

Chapter 10 You Have To Trust Me

The call connected, and Carsten's voice came through, edged with irritation.

"Bill told me you made a scene and insisted that every single thing Violet prefers be changed. He also said you went so far as to threaten to call off the wedding. Evie, have I indulged you to the point that you no longer know where to stop? Apparently, what happened yesterday failed to teach you anything. I was going to send NS1209 to your mother today, but I see no reason to do that now."

Evelyn's eyes hardened at his words.

If this had happened the day before, she would have wavered. For her mother's sake and for that medicine she would have given in to him.

But now, not a ripple crossed her face.

"Is there anything more you want to say, Mr. Ward? If there isn't, I'm ending this call," she said calmly.

A short stretch of silence followed.

Carsten clearly had not been prepared for this tone from the woman who had wept and pleaded with him only yesterday.

He inhaled once. "Evie, I am offering you one final chance. Go to the old mansion at once and get ready for the wedding. Then perhaps I can overlook what you did to Violet..."

A cold, mocking laugh slipped from Evelyn just as she was about to answer.

But then, all at once, she was shoved down against the bed with brutal force.

"Ouch!"

A sudden sting at her neck, sharp from teeth sinking in, pulled a muffled sound from her throat.

Her phone slid from her grasp and dropped onto the pillow beside her.

"Evie, what's going on? Where are you right now?" Carsten's voice kept coming through the phone, but Evelyn was unable to answer him.

She could feel burning possessive kisses moving along the length of her slender neck.

No, those were not kisses at all. They were closer to harsh, punishing bites.

Somewhere in the struggle, the thin blanket was flung away.

A strong hand seized her narrow waist, pushed up her nightdress, and slipped beneath it.

At the same time, Elias' low, icy voice brushed against her ear.

"Evelyn, did you already forget the promise you made to me last night? Are you about to go back on your word?"

His mouth and hands burned where they touched her skin.

Yet, his voice carried a coldness that pierced straight through her.

A tremor climbed Evelyn's spine.

Go back on her word?

Never!

In Sreles, nobody had the nerve to betray Elias, the merciless man everyone feared.

Nobody dared break a promise made to him.

More than that, her mother's life rested in his hands.

Color drained from Evelyn's face.

Without hesitation, she blurted out, "I would never do that. Why would I even think of breaking the deal?"

"Evelyn, who is with you? Why is there a man's voice on your end?" Carsten's shouts came sharply through the speaker. "Evelyn, where are you right now? I am ordering you to come back at once! Do you hear me?"

Even through the phone, the anger and possessiveness in his voice could be heard clearly.

Evelyn quickly reached over to end the call, then caught hold of Elias' hands.

"Mr. Martin, I never meant to go back on the deal! Please, you have to trust me!" she said.

Elias gazed down at her. "Do you mean it?"

Evelyn nodded quickly. "Yes. In seven days, I will marry you like I promised."

Elias raised a hand and tipped up her chin. His rough fingers skimmed lightly across her delicate skin.

His eyes grew dark, deep as an endless void.

"Evelyn, you were the one who came to me and asked for this. Once you become my wife, if you remain tangled up with another man, especially your former fiancé, then do not blame me for showing no mercy," he said.

Seven years of suffering, holding back, and jealousy burned through him.

Now that she had stepped into his life, he would never allow her to slip away again.

Evelyn took his warning the wrong way. She thought that if gossip spread after their contractual marriage, it would tarnish the Martin family's name.

Even the Ward family placed great importance on their reputation.

The Martins would value theirs even more.

Everyone in Sreles knew exactly how merciless Elias could be.

A man like him could be a savior one second and a nightmare the next.

Evelyn composed herself. "Mr. Martin, please do not worry. I understand that this is a transaction. As long as you keep supplying NS1209 for my mother, I will honor the boundaries. I will fulfill my role as your wife properly and never disgrace the Martin family."

She thought such a plain and direct answer would satisfy Elias.

Instead, Elias' expression turned even darker.

The air around him grew so oppressive that it made Evelyn's chest tighten.