

Wild Night 641

Chapter 641 Sneaking Around

Later that night as Andy lay in bed after Mira and the housekeeper had gone to sleep, she sighed as she thought about all that had happened during the day.

After their encounter in his bedroom earlier that day, she had barely been able to spend a moment alone with him to talk.

He had left the house on a stroll with Maribel before she finished freshening up, and after they had returned some time later after she had breakfast, he had given her a sheet of paper and pen to write down what she wanted to say to Candace, and give it to him so he could send the text himself.

She had wanted to argue with him and fight over it, but she had been unable to do that. Not when Maribel had been looking up at her innocently while the housekeeper had been busy glaring at her.

She was very certain that Cassidy had done that deliberately. The calculating bastard had made sure he did that in the presence of his daughter and housekeeper because he knew she wouldn't want to fight with him in front of them.

After she wrote down the text, Cassidy had disappeared, and the housekeeper had left to get some groceries. leaving her to spend the rest of the day getting to know the little girl.

She couldn't help wondering if Candace had received her text since she was yet to see Cassidy to ask him.

Although Cassidy had assured her that Candace would get the text, she wasn't sure she entirely trusted him.

She sighed as her thoughts drifted to Candace and she sat up in her bed.

How was Candace doing? How was her little Jam doing? Was Jero truly dead as Cassidy had said? Had the case been resolved now? Was Candace now dating Matt? Andy mused with a smile.

She knew for a fact that Candace liked Matt a lot, and she thought it would be a shame if Candace didn't give the guy a chance simply because he was a celebrity.

She hoped they were dating. She liked Matt. The dude was attractive, had a good sense of humor, and was wealthy. And most importantly, he seemed to like Candace a lot. It would be Candace's loss if she let go of someone like that.

She really hoped Candace was happy and having fun with Matt, and not having a hard time. That was what she wanted for Candace.

She paused when she heard footsteps down the hall and soon Cassidy's bedroom door opened and he closed as he walked in.

So, he was back from wherever he had disappeared to all day, she thought with a scowl. Must be nice to be the man of the house, going and coming as he pleased she thought dryly.

The man was a mystery to her, and even though she didn't care about him and neither was she curious to know him beyond all she already knew, she couldn't help it.

In order to plan her escape, she needed to get to know her captor. She needed to befriend him. Seduce him if need be, to let down his guard so she could be able to run away.

Although she wasn't in cuffs, tied to a chain, or locked up in a room, but her situation wasn't far different from one whose hands were tied.

What was the point of being able to move around easily if she was stranded? They were on an island and even if she managed to sneak out of the house, there was no ship to take her out of the island.

She wasn't certain yet what the relationship was between Cassidy and the other residents of the Island, else she would have gone out to inform them she had been kidnapped and asked for their help to escape, but she couldn't risk it. At least not yet.

It would take some time, but she was going to have to befriend both Alex and most of the people on the Island.

That was the only way she would know how to leave. Perhaps a ship came by to drop grocery and supplies for them from time to time. Or maybe they had a special way of transportation out of the island.

Whatever it was, she was going to find out.

Her gaze shifted to the interconnected door when she heard movements inside Cassidy's bedroom, and she paused to listen.

A moment later she heard his bedroom door open and close gently and she got out of bed.

Where was he going to at this time of the night when he had only just returned a moment ago? She mused as she got out of bed.

She was going to have to follow him discreetly and find out what he was up to.

Thankfully she was still dressed in the tshirt and jeans she had been wearing all day, so she tried to be as noiseless as possible as she unlocked her bedroom door and tiptoed to the living room.

Because most of the lights in the house had been switched off save for the light in the hallway, Andy was able to make her way into the living room, and once she got there, she headed for the door, naturally assuming that Cassidy had gone out.

Cassidy who was seated in the dark sipping from a glass of whiskey watched silently as she made her way towards the door, and before she could reach for the knob, he raised a brow.

"Trying to run away?" He asked, startling Andy who spun around in surprise.

Instead of looking like a thief who had been caught in the act or admitting she had only been trying to follow him, Andy raised her chin as she met his gaze.

"What if I am?" She challenged, but Cassidy said nothing as he merely remained where he sat watching her over the rim of his whiskey glass.

When she didn't get a response, she stepped towards to him, "Were you keeping watch over the door because you thought I was going to try to escape?" She asked suspiciously.

Cassidy sighed as he set his glass down and massaged his temple, "Sneaking around doesn't suit you. Can you please sit down?" He asked calmly, and Andy being the reasonable person she was, and seeing no reason to argue over it sat down.

"Did you get my message to my sister? Did she send a response?" Andy asked as she tried to squint so she could get a better view of his face.

"She received the text, but she can't text back," Cassidy said, and Andy rose to lash out at him angrily, but he raised a finger to stop her.

"We don't always have to fight or argue. If you want an explanation, you will get one. But don't yell and just listen first," he said and even though Andy was itching to speak she sat still and waited for him.

"The text was sent in a way that the number can never be traced back. I can't be sure that her phone is safe. Someone could be monitoring her phone to see if she would hear from you or anything. I can't be entirely sure that they bought the yacht's explosion and believe I'm dead," Cassidy said, and Andy raised a brow.

"If everything went as you planned and they've all been arrested, what are you scared of? They're all locked up..."

"Their families were not arrested. The cartel lords might have been arrested but some of their sons could want to look deeper into my involvement and death. I'm trying to be sure it's safe. I need it all to die down and for them to forget about me," Cassidy explained, and Andy shook her head in confusion.

"I don't understand. Why did you choose to get involved in all of this if you were going to betray them anyway? If you're going to always have to live this way you should have just remained there since you're just like them..."

"I'm nothing like them. I'd rather live this way than be a part of them," Cassidy spat out bitterly and Andy's brows pulled together in confusion.

"Well, when can I speak with my sister then? I have to talk to her," Andy said instead of asking why he had sounded so bitter.

"I will let you know when I believe it's safe," Cassidy said and Andy shook her head.

"So, how am I supposed to know she is fine? I need to know how they are doing!" Andy insisted and Cassidy picked up his glass and drank from it.

"You might end up jeopardizing their safety if you keep contacting her. Your sister and nephew are safe at the moment. They are currently in Ludus, living with Harry Jonas, the lawyer's boyfriend..."

"Why would she be living with the Lawyer's boyfriend? And how do you know that? Andy asked in confusion.

"I don't know the exact details yet, but she looks like she is doing okay," Cassidy said as he rose and Andy watched, wondering why he was leaving.

He walked down the hallway and went into his bedroom and just when she thought their conversation was over and he had left, he returned to the living room holding an envelope.

He turned on the light in the living room, "I was going to give this to you in the morning," he said dropping the envelope on her lap as he returned to his seat.

Andy opened the envelope and took out the pictures inside. She blinked back tears when she saw several pictures of Candace at different times.

"I thought you would be worried and want to know how she was doing so I asked my men to keep an eye on her. I couldn't get across to them or access their messages until we arrived. From what I gathered, she returned to Ludus with the lawyer lady after Jero's death. She doesn't move around much, so it took some time for them to find out where she was, but by following the movements of the lawyer lady and her boyfriend they were able to locate her," Cassidy explained as Andy pored over the pictures.

There were a couple of photos of Candace. She was walking into I-Global company with Harry, and another of her and Jade walking into a boutique and coming out with Candace dressed in her new classy clothes.

"She looks so beautiful. The clothes look so good on her," Andy murmured to herself as she brushed her tears from her cheeks.

And then there was another picture of Candace seated in Harry's car and crying when she received Andy's text.

"This was sent earlier today. I believe it was around the time she got your text," Cassidy said when he noticed she was staring at that particular picture.

"I don't think you have to worry much about her. My men observed that she was being followed. It seems they're still trying to protect her," Cassidy said, but Andy said nothing.

Andy smiled when she saw a picture of someone getting into the car and she didn't need to take a closer look to know it was Matt. The fact that he was covering his face like a celebrity made her certain he was the one

Did this mean that things was going smoothly between them as she hoped? Andy mused with a smile.

She picked up the last picture, and her smile widened when she saw a picture of Candace walking down the red carpet in the company of Harry and the others.

"She looks like she was made for the red carpet," Andy whispered softly, while Cassidy watched her with interest.

"That was captured earlier tonight, at the anniversary dinner party of I-Global," Cassidy explained and Andy looked up at him.

"Who are these people?" Andy asked as she looked down at Tom, Lucy, and the others who she didn't recognize.

The only people she recognized there was Jade, who she knew personally as their lawyer. Seeing how Harry was holding Jade and Candace, she suspected Harry was Jade's boyfriend who she had heard about but had never seen. She also recognized Bryan who she knew was an actor and Matt's

best friend, and Sonia who she recognized as a result of their engagement scandal . She had met them before after all when her and Candace had given the couple a lap dance in the past.

Cassidy pointed out the others to her and explained who each of them was based on the information he had received.

"So, they're all a family then," Andy said upon hearing about Tom's, Bryan's, and Jade's relationship as well as how Harry was Tom's best friend and Jade's boyfriend, and how Sonia and Lucy were best friends dating the two brothers.

"Yes. Thomas and Harry co-own I-Global," Cassidy added, and Andy nodded.

"Why are there no photos of Jamal?" Andy asked, and he shook his head.

"They haven't been able to get one. When they do, you will get it," Cassidy promised her.

Andy sighed, "I guess they are surrounded by people who can take care of them," Andy said, thinking she could at least worry less about Candace and Jamal now.

As long as they were fine and she was sure they knew she was okay too, then she could endure being away from them for a while.

"Yes. That is why I think you shouldn't worry too much. Please be patient," Cassidy said and Andy held his gaze for a moment.

"Why does everyone around here call you Alex?" She asked, changing the subject abruptly.

"Because that is my name. Cassidy is my birth name but I changed my name to Alex after I left home for college. I didn't want to be associated with my father or his business," Cassidy said simply and rose before she could ask him any other questions.

"Why?" Andy asked regardless.

"I don't think we can get into that tonight. You should get some sleep," Cassidy said as he turned off the light, letting her know he was done talking.

Andy looked down at the photos on her lap and gathered them together and put them in the envelope as she rose.

Neither of them said a word as they walked down the passageway to their bedrooms, and once she got to her bedroom door she paused to look at him as he continued down to his, "Cas?" She called, and he turned to look at her.

"Thanks for these," she said, raising the envelope, and he gave her a nod.

As she turned to walk into her bedroom he stopped her, "Andy?"

She turned to look at him once again, "You don't have to try to escape or do anything to endanger yourself. When I'm certain everything is settled, I will let you go if you still want to," he promised before walking away.

Andy sighed as she walked into her bedroom and shut the door behind her. What did he mean if she still wanted to? Why wouldn't she want to get away from this place?

One Wild Night

Chapter 642 This Isn't Happening!

Alone on his bed, Tom couldn't sleep despite the fact that the time was almost three in the morning. Perhaps it was because he had slept for hours during the day when Lucy was with him.

After dropping Lucy and Jeff off at their apartments at past 12 A.M. earlier after they all left party, he had wanted to stay back with Lucy to wait until her parents got back from Harry's, but Lucy had insisted he go home to get some rest while she busied herself with rearranging her closet and drawers until her parents' got back.

Because of Aaron's health they had thought leaving him alone with Jamal wasn't ideal, so both Tom's parents and Lucy's parents had spent the time with them pending when Harry and Candace would get back from the party.

The moment he got to his house, he had freshened up and busied with arranging the stuff he would move to Lucy's place.

The whole situation was amusing to him. The truth was he still had no idea what he and Lucy were doing or how to understand their relationship, but one thing he had resolved in his heart to do since he got back from his trip, was to go with Lucy's flow.

Every relationship was peculiar in its way and what he had with Lucy was even more so. He loved her. He knew she loved him. And even though he wanted more, and she didn't, their love had to be enough.

One thing he knew was that he'd rather have what they had now, than not have her in his life at all. She was his person. His soulmate. She made him happy and that was all that mattered.

Having her with him tonight as his partner had made one thing clear to him. Even though they were not married, everyone had recognized her as his partner, and she had acted accordingly too whether or not she realized she had been acting like his wife by conversing with his guests and acting as the hostess.

Although she had asked that they don't talk about Dawn until the weekend was over and they got the DNA paternity result on Monday, he couldn't help wondering how she would take it if it truly came out positive.

Thinking about Dawn, Tom sighed as he picked up his phone to take a look at her pictures. What would he do about the kid if she turned out to be his?

He needed to speak with his parents about all of this since they were leaving the next day. He would need them to hear it from him directly before leaving and to hear what they also had to say about it.

Without giving much thought to the fact that the time was just past 3 A.M., he rose from the bed and walked out of his bedroom.

He knew they were back from Harry's since he had heard their voices down the hall when they came in.

Once he got to their bedroom he knocked on the door, rousing them both from sleep.

His parents exchanged a look when they woke up and heard the knock again, "Am I dreaming? I thought all our kids were grown up?" Desmond asked when he glanced at the open window and saw it was not morning yet.

"Hold on," Evelyn called out to Tom as she got out of bed and adjusted her sleeping robe while Desmond turned on the light and glanced at the bedside clock.

He scowled when he saw that the time was 3:29 A.M. and they've been sleeping for only two hours yet were being disturbed. He walked into the bathroom to splash water on his face.

"Tom?" Evelyn asked in surprise when she opened the door and saw it was her eldest son knocking.

Tom never woke them up in the middle of the night. Not even when he had been a kid.

"Sorry to disturb your sleep. Can I speak with you?" Tom asked apologetically.

"Did someone have a nightmare? Need to join daddy and mommy in bed?" Desmond drawled sarcastically as he approached the door, and paused when he saw Tom.

"Tom?" Desmond asked, looking as surprised as Evelyn had been to see him.

"You want to speak with me?" Evelyn asked, and Tom shook his head.

"The both of you. I thought I might not be able to have some time alone with you if I wait till morning," Tom said, and his parents exchanged a look.

"Want to come inside?" Desmond asked, and Tom gave him a nod, and they stepped outside to let him in.

After they were all seated on the bed, Tom looked at them apologetically again, "I'm sorry for disturbing your sleep," he said, and they both waved it off dismissively.

"You wouldn't wake us up if it wasn't important. What is wrong? Did something happen?" Desmond asked with concern.

"Sort of. I think I might have a daughter," Tom said, and both his parents looked at him.

"Is Lucy pregnant?" Evelyn asked in confusion.

"No, mom! This isn't about Lucy. I met someone I've been with in the past, during my trip. And she told me we have a daughter together," Tom explained without meeting both their gaze.

Despite the fact that he was an adult perfectly capable of making his own decisions, he felt somewhat embarrassed to tell his parents he had made such a mistake that even Bryan who was the family playboy had not made.

Neither Evelyn nor Desmond said a word as they exchanged a look, each trying to process the information.

"How do you know she is telling the truth? Anyone could make up stories just to get money from you. I mean you're a very successful..."

"I don't think it's about money, mom," Tom cut in, and explained the situation to them in detail, and who Kimberly was.

"You mean she let you take the DNA samples yourself?" Desmond asked, and Tom nodded.

"And you say the kid looks like you? You believe she might be yours?" Evelyn asked, and Tom gave her a nod.

"Oh, lord! This isn't happening!" Evelyn murmured as she pressed both hands to the sides of her head.

"I know I've always said I wanted a grandkid, but not this way. This is wrong for everyone," Evelyn complained.

"Don't say that, Eve. You're not helping," Desmond chided as he patted her back.

"But it's the truth. It's going to affect everyone..."

"And who is the everyone?" Desmond cut in.

"Tom and Lucy's relationship. The kid's life will be affected too. Our relationship with Lucy's parents will be affected if things don't work out between Tom and Lucy..."

"I love Lucy and her family, but this is about Tom and the little girl..."

"Lucy is like our daughter-in-law..."

"Being LIKE is not the same as being it. She is not Tom's wife. She doesn't even want to be. Tom can make whatever decision that works best for him and the little girl. We don't have to make this about Lucy," Desmond cut in.

"Lucy matters to me, dad. Wife or not, she is an important part of my life and this is about her as well," Tom said, not liking how his father had dismissed Lucy.

"I know that. And I understand it. I'm only saying the kid is important and I don't like your mother complaining about how the kid's presence might affect everything else. How do you think the child would feel if she knew her supposed grandmother thought her existence was a complication?" Desmond asked, and Evelyn frowned.

"That wasn't what I meant. Besides I rightly said the kid's life will be affected too," Evelyn said defensively.

Desmond sighed as he thought about the entire situation, "When will the result be out? Do you need us to cancel our flight? We can be around until it has been resolved," Desmond offered and Tom shook his head.

"No. You don't have to stay..."

"That's nonsense! We will stay back until the result is out. It's not like there is anything urgent we are hurrying back to attend to. We will stay," Evelyn declared.

Despite their best intentions, Tom wanted them to leave so he could have time to be alone with Lucy, "No, mom. I'd rather you go home as planned. It's not like your presence would change the result of the test. I decided to tell you about it now so I do not have to explain it all over the phone if the test result comes back positive," Tom said calmly and Desmond nodded in understanding.

"Sure. You can let us know the result when it's out and we will figure out where to go from there," Desmond said, but Evelyn wasn't in agreement.

"What's there to figure out later? I think it's best we make the decisions now. If the child turns out to be yours, what do you plan to do?" Evelyn asked, and Desmond frowned.

"What else can he do other than be a father to his child?" Desmond asked matter of factly.

"I believe you don't have plans of pursuing a relationship with the child's mother. Do you?" Evelyn asked, ignoring her husband.

"She is already the mother of his child..."

"I want an answer from Tom, not you," Evelyn snapped at her husband, and he shook his head in exasperation. Evelyn was

"Other than being the mother of my child if it turns out true? Of course, I don't. Lucy is the only woman I plan to spend my life with," Tom said, and both his parents nodded.

"Then it's simple. If the result comes back positive, we will come back and you will invite the child and her mother down to Ludus so we can see them. We will have to discuss with her and agree on you raising the child..."

"Evelyn! You can't possibly take the child away from her mother," Desmond cut in.

"I'm not saying it's going to be a fight for custody or anything. We will all talk about it reasonably. The child would be Tom's child too, and she has spent three years with her mother already. The child needs to know her father and his family," Evelyn said reasonably.

"And if she doesn't agree to being separated from her kid?" Desmond asked with a raised brow.

"Why wouldn't she? I don't think she would mind Tom being involved in the child's life. I believe she tried to find Tom because she didn't want to raise the child alone. It's not like she expects him to relocate to her country because of the child or that she expects him to marry her for the child's sake. If she wants Tom to be involved in raising the child then she would have to let the child live with Tom. At least for some time," Evelyn said, and Tom sighed.

"Maybe we are thinking too far ahead," Tom said as he massaged his temple.

"It doesn't hurt to think far ahead. That way you won't be clueless when it's time to take a stand and make a decision. When the result comes, you can discuss all of this with Lucy. I believe she would want to be part of the decision making since she is also a part of your life," Evelyn said, and Tom sighed once again.

"You haven't told Lucy about it yet, have you?" Evelyn asked with a concerned frown.

"I have," Tom said, surprising both his parents.

"You did? When? How did she take the news?" Evelyn asked, and Tom shrugged.

"She has been supportive. She even followed me to the lab to drop the samples," Tom said, not seeing any need to tell them Lucy had fled from his office the moment he told her about the kid.

"That's good then. Don't worry, son. It's not the end of the world. This might turn out to be a blessing in disguise," Desmond said as he reached out to tap Tom's shoulder.

"Your father is right. Don't let it bother you too much. I'm sure we will find a way to make it work if she turns out to be your daughter," Evelyn promised as she reached for his hand and squeezed it gently.

"I'm serious about you going back as planned," Tom reminded his mother and she nodded.

"Alright. But you have to let us know whatever you decide. And we have to be here when you invite them over," Evelyn said, and Tom gave her a nod.

"Sure. I will. You can't tell Janet or Andrew..."

"Of course not. It's not our place to do so," Evelyn cut in.

"You don't even have to ask," Desmond said at the same time.

Tom gave them a nod, "Thanks for hearing me out. And once again I'm sorry I disturbed your sleep," Tom said as he rose to leave.

"You're our son. It's your right to disturb our sleep," Evelyn assured him.

"I don't know about that," Desmond said, and Tom chuckled while Evelyn slapped his arm playfully.

"I will leave you both to get some rest while I try to do the same," Tom said as he headed for the door.

Once he shut the door behind him, Evelyn and Desmond sighed, "He looks very worried. I doubt he's going back to bed," Evelyn said with a frown.

"Anyone in his position would be worried. You could have handled it better," Desmond said, and Evelyn shook her head.

"It's your job to handle things better, remember? It's my job to react normally and balance things," Evelyn said as she snuggled closer to Desmond and rested her head on his shoulder.

"What are we going to do?" Evelyn asked with a sigh.

"Nothing. It's not for us to do anything. Tom has to handle this alone. With Lucy by his side hopefully," Desmond said, wondering if Lucy would be okay with raising the kid if Evelyn's suggestion worked and the child came to live with Tom.

Evelyn drew back to look at him with a frown, "But we can't just not do anything. We are his parents..."

"Tom is thirty. He's not a kid. He can handle this himself. I'm certain all he needs is the result and then he will figure out what he wants. Let's go back to bed," Desmond suggested.

"I can't understand how you are always so calm..."

"I know we did a good job raising the kids, Eve. So, I trust them. They won't fold over such little inconveniences. Tom won't be the first young man to find out he is a father out of the blue," Desmond said confidently.

"But the situation with Lucy..."

"That is also for them both to resolve not for us to lose sleep over. We have a flight to catch in a couple of hours. I'm going back to sleep. You can stay up and worry all you want or you can join me," Desmond said as he reached for the switch and turned off the light.

Chapter 643 How Do You Know Their Names?

The Hank family gathered together for breakfast later than usual that morning before Evelyn and Desmond would prepare to leave for the airport, since they had all had a late night.

It didn't take long for Jade and Bryan to observe that something was wrong since both Tom and their parents were unusually quiet as they ate.

"Did we miss something? It seems like something happened when we weren't looking," Jade said to Bryan and Sonia.

"Is everything alright?" Bryan asked his parents and Desmond smiled.

"Sure. We are going to miss you kids," Desmond said, and Evelyn nodded in agreement.

"And you, Tommy? Are you alright?" Jade asked, looking at Tom with interest.

"I miss Lucy," Tom said, and Jade rolled her eyes, while Sonia smiled.

"I trust she will be back now that you're back from your trip. I guess she will come back after her parents leave," Bryan said, and Tom shrugged without saying anything.

"I seem to be the only person whose partner isn't living under this roof. Perhaps I should ask Harry to move in too?" Jade asked, and this time even her parents and Tom laughed.

"By the way, Sony, how did the house hunting go yesterday? Did you find any place of interest?" Evelyn asked since she had not seen him since they left for the house hunting.

"We did. I can see why Tom is so successful. He employs only the best. The I-Global realtor who took us around seemed to know just what we wanted," Bryan said with satisfaction.

"You won't believe Bryan handled the paper works and paid for the house yesterday," Sonia said, her eyes shining with excitement at the prospect of buying their home.

Jade exchanged a look with Bryan, knowing that statement meant he was going on with his plan to engage Sonia in their new home.

"It was an eye opening experience. You won't believe Sonia wanted to pay half the money for the place," Bryan said, and Jade raised a brow as she looked at Sonia.

"Why would you want to spend a dime? Your boyfriend is wealthy. I would suck him dry if I were you," Jade said, and Sonia giggled.

"I can't wait to see how you suck Harry dry," Bryan said and Jade stuck out her tongue.

"I intend to do just that..."

"I guess I will have to let him know," Tom cut in, and Jade rolled her eyes.

"He knows and he loves me just the same. Nothing you say can change his mind. You will only end up making him fall harder in love," Jade said with a smug smile and her parents laughed.

"Must feel good to be so confident," Tom muttered.

"How did the party go last night? Did any interesting thing happen? Sonia, please tell me. I trust your storytelling skills," Evelyn said, and Sonia shrugged.

"Well, it was going well until Matt showed up with some girl, and they both sat on the same table with us and Candace," Sonia said with a scowl.

"It was awkward. Candace kept glaring at her," Jade said with a giggle.

"Awkward? That's an understatement," Sonia said with a snort and Evelyn laughed.

"So, what happened? Any cat fight?" Desmond asked with interest, and they all laughed as Sonia and Jade told them about the meeting in the ladies' room and how Gemima had busted them.

"I guess you all had a nice time then," Evelyn said with a small smile when they were done talking about the party.

"Yeah. And today we are going to continue. We are going clubbing. Just us girls," Jade said, and Evelyn turned to Sonia.

"You are not taking alcohol..."

"She won't. I'm going to be there to look after her and my little Nibbling, don't worry," Jade said, and Evelyn nodded.

"I thought I was the one meant to look after you alcoholics?" Sonia asked dryly, and Jade giggled.

"Eve, we need to go get ready to leave for the airport," Desmond said as he glanced at his wristwatch and pushed away from the table.

After their parents left, Tom left as well, leaving Sonia, Bryan and Jade on the table.

Sonia picked up her phone when it rang and smiled when she saw it was Lucy, "Hey, baby!" Sonia greeted cheerfully as she rose and excused herself.

Immediately she left, Jade leaned closer to Bryan, "So, we are going ahead with your original plan?" Jade asked, and Bryan nodded.

"Yes. Perhaps if you have time later in the day I can take you over there to show you the place and then you can figure out what to do," Bryan suggested and Jade glanced at her wristwatch.

It was past ten in the morning, "Is there a way we can do that without Sonia being suspicious or wanting to come with us?" Jade asked, and Bryan shrugged.

"Even if she does go with us, she doesn't need to know the reason I took you there. Nothing wrong in flaunting my house to my sister, is there?" Bryan asked, and they both pulled away when they heard Sonia coming back.

"Babe, I'm sorry. But can we cancel our appointment with the interior decorators? I need to go over to Lucy's," Sonia said as she joined them and the siblings exchanged an amused look.

"Sure, we can. Is everything alright with Lucy?" Bryan asked, and she nodded.

"Yeah. It's been a while we spent some time together alone. And since it's weekend and she isn't so busy we figured we chill together before hanging out with the others later," Sonia said as though it wasn't a big deal even though she could tell that whatever Lucy wanted to discuss with her was very important.

"Don't worry, we don't have to cancel. I can meet with them myself if you tell me what you want..."

"But I will like to be there when the decisions are made," she cut in with a frown.

"We will just be discussing the ideas today. No major decision making. Whatever we discuss I will let you know and we can meet with them again on Monday," Bryan said as he took her hand and kissed her palm.

"Alright," Sonia said reluctantly. Lucy came before any other thing. She could let Bryan handle it today and on Monday she would tell them exactly what she wanted.

"Why don't I come with you? I will like to see the place. And since Sonia won't be with you, my feminine opinion might come in handy," Jade asked hopefully and Sonia smiled.

"That's right! Great! Jade will go with you, babe. And I can just meet with them on Monday," Sonia said with a smile and Jade grinned at Bryan.

"Alright, then. It's settled. We will drop you off at Lucy's on our way," Bryan said, and Sonia kissed his cheek happily.

"Great. Thanks baby. I should go get ready to leave then," Sonia said and then turned to Jade.

"I might not be back before the time for our outing, so Lucy and I will join you girls when it's time," Sonia told Jade.

"That's fine. I have to see Harry anyway. I will pick up Candace while I'm there and we can all meet at the club," Jade suggested, and Sonia flashed the siblings a smile.

"Great. I'll be upstairs getting ready," Sonia said before walking away.

The moment she disappeared from view they both laughed, "This makes the whole thing easier. Everything seems to be going your way," Jade said, and Bryan grinned.

"Must be a sign that I'm doing the right thing," he said as he pushed away from the table and rose.

"I should go get ready to drop her off at Lucy's. You should too," Bryan said before walking away.

Less than two hours later, Sonia stood outside Lucy's apartment and rang the doorbell, and a moment later Lucy opened the door.

"What did you want to talk about," Sonia asked as she walked inside and Lucy rolled her eyes.

"Really? You're not even going to sit first?" Lucy asked in amusement.

"What difference does it make whether I sit or not? By the way, Tom misses your presence in the house. You both seemed fine yesterday. I take it his trip helped smoothen things out?" Sonia asked as she went to the refrigerator to find something to munch on and Lucy shook her head as she sat down on the couch, waiting for Sonia to settle down.

"Why aren't you saying anything?" Sonia asked as she sat down opposite Lucy and opened the Maltesers chocolate she had taken from the refrigerator.

"Because I'm about to have a serious conversation with you, and I can't do that if you're not settled," Lucy said and Sonia frowned.

"You're making me worried. What's this about?" Sonia asked, and Lucy picked up her phone and after unlocking it she handed it to Sonia.

"What am I supposed to do with your phone? Aww!" Sonia said with a wide smile when her eyes fell on the picture of the cute little girl dressed in matching outfit with her mother on the screen.

"Kimberly and her daughter Dawn..."

"How do you know their names?" Lucy asked in surprise when Sonia mentioned their names, and Sonia bobbed her head.

"Yeah. She recently followed me on Instagram even though I've been following her for years..."

"How long have you been following her?" Lucy asked curiously and Sonia shrugged.

"Long before she even had her daughter Dawn. Dawn is such a sweet little princess. I hope I have a little girl. Would love to dress up this way with her too," Sonia said with a wide smile and then after a moment of admiring them she paused and frowned when she noticed that Lucy was silent.

"Why are you showing me their pictures anyway? Does it suddenly make you feel maternal?" Sonia asked with a teasing smile as she looked up at Lucy.

"That's the lady who was with Tom in the club picture which Cora showed me," Lucy explained.

"Oh! Really? Why are you checking her out? Didn't you say that was resolved already since she was related to the person Tom was meeting?" Sonia asked as she looked at the picture again.

"Scroll to the next picture," Lucy said, and Sonia did as she was told to a selfie photo of the little girl alone.

"Take a closer look at the kid," Lucy suggested before Sonia could speak, and Sonia's eyes narrowed as she zoomed in on the picture.

"I told you I've seen the kid's picture since she was born. I know what she looks like. What do you need me to see?" Sonia asked as she looked up from the picture.

"Doesn't the kid bring anyone you know to mind?" Lucy asked, and Sonia frowned.

"What's going on, Lu? What's this about?" Sonia asked as she met Lucy's gaze.

"Doesn't she remind you of Tom? The eyes? That smile?" Lucy asked, and Sonia shook her head in exasperation.

"Don't tell me you allowed that girl get into your head and now you think Tom has a family somewhere. The kid might look a bit like Tom but that doesn't mean anything. People have doppelgängers all the time, and she is not even close to being Tom's doppelgänger. Resemblances like this happen randomly between strangers," Sonia said dismissively.

"And the fact that Kimberly was at the club?" Lucy asked, wanting to get a rise out of Sonia.

"I believe it's just coincidence that she met Tom at the club. Tom isn't hiding anything from you," Sonia said with a frown.

Lucy resisted the urge to smile at Sonia's heartfelt defense of Tom, "Why are you so sure he isn't hiding anything?" Lucy asked, wanting to see how far Sonia would defend him.

Sonia dropped the chocolate and rose up eyeing Lucy angrily, "Because he is TOM! How can you even ask me that? That guy is crazy about you and he wouldn't do anything to hurt you or jeopardize your relationship. It's crazy that you're even questioning his integrity right now! I find it

annoying on his behalf! Listen to me, if you're doing this because you're looking for an excuse to break up or..."

Sonia stopped talking abruptly when Lucy began to giggle, "What's funny?" She asked with a frown.

Lucy shook her head as she kept laughing, "It's you. You're funny," Lucy said, laughing out loud.

Sonia remained where she stood, watching Lucy as she waited for her to stop laughing and explain what she meant, "When you're done tittering, I hope to know what you find amusing," Sonia said, and Lucy sighed as she looked at her.

"Why are you so quick to defend Tom when I'm your best friend?" Lucy asked, and Sonia frowned.

"It is because I'm your best friend, that I am defending him. You've changed so much for the better and become happier since he came into your life. Tom is good for you, and I know it. So, I won't let you ruin it because some stupid girl at work showed you a stupid picture which you were stupid enough to let get into your head," Sonia said, and Lucy nodded.

"I'm glad you think so highly over my boyfriend. Now, sit down, Sony. You shouldn't get so worked up. It's not good for our baby," Lucy said, and Sonia scowled as she went to sit down beside Lucy on the twin sofa.

"Lu, I'm being serious right now. I think..."

"I know you're serious. I am too. So, keep shut and listen," Lucy said, cutting Sonia off.

"Kimberly showed up at the club to inform Tom about the kid. According to her, the kid is his," Lucy said, and Sonia frowned.

"I'm not sure I understand what you mean," Sonia said with a frown.

"Tom had a fling with Kimberly once. She claims the kid is his..."

"Tom told you that?" Sonia cut in.

"Yes, he did. And I chatted with Kimberly myself," Lucy explained and Sonia sighed as she let her head rest on the headrest of the couch.

"You could have just said so earlier," Sonia said with a slight frown.

"And miss your theatrics?" Lucy asked with a small smile.

"How is Tom taking it?" Sonia asked, and Lucy shrugged.

"We submitted DNA samples at the lab for paternity test already. We are awaiting the result on Monday. He said a part of him hopes she is his, and the other part of him hope she isn't," Lucy explained, and Sonia nodded.

"That makes sense. What about you, then? How do you feel?" Sonia asked, and Lucy took a deep breath.

"That's what I wanted to talk to you about."

Chapter 644 Jealous Of Kimberly

If there was one thing being with Tom as his partner at the party had shown Lucy the previous night, it was the fact that despite being with Tom all this while and even working closely with him in the office and attending meetings with him, she was still mostly thinking of him as just Tom.

The ordinary guy she had met at the club, and the ordinary guy who had done everything he could to win her heart. The ordinary guy who had left his mansion to live in a little apartment next to hers, and the guy who had left his spacious office to serve as her driver.

Tom was more than that, and seeing him in his element last night in the midst of all those influential people, had told her Tom was a big shot.

A big shot who had become an ordinary guy for her sake just so he could win her heart. A big shot who would have preferred to remain hidden away from the spotlight but had exposed himself for her sake. All because he wanted to protect her.

Now she realized that she too felt possessive towards him, and wanted to protect him from everything that would make him unhappy.

Lucy had thought long and hard about Tom and the situation with Kimberly and Dawn before going to bed last night, and that had been the first thought on her mind when she woke up. What she wanted now was for Sonia to be her sounding board and to let her know if she was going crazy or if she was in her right mind.

"Go on, I'm listening," Sonia urged Lucy as they turned on the couch to face each other.

"This changes everything, you know? I mean, the possibility of Tom being a father now..."

"Lucy..."

Lucy shook her head when Sonia interrupted, "Hear me out first," Lucy said, and Sonia sighed and gave her a nod.

"At first when Tom told me about it, all I could think about was how this would affect me and our relationship. I even ran away from him, but then thanks to Harry I had to think about how it would affect Tom too. This will indeed change everything whether or not we want to admit it," Lucy said, and Sonia nodded without saying a word.

"I love Tom, Sony," Lucy said and Sonia smiled.

"I know you do."

"I've only come to realize just how much I love him in the last couple of days of his absence. And even now I'm still thinking about how wonderful he is. Tom is a great guy and he deserves all the happiness he can get..."

"Why does that sound like you're about to say you want to break up and let him go?" Sonia asked with a frown, and Lucy laughed softly.

"I never want to let him go, Sony. I don't want to lose him. Not for any reason if I can help it. I don't think Tom is someone I can afford to live without right now," Lucy assured Sonia, and she relaxed.

"That's good then. But you still haven't told me how you feel about this," Sonia said, and Lucy nodded.

"I know this is going to sound weird, but I actually feel sort of jealous of Kimberly," Lucy said, and Sonia's eyes widened in disbelief.

"Jealous? Why? Why would you feel jealous of her? When Tom is yours and not hers," Sonia said matter of factly.

"She met Tom first. She was with him first. And from all indications she possibly has Tom's child," Lucy stated quietly.

"So, what? Men have baby mamas all the time, that doesn't mean they all marry their baby mamas. Tom is madly in love with you. You should have seen how lonely he looked during breakfast. And he said it's because he misses you. I know Tom isn't going to want to be with her..."

"That's not what I'm saying. A part of me just wishes that I was the one who had his child not her or anyone else," Lucy said without meeting Sonia's gaze, and Sonia's jaw dropped in surprise. She hadn't been expecting that.

"What? But you don't even want kids," Sonia reminded her.

"I know. I know it sounds absurd, but that's just how I feel. I know it's silly and the deed has probably been done already, but I don't want anyone else having that sort of connection with Tom. When I first saw the kid's picture I was drawn to her. You know, it was like some sort of magnetic pull. I thought I was just being curious about her because she sort of reminds me of Tom. But then the more pictures I saw, the more I wanted to see. And then before going to bed last night I was looking at the kid's pictures and out of nowhere a thought occurred to me. It was like I was wishing she was mine," Lucy said, and tears gathered in Sonia's eyes.

"Oh, Lu," Sonia murmured softly, and Lucy shook her head.

"I know. I know I'm being weird. I feel weird too," Lucy said, and Sonia took her hands.

"I don't think it's weird. I think it's just so beautiful that you love Tom so much that you've naturally opened your heart to the kid even if you're not certain she is his yet," Sonia said, and Lucy sighed.

"Maybe. But I have a deep feeling that she is his. Kimberly sounds so convincing too. What do you know about her? Do you think she is someone I should worry about?" Lucy asked, and Sonia paused to think about it for a moment.

"Well, you know some times people are different from what they post on social media," Sonia started and Lucy gave her a nod.

"True. Still, you can tell a bit about them from years of observation if you've been an ardent follower as you claim," Lucy said and Sonia shrugged.

"Well, from the little I know about her from social media, she is cool. Carefree. She is the definition of miss independent and says she raises her daughter to be that way too. She never posts stuff about men. I remember she was going to get married some years ago. I believe I mentioned it to you then. He jilted her on their wedding day and the news was all over the place. It trended for weeks. She deleted everything on her page and took a long time off social media. By the time she came back months later, she had a babybump so everyone naturally assumed the baby belonged to her ex fiancé and no questions were asked. Since then she hasn't posted anything about having a man.

Hold on. I saved a clip from one of her interviews some time ago where she was asked about it," Sonia said as she rose to pick up her hand bag from where she had been seated before and took her phone from it.

"I saved it because I liked her outfit and wanted to get something similar," Sonia explained as she scrolled through the videos on her phone.

"Here it is," Sonia said as she played it, and Lucy leaned forward to see the video.

"Although, I know you don't like to talk about, but could you indulge my audience and tell us what really happened four years ago? I mean, why was your wedding called off? There were lots of questions and speculations. Didn't the rumors bother you? Wouldn't you love to clear the air?" the interviewer asked, and Kimberly laughed softly.

"If you know I don't like to talk about it, what makes you think I'm going to indulge you or your audience?" Kimberly asked with a friendly smile.

"Perhaps I'm hoping you will be more willing to talk about it now that so much time has passed," the interviewer said with a hopeful smile.

"I'm even more determined not to look back into the past now that so much time has passed. What's past is behind, and should be forgotten. I believe if you spend too much time looking into the rearview mirror to see what's behind, you could miss what is coming ahead. I've moved on. The media should do so as well," Kimberly said, her smile in place, and from the look in her eyes Lucy could tell she wasn't faking the smile. Her smile looked genuine.

As a matter of fact she had the face of someone who smiled and laughed a lot, and Lucy had noticed that in her Instagram posts.

"Alright. So, any plans to settle down in the future?" The interviewer asked, and Kimberly smiled ruefully.

"I have none. I'm okay with my life as it is," Kimberly said simply before they moved to other subjects.

"She doesn't sound like a bad person, and maybe my fears are unnecessary. She even dismissed it when I asked if she wanted Tom to marry her," Lucy said, and Sonia raised a brow.

"You asked her that? Why? Hold on, You said you spoke with her? When? Who called?" Sonia asked when she realized she had been too carried away by the news of the possibility of Tom having a kid to focus on the other details.

"She chatted me up on Instagram," Lucy explained.

"She did? Can I see the conversation?" Sonia asked, and Lucy handed her the phone.

Sonia grimaced as she read through the chat, "Don't you think you were too cold and polite when she was trying to be friendly?" Sonia asked when she was done.

"She has had time to think and process everything before chatting me up. I wasn't prepared to chat with her. Besides, after Anita I can't be too careful," Lucy said defensively, and Sonia sighed.

"I understand. But she seems understanding though," Sonia said and Lucy nodded.

"Yeah. I think so too," Lucy agreed.

"I don't think you need to worry about her. Perhaps what you should do is keep an open mind towards her. If the kid turns out to be Tom's, you're going to need to get along with her," Sonia said, and Lucy nodded in agreement.

"I thought so too, so I was thinking that if the kid turns out to be his, maybe I could suggest to Tom that they both come down instead of having Tom go over to meet them," Lucy said, and Sonia looked at her for a moment.

"What do you really want, Lucy?" Sonia asked curiously.

"Tom would need to be a part of the kid's life..."

"I'm talking about you now, Lucy. Not Tom," Sonia cut in, and Lucy shrugged.

"I want to be with Tom and I want us both to be happy together. I'm a part of Tom's life. They will also be a part of his life. I will have to be involved with them. I know Tom enough to know that he might not be able to find the balance easily if I remove myself from the picture. So, I'm going to stand by him. If she's his daughter I will care about her and for her as I should as Tom's girlfriend," Lucy said, and Sonia smiled.

"You know, I really wish I could get a glimpse of all that's going on in your mind right now. You sound like a completely different person. Weren't you the same person who suggested to him that he adopts a child and leaves you out of it?" Sonia asked in amazement.

"Well, that is different. This is reality and I have to be realistic now. It won't make sense if Tom has to share his time between the company, me, and his daughter. It will be overwhelming for him," Lucy said reasonably.

"I understand what you mean. And I agree with you. I'm just surprised," Sonia said, and Lucy sighed.

"Do you think I'm thinking too far ahead and maybe I should just calm down?" Lucy asked, and Sonia grinned.

"That wouldn't be you. Thinking far ahead is what you do best. And as long as you're thinking far ahead in the right direction, I don't think it's a bad thing this time," Sonia said reasonably.

"It's a good thing that instead of dwelling on the problem this time and trying to withdraw, you're actually thinking of ways to overcome it. Therapy is good for you..."

"Don't credit it to therapy," Lucy cut in with a roll of her eyes, "I've barely started my sessions yet, so you can't say it's because of therapy."

"So what or who should I credit it to? Tom?" Sonia asked, and Lucy shrugged.

"My love for him I suppose," Lucy said and giggled, "Well, looking at the bright side now, I'm not the only one with baggage in our relationship. Tom has his own baggage too," Lucy said with a grin and Sonia chuckled.

"You're taking this so well, Lucy. Too well, even," Sonia observed and Lucy shrugged.

"By now you should know I never stay in between. I'm always all the way in or not in at all. It's either I pull away and break out with him, which as I told you already is not something I want to do.

Or I stand with him and make it work. And the best way to do that is to think about how to make it work, and that's what I'm doing," Lucy said, and Sonia nodded.

"True. All the way in could also be getting married to Tom," Sonia pointed out cautiously.

"About that. I was going to ask you a question. Do you remember the first time I said I wasn't going to get married?" Lucy asked curiously since that was another reason she had wanted to talk to Sonia.

"Sure. I think we were in middle school then. One of our favorite teachers quit her job after she got married, and around that time one of the ladies I babysat for back then committed suicide because her husband absconded with all the money she had and even left her in debts, remember?" Sonia asked, and Lucy narrowed her eyes.

"Yeah, I remember you weeping profusely as you told me about her death, and I remember thinking she was cruel for not thinking about her kids and taking her life just like that. And after that Mrs Perkins lost her husband and was beside herself with grief," Lucy said with a frown as she recalled everything that had led her to her decision.

Sonia bobbed her head, "Yeah. You used to love Mrs Perkins a lot because she always had the best muffins," Sonia said, and Lucy sighed.

"Why did you ask though?" Sonia asked when she noticed the thoughtful expression on Lucy's face.

"Evelyn asked why I didn't want to get married..."

"Evelyn? You told her that?" Sonia asked in surprise, and Lucy explained what had led to the conversation and what they had discussed.

"Evelyn can be so sweet," Sonia said with a small smile.

"Yeah. She is when she isn't being nosy," Lucy said with a small smile.

"You always said you didn't want to lose control of your life to a man like our teacher who quit simply because she got married. You didn't want any man to be the center of your world like Mr Perkins was to Mrs Perkins, and you didn't want to end up with a jerk who would betray you and run away with all you've worked for. Simply put you said you being alone would have saved them from all that grief," Sonia said, and Lucy smiled ruefully as she recalled the conversation.

"You weren't fazed at all. You insisted that you would get married and be happy. You said what happened to Mr Perkins was natural, and that what happened to the lady you used to babysit for, and our teacher was a result of their choices," Lucy said, and Sonia nodded.

"And I still think so," Sonia said and Lucy sighed.

She could see how she could have decided not to get married as a teenager because of those experiences she had witnessed, and she could understand how her own trauma had impacted her decision.

But what she could also see was the fact that Sonia had also been right. It was all about choices.

"I wonder how you were so mature," Lucy said, and Sonia gave her a smug smile.

"Some of us were born that way," Sonia said proudly.

Lucy was sure of one thing at the moment, and it was the fact that she was already faced with all of those things she had been trying to avoid by not getting married, whether or not she was married to Tom now.

As an adult she could now see that the problem wasn't marriage. The thing she should have avoided and been scared of from the start was falling in love and not marriage.

Chapter 645 Busted

Rebekah paced around her bedroom with a deep frown etched between her brows as she dialed her hitman's line for what was probably the hundredth time in that last two days.

What was going on? Why wasn't his line reachable? Did something happen to him? She had even been to his apartment to find him but had noticed that the place was empty, even the dirty plates on the sink seemed like they had been left there for days.

It was unlike Sam. What was more disturbing was the fact that she was yet to hear any news about Jade's possible death from her daughters.

She knew that if something had happened to Jade she would know have heard from them by now since Jade was the lawyer handling Jackson's case.

All of this made her feel uneasy. Did he perhaps get caught? No. That was impossible. There was no way Jade could possibly have overpowered him.

What then could have happened to him? Why did she keep having this queasy feeling?

Everything seemed to be falling apart. Her men were yet to find Wyatt, and she still couldn't reach Anita. Everything seemed to be falling apart. The only consolation she had right now was that her other three daughters were still on her side.

She turned to the door when a knock sounded, and her housekeeper informed her that Tiffany and Bernice were downstairs.

Rebekah sighed as she checked her appearance in the mirror before going down to see them. Perhaps they had finally brought her some good news she wanted to hear.

As she walked down the stairs, Bernice and Tiffany who were seated in the living room, looked up at her and stopped whatever discussion they had been having.

"Hello, mother!" They greeted as they rose and Rebekah smiled.

"I must say that I'm surprised to see you both. Pleasantly surprised," Rebekah said as she went to sit on her favorite chair and they both sat down.

"Why would you be? It's not unusual for us to visit you this way," Tiffany said, and Bernice nodded in agreement.

"Well, with the unfortunate events of the past couple of days, you can't blame me," Rebekah said as she met Bernice's gaze.

"We have to put all of that behind us and move forward," Bernice said as she sat forward in her seat.

"Yes, we should. Adam is dead now so there is no reason for you both to be on bad terms. We are family after all. We should leave all of that in the past and strengthen our bond," Tiffany said, and Bernice nodded in agreement.

"You haven't told Eric that you'd be on the show alone, right?" Bernice asked hopefully, and Rebekah shook her head.

"I've been occupied with other things. I should do that now..."

"No, don't! Thank God you suggested we come," Tiffany said to Bernice with a smile.

Rebekah looked from Tiffany to Bernice and then back again, "Why don't you want me to call him?"

"We thought about it and decided that we would like to be on the show with you as planned. We might never get this opportunity again," Bernice said, and Tiffany nodded.

"You both can't possibly want to appear on TV. Not with the issues going around about your husband's murder and your husband's arrest," Rebekah said looking at them both.

"Let us worry about that, mother. Besides, I've decided to divorce Jackson when all this is over as you suggested. If we are asked about it on the interview I will explain that we are separated," Tiffany said, and Bernice nodded.

"We won't be the first socialites to do something like that. We got the invitation before all of this happened, so I don't think it should be a problem," Bernice added, and Rebekah looked at them uncertainly.

"I don't think it's a good idea," Rebekah said thoughtfully.

"You've taught us to always hold our heads up high no matter the situation," Tiffany reminded her and she sighed.

"Are you sure you can handle it?" Rebekah asked and they both nodded.

"Why not? We don't think it's a good idea for you to appear on the show alone. We should also show Anita what she will be missing out on by leaving," Bernice said, and Rebekah nodded in agreement to the last statement.

"Alright then. We will go on with the original plan. It's next week," Rebekah said and the sisters smiled.

"I take it that neither of you have heard from Anita yet?" Rebekah asked and they shook their heads.

"Her line is still not reachable," Tiffany said, and Rebekah frowned.

"Don't you think Lisa might be lying to us? Perhaps she knows where Anita is and is hiding her," Rebekah said thoughtfully.

"I don't think so. She has been very worried herself," Tiffany said, and Rebekah sighed.

"By the way, how did your meeting with the lawyer lady go?" Bernice asked, and Rebekah tried to look nonchalant as she shrugged.

"It was okay. I have no idea why you are letting her handle Jackson's case. I can easily get you someone else," Rebekah said, and the sisters exchanged a look.

"Well, she's doing a good job. She assured me that Jackson would be released soon and the real culprit would be behind bars," Tiffany said, and Rebekah tried not to frown.

"And why is she so certain that Jackson isn't the real culprit?" Rebekah snapped without meaning to.

"She said she has some sort of evidence," Bernice said, and Rebekah frowned.

"Evidence? What evidence could she possibly have? When did she tell you this?" Rebekah asked and Bernice shrugged.

"Yesterday. We had lunch with her at Lisa's," Bernice said, and the sister's watched as Rebekah's frown deepened.

"Yesterday? Why? Did she say anything else?" Rebekah asked and they exchanged a look.

"She said the culprit sent someone after her," Tiffany said, and they watched as Rebekah stiffened.

Rebekah cleared her throat, "She said that?" Rebekah asked as her heart began to race.

"Yeah. I can't even imagine anyone who would do something so despicable," Tiffany said with a shake of her head.

"It has to be a monster. I bet whoever the person is must be as ugly as their soul," Bernice said and Tiffany nodded in agreement.

"I think so too. Only an ugly monster could be capable of all these wickedness. Too bad she refused to say. She insists we will find out soon enough," Tiffany said, and both sisters carried on without minding their mother who seemed restless now and was beginning to sweat.

"Well, it's possible she is just bluffing," Rebekah attempted.

"I don't think so. She showed us the picture of the guy who attacked her," Tiffany said as she rose and showed her mother the picture which Jade had sent her.

Rebekah's heart dropped and her blood ran cold as she looked at the picture of the seemingly lifeless body of her hitman. That explained why she was yet to hear from him.

"Is he dead?" Rebekah asked hopefully.

"I'm not sure. I didn't think to ask," Tiffany said while Bernice glanced at her wristwatch.

"Oh! We should be on our way now. The boys should be done with their lessons. We are taking them to Lisa's to see their cousin," Bernice said as she rose, and Tiffany did the same.

"Yeah, we should be on our way. Mother, looks a bit pale. You should get some rest. We want you looking your best for the coming show," Tiffany said with a smile, and Rebekah forced a smile as she rose.

"I always look my best," Rebekah assured them.

"Yeah, you do. But you should look even more so for this show. You're going to be a star after it. I can just picture your face all over the television and people watching you and marveling at the sort of wonderful mother you are," Tiffany said, and Bernice watched in amusement as Rebekah's chin angled proudly.

If only she knew what Tiffany meant by that, Bernice thought with a shake of her head as they headed for the door, and once they left Rebekah collapsed on the couch and buried her face in her hands.

As Tiffany and Bernice got into Tiffany's car, they turned to each other, "Did you see the look on her face when we showed her the picture?" Tiffany asked, and Bernice nodded.

"I wonder why Jade asked us to do that," Bernice said thoughtfully.

"She probably wants to make her uncomfortable and see what she would do next," Tiffany said reasonably.

"Thank goodness you suggested we leave when you did. I was already exhausted," Tiffany said as she started the car and headed for the station where they were going to pay Jackson a visit.

"I can't wait to see what Jade has up her sleeves for the talk show. Rebekah Miller is finally going to get what she deserves. I still can't get over the fact that she did all of those cruel things to father," Bernice said with a shake of her head. She had made up her mind not to refer to Rebekah as mother anymore.

"She definitely will get what she deserves and more. And we will be there to witness it," Tiffany said confidently.

If there was one thing Tiffany was grateful for, it was the fact that she was not on Jade's bad book. Seeing how much information Jade had on them even to the extent of knowing about Eric Howells interview, she was glad that she was on Hank's side.

"I should probably call to let her know we've done as she asked," Tiffany said as she dialed Jade's line.

Jade, who was in the car with Bryan on their way to Harry's place after checking out the property Bryan and Sonia purchased, received the call after the third ring.

"We just left the house. We were able to speak with the housekeepers," Tiffany said without bothering with pleasantries.

"What did they say? Did they notice anything odd when she came back that day?" Jade asked with interest since she wanted to gather as much undeniable evidence as she could against Rebekah Miller.

"Nothing much other than the fact that she seemed to have done her own laundry. She washed the clothes she had been wearing before they left. And the cleaner said the mop was wet as though it had been used," Tiffany said, while Jade narrowed her eyes.

"Why did they observe something like that?" Jade asked curiously.

"She never lifts a finger. If she's paying to get the job done, there's no reason to assist the helps in doing their job. Doing her laundry and cleaning the ground herself is a big deal," Tiffany explained.

"I see," Jade said with a nod.

"I'm sorry. I know that's not much for you to prove anything," Tiffany said and Jade smiled.

"Well, the fact that they were sent out of the house at the time your mother was with Adam, and she asked them not to return immediately is enough. All I want is to get them on the witness stand. These little observations will help me question her better as well," Jade assured her, seeing no

reason to tell them the evidence she had against Rebekah already was more than enough. She only wanted more irrefutable proof.

By the time Jade finished with the phone call, they had arrived at Harry's and she waved to Bryan as she got out of the car.

Once she got to Harry's door, she rang the doorbell before unlocking the door since she knew his passcode.

"Hello, handsome," Jade greeted sweetly as she walked into the living room and gave Aaron a peck.

"Jade? What are you doing here? I thought Candace was meeting up with you?" Aaron asked in confusion as he looked up at Jade.

"Yeah. But we are not going out until 3 P.M.," Jade said as she looked down the passageway in the direction of Harry's bedroom.

"Is she aware? She's already dressed to go meet you," Aaron said just as Candace stepped into the living room, and was surprised to see Jade.

"What are you doing here?" Candace asked, trying not to blush at being caught by Aaron.

She had lied to him that she was going to see Jade so she could go spend some time with Matt before stopping by Tom's to leave for the party with Jade. She had not expected Jade to show up here.

"You're going out?" Jade asked as she looked at Candace suspiciously.

"Yeah. I was coming to see you so we could discuss the plans for Bryan's engagement," Candace said, as Harry joined them.

"Esquire," Harry said with a pleased smile when he saw her and held out his arms for her to come to him.

"You weren't going to see Jade, were you?" Aaron asked Candace in amusement

"Yes, I was!" Candace said defensively and Aaron chuckled.

"What is wrong?" Harry asked, and Aaron laughed.

"She said she was going out to meet up with Jade, and here is Jade," Aaron said, and Candace scowled when Harry chuckled.

Candace was glad that Jamal was taking a nap at the moment and not there to witness the fact that she had not only lied but had been caught in the middle of it.

"I guess since Jade is here now you don't have to go anywhere. She has saved you the trip," Harry said with a grin that infuriated Candace.

"I was going to see Sonia too not just Jade," Candace said, and Jade rolled her eyes.

"Sonia is not at home. Tom is home alone. Sonia went to see Lucy, and Bryan went to see Matt," Jade said and Candace raised a brow.

"Matt didn't say..." she stopped abruptly and pressed her lips together when she realized her error, and without another word she hurried down the hallway back to her bedroom, and pressed her hands to cover her ears as their laughter followed her.

"I guess she was going to see him after all," Aaron said with a grin.

"Yeah. I thought as much. I should let her know I lied then. Matt already told Bryan he was busy with something and couldn't meet up," Jade said as she hurried after Candace, and Harry chuckled.

"Too bad Jade showed up and ruined their plans," Harry said and his father laughed.

"Candace didn't have to lie about where she was going. She's free to visit him if she wants to," Aaron said and Harry nodded.

"She's just being unnecessarily secretive and stubborn. Everyone knows she likes him," Harry said with a shake of his head.

"Doesn't she remind you of someone else? Yourself perhaps? Pot calling kettle black," Aaron hissed at Harry.

"Well, my case was different. I..."

"Whatever. I don't want to hear it," Aaron said as he picked up the remote controller and increased the volume of the television so he wouldn't hear whatever Harry had to say.

Chapter 646 Sick Appointment

The moment Candace walked into her bedroom and shut the door behind her she dialed Matt's line.

"Hey! Are you on your way now?" Matt asked the moment he received the call.

"How am I supposed to come over when you're with Bryan? How did you plan to explain my presence at your house to him?" Candace snapped at him as she threw down her bag on the bed.

"I'm with Bryan? How come I didn't know that?" Matt asked dryly.

"What do you mean by that? Do you realize I just made a fool of myself out there because of you?" Candace asked in annoyance.

"If I were with Bryan I would have told you so. I'm not with Bryan. I told him I can't meet with him," Matt said simply.

"But Jade said..." the rest of her words trailed off when Jade opened the door and walked into the room.

"I lied. Sorry," Jade offered with an apologetic smile.

"I will call you back," Candace told Matt before hanging up abruptly.

"I don't get why you have to lie and sneak around like a teenager," Jade said before Candace could attack her.

"I'm not lying or sneaking around! I'm keeping my business private and I don't appreciate you causing such unwarranted misunderstandings," Candace hissed at her.

"Lying that you're coming over to see me just so you can go somewhere else to meet with Matt. Is that what you call keeping your business private?" Jade asked as she folded her hands in front of her, completely unaffected by Candace's annoyance.

If there was one thing she had learned about Candace in the short duration of their friendship, it was the fact that Candace never held back in expressing her displeasure, but that didn't mean they were having a fight. Candace just wasn't the type to hold back.

"What's wrong with that? Does my business have to be everyone's business?" Candace asked, and Jade shrugged.

"And if something were to happen to you before you get to Matt's how would we know where you went to?" Jade asked, angling her head to the side to look at Candace.

"If something were to happen to me, Matt would definitely speak up," Candace said, and Jade tsk-tsked at that.

"Listen to yourself, Candace. You're not making any sense. For someone as exposed and experienced as yourself, I don't expect you to be acting like a naive teenager. What's the big deal in having a boyfriend that you're being so secretive?" Jade asked, and Candace scowled at her.

"Matt isn't my boyfriend," Candace said, choosing to ignore the jab about acting like a naive teenager.

"Really? He's not? What is he to you then?" Jade asked with mock curiosity, and Candace sighed in resignation, knowing she won't get out of this silly and annoying conversation without opening up.

"Why are you so interested in this anyway?" Candace asked, and Jade smiled.

"Because you're my friend. Because you're going to be my twin sister in-law. Because you're my future sister-in-law's cousin, because Matt is my family friend, because Matt cares about you and I know you do the same, because...."

"Because you're just so nosy and can't keep your nose off my business. Typical of Hanks as Harry would a say," Candace cut in, and Jade giggled.

"If you think you're going to provoke me out of getting an answer from you, you've got another thought coming. Come on, Candace," Jade said as she moved closer to her.

"Alright. Fine. Since you must know, I agreed to be his friend with benefit. We are not dating or anything. It's purely sexual," Candace said, and Jade's lips twitched in amusement.

"Matt asked you to be his friend with benefit?" Jade asked with a tinge of amusement in her tone. Candace looked away, feeling slightly embarrassed. "Yeah. You can't tell anyone, alright? We are not dating."

"Going by your reaction to the presence of another lady beside him last night, don't you think friends with benefit in respect to the both of you is the same as a normal adult relationship?" Jade asked wondering who they were both kidding.

"No, it's not. We are only having sex. No romance. No going out on dates," Candace explained.

"I guess you're both free to go out with other people?" Jade asked and Candace frowned.

"Of course, not! Matt is the only guy I've been with since Jero who was my first. Why would I want to see other guys? And why should he be with other girls?" Candace asked, and Jade grinned.

"You're both in a typical celebrity secret relationship. You're dating away from public eyes, but you are dating whether you think so or not. If you're going to lie about coming to see me next time, it's best you give me a heads up so I don't show up out of the blues like this next time," Jade said, and Candace looked at her with a frown.

"We are not saying. You're not going to tell anyone else about our conversation, are you?" Candace asked, and Jade shook her head.

"No. But I'd rather you are straight with me going forward. You should at least have someone you talk to about your movement. I could cover for you when you need me to," Jade offered.

"You've already ruined it all," Candace said with a scowl.

"I don't think either your dad or your brother cares about your meeting with Matt. Simply tell them you're going out and be gone," Jade said, and Candace looked at her doubtfully.

"Or we could say I was going to see Matt because we are to discuss some of the engagement party plans?" Candace suggested, and Jade laughed softly.

"Maybe you can tell that to Jamal, but definitely not to your dad or Harry. They've caught on already. By the way, I was going to ask. Who was that guy at the party last night and what did he want?" Jade asked curiously, and Candace's nose wrinkled in disgust.

"Just someone who recognized me from the club and stuff," Candace said with a casual shrug.

"Really? What did he say to you? What did you say to him?" Jade asked curiously.

"Don't worry about that, I handled it. I guess he was scared of Harry. He was really careful," Candace said, and Jade looked at her for a moment.

"You must have felt embarrassed," Jade said as she reached for Candace's hand and squeezed it softly.

"Well, I did. Initially. But then I remembered I had a solid army behind me, and I became more confident," Candace said, and Jade smiled.

"You should leave now if you plan to meet up with Matt today for your dick appointment and not be late for our hangout," Jade said as she tapped Candace's bum.

"My God, Jade! Why will you call it that?" Candace asked with mortification and Jade giggled.

"That's what you said it was, wasn't it? Purely sexual meeting equals dick appointment. You should get going," Jade said with a grin, and Candace giggled.

"Some times I can't believe you," Candace said with a shake of her head as she picked up her handbag.

"I will fill you in on the stuff with the case and Bryan's engagement later," Jade said as they both walked out of the bedroom and headed for the living room.

"I guess you're going to Lucy's to meet with Lucy and Sonia?" Aaron guessed with a teasing smile and Candace scowled at him.

"No. You guessed wrong. I'm going to see Matt this time. Since he's with Bryan we are going to discuss the engagement plans," Candace said, and both Aaron and Harry who were watching ESPN chuckled.

"Have fun with the engagement plans then," Aaron said, while Harry looked at her as she headed for the door.

"Aren't you taking the car?" Harry asked and before Candace could respond Jade cut in.

"I will suggest you don't drive since we have no plans of going back home sober!" Jade said with a wink and Candace giggled.

"Alright. No cars then. I will take a cab. See you later," Candace said before walking away.

Once she shut the door behind her, Aaron shook his head, "For someone who was exposed to such a rough life, she's still somewhat innocent and naive," Aaron said with an amused smile.

"About that, did she tell you what the guy at the party last night was talking to her about? Do you know the guy personally?" Jade asked, and Harry shook his head.

"I didn't ask her about it. He's part of our legal team. Why? What did he say to her?" Harry asked, and Jade told them what Candace had told her.

"Well, stuff like this is bound to happen. I was thinking that after we've handled Sara, I will introduce her officially to the press as my sister and have her say it out in the open that she was a stripper. That way there wouldn't be any need for anyone to look in her past. If you have no secrets, there will be nothing anyone can use against you," Harry said, and Aaron frowned.

"Do you think Candace is capable of that? She might not look or act it but she's really insecure and has low self esteem," Jade said, and Aaron nodded in agreement.

"I don't think she can do that," Aaron said.

"She can and she will. She just needs a little support and push. Don't worry, I will make sure of it. I will be right there with her when she makes the announcement. It wouldn't be done to shame her. It would help to free her from the burden of her past. That's the only way she can get past her insecurity and low self-esteem. No one can shame her with a past she has declared publicly," Harry said confidently.

"If you say so. I need to take a nap," Aaron said as he rose to leave for his bedroom.

The moment he left and they were alone in the living room, Harry pulled her to himself and kissed her slowly until she felt her head spin.

"That's to say I've missed you," Harry said, and Jade gazed up at him with dazed eyes.

"Well, I should say I missed you too," Jade said as she climbed into his thighs and covered his lips with hers.

She almost purred from lust and excitement when she realized he had a boner and she was sitting on top of it.

She moved on his lap and ground on his arousal making Harry groan as he pulled away, and this time he was the one with the dazed expression, "You switched that up from zero to a hundred in a second," Harry complained, and Jade grinned as she moved against his boner.

"Stop doing that! There's a kid in the house," Harry hissed at her in frustration and Jade giggled.

"Why don't we go to your bedroom?" Jade suggested as she batted her lashes at him.

"I can't take you in there when you're in such a naughty mood. I'm going to end up making love to you," Harry said as he carried her off his lap, making Jade's heart skip a beat.

"What if I ask you to do it?" Jade asked with a pout.

"Why do you want me to?" Harry asked curiously, and she shrugged.

"Because I want you? We don't have to have sex yet if you don't want to. But it wouldn't be asking for too much to neck and make out like silly teenagers, would it?" Jade suggested even though she knew Harry would say no as usual.

Harry eyed her for a moment before rising from his seat, "You know what? I don't see why not. Since I skipped all of that as a teenager, I should probably try it out now," Harry said to her surprise, and before she could react to that he carried her off the couch and headed for his bedroom.

Chapter 647 Love And Change

Tom dialed Kimberly's line after contemplating for a while whether or not to confront her for approaching Lucy when the result was not out yet.

He wanted to make sure he put her in her place and let her know that baby mama or not he wasn't going to condone any unnecessary dramas or let her mess with Lucy in any way.

"Hey, Hi! Why are you calling already? Is the result out yet?" Kimberly asked in surprise after she received the call on the fifth ring.

"No, it's not. Lucy told me you chatted with her. Why did you do that?" Tom asked, and Kimberly turned to her hair stylists and signaled to them to excuse her.

"I didn't mean any harm, okay? I just figured you told her about it already so I wanted to get acquainted with her," Kimberly explained.

"You had no right doing that. If I wanted you to get acquainted with her I would have made the introductions at the right time. I don't want you speaking to her or anything! Don't try to mess with her, I won't take it," Tom warned harshly and Kimberly's brows furrowed in annoyance.

"Back off, will you? I don't understand why you're speaking to me so harshly, but I'm not your enemy and neither am I here to cause any conflicts. I was only trying to get along with the lady that would be involved in Dawn's life. What is so wrong about that? Listen, if you think it's going to be too burdensome to be involved in Dawn's life, say so and we will cut off all communication with you," Kimberly hissed in annoyance and hung up without letting Tom say another word.

Tom scowled as he stared at his phone, and before he could decide whether to call her back or not a knock sounded on his door.

"Come in," he said gruffly and Bryan walked in.

"Is everything alright?" Bryan asked when he noticed the annoyance on Tom's face.

"Sure. What's up?" Tom asked, and Bryan shrugged.

"I noticed you were home and I figured since we are home alone, we could play a game or two or just sit out to drink and chill," Bryan suggested.

"I could use both," Tom said as he looked around the room for a moment as though he was searching for something before walking out with Bryan.

"So, I was going to tell you something last night before Harry and Candace showed up. I'm proposing to Sonia tomorrow," Bryan said as they descended the stairs, and Tom stopped walking and turned to him in surprise.

"Tomorrow?" Tom asked, and Bryan nodded.

"Yeah. I don't want our baby to be born outside wedlock. So, I'd love to get married to Sonia before the baby bump becomes obvious. That way she can wear whatever dress she has dreamt of wearing her whole life without the bump getting in the way. I haven't told her. I hope you won't tell Lucy either. But I want you to be there and make sure Lucy is there," Bryan rambled on while Tom watched him with a blank expression.

He couldn't believe that he had spent his entire life believing Bryan was the irresponsible brother when he was the one. Despite Bryan's lifestyle he didn't have a baby outside wedlock, yet here he was still trying to come to terms with the fact that he might be the father of a three years old kid.

"Tom? Are you alright?" Bryan asked when Tom did not say anything after some time.

"Yeah! I'm just surprised and happy for you. I guess we should grab the drink to celebrate first. I will pour you a glass from my most expensive wine," Tom said as he continued down the stairs and they headed for the bar.

Bryan chuckled, "Isn't it funny that I'm getting married before you? Don't you dare propose to Lucy and try to beat me to going to the altar," Bryan warned and Tom chuckled.

"You don't have to worry. I have no plans of getting married any time soon. And let me know any way I can be of help," Tom assured him, as he put all his worries behind him and focused on celebrating with Bryan instead.

Away from there, after Lucy's conversation with Sonia, she busied herself by cleaning up her kitchen while Sonia took a nap on her bed.

As she cleaned the kitchen, she replayed her conversation with Sonia in her head as she tried to figure out what to do now that she knew the problem was falling in love and not marriage.

Thinking about it she knew she wouldn't feel any less devastated or shattered as Mrs Perkins had been if anything were to happen to Tom now, so marriage really wasn't the issue.

Tom was too supportive to make her want to give up her job to become a stay at home wife like her teacher's husband had done. And she couldn't even imagine him packing up and running away with her money like the other lady's husband had done.

She giggled softly at the thought. Between her and Tom if there was anyone who would run away with the other's money it was her since she had nothing compared to all Tom owned.

So, once again it wasn't about marriage but about the kind of person one got married to. And she knew Tom wasn't a bad person.

The thought of marrying Tom made her heart begin to race and she paused as she cleaned out the kitchen cabinets.

It was obvious that even though in her head she now knew that marriage wasn't the issue, she was still scared of the idea. Perhaps she could discuss it with her therapist on her next appointment. She believed that Doctor Julia would be able to help her there.

"Are you expecting someone? Why did you leave that space on your dresser? And I noticed a drawer is empty," Sonia said as she watched Lucy from the doorway.

"You were snooping, huh?" Lucy asked, not the least bit offended.

"Yeah. You know it's second nature to me," Sonia said with a grin and Lucy giggled.

"I'll just have to teach our baby not to turn out nosy like you or Bryan's family," Lucy said as she watched Sonia yawn.

"You can't out do majority. You either beat us or join us," Sonia said and then raised a brow.

"So, who is the space for?"

"Tom. I created the space for Tom. We will be shuttling between his place and mine now. He's coming over later tonight and I plan to give him a spare key," Lucy said, and Sonia grinned.

"Wow! That's a new level," Sonia said, and Lucy nodded.

"Yep. It is. And I must confess that I'm sort of excited about it. Having him here is going to be just like the beginning when we just met. Things might be different if or when his daughter shows up, but I might have to spend more of time at his place then," Lucy said with a shrug before returning her attention to cleaning out the kitchen cabinet while Sonia remained where she stood staring at Lucy.

Sonia was feeling a lot more optimistic now about Lucy now than she had felt in a long time. She had noticed earlier that Lucy seemed more open to the idea of marriage now. Some thing told her that Lucy was finally going to be changing her mind regarding getting married to Tom soon.

"What?" Lucy asked when she raised her head a moment later and noticed that Sonia was still standing on the same spot.

Sonia shook her head, "Nothing. Just thinking about stuff."

There was no need to ask her about it yet or point it to her. She would leave her to take her time to make up her mind. She knew Lucy would tell her about it when she was sure and ready.

"What stuff?" Lucy asked curiously.

"You didn't give me a response yesterday when I talked about you going to the clinic with me during my antenatal appointments," Sonia said, changing the subject, and Lucy raised a brow.

"I didn't realize you needed a response. You should know my feelings would be hurt if you went with someone else who is not me, apart from Bryan. Of course, it would be an honor and a great privilege to stand in for Bryan," Lucy said, and Sonia grinned.

"And you won't mind babysitting either, right?" Sonia asked, and Lucy shrugged.

"The baby is ours. As long as you tell me what to do and make sure a nanny is not more than ten feet away from me, it shouldn't be a problem," Lucy assured her, and Sonia beamed a smile at her.

"I knew I could count on you," Sonia said, and Lucy looked at Sonia with interest.

"How do you feel though? Any morning sickness? Can you feel the baby moving yet?" Lucy asked and Sonia shrugged.

"I feel okay. I'm not feeling sick or anything yet. The only thing I've observed for now is that I easily get tired lately. And I can't feel the baby's movement yet until the next couple of weeks. Although, I can't wait to begin to feel it and to know if I'm having a boy or a girl," Sonia said, her eyes gleaming excitedly as Lucy had noticed it gleamed now each time she talked about the baby.

Lucy smiled, "I hope it's a girl. I can't picture you with a baby bump though, and even though I know you'd make a wonderful mom, I can't quite picture it yet," Lucy said with a small smile.

"Well, I can picture you with it a baby bump and I can see you as a mom. I think you'd be an even more wonderful mom," Sonia said, and Lucy shook her head.

"I'm not so sure about that," Lucy said, and Sonia raised a brow.

"You don't think you would make a good mom?" Sonia asked curiously.

"Do we ever know if we would? Can you ever tell how a kid is going to turn out?" Lucy asked, and Sonia chuckled.

"So how do you know I'd make a wonderful mom then?" Sonia asked as Lucy dropped her cleaning napkin.

Lucy didn't say a word for a moment and shrugged, "I don't think you would let your kids run amok," Lucy said matter of factly.

"And you think you would let yours run amok?" Sonia asked dryly and Lucy frowned.

"Not everything can be controlled, Sony. You're nosy and don't mind getting on people's nerves. I like to let people have their privacy. Can you imagine the sort of parent I'd be..."

"Not everything needs to be controlled. Besides, it's not your place to determine how your kids turn out. Your duty is to raise them to the best of your ability and then let them make their own decisions as adults when it's time. Your mom is like you most of the time and see how well you and Lucas turned out," Sonia said, and Lucy rolled her eyes.

"Indeed. We turned out so well that I ended up being kidnapped by a stalker and Lucas ended up with that crazy bitch," Lucy said dryly.

Although Sonia wanted to argue further, she decided not to, and changed the subject instead.

"Speaking about Rachel, did you read about what's happening to her father?" Sonia asked, and Lucy raised a brow.

"What's that?"

"I forgot to mention it earlier. I saw the news on our way here. He lost the primaries in his party last night, and after his shocked reaction when his opponent mentioned his questionable past, he has been trending online since last night. Everyone is talking about his brother's suspicious death and the missing child," Sonia said, and Lucy smiled.

"I wonder how she is doing," Lucy said, and Sonia grinned.

"Want to find out? We could call her," Sonia said with a mischievous smile and Lucy giggled.

"I don't think that's a good idea. There's no need to let them know we were involved in any of this," Lucy said and Sonia sighed.

"You're right. I hope things go downhill for them now," Sonia muttered.

"It will. This is only the first of many evils to befall them," Lucy said confidently.

"Let's not talk about them anymore. I'd rather talk about the house you bought with Bryan. When are you fixing the place and moving?" Lucy asked, and she watched with amusement as Sonia's eyes lit up once again and she began to chatter excitedly about her plans for the place and for their baby.

Somehow Sonia had changed so much in such a short time. Perhaps it was the pregnancy? Or maybe it was because she was happy in love. She wondered if Sonia even knew how much she had changed.

Had she not changed herself? Things she would never have considered doing months ago were things she now thought about doing. Tom had disrupted her life, but she wasn't even complaining because like Sonia, she was happy in love.

Perhaps the changes were a side effect of being with the Hank brothers. She wondered if Harry was experiencing any major changes in himself by virtue of dating the Hank princess.

Chapter 648 Passionate Moment (R18)

Inside Harry's bedroom, Jade giggled as he dropped her on the bed, and lay over her, trapping her under him.

"I didn't think you'd agree so easily. What has come over you?" Jade asked as she looked into his honey brown eyes.

"I like to take you by surprise from time to time. So, you wanted to make out, huh?" Harry asked as he slid his hand under Jade's short dress and she gasped out his name in surprise as his hand made contact with her skin.

"Yes, sugar?" Harry asked in a husky voice as he let his hand rest on her stomach which quivered slightly as he gazed at her.

Jade's mouth was dry as she looked at him not remembering what she had wanted to say. The intimacy of their positions made her eye lids heavy and it made her cores ache with desire.

When she didn't say anything, Harry lowered his lips to hers and plunged his tongue between her lips which were parted in expectation, and he filled himself on her.

Like every other time he had kissed her, she wondered if she would ever get used to the toes curling electric zap she felt every time he kissed her.

Even though she was gradually coming to realize that she would always feel powerless against his kisses, Jade could tell that there was something different about this particular kiss.

Perhaps it was because this was the first time he had taken her into his bedroom and was kissing her on his bed as his girlfriend she couldn't tell, but the restraint she often felt from him whenever he kissed her wasn't there this time.

There was something different about this kiss. It was raw and primitive, and it made her juices flow in a terrifying way. She doubted there was a woman alive who wouldn't want to be kissed this way, with this much hunger and passion.

Harry's hand moved upward and his thumb brushed over her nipple which had gone taut against her bralette, making her suck in a breath, and as she did that, his tongue went deeper into her mouth.

His mouth fit over hers so perfectly it felt like her lips were made just for his kisses.

Jade trembled in anticipation as his other hand worked on the zip of her dress and in a moment Harry helped her out of her dress.

He broke the kiss long enough to say, "We can't let it get ruined since you're going out..."

Jade impatiently pulled his head down and brought his lips back to hers once again shutting him up. She didn't care about any damn dress. It could get ruined for all she cared.

She had never thought she was much of a kisser or enjoyed kissing until she met Harry. And now thanks to him, kissing him was now a hobby. Very well on its way to becoming an addiction.

Harry fondled her boobs through her bralette for a moment and to her surprise his hand went up to her neck and he cupped it firmly but not too tightly as he kissed her, making her wonder once again if he was into bdsm.

Harry's hand continued to explore her body and soon his lips followed suit. He moved from her lips to her neck, and the scrape of his chin, which he had neglected to shave that morning, against her skin added to her excitement.

Jade could swear she had never been turned on all her life as she was in that moment in Harry's hands, and it made her really wonder if she was Harry's first. The man seemed too experienced with his hands and lips to not have done this before.

The frustrated passion and pure unrestrained desire that erupted from him was released into her, creating a kiss that was far beyond anything she had ever experienced.

This crazy moment with him made her really eager to know what having sex with Harry would be like.

With Harry's hand now fisted in her hair he pulled her head back as he kissed and licked and sucked and nipped on her neck. Judging by the sounds coming from her and the way she was weighing under him, he realized her neck was one of her sensitive spots so he focused on it.

He wanted her more than he had wanted anything else in his life, but he didn't want to take her now. He couldn't. Especially not with his father and Jamal in the house with them.

When it was time to take her, he would make sure they were alone and she wouldn't be in a hurry to go anywhere else. That way he could take all the time in the world to unravel every sensitive spot on her body inch by seductive inch, and she would have the liberty to cry out his name unashamedly as he would want her to.

He didn't think and neither did he dare to think about anything else as his hand moved down to her thighs and played around the spot between her thighs making her legs tremble as they automatically parted.

Harry could feel the wetness between her thighs and it made his already rock hard erection painful, knowing that she was this horny and hungry for him but he couldn't take her.

He let his fingers slide into the band of her lace panty, which matched her black bralette, and her moan and torrid response came instantly when his finger brushed against her clit.

Her body arched and trembled against his, and she grabbed his hair and pulled his head back up as she devoured his lips on a hungry kiss. He swallowed her moans thirstily as his fingers played and plucked on her clit like the expert hands of a guitarist.

"Harry," she cried into his mouth as a shudder ran through her.

She wanted him. She desperately wanted to tear off both his clothes and her undies and let him drive himself into her.

She wanted to feel him thrust into her as she closed around him and she wanted to ride him until neither of them could continue for lack of breath.

But she knew better than to do that. Harry was infuriatingly stubborn and he wouldn't want her to do that. Doing that might make him stop all together so she had to accept what he was willing to give. At least for now.

Jade trembled when Harry cautiously slid his middle finger inside her slit while his thumb remained on her clit, and she felt herself vibrate as he began to thrust in and out slowly at first but as she arched her waist to meet up with the thrusts he increased the pace.

"Oh, god! I think I'm about to cum. Go faster!" She cried against Harry's lips and he inserted another finger into her slit and thrust even deeper and faster, swallowing her gasps and moans.

As Jade struggled with her desire, Harry struggled with his too, but unable to stop himself he pulled away from her and before she could complain, he went lower and to her utmost surprise he tugged off her panty and his tongue replaced his thumb on her clit while his fingers continued to thrust in and out of her.

Still conscious enough to know they were not alone in the house, Jade pulled one of the pillows over her head and cried out Harry's name into it as her whole body shuddered and for the first time in her life she felt the waves of orgasm hit her.

Harry pulled the pillow off her face so he could watch her as she slowly recovered. And he chuckled when she covered her face with her hands.

Jade was everything he had dreamt of and more. She was beautiful, brilliant, soft, strong, sexy, and pliant.

He watched as she slowly removed her hands from her face to look at him, her eyes dark and heavy, her lips red and soft, and parted in a shy smile.

"You are not possibly shy, are you?" Harry asked with a mocking smile when she reached for the duvet to cover herself.

"You're fully dressed and I'm exposed! How can you expect me to be comfortable?!" Jade hissed as she pulled a pillow over her body, and he chuckled.

"You weren't complaining earlier," Harry said with a grin as he watched her.

"Some times, I can't believe you, Jonas!"

"It's a wonder you didn't cry out Jonas a while ago," Harry said and laughed softly when her face flushed red.

"I will wash my hands and then excuse you to freshen up if you're feeling too embarrassed to do so," Harry offered with a wink that made her heart tumble as she watched him leave.

Jade sighed softly as she closed her eyes. Harry! God! How could she not be crazy about him? How was it possible?

She couldn't believe he had actually gone this far to satisfy her without even letting her do anything whereas Todd who had deflowered her had never once satisfied her.

Without thinking about it, Jade got off the bed and took off her bralette. She wanted to see how he would react to her nakedness and if he would fold.

She walked into the bathroom where Harry was drying his hands, and reached for the button of his shorts.

Harry chuckled as he placed a hand over hers to stop her, "I don't know what you think you're doing or what you plan to do, but I'm not making love to you today, esquire. The bathroom is yours. I will be back after checking on my dad and Jamal," Harry said as he headed for the door, and Jade scowled at his back.

If she hadn't felt his boner earlier she would have wondered if something was wrong with him.

Chapter 649 Girls Hangout

Seated in Matt's apartment now, Candace pressed her lips as she sat still while he went to get her a glass of water.

How was she to tell him that she who had given the rule not to let the others find out about their affair had been the first to blow it?

"So, what happened earlier? What was with the phone call?" Matt asked curiously as he brought the glass of water she had requested to her and sat down on the couch beside her.

Candace took a sip and then without meeting his gaze said, "It may have slipped that I was coming to see you."

"Slipped? From whom? To who?" Matt asked with curious amusement.

Candace didn't meet his gaze as she explained what had happened, and Matt tried to keep a serious face as he listened even though he was dying of laughter inside.

When she was done he raised a brow, "So, what now? Since one of your rules for our arrangement has been broken by YOU, do you want to end it?" Matt asked and Candace frowned.

"They're all too nosy and..."

"What now, Candace?" Matt asked as he took the glass from her and set it aside.

Candace felt her pulse jump at his touch, "Would I be here despite after being caught if I wanted to stop seeing you?" Candace asked, and her heart skipped a beat when Matt brushed his thumb over her wrist.

"Good. Cause I warned you that I wasn't going to let you back off," Matt said, and she swallowed.

"We agreed we would end things when either of us wanted to," Candace said without looking into his eyes.

"Yes. But it's too soon to end things else you're going to make me feel like you used me and I don't like feeling used," Matt said and Candace met his gaze.

"Yet you hang around and even have sex with someone who used you," she said with a scowl and Matt groaned.

"Can you please let that go and forget I told you anything about having sex with her?" Matt pleaded.

"No, I can't. I won't. I want you to always remember that I'm going to bitch this way whenever you think of cheating on me," Candace said, and Matt raised a brow.

"Isn't the term cheating supposed to be used when it's a relationship?" Matt asked and she snorted.

"What's the difference between this and that? Or did you really think I agreed to this arrangement without knowing your intention?" She asked, and Matt chuckled.

"And what do you assume my intention is?" Matt asked and she eyed him.

"I believe you don't expect a response to that," Candace said as she withdrew her hand from his and rose from her seat.

"Let's get down to it, I have to leave soon," Candace said as she reached for the zipper of her dress to undress.

"Have you had something to eat?" Matt asked, and she paused and raised a brow.

"No! You're not wasting my time with any silly unnecessary cooking," she said with a glare and he chuckled.

"I cooked already. I'd rather you eat before I eat you," Matt said making butterflies flutter in her belly.

"I'm not hungry," Candace said and he looked at her for a moment.

"You will be after we are done. You're not leaving without eating," Matt said and she rose a brow.

"Why? Did you put something in the meal?" Candace asked making him chuckle as he took her hand and tugged her down so she fell on him.

"If you know my intention as you claim then you should know why," Matt said as she straddled him.

"Let's not get into that," Candace said as she held his face and tried to kiss him.

"Is sex really all you want from this?" Matt asked as he squeezed her ass gently.

"Maybe. For now," Candace said in a husky voice as she nibbled on his lower lip and Matt raised a brow.

"And in the future?" Matt asked and she shrugged.

"We could consider other options," she said and without saying a word, Matt took her lips in a passionate kiss.

If sex was what she wanted right now then he would make sure she had more than her fill of it until she wanted something more.

Two hours later, all four of them, Lucy, Sonia, Jade, and Candace met at the same club Jade had gone to the last time.

"Hello! You're here early. Is your uncle coming today?" The Barman who had attended to Jade the last time greeted as they stopped by the bar so she could give him their orders.

"Your uncle?" Sonia asked curiously.

"You frequent here a lot?" Candace asked when Jade smiled at him.

"He's not my uncle. He's my boy friend," Jade said, and the barman raised a brow.

"Recent development I suppose? He said you weren't his girlfriend the last time," the barman said, and Jade raised a brow.

"Do you remember the face of everyone who comes in here?" Jade asked with interest.

"You caused quite a stir with your dancing skill on the stage so it's hard not to remember you or the person who came to get you," he explained.

"You danced on stage?" Lucy asked in disbelief.

"I'll tell you about it after we settle on what to drink," Jade said and then instructed the barman on the drinks she wanted them to serve and to make sure new shots were brought to their table every twenty minutes.

"Every twenty minutes?" Candace asked as Jade led them to the same spot she had sat with Harry the last time since it was private enough and gave them view of the bar.

"Yeah. That way we can have progressive conversations as we also progress from tipsy to drunk," Jade said with wink.

"I still can't believe I'm in a club but can't even take alcohol," Sonia said as she scowled down at her mock-tail.

"Don't worry, I will drink for two," Lucy assured her.

"Welcome to the world of motherhood. It's a world of self deprivation. You have to put another being before yourself and think of their well-being before yours," Candace said at the same time, and Lucy winced at that.

"That's not a very encouraging thing to say," Lucy complained.

"Why not? Can't think of putting someone else's well-being above yours? Especially someone who can't cater for themselves?" Jade asked matter of factly.

"Well, if you can't then you shouldn't consider having kids so you don't turn out to be an awful mother who abandons one kid and sells off the other. Not everyone deserves to be mothers anyway," Candace said harshly and then winced the moment the words left her lips.

"I'm sorry," she said when she noticed the stricken look on Lucy's face, and Sonia patted Lucy's hand.

"Self deprivation isn't such a bad thing if you think about it. I'm positive there are things you deprive yourself of for Tom's sake or my sake or even the sake of Lucas and your parents. I believe it's even more worth it to do so for your kids. There's joy and satisfaction that come from seeing those little human happy. Right, Candace?" Sonia asked and Candace nodded.

"Sure. For instance not taking alcohol during pregnancy is for the overall well-being of your baby. Would you rather drink it or keep your baby safe? Or would you rather enjoy your sleep than attend to your crying baby?" Candace asked reasonably while Jade texted back Aurora who had texted to find out where they were.

"So, if Jamal was visiting you and had a nightmare, would you rather comfort him or go back to sleep and leave him to take care of himself?" Sonia asked, and Lucy shrugged.

"Those are minor and necessary," Lucy said.

Candace shrugged, "Motherhood is beautiful. I would deprive myself of everything if I need to for Jamal's sake," Candace said passionately.

"Ladies! Ladies! Ladies! We are at a club for Christ's sake! Motherhood is not something single ladies should be talking about in a club," Jade cut in with a groan.

"What should we be talking about then?" Lucy asked with an amused smile. It was funny that Jade was the youngest amongst them yet she often acted like she was the oldest.

"Sex. The men in our lives. Sex again. Talk more about our men and more about sex," Jade said making them laugh.

"Why don't you start by telling us how you ended up dancing on the stage the last time you were here?" Lucy asked with interest and Jade went on to tell them about it and how Harry had shown up to take her home.

While Jade was speaking, their first round of shots were served and she paused and counted to three for all three of them to take the shot while Sonia watched them enviously.

Jade told them how she had tricked him into kissing her even though she had told Sonia about it in the past and when she was done she scowled, "I think Harry used to be a monk or something in his past life," Jade announced irritably as she dropped her glass on the table and the others giggled.

"Why do you think that? Don't tell us he hadn't touched you yet?" Sonia asked with a curious smile.

"Touch me? Oh, he touched me so well. It's his level of self control in not doing more than touching me that I find so annoying," Jade hissed in frustration while Lucy watched, both amazed and amused that Jade was having this conversation with them knowing fully well that Harry's twin sister was seated there.

She couldn't imagine discussing her sex life with Tom in front of Jade. That would just be too awkward.

Candace on the other hand had a smug smile as she watched Jade. Like the other day, she had spent hours in bed with Matt and felt like she had more than made up for the past couple of years of not having any bed action.

"Well, did you try to seduce him?" Candace asked with a smirk.

"I was completely nude for crying out loud and wanted to return the favor. And guess what that pigheaded twin brother of yours did after looking at me? He chuckled!" Jade said incredulously, and Sonia's jaw dropped in disbelief while Candace doubled over with laughter.

"You're kidding, right?" Sonia asked in disbelief.

"He chuckled? Your body must have looked really funny. I should see it too," Candace said amidst her laughter and Jade glared at her.

"Shouldn't you be impressed? I mean, that tells you he wouldn't easily fall for the seduction of other women," Lucy said reasonably.

"Impressed? How impressed would you be if Tom finds your body amusing rather than sexy? If I didn't know for a fact that he was okay down there I would be worried," Jade said with a scowl.

"I can't tell. He has never laughed after looking at my body..." Lucy trailed off and rolled her eyes, "This discussion is ridiculous. But I think the fact that you know for a fact that he is okay down there should tell you he DOES find you sexy. Maybe he's waiting for a more special moment to do it," Lucy said with a shrug.

"You always defend Harry even more than his own twin sister. Perhaps we need another DNA test?" Jade asked and they all laughed as Aurora joined them.

"Sorry, I'm late. I was busy," Aurora said with a suggestive smile.

"While some are getting some action in the bedroom, others are not. I suppose you are more interested in talking about sex because you're not getting it," Candace said dryly and Jade shot her a glare.

"Don't make fun of me or we might just talk about those of us who are getting it secretly. At least Aurora isn't sneaking around to get it," Jade threatened and Sonia looked at Candace suspiciously.

"You're getting it?" Sonia asked and Candace shook her head at Jade.

"For a lawyer you have such a big mouth," she hissed at her.

"You started it, didn't you?" Jade retorted.

"Alright. I had sex with Matt. So, what? It was just sex!" Candace said, but from the look on Lucy's and Sonia's faces as they exchanged a look they didn't agree it was just sex.

"When? Tell us about it," Sonia said excitedly.

"What's there to tell? Unlike Jade who was only touched, I was touched, licked, sucked, eaten, and fucked, and I returned all the favor," Candace said smugly and Sonia clapped excitedly.

"That doesn't sound like just sex to me," Aurora said and Sonia nodded in agreement.

"I guess it wasn't a quickie at the party. By the way, why didn't you both come together? Aren't you coming from Harry's?" Sonia asked Jade curiously.

"Yeah, I am. But Candace left to meet up with Matt because they had some important business they needed to discuss. And you should know she lied to them she was going to see me but I showed up to see Harry unfortunately for her," Jade said making Candace decide there and then to never ever confide in Jade.

"So, you both resolved things last night?" Sonia asked curiously.

"Why did you have to lie about it?" Aurora asked at the same time.

"Because I obviously didn't want anyone to know I was fucking Matt, but thanks to Jade here, everyone knows now. So can we move on from my private business now?" Candace asked sweetly and then looked at Lucy.

"How come you don't ask much personal questions?" Candace asked Lucy who she noticed always did more listening than talking.

"I figured that if I don't ask you personal questions you wouldn't expect me to answer your personal questions. I'd rather respect your privacy so you can respect mine," Lucy said with a shrug, and Candace smiled.

"Perhaps you can teach Jade a thing or two on how to mind her business. She can be so infuriating," Candace said and Jade scowled at her while Lucy laughed softly.

Lucy took out her phone from her handbag when it vibrated, and she frowned when she saw it was an Instagram message notification from Kimberly.

[I'm sorry I reached out to you. I only wanted to get acquainted with you. I won't do so anymore.]

"Phones are not allowed, Lucy!" Jade chided when she saw Lucy on her phone.

"What is wrong?" Sonia asked when she noticed the frown on Lucy's face and she moved closer so she could see what Lucy was staring at.

"Did something happen?" Sonia asked and Lucy shook her head.

"I have no idea. Maybe Tom confronted her?" Lucy murmured thoughtfully but for Sonia's ears alone since Sonia was seated very close to her.

"Maybe," Sonia said with a sigh.

"What do you think I should do?" Lucy asked and Sonia took the phone from her.

"Nothing for now. Relax and have fun. You can talk to Tom about it later and maybe respond to the text after you've seen the DNA result if Tom says he's okay with you communicating with her," Sonia said as she dropped the phone into her handbag.

Lucy sighed as she tried to focus on what Jade and the others were discussing.

She was becoming worried that she might end up making an enemy out of Kimberly who might actually and genuinely be trying to be friends with her.

Chapter 650 Drunk

Unlike Jade and Candace who seemed to have a high level of tolerance for alcohol, Lucy and Aurora were the complete opposite.

Three shots in and Aurora was telling them her life history and all about her crazy sex with Philip while Lucy was laughing like a maniac about nothing and everything.

"You know, It's funny that Tom and I met in the club and I'm seated here in a club right now," Lucy said with a giggle that made the others watch her in amusement.

"Really? I never really got the details of the story about how you both met from the direct source. Mind sharing?" Jade asked hopefully, knowing that this was the only time she could get Lucy to loosen up in this manner.

"I don't think..."

"Why not?" Lucy cut in with a slur before Sonia could come to her aid.

"I should toootally tell you girls about it. It's interesting really," Lucy said with a drunken laugh, and Candace struggled within herself with whether to let Lucy talk or try to shut her up.

Lucy wasn't the type to be so chatty, and seeing her this way made Candace feel sort of guilty.

"Maybe you shouldn't say anything, Lucy. Instead, I will tell you girls all about my stripper days," Candace offered.

"I offered to share my story first! You can go after me," Lucy said with a scowl, and Jade giggled.

"Why are you girls trying to shut her up? She has finally loosened up, please let's enjoy this version of her before she goes back to being a perfect self," Jade pleaded and then shook her head when she turned to Aurora and noticed she was slouched against the couch and had been knocked out by the fourth shot.

"Sooooo, it was on my birthday," Lucy started and Candace shrugged as she adjusted on her seat to enjoy Lucy's drunken tale, letting her curiosity get the best of her since she also wanted to know how someone as introverted as Lucy ended up with Tom.

Seeing how Candace and Jade seemed very engrossed by the story, Sonia picked up her phone and quickly texted Tom.

[I think you should come to get Lucy ASAP! She's drunk and telling everyone the story about how you both met. You can also let Philip know Aurora is drunk as hell too.]

"... Even though I have never told him, I thought Tom was reeaally hot when I set my eyes on him and he seemed like the most eligible guy present for a one-night stand," Lucy said and Jade shook her head incredulously.

Even though she had heard it from Sonia but not in these exact details, she still could not wrap her head around Lucy doing something so outrageous and reckless.

Lucy continued with her entertaining story, sometimes mixing up the details because of her alcohol-messed-up brain and having to ask Sonia for confirmation of some details.

"So, Tom stalked you?" Candace asked incredulously.

"Yeah. But he really wasn't creepy or anything because I liked him," Lucy said in Tom's defense.

"That's a man that knows exactly what he wants. Unlike your brother who sits back doing nothing for years and lets the woman he loves be single for so long," Jade told Candace dryly.

"At least Lucy positioned herself to be chased, did you?" Candace asked in Harry's defense and Lucy doubled over with laughter making them all look at her with concern.

"Do you still need some more shots?" the waiter, who had been attending to them since they arrived, asked as he stopped by their table.

"I don't know about the others, but I'm done," Candace said with a shake of her head knowing that one more shot and she would either be blabbing like Lucy or knocked out like Aurora.

"Why not? The plan was to get drunk," Jade complained.

"You can go ahead and get drunk then," Candace urged her, and Jade rolled her eyes as she returned her attention to the waiter.

"I still want a shot," Lucy said, making the waiter look at her doubtfully.

"No, Lucy! That's enough. Tom will be here to get you soon," Sonia said, and Lucy turned to her as Jade ordered another shot for herself and dismissed the waiter.

"Tom is coming? I guess I should hit the dancefloor then. What's clubbing without dancing, right?" Lucy asked, and before any of them could voice an objection, Lucy rose and headed for the stage.

"Wow! Your girl is so much fun when she is drunk," Jade said with a small laugh as she rose to go join Lucy.

She was in the mood to dance herself, and since Dancing was one of the reasons they were at the club, she didn't see any reason not to hit the dancefloor with Lucy or perhaps she could hold off on dancing and capture the moment for Lucy instead.

"So, you and Matt, huh?" Sonia started, and Candace rolled her eyes.

"Can't y'all mind your business?" Candace asked and Sonia shook her head.

"I don't know about the others, but I can't. I'm very invested in your relationship. So, when did your rendezvous begin? Don't tell me you both suddenly decided to hook up last night after the whole Gemima shit. Did he bring her with him just to make you jealous?" Sonia asked, and Candace sighed.

"No, he didn't. Seriously, Sonia, if you all don't start minding your business I'm going to start nosing into your personal business too," Candace said, and Sonia shrugged.

"I've never stopped you. You can ask me whatever you want to know about me," Sonia offered with enthusiasm.

"Do you ever regret taking Lucy's side and losing your family?" Candace asked, and Sonia was taken aback by the question.

Sonia cleared her throat, "Uhm, That's an uncomfortable subject. I'd rather you ask me something else. Perhaps you can ask me something about my relationship with Bryan," Sonia suggested, and Candace smiled.

"I thought so too. My relationship with Matt is an uncomfortable subject. When it becomes something I like to talk about, I will let you know. But until then, please learn to respect my boundary," Candace said sweetly.

"Alright. Fine. I hear you loud and clear," Sonia said as she turned her attention to the stage, and she cringed when she saw Lucy dancing on the stage while Jade made a video of her from the bar.

What was keeping Tom? Sonia mused as she rose, ready to go rescue her friend from what she knew was going to be a very shameful memory for her when she finally returned to her senses.

"Look who just arrived, everyone! It's my handsome boyfriend!" Lucy declared loudly when she sighted Tom walk in through the door with all the other guys but thankfully the music was too loud so no one could make out what she said.

Tom paused by the entrance when they walked in and they all looked around for them. The last place his gaze went to was the stage since he had not been expecting her to be so drunk as to get on the stage.

"She is on the stage," Harry told Tom as he jerked his head towards the stage, and Tom didn't know whether to groan or chuckle when he saw Lucy standing there and waving at him with a drunken smile on her face as she swayed her body to the rhythm of the song.

"Well, last time I was here, your sister was entertaining the house. Enjoy," Harry said, and Bryan chuckled.

"Good thing I don't have to worry about Sonia being drunk," Bryan said as he, Harry, and Philip headed for the spot where Sonia stood waving at them.

Tom ignored the looks he was receiving from the few patrons in the club as he headed for the stage, "Come down, babe," Tom said as he stopped in front of the stage and looked up at her.

"You come up here and say hello to everyone. I'm having so much fun," Lucy said with a grin.

"I can see that. Why don't we have fun in private?" Tom suggested and Lucy turned like she was going to get down but to Tom's surprise, she went to the Deejay and took his mic.

"Listen, everyone! I want you all to meet my goooooorgeooooos boyfriend! He is the absolute love of my life and I'm fucking crazy about this very sexxxxxy man!" Lucy announced loudly.

As sweet and funny as the confession was, Tom knew it was time to get her out of the stage before she embarrassed herself further. He wasn't the least bit embarrassed but he knew she would be come when the alcohol left her system.

Knowing that she was not going to get off the stage unless he made her, Tom climbed the stage.

Jade who was still busy laughing as she filmed Lucy, turned her camera to Tom but before she could film him, Harry came up beside her and snatched her phone from her.

"What? Why did you do that?" Jade protested.

"You shouldn't film her in this state and especially not in this place," Harry said with disapproval.

"Why not? I'm doing this for her so she can know what she was up to while she was drunk," Jade said defensively.

"If you, who is with her, can do something like this, what will stop others from doing the same? How do you think Lucy is going to feel if she sees clips of her drunken self trending on social media? You shouldn't have let her get on that stage!" Harry said with disapproval and Jade frowned.

"I didn't think of that," she said when she looked around and noticed that they were being filmed but thankfully no one would make out what they were saying because of the loud music.

"You are the uncle turned boyfriend," the Barman said as he looked at Harry.

"Hello to you too," Harry said coolly before facing Jade again.

"I take it you're not drunk," Harry said as he eyed Jade.

"Obviously. As you should know, I can handle my liquor. Are you here for me or Candace?" she asked as she eyed him, her annoyance at him all forgotten now.

"Bryan is here for you. I'm here for Candace," Harry said and she scowled at him.

"No. Bryan is here for Sonia. I'm your girlfriend! You should be here for me!" Jade protested.

"Good thing you are not drunk. No one has to be here for you. You can just go home yourself," Harry said and Jade's lips curved in a pout.

"That's not fair. Candace is not drunk either. So, why not hang out with me instead of your sister?" Jade asked, batting her lashes.

"I'm not here to hang out. I'm leaving with Candace after handling the situation you might have created," Harry said, and before Jade could ask him what the situation was, Harry headed for the stage and took the mic from the deejay.

He made a quick announcement asking whoever had made a video of Lucy to delete it immediately and make sure it never gets on the internet or else they would face legal action.

Jade sighed as she went to join Harry after he was done, "I'm sorry. I really didn't think it was a big deal," Jade said apologetically.

"I think it would be best for you to keep in mind that you are in Ludus now, not Varis. You are not only Tom's sister, you are my girlfriend too and a staff of I-Global and whatever you do can make news easily. People will always recognize you now even if they don't approach you. The same goes for Lucy, Sonia, and Candace. Neither of you can live recklessly now because you have a lot of eyes on you, especially after our group picture from last night made the first page of the newspapers," Harry said, and Jade nodded.

"I understand. I get it. I'm sorry. Don't be mad," Jade said as they joined the others, and walked past Philip who was already leaving with an unconscious Aurora on his arms.

"I'm not mad. I just want you to be more careful, that's all," Harry assured her as he kissed her forehead before turning to Candace.

"Thanks for not getting drunk. It would have been very annoying to carry you," Harry said and Candace rolled her eyes.

"Because I won't offer to kiss you like Jade did when she pretended to be drunk? I bet you wish Jade was drunk," she said with a teasing smile and Harry scowled at Jade.

"I can't believe you told her that," Harry said with a shake of his head.

"She also said she thinks you were a monk and...." Jade slapped her hand over Lucy's lips to shut her up while Harry raised a brow at Jade.

"I thought you loved her being chatty. You should let her talk," Sonia said with a giggle.

"Thanks for handling it, Harry. I have to take Lucy home now. The rest of you can have fun," Tom said before carrying Lucy, who was still bent on dancing, away.

Once he helped her get into the car and fastened her seatbelt, he went around and got into the driver's seat.

"I'm not as drunk as you all think, you know?" Lucy asked, and Tom nodded.

"Yeah. I can see that. I don't think you're drunk at all," he said dryly as he started the car.

"Doesn't this remind you of the first time we met?" Lucy asked as she turned in her seat so she could look at him as he drove.

"Every time you're drunk I remember the first time we met," Tom said and she giggled.

"Didn't you just say you didn't think I was drunk?" she asked with a yawn.

"I didn't say you're drunk right now either. I said every time you're drunk I remember," Tom said with a grin, and she giggled.

"I think alcohol makes me horny. We should make out. Perhaps we can have sex in the restroom of the club before leaving. Or maybe here in the parking lot," Lucy suggested and Tom shook his head.

He couldn't believe she hadn't noticed he was driving already and they were out of the club's premise.

"I'm taking you home to sleep this off," Tom said when he turned to see her dozing.

"Tom?" Lucy called after he had driven in silence for some time.

"Yeah?" Tom called as he turned to spare her a quick glance to see if she was alright.

"Did you come with your extra clothes?" Lucy asked and he chuckled, amused that she was thinking of that even in her drunken state.

"Yes. My bag is in the backseat," Tom said and Lucy yawned again.

"Good. I don't think I can stop loving you and I really don't want to either. So you should know that I love you whether or not Dawn turns out to be yours, and if she happens to be yours, I will love her even as I love you, so you shouldn't worry about me and just be happy if it makes you happy," Lucy promised before dozing off, leaving Tom speechless.