay. Don't go after them. I will wait to hear from her."

"And what about Jero? Are you willing to see him before he returns to jail?" Jade asked since that was Cassidy's request.

Matt suddenly slammed his foot on the brake when something clicked in his head, and the car screeched to a halt making them jerk forward.

"Oh, my God!" Jade exclaimed in surprise.

"What did you do that for?" Harry who had almost fallen off the seat, hissed irritably as he sat up.

"Is everything okay over there?" Candace asked just as Matt took the phone from Jade.

"Did you lie about killing those boys?" Matt asked in a very quiet tone, and both Jade and Harry stared at him in confusion.

Of course, she had known that he was going to find out sooner or later that she lied to him. She had done it just to push him away.

"I guess you really were not interested in me if you could lie about something like that just to push me away. I'm sorry I kept interfering in your business," Matt said with a shake of his head as he hung up the call.

"I believe my job here is done. You can handle the rest on your own," Matt said as he got out of the car, "You can use the car. I'll find my way home," Matt said as he walked away without waiting for either Jade or Harry to say anything to him.

Jade and Harry looked away from Matt's retreating figure when they heard the sound of an explosion, but Matt didn't bother looking in the direction of the yacht which had just exploded. He wished them all good luck.

Chapter 270 Fathers

"You must be a very proud father," Andrew Perry said as he played soccer against Desmond Hank.

"Why? Because all three of them are successful?" Desmond asked curiously.

"Yes. Lucas mentioned how proud your wife was the first time he met you both at his office," Andrew asked, and Desmond chuckled at the memory.

"Evelyn is always that way. I love my kids and I'm proud of how much each of them has been able to achieve on their own," Desmond said, but Andrew heard the silent but in his tone, so he turned to face him.

"But what?"

Desmond chuckled, "I never said that there was a but."

"You didn't need to utter it. I heard it," Andrew said with a knowing smile.

Desmond sighed, "It's just that the more successful they became, the more difficult it has been for me to see them too. I worked hard to care for my family and help each of my kids to achieve their

goals, but while doing that I always tried not to let my job get in the way of spending time with them. Now they're all just so grown up and they barely call or visit. It hurts. I think watching your kids grow away from you hurts," Desmond confessed as he dropped the pad with a resigned sigh.

Andrew sighed as he also set aside his game pad, "You should let them know that you're not happy with them," Andrew suggested, and Desmond scoffed.

"Like it's going to make any difference. On Monday is my birthday. And I can bet on it that none of them would even remember it unless my wife tells them about it," Desmond said, making Andrew feel bad on his behalf.

He couldn't compare either Lucas or Lucy to Tom and his siblings, but he knew that despite Lucas' busy schedule, he tried to visit them at least once in two weeks. And Although Lucy had been quite occupied with trying to settle in since she moved to Ludus, communication hasn't been a problem for them.

"I miss my daughter, Jade. It's been a while since she last visited. I miss her a lot," Desmond confessed when Andrew didn't say anything, "In a way, both Sonia and Lucy seem to remind me of her. I can see her in them both," he said with a smile which Andrew returned.

"I think they will learn to appreciate you more when they're all settled. I think humans generally grow to appreciate our parents more when we become parents," Andrew said thoughtfully.

"When they are settled and are too busy trying to balance their careers with their immediate families?" He asked with a shake of his head.

"I'm not asking for too much, am I? I just want them to initiate phone calls without us begging for it. Visiting once in six months isn't too much either, is it? It bothers my wife a lot, and I try to comfort her so I can't tell her how upset I feel about it either. Sometimes I imagine that when we grow old they're just going to dump us in a nursing home and forget about our existence. It worries me a lot."

Listening to him talk, Andrew could tell that it was really bothering him and he probably had no one else apart from his wife to talk to, "I suppose you don't have a lot of friends?"

Desmond scoffed, "It's hard to maintain genuine friendships when everyone is coming close to you because they want something from you. I can barely have a decent conversation with some acquaintances without them trying to matchmake my kids with theirs, or asking me to introduce them to either Tom or Bryan. It gets tiring so I'm better off without friends."

"Hmm! I can't imagine what that feels like," Andrew said as he leaned back into the seat.

"What about you?" Desmond asked curiously.

"Well, Lucy is a workaholic, and sometimes we do most of the reaching out, but she only just moved away from home so it's fine. Lucas is always busy as is expected of a medical doctor, but he tries to visit us at least once in two weeks. So it's also okay."

"You're so lucky. Sometimes I secretly wish that my kids weren't so successful. I know it doesn't make sense," Desmond said with a shake of his head.

"You should take it easy. I will still suggest that you should talk to them about it now that you are here and you can see them," Andrew suggested.

"I will try to do that," Desmond said as he picked up his pad, "Let's play some more. You should practice against tomorrow if you intend to win against Tom," he said with a chuckle and Andrew chuckled.

"Shouldn't you be siding with your son?"

"I'm all for fathers being the one true love of their daughters. Every other man comes second, I'm sure Tom will understand when he has his own little girl. So I'll be cheering for you," Desmond said, and both men laughed out loud.

Away from there, Bryan who was heading for his bedroom stopped when he saw Candace at the other end of the hall standing just outside one of the guest's bedrooms, "Is everything okay?" He asked, and Candace swirled around in surprise.

She flashed him a smile as he approached her, "Yes, everything is okay. I just came out to receive a phone call since I didn't want to disturb my son's sleep," she explained, while Bryan watched her curiously.

"Can you spare me some minutes of your time?" Bryan asked, and she glanced at the bedroom door with a frown.

"I don't want to go too far from here in case he wakes up," she explained even though she actually needed the distraction so she wouldn't get worked up over what Jade had said about Jero wanting to see her or worry about Matt's anger as well as her sister's wellbeing. There were just a lot of things on her mind right now.

"He is a big boy. I'm sure he will find his way around if he needs you. Besides we are not going far from here, if he calls out loud enough, you will hear him," Bryan said when he noticed her hesitation.

"Okay, give me a moment," she said as she returned inside the bedroom to make sure that Jamal was well tucked in before leaving the bedroom.

Once she returned to join Bryan, he led her down the hallway, "Don't worry, I won't take too much of your time," he assured her as he led her down the hall to another door that opened to a balcony. One thing Bryan loved most about the building was that almost all the bedrooms had their own balconies.

There were two seats and a table positioned there as it was in all the balconies around the house, and Bryan took one of the seats while Candace took the seat opposite him.

"Thanks for not telling your..." The rest of her words trailed off when Bryan raised a brow.

"How long have you been here? And how has your stay been?" Bryan asked, ignoring what she had been about to say.

She sighed, "We got here on Thursday. We have been okay. Jamal likes the place, and the staff adores him," Candace said with a small smile as she thought about her son.

"He's a smart kid, so it's easy to love him," Bryan said as he watched her.

"I know that you might think that it's none of my business, but can I ask you what's going on between you and Matt? He's my best friend and the last time I saw him he wasn't his usual cheerful self," Bryan said, and Candace sighed.

"Nothing is going on between us," Candace said with a shrug.

"Nothing? You do know that he really likes you though, right?" Bryan asked, and Candace shrugged.

"I've got a lot going on with me right now and I don't want him getting involved in my mess. He just doesn't seem to get it."

"So it's not like you don't like him either? You are only trying to push him away because somehow you feel that you are protecting him?" Bryan concluded, wondering what it was with these women and pushing away the men they claimed to love.

"You do realize that the mere fact that you are here right now for whatever reason, means that he is already involved in your mess whatever it is, right? So what's the point?" Bryan asked when Candace said nothing, and then he took out his phone from his pocket when it started vibrating. He raised a brow when he realized that the call was from Jade.

"Is everything okay? Why are you calling so late in the night?" Bryan asked in concern immediately after he received the call.

"I can't talk right now. I'm in a haste. I just wanted to ask you to give Matt a call," Jade suggested as she got into the jet with Harry, after receiving the flash drive from Bill as promised by Cassidy.

Immediately the yacht exploded earlier, a car had driven up to them and Bill had handed them the flash drive before continuing to the port to pick Jero.

"Matt? Why? Did something happen?" Bryan asked in concern, and Candace immediately glanced at him when she heard Matt's name.

"He is upset over something. I don't know what it is. You can find out yourself. I'm hanging up now."

"Did something happen between you and Matt to upset him?" Bryan asked Candace since it somehow made sense to him that she would have a hand in it. He was certain that she was the reason Matt and Jade were communicating, and he had seen her standing by the passageway after a phone call.

Candace sighed, "It's probably because he found out that I lied to him about something."

Bryan watched her for a while without saying a word, "I'm going to ask you a personal question that I'm hoping you'll answer honestly, do you want Matt or not? I need to know what to say to him when I call him."

Candace only considered his question for a moment, "I don't know. I really do like him, and we could even be friends. But I don't think I'm ready for a relationship yet," Candace said, and Bryan gave her a nod before pushing his seat back to stand up.

"Thanks for being honest with me, I'll speak with Matt. And thanks for your time, I won't take any more of it," Bryan said as he stood up, and Candace stood up too.

"Have a good night's rest," Bryan said and waited until she had left before sitting down and picking up his phone to dial Matt's line. He sighed when his eyes fell on the time displayed on his screen and he saw that it was past midnight. Judging by Jade's call, it seemed like it wasn't just the people in Tom's house that were keeping a late night.