

## Wild Night 601

### Chapter 601 Game On

Matt inwardly cursed the luck that made him run into Candace that afternoon as he returned to his hotel suite, where Gemima was waiting for him.

He didn't want to think about her. He didn't want to miss her, and he definitely didn't want to worry about whether or not she had seen Gemima kiss him.

Why did he keep feeling like calling her just to let her know there was nothing going on between him and Gemima? It wasn't like he was cheating on her. She had been the one who rejected him, so why did he have to feel guilty for trying to move on?

Perhaps he was going about moving on from her the wrong way. Matt mused as he opened the door and walked to the bedroom.

He paused by the doorway when he saw Gemima positioned sexily in the middle of the bed. She was dressed in a black fishnet teddy that reminded him of what Candace had been wearing the first night they met.

She was wearing high-heeled sandals and sipping from a glass of wine, "I've been waiting for you," she said with a sultry smile, and Matt sighed inwardly.

This was the reason he had asked her to join him, so why was he feeling so annoyed and irritated by it all now? Matt mused as he walked over to the table where she had left the bottle of sparkling wine and poured himself a glass.

"Are you alright?" Gemima asked as she got off the bed and approached the couch where he was now seated.

"Have you ever been in love, Gem?" Matt asked, and she looked at him with a blank expression for a moment before smiling at him.

"I'm not caught out for love, Matt. I've been beaten once, and now I'm twice shy. Why do you ask? Do you fancy yourself in love with me? Is that why you asked me over?" She asked, and Matt snorted.

"I'm in love with someone else. Not you. I'm trying to get over her. Hence I want to see if I can use you to keep my mind off her," Matt said, and Gemima's smile transformed into a scowl.

"That's not a nice thing to say to a lady," she said with disapproval as she set down her wineglass.

"You don't expect me to be nice to you, do you? Not after you approached me on purpose, wanting to get involved with me only so you could create a scandal to promote yourself," Matt said, and she sighed.

"I had to do what I needed to climb the ladder of success. I'm sorry you got hurt but don't forget that things were good between us. All you had to do was ignore the fact that the scandal was deliberate," she said defensively.

"In exchange for having great sex with you, all I had to do was let you ride on my coattail," Matt said with a nod.

"It wasn't a bad deal, was it?" Gemima asked softly as she placed a hand on his shoulder.

"It wouldn't have been if I didn't find out the truth. I'm not getting back with you, Gem. All I need is your company. And it's going to be on my own terms," Matt said, and Gemima sighed.

"Alright. So, who is she? Is she a celebrity? What is she like? Why are you trying to forget about her?" Gemima asked as she took off her sandals since it was obvious that Matt wasn't in the mood to be seduced.

"She isn't a celebrity, and she doesn't want to get involved with me," Matt said, and she looked at him incredulously.

"Is she crazy? Why would she not want to get involved with a Mr nice guy like you?" Gemima asked, and this time Matt laughed easily.

"I said I don't want to think about her, Gem. You are supposed to be taking my mind off her, not talking about her," Matt said, and Gemima moved closer to him and rested her head on his chest.

"I have no idea how I'm supposed to do that. Do you want us to have great sex?" She offered, and Matt smiled.

"I like you a lot, Gem."

"I know. And I like you too. And if it makes any difference, I really regretted using you the way I did," Gemima said softly.

"It's fine. I've forgiven you for it. You taught me not to get involved with celebrities," Matt said, and she sighed.

"Do you really plan to give up on the girl? I mean, if you love her, shouldn't you try to get her? Maybe if you tell me about her, I can help you," She offered, and Matt groaned.

"I don't need your help, Gem. Especially not after she must have seen you kissing me. Now, can you not talk about her? I really don't want to think about her. Seeing her today was bad enough," Matt pleaded, and even though his statement only made her more curious, she decided not to press.

"Okay. Let's just drink, gossip, and have great sex then," she suggested as she refilled her wineglass and clinked it with his.

Away from there, Sara paced around her hotel room with her phone pressed against her ear as she listened to Amos.

"Are you sure about that?" She asked, her heart beating excitedly as she listened to Amos.

"Yes. I received a visit from one of the sisters at the orphanage home. They called asking for Jade, and I attended to them," Amos said excitedly.

"And they told you they've been able to locate my daughter?" Sara asked, trying not to sound too eager.

"Yes. They gave me her phone details and home address. I haven't called her yet. I wanted to report to you before doing that. And I heard she is over there in Ludus. You are still in Ludus, right?" Amos asked, and Sara thanked her good luck since her flight was supposed to leave in two hours.

"Yes. I'm in Ludus. Send me everything you have on her, and I will reach out to her myself," Sara said before hanging up.

She was glad that despite the fact that she had started the day on a bad note with the useless news about her and Harry, she was going to be ending it on a brighter note.

She was curious to see her daughter and find out what she had made of herself. Was she as successful as Harry? Did she look just like her? Was she as bold and driven as she was? Sara mused.

She turned to the door when she remembered her assistant was still standing there, "Cancel our flight. We won't be leaving today as planned," Sara instructed as she walked over to look outside the window of her hotel.

Sara enjoyed watching the comings and goings of strangers. Especially those who were beneath her, and we're struggling to make a living. It made her feel powerful and successful.

Maybe things would have been better for her had Aaron not bounced back. Had he been poor and Harry been broke, she wouldn't have had to do too much.

Well, she hoped her daughter wasn't doing so well for herself. She would like to sweep the girl off her feet and fly off with her to get her surgery so she can also get rid of her before Aaron or Harry gets wind of her existence.

She looked at her phone when it vibrated with a text message notification, and she clicked on it.

Well, it did seem like the girl wasn't doing so well for herself, Sara thought with a satisfied smile when she saw the home address, which wasn't situated in an upscale area.

A couple of minutes later, Sara was comfortably seated in the rental car and on her way to pay her daughter a visit.

She had it all planned out in her head. She was going to take the girl for a DNA and blood test and then spend the next couple of days fraternizing with the girl while waiting for the result to be out.

She would do her best to win her heart, and once she was certain the girl was her daughter and the girl was a match, she would convince her to donate part of her liver to her, and in exchange, she would be the one to inherit all she owned.

Of course, she knew that the poor girl would be very willing to do that. If she agreed, they would get the surgery done, and afterward, she would get rid of the girl.

If she refused, she would just have to get the liver harvested by other means and still get rid of her.

Sara snapped out of her thoughts when the car rolled to a stop, and her assistant turned to her, "We are here."

Sara rolled down the window and looked at the neighborhood, which looked like a place where druggies and hoodlums lived.

"Wait in the car," Sara said as she got out of the car and headed to the area where a group of young people was gathered, chattering.

"Hello!" Sara greeted with a pleasant smile meant for those beneath her.

Everyone ignored her and continued talking as though they had not heard her voice, "Please excuse me," Sara repeated, the pleasantness gradually seeping out of her smile.

"I'm here to see Crystal. Do you know where I can find her?" Sara asked, and this time everyone stopped talking, and all eyes turned to her.

"Why? Did she cause you any trouble?" One of the ladies asked.

So Crystal was a troublemaker? Sara mused.

"Not at all. Can you point me in her direction?" Sara asked, and the lady smiled.

"I'm Crystal," she announced, and the others laughed while Sara took a closer look at her.

There wasn't much resemblance between them. She did have brown eyes and gold curly hair, but that was as far as the resemblance went where she was concerned.

What had she expected? That the girl would be the spitting image of her? Of course not! Her beauty was unmatched.

Her daughter was nowhere halfway as beautiful as she was. Not even a daughter of hers could compete with her on that. Sara thought with a smirk.

While Sara assessed her, Crystal decided on the spot that she didn't like Sara. She recognized the haughty look on Sara's face. She knew people like Sara who thought that they were better than everyone else.

And that smirk on her face, whatever it was she was finding amusing, the joke would be on her at the end of the day.

She could understand why Harry and Candace would want to do something like this to her, and she would enjoy nothing more than to rip the woman off her money, Crystal thought as she tried to maintain a curious and confused face as she stared at Sara.

"Well? Are you going to stare at me all day, ma'am? When do you intend to state the purpose of your visit?" Crystal asked rudely, still acting like she had no idea who Sara was.

"Oh! I'm sorry. Is there someplace decent around here where we can sit down?" Sara asked, and the others with Crystal snickered since they all shared a common dislike for haughty rich folks.

"Depends on what we are sitting down to talk about," Crystal said and then turned to her friends.

"I'll be right back," she told them as she led Sara away.

"Who are you? And what do you want?" Crystal asked after they had put a distance between them and her friends.

Sara took a deep breath, "My name is Sara Walker. Did you grow up in an orphanage home? Sacred Heart, to be precise?"

"What's that got to do with you? Everyone knows I'm an orphan. It isn't news. Since you're obviously not here for business, we have nothing to talk about," Crystal said and turned to leave, but Sara grabbed her hand.

"I think you are my daughter. I'm your mother!" Sara announced.

Crystal turned to look at her with disdain, "You think, or you know? Don't come here spitting shit, ma'am! I'm an orphan. I've always been one. I have no reason to believe you're my mother, and even if it turned out to be true, I have no intention of accepting you in my life after living as an orphan all these years, so scram!" Crystal hissed at her as she jerked off her hand, leaving a perplexed Sara. She hadn't anticipated such a reaction.

This was only a temporary setback. And she had been wrong to come without a gift. She would go shopping tomorrow and surprise Crystal with gifts that she wouldn't be able to reject. Sara decided as she headed for her car.

Crystal had a smug smile on her face as she walked back to join her friends.

Silly woman. If she thought this was going to be easy for her, she had another thought coming. If Sara was anything like Harry had made her believe, then she was going to enjoy playing this game with her.

eaglesnovel.com Harry had said Sara could be dangerous? Well, they had no idea what she was capable of herself. If only they knew.

Crystal waited until Sara's car had disappeared before walking away from her friends to dial Harry's line.

"Game on. Sara just left here."

"How did it go?" Harry asked as he headed out of his office in a hurry to go home so he could freshen up and go pick Jade up for their date.

"It was smooth," Crystal said with a sly smile.

"You can't make any mistakes. And don't forget that you can't have my number saved on your phone or call me randomly," Harry reminded her.

"You have nothing to worry about," Crystal promised.

## Chapter 602 First Date

Harry arrived at Tom's house exactly fifteen minutes before 6 p.m.

Standing by his car outside Tom's house, Harry wasn't sure if he felt more excited or nervous.

He couldn't really place why he was feeling so nervous now when he had been excitedly looking forward to this moment all day.

Perhaps it was because he wanted everything to be perfect for their first date, and even though Jade was already eager to be his girlfriend, he still planned to ask her officially.

He had spent hours the previous night trying to pick out the outfit for their date. He had finally settled on a navy blue suit with a crisp white shirt and a black tie. He completed the look with polished black dress shoes and a matching belt.

Harry took a deep breath as he straightened his blazers and then went around the car to take out the bouquet he had got her before going to knock on the door.

Ordinarily, he would open the door and walk in, knowing the door was never really locked, but he was not here on a casual visit, so he had to act accordingly.

He had been to Tom's house over a hundred times in the past years, and now he was here, not to see Tom, but to take the only love of his life out on their first date.

Almost as soon as he rang the doorbell, Evelyn opened the door as if she had been waiting all day for this moment, and she beamed a wide smile as she embraced him before he could say hello.

"Oh, Harry! Come on in. You're so welcome," she said as she pulled away and patted his cheeks in a fond gesture.

Harry cleared his throat, "Thank you."

"I suppose that is for Jade?" Evelyn asked as she took the bouquet from him, "I will give it to her."

"Make yourself comfortable while I will go see if Jade is ready," Evelyn said as she hurried away to join Sonia and Jade upstairs.

Harry turned when he heard Desmond clear his throat, and he thanked his good sense for coming a few minutes earlier.

He expected that Desmond was going to want to give him the girl's father talk. Hence he had come earlier so it wouldn't interfere with the time for their date.

"Hello, Mr Hank," Harry greeted politely.

"You are not in haste, are you?" Desmond asked, hiding his amusement at how tense Harry seemed.

"I'm not," Harry assured him, and Desmond nodded.

"Come chat with me for a moment," Desmond said and led Harry into the Den.

"I would offer you a drink, but since you're driving and you're going on a date, I don't think I should," Desmond said, and Harry nodded.

"Fathers never think any man is good enough for their princess, do you know that?" Desmond asked out of the blue.

"I've heard that in movies," Harry said, and Desmond chuckled.

"Well, you're hearing it from me now. I love my daughter. I've loved her even before she was born. She is priceless to me," Desmond said, and Harry nodded.

"You are a great young man, Harry. And as much as I think no one is good enough for her, I think you're more than good enough," Desmond said, and Harry looked at Desmond in surprise.

"I'm flattered..."

"There is no reason to be," Desmond cut in.

"Jade can be a handful. She is stubborn, and she is still dealing with a lot of stuff that she might not mention to you. All I ask is that you be patient with her. I want you to love her even more than I do. And please do not break her heart," Desmond said as tears gathered in his eyes.

Even though it was just their first date, for some reason, he felt like he was giving her away in marriage to Harry already.

"I love Jade, and her heart is safe with me. You never have to worry about her," Harry promised, and Desmond nodded.

"That is good enough. Let's go back before she begins to search for you," Desmond said as he rose.

"Thank you, Mr Hank," Harry said softly.

"Desmond. I think that's the only problem I have with you. You never listen. The next time you call me Mr Hank, I'm going to ask Jade to break up with you," Desmond threatened as he walked past Harry.

They both got to the living room in time to see Jade descending the stairs.

Harry forgot to breathe for a second as he watched Jade descend the stairs.

She was dressed in a knee-length black dress that hugged her curves in all the right places. The dress had a V-neckline that showed off just enough skin to make Harry's heart race. She paired it with a pair of black pumps, which made her legs look long and toned.

As for her hair, it was styled in loose curls, and she completed her beautiful look by wearing minimal makeup, letting her natural beauty shine through.

As they met at the foot of the stairs, Harry couldn't help but admire how stunning Jade looked.

Jade smiled, holding Harry's gaze as she descended the stairs slowly, while Evelyn and Sonia, who were following behind Jade, giggled, knowing that he wasn't even seeing them.

Desmond, who was standing beside Harry, smiled proudly as he watched Jade, and he winked at Evelyn when their gaze met.

Watching Jade descend the stairs with Harry standing there, they were reminded of the first time the pair had met.

Harry's gaze held the same look of awe he had when she ran down the stairs fully covered in her sweater and jeans, with her face flushed with cold.

It seemed to them that no matter what Jade was dressed in, Harry was constantly in awe of her existence.

"Why do you look so stunned? You've always known I'm beautiful," Jade said with a teasing smile when she stopped in front of Harry, and he smiled into her eyes.

"The stunned look comes with the role. I have to act stunned to feed your ego," Harry said, and Jade threw back her head and laughed gaily, easing both their nervousness since she had been just as nervous as he.

"I received the flowers. They are lovely," she said as she met his gaze again.

"Someone abandoned them by the roadside," Harry said with a shrug as he held out his arm to her, and Jade smiled as she slipped hers through it.

"Mighty considerate of you," she said and as if they suddenly remembered they were not alone, they looked at Evelyn and Sonia, who walked past them to join Desmond.

"Thankfully, Harry is not a stranger to any of you, so there won't be any need for introductions. We are leaving now," Jade said, and Harry looked at both her parents.

"Please, you don't have to worry about her. I will make sure she is fine, and I will be sure to bring her back in time," Harry promised, and Jade rolled her eyes while Sonia giggled.

"Jonas, I'm a full-grown-ass lady! I don't need to be back home on time," Jade hissed at him while Desmond and Evelyn smiled at Harry.

"You both should have fun," Evelyn said simply.

"And she doesn't have to come back tonight if she doesn't want to," Desmond added, making Jade grin at her father while Harry looked away in mild embarrassment, amusing Evelyn and Sonia the more.

"We will have fun. You should too," Jade said as she leaned forward to kiss her dad and mom before pulling Harry away.

"Harry is such a gent," Evelyn said with a pleased smile as they closed the door behind them.

"Jade couldn't have done better," Desmond said in agreement, and Evelyn nodded.

Once they got outside, Harry turned to Jade, "Your family is weird."

"I think you are the weird one."

"Why would your dad suggest I keep you with me overnight? I mean, he is your dad! He should be protecting you possessively," Harry said as he led her to the car and opened the door for her.

"Because he understands that I'm an adult, which you obviously do not seem to understand! Maybe I have to undress and show you my body for you to know I'm a full-grown woman," Jade hissed at him.

"Perhaps you should. Your dress is making me really curious," Harry murmured as he shut the door and went around the car to get into his seat.

Knowing that Jade was probably getting ready for an argument, the moment he got into his seat, he took her by surprise and kissed her before she could say a word.

"You are beautiful, esquire. But you look even more so today, and I love your dress," Harry said as he pulled away, and Jade, who had been getting ready for an argument, smiled.

"Thanks. You look dashing yourself," Jade said, and he took her hand.

"I know that lately, you must have felt that being my girlfriend or going on this date is more important to you than it is to me. But I just want to let you know that I feel like the luckiest man on earth to be going out on a date with you. I met you four years ago, but I've loved you far longer than that. You could never love or want me more than I love and want you even if you tried, esquire. Whatever you think you feel for me right now is nothing compared to what I feel for you. And I want you to always know that your safety, comfort, and joy will always come first with me," Harry said as he lifted her hand to his lips and kissed her palm.

Jade couldn't speak because her throat felt like something had lodged in there, and she was trying hard to blink back her tears so they wouldn't ruin her makeup.



Before she could say anything, Harry started the car and headed out, "Where are we going?" Jade asked curiously.

"Somewhere we can eat and talk," Harry said easily.

Knowing that he obviously didn't want to tell her where he was taking her, Jade decided not to push and let herself be surprised.

"Let's set out the rule for this date," Jade said, and Harry turned to her with a raised brow.

"Okay. Go on."

"The only thing we are talking about tonight is us. I mean the both of us as Jade and Harry without the Hank or Jonas part attached. Let's get to know each other better and stuff. No talk about anything else," Jade said, and Harry nodded.

"Sure. What else?" Harry asked, and Jade shook her head.

"That's all I can think of. Do you want to add something else?" Jade asked, and Harry considered it for a moment.

"I think that covers it," Harry said, and Jade smiled.

"So, how was your day? Or am I not allowed to ask about it?" Harry asked, and Jade narrowed her eyes.

"It was nice. I'm not giving you details. Maybe tomorrow I can do that," Jade said, knowing that if she did, they would have to start talking about the Miller family and also have to talk about Matt and Candace and other stuff unrelated to the both of them.

Harry smiled, "Alright. So, what do you want to talk about?"

Jade cleared her throat, "Earlier, you said you met me four years ago but have loved me longer than that. How?" Jade asked, and Harry narrowed his eyes.

"Why do I feel like you came up with this rule so that you can ask me as many questions as you want about my feelings for you?"

eaglesnovel "Nothing is stopping you from doing the same," Jade pointed out.

"I was with him each time you called to complain about something, and he often talked about you. I saw pictures of you. I felt like I knew you even before I met you. I even used to dream about you sometimes," Harry said, feeling slightly embarrassed to admit that.

"Dream? What sort of dream?" Jade asked with a suggestive smile.

"Get your mind out of the gutters. It was nothing erotic. I had harmless dreams...."

"Well, erotic dreams are not harmful, are they?" Jade cut in, and Harry shook his head.

"You were a teenager. You were still in high school. You were a minor! I'm not a paedophile," Harry said firmly.

"So what were the dreams about then?" Jade asked with a frown.

"They were random dreams. Sometimes I play games with you. I was sometimes teaching you math and some times were just talking with you. Once, I dreamt I was married to you," Harry said, and Jade laughed.

"Really? Did you tell Tom about it?" Jade asked, and he shook his head.

"Never. Why would I? I felt guilty enough about dreaming of you in the first place," Harry said, and Jade smiled softly.

"Was that why you never had a girlfriend?"

"I was just never interested in anyone enough to want to date them. Am I allowed to check on Tom before we get to the restaurant?" Harry asked, changing the subject.

"Sure."

"Thanks," Harry said, and instead of calling Tom directly, he dialled the number of the person in charge of the hotel.

Once he confirmed that Tom had arrived but was exhausted and trying to get some rest before his meeting, he instructed the man to ask Tom to call him after he was well-rested and hung up.

"Now you can have me all to yourself for the rest of the evening," Harry said as he drove into the premises of a very exclusive restaurant.

#### Chapter 603 Soul Mate

As Harry and Jade walked into the restaurant, Jade didn't miss how the doorman greeted Harry very warmly yet politely and how Harry stopped to speak with him and ask questions about his family.

She noticed the same thing happened as they walked past each staff and each time they did, the staff greeted her with so much respect.

Once they got into the elevator leading to the rooftop, Jade turned to Harry, "You come here often? How come you know everyone here personally?"

"Because I own the place," Harry said casually, and Jade's eyes widened in disbelief.

"You own this place?" she asked, and he nodded.

"Yeah."

"How?" she asked, and the side of his lips curved.

"Money," he said simply, and Jade slapped his arm.

"That's not what I mean! You never told me you owned such a restaurant," she pointed out.

"It never came up in our discussions, and that is why I chose to bring you here on our first date. It's part of the getting to know me," he said easily as they got out of the elevator, and Jade smiled.

"Is Tom aware?" she asked, and Harry raised a brow.

"Why not? He bought me the restaurant as my birthday gift some years ago," Harry said, and Jade gasped in disbelief.

"My brother bought you a restaurant?" she asked, still looking at Harry, and he chuckled.

"Yes, he did. Now stop looking at me and focus on where you're going," Harry advised.

"Just so you know, we are not done with this conversation. I can't believe he got you a restaurant, and every year you people send me some silly...." Jade broke off mid-sentence and stopped walking when she suddenly noticed that flower petals decorated the path they were walking on.

"Oh, Wow!" she whispered when she realised they were going to be alone on the rooftop since only a table for two there sat there, and the only source of light there were the candles surrounding the table.

"I didn't want any interruptions," Harry explained as he took her hand and led her to the table.

"Oh, Harry!" Jade breathed, and he smiled at her as he held out a seat.

"You're so easy to please," Harry said as he brushed her forehead with a kiss and waited until she was comfortably seated before sitting.

"I'm not easy to please. I just didn't expect you to do all of this," Jade said, and Harry held her gaze.

"Why not? It's our first date. And I really didn't do anything other than tell them what I wanted for tonight," Harry said, and Jade smiled.

"The fact that you wanted to do this is what I mean," she said, touched.

"So, I take it you like it?" Harry asked, and she bobbed her head.

"I love it," she said with a sweet smile as she watched Harry pour some wine into their glasses.

"That's good," Harry said with a satisfied smile.

"So, did Tom really get you this restaurant as your birthday gift? Why?" Jade asked, and Harry raised a brow.

"I thought we were only going to be talking about Harry and Jade? Why are you bringing up Tom?" Harry asked, and Jade scowled as she picked up her wineglass.

"I'm not bringing up Tom. I'm talking about Harry and his restaurant," Jade said before taking a sip.

"Maybe you should know that this is not the only business I own outside I-Global. And this place, well, most people do not know I own it apart from the staff. Because of its exclusivity, we are also able to gather exclusive information on people here," Harry said, and Jade raised a brow.

"What do you mean?" she asked, not wanting to believe it was what she was thinking.

Harry shrugged, "Not everybody can afford to eat here, and this is most likely not the place an average person would want to bring their romantic interest for a date. Politicians meet here. Business people meet here. They talk. Deals take place here. We gather information and use them when necessary to advance I-Global," Harry explained, and Jade's eyes widened in surprise.

"You mean you blackmail people?" she asked in disbelief.

"We wouldn't have to blackmail anyone if they were doing the right things, right? Besides, it's not exactly blackmail. We tell them what we know about them, and naturally, they are willing to cooperate," Harry said easily.

"Don't they trace it back to the restaurant? Besides, how do you do it? Is the place bugged, or do you have the staff eavesdropping on their conversations?" Jade asked with interest.

"Why should they trace it back to a restaurant I have no connection with?" Harry asked, and Jade shook her head.

"What kind of a person are you, Harry?" she asked curiously.

"The kind that loves to make your heart race?" Harry asked with a grin, and Jade giggled.

"You know that's not what I mean."

"What kind of a person do you think I am?" Harry asked, gazing directly into her eyes as a waiter came to serve some appetisers.

"One minute, I think you're this good and straightforward guy who would never get involved in anything illegal and stuff, and the next minute you do or say something that makes me think otherwise," Jade said, and Harry chuckled as he glanced at the waiter who was serving them.

"What do you think, Nick? Am I good or bad?" Harry asked, and the waiter, who looked like he was in his thirties, smiled.

"I believe it's a matter of perspective. To the good, you are good, and to the bad, you can be just as bad," he said, and Harry smiled as he took some money out of his wallet and tipped the waiter.

"That's a brilliant response," Harry told Nick, who thanked him and quickly excused himself while Jade continued to watch Harry in puzzlement.

"There is really nothing to be confused about, esquire. Do you think young men like Tom and I could have survived this long or made it this far if we stuck to just being the good guys? In business, it is eat or be eaten," Harry said easily.

"So you're saying you are a good and bad guy?" Jade said, and Harry smiled.

"I won't exactly say I'm a good guy, but I will say I am a straightforward guy. Hasn't it occurred to you yet why Tom asked me to protect you? Tom wouldn't send a good guy to come and babysit you when you're in danger, would he? What am I? A bulletproof? He would only send someone that is capable of protecting you," Harry said, meeting her gaze squarely.

"Jesus, Harry!" Jade exclaimed when it suddenly occurred to her what he meant.

Harry smiled, "This date is about getting to know me, right? I'm putting it all out on the table. I think you should know all that I'm capable of. I'm still the Harry, you know, but I can be much more than that if the situation demands it," Harry said simply.

"So, you can shoot?" Jade asked, and Harry nodded.

"Sure. And if I have to, I will."

"Have you killed someone before?" Jade asked with a frown.

"You're a lawyer. You shouldn't be asking me that," Harry said simply.

"Does that mean you have?" Jade persisted.

"No. I haven't killed anyone before. I don't plan to. But I've inflicted injuries before. I do what I do to protect myself," Harry said, and Jade sighed.

"What about Tom?" She asked, and Harry raised a brow.

"This is about us. I can't discuss Tom's business with you," Harry said simply, and Jade sighed.

"Any more surprising things you think I need to know about you?" Jade asked, and Harry shook his head.

"I don't think so. You should eat," Harry said, jerking his head to the appetisers in front of them.

Having gotten the tough part of the conversation out of the way, they eased into light and playful conversations, getting to know more about themselves and their preferences. However, it was mainly Harry answering Jade's questions since Harry knew more about Jade than she knew of him. As they talked, dinner was served, but that didn't stop Jade from telling him all about her experience in college and her friends.

Harry didn't miss how she mistakenly mentioned her late boyfriend and quickly tried to switch the subject.

"You once told me he was your first love, right? Harry asked, and Jade paused only for a second.

"Yeah. You could call him that."

"So, you didn't have any boyfriend in high school? Who took you to prom?" Harry asked, and Jade shrugged.

"I was among the hottest girls in high school, remember?" Jade asked, giving him a haughty look that made him chuckle.

"Yeah, you were a member of the Saucy Six, I remember," Harry said, recalling she mentioned being part of a dance group

"You have a good memory," Jade said with a pleased smile.

"I especially don't forget things that have to do with you," Harry said, and her heart fluttered.

eaglesnovel.com "Don't say stuff like that," Jade said weakly.

"Why not?"

"It makes me want to kiss you," Jade confessed, and Harry grinned.

"So? No high school boyfriend or prom date?" Harry asked, bringing her back to the subject.

"I didn't have a boyfriend, but I allowed someone to escort me to prom. There wasn't a short supply of guys wanting to take me to prom. I guess I just wasn't interested enough in any of them to date them," Jade said, and Harry nodded.

"What about you? Did you take any girl to prom?" Jade asked, and Harry shook his head.

"No. I didn't ask any to accompany me either, even though most of them wanted me to take them," Harry said, and Jade raised a brow.

"And how did you know that?"

"Because I got letters from a couple of them. Many of the girls in school had a crush on me. I guess they sort of liked me because I was one of the best in the basketball team, the most intelligent in my class, good-looking and a loner. I think girls are drawn to stuff like that," Harry said with a shrug.

"Now I wish I went to your school too," Jade said with a scowl.

"Why?" Harry asked in amusement.

"You could have fallen for me, and I would have fallen for you too. We would probably have been Prom King and Queen," Jade said, and Harry chuckled.

"Don't you think you're forgetting we wouldn't have been in the same class?" Harry asked, and Jade rolled her eyes.

"Whatever," she muttered, and he smiled as the waiters came to clear the table.

"So, how did you meet him? How did you fall in love with him? Was it love at first sight?" Harry asked, and Jade frowned.

"Should we be talking about him on our first date?" she asked, not wanting to talk about Todd.

Harry shrugged, "I just want to know about that aspect of your life. This might be the last time we have to discuss him," he said as he continued to watch her.

Jade sighed, "It wasn't love at first sight. He was three years ahead of me in college. I got lost while trying to find the cafeteria, I stopped to ask him for directions, and he said he was headed that way. We had lunch together. After that, we ran into each other more often. We naturally became friends, and then he asked me to be his girlfriend. I really liked him so I agreed. But it was mostly because everyone else seemed to have a boyfriend but me. And college wasn't really like high school, where I had so many guys flocking around me. I fell in love with him in the course of our relationship," Jade said with a shrug.

"I see," Harry said as their deserts were served.

"What do you see?" Jade asked with a slight frown.

"You," Harry said with a grin and turned to give the waiter a nod before he left.

"Enjoy your dessert," he said as he jerked his head towards the covered dessert plate, which Jade was yet to open.

He watched Jade with curious eyes as she opened the dish, and his lips twitched when she gasped softly.

"Harry!" Jade exclaimed softly when she saw the words written in chocolate next to the dessert.

It was a simple I with a heart symbol and a U, and under it was the request, "Please Be Mine".

Harry pushed away from the table and rose, extending a hand to Jade, who was looking at him now with an awe-filled expression.

Jade took his hand, and he pulled her to her feet, "I love you, esquire. Always have and always will. I'm not really cut out for all these drama or romantic gestures, but I know you are

And for you, there is nothing I wouldn't do to see you happy. Will you be my girlfriend? I know you find me boring and annoying and...."

"Shut up, Jonas," Jade laughed happily as she kissed him.

Once her lips touched his, fireworks exploded in the sky above them, and Jade looked up in surprise.

"You didn't do that, did you?" She asked, her eyes gleaming with excitement as she watched the display.

"Depends on whether you like it or not," Harry said with a satisfied smile as he watched her watch the sky.

"You're too good for me, Harry," Jade said with tears in her eyes as she turned to look at him again.

"Does that mean you agree to be my girlfriend?" Harry asked with a grin.

"I've been your girlfriend for a while now. You just didn't know it," Jade said with a grin, and Harry chuckled as he lowered his head to kiss her.

"I don't think I'm too good for you, esquire. I think we are just perfect together," he assured her before claiming her lips.

Jade couldn't help all the emotions that swam through her as she returned Harry's kiss.

She couldn't believe she had wasted four years of her life shutting out everything else because of Todd when someone like Harry was out there waiting for her.

Being with Harry this way was magical and she knew without a doubt in mind that he was her soul mate. The one person she was made to love.

#### Chapter 604 Malone

Lucy wasn't so sure asking her parents to move to her apartment was such a good idea anymore.

She had come back from work to meet them, hosting Alicia and Jasmine, and she had been forced to join them in a conversation she had no interest in.

And almost as soon as she got out of the shower after Jasmine and Alicia left, her mother had asked her to join them for dinner. She had been forced to sit through her mother's endless chatters when all she wanted was to do was curl up on her bed with one of those books Harry had borrowed her until she slept off so she could count another day gone until Tom's return.

"It's been a while since we spent time together like this, just the three of us," Andrew said with a happy smile as he sat with Lucy after dinner while Janet went in to freshen up for the night.

"Yeah," Lucy said with a distracted smile as she picked up her phone to check if she had received any messages from Tom within the last five minutes since she last checked.

It occurred to her earlier at the office that she didn't have any pictures of Tom on her phone.

She had wanted to take a look at his picture but had been unable to find any. The only thing she had was the video of Tom and Anita, which Harry had recorded the last time.

How could they have been dating for some time now and even living together, yet it had never occurred to her to take pictures of him or with him?

She knew without a doubt that that wasn't the case for Tom since she had caught him taking photos of her on different occasions, the last one being during their date together after the spa session.

And there weren't that many pictures of Tom on the internet unless, of course, she wanted to watch the video of Alicia's interview just to see his face, Lucy thought with a sigh.

"Are you okay, darling?" Andrew asked with concern when he noticed the frown on her face.

"Yeah. Just a bit distracted," Lucy assured him without looking at him.

"You must miss Tom," Andrew said knowingly, and this time Lucy looked at him.

"Yeah. Much more than I thought I would," Lucy admitted, and Andrew smiled.

It was one thing to have moved out of his house, but it was another to not see him at all for an entire day. She wasn't even going to count talking to him or the FaceTime. None of those counted.

She had become so used to him that the longer she spent away from him, the more cranky she realised she was becoming, even if she was doing her best to not make it obvious.

"Tom is good to you, right?" Andrew asked, and Lucy nodded.

"He is very good to me. I think that is something I'm beginning to realize more and more since he is away," Lucy said softly.

"So, what is next for your relationship? What are your plans?" Janet asked as joined them.

"Janet," Andrew called in a warning tone before Lucy could respond, and Lucy was grateful for his interference because she had been at the verge of snapping at her mother.

The last thing she wanted to do was fight with her mother, but she was cranky enough to do so at the moment if her mother didn't drop the subject.

"What? Can't I ask her that?" Janet asked Andrew irritable before turning to Lucy.

"I told you we were going to talk more about it," Janet reminded her.

"I'm starting therapy tomorrow," Lucy said instead, even though she knew that wasn't what her mother wanted to know.

"Therapy? What for?"

"Oh, pumpkin! That is great!" Janet and Andrew said simultaneously, and Andrew turned to Janet.

"What do you mean what for?" he asked with a slight frown.

"What are you receiving therapy for, sweetie? Did something happen with Tom?" Janet asked Lucy, ignoring her husband.

"Give me a moment alone with your mom," Andrew told Lucy, and she rose and walked into the bedroom, leaving her parents alone.

"What is wrong with you, Janet? Why would you ask her such a question when you know very well she never received therapy all these years?" Andrew asked, trying not to be mad at her.

"All these years she has been strongly opposed to receiving therapy and all of a sudden she is getting one. Don't you want to know what prompted it?" Janet asked, equally annoyed with her husband.



"Is that the most important thing right now? What is important is that she is receiving one, and you should be happy about it! And stop asking her what her next plan is! She is doing well enough already," Andrew snapped at her.

"I never said she wasn't doing well. Sonia and Bryan are expecting a baby and...."

"So what? So what if Sonia is pregnant? Lucy has to get pregnant too because Sonia is pregnant? Are you comparing her to Sonia now?" Andrew asked in annoyance, and Janet glared at him.

"Don't you dare try to make me feel stupid, Andrew! I care about Lucy every bit as much as you care about her and even more, so don't stand there and try to make me feel like I'm being unreasonable," she hissed at him.

"You are being unreasonable," Andrew said with a frown.

"What is wrong with you? Shouldn't you be happy enough with the fact that she has a man in her life now and is in a stable relationship?" He asked irritably.

"I am happy that she has a man in her life, but...."

"There are no buts, Janet. Lucy is an adult. Leave her alone to decide what she wants and at what pace she wants her relationship to go. Do not pressure her unnecessarily," Andrew warned before walking away to meet Lucy in her bedroom.

"Dad, you didn't have to," Lucy said softly since she had overheard all they said, but she didn't resist when her father embraced her.

"I had to. I know you must have a lot going on with you, and the last thing you need right now is to be pressured," Andrew said as they both sat on Lucy's bed.

"Lucas told you about our phone call, didn't he?" Lucy asked, and Andrew gave her a nod.

"Yeah. He was very worried about you and wanted me to make sure you were alright," Andrew said and Lucy sighed.

"I don't know what to do, dad. I have no idea what I'm doing," Lucy confessed.

"Therapy is a good start. I'm sure you will figure it all out," Andrew assured her and she sighed.

"No, fatherly advise?" She asked hopefully.

"Receive therapy, and take every other thing one day at a time. Stop thinking too far ahead into the future. There are lots of uncertainties in life and there is only so much mistakes that you can avoid," Andrew said simply.

"What is marriage with mom like? I mean, I know you both bicker half the time, but I know you love each other. Don't you have fears?" Lucy asked, and Andrew smiled.

"We all have fears. What I fear most is life without your mother. I fear to think of her dying before me. But I wouldn't want to push her away just so I don't suffer the pain if such a thing ever happens. I don't know if that makes sense," Andrew said, and Lucy nodded.

"In a way it does. Shouldn't you go makeup with her? She is probably sulking right now," Lucy said, and Andrew snorted.

"Let her sulk. She has no problem with being harsh to others, but when the favor is returned she can't stand it," Andrew said and Lucy laughed softly, knowing that he would go to her soon enough as he always did.

"What do you want, darling? Would you prefer we put a bit of distance between us and Tom's parents?" Andrew asked, and Lucy shook her head.

"No, dad. I'm not going to break up with Tom. I'm working to see how I can make things work with him. He is doing his best so I should do mine too," Lucy said, and told her father about the notes she had received from Tom and even the breakfast Adolf brought to the office.

Andrew smiled, "Tom is a really good man. I hope things work out between you two," Andrew said as he rose.

"And even if it doesn't, you will always be my princess. So, do whatever you believe is best for you. Don't worry about your mother. She caught the grandma fever after Sonia's announcement. It will pass," he assured her before walking away to find his wife.

Alone in her bedroom now, Lucy quickly rearranged the bed and went out to let her parents know that they could go in for the night if they wanted.

Seeing that they were in the middle of a conversation she told them she was going outside for fresh air and walked out of the house with her phone.

She needed some time alone, and she didn't mind hiding out in her car to get it.

As she unlocked her car, her thoughts randomly drifted to Amy and she remembered that she was yet to check on Amy since the last time they both talked.

Although after hearing from Lucas about what Amy and Miley did, she was mad at them, but she couldn't just cut Amy off because of that.

Amy had been there for her when she needed someone, and for that she wouldn't count whatever Amy and Miley had done to Lucas against her.

Once she dialed Amy's line, she waited for some time before Amy received the call, "Lucy?" Amy called, sounding genuinely surprised to hear from her.

"Hello, Amy! It's been a while," Lucy greeted pleasantly, and Amy moved further away from the bedroom where Miley was trying to get some rest.

She had been throwing up all day and the doctor said it was a side effect of the new pain relief medicine she was taking.

"Yeah. How have you been?" Amy asked cautiously.

"Good. I've been good. How are you doing? How is your friend?" Lucy asked and Amy sighed.

"We are good. She is getting by daily. I'm sorry I haven't called you...."

"Oh, come on! I should be the one apologizing not you. You don't have to be sorry. I know you must have been busy," Lucy said dismissively.

Amy hesitated for a second, "I'm sorry to bring this up, but I really feel guilty about how things happened between your brother and us. Did he tell you what happened?" Amy asked, and Lucy sighed.

"Yes, he did."

"I'm very sorry, Lucy. I really didn't mean to hurt or upset him that way. I knew it was wrong of me to make such a request from him. I was just too selfish thinking and worrying about Miley to think about him. I'm really sorry," Amy said, and Lucy smiled.

"Amy?" Miley called from the doorway, and Amy spun around to look at her.

"Are you okay? Do you need me to get you something?" Amy asked with concern as she rushed to Miley's side.

"I should let you go now. I called to know how you were doing. My regards to Miley," Lucy said, before hanging up immediately.

"I'm fine. Was that Lucy?" Miley asked, and Amy nodded.

"Yeah...."

"Did she say how Lucas is doing?" She asked with concern.

"We agreed not to talk about him anymore, remember? Besides, you are in no condition to worry about him. Now that we have found someone suitable, why don't we inform your parents about your health? You are looking paler and getting weaker with each passing day," Amy said with a worried frown.

"Calm down, Amy. We will inform them soon enough but not just yet. Let's just get everything sorted out first. By this time next week you should have undergone the procedure, and after that I will introduce Malone to them as my fiancé and have a small wedding. I will let them know about my health after our honeymoon trip. That way if they decide to get me hospitalized I would have done all I want to do," Miley said weakly as she lowered herself on the couch.

"How do you know you would be healthy enough to do all of this when your health seems to be deteriorating so rapidly?" Amy asked as she sat down beside her.

"I will. Don't worry. Okay?" Miley promised, but looking at her, Amy doubted it.

"Your parents won't like this," Amy reminded her for what seemed like the thousandth time.

"I'm an adult. They don't have to like my decision to respect it," Miley said, and Amy sighed.

"Do you think they will accept Malone?" Amy asked, and Miley shrugged.

"I don't see any reason why not. Apart from the fact that Malone is a decent guy, he is only a well-paid sperm donor and a loving partner to dote on me in my final days on earth. He already signed the agreement to not come anywhere near you or the baby after my demise," Miley reminded her and Amy winced at that.

Her sixth sense told her she was making a mistake and things might not really work out as easily as Miley was saying it, but she couldn't take back her promise now.

She could only hope that whatever happened, Miley's parents would forgive her and that Miley would at least find peace and joy in her last days on earth.

Whatever happens afterward she would find a way to deal with it.

## Chapter 605 Everything And More

As Harry drove Jade back home, he noticed she was unusually silent and turned to her, "Are you alright?"

"Better than I've been in a while," Jade assured him as she turned to flash him a smile.

"Why are you so quiet then?" he asked, and she sighed as she settled into her seat.

"I can't seem to stop going through the detail of the entire evening over and over again, Jonas. It was so perfect," she whispered softly, and Harry smiled.

"The evening is not over yet, esquire. So why don't you save that for when you're alone and give me your attention?" Harry suggested, and she nodded.

"You're right. I definitely should do that. Sorry," she said as she turned to look at him.

"Can we talk about stuff outside the two of us now?" Harry asked, and Jade narrowed her eyes.

"Who do you want to talk about?"

"How long do you think it would take to resolve the case?" Harry asked, and Jade sighed thoughtfully.

"Hmmm, it shouldn't take too long. All we need is for Mr. Bateman to give me what we need to prove Rebekah murdered her husband. Once he has done that, I can proceed to reveal everything. That way, she won't have anyone on her side to help her out since I'm going to expose every one of them in court," Jade said with a shrug.

"Including Jackson?" Harry asked, and she nodded.

"He isn't exactly innocent now, is he? Adam's family helped him and his father cover up their corruption and other crimes. They should all go down once and for all," Jade said, and Harry smiled.

"How do you intend to do that when you're defending him?" Harry asked, and Jade shrugged.

"When there is a will, there is always a way," Jade said, and Harry nodded.

"What about the sisters?" he asked, and she paused her lips for a moment.

"I honestly don't think they're that bad. They are conceited, yes. But they are redeemable. At least that's what I got from attempted suicide," Jade said, and Harry raised a brow.

"You believe they are redeemable, but you don't think Jackson is redeemable?"

"We have no record of any of the sisters hurting anyone before now. Anita showed she is redeemable by releasing that video. Bernice showed the same in her attempted suicide. Tiffany showed the same by trying to expose her mother, even if she is a lesbian who might benefit more from divorcing her husband and letting him take the fall for the crime. I think without their mother in the picture, they will all turn out alright. Jackson, on the other hand, hasn't done anything to show he is redeemable. Being in love with his sister-in-law and trying to protect her might be cute, but he has committed other sexual crimes against other women in the past and he walked away without a

scratch. As far as I'm concerned, he is just a jerk who has been caught up in a mess he didn't create. I like to believe this is Karma coming for them all," Jade said, and Harry chuckled.

"You are merciless. I like that."

"We show mercy to people that deserve it. He doesn't deserve it. I'm clearing him for murder as I told them I would, but that is as far as I will go," Jade said, and Harry nodded.

"As soon as you're done with this case, let's go for a vacation then," Harry said casually, and Jade's eyes lit up as she turned to him.

"Really?"

"Yeah!"

"Then I'm just going to have to hurry it up...."

"You can't make any mistakes, esquire. Take your time and do a thorough job," Harry cut in, and she rolled her eyes as he drove into Tom's premises.

"Sure, I will."

Once Harry parked the car, he turned in his seat to look at Jade, "I had a wonderful time, as always, with you."

"No. I disagree," Jade said, and Harry raised a brow.

"I always have a wonderful time with you. But there was nothing as always as tonight. It was entirely different," Jade explained, and Harry chuckled.

"Is that so?" he asked as he reached out to touch her face.

"Yeah. Thanks, Jonas. If I weren't already crazily in love with you, I definitely would have fallen head over heels for you tonight," Jade said as she gazed into his eyes.

"Why do you love me, esquire?" he asked curiously.

"I don't think there is a particular reason. I feel safe and happy when I'm with you. I feel like I can be myself around you even though I know you will scold me when I do something I shouldn't. I think you're my soulmate," Jade said, and Harry took her hand and lifted it to his lips.

"I think you're mine too. So you should know that I'm going to ask you to marry me exactly six months from now. Take your time to think about it," Harry said, making Jade's heart skip several beats.

"Harry!" she exclaimed.

"I know what I want with you, esquire..."

"What do you want?" Jade asked softly.

"I want a home with you. I want a family with you. I'm not going to spend so much time dating you. I know the basic things I need to know about you, the rest I will slowly unravel in marriage. I'm going to spend the next six months courting you. Don't worry; this isn't the proposal. I'm just making my intentions known so I don't take you by surprise. I will do my best to make it as

dramatic as I know you will want it to be," Harry promised, while Jade just stared at him speechlessly.

"Why wait for six months if you're so sure then?" she asked, and Harry smiled.

"We have so much to do in six months," he said, and she cocked her head to the side.

"Like?"

"Like get your ex out of your system for good...."

"He is already out of my system," Jade protested.

"I want you to be able to hear or call his name without flinching or freezing. I don't want the thought of him to have any effect on you other than indifference. The only name I want to affect you in any way is mine," Harry said, and Jade grinned.

"Well, your name affects me a lot already. What else?" she asked curiously.

"Last time, you said you needed time to work on the effects your last relationship had on your personality. We will work on making you the best version of yourself," Harry said, and Jade giggled softly.

"Really? How do you intend to do that?" she asked, and Harry shrugged.

"By giving you back everything he stole from you and making you see yourself as the priceless treasure you are," Harry said, and Jade took a deep breath, but before she could speak, she noticed a naughty glint in Harry's gaze and narrowed her eyes to hear what he had to say next.

Harry gave her a naughty smile, "And we also need to test our sexual compatibility and the likes in six months," he added, making Jade's jaw drop.

"Sexual compatibility? You've never even done...."

"Doesn't mean I don't know what I want or how I want it," Harry stated.

"You might be too much for me to handle, Jonas," she said softly as she placed a hand on her chest where her heart had started to race.

Harry chuckled, "I actually think I might be. We will have to find out," Harry said, and Jade blushed.

"I didn't mean sexually," Jade said, looking away, and Harry laughed.

"I know what you meant. I was just teasing," he said as he brushed his thumb over her wrist, making her pulse race.

"You should go in now, esquire," Harry said as he opened his door and stepped out of the car without waiting for her to protest.

As he went around the car, he discreetly checked out the windows to be sure no one was watching as he went to open her door.

As soon as Jade stepped out of the car, he pulled her to himself, shut the door, and gently pushed her against it, surprising her.

"Harry!" she gasped softly.

Harry smiled, "I noticed you tend to call my name whenever I take you by surprise," Harry observed as he claimed her lips in a kiss.

Although Harry had kissed her several times, and each time he did, it had a great effect on her, but there was something different about this kiss.

It was hungry and possessive. She could sense he wasn't holding back as he usually did in the past. It was almost as though he was claiming her lips as his and wanted her to know it.

He wasn't even giving her any room to return the kiss. He was devouring her lips, and Jade's knees tingled and grew increasingly weak as Harry kissed her.

She gripped his jacket for support, giving a little sigh as she submitted her lips to him. She had never been this aroused by just a kiss, and she couldn't believe the wetness she could feel in her undies.

Harry pulled back and then just gazed at her swollen red lips, his brown eyes looking dark as he smoothed his thumb across her lips.

His lips curved in a smirk as he returned his gaze to her face and met her brilliant blue eyes which were wide with surprise but the lust in them was unmistakable, "Does my desire scare you yet?" he asked, and even though her mind was reeling, Jade raised a brow.

"Was that supposed to be scary?" she asked in a challenging tone, and Harry threw back his head and laughed.

"I love you, esquire. I will escort you to the door now," Harry said, but before he could step away, Jade shook her head.

"I still need a moment," she said since her knees were still weak and her body was yet to recover from the assault his kiss rendered her senses.

Harry smiled as he watched her, "What are your sexual fantasies, esquire?" he asked, and Jade looked at him in disbelief even as she felt the hot fingers of lust clench her lower abdomen as her clit twitched.

"For Christ's sake, Harry!" she snapped in frustration.

Harry grinned, "You don't have to give me a response right now if you're too shy. You can do so later. Perhaps send a text," Harry suggested while Jade watched him in disbelief.

"Why did I ever think you were innocent?" she muttered.

"What am I guilty of, esquire? Getting you hot and bothered?" Harry asked as he leaned closer to her as though he wanted to whisper something, but instead, he licked her ear, making her gasp.

"Harry!" she exclaimed, and he chuckled.

"Do you realize you've called my name more times today than you have in all the time since I've known you?" he asked as he moved away and straightened his jacket like a gentleman.

"I believe you've gotten enough time to pull yourself together?" he asked, and Jade sighed inwardly.

"Are you trying to get back at me for something?" she asked weakly, and Harry grinned.

be meaningless," Harry said, and Jade sighed.

09:19

"What did I get myself into?" she asked no one in particular.

"Ah! I always knew you were smart! Finally, you get it. Consider it a partial payback for all the time you played those silly games with me over the phone, kissing me while pretending to be drunk and making me worry unnecessarily, and for wearing those damn sexy clothes around me to make me uncomfortable."

"Partial?" Jade asked, and Harry grinned.

"This is just the beginning, esquire. Now that you're my girlfriend, I intend to keep this up with you. I only did my best to hold back because we were not official, and I didn't want anything between us to be meaningless," Harry said, and Jade sighed.

"What did I get myself into?" she asked no one in particular.

"You have no idea," Harry responded as he took her hand and led her to the door.

"You are going to dream of me tonight, esquire. You're going to dream about everything I can and will do to you when the time is right," Harry promised as he gave her a light kiss on her lips and stepped back, once again the gentleman.

"Go in," he urged her.

"Good night, Jonas," Jade whispered without bothering to argue with him.

"Good night, esquire," Harry called back as she went into the house without looking back at him.

As he turned to leave, he knew for a fact that she would be standing by the window to watch him, so after walking some steps to the car, he turned to look at her and chuckled when she quickly stepped away to hide.

Jade stood there and spied from the side until he had driven off.

"Why are you spying on your boyfriend?" Sonia asked from behind Jade, making her jump back in surprise.

"What do you mean spying? I wasn't spying," Jade said defensively, but the glow in her eyes and the blush on her face made Sonia curious.

"You look like you just fell in love afresh," Sonia teased.

"Oh, Sonia! Harry is everything and more!" Jade exclaimed softly.

"Now I'm curious to know all about your date," Sonia said with a grin.

"Why are you still awake? It's almost midnight?" Jade asked when it suddenly occurred to her that everywhere was silent and Sonia seemed to be the only one awake.

"I'm waiting up for Bryan. He had to go out for a meeting with a producer," Sonia explained.

"At this hour?" Jade asked, and Sonia shrugged.

"Let's go upstairs. I can't wait to hear all about your date," Sonia reminded her once again as she linked their arms together and pulled her towards the stairs.



## Chapter 606 Long-distance Relationship

The moment Tom woke from his timed hour-long nap, he sighed when the first thing he did was look to his side for Lucy.

He missed her terribly. Tom admitted to himself as he got off the bed and headed for the shower.

Now was not the time to think about missing her. He had work to attend to despite the fact that he was still feeling pretty exhausted and needed to sleep some more.

When he arrived earlier, he had gone straight to the conference room for a meeting with the staff that had lasted for hours which was much longer than he had planned and had ended with him asking a majority of them to clear their desks.

The state of the hotel was a mess, and he was very surprised that both he and Harry had missed it in the reports. It was even more surprising that this place was still running.

There were a lot of complaints about the Hotel management, which had not been reported to the headquarters the whole time, and they had only deemed it fit to report it now that the issue was out of their hand and the government of the country was at the verge of shutting the place down.

Once he got out of the shower, it occurred to him that he did not check his phone, so he walked over to his phone and picked it up. He noticed he had missed a call from his mother while he slept and smiled when he saw a text from Lucy.

[I hope you're getting enough rest. I'm about to go to bed. Send me pictures of you when you can. I miss you.]

Although it was just past 8 p.m. in his location, he knew it was past midnight over there in Ludus, and she had sent the text barely forty minutes ago. He knew she must be fast asleep now, but despite the time difference, he decided to send her a selfie.

That way, she would see his face when she woke up even if he doubted they would be able to talk until she was at work the next day, that was if there was enough to be to talk.

Not when he had to meet with the state's authorities. He also needed to meet with and appease the guests who had filed various complaints against the hotel.

Not minding the fact that he was still dripping wet and only had a towel around his waist, Tom took various selfies with his phone and sent them to Lucy.

To his surprise, his phone rang almost immediately, and his brows pulled together in concern as he received the call from Lucy.

"Did I disturb your sleep?" he asked when he heard her yawn.

"No. I was actually hoping to hear from you before going to bed. Are you free now?" she asked hopefully.

Even though it was past 8 p.m., he already had a meeting scheduled for 9 p.m. at the club.

"No. I'm getting ready to leave for a meeting," Tom said, and Lucy sighed in disappointment.

"Have you had something to eat yet? Did you sleep?" she asked with concern.

"Yeah, I did," Tom said, not bothering to tell her he had been able to sleep only for an hour and had only had steak all day.

"You should go to bed, Lu. It's late, and you have to go to work tomorrow," Tom suggested.

"Will you call me when you get back?" she asked hopefully.

"No. I wouldn't want to disturb your beauty sleep," Tom said, and she frowned.

"It wouldn't be a disturbance," Lucy protested with a yawn, and Tom smiled.

"I can't promise to call you, Lu. I have no idea when I will be back. And I might be too exhausted to make that call. But I will make sure to call you before noon," Tom promised, and Lucy sighed.

"Alright," she said, trying not to sound as sad as she was feeling.

"You will be back on Friday, right?" Lucy asked hopefully.

"That largely depends on the outcome of these meetings. But I hope so. I really want to see you in that dress," Tom said, and Lucy smiled.

"Do you like the selfies I sent?" Tom asked as he glanced at the wall clock in his room.

He was going to be late for his appointment if he didn't hang up now. He planned to give Harry a call while in the car on his way to the club since he knew Harry wasn't a deep sleeper and would receive his call at any hour whatsoever.

Apart from discussing business with him, he also remembered Harry's date with Jade and was curious to know how that went.

"I haven't viewed them yet. I dialled your line the moment I received the text," she explained with a pout.

"Alright, love. I really need to run now, or else I will be late for my meeting. Don't fail to send me pictures, okay? And if you miss me too much, send texts. I will respond when I can," Tom promised.

"Alright. You too. I love you," Lucy said, and Tom smiled.

"I love you too. Take care of yourself," Tom called back before hanging up.

Tom quickly dressed up, and a couple of minutes later, he was seated in his car and dialled Harry's line as the driver took him to the club.

Harry, who had just gotten off the phone with Jade after informing her he had gotten home, received Tom's call immediately after he saw it.

"Hello, baby!" Tom greeted, and Harry laughed heartily.

"I've missed you. I was beginning to think you were never going to call," Harry said as he sat on his bed.

"You have no idea how busy I have been. Things are a mess over here, Harry. I can't believe this place was getting run down without our knowledge," Tom said, and upon further inquiry from Harry, he explained the whole situation to him.

"Shit! I can't believe the director never said a word about any of this. Not even when he was here for the meeting on Monday or when he called yesterday requesting our presence," Harry said irritably.

"I already asked everyone in charge to clear their desks...."

"You fired them already? Including the director?" Harry asked, slightly surprised.

"Yeah."

"But we don't have anyone to send over there right now and...."

Tom laughed, "Don't worry. I won't ask you to go over there. I will handle things over here, and once everything is running smoothly, I can return...."

"What do you mean handle things over there? You're supposed to be back here by Friday," Harry cut in with a frown.

"Yeah. I will make it back in time for the anniversary dinner, and after that, I will put everything in order over there and return here. I have to handle this...."

"What about Lucy?" Harry cut in once again.

"What about Lucy?" Tom asked, pretending not to understand what he was asking.

"How long do you intend to stay over there? What about your relationship with Lucy? Have you spoken with her about this? I could go over there...."

"No, Harry. I will handle this. Besides, you're supposed to be going on your leave, remember? You can let me know when you're ready to do so, and I will find a way to take care of things. I will talk to Lucy about it when I get back. I'm sure she wouldn't mind a long-distance relationship," Tom said easily, and Harry narrowed his eyes.

"Tom, is this a part of your grand plan to win her over?" Harry asked, and Tom chuckled.

"What if I say it is?" Tom asked, and Harry sighed as he wiped his face with his hands.

"I don't know. Distance makes the heart grow fonder, but don't also forget that out of sight could be out of mind. And judging by your history with ladies over there..."

"Relax, Harry. I'm just here to take care of business. As it is, I'm on my way to a club for a meeting right now, and I don't have enough time for chitchat. So enough with the interrogation. Lucy told me about Barry and about you asking Jade to represent the Millers in court. What is that about?" Tom asked changing the subject.

Tom listened patiently as Harry told him everything in detail.

"Right now, it feels to me like we are doing the Miller sisters a whole lot of favour. We ordinarily should have no business with Rebekah and her activities since Anita, who was really our target, has backed out," Tom said thoughtfully.

"Would you rather we turn a blind eye to it all?" Harry asked, and Tom sighed.

"No. Let's just get it all done and fast. Have someone keep an eye on Jade. I can't trust anyone associated with Rebekah."

"I did that already. Just don't tell her about it. I don't think she's going to like knowing she is being followed," Harry said, and Tom smiled.

"Yeah, she wouldn't. I will find time to speak to Barry. How did your meeting with the impostor go?" Tom asked, and Harry chuckled at his reference to Crystal.

Harry briefed him on what Crystal had told him about Sara's visit and that the game was on now.

"Have your men keep their eyes on that girl, Harry," Tom advised.

"Why? You think Sara will hurt her too?" Harry asked in amusement.

"On the contrary, it's not her safety that I'm concerned about. I don't trust her. I'm worried she could ruin everything," Tom said, and Harry considered it for a moment before nodding his head.

Even though Tom had never met Crystal, Tom wasn't one to trust people easily, and the fact that Crystal was a con artist only made it worse.

"We had an agreement...."

Tom chuckled, cutting Harry off, "Who are you kidding, Harry? If she messes this up, we can't get her arrested or take her to court...."

"I could kill her," Harry cut in, and Tom paused.

"Well, we could. But we both know you would rather not. So, let's prevent that by keeping our eyes on her. Give her number to Barry and have him monitor her calls and texts. Sara's as well," Tom advised.

"Why haven't we done that the whole time? That was the first thing I should have done," Harry said with a frown.

"It's not too late to do so. So, how did your date with Jade go?" Tom asked, switching subjects again since he was trying to cover all he wanted them to discuss before he arrived at the club.

Harry smiled, "It was lovely. I took her to the hotel. We had a romantic dinner at the rooftop, just the both of us," Harry said, and Tom smiled.

"I suppose you told her it was yours? Were you trying to impress her by showing off your wealth to her?" Tom teased.

"Well, there was that. And I was trying to come clean with her about what we do there," Harry said, and Tom raised a brow.

"You told her everything?"

"Yeah. You know me, Tom. I don't like lies or secrets. She is a lawyer and might frown at things like that. I don't want her to find out about it later. I had to lay out all my cards on the table," Harry explained.

"How did she take it?" Tom asked curiously.

"She was surprised. Asked a couple of questions, but that was it. She agreed to be my girlfriend. There were fireworks...."

"Fireworks?" Tom asked with a laugh.

"Yeah," Harry said with a grin.

"I thought you weren't down for all that romantic shit?" Tom teased.

"Jade loves stuff like that, so I had to give it to her. And you're one to talk. I saw the note you left Lucy," Harry fired back, and Tom chuckled.

"Anything to make the ladies happy, right?" Tom asked, and Harry laughed in agreement.

"Well, making them happy makes us happy as well, so I guess it's more for us than it is for them."

"You've been in a relationship for barely 4 hours, and you already sound like a married man," Tom said, making Harry chuckle.

"By the way, Tom. I told Jade I'm going to ask her to marry me in six months' time," Harry said as Tom's car pulled into the club premises.

"In six months? You move fast, don't you?" Tom asked with a pleased smile.

"Considering it took us a long time to get here, you can't blame me for being fast, can you?" Harry asked, and Tom chuckled.

"You finally have the balls to admit you've been pinning for her for a long time?" Tom taunted.

"Well, I'm happy you are finally in a relationship. You both deserve to be happy, and you deserve each other. I need to go now. I just got to the club," Tom said before Harry could respond when the driver stopped the car and came around to open his door.

"Let me know how it goes. You can call whenever," Harry reminded him.

"Now that you have a girlfriend ask her to call you whenever. We are done," Tom said hissed.

"Never! You will always be my first love, baby!" Harry called back, and Tom hung up with a chuckle.

## Chapter 607 Kimberly Dawn

The moment Tom walked through the doors of the club, the first thing that occurred to him was that this wasn't a regular club.

It seemed like almost every body in there were in various states of undress. Majority of the ladies were naked, and the few who were dressed were only covered in sexy lingerie, and most of the men were just as naked, some just shirtless and some were dressed in just their briefs.

Everyone was going about their activities like being naked was the new normal. The waitresses were serving drinks butt naked, those in the dancehall were naked, and even the barman was shirtless save for a red bowtie, it seemed all the staff were wearing to be easily identified, and his briefs.

Tom looked around in mild confusion until he felt somebody stand beside him and he turned to see a young man dressed completely in suit.

"CEO, I-Global?" he asked, and a lady who just walked in and heard that, turned in time to see Tom give him a slight nod.

"My boss is expecting you," he said and gestured to the right as he led the way.

As Tom followed him down an hallway, he couldn't help wondering why anybody in their right mind would want to have a business meeting in such an environment.

For christ's sake he was here to meet with the man in charge of Hotel management and hospitality regulations in the country not a random nobody. Why would he arrange for such a serious meeting here?

As Tom was escorted past different open rooms it occurred to him that if he had thought the people at the Central part of the club were crazy, then he had been mistaken.

In almost every room he walked past, people were having sex. Threesomes, orgies, gay-sex, masturbation, and no one seemed to care about their privacy.

Tom liked to consider himself a wild person, but having sex in public under the scrutiny of other people like an animal was something he was sure he could never indulge in.

Tom tried to focus as he was led into another room, and this time he was taken aback when he realized it was more of a torture room for those into BDSM.

"Thomas Hank!" a handsome man in his mid forties greeted as he rose from the couch where he had been seated.

Thankfully, unlike the others in this room who were naked and either chained to a pole or tied to bed and being dominated, he was dressed completely in a suit, and seemed to be a voyeur.

"Mr. Moore?" Tom asked as though he doubted the man's identity and the man laughed softly.

"I'm sure you must be surprised that I chose such a location for our meeting," he said with a knowing smile.

"I can't say I'm not," Tom responded honestly.

"Well, I always spend Wednesday nights here, and since you wanted me to fit you into my schedule it had to be here. Someone else is joining us by the way," he said as he placed a hand on Tom's shoulder in a friendly gesture and led him to his couch.

"Who?" Tom asked with a slight frown.

"Someone who has been wanting to see you for a very long time," he said, leaving Tom more confused.

"And I suppose you don't want to tell me who this person is? Or why they want to see me?" Tom asked and he smiled.

"I have no idea why. You will see."

Even though Tom didn't exactly like the idea of meeting someone he didn't know, he didn't push it.

"If you don't mind me asking, what is this place?" Tom asked politely.

"Did you miss the name? It's Club Eden...."

"If I didn't, I wouldn't have found my way here now, would I?" Tom asked as he continued to gaze around.

His eyes settled on a couple who were suspended in the air on a swinglike material as they copulated while the woman kept using a rod to spank her partner's ass. All around they were serenaded with various cries of moans and groans.

The man laughed as he watched Tom, "It is as you see. A Den of pleasure. Everybody here has one thing in common, they desire pleasure."

"Isn't it distracting to meet with me here? Maybe if we could find a private room...."

"I would rather we talk here. Why? Do you find it arousing? Tell me, do you enjoy things like this?" he asked with a grin.

"I have a reputation to maintain. I can't be seen in a place like this," Tom said cautiously.

"This place is government approved. There is nothing wrong with a businessman having fun. And just so you know, you have no idea the calibre of people who come here. See that guy over there?" he asked, jerking his head in the direction of a man in his fifties who was banging a young lady hard from behind while choking her with one hand and pulling her hair with the other.

"What about him?" Tom asked curiously.

"He is the chief of police. I don't reckon he can do that to his wife. But in here, nobody cares who you are outside. What happens in Eden, stays in Eden," he assured him with a grin.

"Still...."

"And those are my girls," he interrupted with a chuckle and rose as two ladies approached them.

They both looked like they were in their late twenties, and one of the ladies was naked and had something like chocolate around her nipples as though she was walking around looking for someone to lick it off her, while the other was dressed in a skimpy black dress and her eyes were on Tom.

Tom used a hand to wipe his face and didn't bother to stand up when the ladies stopped in front of them.

He watched with a blank expression as Mr. Moore bent down and licked the chocolate off both nipples, making the lady giggle while the other continued to look at him.

Instead of looking on, Tom signalled to a waitress to get him something to drink, making it clear he wasn't interested in Mr. Moore's business. All he wanted to do was discuss the Hotel and leave.

"Thomas Hank," the lady who was dressed called, drawing Tom's attention as she sat down beside him.

"We don't know each other, do we?" Tom asked politely as he received a glass of wine from the waitress.

She narrowed her eyes, "I definitely know you. I don't forget faces so easily. Especially not one as handsome as yours," she said with a smile and Mr. Moore raised a brow.

"You still haven't told me how you know him, Kim," he reminded her and she laughed softly.

"We had a one-night stand four years ago," she said, and Tom almost choked on his wine.

"Four years ago? The sex must have been really good if you still remember him," the other lady said with a giggle, but Mr. Moore was not amused.

"Four years ago? A one night stand?" Mr. Moore asked, looking at her with questioning eyes, and she nodded, answering his unspoken question.

"You don't remember me, do you?" she asked with a tsk when Tom looked at her with a frown of disbelief.

"Am I supposed to remember someone I had a one night stand with four years ago?" Tom asked with a slightly raised brow.

"I guess you make it a habit of having one night stands then. Give me a minute and I will jog your memory," she said as she reached into her purse for a cigarette and lit it, while Mr. Moore and the other lady listened with interest.

"We met at the poolside of the I-Global hotel four years ago the same night the place was opened. You were drinking alone after swimming, and I was in the pool. I joined you because you were alone and the other tables were occupied. Do you remember now?" she asked and Tom blinked in surprise.

"That was you?" He asked as he looked her over once again, wondering how she could remember him so easily.

"Yes. That was me," she said with a pleasant smile, glad that he remembered her now.

"He was the one four years ago?" Mr. Moore asked, genuinely surprised but not displeased.

"Yes," she said as she took a puff from her cigarette.

"What do you mean the one? Is she the person you mentioned wanted to see me?" Tom asked Mr. Moore and he nodded.

"I was going to introduce them earlier but you didn't seem interested. This is Kimberly Moore, my niece," he said, not bothering to introduce the other lady who happened to be his wife.

"Your niece?" Tom asked, beginning to feel very uncomfortable now since he wasn't sure what was happening.

"Yes."

"I need to speak with him alone if you don't mind," Kimberly said looking at her uncle as she took another puff.

Tom shook his head, "I'm sorry, I can't. I'm here for a business meeting and...."

"I believe whatever she wants to discuss with you is more important than whatever we will be discussing. Don't worry, I know the reason you wanted to see me. I will be more willing to help you after you listen to her," Mr. Moore said as he rose and then looked at his niece before walking away with his wife.



Alone now, Kimberly looked at Tom without saying a word for sometime and then leaned forward, placing a hand on his thighs.

Tom withdrew immediately, "Is there a problem?" Tom asked not liking that he was sitting alone in such a place with a lady like her.

"I've been searching for you for the past four years. You left without a word. I had no idea what your name was. The hotel had no information on you either, and...."

"Why were you searching for me? I mean, we both agreed not to exchange any personal information since it was simply a one night stand," Tom pointed out.

"And you can't imagine my pleasure and surprise when I caught a glimpse of you during the interview with your girlfriend and you turned out to be the CEO of I-Global," she said, continuing as though he had not interrupted her.

"So what? You want to blackmail me into giving you some money or what exactly is the purpose of all this?" Tom cut in impatiently.

She threw back her head and laughed heartily as though he had just cracked a very hilarious joke, "Please, Thomas, don't make me laugh. Take a good look at me. Do I look like I'm in need of your money?" She asked as she picked up the ashtray on the table and tapped out the cigarette before dropping the ashtray.

"What do you want if not my money?" Tom asked with a raised brow.

"I am wealthy enough. I even have shares in your company...."

"You do?" Tom asked with interest and she smiled.

"Yeah, I do. Although I'm not actively involved. I had no idea you were the CEO anyway. You know, I usually leave my personal broker in charge of things like that. Maybe if I had been involved actively I wouldn't have wasted so much time..."

"Can you please cut to the chase and tell me what this is about?" Tom asked and she shook her head as she opened her handbag and took out her phone.

"I see you're quite impatient," She said as she unlocked the screen and turned it so that Tom could see the screen saver.

"Here," she said handing him the phone and Tom reluctantly took it from her.

Displayed on the screen was a picture of the most beautiful three years old girl Tom had ever set eyes on, smiling into the camera with her hazel eyes gleaming mischievously.

Tom's heart skipped a beat as he looked at the picture, hoping it wasn't what he was thinking.

He had used a condom, right? He always used condoms. He never had unprotected sex with ladies until Lucy. Tom reasoned as he tried to remember the night four years ago and what had transpired between them.

"Why are you showing me this?" He forced himself to ask after the silence had dragged on for long enough.

Kimberly watched Tom whose eyes were still fixed on the screen as she leaned back in her seat, "Her name is Dawn. She is your daughter. She is the only reason I've been trying to find you all this time."

Chapter 608 Dawn Hank

Lucy had a wide smile on her face as she sat behind her desk looking at the selfies Tom had sent her.

His hair was still wet and water glistened on his brows and lashes as he smiled into the camera.

He still looked as handsome as ever even though his eyes looked tired. She contemplated setting one of the pictures as her screensaver or background photo but she decided against it. She didn't want anyone else to see Tom that way.

She was just going to wait for him to send her one where he was fully dressed and she would use that. She giggled at the thought of actually making him her screensaver.

She hoped that he would be back by Friday as planned. This trip had made her realize more than anything that being away from Tom wasn't something she liked one bit.

After looking through his selfies, she decided to send some of her own and she spent the next couple of minutes snapping and sending him lots of pictures.

She looked up when Adolf knocked on the door and walked in with a food pack, "Good morning Lucy," Adolf greeted polite and Lucy rose with a warm smile as she picked up the food pack from the previous day.

"Good morning, Adolf. I'm sorry for putting you through this stress...."

"I don't consider it stressful," Adolf rushed to assure her as he placed the food pack on the table.

"You're far too kind. Thank you. I washed this. I hope you don't mind taking it back with you?" She asked as she handed it to him.

"Not at all. Please enjoy your breakfast," he said with a polite bow as he took it from her and then walked away.

Alone, Lucy quickly opened the food pack and just as she had hoped there was a note from Tom inside.

[Good morning, my priceless Jewel. Today I want you to know that you are the light of my life. My invaluable treasure. I hope you have a beautiful day today.]

"Aww," Lucy whispered with a wide smile.

The wide smile disappeared from her face when a knock sounded on her door and she looked up to see Cora standing there.

She raised a brow as she watched Cora walk into her office, and instead of giving her attention to her, Lucy slipped Tom's note into her handbag and packed up the breakfast.

"Did you miss your way?" Lucy asked, making it clear she wasn't welcome.

Cora smiled, "Good morning, director Perry. I realized I've never checked out your office. I figured I should," Cora said pleasantly.

"I didn't realize we were that close or that you had so much spare time in your hands," Lucy said flatly, not bothering to offer her a seat.

"That is no way to talk to a colleague. We are not enemies, are we? Besides, shouldn't you offer me a seat?" Cora asked still smiling pleasantly.

Lucy had no doubt that Cora was there for a purpose. She knew better than to let her guard down or act friendly. Cora wanted something, and she wondered what it was.

"I would if I invited you. What do you want?" Lucy asked, and Cora shrugged.

"Well, you know everyone has been talking about that video trending online. You must be happy about being vindicated, right?" Cora asked, and Lucy raised a brow.

"What video?"

"The apology video released by Anita Miller of course. Don't tell me you don't know that's the only thing everyone has been talking about since yesterday?" Cora asked as she sat down, deciding she had waited enough for Lucy to be courteous enough to offer her a seat.

Lucy realized that she had not thought of the video or even paid attention to anyone because she had been too distracted by her own worries.

"I see. Thanks for the information," Lucy said, and Cora smiled again.

"So, I found out the CEO is not in the country," she said, and Lucy pressed her lips together.

"Is that why you are in my office when you should be in yours doing what we are paid to do?" Lucy asked, and Cora looked at her for a moment before laughing out loud.

"You really need to loosen up, Lucy. It's no wonder you don't have any friends around here," Cora said even though the more time she spent talking to Lucy the more annoyed she was.

Lucy eyed her for a moment and then smiled, "By the way, I've been meaning to ask you a question for some time now. Can you honestly say you had no idea Tom was the CEO when you were hitting on him while he was pretending to be my driver?" Lucy asked, and Cora frowned.

"I beg your pardon?"

Lucy smiled sweetly, "You've been a director long before I came here. You've seen the CEO's face before. I find it very hard to believe that you didn't know my driver was the CEO," Lucy said simply.

"Am I supposed to worry about what you believe or not?" Cora asked tightly and Lucy smiled.

"No, you're not supposed to. Now that you are being real, can you drop the friendly facade and say whatever you came here to say. I don't have all day for meaningless chitchats," Lucy stated.

"I guess things are not going well between you and the CEO?" Cora asked, and Lucy's heart skipped a beat but she managed to keep her face blank.

How did she know that? Did she hear something?

"I'm quite observant, so I noticed," Cora said, thinking about their attitude during the last general meeting that was held in the presence of Tom's grandfather.

Lucy smiled, "You wish so, don't you? You know something I learned? When you spend so much time thinking about something you might dream of it. In the same way, when you think about something long and hard enough, you begin to see it even if it isn't there. Congrats. You have a very active imagination," Lucy said as she glanced at the wall clock.

She was expecting Tom's call in any moment and she wanted Cora out.

Lucy raised a brow when Cora dropped her phone on the desk, "If you're fine as you claim, can you explain that?" Cora asked, pointing at the picture displayed on her screen.

Even if a part of Lucy didn't want to give Cora any satisfaction by looking, she was too curious not to, so she picked up the phone.

Displayed on the screen was a picture of Tom seated with a beautiful lady in a room, and around them were different couples making out.

"If things are as peachy as you want me to believe why is he in an erotic club with a lady who isn't you? In case you don't know what happens there, people go in there to have sex or to be voyeurs so they can be turned on enough for sex," Cora said, her eyes gleaming with malice.

Even though Lucy's heart had started racing and her stomach was beginning to churn because of how nervous she was, she plastered a smile on her face.

"Who are you to demand an explanation? And what makes you think I care what you think about our relationship?" She asked as she pushed the phone back to Cora.

"I'm sure the CEO will be delighted to know that his employee cares so much about him to the point of having people spy on him," Lucy said with a malicious smile of her own as Cora's smile slid off her face.

"I wasn't spying on him. A friend shared the picture with me," she snapped at Lucy.

"I'm sure he will love to hear the explanation from you directly," Lucy said, and almost sang for joy when her phone started ringing with a call from Tom.

She turned the phone for Cora to see her caller's ID before receiving the call, "Hey, babe!" She greeted cheerfully, and just as Cora rose to leave, Lucy pointed the seat for her to remain seated.

"Hello, love! Have you had breakfast yet?" Tom asked trying to sound as normal as possible, and Lucy smiled.

"I was about to before I was interrupted by Director Anderson," Lucy said, making Cora's heart to skip a beat.

"She interrupted you? How? Why?" Tom asked and Lucy smiled as she watched Cora squirm in her seat.

"She had something interesting to share with me," Lucy said, and then muted the phone as she looked at Cora, "Would you like to say hello?" She asked and giggled when Cora paled.

Lucy rolled her eyes and tsked before unmuting the call, "How was your night? How did the meeting go?" Lucy asked, hoping Tom would tell her who it was he met with and where.

Tom's heart skipped a beat at the question. That was the last he wanted to think about. His head was banging seriously and he had been unable to focus on anything else he was doing.

Lucy noticed the silence but kept a smile on her face for Cora's benefit, even if her insides were quivering as she wondered why Tom wasn't answering her question.

"It was unusual but fine," Tom said finally.

"Unusual? What was unusual about it?" Lucy asked curiously.

"Well, the person I had a meeting with asked me to meet him at a certain club. I had no idea it was a Den of pleasure. It was awkward having people around us who were having sex," Tom said, choosing to settle for half-truth, and Lucy smiled glad that he had been honest with her.

"You mean they were having sex all around you?" She asked for Cora's benefit.

"Yeah. I need to go now, Lu. I still have a lot to do if I want to be able to make it back in time for the dinner party," Tom said, and Lucy sighed.

"Alright. I miss you. And I love you. Don't forget to eat, and rest. Make sure you don't overwork yourself," Lucy reminded him.

"I will keep that in mind. I love you," Tom said before hanging up.

"I'm going to let this foolishness slide this once. Get out of my office!" Lucy ordered harshly, and immediately Cora rose and walked away without another word.

Once Cora shut the door behind her, Lucy clasped her trembling hands together.

Tom said the person he was meeting was a man, but why was he seated there alone with a lady? And why did it take so long for his to answer her simple question? Lucy mused.

Away from there, Tom paced around his bedroom after the phone call. He had been unable to think straight since he walked out of the club. All he could see was the picture of the little girl.

Despite his insistence that they had used a condom that night, Kimberly had also insisted that the condom might have been faulty since he was the only person she had sex with at the time.

Kimberly had suggested he carry out a DNA paternity test if he was in doubt as to the paternity of He had looked into Kimberly Moore after leaving the club that night and from all he had found out about her, she really didn't seem like someone who would want to pin a pregnancy on a random the little girl.

She had even offered they do it there or fly down to Ludus with him and do it in a lab of his choice of he didn't trust her.

Of course he couldn't let that happen. Even though he had always wanted a child of his own, this wasn't how he had planned it and the last thing he wanted was a scandal of this magnitude.

He had looked into Kimberly Moore after leaving the club that night and from all he had found out about her, she really didn't seem like someone who would want to pin a pregnancy on a random man.

She claimed that all she wanted from him was to be present in their daughter's life. She didn't need his money or anything. She only wanted him to be a father to his daughter.

Dawn. Dawn Hank. He could imagine her running around his mansion, he thought with a small smile that quickly disappeared from his face when he caught his reflection in the mirror. He shouldn't be feeling this way already. He reminded himself as he pinched his nose.

How was he going to explain the fact that he has a three years old kid? How would Lucy feel about it?

He knew he shouldn't even be worrying about Lucy's feelings right now as that wasn't priority. If it was true that the little girl was his, there was absolutely no way he would abandon her just to make Lucy happy.

A part of him prayed she wasn't his kid since the only woman he wanted to have a baby with was Lucy.

But another part of him hoped she was his. Perhaps if she was his, Lucy would be understanding enough to see that the deed had been done and would be accepting of his child.

That way he could live with her decision even if she never wanted to have a child with him, since he had a biological child of his own already.

Okay. Maybe he was thinking too far ahead. First things first, he was going to carry out a DNA test. Once he got the result he would figure out what next to do. Tom decided with a shake of his head, and glanced at his phone when it started ringing.

He picked it up when he saw that it was Kimberly. She was calling to let him know she was on her way with the little girl for them to go for the DNA test.

Did he want to be seen with them publicly? He didn't want that. At least not yet. He was just going to take a hair strand or whatever he could from her and have the test done by his own people and at his own time.

Chapter 609 Randy Past

As Tom got out of the elevator and headed for the lobby, he caught sight of Kimberly sitting with Dawn, and Kimberly smiled when she met his gaze and whispered something to her daughter.

Immediately Dawn's head snapped around and before Tom could guess what was happening the little girl was running in his direction.

Tom faltered in his steps and stopped walking when she threw herself at him, leaving him no choice but to pick her up.

Thankfully, the lobby was empty save for the receptionists and a couple of guests checking out, since he had shut the gates of the hotel to guests for the time being until he resolved the issues on ground.

As Tom lifted the little girl off the ground his gaze was fixed on her face which bore a mixture of curiosity and amazement.

"You're so handsome," she said with a bright smile that made Tom smile in return.

"Hello!" Tom greeted.

"Hello! I'm Dawn. Dawn Wealth," she said with a brilliant smile.

"Wealth? Is that your Daddy's name?" Tom asked curiously.

"Mommy said you are my daddy. Aren't you supposed to tell me your name before asking a question?" She asked, looking genuinely confused, surprising Tom who did not expect her to be so articulate at her age.

"That's not polite, Dawn," Kimberly who had caught up with them, chided her daughter softly before looking at Tom.

"But Ms Clara said it's wrong not to introduce yourself first... I'm sorry for being rude," Dawn said with a pout instead when her mother gave her a pointed look.

"Ms Clara is her governess," Kimberly explained with a small smile.

"She has a governess at her age?" Tom asked, both surprised and impressed.

Kimberly laughed softly, "It's never too early to start teaching her. You have no idea all she is capable of at her age. She is a little genius," Kimberly said with a proud smile.

"Are we not going to sit?" Dawn asked when she noticed that neither Tom nor Kimberly were making any move to find a place to sit but were just standing there.

"Let's talk in my office," Tom suggested as he set Dawn on her feet, but she held on to his hand, so they walked into the elevator together.

"I thought we were going to find somewhere for the test?" Kimberly asked in confusion as she followed him into the elevator.

Ignoring her question, Tom entered the number for his office floor, "Her surname is Wealth," Tom stated.

"That's right. Since I had no idea who you were, and she was born a wealthy kid, we all figured we name her as such. The name Dawn was given because you left before Dawn...."

"What?" Tom asked in disbelief. Who named kids that way?

Kimberly laughed, "She was also born at Dawn. The name was just befitting," Kimberly said with a shrug.

"We should talk. I will find someone to babysit..."

"I don't need a babysitter. I can take care of myself," Dawn cut in and then looked at Tom apologetically.

"That was rude, I'm sorry. I wasn't supposed to cut in," she said politely and Tom smiled as he looked down at her.

"Yeah, she can take care of herself," Kimberly said Tom as the elevator door opened and they walked out of the elevator.

Tom led them down the hallway to the office, while she fished inside her handbag for something and a moment later she took out a tablet which she handed to Dawn.

"You can keep busy while I speak with your dad," Kimberly said after Tom led them into an office space.

Tom raised a brow at that. Each time he heard the word daddy he had a strange feeling in the pit of his stomach.

"Where can I sit, please?" Dawn asked, looking at Tom curiously.

"You can sit in the outer office while I go in with your mom," Tom said, and she gave him a brisk nod as she graciously sat on one of the waiting chairs.

The outer office which was meant to be for the assistant of the director was vacant because Tom had fired both the director and his assistant.

"Are you certain she will be alright?" Tom asked Kimberly, reluctant to leave the little girl unattended.

"She will be fine," Kimberly assured him, and Tom opened the office and led her inside.

He walked straight to sit behind the desk, hoping it would put enough distance between them for her to know he had no intention of indulging her if she had any other plans.

"She is such a little lady," Tom commented, and Kimberly smiled.

"Yes, she is. So, do you mind telling me why are we not going for the DNA test as agreed?" Kimberly asked without bothering to sit, and Tom shrugged.

"All of this is too sudden. I need time to put my thoughts together. I will do the DNA test when I'm ready for it. I do not want to be pressured," Tom said simply, and she sighed.

"Alright. I suppose you want us to keep our distance until you're ready to come to terms with this?" Kimberly asked, and Tom nodded.

"Yes. And I will appreciate it if no one else knows about this..."

"When I found out your identity I didn't say a word to anyone. Not even my uncle. Why would I do so now?" she asked, feeling slightly annoyed.

"Why did you wait until now to show up if you found out who I was weeks ago?" Tom asked, and she raised a brow.

"What sort of a person would I be showing up at that moment considering the issue with your girlfriend which made you reveal your identity? I was going to wait a bit more to come to you, but I was with my uncle when you called for a meeting with him, so I figured I meet you now and save myself the trip. Listen, as I told you, all I want from you, is to be a father to our daughter. That's all. If by the time you confirm she is yours, you still decide you don't want her to be a part of your life, I won't force it," Kim said and turned around to leave.

"Are you leaving?" Tom asked, and she turned to look at him.

"Yes. I thought we were done with the conversation?" She asked in confusion.

"Why did you tell her I was her father when we are yet to confirm...."

"You are the one who needs the confirmation. Not me. I know the man I slept with. I'm not some whore who gets down with any random stranger. I was in a bad place emotionally and only did what I did with you, a complete stranger, because I wasn't in my right mind. Dawn deserves to know who her father is whether or not he wants her in his life. And you don't have to worry, Dawn isn't a fragile princess. Even if you reject her, she will be fine," Kimberly assured him, and Tom sighed as he rose and went around the desk.



"I will need some DNA samples. I'm leaving tomorrow and would prefer to have my own people carry out the test," Tom said, and Kimberly gestured towards the door where Dawn was seated.

"Knock yourself out. Take whatever you want," she said as she continued towards the door and Tom followed.

Dawn looked up when the door opened and Kimberly smiled at her, "Darling, remember what I told you DNA samples are?" Kimberly asked as she took the tablet from her and kept it away in her handbag.

Dawn nodded as she looked at Tom, "Yes."

"He wants some DNA samples," Kimberly explained.

"What do you want?" Dawn asked as she rose to face him.

"Your hair strand or nail clippings?" Tom said, and she shrugged as she held out her fingers to Tom.

Her nails looked really neat and well trimmed so getting a nail clipping was out of it.

"I will settle for your hair strand," Tom said as he returned to the office to get a bag and the nail clipper set he had asked one of the staff to get him earlier.

Neither Kimberly nor Dawn said a word as he took out the scissors inside approached and cut out some hair strands.

"Let's leave," Kimberly said as she took Dawn's hand.

"Bye. See you next time," Dawn said with a wave and a bright smile as she walked away with her mother while Tom watched them, and even though he was tempted to spend more time getting to know the kid, he didn't stop them.

Once he was sure they had left, he returned into his office and shut the door behind him as he dialled Harry's line.

Right now he knew the only person he could talk to was Harry. Harry was his sounding board and he trusted Harry's judgement more than that of anyone else.

Harry who was in the middle of a meeting but had kept his phone close in case Tom called, rose immediately he saw Tom's call.

"You will have to excuse me. I have to take the CEO's call," Harry said politely and without question everyone stepped out of his office to give him privacy.

"I knew you would call," Harry said immediately after he received the call.

"Harry, I'm in a mess," Tom said, and the moment Harry heard the seriousness in Tom's tone he frowned and forgot the joke he was about to make.

"Are things not going as planned? Do you need me to come over?" He asked as he walked over to his desk to check his schedule book.

"That's not it. A lady showed up last night claiming we have a three years old daughter together," Tom said, and Harry raised a brow.

"Is this supposed to be a prank?" Harry asked, taken aback.

"Would I joke about something like this?" Tom asked, and Harry frowned.

"Give me a minute," Harry said as he walked over to the door and looked at the security team he had been addressing regarding the anniversary dinner party.

"This is important. I will send a message across to your leader and he will let you know what I expect. You can leave," Harry said and as they dispersed he turned to his secretary.

"No interruption whatsoever until I call for you," he told her before returning to his office.

"Alright. Tell me everything," Harry said once he was seated behind his desk with his journal in front of him and a pen in hand.

"Remember the lady I hooked up with four years ago when we opened the hotel here?" Tom asked, and Harry frowned.

"Am I supposed to remember her?"

"You left me in the pool to attend to the guests since no one knew I was the CEO back then, and by the time you got back I had hooked up with her," Tom said trying to jog his memory.

"Okay. So, she shows up after four years with a child? Did you forget to use a condom?" Harry asked trying to understand the situation.

"I did. Just listen okay?" Tom said, and went ahead to tell him how Kimberly had shown up in the club last night and he told Harry all about their conversation and the fact that Kimberly and Dawn just left his office.

"I know a bit about the Moore family. She is wealthy and from a solid background so she can't be doing this for money or fame," Harry said thoughtfully.

"Yeah. That occurred to me too when I checked her out," Tom said as he combed his fingers through his hair.

"I can't believe any of this! This is messed up," Harry said thoughtfully as he thought about Lucy and her already rocky relationship with Tom.

"Don't I know that already?" Tom asked, and Harry drew a deep breath.

"Don't worry. Let me have someone look into her. Maybe her family is having financial issues..."

"We both know that can't be the case. She is from a long generation of old money, Harry. That sort of money doesn't just go away," Tom pointed out.

"Still, I will find out all I can about her. If she has an ulterior motive, I will find out. We will get the DNA test done when you get here and then..." Harry broke off midsentence when something occurred to him.

"You do realize that with this new development there is no way I'm letting you stay back there to run the hotel, right?" Harry asked, and Tom raised a brow.

"What do you mean?"

"Whether or not it turns out true that the little girl is yours, I can't let you abandon Lucy over here and stay over there where this Kimberly lady lives. Long distance relationship is bad enough, but

one with trust issues would never survive. Unless you plan to end things with Lucy, you will have to come back here," Harry said, and Tom took a deep breath.

"And what about the kid?"

"There is nothing wrong if she comes to visit you, is there? Or do you plan to start a family with them over there?" Harry asked, slightly annoyed that Tom was even asking that.

"You know that's not what I mean. Anyway, we can't mix business with pleasure. I told you I let most of the management staff go. I have to be here..."

"I will take care of it. My dad is leaving soon with Candace and Jamal. I'm sure Candace will look after him...."

"You just started dating Jade...."

"I'm sure she wouldn't mind coming with me. She can do whatever she needs to do from over there," Harry cut in again.

"You just put Jade in charge of a case, remember? And you're supposed to be going on a leave soon. Everything can remain as it is. I will take care of the hotel...."

"I'm not going to let you or anyone else screw up your life, Tom. I know you love Lucy and wouldn't want to lose her. I also know there is no way you are going to abandon that kid if she turns out to be yours. So, when you get back, we are going to get the test done, and you can tell Lucy about it let's hear what she has to say," Harry said, and Tom's heart skipped a beat at the thought of breaking such a news to Lucy.

"How do you think she is going to react?" Tom asked feeling anxious.

"She wouldn't like it, but then again, the deed has been done. She will have to figure out a way to live with it if she can," Harry said with a sigh.

"And if she can't?" Tom asked with a frown.

"Then you will just have to live with the consequence of your randy past," Harry said with a chuckle.

"I can't believe you're making a joke out of this right now," Tom hissed.

"Well, I'm not the one who became a baby daddy over night. I can afford to joke," Harry said and chuckled as Tom hung up angrily.

The smile slid off his face as he looked down at his journal. The lady's name was Kimberly Moore, and her daughter's name was Dawn Wealth.

Just when he thought they were free from drama they were about to have another crazy experience, Harry thought as he dialed a number.

"I need you to look into some people ASAP. Treat with utmost urgency," Harry said as he read out the names and location.

"I want detailed information on her love life; past and present. And I will appreciate it even more if you can get the kid's medical record and tell me whatever you can about her father," Harry said, hoping Kimberly was telling lies, even though like Tom, a part of him already believed that the kid was Tom's.

Someone like Kimberly Moore had no reason to accuse Tom falsely. And judging by all Tom had told him she said, she didn't sound like she needed him all that much either.

#### Chapter 610 Nosy Couple

"Are you certain this is what you want?" Harry asked Matt, who was seated across from him as they discussed his move from Golden Star to I-Global entertainment agency.

"Even if I didn't want to, it's the smartest move to make right now. I can trust I-Global to manage my career. Golden Star is down already. Majority of the shareholders have pulled out and Paul is a wreck," Matt said and Harry's lips twitched.

"Well, he should have known better than to come for the Hanks," Harry said, and Matt nodded in agreement.

"Serves him right if you ask me. I'm curious about something though. Will everyone signing with I-Global have to go through you? I thought Jeff was supposed to be in charge of the agency," Matt said and Harry nodded.

"Jeff is in charge. And after now I will have no reason to want to meet with the stars signing with the agency. For Bryan I met with him personally because I wanted to be sure Tom was making the right business move by bringing his brother in," Harry explained, and Matt arched a brow.

"And me? Why did you have to meet with me?" Matt asked, and Harry chuckled as he scratched the back of his ear.

"You must have heard that Candace is my twin sister, right?" Harry asked, and Matt nodded.

"Yeah. Small world. What has that got to do with my signing with I-Global?" Matt asked, and Harry smiled.

"I witnessed how much effort you put into helping her. I know you care about her and I appreciate it...."

"You don't need to thank me for that," Matt said gruffly.

"There is every need to thank you. I also want to ask you a question. I know this might sound personal...."

Matt seemed like a great guy, and seeing how much Matt had tried to help Candace and how upset he had been over Candace's lies, he had no doubt that Matt loved Candace.

"Don't. If it's personal, don't ask any questions," Matt cut in, and Harry held his gaze for a moment before letting out a sigh.

"Alright then. You can conclude the rest details with Jeff, and he will get back to me," Harry said, and Matt gave him a nod.

"I suppose he will show me the office?" Matt asked, and Harry shook his head.

"Although, we already chose an office space for the agency, Tom insisted we give it some time. He plans to purchase the Golden Star building and turn Paul's office into Bryan's restroom," Harry said with a grin, and Matt chuckled.

"Tom is really cool," Matt said as he rose, "Thanks for your time, Harry."

"You will attend the anniversary dinner party, I believe?" Harry said as he opened his drawer and took out an invite.

"Since you are a part of I-Global now, I think you should be there," Harry said as he extended it to Matt.

"Thanks for the invite," Matt said as he took it from him and headed for the door.

Harry sighed as he watched him leave, and silently hoped that Candace would be able to resolve her issues with him.

Matt seemed like a great guy, and seeing how much Matt had tried to help Candace and how upset he had been over Candace's lies, he had no doubt that Matt loved Candace.

Once Matt left the company, he drove over to Tom's mansion since he had promised to pay them a visit so he could see Sonia.

As he drove, he thought about last night with Gemima and how the sex which had once been great between them seemed so ordinary and unexciting now. Or perhaps boring was the word.

If he needed a sign to know he was still very much fucked up over Candace, then that had been it.

As much as he hated to admit it, Gemima had been unable to turn him on despite her kisses and touch. He had gotten himself hard by thinking about Candace. Their lovemaking and how hot she had looked at the club when she danced for him.

Even after managing to get an erection, he had been so distracted during the sex, thinking about his meeting with Candace that afternoon and how she had looked in those classy clothes.

Of course, Gemima had noticed his distraction and had to stop. He didn't ask her why she stopped, and neither did she say a word. He didn't apologize or give any explanation either.

Once she got off him, she had gone right into the bathroom to shower and when she returned to join him on the bed, she brought a bottle of wine and glasses for them, and spent the rest of the time telling him about her coming projects and sharing entertainment gossip until they slept.

Matt sighed as he stopped outside the gate and dialed Bryan's line to inform him he was outside as he waited to be identified by the security camera in Tom's gate.

Once the gate was opened, he drove in and was met by Bryan at the door, "Hey, man!" Bryan greeted.

"Matt darling," Sonia called excitedly as she tried to run past Bryan, but he held her back by the waist.

"Slow down, babe. Don't run," he said, and she rolled her eyes as Matt walked up to them.

"Congrats darling," Matt told Sonia as he swept her off her feet and gave her a smacking kiss on her lip before setting her down.

Sonia giggled as she embraced him, "Thank you," Sonia said as she linked her arm with his and they went inside.

"So, how have you been? By the way, Jade told me they ran into you guys yesterday," Sonia said, and Matt shook his head.

"Don't do that, Sony," Matt said, knowing she was trying to bring up Candace.

"Don't do what? I was only asking a harmless question," she said with an innocent smile, and Matt snorted.

"If I didn't know you, I would believe that. The house looks empty. Where are the senior Hanks?" Matt asked.

"They are hanging out with Lucy's parents. Evelyn gave the staff the day off. So, we are practically home alone since Jade is busy in her bedroom," Sonia said as they headed for the Den while Bryan went to the bar to get a bottle of wine and glasses.

"So, are you really done with her?" Sonia asked once they were seated, and Matt sighed.

"Done with who?" Matt asked, pretending not to know what she was talking about.

"Are you really going to pretend you do not know I'm talking about Candace? Are you over Candace? I learned you were kissing some model...."

"I didn't kiss her, she kissed me," Matt said defensively, and Sonia grinned.

"Really? Does that mean nothing is going on between you two? Bryan said you used to be involved with her," Sonia said and Matt scowled.

"You're so nosy, anyone ever told you that?" Matt asked, and she giggled.

"Yes, thanks. You still haven't answered my question," Sonia reminded him.

"You never give up, do you?" Matt asked, and she bobbed her head.

"No, I don't. I still think you both would be perfect together," Sonia said, but Matt said nothing.

"C'mon," Sonia said as she tickled Matt and he chuckled.

"If I didn't love you, I would be mad at you right now," Matt said, and Sonia smiled.

"Good thing you love me. Cause I love you too. So, tell me," she pleaded.

"Why? So, you can tell Candace whatever I say?" Matt asked and she shook her head.

"Trust me, Matt. I love Candace, but I'm on your side. I won't say a word to her if you ask me not to," Sonia promised.

"I wouldn't say a word to her if I were you," Bryan said as he joined them and Sonia glared at him.

"What do you mean by that?" Sonia asked, and Bryan shrugged.

"No offense, love, but I don't think you're very good with secrets. I can just imagine you telling Lucy, and Lucy telling Candace," Bryan said as he handed Matt a glass of wine.

"I will pretend you didn't say that. Why are there only two wineglasses?" Sonia asked, and Bryan looked at her incredulously.

"You shouldn't be taking wine in your state," Bryan stated, and she nodded.

"I see you are not ignorant. Still, don't you think you could have gotten me something nonalcoholic? Am I just supposed to swallow my saliva while I watch you both drink?" She asked, and Bryan sighed.

"I have just two hands, Sony. I will go get you something to drink now," he said as he left.

"So?" Sonia asked as she faced Matt who was sipping his wine.

"So, what Sony?" Matt asked wearily.

"About Candace...."

"Did Candace say something to make you believe she is interested in me? Why do you keep pushing this when you already know she is the one who rejected me?" Matt asked quietly.

"I know she has feelings for you...."

"Did she say so?" Matt asked, and Sonia shrugged.

"Be honest, Matt. Do you really think Candace isn't interested in you?" Sonia asked and he shook his head.

"She might be interested but she doesn't want a relationship with me. That much I know. She always comes up with a reason why she can't be with me. I can't force her to want me," Matt said with a sigh.

"Her pride would never let her admit it, but I know she wants you. Jade thinks so too. And Jade told me they had a sort of agreement that she would confess her feelings to you after they got Jero out of the way" Sonia said, and Matt raised a brow.

"They did?" He asked curiously.

"Yes. But according to her you showed up and told Candace you were moving on and wanted closure," Sonia said, and Matt frowned.

"Well, what is done is done," Matt said with a shrug as he looked into his wine.

"I guess you're still interested in her," Sonia said, and Matt chuckled.

"You're not going to get anything out of me, Sony. Quit wasting your time," Matt said as he playfully tugged her hair while she pouted.

"Candace is here," Bryan announced as he walked in with a glass of juice for Sonia.

"Really?" Sonia asked as she rose and took the juice from Bryan.

"Matt is being annoyingly tightlipped. You two can enjoy yourself while I catch up with Candace," Sonia said as she walked away, leaving them alone.

"Sonia is nosy, isn't she?" Bryan asked Matt with a grin as he picked up his wineglass and sat down.

"I'm glad you know that," Matt said with a chuckle.

"So, did you fuck her?" Bryan asked, and Matt scowled.

"Fucked who for Christ's sake? Can you and Sonia leave my business alone?" Matt muttered.

"Did you fuck Gemima? I hope you didn't?" Bryan asked, ignoring Matt's annoyance.

"You're just as nosy as Sonia. I did. Do you have a problem with that?" Matt asked with a slightly raised brow.

"So, you're getting back with her?" Bryan continued with a scowl, ignoring Matt's question.

"I don't think she would want to have sex with me ever again after last night. It was fucked up," Matt admitted.

"Want to talk about it?" Bryan asked, and Matt laughed dryly.

"Now you care about whether I want the conversation or not?"

Bryan grinned as he sipped from his wine, "I actually don't care. I was only being polite. I want to hear all about it," Bryan said, and Matt shook his head.

"I'm still stuck on Candace, okay? I can't seem to get her out of my fucking mind. Seeing her yesterday didn't help. You won't believe I had to summon thoughts of her to get an erection despite having Gem's lips on my cock. And I kept thinking about how she looked yesterday while Gem was fucking riding me," Matt admitted, and Bryan stuck his tongue in his cheek to keep from laughing.

"I swear I'm going to murder you if you laugh," Matt threatened and ignoring his warning Bryan broke into a fit of laughter.

"I'm sorry, man! Must have been a hell of a ride for Gemima. Tell me you didn't make the mistake of calling her Candace?" Bryan asked as he set down his glass.

Matt chuckled, "Why would I make such a mistake? They're nothing alike. Not that it would have mattered if I had done so anyway," Matt said with a sigh.

"Want to know what I think?" Bryan asked.

"Tell me, smart ass."

"I really think instead of avoiding her, you should face it head on. Maybe that way you can move on faster, that is if you really don't want to try to fix things," Bryan advised.

"What do you mean?" Matt asked with interest.

"Be friendly towards her. Instead of keeping yourself from calling her, call her. That way you won't miss her so much or have her in your head all the time. Soon enough you should be able to friendzone her, who knows?" Bryan said, and Matt sighed.

"I thought of doing that before, you know? I even went to see her at the hospital where she was nursing her baby daddy and offered her my friendship

"So, what changed?" Bryan asked, and Matt shook his head.

"I don't know. I guess every time I see her or interact with her I'm reminded of how good it would have been between us, and then I miss her even more," Matt said, and Bryan nodded.

"Avoiding her won't do it. And you can't even do so even if you wanted now. So, why not at least make your meetings friendly instead of awkward?" Bryan suggested.

"I know you are right. It's not like I have any choice, do I?" Matt asked, and Bryan shook his head.



"You don't."

"Is Jamal with her?" Matt asked when he remembered the kid.

"No, she's here alone," Bryan said, and Matt nodded.

"I should probably go see the kid today."