

## Chapter 130: I know you're guilty.

Tess's POV:

Today had gone from the biggest dream of my life coming true to the biggest nightmare that I could ever imagine materializing in front of me. And it was definitely the most humiliating thing that has ever happened to me. Being led through the hall of the damn hotel where my rehearsal dinner was located to the police station with all my guests looking at that shameful scene and leaving humiliated was the last drop on the bucket.

I knew that this experience would be tattooed on my guests' brains, so I didn't look at anyone to not help them remember what happened. I just continued with my head down and went down my walk of humiliation. But I knew all eyes were on me, above all, because after we appeared from the room where we were, people in the rehearsal dinner went silent. Nobody would remain silent without a reason, so I knew that everyone was looking at me when I left the room.

Damn, this was not the kind of attention that I was planning to get today. Yes, I wanted to be the center of attention but in another way. I wanted to

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be the star of the party, but now, I was sure that I was going to be the theme of gossip. Oh, my God. What the newspapers are going to write about tomorrow? I know worrying about these things right now makes me a futile and empty person, but honestly, if I didn't think about it right now, I would probably start spiraling and get desperate. And the situation was too tense for me to despair.

But by the moment that I was sent to the police station, I started to make a scandal. I screamed at the top of my lungs so they would set me free. I made every threat that I could think of and didn't let the policeman in the car have a quiet moment. Even at the police station, I screamed for over 15 minutes. Because of my attitude, someone gave me an empty cell. so I could vent all my anger without causing more mess.

I continued screaming until I heard: "Hey, miss?"

I looked at him and complained: "What?"

"I'm the warden, and if you don't behave here, I'll put you in a cell with no windows," he said. I had to swallow my words and behave because things were already ugly the way they were. I shouldn't make things worse. I started to take deep breaths to try to get some calm, but all that I could do was to give myself into panic, so I started to cry

quietly.

I don't know how much longer it passed, but then, I could hear Ethan's footsteps. I know that this might sound awkward, but I could hear his arrival before he was even there. A few seconds later, I heard the detective's voice saying: "You have a visit, Miss Astor." I looked up and as certain as the sun, I saw Ethan looking at me with his unfathomable eyes. I sighed in relief because right at that moment, seeing him was like finding your Safe Haven. I knew that he would fight for me the best way he could, so I got up and walked to the cell bars. "Oh, Ethan, darling, you came!" I told him. "You're here and that makes everything better already," I added.

"Well, I'll leave you two lovebirds alone," the detective said and turned his back to us.

Ethan looked at me for a little while and then, he finally said: "Well, I'm not going to ask you how you are, because if you were really well, you wouldn't be inside a cell, would you?" he asked me.

"Oh, darling, I'm so glad you understand me!" I said and started to cry again. I knew that Ethan would help and that I could show him all my vulnerability. On the one-way front, he always

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protected me, and he wouldn't fail me now, wouldn't he?

But even so, I decided to confirm: "Oh, handsome, you're going to help me, won't you?"

He looked at me seriously and told me: "Yes, I promised you so."

"And what are you going to do about this?" I asked him.

He looked at me and said: "I'm hiring a lawyer for you so far, but that's the only thing I'm going to do."

Suddenly, the little smile of relief that I had on my face faded, and frowned at him. I looked at him with confusion in my eyes and said: "I'm sorry dear, I think I did not understand you correctly. Are you serious that all that you're going to do is to hire a lawyer for me?" Then I realized. Something was wrong. The Ethan that I knew would hire a small army of lawyers and would be here the minute that I got processed.

Ethan then looked at me coldly, and I felt my stomach sink. "Yes, darling, that's exactly what you heard," he told me. I noticed the mockery in his voice when he called me darling. "This is all the help I'm giving you and I think that this is

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much more than you deserve."

I started to feel my legs get wobbly, and my blood pressure dropped. So, I asked him uncertainly: "Babe, what's going on? I don't understand. You are

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the father of my baby. You need to protect me!" I pleaded with him.

"Oh, but we both know there's no child in your womb isn't, Tess?" Ethan told me. And in that moment, I knew that I'd screwed up everything.

"Ethan, what are you doing?" I asked him. I couldn't believe that this was happening.

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Ethan turned his head to the side like he was analyzing me, and so he said: "Well, actually it's not me doing it, isn't it? You're the one doing things to me and to my family this whole time, aren't you, Tess?" Ethan asked me.

"What do you mean? I'm not doing anything!" I said to him with the best innocent expression I could come up with.

Ethan looked at me and shrugged as if he didn't give a damn about my fate, and then, he said to me: "Well darling, you only reap what you sow," and he had a certain air of annoyance in his response, as if he couldn't stand to be in my presence any longer or as if he was losing his patience with me. I shook my head in panic and said: "No, you don't understand, Ethan. I didn't do anything! They are delusional!"

And then, he looked fixedly into my eyes, arched his eyebrows, and said to me: "So, for you, it's nothing to have deceived me for so long and then threatening my own wife's and son's lives? So, it was nothing for you to cheat on me with that bastard Alexander for all these years? It was nothing hurt Patricia and face the possibility of doing even worse as long as you can achieve those goals of yours?"

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That's it. He was very pissed, and I didn't know what else to do. He had discovered my whole plan and had turned everything against me.

"Ethan, please, there's been a mistake. It's not what you're thinking. It's all wrong. Please listen to me, we can fix this!" I told him.

But Ethan shook his head and said, "Well, that's exactly what I'm thinking, Tess. I know you're guilty. Forensics don't lie, and neither does the investigation. You were the one who took the murder weapon that day to my house.

Unregistered weapon, by the way. For that alone, you deserved to be locked up in jail, but as if that wasn't enough, you committed perjury in your statement, which is another serious crime. You accused an innocent woman of having attempted against someone else's life when in fact the other two were just victims of his evil plan," he told me.

"No, Ethan. That's not what happened...if you'd just let me explain..." I told him.

However, he didn't want to hear it. He just kept accusing me. "You know, Tess? I really had been worried about you, because after all, you'd been shot and all, but really, I should have been worried about my wife and the baby she was carrying in her belly. And also with poor Patricia, who was

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definitely the one who got the worst of this whole thing. And on top of that, after recovering, she was being sedated by people close to you, isn't that?"

Damn it! How had he found out about Patricia's sedation?

There was no longer any reason to hide from him that I had done all of this deliberately, so I decided to say everything that was included. "Well, Patricia was just in the wrong place at the wrong time, and as for Hannah, nothing really happened to her, and I honestly wish it had. In fact, I really wish Hannah hadn't come into our lives. We would have been married and I would have given you an heir by now and we would still be at peace."

Ethan turned his head to the side, squinted his eyes, and said, "Well, well, well... so it looks like the real Tess has finally decided to show up her claws, doesn't it? Look, Tess, nobody can pretend to be anything for a lifetime, Tess. And with you, it was no different. Your mask just fell off," Ethan said, and we stared at each other in silence for a while.

"Well, I came here to tell you about the lawyer and wish you the best of luck, because I've been waiting for this day for a long time. Goodbye, Tess," Ethan said and turned his back on me.

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Damn it! I was losing him! "Ethan, don't you dare turn your back on me! Don't you dare leave! I threatened.

"What is it, Tess? You're already in jail anyway. I don't care," he said and walked out. But what he didn't expect was that Alex had come to us and listened to our conversation. Alex didn't say a word. He just raised his fist and punched Ethan as hard as he could. Ethan was taller and stronger than Alexander, but Alex had the element of surprise.

Ethan staggered when Alex hit him and was left holding his nose and eye. "What a hell!" Ethan exclaimed.

But the element of surprise was gone within a few seconds when Ethan lifted his hand to Alex and grabbed him by the collar of his shirt. Alex tried to free himself, but Ethan was stronger and landed some good blows to Alex's abdomen.

"Alex, watch out!" I exclaimed.

"You're a bastard, Alexander! I trusted you! I trusted you both!" Ethan exclaimed, hitting Alex in the face.

Some officers in the main room of the station heard the commotion and went to see what was

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going on and were finally able to separate the two.

"Gentlemen, calm down, or you will have both be arrested for causing public disorder!" the policeman exclaimed.

"Fine, fine. I was on my way anyway," Ethan told the cops.

Ethan and Alexander were panting and looking at each other with real hatred in their eyes.

"You're going to pay me for what you've done, Ethan. You and your entire family are going to pay us for this!" Alexander exclaimed as Ethan walked down the hall.

"That's what we'll see," Ethan said and walked away.



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