

Benefits 231

Chapter 231: Bury You Head

"Are you not even going to look at me?"

Evangeline clenched the fork in her hand as she stabbed the egg omelette in front of her viciously. Even though his voice always sent a shiver down her spine, this time she wanted to bury it and probably him.

"Angel..."

Evangeline stabbed another bite out of the omelette and stuffed it into her mouth. Heck! Even that slight threat in his voice was exciting to her! Stupid physical response. Why couldn't he just let her eat in peace?

"Evana, we really need to talk."

"No. *we* do not need to do anything."

"You cannot avoid this forever, Evana."

"Watch me, Lucifer!"

"At least look at me when I am talking to you."

"No! I'd rather look at my omelette! It's better looking." Evangeline snapped.

"Liar. Evana, please this is important. I am not who you think I am."

Evangeline sighed and placed down her fork and knife, gently patting her lips before finally looking up at him. "I don't care how important it is, Lucifer. I don't really want to know. All these days, your eyes have shown me many emotions but I don't like the guilt there. I am trying to figure out what the guilt is about but... fine... why don't I make guesses and you can answer me..."

"Are you the man who saved me from falling into the pool?"

Lucien frowned, "Yes."

"Did you have an ulterior motive in approaching me?"

"You approached me, Angel."

Evangeline paused at that. "Oh."

"Then, are you some sort of a reporter who wanted to use my name for some scandal?"

"Instead of making these wild guesses, maybe you could try and listen to me?"

Evangeline stood up, unable to sit straight and walked to the window. She stared at the tall buildings on the outside and the cars that looked like little toys when she looked down and asked the question, "Whatever you say, will it hurt me?"

This time, there was no answer. And that non-answer felt like a slap in the face."

"I did not plan for it to be like this... It was because of..."

"Don't tell me Lucifer. Don't tell me. I'm about to return to Estania tonight. I want to keep the memory of this time intact. If you are feeling guilty, then live with that guilt do not burden me with your sins. Consider that the price for my forgiveness. And after today, let us never meet again."

As she said this, she turned to look at him, hoping against hope that he would not agree to it. Yes, she was not ready for his deception but the thought of never seeing him again was even more agonizing.

However, her heart broke in that instant when he nodded his head in agreement. She took a step backwards and would have run away when he walked to her and caught her hand. She looked down at the way his hand held her wrist and suddenly wanted to know what he was hiding.

The dilemma inside her was agonizing. " I promise you Lucifer will not appear in front of you again. And I won't tell you what I want to apologize for. Once we go out of here, we will continue to be two people exploring everything together. But I want you to remember one thing... I am not the man you believe me to be... And you are not the woman I was led to believe."

"What do you mean?", she asked with a frown when he placed his finger on her mouth. "Shush. Since you did not want to talk, we won't."

With a sigh, he gathered her in his arms, holding her close before stepping back, " Lets go, Angel. Today, before we part ways, you are going to be Lucifer's angel... Go, you need to get dressed."

With that, Lucien looked at her and patted her a**, "Uh huh. Go dress up in what you bought that day. We are going for a ride..."

As Evangeline stepped out of the hotel, she could only catch her breath. This was the man who'd stolen her heart. Leaning against that big bike, he stared at her as if he was about to ride her...

Stealing her heart, she reminded herself that he had hidden motives in approaching her... and walked to him with a smile, " Let's go... As she grabbed the second helmet from the bike and readied to sit behind him, he stopped her, " Nah. I'm not the one who is going to control her today."

Surprised, she watched as he moved aside to let her control his precious motorcycle... He'd been teaching her for the last six days and while she'd caught on, she'd never expected that he would let her... "Is it safe?"

"Yes. We are in a remote location and you have learnt well. Come on. Take control, Angel."

Before she could protest or rejoice, she was already straddling the motorcycle. Lucifer had simply lifted her and placed her there, before getting on behind her. She blinked as she watched his strong thighs

appear next to hers as he got on behind her...His scent seemed to surround her and she was already feeling giddy as his hands slowly guided her to the handlebars before he wound them around her waist.

With a mixture of thrill and heady excitement, she pressed the ignition as the engine roared to life. "This is insane..."

As the bike rode through the quiet lanes, Evangeline slowly sped up, feeling the worries and her overthinking being left behind. The giddy taste of freedom was like a siren's call to her beckoning her to join the dark side.

And then there was Lucien, subtly guiding her into the curves, dipping their weights when she couldn't.

Soon, he'd guided her to a small alcove, off the beaten track. Exhilerated, she jumped off the bike and threw her arms around him, "This was the best." He smiled against her head, placing a peck on her hair as he quickly caught her lips with his, stealing her excitement with a kiss...

Chapter 232: Thoughts

"Nora, do you really think you are as smart as your sister here? How could you even think of participating in the competition?"

"You should be grateful that I am even caring for you! I hated you so much that I wish to throw you in the garbage every day. It is only because of Sara, your sister cares so much for you..."

"Why can you not just die? All I want is for you to die, but you keep living and reminding me of my miserable life with that man!"

Eleanora's eyes snapped open as the woman in her dream raced towards her with a knife raised. Drenched in cold sweat, she whimpered, expecting to feel the stab of a knife.

It took her a moment, as she clutched the bedsheet under her that she was somewhere else. Frowning, she tried to think where she was. Had she lost her memory again? This was not her room. No, if she'd lost her memory again, she would not have remembered losing her memory previously. So...

Just then, a hand reached her and wiped her face gently. Seeing the man and the white bandage around his head, she felt a sweep of relief so intense that she jumped into his arms before she could even think, "Oh! Thank heavens you are alright! I was so worried..."

Demetri quickly held her in his arms, hugging her back as he felt her shudder in relief. He smiled as he buried his face in her neck, her mind had forgotten him but her heart had not.

As she felt his warm breath over her, Eleanora realized how foolish she'd been, jumping him like that. What if his wife were to come in at a time like this? She would be so hurt and misunderstand. Though with the despicable way this man had been behaving, he deserved to be beaten by his wife.

With a sudden push, she stepped away from him hurriedly and sat back down on the bed. Closing her eyes, she tried to think what had transpired. They'd been playing. Then he'd been hurt. And then she'd panicked...

Her frown deepened as she tried to remember what happened after that...

Unaware that his wife had been planning to beat him up a few moments ago, Demetri kneeled down in front of Nora and held her hand, "What is it? Are you still not feeling well?"

"What happened in the garden? How did I end up here?", she questioned the man.

Demetri carefully patted Nora's hand as he questioned back, "What do you remember?"

As she recounted the entire incident to him, Demetri realized what had happened. Carefully, he looked at her and answered her question, "You had a panic attack at the sight of my blood. The doctor had to give you a sedative... The old doctor could not have carried you there and I was too hurt to take you all the way, so we brought you here."

Eleanora nodded and looked away quietly, "Thank you. I'll go back now. It is already night outside..."

Needing the time to think and escape her current feelings, Eleanora hurriedly took her leave, ignoring the man as he called out for her to have some dinner.

The reason for her hurrying away was that she remembered something. As she'd told Gaia what had happened, she'd remembered shouting for someone. A name... something. She needed to find out who it was. Who was her Mr Husband? Somehow, she had a feeling that Gaia knew more than he let on. And it was not something that she was comfortable with... It was better to continue as if nothing had happened.

Whatever fragments of memories were returning to her, they voices and the backgrounds were getting clearer. So people would soon too. The doctor told her that her mind would start clearing once she was in better shape...

Early the next morning, Eleanora continued to try and think of the thoughts that were knocking at the back of her head with no success, as she played around with the cereal in her milk.

Unaware of her distraction, a little tornado rushed in with a loud, "Noraaaaaa..."

Nora looked up to see Dora running at her full speed and quickly caught the girl in her arms, thankful that she was already sitting or she would have landed on her backside...

With an oof, she caught the girl and patted her back as she clung to her, "You are alright! I was so scared yesterday! First Gaia was hurt and there was so much blood and then when I fetched the doctor, you were sick! I don't like my sisters being sick! And you are my favorite sister."

Eleanora hugged the little girl closer and smiled as she kissed her sweet dumpling-like cheeks, "And you are my favorite sister too. Much better than Sara."

Dora grinned at being proclaimed the favorite but then frowned, "Who is Sara?"

"Hmm? Sara?"

"You said I am your favorite sister better than Sara? Who is Sara?"

Eleanora's brows furrowed at that. She never realized that she'd mentioned Sara...

But she could not tell Dora that..." I meant Evangeline. You are much better than her."

Dora was pleased at that. She was more loved than her perfect sister! Yes!!!

Happily, she wriggled and slid her way off her sister's lap and peered into the bowl in front of her," Can I have some fruit loops? Gaia promised to get me some if I kept quiet about you screaming but you already have the fruit loops so can you give me the loops..."

Eleanora's eyes sharpened at that. What did Dora mean about Gaia asking her to not talk. Gently, she pushed the bowl in Dora's direction while she questioned," What did he say?"

"You were screaming so loudly that I was scared. So when Gaia consoled me said I should forget what I heard and he would give me some fruit loops. That way, I can forget the fear I felt then. But it is already morning and he did not come yet. I want those loops. And you have them too. That way you can forget that you were shouting random name like Demetri Demetri at the top of your voice..."

Chapter 233: To Return or Not To Return

In the conference room of Frost Industries, Erasmi Frost, Ian Frost and Seb Frost stared at the files in front of them, while Gabe stared at his three brothers with a similar expression from the screen set up against the wall.

Finally, after staring in silence, Erasmi was the first one who spoke," So, we all are agreed that the only person who could have sent this is Demetri..."

All the other three nodded, this time the relief and joy visible on their face. They had been trying to find a way to get into Estania with no possibility but now, they'd received a direct invitation for investment talks from the Prime Minister of Estania himself. But what had shocked them was the proposal enclosed with that.

Though the proposal was well worked out, there were handwritten notes, meticulously stuck in various places explaining any questions they might have. When Erasmi had first seen the file, he'd doubted his own eyes. Finally, he'd clicked the pictures of the notes and sent them in the group... And they'd all agreed that it had to be Demetri...

Ian pushed his glasses over his nose and looked around, "Should we tell grandfather of this? He will be relieved. His health has been failing..."

Erasmi shook his head, "No. We need to give him something substantial to that old coot. And it would be too soon at a stage like this."

"We need to send someone to Estania to consider the possibilities as well as scope out everything. At least with this proposal, we know that we were headed in the right direction in our search." Seb nodded, looking at the papers carefully.

"It's too bad that Lucy decided to give up on the mission," Ian added. "I can go to Estania. I'll get my team ready by tomorrow and we can leave..."

Gabe shook his head and spoke to the screen, "No. You need to handle the Global Strategy Symposium. and we cannot wait until you return..."

Seb sighed, "The Hotel is also hosting a lot of diplomats for the National Summit so I cannot leave either... That leaves Lucy..."

"We need to send him. He's already been trying to get there so that should be of help." Gabe agreed.

While the others also cautiously nodded, Erasmi spoke up, "I don't think so. Lucy just had his heart broken..."

"What do you mean broken-hearted?" Ian and Seb both looked in Erasmi's direction at that.

"Haven't you guys been reading his messages?"

In sync, both the brothers grabbed their phones and started to scroll through the chat, "He doesn't sound..."

"F**K! The boy went and fell for the girl he was supposed to seduce!" Ian muttered while Seb could only scratch his head. It doesn't say anywhere that he fell for her..."

Showing his phone's screen to Seb, he pointed out the messages that Lucy had sent at odd hours, "I don't think she is that bad." Another one read, "There may have been some mistake." "I am going to be confessing the truth tomorrow. If she agrees to help I'll go with her or else we have no option but to look for another way."

"Da*n! This is bad!"

"Did he confess about that plan? That idiot! If he's fallen for her, he should have simply made it into reality. But are you sure that she is a good person and he has not been fooled." Seb asked.

"We can judge Lucy's judgement and you know it. So, what do we do now. He is coming back to nurse his broken heart?"

"He wants to. But I have a different idea." Erasmi leaned forward and soon all the other three were nodding agreeably.

"No wonder your expertise was strategy! You're good! Let's do it! As older brothers it is our duty to bully... I mean help Lucy..." Ian nodded cheerfully as he started typing in the group..

Group Chat

Ian: Lucy, don't come back yet. You are going to Estania.

Lucien: No, I am coming back.

Ian: Nah. You are going.

Lucien: Coming back.

Ian. No. You are going.

Lucien: This is ridiculous! Why can't one of you go?

Ian: Did you confess already?

Lucien: No. But

Seb: No your bu**. Your team will be joining you tomorrow in Estania. It is decided

Lucien: I don't want to go. Why do I need to go? I thought they were not allowing us to enter the country. If they are allowing now, there are four of you over there who have the same surname as me!

Erasmi: There has been a change in plans. We'll update you. Also, you going there was a unanimous decision so it's not up for discussion.

Lucien: But why? Expansion is not even my forte...

Seb: What unanimous? I am telling you I want to go to Estania. I will seduce the princess Evangeline quickly and not wallow in guilt like Lucy here. LET ME GO."

Ian: Seb might have a point... Maybe we can consider this if Lucy does not want to go... Seb can charm the stockings off the princess...

Seb: Who cares about the stockings! She can keep wearing those, I'll charm off the rest...

Before anyone could say anything more, Lucien Frost had sent a picture to the group that caused all the brothers to laugh smirk

Ian, Erasmi, Gabe and Seb all stared at each other before laughing out loud.

flight tickets to Estania in the name of Lucien Frost

Gabe shook his head and murmured, "Lucy is surely on his way to rush to Estania. What does he think you are Seb?"

Seb shook his head mockingly and sighed, "Even my brother thinks I am a man wh*re..."

"That is because you are," Ian pointed helpfully.

While Erasmi rubbed his hands together, "Looks like we are going to have Nora back soon as well as a new sister in law. Come on boys, get busy, we need to be ready to watch the show when the time comes..."

Chapter 234: Down The Memory Lane

"I hate math." Dora complained as she stared hard at her sister, hoping she would help her. That was what she did in the past with Evangeline when she was around. But now, Evangeline was always out on business, so Dora had to struggle by herself. Thankfully, Eleanora had not forgotten her math.

Placing her hand on her chin, Dora looked at her older sister, "Eleanora, you lost your memory but you can still read, write and even do math. Isn't that lucky?"

Eleanora looked up from her phone as she heard Dora's voice and made a face, "How is that lucky?"

"Well, imagine if you woke up and did not know how to read or write! You would have to sit through school like me!"

"Aww... Poor Dora, having to study so much."

Isidora pouted and made sad eyes at her sister, "You don't even pity Dora now."

"I don't. But don't worry. I will pity her soon." Eleanora grinned as the girl's expression grew even more outraged.

"Why?" Crossing her arms in front of her, she tried to glare at her sister but ended up looking too cute so Eleanora could only chuckle and kiss her forehead as she said, "Because you are almost late for your etiquette classes and then..."

Dora looked at the time and widened her eyes. It was almost five p.m. "Why did you not remind me earlier? I have to go now. Sister Eleanora! You have been demoted from the position of favourite sister! Now I only have Kitten as my sister..."

Eleanora chuckled as the little girl pecked her cheek and rushed away finally breathing a sigh of relief. Quickly, she took out her phone and typed the name, "Demetri..." in the search bar. Unfortunately for her, a plethora of Demetri's appeared on her screen.

Eleanora could not help but frown. Shouldn't the name Demetri be rare? She'd never heard it but there were so many here. She scrolled at the endless list of Demetri's pausing here and there to see if anyone looked familiar. By the variety of Demetris' seemed too many.

Muttering, she read the names, " Demetri Guero, Demetri Smith, Demetri Rafaello, Demetri Payet, Demetri Vagas.... Demetri Pancakes?"

Eleanora blinked at the weird name. Since none of the Demetri's were ringing a bell, she clicked on the profile of Demetri Pancakes and sighed. Did people have nothing to do with their lives? Someone had actually drawn a stack of pancakes and then a man's head on top, calling him Demetri Pancakes...

Sigh... How was she to find the Demetri she was looking for? Shaking her head, she reminded herself that she needed to do it! So with determination to find her right one, she started to check the profile of each Demetri she came across. As the clock ticked by, and she could feel her own eyes drying up, Eleanora leaned back with an exasperated sigh. It was like trying to find a needle in a haystack.

Just as she was about to give up, her eyes fell across a name...Demetri (Demon) Frost.

Intrigued, she clicked on the profile wondering if this sense of familiarity that she was feeling about the name was because she was desperate... Unfortunately, she was set to be disappointed. The information on the profile was minimal and not a single picture was available...

Her eyebrows raised as she read the simple description, CEO Frost Industries. Known as Demon due to his ruthless business tactics. Married. There was no other personal detail there at all. Going back to the search bar, she typed in Demetri Frost. A list of successful ventures appeared in front of her but still no personal information or even a single picture. There were even a few memes but no pictures. What was this? Who was this person and why was he so elusive?

Shuffling, she tried changing the search word again, " Demetri Frost Wife."

Again, only a few articles. Finally, she found a forum that seemed to have been discussing the man's wife and slowly, she scrolled towards the older comments. Finally, she found it, Demetri Frost's wife is really young. It's like Demon caught a little lamb."

"But he seems to dote on her. There were rumors that she once fainted in the main building of the Frost Industries and he almost breathed fire on anyone who came in his path."

"What I find interesting is that the man seems to have disappeared altogether from this world. Even his pictures have been deleted!"

"Yes. And the legal team of Frost Industries has warned anyone to try and post his picture again, threatening to ruin them."

"If I had not seen him at the recent Stakeholders meeting, I would have believed he was dead. But no, he is still alive and burying others."

Eleanora frowned and placed her phone aside. Maybe the name seemed familiar because this man was a big shot. She needed to find her Demetri...

"Who is Demetri?"

Eleanora jumped off her a chair and let out a little scream as a soft voice whispered in her ears, sending shivers across her skin. Hurriedly, she placed her phone face down and glared at the man who had sneaked from behind her, " Gaia! What are you doing here? You almost scared me to death."

Gaia looked at her guilty expression and her shifting eyes and raised an eyebrow, "I came here to see you. But you are seeing someone else. Who is this Demetri? And why are you looking for him?"

"Who is Demetri? I don't know what you are talking about." Pretending to look at her phone she frowned and spoke, "Oh? You mean this? It's nothing. I was just looking something up and fell asleep so must have mis-clicked. So... why are you here?"

Gaia looked at her careful expression trying to judge if some part of her memory had returned. But her wary look towards him remained the same to he dare not raise the subject.

Note: Awesome readers? Do you like this new cover? I'm going to be uploading a new one soon so please take a look so that you can vote later! Check the announcements

Chapter 235: Who Do You Think You Are?

Eleanora had barely gotten rid of Gaia when suddenly Evangeline burst into her home, her voice bouncing off the walls, "Eleanora! Get here, now."

Eleanora who had been slumped on the couch, winced at the loud voice and cautiously spoke, "I am already here. Why are you screaming? My house looks like a fish market to you?"

"Ha! It's worse than a fish market. At least those people are working hard to earn their money! But you! What makes you think that you can appear out of nowhere and try to usurp my right? How are you suitable?"

Eleanora crossed her arms in front of her and raised her chin, "How am I not suitable? You're a bit older than me but otherwise..."

"Otherwise what? You have not even finished your education and have no memory of your own past. But even if you did, you have not been brought up in Estania, so how can you even think of serving its people." Eleanora spoke condescendingly.

"Not being bought up in Estania is not my fault, Evangeline. As for the rest, my education was put on pause due to the accident and everything happened. But it has not incapacitated me! I have already started looking into finishing my education so that I can serve the people here."

"And yet, I am older than you so rightfully the throne is mine! If you really want to serve people, you can do so without needing to rule!"

"Doesn't the same apply to you as well, Evangeline? You've already been serving the people of Estania? Is that all for show, until you get the rule. And you seem to have forgotten one important fact, my father was the older son of the King! He was the one who was supposed to have inherited the crown but instead, he abdicated. Its only natural the throne passes onto me first." Eleanora replied as the two girls continued to argue loudly.

Soon, the two women were arguing loudly, talking over each other as each tried to get the other to back down.

Just as Evangeline raised her hand to slap Eleanora, the maid stepped in between, catching her hand, "Princess Evangeline! How can you hit Princess Eleanora?"

Evangeline looked scathingly at the maid who had dared to stop her and jerked away her hand, pushing the maid onto the ground, "How dare you put your hands on me. Who do you think you are trying to interfere between my matters?"

"I dare not interfere, Princess! I was only trying to protect my princess."

Evangeline glared at Eleanora who glared back at Evangeline, neither ready to back down.

Finally, Evangeline nodded and snapped back, "Fine. I'd like to see you try and take away what belongs to me rightfully."

With that, Evangeline turned on her heel and stormed out, leaving a tense silence in her wake.

Eleanora, drained from the emotional confrontation, collapsed onto a nearby couch, clutching her head as if trying to ease the throbbing ache building within. Lily approached cautiously; concern etched across her face. "Are you alright, Princess?"

"I'm fine, Lily."

"Is your head aching? Do you need me to get some medicine for you? I thought you said you were not interested in the throne. Did you change your mind?" Standing up, Lily quickly brought a glass of water to Eleanora who took it cautiously as she answered Lily.

"It's not like I only want the throne Lily. But I should get a chance too. Shouldn't I? So what if I do not have any memory. My bloodline is as noble as hers. Also, I don't want to marry Prince Augustus so the only way I can for sure get rid of him is to ascend to the throne and get Grandma to surrender her title. That way she cannot force me."

Lily nodded in sympathy as she placed a comforting hand on her shoulder, "It's alright, Princess. I will support you all the way. You have every right to become our Queen. In my opinion, you should be the Queen anyway. Princess Evangeline is simply too snotty. Don't her take what is rightfully yours. You need to show everyone that you're the better choice."

Eleanora looked at the glass in her hands and nodded slowly, "You are right, Lily. Don't worry. I will become Queen. Thank you for protecting me and believing in me, Lily."

"It is my honour and duty Princess. Do you need something else?"

Eleanora shook her head and returned the glass to the maid, "No. You can also retire for the evening, Lily. I'll see you in the morning. I'd like to do some thinking."

As Lily walked away, Eleanora raised her head, staring at the girl's back with a disappointed expression on her face. She had sincerely believed that Lily was a simple-minded girl with her head in the clouds. But some people were really great actors.

By coming between her and Evangeline at the right moment, she'd established herself as her well-wisher with a simple gesture while casting Evangeline in the role of the villain.

If she had been truly a naive and impressionable, then Lily would have used her perfectly.

Leaning back, she closed her eyes and sighed. "It was a good thing that uncle had sent Gaia to warn her and remind her to act. Because Evangeline Sterling was a really good actor as well... She was pretty sure the girl would have really slapped her across the face if Lily had not stepped in.

Sigh. Could her life get any more dramatic? First, she has an accident and loses her memory. Then she gets a sister who is not a green tea bi*ch but an expert at acting like one. Added to that, she then has to pretend to be a bi*ch as well and fight with her for a 'chair' that she does not even want!

Next thing she knew, she might land in some transmigration book in some other parallel universe...

Chapter 236: Doubts

"Daddy, are you sure that she is not going to betray us?" Evangeline questioned Alexander Sterling quietly.

Alexander sighed and rubbed the bridge of his nose as he looked at Evangeline, "You look tired, child. Why are you not going and resting?"

"Daddy! You are avoiding answering me! Does that mean you are not sure?"

Alexander Sterling sighed, "I'm not avoiding answering you Evana. I just don't know what to say. Nora... If it had been Lara Anderson, Nora's mother or that other girl, Sara who had pretended to be her all these years, then I probably wouldn't have been sure.

But Eleanora actually reminds me of my brother, your uncle. Even though he always listened to his heart, his mind and judgement were always logical. The only even lapse in judgement that he had was marrying that woman Lara. I have always wondered why he fell for her and then stayed married to her all those years."

Evana studied her father and observed, "You actually like Eleanora, don't you?"

"I've come to consider her like you and Dora, yes."

Evana looked away from her father, staring outside, aware that her father was looking at her waiting for a response. Finally, she turned to him and said, "I hope you are not wrong in this Daddy. If I had not known that she was acting, I would have believed that she really wanted the throne."

Alexander sighed. "Evana..."

"Daddy... you've always told me to be careful of people around you. Even if they seem to have no ulterior motives. And yet, you are the one so keen to trust that girl. You are even going against grandmother to protect her. Is it really because she is that good or is it because you want to assuage your guilt towards my dead uncle."

"Oh.. I am very protective of her Evana and it might be because of your uncle but I wouldn't underestimate her. You met Antonio, did you not? She stood at the altar in front of that man despite being married to someone else."

"She's married? I thought that was a..."

"She is not just married. She is married to a very powerful and dangerous man. Your grandmother's goons actually dared to attack the man to take Eleanora away. It was my mother's luck that I was able to save him and keep Eleanora safe while he recovered or else..."

This caught Evana interest. "Are you saying that the person she is married to is more powerful than you?"

Alexander Sterling smiled. His Evana had always treated him as if he was a hero. It made him feel proud as a father despite his many faults.

"I am bound by the politics of Estania, despite being powerful. That man has no such bounds."

"Who could be so powerful?"

"Have you heard of the name Frost Industries?"

Evana frowned. "Of course. They are one of the biggest hospitality and lending..."

Evana felt the penny drop," Nora is related to the Frost Industries."

"Not just related. She is married to the head of Frost Industries."

Evana's eyes widened with disbelief. "The CEO of Frost Industries? But that means... she's not just involved in some ordinary marriage. She's tied to a major player in the business world and grandmother is still trying to marry her off to Prince Augustus just because Eleanor does not remember her past. Where is that man now? Why has he not made an appearance to be with her."

"Because of Eleanora's memory loss. She was brought here very carefully, with the guards trying their best to restrain her. But Nora is well trained in self-defence. She beat up almost all of the people. Despite not being severely hurt, she'd lost her memory. The doctor claimed that it might not be safe for her to face her past so suddenly. It is why the man refrained from coming in front of her. But..."

"But what, Daddy?"

"The Frost family is not one to sit quietly. Despite trying my best, they've been able to find leads that point to here. I've been doing my best to block their entry into Estania until now but not for longer. So, I've decided the only way to pacify the Frosts would be to work with them hand in hand. No one knows that Nora is related to the Frosts. So using them would help establish you while they would be reassured that Eleanora is safe."

"I see. These matters are getting more and more complicated, Daddy. You have to be careful not to trap yourself."

"Don't worry, Evana. Daddy knows what he is doing. And while I do not know if Eleanora might prove a boon or a bane in the future, for now, her alliance with the Frosts will help us speed up this process. Already that man has started making his move. Once he is caught, we will have a handle on the internal threats to peace of Estania."

"I hope, Daddy. I really hope this happens." Evana sighed.

Her parents had sacrificed a lot for Estania without getting anything in return. If she could see her father sit back in contentment even for a moment, she would be happy.

As for her doubts about Eleanora and her connection with the Frost Industries, she would keep a close eye on both. A girl who could act so well and ensnare the aloof CEO of Frost Industries, would not be so simple.

She would not let her father suffer for someone else's greed. "Daddy? When is the CEO of Frost Industries arriving?"

Alexander Sterling looked up from his file with a frowning gaze. Trying to keep her suspicious thoughts at bay so that her father would not have doubts, she continued to look at him.

" The person from Frost Industries? He will arrive here the day after tomorrow. I will arrange an official meeting for you and for Eleanora to meet him. His focus of course is going to be on making sure that Eleanora is alright but I'd like to get some business done as well."

Chapter 237: Awestruck

Eleanora stared at herself in the mirror, caressing the small tattoo on her chest... "Only his."

Carefully, she used the concealer to get hide the tattoo before taking off her glove. Her hand had turned pale due to being constantly covered while the tattoo on it seemed to have become darker. Patiently, she spread the makeup foundation all over her hand, being careful to match the rest of her skin tone as the paleness and the tattoo disappeared.

Once done, Eleanora pulled out the short strapless romper dress that she had specially prepared for the occasion and stepped out of her room. Lily, who had been about to knock on the door, stared at the Princess' stunning transformation and gulped, " Princess Eleanora, you look really pretty!"

Eleanora grinned at the young girl as she walked out, " Thank you, Lily. Also, I am going for a stroll. So, I'll see you later."

'Princess!' Lily ran behind the princess and called out, "Your hand! Your hand is recovered!"

Eleanora smiled at Lily and shook her head, "Of course, it is not recovered. There are still those hideous stitch marks! But the wounds have recovered so I applied some make up on them to hide the marks."

"Really. Please show me too, Princess."

Lily excitedly hurried forward to hold her hand and see it for herself, but Eleanora quickly hid her hand behind her back," Nuh huh! Lily, you will ruin the make-up. I will show it to you some other day. Now I need to go somewhere."

As Eleanora turned away to go, Lily called out," But Princess, where are you going?"

"I'm going on a date."

"A date! With who? Where? I should call and inform your security..."

Eleanora waved her hand behind her back ignoring Lily who stomped her foot in irritation. She rather liked the previous princess who was always at home not wanting to go anywhere. But she was getting to be a pain now. Rushing behind a large pillar, she hurriedly dialed," I think she is going out on a date. Pause. I don't think it is Prince Augustus. Pause. It must be the gardener. He keeps visiting her here and they sit alone always..."

As Lily disconnected the call, she shook her head. The Princess was really a foolish woman. She did not value a Prince and was going after a frog. Why were such foolish people blessed with such luck. If only it had been her who had been Prime Minister's niece. She would have fought and gotten rid of Princess Evana and then promptly married Prince Augustus, thereby bypassing the loop in the constitution and ruling both countries.

Putting aside the tray in her hand, she shook herself off the daydream and quickly followed the direction that Princess Eleanora had taken.

Eleanora walked to the garden and as expected, the man was there working. Quietly, she leaned against a big tree and stared at his face, as if she was seeing him for the first time. He looked so beautiful and so at peace working here. She'd often seen him on his laptop or even the balcony in their home but...

A sigh escaped her as lips while her eyes moistened. They'd been so close to each other and so away. He'd been in front of her all this time and she'd been looking everywhere else...

Yes. Her memory had returned. Like a light switch going off, she'd fallen asleep last night thinking of ways to find Demetri only to be woken up at dawn with a jerk and her memory returned.

As she'd laid there feeling lost, she realized that those scars that she had seen on him were scars from where the bullets had entered his body. And from there had started the questions that she had no answer to. Why was she among these people? Why had Demetri not come to her from the very beginning and told her the truth. Why was he cooperating with Alexander Sterling? And what did these people belong.

However, the feeling that had been behind everything had been to run to him and jump into his arms, holding him tightly and telling him what she had not been able to tell him before they were separated by those people. That she loved him with all her heart.

She wiped the tears from her eyes and looked at his wrist. When did he get the tattoo? Was it before everything happened or was it after?

As she wiped her tears, she realized that he had stiffened. Dam* it! She had revealed herself. Looking away, she made sure that her profile was to him and struck a seductive pose. No matter how much she wanted to go to him, she had to be careful of his reasons.

What if it wasn't safe for them to reveal that her memory was back. The gardens were an open space. She needed to create a way so that he would find a chance to tell her everything. And then she would let him know that her memory had returned...

Demetri had known of her gaze on him from the moment she entered the gardens but since the girl had planned to ogle him, he'd let her. After all, he belonged to her so she could ogle him all she wanted. However, he stiffened when he thought he heard a sniffle. Slowly, he turned towards her to check if she was alright. But in the next moment, he was sure that he was the one who was unwell.

To say he was awestruck would be an understatement. She looked as if she'd stepped out of a po*n magazine from his teenage days. The strapless romper accentuated each curve while the sun's rays seemed to form a halo around her.

"Nora... my kitten." Her name left his lips on a sigh and as she turned her head to look at him, Demetri was reminded of her old self. The way she used to look at him before she forgot about him...

Chapter 238: Going On A Date

While he stood there frozen, she sauntered towards him, her every movement making it difficult to breathe for him. His eyes roved over her body, possessively and he noticed the missing glove.

In the next moment, however, his eyes narrowed as he saw the clear skin, no sign of the tattoo. His gaze jumped to her left, where the tattoo should have been visible but had been hidden.

Just then, she'd reached him and smilingly twirled, "How do I look, Gaia?"

"Like you lost the rest of your clothing?" Demetri spoke sourly, realizing that the back of the romper was just that, almost missing.

He watched as she made a face at him and said, "I needed a change from the usual. You're just jealous."

Demetri's eyes sharpened with interest. Something was definitely up with the girl today. There was a different lilt to her voice.

"Jealous? Why would I be jealous? The thing is, princess..." Demetri stepped forward as he started to talk, causing Eleanora to step back wide eyes as he continued, "I would be jealous if you were mine and going out like this without me. But since you wore this for me... I am really appreciative..."

Nora glared at the man as she refused, "Ha. You think too highly of yourself, Gaia. I said you must be jealous because you cannot wear something like this. And I DID NOT WEAR THIS FOR YOU! I am going out on a date. I just came to ask for your opinion. Male perspective and all that."

"A date?" Gaia repeated slowly... It seemed the Prince had not learned his lesson the last time. This time, instead of letting the man sit in the ditch, maybe he should bury him..." You wore this... for Prince Augustus?"

Eleanora stopped smiling at the name, scowling instead, " Who? Why? Eww No! Why would you curse me like that! As if I would ever wear this thing for the Octopus Calendar Man."

Demetro frowned. If it wasn't Augustus then could it possibly be Antonio? But he'd made sure to remind Alexander Sterling to get rid of the man...

"Okay. Thats enough. So this dress is good enough, in your opinion. Now, I'm off. Bye, Gaia."

Blowing a flying kiss his way, Eleanora turned to walk away. However, before she could have walked a few steps away, he walked forward, blocking her way almost causing her to walk straight into him.

Glaring up at him, Eleanora stepped back and raised an eyebrow, " Why are you stepping into my path?"

Demetri answered with a question of his own, " Who are you going out with? Antonio?"

Eleanora scoffed again at that, " Antonio? He came to meet me here but then disappeared suddenly. I don't even know where he is. Also, how is it your concern who I am going out with?"

Eleanora pouted her lips stubbornly at that. Demetri watched her face and sighed. It did not matter whether she had her memory or not. She really knew how to set him off without saying anything.

Inhaling slowly, he uttered word by word, " Princess Eleanora, your safety is my responsibility. Please tell me who are you going out on a date with. Let us be reasonable in this..."

Though he said those words, inside Demetri was being anything but reasonable. He was already thinking of getting some Carnivorous plants for whoever she was going out with... He must have a few in the greenhouse back there...

Eleanora frowned before giving in, " Well, I am going out with Demetri."

Demetri, who had been prepared to scoff at any name she took, ready to persuade her to drop the idea, was stunned. She was going out with him?

However, his thoughts were soon dispelled when she continued, " Do you remember I was looking for someone the other night when you came calling? It was for my husband."

Demetri blinked at that, wondering if he'd lost something in his understanding. Had her memory returned? Just as he was about to hold her with happiness, she continued, " You see, I know I have a husband called Demetri but I do not know where he is. So, I messaged a few people with the same name that night, asking them if they'd lost their wife. And one of them replied! Can you believe it?"

As Eleanora put on her brightest and most excited expression, she had to quickly turn away to suppress the laughter almost escaping her. If only she have recorded this expression of his! She could have such a picture over him as a threat all his life. He looked like a comical cartoon who had been hit with a hammer on the head.

Without looking at him, she bit her lip and continued, " Anyway, I've decided to go and meet him. If he really is my husband, then I don't have to worry about anything else...I'll go with him, leaving all this fight for the throne behind. Also, do you know how handsome he is? If I show you his profile picture, you will agree that we are a perfect match. All those muscles... I just want to touch them so bad..."

Finally, the ever-patient Demetri burst out, " No way are you going anywhere!"

But Eleanora was already prepared for this and quickly replied, " No way are you going to stop me! I am going to go and get my husband!"

And just when Demetri would have marched forward, she raised her hand and ordered, " Stop right there Gaia! If you dare to try and stop me, I will scream and that will ruin my uncle's...I am going..."

"Princess Eleanora, please stop! Let me come with you! It is just not safe for you to just contact someone online and then go meet them. I'll follow you at a distance."

Eleanora blinked at that. Now that was not what she had expected. But she realized she should have. Her husband was an expert at handling situation so it was natural he would know how to handle her calmly...Now what was she supposed to do... And just then an idea struck her..

Chapter 239: We Meet Again

Walking ahead of him, Nora grinned but spoke crossly, "I hope you are not thinking of being a chaperone on my date. If you dare to interfere, Gaia..."

Hearing the hopeful expression in her voice, Demetri felt his heart clench. At this moment, he wanted simply to catch her and hold her in his arms while claiming that he was her Demetri and to hell with the doctor's advice. As for her... of course he couldn't tell her that he would not interfere when the sole purpose of his going along with her was to do that.

Eleanora stopped suddenly, and while he noticed it, he was tempted to keep walking and use this opportunity to hold her. He would make her forget all about this online fake Demetri.

Turning to him, she narrowed her eyes at him, warning, "Gaia, If you dare to interfere... promise me you won't."

"I cannot promise any such thing, Princess. You do not even know the person that you are going to meet. I just think it's risky to meet someone you found online. What if he's not who he claims to be? Let me go there first and make sure..."

Eleanora rolled her eyes behind his back and harrumphed away with a walk, "You will do no such thing. You'll scare away my Demetri..."

At the way she purred his name, Demetri was tempted to take her into his arms and kiss the living lights out of her. Ultimately, he could only keep his silence and follow her to see who dared to impersonate him.

Eleanora dismissed the driver, smiling sweetly at him as she said, "You can drive, Gaia? Can't you?"

"Should've asked before you dismissed the driver to leave Princess Eleanora."

Taking the keys from her extended hand, Demetri opened the back door for her but was waved away to the driver's side. Unfortunately, for him the little temptation decided to sit next to him. His jaw clenched, torn with frustration and worry. And that little romper riding up her thighs was not of much help.

Nora's eyes twinkled with mischief as she stared at her husband who was concentrating on driving as if they were going to war. She looked away from him as tears threatened her. How could she have not recognized him?

She knew from all the therapy sessions with the doctor that her mind had probably suppressed all her memories because she had believed Demetri to be dead. And seeing him must have probably brought them back slowly. But they'd been separated for almost a year, without knowing what the other one was doing.

Other than confessing to him, she wanted to hold him, lay her head against his chest and question him how he was doing. His scars had healed but how much had he suffered? After Lara passed away, she'd thought that she would be able to live in peace and the fact that she could be with Demetri had been an added bonus. But now, she feared if she would ever be able to live peacefully with him.

Almost two years of knowing each other had passed and even now, it felt like yesterday when she'd met him. She rubbed her thighs together as she wondered what a roller coaster her life had been with him. They'd been far apart from each other longer than they'd been together most of the time, and yet, nothing was more important to her than him.

Unexpectedly, Demetri started the conversation, "This route is taking us to the outskirts, Princess Eleanora. Are you sure, this is the safe place?"

She could almost see the wheels in his head turning as he wondered what she was thinking. "Yes. As a matter of fact, I chose this place. Didn't I tell you, I want to hug Demetri. And I want him to jump me and kiss me and..."

The man behind the wheel, who had been silently fuming, finally couldn't contain his frustration any longer. His hands tightened on the steering wheel, and he spoke through gritted teeth. "Enough of this. I don't want to listen to all this!"

After another hour of driving, Nora suddenly screamed, "Stop stop stop..."

Demetri stepped on the brake hurriedly before turning to look back at the girl incredulously as she jumped off the vehicle, "I'm going in here. You can come in later."

With a curse, Demetri looked around the quaint little place with no name and hurriedly parked the car, worried about Eleanora.

However, once inside, he could only look at her in disbelief.

With a grin, she turned to him and spoke, "I told you my Demetri is the cutest. See? Isn't he just great? I love you Demetri."

Never in his life had he ever dreamt that the girl he loved with every part of his soul would say the words he yearned to hear... to a dog who held the same name as him...

As she'd wished, the little pup Demetri in her arms, licked her face while squirming as if trying to get even closer to her.

This was probably his karma for naming the little dog at home Kitten.

With a big smile, she walked to him and extended the little puppy, in her hand to show him, "Isn't he the cutest? I'm going to adopt him since you refused to give me Kitten... But don't worry, I'll let him play with Kitten..."

Demetri rubbed his head and looked between Nora and the little dog, "Are you sure you want him? Also, I thought you said Demetri was your husband... You gave the dog the same name as your husband?"

Nora paused at that and shook her head, "Uh huh. Nope. See the paperwork they are filling out, his official name is going to be Demetri Frost the Second."

Demetri nodded absently as she walked away before his eyes widened and another comical expression covered his face. Covering the distance between them in two steps, he caught her elbow and quickly turned her around, "Did you say Demetri Frost?"

Chapter 240: Together Again

"Did you say, Demetri Frost?"

Nora widened her eyes as she realized her guffaw and gave him a small smile before moving away his hand and placing down the exuberant pup, "I..."

Before she could have continued, Demetri quickly pulled her into his arms and carried her outside. With a squeal, Nora gripped his shoulders as he quickly deposited her on the trunk of the car...

An unknown tension hung in the air, as the two stared at each other. He'd been with her all day and yet, as Demetri looked at her, the familiar eyes and the way she looked at him, he knew his kitten had finally returned...

With a hand on her thigh, he softly moved her legs apart, stepping between them as he took her mouth with his. Slowly, he caught her chin and leaned closer, looking into her eyes. Her warm breath fell over him as the distance between them closed.

Nora's lips trembled as she felt him come closer, her eyes fixed on him. They'd been together and yet so far that each moment apart felt too much. She leaned forward, closing the distance between them, their lips meeting each other.

The dam of restraint that Demetri had held onto all these months seemed to break as he kissed her. He stepped closer still, his hands gently cupping her back as she felt the world around her melt away. The intensity of him as he bent back her head against his arm, made her cling to him as if he was the only one she could hold in this dizzily swaying world.

Gently, the kiss slowed down, and yet each was unable to move away, wanting to savor this moment. While Nora caught her breath, Demetri slowly broke the kiss, unable to open his eyes from the sheer force of emotions coursing through him as he held her. Quietly, he pecked her lips again, as if to reassure himself that he was not dreaming.

Her name escaped him in a whisper, "Nora..."

Nora opened her eyes slowly, her arms still around him as she laughed softly even while tears escaped her eyes. Gently, she cupped his face, rubbing her nose against his, wanting to look at him. Instead, he pulled her close to him, burying his face in her as he breathed deeply, trying to compose himself.

"Demetri..."

With a small chuckle against her skin, Demetri did not even look up as he said in a hoarse voice, "I can't believe you named a dog after me."

Nora smiled and hugged him closer to herself. Her own throat felt scratchy as she heard his voice. She knew he was trying to compose himself. The slight moisture that she felt on her shoulder...

Trying to give him a moment, since he wanted to be strong, she hugged his neck closer to her and said, "You have no grounds to complain. You named a dog after me too."

"Touche, kitten."

Gradually he leaned backwards, and looked into her eyes as he slowly kissed her lips again, "It felt like a lifetime, Kitten. You've shown me what it is to fear, Nora."

Nora caressed his face, wanting, needing to feel him against her to reassure herself that her memory had truly returned, and she was able to be with him. "I'm sorry I forgot all about you. I... I believed that you were dead... There was so much blood and you were unconscious..."

As she said this, she started to cry in earnest, the thought of losing him, making her unable to talk about losing him.

Her tears focused Demetri on her pain as he quickly gathered her in his arms.

Demetri held Nora close, his grip firm yet tender, as he whispered soothing words into her ear. "Shh, it's alright, Kitten. I'm here now, and I'm not going anywhere. You didn't lose me."

Nora clung to him, her tears staining his shoulder. "I thought I'd lost you, Demetri. The pain, the fear... it was unbearable."

He gently tilted her chin up, looking into her teary eyes. "I'm here, Nora. I survived, and I came back to you. Nothing will keep us apart again."

Quietly, she nodded against his chest, letting herself soak the warmth of his embrace.

It was a while later when Nora pulled back slightly, wiping away her tears with the back of her hand. Demetri held her face in his hands, his thumbs brushing away the remaining traces of her crying as he sighed in relief again.

She looked into his eyes as she asked carefully, "What happened Demetri? Who were these people? How did I end up here with the Sterling Family, here is Estania? And you as their gardener? Am I really some sort of a princess here or is this some sort of... I don't know weird misunderstanding?"

Demetri sighed deeply, as he looked into her eyes, "It's a long story, Nora. I am not sure, even I understood the entirety of the matter before everything happened."

"But you really are the Princess of Estania. Your father was the crown prince before he abdicated the throne and moved to the other side of the world to stay away from here. Alexander Sterling is his younger half brother so that makes him your half uncle. I discovered their existence during the time my people were holding Sara in the mental institution."

"You knew everything before all that happened?" Nora asked incredulously before realizing, "No. You did not know everything but you knew something. It is why you abruptly transferred me to country N and would not tell me anything..."

Demetri shook his head and hugged her again, "Let's talk later, kitten. First, I just want to let the happy feeling sink in that we are together now..."

"But..."

"But nothing, Kitten. Let me love you first. Come with me."

Gently, he carried her towards the car, settling her into the passenger seat. And as he circled to the driver's side, Demetri could not help but marvel at the fact that Nora was back with him, being close to him.