

163- Is Dinner Still On, Marissa?

The hotel bed was so big and so spacious for the kids that even Marissa was lying there comfortably with them. The kids had gone to sleep, and her mind was still on those evil women who created havoc in her life.

She frowned when felt her phone's vibration and glanced at the screen, " Sophie!" She got up lazily and walked to the balcony that offered a stunning view of the city.

" How are you doing, Mar? What did Nina say? Did Valerie try to harm you? I swear! I'll kill them if they are still giving you a tough time..." Sophie started bombarding her with questions as soon as Marissa received her call.

" Relax, Sophie. No, they did nothing," she calmed her friend, gently, "I'm still in one piece," she added with a chuckle and felt happy that Sophia cared for her.

The way Rafael had rushed to the office, it was evident on his face that he was deeply concerned for her wellbeing.

" Now what, Marissa?" Sophie asked her and she could detect a hint of worry in her voice.

" Nothing," Marissa replied with a sigh, "I don't think they can do anything as long as you are with me... and ... Rafael too," She finished it with a little hesitancy.

" Wow! So, you trust him now. That's good!" Marissa wanted to deny her, but her tongue seemed tied.

She could feel those strange emotions swirling within her. This must be the first time she was talking to Sophie about her emotions for Rafael so openly, " Yeah. I think... I need to trust him one more time... he has been asking for a chance..." The past had left so many scars on her soul that it could never be forgotten easily but she didn't want to give up on that glimmer of hope.

Sophia's voice softened in understanding, " Hmm. So, what's next?" Marissa felt the cold breeze against her face and then closed her eyes inhaling deeply, " You know what, Sophie? I'm more than ready to fight them. This time... I want to talk to them in their own language..." " What are you planning to do, Mar?" Marissa's mind was already racing with all the questions, " Nothing special. Except to put them in their place." Sophia sounded both surprised and impressed, " Woah! You sound confident," Looking at the city lights, Marissa smiled. Maybe Sophie was right because she had never felt this confident in life.

" Yeah. Thanks to Rafael," she didn't say it loudly.

" Marissa," this time there was a tinge of caution in her friend's voice, " You need to be mentally prepared. Soon they would come to know about kids too." "I know, love," Marissa said drumming her nails on the banister, " and now, Sophie... I'm getting tired of being scared of them. It is getting so exhausting. How about I tell them about kids myself?" She could almost imagine Sophie's face with wide eyes and open mouth, and she had to stifle the grin forming on her lips.

" Are you having a fever or something, Marissa? Or did you get your head hit by some rock? Do you know what you are saying?" " Yeah. I know, Sophie," she softly, "I know what I'm saying. But do you know one thing that I've realized lately? Sophie... I enjoy surprising them. You should have been there in the office to see their face especially when they found me in that room ordering the employees to follow me. The way those employees obeyed me instead of following their order to stay. It was ecstatic. Ah!" Marissa thought of the look on their faces and smiled again.

" Hmm," Sophie mused, " So, what's the plan? Going office tomorrow? And then announcing that I'm the mommy of President's triplets?" " Exactly!" Marissa twirled on the small balcony with a wide grin, " That's what I'm going to do, Sophie. Except that it won't happen tomorrow." " Then when?" Now Sophia was getting restless. She had never witnessed this side of Marissa and to be frank she liked it even more.**w17**

" At the main event, Sophie," Marissa narrowed her eyes. She could almost imagine Nina and Valerie's faces, " At the main event, I'll make the announcement... wait a minute... it won't be me but the kids' father who will make the announcement." " Oh, woman!" Sophie was almost jumping in excitement, " You sound so confident. I wish I could come to you and hug you tightly." That was all the encouragement Marissa needed. As always, Sophia's words had given a boost to her confidence, " We will hug, Soph. Just come back safely." " Hey, Mar," Sophia spoke gently.**uw@.fi@v.eTwoRm.coM**

" Hmm?" " Invite me!" Marissa raised a brow, all puzzled," Hmm? Invite you? Where?" " To the event, silly!" Sophia suggested playfully, "I can't miss that look on their faces." Marissa nodded her head, " Definitely. I'll talk to Rafael b- but wait a minute..." Marissa chewed her lower lip in mischief, " Why should I talk to him when I'm in charge of the event? I should have the liberty to invite at least one person of my choice. Bring your plus one too. I'll arrange the invitation card. But hey! You can accompany Joseph!" Marissa said snapping her fingers.

" Marissa!" Sophie sounded like she was rolling her eyes.**Www.n0**

" Don't worry, Soph. You'll be there to witness the drama." "I can't believe it. Are you the same, Marissa Aaron?" Marissa smirked and closed her eyes,"I'm the same Marissa. Just a hundred times stronger and bolder!" Sophie promised to call again the next day so that she could talk to the kids and disconnected the call.

Resting her arms on the banister, Marissa looked down at the view that was better than the one that the apartment offered.

She wasn't aware, for how long she kept observing the traffic and the continuous flow of the cars.

She sighed and then with a frown spun around when felt a familiar presence behind her.

" Rafael?" He was standing there with his shoulder leaning against the doorway.

"I came into the room looking for you, thinking that you might have gone to sleep but here you are." He moved forward to stand beside her," Is our dinner still on, Marissa?"