

LEGENDS 401

Chapter 401 What The New Year Brought In III

Pshhhhhhh

The sounds of the spraying water filled the room in less than a second as the room's heat sensor finally reacted to the burning newspaper on the kitchen counter and water sprayed down, immediately cascading down on the two entangled bodies.

The water splashing on them brought them out of the lustful stupor that had threatened to overtake them as soon as they had fallen into its trap.

"Ahhhh!" Adele squealed as she escaped Jason's lips and she jumped back, the water wetting her clothes.

Jason looked up at the showers that had quite literally... rained on his parade.

"Saved by the showers," he said as he swept his hand through his wet hair and glanced at Adele who had stepped back, but the water was still pouring down on her clothes, making them stick to her body and rendering them slightly translucent.

"Turn this thing off!" Adele squealed, not enjoying being poured upon by cold water.

"It's automatic, it should turn off by itself," Jason replied and just as he finished talking, the showers stopped since the fire was out.

"Trashy piece of tech," Jason muttered.

When he had bought the house, he had been told about the sensor system that was supposed to counter against fire outbreak.

It worked by sensing heat and once there was heat above a particular threshold, it determined it to be a fire and would automatically activate the pre-installed showers to put out the fire.

By all rights, it was doing it's job, but the reason why Jason was calling it a trashy piece of tech, was because it had been quite a while since Jason had set the paper alight, but it was only when he was kissing Adele that it had seemingly sensed "the heat" in the room.

"Stupid senses the wrong type of heat," he muttered.

"W-What?" Adele asked, shivering from the cold water that she was drenched in.

"Nothing," Jason said as he took off his shirt and pulled out the band in his hair, standing shirtless in the kitchen with his hair flowing down his back.

"W-What are you doing?" Adele stepped back, scared that Jason wanted to continue his assault on her lips.

"Go have a hot shower upstairs, you are a sorry sight," Jason snickered at her reaction to his actions.

"Right now, you look like a drenched kitten," he added but did not add the fact that her being wet like that made her look vulnerable, which was even more enticing.

"There are some brand new joggers in one of my drawers. Help yourself with whichever one picks your fancy while I deal with this mess," he further added while gesturing to the kitchen that was now covered in water.

"O-Okay," Adele replied with a red face and turned to leave, various thoughts swirling around in her head, but none of them concerned the reason she had come to Jason's house in the first place.

Sigh

"What am I doing?" Jason sighed aggravatedly to himself as soon as Adele was no longer in sight.

He wasn't proud of what he had just done, but he had just played it off by acting confident.

His not wanting to talk to Adele about Sofia and Mylo was one thing, but suddenly kissing Adele was completely a different thing.

He had been swept up in the moment and had come off as extremely decisive which ironically he had not been able to do with Sofia and that had caused that to end up the way it did.

The manager's words suddenly appeared in his mind and rang through his head once again.

"Haah, maybe it really was my fault for being so indecisive,"

But being decisive with Adele could make things awkward between them and could send her away as well since there wasn't exactly anything actually going between them and it felt more like a one-sided thing from his side.

It could even be termed as harrassment from another angle.

"Haaah... fu*k," He sighed tiredly and began working on cleaning up the water in the room.

Since this place was a kitchen, the only thing that shouldn't have gotten wet were the electronics, but they were water proof and switched off anyway so there wasn't any problem on that end.

All he had to do was to clean up the water on the surfaces and mop the ground and that didn't take him much time.

Less than ten minutes later he was done cleaning up, but Adele wasn't back yet, so he decided to cook something to eat.

He hadn't eaten either so he was already feeling pretty hungry.

It was the first day of the new year and there was nothing better to start the new year than a delicious serving of the world's most delicious bird.

Jason soon got to work and started making food for the two people in the house.

He brought out the chicken that he had put inside sauce to marinate yesterday and chopped up some vegetables to stuff it with as well as adding a little bit of spice on it before throwing into the oven.

With the main dish in the oven, Jason turned back to the refrigerator and surveyed the ingredients he had while trying to decide on the side dish to prepare along with the chicken, but he couldn't come up with something exciting after looking at the available ingredients and decided on plain old mashed potatoes as well as a fruit smoothie.

With the sides decided, he once again began to work and halfway through what he was doing, he heard steps behind him and he realized that Adele was back, but due to his complicated feelings at what happened earlier, he didn't turn back to look at her.

"Did you find something to change into?" he asked with his back turned.

"Yes, I found something to wear. I've also put my clothes into the dryer. They should be dry enough soon," Adele answered from behind him.

"Okay cool," Jason responded as he continued what he was doing and a few minutes later he was done and finally turned around, but his mouth dropped open as soon as he saw Adele.

"I said there were new clothes in one of the drawers... I didn't say you should wear my clothes..." Jason said as he stared at Adele wearing nothing but his favorite hoodie with the hood pulled over her head while she sat on the couch in an extremely cute position and stared back at him.

Chapter 402 What If

"This was easier to find, plus it's more comfortable," Adele said in a pleading tone.

"... But it's mine, and I wore that just yesterday," Jason barely said out, his brain still processing what he was seeing.

"Oh, that explains why it smells like you," Adele said as if enlightened and she took a sniff of the clothes.

"Are you trying to say I smell?" Jason asked in a dubious tone.

"Yes, you do... but you don't smell bad, you have this fresh scent of lavender, apple, and strawberries... wait, why am I even explaining all this?" Adele barely caught herself before she let out any more of her deepest darkest thoughts.

"A-Anyway, when are you going to tell me what happened between you and Mylo," she quickly changed the subject to the first thing that came up in her mind.

"You're still on that?" Jason rolled his eyes in annoyance at her.

"I'm not leaving here until we solve your problem and that seems to be the biggest factor in this situation, so yes, I'm not leaving this place without an answer," Adele replied defiantly, her attitude letting Jason know that there was no way he was escaping her today... unless he pulled off another stunt like the one he did earlier, but that was impossible.

He didn't want to push his luck any further.

Taking a glance around the kitchen to see that there was nothing that required his immediate attention, he sighed tiredly.

"Fine, you win," he gave up and walked over to the couch.

"Move over and let me make myself comfortable, it's a long story," he said as he reached the couch.

"Oh, okay," Adele said and shifted a bit but there wasn't nearly enough space for Jason who usually lay down on his couch instead of sitting down.

"Oh well," Jason muttered, lay down, and put his head on her lap.

"Hey, what are you doing?" Adele asked in surprise as she saw Jason putting his head on her thighs.

"You wanna hear the story or not?" Jason retorted immediately, no longer willing to stand up after feeling softness comparable to the softest of pillows in just the few seconds which he had lay down on her thighs.

"Ugh, okay, whatever," Adele gave in without a fuss, but her face was a bit red.

"..."

There was silence for a few seconds, and then,

"It's a bit hard to see your face from down here," Jason said truthfully.

"That's not my fault, nor is it the matter at hand. Start talking," Adele retorted sharply, doing her best to stop her face from turning red any further.

"Alright, alright," Jason chuckled and took a deep breath before opening his mouth, finally about to talk.

For some reason, he felt very nervous and worried about her reaction to what he was about to say, but at this point, there was no going back and he could only live with whatever results would come of his divulgence.

"You know that one time when I appeared in some tabloids for being caught kissing a girl..."

Opening his mouth, Jason began his story.

Surprisingly, Adele stayed quiet all through and Jason got more comfortable talking and before he knew it, he had started talking about everything.

When he told Viera about his beef with Mylo, he had only told him about the situation and had not delved into his emotional considerations, but here, he was doing the exact opposite to Adele.

He told her everything, right from his first meeting with Sofia to how he felt about her and their first date together to his discovery of betrayal, when he caught her, and even when she came to visit him and spouted all sorts of bullsh*t.

He seemed to be in a trance and when he finally came to, he realized that he had just poured out more to Adele than he had ever done with anyone else in all of his lives.

On realization, he wanted to cover his face in embarrassment at how he had broken his 'hard guy' status for a girl he wasn't even dating, however, he managed to keep a straight face as he continued,

"And that's our issue with each other. Now you should be able to understand why we can never... ever... ever, see eye to eye," he stated, but Adele remained silent, her hand playing with his hair and rubbing his scalp every few seconds.

She had started doing it somewhere in the middle of his story and it felt more good than he'd ever admit, but that was not the matter at hand.

"... Apart from how it is weird to lie in my lap and tell me your break-up story four days after the break-up, I get how you feel and now almost everything makes sense," Adele finally said after a while of silence.

"Almost everything?" Jason asked confused.

"What do you mean almost everything?" he repeated.

"Wait, let me think..." Adele cut in, as she was trying to piece some things together in her head.

"From what you said, you told your friend, Viera about what happened, and you are sure he told the team captain, who in turn told the manager, right?"

"Yes... there's no way his words about me being decisive in other parts of my life could have meant anything else," Jason muttered, remembering the manager's words and smiling bitterly despite how those words infuriated him.

"Does no one else know about the matter?" Adele immediately asked.

"Not that I know of... I don't exactly find it fun to share this information. If anyone else knows about it, then I wasn't the one who told them," Jason responded.

"I don't think Viera or Pepe would share the information around nonchalantly as it could cause problems in the team and neither of them has a loose mouths, but I think the manager would have to tell the club management as it is a pretty big issue for the team," he explained further based on his thoughts.

"Then that makes no sense..." Adele muttered in a low voice almost as if she was talking to herself earlier.

Chapter 403 What If II

"Does no one else know about the matter?" Adele asked Jason, her hands coiling and snaking around in his hair.

"Not that I know of... I don't exactly find it fun to share this information. If anyone else knows about it, then I wasn't the one who told them," Jason replied, enjoying this unexpected head massage.

"I don't think Viera or Pepe would share the information around nonchalantly as it could cause problems in the team and neither of them has a loose mouth, but I think the manager would have to tell the club management as it is a pretty big issue for the team," he explained further as he thought about the situation.

"Then that makes no sense..." Adele muttered in a low voice almost as if she was talking to herself earlier.

"What makes no sense?" Jason asked instantly, recognizing a negative tone in her voice.

"... Ok... I didn't tell you earlier, but I already contacted the club regarding the article, as while it does contain some truth regarding the truth, it also contains a lot of speculation that is damaging to your reputation as a person and as a professional," Adele began explaining.

"I asked if it was possible to have them take down the article and sue for defamation as it contained too many false truths, but the reaction I received was ambiguous and I was told that the reporters usually play around with the truth every now and then, hence it was best to just leave the matter alone and let it blow over,"

"But considering that it was their fault that the matter leaked when such matters were supposed to be kept under wraps, I didn't like that response at all,"

"However my problem is,"

""Why is their response like this in the first place?"" Jason and Adele asked each other at the same time.

"It seems you've started thinking along the same lines I am," Adele nodded thoughtfully.

"I'm not sure where this is going either, but now that you mention it, a lot of things are suspicious about this whole fiasco," Jason said as cogs in his head started turning sharply.

"This may sound like a conspiracy theory, but let me start by saying the article itself is kind of suspicious and it's almost entirely like something made to make you seem like the bad guy when both us and the club management know that is not the case... so why are they not even reacting appropriately to such an article," Adele started speaking again.

"... Continue," Jason muttered, not liking the angle that this seemed to be going towards.

"... To make any further conjunctures, let's put the whole situation on the table," Adele continued.

"You and Mylo have an almost irreconcilable quarrel which the management knows and they also know that this matter getting out is of no benefit to anyone, especially the club itself, and the only way to solve this problem is by getting rid of either one of you... or even both of you, and the earlier the better as your quarrel will mess up the team chemistry which needs to be avoided if the team has any plans of winning any trophies,"

"However, getting rid of both of you right will be an irreconcilable loss, because you both are currently the top performing members of the team... attacking wise,"

"So supposing they have no choice but to get rid of one of you soon, then a profitable choice would be to get rid of the more expensive one and use the money made from the sale to plug the hole you will leave behind, and they might even make a little extra money to bolster other parts of the team,"

"If we suppose that that is the decision made by the club management, then all this would make sense,"

"... I don't quite follow," Jason was a bit stunned.

He was smart and usually very quick on the uptake, but everything Adele had just said was making a mess of his thoughts.

"*sigh*"

"... If they decided to get rid of you, then this article would be a good place to start as it would infuriate you who is already angry even further,"

"This is probably the first step, but I suppose their end game is to get you to decide that you want to leave and make it known,"

"They can then make a show of you being the one that wants to leave and sell you for less than the 100 million Euros that they quoted before,"

"it's basically a completely risk free business as they had paid literally nothing to get you, and you have performed well for them, helping them to win three trophies already,"

"... Of course, this could all be me thinking too much and this could all just be a case of bad coincidences and the club has no hand in it,"

"... But what if?"

"Just what if?" Adele's question was met with no response from Jason who was now deep in thought.

It wasn't that he was shocked by this line of thought or thought it to be completely impossible... in fact, he knew that there was a good chance that that was the case, after all, he had been in the professional sports world for the same number of years that Adele had spent just breathing, and he knew that in the end, the players were just commodities to the club.

Depending on their results, they were either assets or liabilities and in a business, liabilities were usually gotten rid of with the business trying to make as much profit as they could while getting rid of said liabilities.

That was the cold hard truth of the professional sports world and it was a truth that Jason had accepted long ago, so he wasn't shocked by Adele's conspiracy theory idea, but he was considering the plausibility and surprised at how quickly something like this was happening.

If Adele's conspiracy theory turned out to be correct, then it meant that in less than a day since the incident, the club had decided to get rid of him.

Even for him, that was a bit too short an amount of time for the club to decide to throw him away.

"Damn... that's a bit disheartening," he sighed tiredly.

Chapter 404 What If III

"But wait... assuming this is true, why am I the one they would want to get rid of?"

"I should be more valuable to the team than Mylo is, after all, we don't have that many wingers, but strikers are more than enough, not to mention contributions," Jason muttered trying to make sense of the situation.

"I just told you, the more valuable one has to leave,"

"Mylo has just joined the team from the academy and he has been playing well so the club wouldn't want to sell him yet as his market value hasn't built up that much yet,"

"If they chose to sell him, they'd lose a valuable talent and get paid around 20 million Euros at most when considering that he's only been active for half a season, and even that would be an optimistic price as there aren't many people looking to buy Mylo yet,"

"However you are a different case,"

"You already have suitors from top clubs and are worth at least 60 million Euros in today's market and that's considering that you will be sold in a rush, otherwise you could garner a transfer fee of over a hundred million,"

"They'd easily gain more, and you forget that you are the one who is dissatisfied, Mylo doesn't seem to show any problems with the status quo, so everything is in favor of them wanting to sell you instead,"

"If they sold you for 60 - 70 million Euros, it's not just considered good business, it's almost a case of sitting back and letting money appear in their lap, after all, you were almost free to acquire in the first place," Adele explained again to Jason.

"Ok wow," Jason muttered in amazement as he realized that her words made sense and the situation began to seem even more plausible and no longer sounded like a far-fetched conspiracy theory.

"Don't take my words too seriously, I could be wrong and just be overdoing it with the conspiracy theory thing," Adele laughed a bit, hoping that her thought process was wrong.

"Nah, I prefer to assume the worst, so let's continue assuming," Jason stated.

"Assuming that your conspiracy theory is true and the management wants me out, then what next?" he asked Adele.

"If by what next, you are referring to yourself, then I don't know, but if you're referring to what I think the club will do, then I see two ways," Adele replied.

"Continue," Jason urged.

"First, they can be direct and make it clear that they are looking to offload you in this transfer window, and personally speaking, that is the best option for you as everyone gets what they want, but I don't think they'd do that,"

"Rather, I think they'd try to frustrate you more with anything and everything possible. Mindgames, weird articles, maybe not even letting you play so that you will have no choice but to hand in a transfer request. They're probably confident that you're already very dissatisfied and all you will need is a push," Adele explained.

"But what's the point of doing that?" Jason asked.

"Their reputation... if they directly say they want to sell you, it would raise a lot of questions about the matter and people will start wondering why. In the process of that, someone may find out about your issue with Mylo and that would affect the club's reputation and may force them to make some adverse decisions concerning Mylo,"

"Considering they wouldn't want to lose both of you, it would be better to get you to be the one to hand in a transfer request,"

"By doing that, you will be the one drawing the attention of the media and they would look like victims of a young talented player's whims who thinks he is too big for the club,"

"At that time, even if the matter between you and Mylo is found out, people will not feel the same way and the truth may even be distorted in his favor instead," Adele explained.

"Hmmm..." Jason murmured as he tried to add that to the situation he had created in his mind and the plausibility increased again.

"Ugh, I don't like how this conspiracy theory of yours keeps making sense every passing second," he muttered as he thought it through once again.

He didn't have much trust in the club's management right from the start and knew that nothing he was thinking was too far-fetched, but at the same time, it was too early for him to accept all the conjunctures that had been placed before him.

"I already told you, it could just be us over thinking the situation and the club might not have any thoughts in that direction at all," Adele repeated, trying to divert Jason's thoughts from the matter as she saw that he had taken her words quite seriously.

"But what if, Delle... what if?" Jason asked.

"Then we deal with it when it comes,"

"If what we are thinking happens at some point, then we simply deal with it then, unless of course, you have a different plan in mind," Adele replied.

"Now that you mention it, I do have a plan in mind," Jason muttered and a smirk appeared at the corner of his lips.

"If things are as you say, then I should begin to see the signs from tomorrow at training. If nothing happens like you said, then we're all good for a bit, but if I notice anything strange, then I'm not going to just let things slide,"

"If they're looking to make a quick buck off me while also damaging my reputation in the process, then I can't just let things slide," he smirked.

"But what will you do? A transfer is the only way out and either way I mentioned has it's own perks and they could both be just as damaging," Adele pointed out.

"You are right that a transfer is the best way out of this situation, but who said the transfer has to be a permanent one?" Jason's smirk widened further.

Chapter 405 What If IV

"You are right that a transfer is the best way out of this situation, but who said the transfer has to be a permanent one?" Jason said as he smiled deviously.

"Oh?" Adele's eyebrow shot up in surprise.

"I want to leave as I don't think I can stand seeing the snake bastard's face almost every day till the summer transfer window, but if the club has plans to use me to achieve their goals while betraying me, then I can't let them have their way either," Jason continued.

"And you plan to achieve that by taking a loan to another team?" Adele asked in confusion.

"Exactly!"

"The club probably plans to sell me so that they can use the money to bolster the squad, but that will only happen if I agree to the transfer, so instead I'll request a loan transfer instead,"

"I'll be able to leave and not have to put up with the snake bastard for the rest of the season and the club will lose one of their top performers for the rest of the season and not gain anything for it," Jason smiled as if he had had an "Eureka!" moment.

"Why would they agree to something like that though?" Adele asked him.

"They don't exactly have much of a choice if I threaten to leave on a free transfer instead," Jason smiled triumphantly.

"But doing that would make you stay in the team till midway next season. Will you be okay with that?" Adele asked, clear on the fact that Jason would not like seeing Mylo's face for another whole year.

"Never underestimate the things a man would do for revenge," Jason smirked.

"In the end, I would go on loan and when I come back at the end of the season, the club can then sell me to another club at whatever price. I'll be happy to leave by then," he concluded.

"... That could work, though professionally I wouldn't advise it, but at this point, I don't think I can stop you even if I tried," Adele nodded tiredly.

"Yup, so don't bother," Jason smirked in response because she was right.

"Also, it could settle as a last test of sorts," he added.

"What do you mean?" Adele asked curiously.

"So far, we are the only two that know about my plan to go on loan till the end of the season, so when you meet the manager to tell him about my loan request, we will see whether the news leaks or not... that will explain a lot of things and prove whether all our conjectures were right or wrong," Jason explained his reasoning to her.

"Oh?" Adele exclaimed, enlightened now that he had explained.

If they were the only ones who knew of Jason's plans to go on loan and then they told one more person, which would be the manager, any leaks could immediately be accounted for and he could know whether the club really had some shifty plans in play.

"Ah, right!" Jason sat up startled, remembering that he had placed the chicken in the oven a while ago.

"Hold on for a minute," Jason called out as he stood up and hurried to the kitchen to check on what he was cooking, setting aside other thoughts for a while, but after reaching the kitchen, pulling out the

chicken, and discovering that he had pulled it out in good time, his mind involuntarily drifted back to the matter.

He might not have voiced it out directly, but he was very troubled by the likelihood of Adele's conspiracy being true because it implied that after being aware of the full situation, the club would decide to take Mylo's side.

Of course that was not to say that they directly said it, but to Jason it would not make a difference as it was pretty much the same thing.

'What am I even doing worrying about things that have yet to happen,' he calmed his thoughts as he realised that he was already over thinking the issue.

However, try as he may, the matter refused to leave his head even as he and Adele ate and spent most of the day just lounging around.

When it was finally time for Adele to leave, she repeated her earlier words to him.

"Don't over think the matter, we will solve whatever issues that arise," she said as she walked out of the door that Jason held open.

"I should say the same for you, you're the one who thought up the whole thing in the first place," Jason replied.

"I'm less worried about that and more worried about what is happening to our 'professional' relationship," Adele fired back at him, throwing him off balance.

"*Ahem*... what about our professional relationship," Jason coughed, not expecting her to be so direct.

Despite his facial beauty and attractiveness having absurdly high values, he was not immune to sex harassment charges if one was slammed in his face.

What happened after Jason asked Adele was something that surprised him as Adele sharply turned back and pushed him against the door before slamming her hand on the space beside his head, putting them in a compromising situation.

"... What are you doing?" Jason asked with a straight face, but inwardly he was balking at what was happening.

The answer to his question came in the form of a kiss that had him stuck in place as this was something he had never seen coming.

After smooching his lips for a few seconds, Adele bit his lower lip and pulled away.

"There won't be much of a professional relationship left if this keeps happening," she said, trying to appear cool, but the redness of her face and her twitching pupils told Jason that she had no experience in what she was doing.

"... Did you watch this in some Korean movie with a macho female lead?" Jason asked after a while as he recognized the format of what was happening.

"Piss off!" she retorted, her face even redder after she had been caught and she quickly pulled away.

"...But... while I will not deny that I kind of like you, I am not going to be in a relationship where I am a rebound," she said before walking off, not giving him a chance to reply.

Chapter 406 Fact or Theory I

3rd January 2021

After the first day of the year which was given to the Oporto players as a day-off, the players were back at training the very next day, doing their best to prepare for the next match.

Jason was also at training, but since he already knew that he would not be participating in the coming game, he trained without reserve, not holding back in the slightest as there was no reason to do so.

Like this, the whole day went by and soon the next day, which was also the first match-day in the new year for the Oporto squad, arrived.

The Oporto team would be playing Moreirense at the dragon stadium for a chance at the three points that would push them further up the table.

As expected, Jason wasn't named among the provisional squad for the match and had to watch the match from his couch.

Despite his issues with Mylo, Jason was on his couch in time to watch the match as he only had a problem with Mylo and not everyone else on the team, but when he saw the line-up for the match, his face twisted in anger as for some reason, Mylo's name was in the starting line-up.

In that moment, Jason immediately turned to a Moreirense supporter and watched the match with the hope that Oporto would lose thanks to mistakes from Mylo, or that even if they won, Mylo would perform terribly.

Of course, what he hoped for the most was for one of the Moreirense defenders to be possessed by the soul of Randy Orton and to perform an R.K.O on Mylo right there on the pitch, but his hopes were dashed when Mylo put one past the Moreirense goalkeeper in the twenty-eighth minute of the game.

"What are you guys doing!? Break his leg!" Jason shouted at the screen in anger as he watched Mylo celebrate his goal, but he didn't receive a response and could only rant at his screen unresponsively.

Barely fifteen minutes later, Jason resumed his ranting at the screen when Mylo connected with a header from Manafa to put the ball into the back of the net, scoring his second goal of the game.

"These fu*king retards! You call yourselves professionals with that kind of defensive skill!?"

"How did he shake you off like that!? Just break his leg, or his arm, or his ankle, or even burst his balls! It's not that hard!!!" At this point, Jason's rage had gotten the better of him and he hated what he was seeing.

It was like torture watching Mylo perform well on the pitch while he was condemned to watch the ball from his couch.

The first half soon ended, giving Jason's mood a much needed fifteen minute reprieve, but as soon as the second half began, Jason's mood soured again as Mylo was still on the pitch.

Every time Mylo was on the ball, calls for the Moreirense players to send him into an ambulance echoed throughout Jason's living room, but as if this match was being played to torment Jason, the Moreirense defenders remained useless and all they managed to do was to stop Mylo from running at their goal all the time.

By all rights, the Moreirense defenders were doing well enough, but to Jason, they were absolute dogshit and soon enough, Jason soon found another reason to rage as Mylo soon found himself shaking off a Moreirense defender as he sprinted after a through pass from Otavio.

"Don't let him go! Don't let him go! Don't let him go!" Jason murmured repeatedly as he watched Mylo and the Moreirense defender fight for the ball.

"You nitwit! Don't let him go! Just tackle him! Tackle him!!!" Jason shouted as he saw Mylo gaining the advantage, finally managing to shake off the defender and free himself for a shot.

{He takes a shot!}

{It's gone in! Hat-trick!}

The commentator's words echoed in Jason's head like a dark knell and he sunk into the sofa, too infuriated to bother anymore.

"Fu*k!" he cursed in a low voice and changed the channel, not wanting to watch Mylo celebrate his hat-trick.

If he saw Mylo celebrate another goal, he was pretty sure that he would smash up his TV and considering how expensive the TV was, it wasn't worth it if it was smashed up because of the snake bastard.

For the next half hour, Jason comforted himself with watching UFC matches, but his curiosity soon got the better of him and he changed the channel back, but on changing the channel back, he realized that the match was already over and a post-match show was ongoing.

Since he no longer had to watch Mylo's sorry face, he decided to watch the analysis of the match, but soon the screen changed to a post-match interview of the manager.

{Congratulations on your win, would you say you swept away your opponents?} a reporter asked the Oporto manager.

{Your words, not mine} Conceicao joked.

{But honestly, err, both sides played well and our opponents threatened us a few times, but my players followed the game plan and did their best and we won game} Conceicao added, stylishly tooting his own horn.

{I couldn't agree more sir. How about Mylo's performance in today's match, he performed spectacularly, wouldn't you say?} the reporter asked.

{Stellar performance from the lad, I would say. I knew that he was in-form and I gave him a chance, and he proved my instincts correct with his performance} Conceicao answered.

{Can I dare say that the other players should learn from this performance?} The reporter asked.

{Absolutely, his performance was stellar, like I already mentioned, but more than that he was very driven on the pitch and cool-headed. He waited for his chances and he took them perfectly earning himself an hat-trick} Conceicao replied.

{The other players can learn from not only his performance, but also his behaviour and temperament. He's a good kid, very humble and always willing to learn from others} he further added.

"What bullsh*t is this blud cappin?" Jason swore in a low voice as he heard the manager speak about Mylo.

Chapter 407 Fact or Theory II

{Speaking of temperament, it was said earlier this week, that there was an argument at the training ground between the two young stars of your team. It was also said that as a punishment, Jason would miss the match. Seeing as he's not here, can we confirm that this is the reason he missed the match?} Another reporter butted in.

{... It was a minor matter that has already been settled. Still, yes, there were some disciplinary measures taken by the management and that did lead to Jason not being present for today's match, and as I said, it's already been settled} Conceicao said on TV and Jason's eyes twitched.

'Already been settled my ass,'

'Is he just going to lie blatantly now?' Jason questioned himself, his annoyance rising.

The matter was definitely not settled, plus the fact that there was such a drastic difference in the disciplinary actions taken towards him and Mylo would make it seem like he was the bigger offender.

It was like painting him to be the one at fault.

'It's just a coincidence, calm down,' Jason tried to convince himself, but he couldn't believe his own words and just kept watching the interview.

{It's good to hear that the matter has been settled and the fans will be happy to hear that as his exciting presence was definitely missed on the pitch. The fans would like to know if they can expect him to make an appearance in the next match.} the reporter continued.

{I can't say anything about that. He's still on probation, but as long as nothing unexpected happens, then he is definitely in the team's plans for the coming game} Conceicao replied.

This time Jason had to stop himself from throwing the remote at the screen in annoyance at what he was hearing.

The manager had literally said that the quarrel was already settled just a minute earlier, but now he was saying that there was a chance he would not play the next game.

This was almost like directly saying that Jason was a troublemaker, but as long as he didn't cause any trouble, then he should be in the next game.

It was a perfect set up as if for any reason Jason did not make it to the starting line-up in the next game, then the fans would immediately think he had caused some trouble.

At this point, Jason did not need to hear anything else.

There was nothing more to it.

At first, he wanted to think about why it seemed like the manager was throwing him under the bus. After all, even if the board wanted him out, it didn't have to be done like this, but now he didn't even want to think about it.

It seemed that in the end, Adele was right and the club had decided to get rid of him.

There was nothing more to it.

Of course, he could be wrong and this could be another case of a bad coincidence, but even if it was, he didn't need to see anything else.

He had had enough of the bad coincidences.

There was no need to wait longer to see what else the manager would say or do, he had made his decision and he picked up his phone to call Adele.

Once he had dialed her number, he turned off the TV, not needing to see or hear anything else that would sour his mood even further.

The phone rang twice before an audible click could be heard and Adele's voice came through the phone.

"Has anyone ever told you you have perfect timing, I was actually just about to call you," Adele's voice came through the phone's speaker directly into Jason's ear as soon as she picked up the call.

"Perfect timing? Yes, it's one of my many talents," Jason joked, making small talk despite his mood before making the call.

Somehow, just hearing her voice had reduced his aggravation by a lot and he was no longer raging.

"At this point, how many talents do you even have?" Adele retorted jokingly.

"Apart from the ones I've shown you?... Uncountable,"

"I am without depth... I am endless... I am... the rose dragon," he replied, trying to sound dramatic.

"Pfffft, do you really want to go back to that era of corny nicknames?" she laughed at his attempts at being dramatic.

"Please no, being called Jason Rose is already the best I can manage," he laughed back.

"Anyway, you said you were just about to call me earlier. What about?" he said, diverting the conversation back towards business.

"Ah, yes, that. After our conversation that day, I started looking into teams that will be looking to take you on loan," Adele began.

"Before you say anything, I was just trying to be prepared, just in case you know, it would be too late to wait until then so start looking for a team where you can go on loan,"* she added, knowing that Jason would likely interrupt wittily.

"I wasn't going to say anything," Jason half-laughed.

"Rightttttt... anyways, compared to other major leagues, your wages are kind of low, so I didn't have to narrow down my search too much, plus you are currently a hot catch, so most teams wouldn't mind bringing you in for a loan spell as long as they need a player like you,"*

"Taking all that into account, I narrowed down my search and I was able to select a few teams I could try offering you up to for a loan spell,"*

"What teams are those?" Jason immediately asked, already hearing what he had called her for.

"Well, considering your status and your appetite... we could try Real Sociedad, they've had a shortage of numbers in the winger department for a while and they're an okay team, not top level, but not too far off,"

"We could also try Leicester as well, their status as a top-level team is kind of shaky, but, they're an overall good team and you should be able to get an okay amount of game time if they take you on loan... is what I was thinking earlier,"

"But then another team contacted me,"

"A team that you probably wouldn't mind going to even on a permanent transfer," she added.

Chapter 408 Clutch Player Rico Gulaz

"And what team is that?" Jason asked immediately, biting the bait without care. At this point, he wouldn't mind joining a lower-level team, not to mention a team that could garner his interest.

"Uventus..."* Adele's voice was plain as compared to how she had built up the conversation to this point, but to Jason, it sounded like a bomb just went off in his head.

"Pardon me, I didn't hear you very well... surely you don't mean the Champions of Italy and also the team that Cristiano Ronaldo plays for... do you?" he asked in surprise and awe.

"Yes, that Uventus, but so far all they did was ask for your availability for a transfer deal, however, I think they should be open to taking you on a loan,"* Adele replied.

"Why would you think that?" Jason asked, still in shock that a team like Uventus was asking about his availability for a transfer to their club.

"Well, they currently don't have any actual wingers other than Chiesa and Kulusevski. The other players playing on their flanks are not actual wingers and are simply filling out the spot due to the lack of wingers, but this could become dangerous for the team if any of the actual wingers sustains an injury,"*

"The team is already a bit stretched thin from playing their wings as strikers due to one of the strikers being on injury, so they should welcome you with open arms if you wish to join them on loan,"*

"The only problem is they might want you on a more permanent deal... also, they will have to deal with Oporto who wouldn't want to release you easily,"* Adele explained.

"Hmm, I see," Jason murmured thoughtfully, but his thoughts weren't about deciding whether to go or not.

In fact, that decision was already made and he would pack his bags in less than thirty minutes if the transfer actually went through, after all, there was no loss for him.

He would play in one of the biggest teams in the world and with one of the two brightest stars in the current generation of football... what was there to think about?

"Anyway, what should I tell them, they've only asked for your availability and whether you'd be open to a transfer or not... I've not given them a response yet,"* Adele interrupted his thoughts.

"... Tell them I'm open to a short-term loan deal... they could also make a loan with an option to buy deal if they wish, it shouldn't be bad to play at Uventus for a while,"

"However, I'm currently not ready for a permanent transfer," Jason stated after a bit of thought.

"Just explain it to them in agent terms, also the earlier the better," he added.

"*Huh? I thought you wanted to wait for a bit before deciding whether to go on loan or not,*" Adele was stunned at Jason's tone of urgency.

"I've seen enough," Jason replied deprecatingly with a sigh.

"*Already? What happened?*" Adele was surprised at how fast things were going even though she was the one who first noticed things going in this direction, however, even for her, this was a bit too fast for things to get this bad.

"Watch the post-match interview and prepare an official loan request, there should be plenty of material in there," Jason laughed lightly.

"I will also tell the... You know what, wait a bit," he stopped midway for a bit to think things through for a bit.

"Here's what we will do," he began after aligning his thought process.

"First, reply to the Uventus side and tell them of our demands and try to receive a conclusive response before the eighth, that's when our next match will hold,"

"After what I saw in the interview today, there's a high likelihood that I wouldn't play, but even if I am added to the line-up and play the match, I'm still going to request a loan transfer,"

"You have until then to confirm whether we can join Uventus on loan or not. If we can, then they can make their offer to the club after we've requested a loan, and if we can't there's still enough time to get a loan transfer arranged to another team," Jason told her of his plan after thinking everything through.

His mind was already made, but he didn't want to give the Oporto club management time to disturb the transfer to Uventus... if the Uventus side agreed of course.

If he and the Uventus team had come to an agreement, then they could make their offer, and he could begin to put pressure on the club from his side.

Luckily for him, there was a clause that made it easier for him to leave the club as long as an offer was made for him.

When he joined the club's first team and there were issues about his wages back then, Rico made a clause that made it easier for the club if they didn't want to keep paying his enormous wage if he didn't perform up to par.

That was for the club to allow him to leave on loan so that the burden could be shared with another club while he would get playing time in that club, giving him chances to tap into his potential.

Back then it was a fail-safe made for him, and a concession that was supposed to be beneficial to the club back then, but now, it was going to come back to bite them in the ass because according to the clause, if Jason ever felt dissatisfied with his playing time, or something else, then he would be allowed to go out on loan as long as a loan offer was made to the club.

What this meant was that it was a game over for the club as long as the offer was made and Jason accepted it.

The club had probably forgotten about the clause and would not ever think in that direction as firstly, no one would think to request a loan deal for Jason who was a first team player at the club, and even if they did, Jason would naturally not agree as normally, he would have no reason to agree to a loan deal... however, now, there was a reason.

Hence, it would be best for Jason if there was already a confirmed incoming offer from the Uventus side which he would simply just push for and the club wouldn't have any choice to let him go.

"That Rico bastard was a greedy a**hole, but he for sure knew how to do his job," Jason smirked as he remembered the man who was turning out to be the clutch player in his escape from the Oporto team, Rico Gulaz.

Chapter 409 Irony

After Jason had explained everything to Adele, they ended the call and went about their respective businesses.

Jason stood up from his couch and headed to the gym to workout his excess emotions from everything that was happening while Adele immediately got to work constructing a response to the Uventus team.

Soon the fiery sounds of keyboards clacking filled the room as she constructed an email to send back to the Uventus team. She was all fired up to help Jason escape Oporto and she wanted to make sure that Jason could get the best out of this loan transfer and this was his way out.

She had to make sure that this transfer did not fall through, but it was going to be hard and she wished to add more fail-safes to ensure that this deal went through.

'Now that I think about it, doesn't the boss work with Ronaldo?' midway through constructing her response, she remembered that her boss was the super agent Jorge Mendez who worked with famous names among which included Cristiano Ronaldo who was currently at Uventus.

"Maybe I should talk to him about this," she muttered and continued typing.

7th January 2021

The next matchday in the Primera League had almost arrived for the Oporto team and they would be facing Famalicão away from home.

The days leading up to the game had been loud in the media and at the training ground.

After the big win against Moreirense, the pundits could not stay silent about Familicao's chances against the in-form Oporto and had not failed to mention the match at whatever opportunity came up.

As the hat-trick hero and the one behind Moreirense's defeat, Mylo's name didn't disappear from the media as well, however mentions of Jason weren't much on the entertainment media, but on social media, Jason's return to the line-up was highly touted and people, especially the Oporto fans expected the manager to unleash both Jason and Mylo on their upcoming opponents.

For the Familicao fans who could only watch in dread while trying to appear as confident as possible, it was like counting the time up till the slaughter as they waited for the match day to arrive while not letting their hopes die even despite the odds they were faced with.

At Oporto's training ground, the players were buoyed by their win and trained vigorously as they prepared for the next match.

An added factor was that the manager had begun reviewing the players in the second team and the junior team and had begun joint training sessions as he looked to promote more young talent to the first team.

The players didn't know the reason behind this sudden decision by the manager and some attributed it to the manager getting greedy after Jason and Mylo, and was looking to see if there were any other talents in the academy that could shine on the big stage, but to them the reason didn't matter.

What it meant for the players looking to be promoted was that there was now a chance to break into the first team while for the first team players whose positions were already shaky now had competition and had to show off their performance so that they didn't fall down the pecking order any further.

The players who did not have any issues also could not allow themselves to be outdone and thus the training sessions had become a lot more heated, crowded, and passionate.

In all of this, Jason did not put forth any extra effort, after all, he was already training till he was half-dead everyday and did not have to do more, neither was he affected by the overflowing passion at the training ground.

He was a completely different case from them anyway.

It was already almost confirmed that the team wanted to get rid of him so nothing he did would change anything and he simply kept as mute as possible while training while staying as far away from Mylo as possible in every joint training session they were both involved in.

To most people it seemed like there was no problem between both of them, but everyone in the know could clearly see the distance between the two players and unfixable rift between them in the training session.

Apart from that however, Jason was on his best behaviour and did not react to Mylo's presence, treating him as nothing more than air and thus not leaving any chance for anyone to complain about his conduct.

Soon the training for the day was almost over and the manager arrived to name the provisional squad for the game.

The list of players going to Familicao for the next match was placed on the notice board by the assistant manager and he left along with the manager, leaving the players to check for their names.

One by one, the players checked the board to see if they were among the lucky ones who were among the squad.

Since he wasn't expecting his name to be on the list, Jason continued his training without bothering to check the list, but Viera who had gone to check the list soon came back and informed that he was among the players in the line-up which surprised Jason, but he didn't overly react and just continued training.

'Nothing is going to change anyway,' he thought to himself as he continued his training.

8th January 2021

5:47pm

The Oporto bus pulled up into the Familicao team's stadium and stopped at the entrance into the stadium's inner rooms and the Oporto players started coming off the bus.

Jason came down from the bus with his headphones over his ears and glanced around at the huge amount of cameras as well as a few fans at the entrance.

There were quite a lot of people as compared to a few weeks ago and that was probably because of the news that fans would soon be allowed into stadiums in the coming weeks.

'How ironic,' Jason thought to himself as just when the fans were coming back to the stadiums, he was planning on leaving.

If everything went as he hoped it would, it would soon be known that he planned to leave and he was sure it would feel like a betrayal to the fans and he currently didn't know how to feel about it.

This situation made him feel quite complicated internally, but he didn't skip a beat and walked into the stadium after his teammates, giving a few waves at the cameras.

Chapter 410 Unfeeling Mind I

Fweeeeeeeee

The match between Familicao and Oporto kicked off with the shrill sound of the referee's whistle and the ball began moving around the field quickly.

The ball moved from Mylo in the center of the field to Oliveira who quickly sent it over to Diaz on the left wing.

Diaz immediately tried taking off down the left flank, but his path was blocked by a Familicao player who had support from his teammates as they jointly blocked Diaz's path.

Seeing nowhere to go, Diaz opted for a crossfield pass to the right flank instead of passing the ball back and killing the attacking momentum.

The ball was quickly sent flying over all the players all the way to the right wing where Jesus Corona was waiting for the ball and quickly brought it under control before trying to run down the right flank, but the ball was soon swept away from his legs and shot off the field.

Jason watched the attack end from the bench with the other bench buddies and sighed, his mind running simulations of how he would have escaped if he was the one in that situation.

This was one of his training methods as it always helped to have an image of escaping from such a situation in his head so that should he ever fall into the same situation one day, he wouldn't have to start thinking about escape methods since he would already have the methods in his head and would only require his body to move.

This would save him the split seconds of time that could determine whether he would be able to succeed in maneuvering past the defenders or not.

For now, that was all that was on his mind and he wasn't bothered by the fact that he was on the bench running simulations in his head when he could be on the pitch performing all his previous simulations live.

He had already been expecting not to feature in this match and though the manager had surprised him by adding him to the line-up, he had proven him right by not adding him to the starting line-up.

Of course, there was still a chance that he might feature in the match by coming off the bench but he didn't have high hopes in that direction.

As a matter of fact, he no longer cared that much after receiving good news from Adele earlier concerning the loan deal with Uventus.

He didn't know how she did it and he didn't care to know, but she had somehow managed to get the Uventus side agree to make a loan offer for him, but she had told him that Uventus would probably make an offer of a loan to buy option as they wouldn't want him to become overpriced later, however Jason doubted that the Oporto management would be able to accept that kind of offer.

The clause that could force them to accept a loan offer wouldn't be able to force them to accept a loan to buy offer as that was no longer just a loan deal and could end with a transfer so they could reject it, but at this point, Jason figured that this matter was no longer in his hands.

If the Oporto club management didn't accept the loan to buy offer, then there should be a round of negotiations at least and he would have Adele interfere as best as she could to make things work out, but if it didn't work out, he would just look for other options, however he could not help but hope that things worked out with the Uventus side.

While he was in his thoughts, the match was ongoing and the Familicao team that was on the attack suddenly had one of their players fouled in the Oporto penalty box.

Fweeeeeeee

The referee loudly blew his whistle as he ran over to the players while pointing to the penalty spot indicating a penalty would be given to the Familicao team and the Oporto players immediately tried to debate the referee's decision but the referee wasn't giving in.

The penalty decision stood despite the protests of the Oporto players and less than a minute later, Marchesin was sent flying the wrong way, the net was sent bulging, and the Familicao players celebrated the goal that had given them the lead in the game.

On the sidelines, the Familicao camp erupted in celebration as well while the Oporto camp was a bit disheartened after the goal, but their moods weren't hampered too much as they still felt that the game was within their grasp.

Barely ten minutes later, the bench buddies belief in their teammates paid off as Oliveira sent the Familicao net bulging after cleverly receiving a pass and using his momentum to escape his marker and send a powerful shot at the Familicao goal.

The Familicao goalkeeper was no match for the venom filled shot and fell short, unable to reach the ball before it flew past him and ended at the back of the net.

With that Oporto had equalized the game while just barely getting past the half of the first half.

The Familicao fans watching the game could feel their hearts sink as they watched the ease with which the Oporto team equalized their game and they could already feel their hearts quaking from what was to come.

Before long, their bad premonition came through as Mylo got on the end of a curling cross from Corona on the right flank and controlled it deftly before firing it home and giving Oporto the lead just before half time.

The commentator's voice erupted as much as the Familicao fans' hearts sank as they watched their team go from having the lead to getting equalized against and finally beginning to trail behind their opponents.

As the match kicked off again, Oporto seemed to enter another gear in their attacking attempts and were looking like they would draw away even further, causing the Familicao fans to watch with bated breaths, but just as the pressure was getting too much, the referee's whistle signifying the end of the first half blew loudly and play paused.