



Chapter 54

KINGSTON

My friends left today, after a fun-filled night of catching up, they booked their flight and left. I had a few things moved so I could hang out with them all day yesterday which made today a busy day.

A busy, yet very distracting day.

Audrey and I visited a restaurant I'm looking to invest in, I had her tag along because she is good with places like this, she visits them often, so she would know if it was worth a shot, considering their financial records are toast.

From there, I met up with Rowan at our logistics company, where we spent the rest of our day. On our way back to the house, Danielle called to remind us of the grand opening of Damien's bar. I didn't have plans for tonight, and it all made sense the moment Danielle called Rowan.

Though tired, here I am, supporting yet another soon to fail business. Damien does this often. He calls me for money, starts up a new business or revives another, invests in a slump, and the results are always the same, he winds up losing and wasting everyone's time and money. I keep facilitating everything because his Father started most of my ventures, and the family name is attached to the success that I've solely attained over the years.

I'm standing in the VVIP section of the club, sipping overpriced whiskey he insists is imported. The club doesn't even have a name yet, and he rushed to open it. Classic Damien.



"Rowan," I groan, rubbing my eyes. I must be tired because I think I just saw Aeliana in the middle of the room, dressed in ripped jeans and a red leather jacket.

"What?" Rowan asks, leaning in closer.

"Nothing," I shake my head. She's not here, Aeliana is at home. The guest list has been sealed for months, there's no way she can be here tonight. "I thought I saw..."

Aeliana.

She's here, I did not imagine that. She must have moved when I tapped Rowan, but she is definitely here. Danielle runs up to her and pulls her to our table, letting her go the moment they slip past the green ribbon. "Rowan," she squeals, leaning over to kiss him.

My eyes stay on Aeliana, "What are you doing here?"

"My friend invited me," she quietly says.

Friend?

Since when does she have friends here? This defies the whole purpose of digging into her life. "Your friend?" I frown, my eyes momentarily shifting to Danielle who shakes her head. So it's not her.

"Yeah," she nods, flipping her hair over her shoulder. "I have friends."

"Glad you could come," Audrey says, clinging to my arm.

Aeliana nods, "Thank you."

Thank you?



No glare. No insult. No smartass remarks.

Alarmed, I pull away from Audrey, reaching for my glass on the table and scooting an inch away just in case Aeliana might have spoken to Danielle and could be holding a gun or blade behind her. I don't want to get blood on my nice shirt.

Her eyes stay on me, but she doesn't speak. Is she judging me for not inviting her? I didn't see it necessary to invite her to a place which would be filled with people who don't like her. I think our wedding was enough to last a lifetime. But the way her eyes burn into me makes me uncomfortable, and I'm scared to ask why it is that she is staring so hard.

My brother appears, tapping her on the shoulder, and only then does she look away. "That's your friend?" I scoff.

"I'm her brother-in-law." He smiles, "Welcome to the club." He tells her, stealing a drink off a passing waiter's tray and handing it to her.

"Thanks," she grins, her smile too wide for just a drink. I gave a whole meal a couple of nights ago, and couldn't get half a smile out of her. "You're so sweet D, no one has offered me a drink yet."

Damien smiles, "Lack of manners. And hospitality." he says, his eyes meeting mine. He means me, and he makes sure I know it. Rowan chuckles, and Damien spins, arms wide as he gestures around. "So, what do you think of thaa club?"

"it's..."

"Another waste of my money," I sigh, sipping my drink.



Damien feigns a deep heavy sigh, "You don't get this, golden boy. My club?" he motions to himself. "Oh, it will be legendary. You'll be begging me for those shares you didn't want."

"Damien, you know I love you, hun." Audrey begins, "But this club won't do half as well as King's other clubs, there is a hype tonight, but I've seen this before, it will tank soon."