

Herald 831

Chapter 831 Lady Felicia's Net

As Lady Felicia excused herself out of that room after her conversation with Alexander, her mind was filled with the talks they had just now.

'Does he know? But how? Who spoke? Was it that idiot Lapitus? Or did they get to Zulkain? Or someone I forgot to think of? An old maid working here? Did those men tailing me suspect anything?'

A thousand such thoughts crossed Lady Felicia's mind as she very well understood what Alexander was implying back then.

Her personal nature had been called into question by the highest authority around here and the very first thing her mind tried to do was locate the culprit and stop this leak.

And as she tried to form a list of her suspects, she got a very long list of names indeed, one which went from the obvious- her husband, to her maid Zulkain, to other maids, to many, many others connected to her through the web of connections.

And yes, those men that Alexander or rather Camius sent to tail her were detected by Lady Felicia before even the first day up.

It barely took her till the afternoon.

And it was not because Camius's spies were necessarily bad.

Instead, it had more to do with Lady Felicia.

For if one thought about it, if this woman was not hyper mindful of her surroundings, she would not have been able to continue a decade long affair right under her husband's nose.

So from that perspective it only made sense.

And when she detected those spies, she did not think too much of them, as instead of being alarmed, she reasoned,

'I thought those were just men covertly checking up on my work. To evaluate me.'

But it was only now that Lady Felicia was starting to understand those tails were not so innocuous.

Perhaps they were fishing for the skeletons in her closet.

And she indeed had many of them.

And it was simply not her affair, for she had added a few more very recently.

Skeletons which were certainly even more damning than her decade long affair and the true father of her child.

Thus, alarmed and paranoid, Lady Felicia tried to sniff out the rat- the person or thing that had set such a powerful man on her tail.

A man whose might made her feel utter despair.

'He has not found me out yet. I need to find who talked and shut them up. And I need to clean up my act.' The lady very alarmedly reminded herself.

But try as she might to scour her memory for any potential suspects and even coming up with a few names, her biggest leaker remained obscured to her- her daughter Fabiyana.

The little girl was seen as being too young to understand anything, and Lady Felicia underestimated her observation power, especially because Fabiyana was quite immature and even a bit silly.

But perhaps more than that, it was the simple case that being her mother, the very thought of suspecting her own child, her very own flesh and blood did not even occur to Lady Felicia, as simple as that.

Whatever the case was, in the following week, LP would not be able to find any clue which led her to this predicament, and it would drive her nearly mad, even to the point that she contemplated murder!

With her very first target being- Alexander!

And do not think this woman was daunted by that name alone.

For in this ambitious woman's mind,

'A man is a man. What difference is there between a Pasha and a homeless beggar? Aren't they made of the same flesh and blood? Once they drink the poison, both will end up as the same- a rotting pile of shit.'

And one should not underestimate this sort of mindset, for given the time period it was extremely virulent.

The societal nature of the time made everyone revere and respect nobles to the utmost degree, as for an ordinary person, even the mere thought of being disrespectful to them was seen as almost sacrilegious.

With even the nobles following this convention, as they themselves also respected one another,

So the way Lady Felicia was thinking here, it was truly a difficult mindset to cultivate.

The modern equivalent mindset would not be like a 21st century person thinking of assassinating a nation's head of state but more like possessing a thought process where you subconsciously call your parents my name inside your head.

It was such a departure from social norms.

And at first the only thing that stopped Lady Felicia from truly trying it was the security around Alexander, as the woman cursed to herself, 'Dammit! I wish I hadn't shown him that trick. Or I bet I could have killed him already.'lights

Here the woman was of course thinking of that storing poison in her locket and tucking it in her cleavage.

But this was really the nuclear option for Lady Felicia, to make Alexander go down with her, as she was totally unable to predict what Alexander dying would mean for her, and for the territories he had.

His successor was too young and his allies too few after all.

Perhaps everything of his would be gobbled up by others and Lady Felicia would not even get a bone.

So as she calmed down, Lady Felicia stopped trying to think of ways to kill Alexander but concentrated her efforts on others.

But although she indeed possessed the ability to claim all the lives she suspected, they all shared a glaring problem.

Alexander would be alerted.

Nevermind the spies that kept even a watchful eye on her, even if she were to be able to evade, which she was fairly confident she could for the required time, the mysterious death of any people close to her would surely raise Alexander's suspicion.

For as the woman had revealed her proficiency with poison, such a trick would surely draw that man's attention.

And without her signature weapon, her greatest boon would be negated.

And then trying to think of an alternative murder method proved very difficult.

Not only was time not on her side, with she having no idea when Alexander would be getting the smoking he needed, but given Lady Felicia was after all a woman, she also lacked the physical strength to brute force the deed.

As for hiring someone else to do it, that was deemed too risky.

In Lady Felicia's mind, someone had already talked, and hiring an assassin was simply digging a bigger hole.

And even if she could do that, Lady Felicia did well to remember that she had found Alexander to be very insightful.

So no matter how she killed them, even if she avoided poison, and even Alexander had no proof, Lady Felicia was sure the man would place his eyes squarely on her.

And Alexander really needed no proof to deny her governance of the city.

He could base it entirely on his whims and desires.

It was not like Alexander was answerable to anyone for this.

Thus even the perfect crime was not good enough for Lady Felicia.

Hence, ultimately, seeing the writing on the wall, Lady Felicia decided to forego the bloody route and came up with an alternative strategy- she decided to seduce Lapitus.

So donning that dress, she showed off her curves one night to her husband, much to Lapitus's heated lustful gazes, as she explained,

"Lady Gelene gifted me this. She is the owner of the largest clothing store in Zanzan, that one's clothes I always tell you all the ladies wear- Dhara."

"She said she had it made for here in secret, It's a gift from Lord Pasha to you." Lady Felicia cupped her hands around her lips to whisper this in a sensual way.

And Lapitus instantly understood what she meant.

Since Alexander giving such a type of clothing to Lady Felicia directly would send a very wrong message, the pasha had instead chosen to deliver it through his wife, thus keeping that veneer of modesty, while at the same time letting Lapitus enjoy his time with his wife.

At least that was how Lapitus construed it, although it was as misconstrued as it could be.

So taking this gift at face value, as Alexander simply thanked him for getting the city, Lapitus asked no more questions and simply praised Alexander as well as Gelene for their generosity before enjoying his husband's rights.

It was a level of enjoyment that the man would say was the best he had ever, making him comment times about his wife's usual enthusiasm for the act.

To which Lady Felicia moaned salaciously, pointing out how her dress had gotten her all worked up and made the man work harder, with the intense mating lasting for close to two hours, by the end of which Lapitus was literally shooting blanks.

And the only thing that stopped him from begging for rest was his pride, as well as the fear that if he was unable to perform here, his wife would be disappointed and she might never let him experience this blissful pleasure ever again.

Thus eager to prove his worth in bed, the man persevered with all his willpower, while his little brother helped by this sexy sight soldiered on, trying its hardest.

Although for Lady Felicia, the action surprisingly proved dull!

For after tasting Alexander, there really was no going back.

And although Lapitus was no 'micro' down there, it was really not fair to compare his natural organ with Alexander's artificially enlarged one.

Chapter 832 Lady Felicia's Net (Part-2)

Lady Felicia and Lapitus finally disconnected from their session, the latter panting much far harder than the former, with a very pleased smile plastered on his face.

Lapitus had never seen his woman so wild in bed and the reason for this was revealed to be all to reward him for his success in capturing the city.

A thought that made Lapitus very happy and further fueled his ambition as he sought to prove himself more to his wife.

While Lady Felicia herself found the act.... not half bad.

Lapitus was no limp in bed but quite capable.

But unfortunately, he still felt far short of Alexander and his super engrossed organ.

And it seemed that after Alexander had molded Lady Felicia's tunnels to his personal shape, somehow the act with anyone else had lost its flavor, as Lady Felicia's body cried in frustration for not being pleased to that insane level.

A feeling for which Lady Felicia cursed her body multiple times, for during the act her mind had drifted multiple times back to that night.

She even saw Alexander's face multiple times superimpose itself onto her husband's, taunting her feeling like this, something she felt very ashamed of, but somehow also got very turned on.

Alexander was indeed right, Lady Felicia did have a shame kink and it was a heavy one at that.

But regardless of her own thoughts and level of enjoyment, Lady Felicia had achieved what she intended to do- to please Lapitus.

And then she brought out the real reason why she had worked so hard to get Lapitus into a good mood.

Lying on his chest, in a coy, shy, unusually meek voice, the pink, amorous atmosphere in the room was slightly disturbed by Lady Felicia's voice, as the lady began while twirling her fingers around the chiseled chest, "I have something to say. Promise you won't get mad?"

The tone of the inquiry caught Lapitus off guard, as he did not think he ever heard his wife sound so soft and pleading.

And as he brought down his curious eyes glazed with loveness, he heard Lady Felicia quickly reassure him,

"Don't worry it's nothing too big! It's just that when Lady Gelene was giving me this dress, she showed me several ones to choose from."

"And Zulkain..." Lady Felicia ground her teeth a bit as she said the name, "that idiot stole one for herself!"

The venomous lady had just created a fake thief.

"What!" And this immediately got an alarmed reaction from Lapitus, as he jerked up from his prone position, displacing Lady Felicia's head.

And the reaction was quite justified, given the gravity of the situation.

Never mind the mere crime of stealing from someone like Alexander, of all the things, they had to steal something so valuable.

Lapitus did not know the exact value of the dress, but given the intricate works, the fine style, and the studded diamonds there, he estimated it to be at least in the ten thousand ropals range.

And although Lapitus earned close to ten times the salary of a regular soldier, this would still be his yearly salary.

And that was beside the point.

Because it was so much more about trust than that paltry amount of money to Alexander.

"Do you know what this means for us? Do you what will happen if it gets out?" Lapitus whispered in alarm, his eyes bloodshot, the pink atmosphere that Lady Felicia had built almost shattering.

This was why Lady Felicia had 'worked' so hard to make Lapitus comfortable, for had Lapitus not been in such a good mood, he might have simply stormed out of the room and killed the maid right then and there.

Before taking her head to apologize to Alexander.

And this would have been totally fine to do.

For a master could do anything to his slave no matter the reason.

Nevermind the girl was actually guilty, and of such a serious crime as stealing, in addition to such a precious item at that.

Lapitus already considered simply hacking off her head was a mercy, as a way of showing gratitude for the years of loyal service she had provided them, for far more cruel punishments awaited thieves.

Ways that although Lapitus had personally overseen being administered, still made even his hard stomach churn.

"I know! I know!" Towards the enraged man, Lady Felicia repeatedly caressed his chest to try and soothe him, saying, "The fool made a mistake. But then she came to me by herself. With tears in her eyes, bowing and admitting her mistake."

"And given how long she has been with me, I was unable to severely punish her."

"She has never done anything like this before and simply got muddle headed for a second."

"Forgive her! Please"

Lady Felicia pleaded with a great whine to her voice.

And hearing his wife's soothing voice and gentle caress, Lapitus did not know what to do.

So taking a great, deep breath, he finally ceased smoldering.

And then pursing his lips, Lapitus posed, "So what do we do now? Give it back?" lights

But he could easily see all the myriad problems with that.

"Later! Not now." And Lady Felicia shared these concerns, articulating, "If we were to admit this now, it would look too bad on us. Like we are unable to control our slaves."

"The pasha might even think that if we cannot even keep our household servants in check, how can we control the city?"

"That will ruin all our ambitions."

"Or even if he understands, he might want to see Zulkain punished. I do not want to see that."

Lady Felicia strongly shook her head.

And Lapitus indeed agreed as he nodded, however, added, "But... we still must punish Zulkain. To show her this is not right. And make sure this never happens."

"Yes, we should." And Lady Felicia nodding suggested she seemed to strongly agree.

Although she then pointed out, "But not right now. I'm sure given how smart the Pasha and Lady Gelene are, they will have their suspicions on who could have taken that dress."

"And if we punish Zulkain too harshly, it might easily cause them to have some guesses, since she is my personal maid,"

Lady Felicia said this because 'heavily punishing' a slave almost exclusively involved beating them with a wooden stick, regardless of gender.

And many times it would be a brutal beating that would not stop until they lost consciousness.

And as it could be guessed, this approach many times even caused death, either directly from the beating or from the subsequent injuries.

And Lady Felicia wanted to avoid that.

Though not for any soft hearted reason.

If Lady Felicia could have, she would have killed that loyal maid of hers who kept her mouth eternally shut for more than ten whole years without batting an eye, just based on the mere suspicion of her talking.

She even contemplated doing exactly that, such as by using Lapitus right now.

But then she thought herself out of it.

Because given Alexander's spies already had their gazes on them, the pasha might question Lapitus over the maid's death.

And although killing a slave for even no reason was totally legal, it was socially very damning to do so without any valid cause.

Nevermen when they were trying to get on Alexander's good books, for that was not the way to do it.

So if Alexander were to ask them of the crime that long time servant had committed to demand such a harsh measure, Lapitus would not be able to worm his way out by using a trivial matter, especially given Zulkain was Lady Felicia's personal maid for almost one and a half decade.

These people were naturally very trusted and so if the couple did not want to appear very petty and hot headed, something that was socially frowned upon, the matter had to be grave enough to entitle the death penalty.

Which if Lapitus was to make up out of the blue, would open up a whole new can of worms.

And Lady Felicia certainly did not want Alexander to go snooping around based on an imaginary crime, for she feared what unknown things he would dig up.

Hence, she decided to spare the girl, for now.

And completely unbeknownst to her, Zulkain, had just escaped the death penalty, while the mature lady continued,

"But if we punish her too lightly, it might not have its intended effect."

"So, let us not do anything. We can teach her a lesson once all this blows over."

And then before Lapitus could speak, claimed in a confident voice, "Don't worry, I have a plan. I will be able to return the piece without Lady Gelene becoming ever the wiser. But I need some time."

And at learning of the existence of this miraculous saving move, Lapitus was naturally ecstatic, "Oh! What's the plan?" as his curiosity overflowed.

But Lady Felicia only flashed her palms and waved impatiently, "Don't worry, you will see it when it happens."

Naturally, there was no plan, for Lady Felicia had made the whole thing up.

And the reason for all this convoluted planning was for this exact moment, as wrapping her thick thighs around her husband in an alluring move, Lady Felicia sprung her snare on this distracted prey.

Chapter 833 Awakening

"But before that happens, I want you to be very very careful with your words husband. Do not let anything let slip to anyone."

Lady Felicia only really called Lapitus husband when she needed something out of him, like now, where she urged,

"And remember, if the Pasha ever asks you if you liked his gift, say yes and that you had brought a similar one some time ago."

"This will help me return the item without raising any suspicion."

Yes.

This was the punchline behind this so very long winded scheme.

For this was how Lady Felicia intended to foil Alexander's threat.

Now that she had instructed Lapitus this, even if Alexander was to throw his reputation to the winds and question him, he would still likely fail.

And Lapitus, who was currently being distracted by his wife's loving caress on a very particular part of his body, only had the mindset to groan and nod, preventing him from thinking and asking unnecessary questions.

But he did make this additional suggestion, "Why don't we free Zulkain? We can see that it was in celebration of Lord Pasha's victory. That will help us get rid of the problem easily, won't it?"

This was a good plan and it was not like Lady Felicia had not thought about that.

But Lady Felicia found it foolish to let Zulkain out of her sight when she was under suspicion.

Who knew what this girl would tattle to whomever?

Lady Felicia would rather follow the maxim of 'Keep your friends close, your enemies closer'.

In fact, Lady Felicia thought of going one step further, pretending to free the maid but in reality surreptitiously killing her.

But found it hard to execute while avoiding Alexander's eyes.

Thus she denied it, simply saying, "No. Doing anything like that would simply raise the topic. Keep things as is and let me handle it."

Hence, with all this preparation, when Alexander invited Lapitus to a feast, although Lady Felicia's sixth senses were tingling, and her instinct told her to not let her husband attend it, she was unable to stop him, as her rationality trumped her superstitious heart.

'It will be alright. I have repeatedly urged him to not say anything.' She consoled, while reasoning, 'Besides, if Lapitus doesn't go, it might be seen as greatly disrespectful.'

Thus when Lapitus did not return home that night, a news given to her by a messenger, Lady Felicia did not panic.

It was something that Lady Felicia had already guessed would happen given the nature of these celebrations.

But as it could be guessed, it would have indeed been better for Lady Felicia to stop her husband, as Gelene would come to report to Alexander the next morning with a large grin on her face.

"Master! It's done!" The black lady cried elatedly the moment she entered the room after the knock and found Alexander to be relaxing by the window of his study, basking in the spring sun while crunching on some nuts.

He had just returned from a meeting with the various council members discussing a lot of mundane things, with the particular highlight of the session being a small dispute over trade disruption due to the presence of bandits in a particular area, where the nobles involved blamed each other, both claiming that the bandits were in the other's pocket and were being used to sabotage the opposite side.

A row that Alexander found exhausting to even think about.

And then rather than waste his time trying to investigate the moves of these small, almost individually inconsequential nobles, he decided to solve this problem by simply throwing money at the problem, i.e.- he put a huge bounty of these bandits, almost five times the market price.

With such a number, Alexander was sure many rival entities would be tempted to move.

It was even possible that a few of the surrounding nobles might band together to form a raiding party and destroy this group.

And with that solution represented, his work was basically done for the day.

So when Gelene asked for permission to enter, Alexander readily granted it to her.

And then seeing her enter the room with clear indications of a very juicy story to tell, Alexander could not help but sit up straight and put on a very curious face.

"Oh! What did you hear?" He eagerly posed, while gesturing Gelene to join him across the small table.

"Hahaha, I think it's better for the girls to tell it. Otherwise, you might not believe me,"

But instead of immediately replying, Gelene chuckled so enigmatically, although her glowing face clearly suggested that she had unearthed an entire treasure of information, before she asked for Alexander's permission to let the girls in.

"They are waiting outside. May I call them?"

'Them?' And hearing the pronoun used Alexander expressed surprise, as he thought it was supposed to be only one girl.lights

But knowing he was going to get the answer once he saw them anyway, he only curtly nodded, as quickly, two blue robed girls were then shuffled into the gorgeous room.

"Greetings, Esteemed Lord Pasha," And almost the instant they walked in, they bowed deeply and deferentially.

While in the case of Alexander, the moment he laid eyes upon them, the man immediately understood why Gelene said it was 'them'.

Because one of them was dressed exactly like Lady Felicia, with all her makeup and hair done to exactly match that fair lady.

While the other was like that too, but very tanned, almost black!

When they stood side by side, Alexander thought he was looking at Lady Felicia and her shadow that had come to life!

And once the initial shock faded away, he did find the pair very attractive.

"Hehe, I thought master would like the surprise. This was sister Tayin's idea."

While from the side, seeing the reaction Gelene confidently chuckled, adding, "When I told her about the plan, she reminded me of another girl who was similar. And I thought, more the merrier right? Hehehe."

And Alexander would have to agree with Gelene in this one as he certainly found the pair much more attractive than any one of them separately, as that chocolate color produced a very different, almost exotic aura.

Alexander showed his approval with a nod and light grin.

Following which he then turned to properly scan the two girls who had been standing there trying to look as confident and charming as possible.

Their hair, which was most likely a wig, had been done just like how Lady Felicia usually did it, their cheeks were powdered a rosy red and their lips painted a very certain red that Alexander was sure she had seen Lady Felicia wear, showcasing Gelene's intense eye for details.

Although their height and build did not exactly superimpose with that lady, if Alexander was Lapitus, he would not find it difficult to think these girls looked very much like his wife.

Finished observing them, Alexander then slowly got up from his chair, "What are your names, ladies?" while politely asking them this.

And the fair and ebony girl respectively replied quickly in a clear, sweet voice,

"My stage name is Saima, my lord."

"And mine is Zara, my lord."

The reason the girls mentioned the particular phrase 'stage name' was because once a girl entered this industry, it was customary for them to take a new name.

It was done, one- as a way to shield one's 'true' self from this socially frowned upon profession.

But more than that, it was done so that they could choose a much more sexy name.

Because you would not believe what some of the girls would be originally called by their parents.

Back in Thesos, in a clear showcasing of how illiterate the society was, Alexander had even seen one girl be referred to simply as 'Woman' when translated from Thesian to English.

Thus, this initiation gave the girls a chance to choose a far more flirty and even exotic name than their birth ones.

Alexander hearing the name nodded in acknowledgement and then placing himself on a nearby couch, he gestured to the two, "Please! Sit."

To which the two girls immediately hopped to the opposite side of the couch as fast as they could, while from the other side, Gelene brought a pitcher of wine and some glasses, before sitting next to Alexander and serving him some.

So taking of his wife, Alexander then got to the meat of the issue immediately, leaning forward eagerly as he posed in a very serious tone,

"Now, tell me, exactly what happened. Start from the very beginning. And do not leave even the tiniest thing that man might have said while he was with you two."

Since Gelene had felt that it would be better for Alexander to hear from the horse's mouth, he could bet it was probably something so unbelievable that she had felt this was the best way to remove any doubt that might occur.

And as the girls recounted their encounter, how they got Lapitus drunk, how he mistook them for his wife, and subsequent various conversions they had with him in his fugue like state, Alexander's eyes only got serious and more serious, until by the end, it was blazing!

Chapter 834 Awakening (Part-2)

At Alexander's question regarding Lapitus, the robed girls, sensing the amicable atmosphere suddenly change, straightened their spines, and then after briefly exchanging looks with one another, the fairer Saima who was the more social of the two began the speech they had rehearsed, reciting in with great eloquence,

"My lord, as you know we came here upon Mistress Gelene's order. She told us to get a man to talk about a dress by getting him drunk and playing as his wife." The girl provided much context, before continuing,

"This we did."

"Yesterday, after the party, when we went to that man's room, first of all, we fed him a special drink we had prepared before."

"It was not harmful or anything. Even some of the patrons in our establishment like to use it."

"Because it makes them feel very high and sometimes even hallucinate, making them see things like rainbows and flying horses."

And simply hearing that description, Alexander's lips subconsciously twitched, for a very particular word came to his mind- Roofies.

The effects sounded eerily similar to that infamous 'date rape' drug and his spine tingled at learning how easy it was for these harmless looking girls to slip something in without raising any suspicion.

'I really need to be more careful,' He reminded himself once again.

While unperturbed by his thoughts, Saima continued,

"Once the man was drunk enough, he began to show him the special dress we were wearing underneath our usual dress, and given our makeup and wife, his clouded mind began to gradually mistake us for his wife."

"It did not matter to him that there were two of us. He seemed to think there was only one but he was seeing two due to being too drunk."

"He even said that 'Felicia' looked different while looking at Zara, hehe."

Saima giggled sweetly while referring to her partner's much darker complexion, and then quickly continued,

"Then the first thing he said when he saw us was, 'You are wearing that dress again'."

And the instant Alexander heard this he felt disappointed, for this clearly meant that the man had seen it before.

But that did not mean Lady Felicia was clean, so he let the narration continue,

"After that, we asked him some follow up questions, but he did not seem interested in answering, but instead began to ramble on about something strange. About someone named Zulkain and that they should not let Lord Pasha know what she did."

And this reveal certainly got Alexander very excited as he knew that name.

"What more did he say about that maid?" He could not help but ask for he felt he had finally found a lead.

"I'm sorry, my lord," But much to his disappointment, the fair girl was unable to answer him, as she shook her head, "Although we tried to get him to talk, he was too drunk and his speech was slurred for us to understand. We only picked up words like... 'few years'... 'hide' and 'dress'."

"It made no sense to us, so we moved on to the act itself."

"And as we serviced him, we asked him various small questions, and we found that the man and the lady we were pretending to be rarely had sex. And she certainly did not do the things we were doing."

And learning of this, Alexander did not actually find it too strange, as many couples of this time saw sex as only a way to procreate.

Lady Felicia even stuck him as a half prude who seemed to have little experience servicing men.

So this actually confirmed Lady Felicia's 'once or twice' number.

Thus for a second Alexander did consider that Lapitus actually bought that dress to spice up his bedroom.

But for the moment Alexander put those considerations on pause and returned his attention to Saima's recount, who was still continuing,

"We slowly started doing the act, and as we showed off our dress we asked him many more small questions, with the most important one being if he remembered buying this dress for his wife?"

"And strangely he seemed at first confused by that question."

"His exact words were, 'Didn't you say it was a gift from the Pasha?'"

Saima looked a bit curiously at Alexander as she said this, as those words did not quite make sense to her.

But naturally, it made no sense to Alexander either.

So he simply signaled the girl to continue, as he assumed that Lapitus was probably wasted by that point and did not know what he was talking about.

And finally, the girl got to the meaty part, as she revealed, "But the man truly opened up once we finished the play, and were lying next to him."lights

"By that point, he was very tired and in his half stupor, he seemed to truly believe we were his wife."

"And then he talking by himself."

"He first about a man named Petrino. How sorry he was that he could not protect her from him."

"And then....."

It was here the fair girl at last retold the entire conversion that had happened between Petrino and Lapitus on that fateful day, something that the latter had hidden from Lady Felicia all this time, but revealed in his drunk state as he was swimming in his afterglow.

Those two girls had really wrung him dry and in this blissful, relaxed state, Lapitus finally let his guard down and poured out all the bitterness he had hidden within him, revealing a weak side of him he had never dared to show.

It was from these girl's mouth that Alexander learned of that famous rape about 10 years ago, how Lord Ponticus helped suppress it, how Lapitus was forced to accept it for his family's sake, how powerless and angry the man had felt, how sorry he was for that, how Lapitus had rebelled in part because of that, how he had cornered Petrino that day, what Petrino had said about having an affair with Lady Felicia for a decade, how he said it was him that gave them all the gifts, how that man claimed Fabiyana was his daughter and lastly how Lapitus did not believe anything of it.

It was here that Alexander finally got to learn everything.

And unlike the lovestruck fool Lapitus, he could easily who was speaking the truth and who was lying here.

He was now ninety nine, if not one hundred percent sure that what Petrino had said was true.

Alexander's memory was still enough to recall this recently learned name to be Lord Ponticus's eldest son, and at last, it clicked in him.

That man's identity made him the most perfect fit in the gap that was in Alexander's puzzle

At long last he was finally able to complete that picture around Lady Felicia that had been hounding him so long.

And as he formed it, Alexander finally began to wake up to how he had been played like a fiddle.

Lapitus was no scheming monster who tortured his wife, Lord Ponticus was no loving father who smothered his daughter with gifts, and she was no innocent bystander at the mercy of the whims of fate.

She was the spider at the center of it all, weaving webs and puppeteering them as she pleased.

'Almost everything that bitch said to me was a lie,' And this realization made Alexander's eyes which were already smoldering now begin to burn with extreme fury.

And he must have had a very scary face, as seeing it the two girls quickly finished talking, and then generously bunched up together, pressing their legs together to appear as small as possible, afraid that Alexander might lash out at them.

And it was not as an irrational fear as one might assume.

For although it was not very common, still the number of instances where a king or noble had the messenger shot for simply delivering him bad news was probably enough to fill not just a book but a shelf in a library.

Hence after finishing their recount, both the girls lowered their heads and tried to appear diminutive, to not antagonize Alexander.

And even Gelene stayed quiet, giving Alexander the time to work out the things on his own.

This silence lasted a long time as Alexander finally straightened out and re evaluated many of the assumptions he had about that scheming woman, about Lapitus, and even Fabiyana.

He also understood why Gelene thought it would be better for him to listen to what the girls said for himself.

Because although Alexander never made it apparent, even now he took everything Gelene said with a grain of salt.

And the ebony lady knew it, hence this was her way of both saving Alexander all the mental hassle and also subtly complaining to him.

And it was only after he had corrected a lot of his assumptions in his head that Alexander finally broke the silence, turning to first thank the girls,

"Okay! Thank you for your hard work. Both of you did very well. Rest assured Gelene will give both of you an appropriate gift soon."

And when, almost immediately after his mind fell into thinking about how to capture than spider and break her bones one by one, as his eyes glowed menacingly.

Chapter 835 Calming Down

Hearing promise of Alexander's reward both girls nodded happily with a smile, as he then politely asked them to excuse themselves, with this last piece, "Please keep everything you learned all to yourself. Thank you."

Although the first part of the sentence could really be said to be redundant.

No matter how big much of a blabbermouth these two were, they would not dare to utter a peep of this, knowing they could be silenced with simply a thought from Alexander.

But just as Alexander was about to go back to his dark thoughts about putting 'that swindler' through the rack and snapping her from limb to limb in the most cruel way possible, he suddenly felt a warm hug envelop him, quickly followed by Gelene's silky whisper,

"Now, now, master there is no need for you to get so worked up. These girls need not leave immediately do they?" as the black lady then landed a light kiss on his cheek, letting Alexander smell the rosy perfume she was wearing.

And this loving touch did work to snuff some of the deep embers of anger in Alexander.

And sensing its efficacy, the ebony lady continued, pointing out, "Whatever that woman was planning, you managed to foil it, my lord."

"Recall? Did you lose anything because of her?"

"No! She tried to hoodwink you and failed."

"You bested her, master."

And at being reminded of this, Alexander did start to calm down, for all Gelene said was true.

Up until now, other than wasting some time hearing Lady Felicia lie, Alexander had lost nothing, for he had promised the other side nothing.

Even all the work he had given Lady Felicia seemed to have been completed with satisfactory efficiency.

So even Alexander would admit putting the woman to torture just for lying to him was a bit too harsh.

But he was of course not going to let the woman off for free either.

"So what do you suggest I do?" Hence Alexander posed to Gelene, thinking that since she had decided to try and talk him out of it, she better give him a good answer.

"Oh! Let's not talk about that now." But Gelene tactfully, declined, instead whispering, "Master, you have three beautiful girls with you now. Don't you think it would be a waste to not taste them?"

"Come! Let us reward you for catching that vixen."

And as she said so, Lady Felicia very obviously signaled the other two with her eyes.

Who obviously got the message, as quickly getting up, they flashed a very charming voice, and Saima chimed, "Yes, master. Let us show you some of our services. All of us sisters wait eagerly every day for you to visit us. But you never do."

"Perhaps we can change that today."

Saying which she very sexily opened her robes, showing what she had underneath, as did Zara beside her, silently coming to stand beside her working sister.

And seeing the two, Alexander instantly understood exactly why Gelene had made these girls enter the room wearing that thick robe, one which hid much of their allure.

For it was not that they were naked underneath, that would be too simple.

Instead, it was because both of them wore that very sexy negligee dress they were given for their 'work'.

And as Alexander gazed upon the black dress, he found the two to be very close to the design worn by Lady Felicia, with only a bit different floral patterns and additional frills here and there.

The fair complexioned Saima much contrasted the black dress, as her already stiff pink nipples stuck out of the slit of the dress, while down below, she had a tuft surprisingly similar to Lady Felicia.

Alexander remembered Gelene asking for even this tiny detail.

While next to Saima, the much darker Zara could not stand out that much, for the black dress messed too well with her skin tone, unable to form that contrast and thus produce that visual stimulus.

But what she lacked in that, she made up for with her much bountiful chest with nutmeg colored nipples, a wider hip, and a deep, dark undergrowth.

And feeling Alexander was checking them out, these girls produced another very proud smile and then started to take various erotic poses as they were trained to do when seducing any potential client.

They first took the standard- hand on hip model pose, showing off everything on the front, followed by a side pose where the girls placed their backs against one another, squishing their abundant butts together and raising their arms, letting Alexander savor their smooth, creamy armpits, and lastly, they turned around to show Alexander their back, fully revealing their abundant, naked flanks, fluffy and jiggling, as they then bent over to make their pink flowers peak out from the bush, showing off the healthy color.

"You planned this?" And as Alexander watched the two working girls perform these very erotic acts, in a scene very reminiscent of what Gelene and Ophenia did when they were with him, he turned to look at the ebony who was starting to caress his little brother over his pants.lights

"Yes." Gelene did not bother hiding it, as she gave her reason, "After I heard the whole story from these two, I thought master might need some pleasure and venting."

"So I had the two washed, cleaned, perfumed, and all dressed up, just to serve you, master."

"Surely, you would not deny them, right?" Gelene then cooed, saying,

"These girls worked deep into the night. And then again woke up as soon as morning came to let me know the things."

"Poor things must be exhausted. But they are here for you."

Gelene's hands at this point had stealthily gone inside Alexander's pants and then very deftly brought out his long organ that was starting to wake up.

"..." And feeling the sensual, warm touch, Alexander only moaned, not disliking the idea too much, while the two girls' eyes subconsciously widened at the revealed size of the organ.

Due to the special drink sold at their establishment, which by the way was their biggest portion of revenue, it was not unusual for these girls to see larger than regular 'customers'.

But they were never anything like this.

And the reason for this was simply that the drink sold a somewhat diluted version of the version Alexander ingested, one whose efficacy peaked at a much lower point.

So it was the first time for them to see such a frightful organ, and even these experienced courtesans slightly shivered, but at the same time, the musky, manly smell emanating from it started to turn them very on.

And as Gelene pumped Alexander's by now turgid organ, she turned to the girls to ask, "Why don't you girls start showing something the master would like?"

This was obviously some kind of code, as hearing it promptly made Saima and Zara hug each, as they squished their abundant breasts together, and then they began to very alluringly begin to kiss, fiercely tonguing each other in a very showy way right in front of Alexander.

All while their hands naughtily caressed each other's curves, rubbing each other butts, squeezing and slapping them, and producing a sexy *pah* along with that all- alluring jiggle, with them even poking into the other's tunnels, both the cave and puckered hole, eliciting cute lustful yelps and soul tearing moans.

These girls even seemed to have a subtle form of rivalry going on between them as they teased one another, each in a kind of race to get the other one off first.

During this girl on girl action, both Zara and Saima even had two fingers inside the other's asshole, as they then pumped each other good and hard, producing a nasty audible sound before bringing up their dainty digits sparkling with juices to the other's mouths, making them taste their own fluids.

This was of course accepted in as erotic a manner as possible, before the whole thing repeated with the other flower.

Splurt. *Splurt*

It was amidst enjoying such a show that Alexander released himself, dirtying Gelene's dainty dark hands a creamy, lewd white.

Something the lady was more than happy to very eagerly lick off on her own, intentionally putting on a very sensual face as she did.

And as she did, Gelene also ordered, "Girls! Clean your master off," which caused the two girls to immediately scramble to rush to Alexander's lower half and make it sparkling clean, as each loudly praised the taste and thickness.

Following this Gelene invited Alexander to a nearby large divan where the actual fun began, where first of all, she made sure to show off her own very special dress that she was secretly wearing.

And surprise, surprise, wouldn't you know it, it was another sexy negligee hidden underneath.

But unlike the other two, this was white in color, forming a great contrast with Gelene's black skin.

And as Alexander laid himself on the couch, he found Gelene dressed in that white negligee lustfully gazing down at him, while Saima wearing a black version of that standing to her right, and Zara wearing the same on the left.

Alexander felt very refreshed after the enjoyable act and felt he could think about his next move with a clear mind.

Chapter 836 Spring The Trap

Alexander enjoyed this double chocolate and one vanilla ice cream trio for the next hour or so, by the end of which they were lying limply on the carpeted floor or snuggled up on the devan, sporting a particularly reddened flank that seemed to be smoldering.

The reason for this was because when Alexander saw the two girls dressed as Lady Felicia, it kind of ticked him off, and since this was his study, there was of course no shortage of rulers.

Putting two and two together, it was an inevitable result.

The first of his victims was surprisingly Gelene, who just happened to be here.

But since she was the initiator of this act, she could not escape the judgment, and first of all, she was made to take the same pose Lady Felicia was made to take that night, standing up straight, arms behind the head, legs spread.

Then Alexander spanked her large butt and pubes, making her groan while the girls toyed with her, particularly her freshly pierced nipples, tugging the rings and twisting the long buds to make the mature lady shudder.

These two were at first a bit afraid to get it on with their boss, only quickly going over her body and not caressing it properly.

But then they got two large smacks on their butts for this from Alexander, who reminded them he was all three of their superior.

And that worked to alleviate much of the tension.

So then Alexander made the two girls do something to Gelene he had yet to try, for he ordered them to try and get both their fists into her two holes at once.

A request that made Gelene shout horrifyingly at Alexander, "Master! No! One I can do. But two.... my holes will never close!"

But Alexander made no comment, only menacing chuckling and giving Gelene two smacks for moving out of position.

While down below getting their instruction, the two girls got to work.

They did have some experience with fisting, and so using copious amounts of oil, they managed to make quite a headway, around four fingers each.

All while Gelene howled lewdly like an animal,

"Oh! Too big! Why! Ahhh... don't squirm in there!"

"Zara! Stop poking inside my butt girl! You want to get strung up when we get back!"

"Mmmm! The fingers are stretching all my bits."

"Ahhh! My butt and pussy feels the same! Too good!"

The thin wall between the two organs was not enough to stop the sensation from overflowing into the other, and seeing the woman swimming in both pain and pleasure, both Saima and Zara kept giggling lewdly as they took this rare chance to bully their mistress, moving their expert fingers in such a way to poke at all of Gelene's sensitive places, while making the tunnels expand simultaneously to ever before seen levels.

Gelene had a very enraptured look on her face while this was going on, making Alexander come hug her from behind, and then whisper while playing with her piercings

"Does it feel good? Do you like my reward? This is for helping me calm down."

Gelene did not know whether she should be happy or regretful, and could only moan lewdly at the things being done to her, at one point even rolling out her tongue.

Ultimately, however, Saima and Zara would be unable to accomplish the task Alexander had set for them, for they could only go up to half a fist before Gelene violently convulsed in sheer ecstasy, and got the carpet underneath wet.

Seeing which Alexander decided to let the girl off this time, placing her on the couch before turning his attention to the two.

He had them bent over a table and took the fair, luscious ass and the dark, fluffy butt at the same time and as the girls felt their cave explored, it expanded to heights neither believed were possible.

So they screamed lewdly at the top of their lungs as Alexander pounded them, switching between them alternatively while spanking the other with the ruler, turning it smoking red.

Alexander seemed to have gained a new kink with this ruler equipped.

Alexander only pulled out after filling them in nice and good, and the two even gave him a diligent double titfuck clean up to make the memory that much more memorable.

And just as Gelene had predicted, Alexander felt very refreshed after this pleasurable act and was able to quickly think of the exact kind of trap he wanted to set for Lady Felicia.

Then refining the idea over dinner with Gelene and the other girls, Alexander thought of a way to confront Lady Felicia, disguising it as an invitation to come meet him in his bed chambers.

Officially, Alexander framed it as him wanting to lay with her, with Lapitus being told that she was going to sleep over with Fabiyana.

Knock, Knock, Knock.

And it was with such an innocuous tap on the door that Lady Felicia entered the large room.

Her face was placid, hiding any and all emotions.

For a woman who was here to do a secret tryst by fooling her husband, she surprisingly did not look too eager.

As she entered the room, Lady Felicia also felt something was wrong with the vibe in the room, like the air was stuffy.

She did not know why, but her instincts, honed over doing this for over a decade simply told her that.

And perhaps the biggest clue for that was seeing Alexander not near the bed but behind a large oak table, the lighting there being such that he seemed to meld into the shadows. lights

"My lord? Is that you?" Lady Felicia tentatively peeked her head forward to try and get a better look.

"Ahh, Felicia! Welcome." And Alexander appeared to greet her in a very jovial tone, emerging out of the shadows with a great smile on his smile.

Whatever he was planning, he was not showing on his face, as he then grandly gestured towards the chair opposite of the table, inviting, "Please! Sit."

And the candid smiling face did work to alleviate some of Lady Felicia's worries, with it lowering further when Alexander personally poured her a drink, saying,

"First of all, I wanted you to again apologize for the things I said to you the other day. That was inappropriate."

"And secondly, and this the real reason I asked you to come, is this..."

Saying so Alexander gently handed Lady Felicia a thin stack of papers.

And as Lady Felicia quickly picked them and started to peruse them, the contents of it made her heart sing, while she heard Alexander say, "These are the papers officially making you... or rather Lapitus the city's governor in my stead."

"I have been impressed by your work for the past six months."

"So finally decided to do it after talking to Lapitus at the party. Congratulations."

Alexander's voice was very light and breezy, while Lady Felicia's feelings were far more turbulent, for finally having what she had oh so wanted for perhaps her entire life, and seeing the confirmation of her and Lapitus's name on that paper, her heart soaked to heights she had not ever reached.

And then quickly following it, she let out a torrent of profuse gratitudes and praises to Alexander, swearing her eternal loyalty, while internally feeling whatever Alexander wanted her to do in bed, she would be open.

'Perhaps he will take my ass. I heard Adhanians like that.' Even though such a thought mortified her, the proud woman was even willing to copulate in that dirty hole if it meant pleasing Alexander.

"But there is no small condition," However her soaking spirit was suddenly tugged back towards earth with his sentence.

And lifting her head to look at Alexander, Lady Felicia suddenly found his face had lost all its mirthfulness, as the man gruffly claimed,

"I'm aware that you have not been entirely truthful to me. So before I hand you the papers and in effect the city, I hope you will come clean with me."

Then, before Lady Felicia could confirm or deny the claims, Alexander quickly produced another leaf of paper from his pocket and opened it for Lady Felicia to read, saying this while handing it to the woman,

"Do not worry. No matter what you might have hidden, I will not punish you. Simply tell me the truth and the city will be yours."

But Alexander's icy cold voice and dagger like stare sent a silent chill through Lady Felicia's spine, as her heart thumped, and her mind raced, 'He knows? But how?'

It was a doubt that was then a hundred folds reinforced when she saw what was written on that paper she was handed.

Questions!

The entire page was filled with various numbered questions.

'Did you ever lie to Pasha Alexander? Why?'

'.....'

'Did Lapitus really abuse you?'

'Did you have an affair with a man named Petrino?'

'Is Fabiyana really Lapitus's daughter?'

'.....'

'What really happened to your mother?'

'Did your father have any illegitimate sons?'

There were many, many such questions, going over almost everything Alexander could think of.

And as Lady Felicia went off the list, each subsequent query worked to strike another arrow into her heart.

'He knows! He definitely knows!'

Chapter 837 Lady Felicia's Interrogation (Part-1)

As the string of questions were laid bare right in front of Lady Felicia, she suddenly felt the room around her turn surprisingly cold.

And she could tell that she had not been called here to lay with Alexander.

This meeting was clearly designed as a trap and she had been got!

The queries being so openly targeted showed it.

And then she heard Alexander repeat, "Tell me the truth, Felicia. And nothing will happen. I simply want to hear you say it."

The voice was very impatient and accommodating.

But how could Lady Felicia believe it?

This was a favored technique of those wishing to extract an answer, to show hope, to show that it would only get worse if they hid it, and thus coax the other party into revealing what they knew.

Lady Felicia herself had sometimes used the technique to get something out of her half brothers and sister.

But once she had the information, well then it depended.

She could do whatever she liked, but most of the times, she acted based on the revealed intel.

And Lady Felicia very much feared that what her confessing might cause Alexander to do.

For she knew what she hid.

Thus she came to this conclusion, 'Since he already knows, there is no need to add insult to injury. I will simply shut up and pretend to know nothing. Anything I say will simply add to his knowledge.'

"My...lord... this... I... what is this paper! I have never lied to you." Lady Felicia pretended to be shocked and even added that artful stammer.

And seeing it Alexander was astounded as ever.

Even now, when he made it so clear to her, this woman refused to budge.

This reminded him of a famous from the movie- Diary of a Wimpy Kid-

Deny, deny, deny. Even if they find out, never ever admit to anything! Deny, deny, deny.

This woman truly had grit, Alexander would have to give her that.

But grit or not, Alexander was determined to break this woman one way or the other.

However, before he got physical, Alexander gave one last warning, "I will give you one last chance, Felicia. Tell me the truth!"

"Did Lapitus really hurt you?" He began with this small question.

"Of course! I swear by the gods! Why would you ever doubt me, my lord?" And Lady Felicia did not have any hesitation in violating even the taboo about the gods, as she lied through her teeth.

"....." And seeing this, it took a lot of effort on Alexander's part to not simply walk up and slap the woman unconscious.

For although Alexander abhorred violence against the fairer sex, he really believed the woman before him deserved it.

But ultimately exercising great patience, Alexander clenched his teeth to only frostily add, "Really? Then how come I saw no marks on your body? And I saw you naked."

"You might not know this, but I know a woman who really was abused by her husband. And even till today, she bears some scars."

Alexander was of course talking about Lady Nanazin who even after two straight years of using the legummum salve was still unable to get rid of some of the more grievous types of wound marks, such as the burned, branded patches.

So for Alexander, to see someone whose skin probably had not ever been even pierced claim the same experience, incensed the man.

"Surely if Lapitus was the insane monster you told me he was, you should bear some scars. Can you show me one?" Then he cleverly asked.

But seemingly not clever enough.

For Lady Felicia seemed to yet have an answer ready for him.

"Of course, I cannot my lord." The woman first appeared to frankly answer Alexander, but then quickly pointed, "Lapitus is a military man. And very talented in torture at that. He did not dare leave any marks in fear that I would show them to my father."

"So when he would beat me, he would always put a pillow or thick rug over my body. That way, it would hurt just as much and sometimes even break things inside my body, but there was never any evidence." In an instant, Lady Felicia had managed to think of a plausible answer.

And then quickly cried in a wounded voice,

"Lord Pasha! Please stop this! Please do not doubt me! You are the only one I ever told you this.

Because I trusted you. Please do not leave me!"

"You cannot believe anything that monster that told you. He's a total sadist and a born liar! You must believe me!"

As Lady Felicia cried with literal tears streaming down her face, Alexander looked down at the quivering lips, the impassioned, sobbing eyes, and heartfelt pleas with not scorn, but amazement!

He really could not help but be astounded by the level of natural born acting skill on display.lights

Alexander did not know about much acting but he did not know that being able to cry on command was a skill as rare as a unicorn horn.

And he felt that if he had not been able to get Lapitus to reveal everything but know everything, but instead came here looking to simply try and fish, hoping to break Lady Felicia through trickery, he would have surely failed.

He might have even questioned his own hypothesis!

Heck! Even now a tiny, tiny part of his brain was stabbing him with queries of doubts.

'What if you are wrong?'

'Maybe she really is telling the truth?'

'Maybe there is more to it than you thought!'

And sensing all this, Alexander again understood how Lady Felicia had been able to continue an affair in this day and age for over a decade without ever getting caught.

He predicted that surely there must have been times when Lapitus had grown suspicious of Lady Felicia's movements, but was likely always hoodwinked by this siren's treacherously beautiful voice and impassioned cries.

Even the reply the woman had given about the torture was very, very good.

For there was indeed such a method, and it really worked as Lady Felicia said.

The original technique involved taking any cloth, say a sock, placing the part of the victim you wanted to break inside it, sometimes torture chambers had giant, specialized sock just for this purpose, and then filling it up with sand.

At that point, you could hit over it as much as you, and even though the insides would turn to mush, the outer skin would remain pristine.

Alexander wondered where the woman learned of this, for this was not something a woman of this time was supposed to know.

But that was perhaps what made it all the more impressive.

But impressive or not, Alexander still had to break her.

"*Sigh*, oh Felicia!" And upon realizing that the soft, easy way was not going to cut it, Alexander could not help but at last ruefully shook his head, saying, "I really did not want to do this! Do not say that I did not give you enough opportunities."

Snap.

And before Lady Felicia had that really meant, Alexander's fingers suddenly snapped, and immediately, as if like a magic summons, from the adjacent room four burly men, dressed in full armor themselves emerged.

Lady Felicia did not need to wonder the reason for their appearance, for as if already rehearsed, the four then started to beeline towards the woman with great purposeful strides, radiating a very menacing air.

"Lord... Pasha! Alexander!"

It was a move that caused Lady Felicia to at last scream out in alarm, as she quickly stood up from the chair in an attempt to resist whatever was going to happen to her.

But how could one, fair lady contend against four strong men?

Even if Alexander were to take her palace, he would not have been able to escape their grasp.

Thus these athletic men caught Lady Felicia even before she could start a fight and made her return to her seat.

All the while Lady Felicia squirmed like a fish caught in a net, screaming at the top of her voice,

"My lord! Pasha! What are you doing? This... please stop this! Have you gone insane?"

But Alexander paid no heed to this, as neither did the men, for then they proceeded to make Lady Felicia stretch both her arms out and place them on the long table, just like they had been instructed to.

While from that back room finally came a small team of nurses, recognizable by their white attire, who stopped to stand beside Lady Felicia, holding a large metal bowl filled with ice water.

"Lord Pasha... you..." And with so many people surrounding her, Lady Felicia finally understood there was no point in pointlessly struggling.

So she stopped, instead turning her efforts to try and negotiate.

"Are you wishing to torture me to get a confession," The lady's voice was cold with a tinge of mockery.

Seeing the bowl of water, she guessed Alexander was trying to waterboard her, and she felt determined enough to be confident that she would not break.

"Heh! Something like that!" And Alexander did not deny it, as he produced a disdainful scoff.

"....." To which Lady Felicia only produced a fiery look in her eyes.

One could withstand a lot of torture if they had something to believe in.

And Lady Felicia believed she truly had a lot to hide.

Even when everything was already in the open, Lady Felicia still refused to admit it out of her own mouth.

She was that stubborn.

Chapter 838 Lady Felicia's Interrogation (Part-2)

The possibility of violence about to be done to her did not deter Lady Felicia, for she believed it was all worth it.

But then suddenly, as she braced herself, things did not proceed as Lady Felicia expected.

That is- the men around her did not simply grab her by the head and dunk it into the chilly water bowl.

Instead, *clang*, suddenly the odd shiny glint of steel reflecting the nearby candlelight caught the woman's eyes, and her body subsequently shivered when she felt the sharp steel be placed right onto her left ring finger.

This was a new sensation for her, for in reality, Lady Felicia had never had as much as a paper cut in her entire life.

Thus faced with the possibility of getting a body part of her cut right in front of her, proved to be a very daunting challenge.

She did not think Alexander was going to start hacking off bits right at the start.

She thought that like any interrogation, Alexander would start with some light slaps and then move on to more bloodier stuff from there.

That was the basic pattern.

So seeing Alexander eschewing all the 'niceties' right from the start, finally a creep of fear began to bloom in the fearless lady.

"My lord... this.... are you sure? My husband still has some influence in the city you know." And it manifested like this, as Lady Felicia subtly threatened Alexander, urging him to reconsider.

But of course, Alexander had considered all this while coming up with the strategy.

Although it was true that Lapitus, with the officers under him, could indeed cause some disturbance, but through his interactions, Alexander found that most of the men under him were not loyal to death subordinates but more like convenient beneficiaries, following him out of profit.

For Lapitus's low birth status almost naturally made him excluded from being a leader by his own merit.

Hence with this reassurance, Alexander confidently barked, "Heh! So now you remember Lapitus is your husband? Wasn't he a monster just till now?"

Before turning to glare at the 'by now a bit afraid' face, as he revealed with strangely an appreciative tone,

"I will give it to you, Felicia. You are among the smartest women I have met. And certainly the guttiest by leagues and away."

"Your ability to stay calm and not break even when under these conditions is truly remarkable."

"Heh! Even some of my spies could learn a thing or two from you," Alexander half chuckled at this additional information, though given the surrounding atmosphere, it sounded strangely menacing.

But Alexander was unperturbed, as he continued, "And if I really was just trying to get to confess without evidence, I admit you might have fooled me."

"But unfortunately for you, someone talked! Lapitus talked!" As Alexander said this, he very strategically turned to look at Lady Felicia's reaction and found her eyes to flicker menacingly for the briefest of seconds.

Seeing which Alexander chuckled dreadfully, "Haha, are you regretting you did not try and kill him when you had the chance?"

This rhetorical question naturally got no response.

But Alexander was not bothered as he was sure the next thing he said was bound of get some.

So he continued,

"Lapitus must have never told but before he killed Petrino, he made the man squeal. And that lover of yours talked. He talked a lot. Can you guess?"

And as soon as Alexander said this, just as he had predicted, he saw the proud woman very visibly shake.

It was only for a moment, and credit to Lady Felicia, she did quickly hide it, but Alexander was certain that she did.

And pleased with the reaction, Alexander continued,

"As luck would have it, I then somehow got to know what that Petrino said."

"And unfortunately for you, I'm not so easily trusting, unlike that lovestruck husband of yours."

"So... are you gonna talk?"

Alexander finished with this menacing line,

While Lady Felicia, knowing how great the amount of ammunition Petrino had on her, at first cursed both Petrino and Lapitus to high heaven, before finally becoming convinced that the ruse was up.

But that did not mean she broke.

Because recall the motto:

Deny, deny, deny. Even if they find out, never ever admit to anything! Deny, deny, deny.

Hence only clenching her teeth defiantly, Lady Felicia shot, "If my lord already knows, then why bother with the theatrics? Do you enjoy tormenting others?"

And then she scoffed in a disdainful manner,

"Heh! All you men are like this. You will always believe your own kind rather than whatever we defenseless women have to say."

"How many of us girls have died just because you did not believe her?"

Here Lady Felicia seemed to have used Alexander to represent all the men in the world.

And hearing it, the very first thing that Alexander felt was incredulation.

Inexplicable levels of incredulation.

Because he could not believe what this woman was saying.lights

"So you are saying Lapitus and Petrino framed you?" Alexander asked in disbelief.

"That's right." Lady Felicia snapped right back.

"....."

And then for the following few moments, there was pin drop silence, as Alexander's mind registered a new level of shamelessness he did not think was possible.

This then at last prompted him to reveal something he was originally not willing to.

"I'm afraid you are mistaken here, Felicia. Haven't you wondered how I came to suspect you? It was not Lapitus or any other million people you might think."

"It was your daughter- Fabiyana! It was her who told me that you were seeing other, strange men." And the moment Alexander revealed this, he sensed Lady Felicia's facade finally fall shatter, as he finished,

"You were always cautious of everyone around you, never letting your secret leak."

"But not her. Your daughter proved to be your oversight."

"....." And as Lady Felicia finally found the 'culprit' who had tattled on her, she found her mind to go blank.

'I might have filled my list with every single person in the world, but still, Fabiyana would not have been here.' She said to herself.

And then, as if something crumbled in her, Lady Felicia finally stopped resisting, turning to face Alexander and asking,

"Tell the man to unhand me, Alexander. I will tell you everything."

A request that was promptly granted despite the rudeness.

And then picking up the paper with all the questions voluntarily, Lady Felicia began to rapidly answer them only pausing to add commentary when asked by Alexander.

It was here that Lady Felicia truly revealed herself, by the end of which Alexander was, though not speechless, but certainly stunned.

"You slept with Petrino because Lapitus could not afford you. You had Fabiyana with your lover because you wanted more favor. You kicked your mother away for a better life. You want to rule Thesalie to live in the lap of luxury. And lastly, you lied about all this to me because you thought I would be easy to control and feared that knowing the real you, I would destroy you."

Alexander gave a very succinct summary of the newly learned information.

Nod.

Lady Felicia's sunken, fearful face did not seem to have the strength to utter any words and only gestured the validity.

"....." Following this the room then descended into a dreadful, stifling silence, both man and woman seemingly lost in their own thoughts.

"Where is your mother?" And it was some time later that Alexander finally spoke, asking this as the very first question.

"I do not know. When she left the city, she did not tell anyone where was going." Quickly came Lady Felicia's answer, being as monotone as ever.

If she was feeling sorry for what she had done, she was not showing.

And Alexander did not harp on for you, proceeding to the next question, "Did your father really have no other children?"

Thump!

And this secretly got a terrific bump in Lady Felicia's chest, one that if she had been connected to a lie detector would have surely revealed the woman's real thoughts.

Because there indeed were.

But the fact was that Alexander, by frankly revealing how he came to figure out Lady Felicia, made a mistake.

Because now the lady was sure that Alexander did not know about them, for neither Petrino nor Lapitus nor even Fabiyana for that matter knew them.

Lady Felicia had made sure never to invite these people to her house because their status was too low.

But that was not the real reason for her intense internal reaction.

It was because in around the very first days when Alexander captured Thesalie, Lady Felicia had all of them secretly killed!

Poisoned!

For she feared that Alexander might find a more suitable candidate than her.

And she timed it too in such a clever way that because of the sheer chaos at that time, even such a large scale homicide did not raise any waves, with the time frame also meaning it was luckily far ahead of the spies Alexander put on her.

This was Lady Felicia's biggest collection of skeletons in the closet and something she had managed to keep hidden from Alexander.

Thus sensing an opportunity, and a gap in Alexander's knowledge, she lied and answered negatively.

Truly a crooked tail does not straighten itself.

Chapter 839 Sting Operation (Part-1)

The secret about her half siblings was something Lady Felicia vowed to take her to her grave, no matter what happened or how much torture she was put through.

Hence mixed in with all the truths, Lady Felicia inserted this one lie.

And fortunately for her, Alexander did not seem too interested in the possibility in the first place.

For she and Lapitus proved adequate to rule the city and choosing an unknown, inexperienced, most likely illiterate man over them simply because of his birth seemed too big a hassle.

Thus as long as the couple were willing to be Alexander's darling puppets, he would let them rule the city.

Thus, not putting much thought into the answer, Alexander then turned to the last and most important query he had.

"You said, you doubted Lapitus's loyalty to me. Do you still believe that? Or was that a lie too?"

"True! Absolutely true! Not a single word of lie in there." The eagerness with which Lady Felicia answered this, with her voice pitched and ready said it all, as she then added,

"I know Lapitus. It's all true. My lord should now know. The main reason he betrayed the city was because of his hatred of Petrino. Because what Petrino di... what Lapitus thinks Petrino did," Lady Felicia self corrected halfway, before claiming in an absolute tone.

"But at his heart, he is still a loyal Tibian soldier. Lapitus cannot be trusted."

Lady Felicia seemed adamant that her own husband was a turncoat waiting to reveal himself.

A stance that made Alexander quite surprised given the two were husband and wife.

You would think one would always try to shield and protect the other.

And it was a doubt that he frankly revealed, asking Lady Felicia very straightforwardly.

"You seemed to somehow hate Lapitus for some reason. Why? To me he seems like a decent man. Many women would very feel lucky to have a husband like him."

And Lady Felicia gave an instant but brutal answer, "Because he is poor."

"..." Something which left Alexander stunned for a second.

He knew that to many women, a man being poor was almost a cardinal sin.

But this was the first time Alexander had met someone so open about it, at least in this current timeline.

And what was worse, was Lady Felicia's unfair judgment of the man,

Because Lapitus was certainly not poor.

He was in fact quite wealthy even when compared to some of the lesser nobles.

But, yes, when compared to the true big shots like Lady Felicia's father, the man was indeed a pauper.

Still, it seemed Lady Felicia's tastes were truly expensive, as revealed by her own admission, where she claimed the only reason she had spread her legs for Petrino was money, and certainly not out of love.

"Even I only came here because you were wealthy my lord," Now that her facade had been torn, Lady Felicia had no problem being also this frank in front of Alexander.

And hearing the answer to this question, Alexander's lips slightly twitched at the raw, naked ambition that was here on display.

"I thought you would say something like as long as he lives, he will always have control over you."

Alexander was of course referring to how also in Tibias, husbands held nearly absolute control over their wives, almost similar to a slave.

But Lady Felicia snorted in disdain at even the mere suggestion that Lapitus would be able to control her, revealing in a disdainful voice,

"Heh, no! I can spin that idiot around my finger any way I like. I simply do not like him because he has no money. Simple as that."

And then finished with this assurance,

"But that does not mean I lied Lord Pasha. Lapitus is really not loyal to you. I can guarantee that."

But for Alexander, given how much of a pathological liar he found the other side to be, how could he simply take her words at face value?

That would be too foolish.

"Can you prove it?" So putting aside his own thoughts about how he felt about Lady Felicia's true self, Alexander posed so.

"....." But even for the ever resourceful woman, coming up with a way to expose Lapitus right on the spot proved to be too difficult.

Nevertheless gritting her teeth, the woman confidently swore after only a few moments, "Not right this moment... but if my lord gives me three no two days... I promise I can show it. I swear."

Alexander did not say yes or no to that claim.

With this, the interrogation neared its end, and once again the uncomfortable stillness returned, with Lady Felicia fearfully opening at Alexander like a chick under a torrential rainfall, while Alexander gazed down on her with a level of icyness he had rarely shown.

He was still trying to what to do with this woman.

Sure she had flaws that were as large as tectonic faults.

But when you thought about it from simply a competence and shrewd, calculating perspective, she really was a born politician. lights

Thus finally, the gears in Alexander's head stopped spinning and he reached a verdict.

"Okay. Since you told me the truth, I will stay true to my words. I will give you the city."

And the moment Alexander said, he was instantly inundated with another torrent of profuse thanks and heartfelt swears, with Lady Felicia even getting on her knees and taking an oath to never lie to him.

'Heh! Fart!' To all of which Alexander only had this to snort in his heart.

Given her performance right now, Lady Felicia had just about eroded every iota of trust Alexander had in her.

Particularly, the fact that the woman continued to lie even when she was so blatantly caught was something that did not impress Alexander one bit.

But then again, he had promised her the post and this might simply be him staying true to his words.

And yes, that was one aspect of it.

But another aspect was that politicians lied.

It was simply expected of them.

So in a twisted way, Lady Felicia's pathological lies were really a part and parcel of her job.

And though this sounds forced, do you want to know the name of another very famous person who also shared similar attributes?

Well think of that one controversial, blonde US president.

So many things he said were blatantly, and factually incorrect.

Yet many, many people still adored him.

So if you thought lying was bad, then think again.

But back to Alexander's case, in reality, neither of these reasons was the true reason Alexander decided to give her the job.

It was because of all the people, as unlikely as it was, Gelene of all that vouched for her competency.

By her own words, 'She reminds so much of me. As long as you give her what she wants, she will be loyal, master.'

And given almost all of Gelene's description about this woman had come true when Lady Felicia bloomed in front of Alexander into her 'naked' self, the man decided to trust the ebony beauty and give this nearly megalomaniacal of a woman a chance at this opportunity to prove herself.

Besides, it was not like he could not remove her from her post any time he wanted.

Thus finally responding to Lady Felicia's long platitudes, Alexander curtly nodded in appreciation but then suddenly added,

"There is one small condition though."

And as soon as Lady Felicia heard it, she seemed to hear that taunting lullaby that she had made by herself,

'The mouse smiled brightly, it had outfoxed the cat! But then down came the claw, and that was the end of that.' (Taken from Raphael's speech, Baldur's Gate 3).

'Was this his plan all along? To show me my greatest hope? And then to cruelly take it all away? Crush it underneath his boots?'

'Will he humiliate me and throw me out of the house? Then perhaps publicly try me? Shame me as an immoral woman?'

All these unfounded dark and depressing thoughts raced through the woman's mind and suddenly Lady Felicia felt very weak and powerless.

She even felt a teardrop form, for it hurt oh so much to have something so dear so close, and yet have it taken away like that.

But Alexander was of course not that kind of sadist.

And the next part of his speech showed that, as he revealed,

"You said Lapitus might still be loyal to Perseus. Then take this." as he then handed Lady Felicia a few sheets of paper, which he elucidated,

"Tomorrow morning you will give this to him."

"I will leave the exact details to you, but basically you will say that while staying the night here, you somehow managed to sneak into my study... and happened to come across these papers."

"Papers which detail my troop movements, the route they are supposed to take to attack the capital, and most importantly of all, where all the army's critical supply hubs are."

"Hand this to Lapitus and say that if he wants to warn Perseus, now is the time."

"Offer him the chance to send a bird to the capital by revealing you can covertly get access to the aviary."

"Or if he wants, advise him to choose a trusted slave or servant to ride to the capital. Or to do it himself."

Yes.

Alexander had indeed been thinking of testing Lapitus's loyalty since a long time ago.

And this was the way he had come up with.

Chapter 840 Sting Operation (Part-2)

"Offer him the chance to send a bird to the capital by revealing you can covertly get access to the aviary."

"Or if he wants, advise him to choose a trusted slave or servant to ride to the capital. Or to do it himself."

After thinking for a while about how to test Lapitus, this was the plan that Alexander came up with.

Originally, the plan involved letting Lapitus discover the obviously fake papers on his own.

But with Lady Felicia here, the plan got a lot smoother, as there was now no way Lapitus was going to miss it.

And at being handed this chance to expose Lapitus once and for all, Lady Felicia almost literally jumped at the opportunity, crying with a flushed face,

"This is a fantastic plan, my lord! Rest assured. Lapitus will show his true colors the moment he gets the chance. And you will see that I did not lie."

The lady pumped her fists.

But this to Alexander seemed a bit too enthusiastic, like the woman could not wait to get her husband on the crooked hook.

A detail that prompted the man to then further instruct, "Remember Felicia, you are not to in any way push him to send the message."

"Let Lapitus do his thing on his own thing. Your job is to only hand him the papers. Nothing more."

"If he asks for your opinion, simply say that as his wife, you will support him whatever options he takes."

This order closing the loophole caused Lady Felicia to curse herself a bit since it was probably her too great an enthusiasm that had alerted Alexander to her plans.

But now that she had been exposed, she knew she had to play by the rules,

Hence Lady Felicia dutifully nodded, promising him such.

And with that, the interrogation ended.

Alexander then simply showed the lady out of his room, much to her surprise, bidding his goodbye with the words, "Enjoy the night with your daughter."

An action that left Lady Felicia first and foremost profoundly relieved, as she felt exhilarated at being alive!

There were some points along that long interrogation when Lady Felicia was not so sure she was going to be able to make it through.

So managing to come out of that room with her life still in her hands, as well as all her body parts brought great joy to the woman.

Sure her reputation with Alexander was in tatters, but by now, she could not care about that any less.

Instead, having revealed her true self to him and not being crucified for it brought an extreme sense of relief to Lady Felicia, and suddenly, even the strong lady felt weak on her knees, as the tension that had been coursing through every single part of her body receded, and she softly fell on her knees onto the carpeted corridor, clasping her hands together in joy as her body shivered in pure excitement.

And she remained in that position for some while, as she worked to calm her body and mind.

And in her mind, she replayed the events that had taken place back in that room, slowly and carefully analyzing all that Alexander had said.

Until finally the black gowned beautiful woman pulled herself from that posture and straightened her back, power and ambition quickly returning to her eyes.

She did not have the time to be lying on the floor, she had a job to do.

The papers confirming her as the governess of the city were still in Alexander's hands, and they would be hers only if Lapitus betrayed Zanzan.

With that thought the woman took large, purposed strides toward her daughter's room, wishing to tuck into bed as soon as possible for she had a big day ahead.

Though as she traveled through the corridor, Lady Felicia found herself being a bit disappointed that Alexander had not made her spend the night with him.

And it was for a myriad of reasons.

One was a political longing, as being wanted by the pasha meant she was held in greater favor.

But another was a far simpler, physical one, for having once tasted it, Lady Felicia recalled sleeping with Alexander was like nothing else.

And her body subconsciously craved to be dominated by the stronger man, to be shown greater levels of pain and pleasure.

And lastly, though it might sound surprising, it was an emotional need, since Alexander was the only person alive to know her true face.

Thus the woman felt closer to him.

And when Lady Felicia thought back on it, much to her surprise, she recalled that the man's face had not shown any disgust upon learning of the things she had done, only surprise and intrigue.

It had always been the fear that she would be hated and even killed if her secrets came out that was one of the primary reasons why Lady Felicia had worked so hard to conceal her activities.

But it seemed Alexander was not in the mood to bed her, whatever the reason that may be.lights

'Perhaps it's my just desserts for all the lies I told him.' Lady Felicia thought to herself as she lightly opened the room where her daughter was, already fast asleep.

"I hope you know what you are doing Gelene." While back at the study, Alexander turned to look at the black beauty with his comment, referring to her advice for Lady Felicia's mild treatment.

But Gelene was of course smart enough not to be the scapegoat, as she spread her arms, and pointed out with a joking smile, "Master, you are being unfair. I merely gave you a suggestion. It was you who decided to follow it. Do not blame the messenger!"

The reply got a small chuckle from Alexander as he then returned his focus to the small metallic bowl filled with now turned-normal water.

Originally, Alexander had really thought of cutting off Lady Felicia's finger, keeping it in the chilling water while Lady Felicia confessed her crime, and then reattach it

That was why the nurses were there in the first place.

But when the final time came, at the last moment Alexander found his heart turning soft at the fairer sex.

Suddenly he even saw Fabiyana's cute innocent face flash before him, so the thought of hurting her mother produced an unpleasant feeling in his heart.

Thus ultimately Lady Felicia escaped unscathed.

An opportunity that thinking about it now Alexander felt he had missed.

'Perhaps if her prediction about Lapitus is proved wrong,' Hence he muttered ominously.

Very early morning the next day, Lady Felicia found herself tapping urgently but softly on the front door of her house, having barely slept the prior night.

Since the clocks were ticking, she did not want to waste a single second trying to get rid of her husband.

So when the house's servants woke their master about their mistress's arrival at this odd time, Lapitus was understandably very alarmed, thinking something untoward had happened.

"Close the door! Quickly! Come here!"

But all these worries were proved to be unfounded when dragging Lapitus to their bedroom, Lady Felicia revealed the true reason for her presence at this point.

"I found these papers in the Pasha's study when I went to check up on Fabiyana just a while ago," The lady here implied that Alexander had spent the night with Fabiyana, before quickly urging Lapitus by handing the documents to the man, "Quick! Look through them! I just grabbed them and did not get a good look because time was so short. But they looked very important."

"If we can deliver them to His Majesty, we will surely greatly reward us."

And at being handed these valuable intel, Lapitus's eyes only bulged bigger and bigger and his heart thumped louder and louder as he went past each line, until his entire body could be seen shaking.

"How... who... Felicia... you..."

Lapitus felt that the alarm he had felt knowing Lady Felicia had come back at such a time was replaced by another very different but equally potent source of panic.

And he so surprised that for a while, he could not even form proper sentences.

"Now is not the time to be asking questions." But adhering to Alexander's instruction, Lady Felicia refused to edge Lapitus in either direction, instead quickly snatching the papers and whispering in a hushed tone,

"I have to go!"

"I came here by lying to the guards and saying that I left something important here."

"But the Pasha will be waking up soon and I want to return these papers as soon as possible."

Lady Felicia then appeared to be ready to rush out of the room, only turning around to add this last bit of advice,

"Whatever you want to do with this intel, decide on your own. But do it quickly! His Majesty does not have much time."

"I will be waiting for you at the mansion after lunch."

"Because of my administrative work, I can get you access to the aviary. From there we can steal a messenger bird to send to Parthenigh."

"But you have to decide today,"

And with this said, Lady Felicia was out, leaving Lapitus alone with the intelligence already branded into his mind.