

Taming the Billionaire CEO (Daniel Monroe)

Chapter 31

31 JUST YOU WAIT

Daniel's jaw dropped as the door opened to reveal Renee in the red lingerie he **so** much loved. It hugged her figure tightly and since she wasn't wearing anything underneath, he could see her nakedness if he stared hard enough.

He unconsciously swiped his tongue over her lips as he recalled all he had done with her in that lingerie.

Renee smirked in satisfaction. "Are you going to come inside or keep staring at me like I'm some sort of candy you want to take a lick at?" she said sternly, a deep frown on her face as she folded her arms beneath her chest.

Although she feigned anger, she was elated by his reaction. A reconciliation was well on its way; she could feel it.

He cleared his throat, embarrassed he had lost focus on his reason for being at her house. "Thank you," he said in a cold tone as he entered her house while stealing glances at her.

"Would you like a glass of champagne?" she asked as they entered the living room.

"Make it full," he said as he loosened the tie around his collar and sat on the couch facing the TV.

Although she could go the other way, she bent directly in front of him as she picked up the bottle of champagne to pour them both a glass, wiggling her ass seductively as she did so.

Daniel gulped, unable to take his eyes off her. When she stood up, he immediately looked away, perspiration trickling down the side of his face. You can't lose focus now, Daniel. You have to do what you came here for—He took a glance at her as she picked up the glasses—and perhaps enjoy yourself afterwards.

"Thanks," he said as he collected the glass of champagne from her. He took a sip and threw his head backwards. "This hit the spot," he moaned as he placed the glass on the table.

"Now, why were you trying to break down my door?" she asked as she sat next to him. "You ignored calls **all** day and suddenly you're trying to break down my door just so you can see me. It's rather odd if you ask me."

His eyes darkened dangerously, making her put a little distance between them." Don't you dare play dumb, Renee!" he snapped.

"You know why I'm here, but what is more important is you explaining why you claim I'm the reason you lied to me about being pregnant," he said with a raised brow, anger swirling within his pupils.

"What? Do you think I'm the one at fault? You're the one who made me lie and also the one responsible for the problems we're having now," she said with an eye roll, looking away from him as she crossed her legs.

After a few minutes of neither of them saying anything, he broke the silence." I'm still waiting for you to explain exactly what you meant by your words just now. You said I imposed my want for a child on you, but I can't recall ever telling you I wanted a child since you said you'd tell me when you're ready-

"-and that was a year ago. Despite wanting one, I didn't mention it so how is it my fault you suddenly felt the need to lie about it to me?" he questioned.

"You didn't say it, but you showed it indirectly. You'd always stare at kids whenever we went out, it was frustrating. Plus, you refused to divorce Anna. I assumed it was because I wouldn't get pregnant for you, so I lied and got rid of her."

His jaw dropped open as he looked at her, his brows knitted together in disbelief. How did I not see how calculating and devious she is? "I didn't divorce Anna because there was no reason to. You weren't going to marry me and she was vital to-" he cleared his throat and continued. "You're unbelievable, Renee."

"Says the one who announced a fake marriage to the press without informing me. If you hadn't done what you did, we wouldn't be in this mess right now," she stated, standing her ground.

"And how did you plan to deceive me in the coming months when everyone starts wondering why your stomach isn't expanding?" he asked.

She wondered if she should tell him. "Well..." she cleared her throat. "Since Anna's living with us, I was going to fake a miscarriage and blame it on her." "You..." he bit down on his lips, deciding to let it go. "What the hell are you planning to do when you go to that damned interview tomorrow?"

She tilted her head to the side, staring at him as though deep in thought before clapping her hands together as though she recalled something important. "Right. I was just going to tell the world I lied about my pregnancy so you'd finally listen to me and get rid of Anna, who is the wife you were married to and not me- He clenched his fists at her words, the veins on his neck becoming engorged. Not noticing the change in his expression, she continued, "-I guess I could also mention how you were cheating on her with me even when she was the one who helped you to-"

He shot up from his seat and held her by her neck. "She's the one who helped me with what?" he questioned through gritted teeth. "I might care about you a lot, but trust me when I say what you did has reduced my love for you drastically

"-Even when I loved you immensely, I still cared more about my reputation and company, and now, I won't let you or anyone destroy everything I've worked for."

Her pupils dilated as fear gripped her and she clawed at his hand. "Please, let... go," she pleaded, her voice raspy as breathing became as difficult as losing her

career. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

He let go of her neck and paced around the room, taking deep breaths. She rubbed her sore neck, trembling as she stared at him.

She had never seen him get so mad at her before and it terrified her more than dogs did. "I'm sorry, okay?" she said softly as she sobbed, "I was just trying to get your attention. I wasn't going to say any of the things I just said. I just wanted you to come to me so we could talk and reconcile."

He shut his eyes tight. He had succeeded in frightening her so he didn't have to push it anymore. Although she was scared because it was a side of him he had never shown to her, he knew she could be scarier when pushed to the wall.

After all, her career, to her, was more important than he was, and that was how it was for him with his company. "I'm sorry for getting so mad at you," he said, his tone softer as he wrapped his arms around her. "I'll get you back into the house if you make us look good tomorrow, I promise you."

"Really?" she wiped the tears from her eyes as she stared up at him.

He nodded with a smile, "I will, just don't disappoint me again, okay?"

She nodded and rested her head on his chest. The smile on his face immediately dropped to a frown as anger filled his eyes. And just you wait, I'm going to make you regret fooling me again, and making me a laughing stock on the internet.

And he was going to use Anna to make her pay. Since Renee didn't want a child, he'd have one with the one person she hated the most.

He smirked as he thought of how livid she'd become. Before that, he'd take away anything she could use to fight back and leave her powerless and penniless.

"Now..." he trailed off with a smile as he pulled her lingerie straps down her shoulders.

She giggled as she pulled away from him. "Let's take this to-"

He swept her off her feet, carrying her in a bridal style. "Let's take this to the room?" he said, taking her lips in his as he walked toward her bedroom.

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Chapter 32

32 A SHIPPER

How does he know Davis and I aren't truly a couple? Did Davis tell him? "That would explain why he keeps hitting on me," Anna muttered as she scooped a spoon of cereal into her mouth. "But Davis told me to avoid me because he goes after women who are married... not his exact words, but it's the same thing."

She leaned back on the couch and shook her head slightly, trying to focus on the movie she was watching. "I'll just have to ask Davis when we meet since Giovanni has refused to tell me how he knows."

Ugh! Why's he suddenly acting like a Davis?

She scooped several spoons of cereal in her mouth and angrily munched on it.

"Was that hottie the one who gave you the car?" Kyra asked **as** she plopped down on the couch, next to Anna.

Just when I thought my day couldn't get more annoying. Anna rolled her eyes **as** she focused on her cereal and the movie.

"I'll take it as a yes since he drove away with it," Kyra said with an irritated. undertone. She faced Anna with a sweet smile, "What's his name? And will he be coming here frequently? Are you two close?"

"I don't know if his beauty blinded your eyesight to the extent that you can't tell I'm watching a movie, but your ears are functioning, right?" Anna questioned with a glare before resuming her movie. "And I'm trying to eat here."

Kyra glared at her for a while, wanting nothing more than to strangle her, but she refrained herself. She still needed to know who the guy with the blue sports car was and she was going to find out.

"If you hadn't showed up, I would have approached him and now you won't tell me what his name is," she scoffed. "I wonder if you don't want to tell me because you like him. I mean, I wouldn't be surprised seeing how you were all over him."

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Anna turned to her with a glare. "All over him? You know what? Suit yourself with whatever stories you please, I don't care. Sometimes I wonder if you work, seeing as you're always lurking around at home-"

But again, I don't care what you do. Just leave me so I can enjoy my cereal and movie, and stop butting in my business."

"Fine, I guess I'll have to find out for myself," she said bitterly as she picked up the remote and switched off the TV before walking away.

Anna shook her head. "And this is exactly why she hasn't found a husband yet...

plus her tendency to change men like underwear."

Although she didn't know Giovannt well, she couldn't subject him to Kyra's adoration, especially since Davis already let her know his type.

A smile made its way to her face as she turned to face Kyra who was walking towards the **exit** with her bag. "I don't like you, but I'll give you a tip on how to get his attention," She yelled and Kyra turned on her heels to face her.

"And what is it?" Kyra asked, her eyes expectant.

Anna smirked, "Get married. He's only into women who are married. You think. you can fulfil that criteria?" Kyra gave her the middle finger making her burst. out in laughter.

"That was a good one," she said proudly when Kyra slammed the door shut.

She picked up the remote to turn the TV on when her screen lit up with Lily's name as her ringtone filled the living room. "Have you heard the latest news?"

"I doubt so," Anna said with a tired sigh.

"Are you okay? You sound tired," Lily asked, her excited tone switching to that of worry.

"Yeah, just tired," Anna said with a yawn. "I think I need to sleep."

"How was the meeting with Davis? Did it go well?"

Anna nodded, even though Lily couldn't see her. "Well..." she explained all that had happened between her and Davis, including Giovanni and leaving out the part about her asking for Daniel's company.

"I think Giovanni likes you," Lily squealed.

"I think there's something fishy between him and Davis," Anna said, ignoring Lily's words. Giovanni seemed sweet, but everything about him screamed: I'll break your heart.

"I guess so, but seriously, I think he might like you," Lily giggled.

Anna rolled her eyes, "I know it's not fair to make assumptions about people without getting to know them, but I'm just going to stick with seeing him as a player because I'm not interested in a relationship with him or anyone for that matter."

"Including Daniel?" Lily asked seriously.

"Especially Daniel," Anna said leaning back in her seat. "Let's forget about that and talk about the **latest** news you mentioned."

"Oh, yeah! Renee is going to be interviewed tomorrow on a popular TV show. I

can't recall the name but you can check the news online yourself. She said she's going to reveal the truth around **this** and the role of the Monroes in it," she said without stopping for breath.

Anna dropped her plate of cereal on the table. "Do you think she's going to protect or attack them?" she asked, her brows knitted together in worry. They got out of their last scandal unscathed and she couldn't let the same thing happen again.

"Don't worry about it, Anna. Regardless **of** what she says, she can't get out of the fact that she lied about her pregnancy," Lily assured her. "The recording shows she was well aware of what she was doing so there's no denying it. As for the Monroes, they already suffered a huge blow to their reputation and that's not going away-"

"It might increase or reduce the heat on them, but I've got my guys ready to drop comments attacking her for lying and to remind everyone she had

abandoned him once. Speaking of which, no one knows why she ran from the altar so I think that's the next thing to look into."

Anna nodded in agreement, "You're right. All I do remember is it's not a reason Daniel is happy about... I mean, no one will be happy if they're abandoned at their wedding altar, but the last time I asked him about it, he got livid. I thought he was going to murder me for asking."

"You think she ran away with a man?" Lily asked.

"Who knows? Although that might be it... I recall hearing Kyra say something about her ex, but I don't know. What I do know is that we can't let them take a breather," she said with a frown.

"We're gonna keep hitting them with storms, each one heavier and more concrete than the last, till they can't stand anymore," Lily cackled.

Anna chuckled, "I don't know if I should be worried about you or not." [Search the website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

"You should worry about yourself first," Lily said with a chuckle, although she was very serious. "And when do we use the other half of the recording?" she asked.

Anna thought for a while. "I don't know, but we'll have to find out who the doctor in the recording is and how he's related to her."

"This is exciting," Lily squealed.

Anna let out a tired groan, "I know but it can be tiring, especially when my partner is such a jerk. But again, the contract doesn't say he has to treat me well." "I think you should give it a bit more time. From all you've told me about him, he

seems like a really sweet guy who's trying way too hard to be cold and mean for a reason known only to him," Lily said with a sad sigh. "Just don't give him reason to not trust you and I'm sure you two will hit it off just fine "

"I feel as though you're shipping me with Davis as well so I'm just gonna end *the* call here," Anna shook her head lightly as she hung up.

"What a pain," she clicked her tongue distastefully as she picked up her bowl of cereal. "Now it's soaked," she said with disgust and made her way to the kitchen.

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Chapter 33

3 SCARS

Anna tapped on the blank screen of her phone twice and it lit up, illuminating her languid face. She squinted her eyes as they adjusted to the light.

8:47 pm.

"Why's he so late today?" She mumbled, dropping her phone on her lap and wrapping her arms around her body as the cold wind bit at her exposed limbs.

"I should get a jacket," she vocalized, rubbing her shoulders but didn't move an inch from where she was seated on the bench outside the house, on the balcony.

She had tried calling him but when he didn't take her call the first time, she knew calling him again wouldn't make a difference just like her marriage with Daniel.

Did something happen to him? He's usually back by this time. Her mouth became dry at the thought that something had happened to him. "I hope he's just being his usual self and he's not hurt," she muttered as she held her fingers that were trembling from the cold.

"Finally," she stood from the bench when his car pulled up in front of the house. Wait a minute... She squinted her eyes at the car and the figure descending from the car and scowled when she saw it was Daniel.

She sat back on the bench with a defeated sigh, making a mental note to get the streetlights fixed.

"Why are you out in the cold without a jacket?" Daniel asked as he climbed the front porch. "Your dear husband can't be bothered to ensure your welfare?" he taunted.

She ignored him and leaned her head against the wall. I wonder if he's coming home tonight. Her mind hadn't been at peace since Giovanni made it known he knew about her fake marriage to Davis.

She wanted to know if it was just him or if several others knew. Or did he deduct it from the way we act? Did my actions or words give off the truth?

Shuddering at the thought, she wrapped her arms tighter around her body, hoping she was wrong. She had done everything necessary and unnecessary just to keep the image of Mrs. Solorante. "This is driving me crazy," she breathed, shutting her tired eyes,

Warmth suddenly enveloped her and she looked up to see Daniel staring down at her as he placed a fur coat on her shoulders, and dropped a fur blanket on her lap.. “You should stop waiting for him and **go** inside,” he said with concern, taking a

seat next to her.

“Thanks for the coat, but I didn’t invite you,” she mentioned, wrapping the blanket around her legs, an unintentional moan escaping her lips.

“Even wrapped up like a Christmas present, you look as ravishing as ever. he commented, unashamedly ogling her. When she didn’t reply, he added, “Wast that mean your way of telling me-

“I wasn’t telling you anything,” she hissed, “and do I need to return the coat and blanket to make you leave? Because I’d rather die of cold than spend another minute with you.”

He raised his hand in surrender. “Fine, fine,” He didn’t attempt to leave. “I’m just saying it’s you and I alone, we could always...” he trailed off suggestively making her let out a frustrated groan.

“We were married for two years, Daniel,” she reminded him, her tone low and angry. “You couldn’t care less about me and my needs then, but now that I’ve moved on with a man who adores me, you’re hell-bent on destroying my marriage. There’s something wrong with you if you haven’t realized it

yet.”

He went silent and looked away from her. She snickered. That shut him up.

“You know, you say all this-” Just great, he’s still talking. “-but you’re the one who purchased this house just so you can be close to me. Makes me wonder if you’ve truly moved on, and I see the way you long for me, Anna-”

“For fuck’s sake, just get lost, Daniel!” she bellowed, glaring at him. “And I didn’t move into this house for you, okay? Davis gave it to me as a gift because I lived here all my life so don’t go getting ahead of yourself. Perhaps if you weren’t so focused on ruining other people’s lives and marriages, you’d notice your wife was lying about her pregnancy.”

She felt him stiffen next to her. She had succeeded in driving him up the wall. A sigh of contentment left her lips when he stood up and left. “I thought he’d never leave.”

She shut her eyes and drifted off to sleep.

^^^

Davis pulled up in front of Anna's his mansion. He has gotten accustomed to calling it hers because he had gotten it for her, but as they were married, it belonged to them both although he couldn't consider it his home when the Monroes were living in it.

He sauntered to the front porch, halting in his tracks when he spotted a figure on the bench from the corner of his eyes. On closer inspection, he realized it was

Anna.

She was waiting for me. It dawned on him as he watched her sleep, wondering why she'd wait out for him in the cold.

With an exasperated sigh, he trailed to her side and held the blanket, about to tank it off her body when he recalled he was supposed to be a doting husband. Did she have to wait for me?

A frown settled on his face as he carried her off the bench, plastering a doting smile on his face in case he ran into any of the Monroes when he got inside.

"You're back," she croaked, not opening her eyes. "Why didn't you take my call? I thought something happened to you."

His eyes softened. "You were worried about me," he said, his words coming out as more of a statement than a question.

She nodded against his chest. "Yeah. What wife wouldn't be worried about her husband?" she muttered as he carried her up the stairs. [search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.](#)

His lips pressed tight. Of course, she was His lips pressed tight. Of course, she was playing her part as his partner. "I saw the call late and didn't feel the need to call back," he stated, closing the door of their room behind him. "You don't have to wait for me when I'm running late."

"But I-"

"It's not a request," he told her, his tone firm as he carefully dropped her on the bed.

"Thank you," she sat up in the bed, taking off the fur coat and throwing it to the floor, along with the blanket she wrapped around her lower body. She turned to face Davis who was unbuttoning his shirt.

She got out of bed and began undressing. After undressing in front of him multiple times mainly because she mostly had a singlet and tight underneath her clothes, it was now something that came to her naturally.

Plus, he always acted as though she was invisible and never glanced at her, not like she minded.

“Your day must have been stressful seeing as you’re undressing,” she commented, an undertone of concern in her voice.

When sleeping, she kept to her side of the bed but whenever she woke up, his side of the bed was always smooth and neat, showing he hadn’t slept in it.

She had even woken up one midnight to find him awake, working.

As expected, he didn’t respond to her.

“By the way...” She trailed off, her eyes widening when he took off his *shirt* and she saw numerous scars on his back.

What in the world....

As though in a trance, she walked over to him and traced her fingers down one of the scars. He stiffened, turning on his heels as he grabbed her by the wrist. “What do you think you’re doing?” he snarled, his grip on her wrist tight.

“How did you get these scars?” She uttered.

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Chapter 34

34 WHO IS HE?

He had been so occupied with his thoughts that he had forgotten about his scars and taken **off** his shirt in front of her. “That is none of your business,” he spat, his grip on her wrist tightening.

She searched his eyes, but all she could see was anger and **an** emotion she couldn’t decipher. “Davis, you can

“I said it’s nothing,” he hissed.

She winced when **his** grip on her wrist further tightened. “You’re hurting me, Davis.”

He immediately let go of her arm and wore his shirt. "You didn't see anything tonight," he told her as he grabbed a shirt and shorts from the closet, "And I apologize for hurting you," he said and without waiting for her response, scampered into the bathroom.

She rubbed her now red wrist as she stared after him. "I probably shouldn't have touched him," she muttered with a sigh as she changed into her nightwear and sat at the edge of the bed.

Who exactly is Davis Solorante?

She wondered as she stared at the bathroom door.

She looked away when the sound of running water stopped. "You didn't see anything tonight, Anna. It's none of your business," she reminded herself and focused on what she wanted to ask him.

"Why aren't you sleeping?" he questioned, his brows knitted together in suspicion as his lips pursed together. "I already told you to forget about whatever you saw."

"And what did I see?" she raised her brow, staring at him blankly. He nodded his head in satisfaction as he dried his hair with a towel. "Good."

She cleared her throat as she sat up straight. "Are you and Giovanni close friends?" she questioned, watching his expression to see if he'd give off anything but his expression remained the same.

"Why do you ask?" he asked as he dropped the towel in the laundry basket and turned to face her, a blank expression on his face.

She let out a low groan, "Can't you just answer my question?"

"**I just** did... with a question," he pointed out, making her massage her temples.

"Why did I think getting an answer out of you would be easy?" she mumbled incoherently.

His lips curled in a frown when he didn't catch what she said. "What was that?" She cleared her throat, shaking her head softly. "Nothing," she said.

He crossed his arms and stared at her, "Why are you suddenly Interested in my relationship with Giovanni?" he questioned.

It was pointless of her to beat around the bush. He wasn't going to tell her what she wanted to know unless she said the real reason behind her question.

“When I returned his car, he complimented me, saying my acting is good... enough to convince one that I’m truly married to you when I’m not,” she looked him in the eye. “Which is why I want to know if you told him about it and if **so**, why didn’t you tell me?”

Davis rubbed his temples. “I didn’t tell anyone about it and Giovanni is...” not someone I want you to be associated with. “He’s not going to tell anyone, okay? As for how he found out, I have no idea but I wouldn’t be too worried. Just be careful around him.” [SEARCH THE \(F\)indNOVEL.net website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

“You two aren’t friends, are you?” she stated.

“It doesn’t matter, just listen to me and go to sleep,” he snapped, shoving her out of the way as he walked to the bed.

She watched him settle in bed, her lips pursed together on a thin line with a deep frown on her face. I don’t know what is going on with them both, but I’m going to find out about it all, including the scars.

She joined him in bed, careful not to touch him or cross over to his side. ”

Goodnight,” she said softly, trying not to think about him being next to her in bed.

When she didn’t receive a response, she sighed and turned her back on him. ” Goodnight to me,” she whispered and shut her eyes.

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“Could you keep it down and stop moving so much?” Anna moaned tiredly, her eyes shut as she tried going back to sleep. She was a light sleeper and so Davis’s constant moans and movement had woken her up.

Unsure of what he was doing, she kept her eyes shut not wanting to see if it was what she was thinking.

“Help,” she heard him say, a soft cry escaping his lips as his movements became less controlled.

She faced his side of the bed and opened one of her eyes to see his eyes closed and his brows furrowed together in pain. She sat up in a hurry, fear spreading its

roots through her. “Davis,” she cooed with worry as perspiration dripped down

his face.

He didn't respond and kept moaning in pain.

"Help," he muttered again, this time louder and the pain he felt was more evident.

She moved closer to him and placed his head on her chest. "You're going to be okay," she cooed as she wrapped her arm around his side. "Nothing is going to happen to you, okay?"

After a while, his movements reduced and he went back to sleep. "Finally," she heaved a sigh of relief as she watched his chest rise and fall. Is this why he doesn't sleep here? Does he experience this frequently?

She let out a loud yawn and tried to move away from him to her side of the bed, but she realized his arms were wrapped around her and the more she tried to move, the tighter his grip was.

"Fine, you win," she said softly as she let out a loud yawn, her eyes fluttering close. Just don't kill me when you wake up.

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"What the hell!" Davis cursed softly so as not to wake Anna when he found her head on his chest and their limbs interlocked. His lips curled downwards in a deep frown as he carefully tried to get out of bed.

Just like Anna, he kept to his side of the bed so how did they get into such a scandalous position? Considering they were married, it wasn't scandalous, but it was still an odd position for him.

"You're awake," Anna moaned as her eyes fluttered open. "Good morning," she gave him a wide smile that made him stop moving.

He had seen her sleep and wake up, but watching her wake in his arms made something in him stir. He was a man with blood flowing through him, after all.

He cleared his throat and looked away from her. "And why exactly are you in my arms?" he asked as he successfully unlocked their arms.

She raised a brow and shook her head. "You don't remember?" she asked as she pulled away from him and sat up.

"Remember what?" he asked slowly, scanning her body, hoping it wasn't what

he was thinking. "We didn't..."

She tittered at his insinuation. "No, we didn't have sex, Davis. Neither of us drank last night so I'm quite certain we'd remember. If we had such intimate relations."

He cleared his throat, hiding his embarrassment with a frown. "That wasn't what I insinuated, but that's good to know," he said as he got out of bed. "So, what don't I remember?"

"You..." Knowing him, he'd probably overreact and never spend the night here. Again the moment I tell him about it. "You came on me first and wouldn't let go." He stared at her like she had grown two horns. "You don't possibly expect me to believe that, do you?" He said, his nose scrunched up. "I think I'll have to reconsider sleeping next to you."

She rolled her eyes. It was half the truth after all.

She reached over to the side of the table, picked up her phone and opened her chat with Giovanni who had left her on read, probably because he already answered her question.

Let's meet. She dropped her phone with a heavy sigh. She had to know more about Davis one way or the other.

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Chapter 35

35 THE INTERVIEW

"Be careful, will you!" Renee snapped at the make-up artist fixing her lashes when his nail grazed her eyelid.

"I'm sorry, ma'am. I'll be more careful," he apologized and resumed fixing her lashes. **She** had arrived at the TV station two hours early so she could get her make-up done properly.

She was a model after all, and she couldn't afford not to look her best regardless of the situation. It had been over an hour and a half, and they were already setting up the cameras and lights for the interview.

"Renee!" The voice of her friend whom she spoke with the day before broke her out of her trance.

A smile made its way to her face as she stopped the make-up artist who was dabbing her face and turned to face her friend. "Jupiter, how have you been?" she asked sweetly.

"I've been good, but you look as though you're life's favourite," he said with a light chuckle and added, "Although you might have lost your place with Life seeing as you got into a scandal."

She dug her freshly painted nails into her palm and chuckled lightly. "Well, it can't be hard for me to regain it, can it?" she turned back to the make-up artist, signalling for him to continue her make-up.

"Of course, you're Renee after all," Jupiter mentioned and turned to the make-up artist. "She goes on in twenty, so hurry up with her make-up."

"Will do, sir," the artist said with a nod.

"I'll see you when we go live, Renee," Jupiter said as he left the room.

She scoffed. "The asshole thinks he's all that because he got me an interview with his TV like I couldn't do that without his help," she complained bitterly.

Those she called her friends were people she could use when she needed them and those who could help her, and most times, they were people who hated her and her guts.

She knew, but she couldn't care less so far they got her what she wanted when she wanted it.

"I really can't stand him," She hissed and the poor make-up artist was the one who suffered her wrath.

With every dab and stroke he made, she made it a duty to complain about it.

Will I be able to finish up in the next twenty minutes? He wondered, with a tight smile as he resisted the urge to turn her into a clown.

After fifteen torturous minutes, he completed her make-up. "I'm through, ma'am," he said with a relieved sigh and before she could say anything, which he was certain would either be an insult or a complaint, he scurried out of the dressing room.

"They call themselves the best TV station yet their make-up artists can't hold a brush to mine," she clicked her tongue distastefully as she smoothened the black dinner gown she was wearing.

She picked the perfume on the table and sprayed it on her body. "Perfect," she said with a wide grin.

She heard a knock on the door. "Come on in," she said and Jupiter peeked in.

"We go live in three, Renee. Let's go."

She glanced at her reflection in the mirror and smiled.

as she picked up her purse and followed him.

"perfection," she mouthed

Her phone buzzed in her purse and she brought it out to see a message from Daniel.

'Good luck with your interview.' It said.

She rolled her eyes as she put the phone back in her purse. "You just don't want me to expose you."

With her head held up high, she followed behind Jupiter to the recording room. Renee Monroe!" The interviewer, Tom, exclaimed as he sat up and stretched out his hand for a handshake.

"It's a pleasure to meet you again, Tom," she said as she shook his hands and sat on the couch opposite him.

"We go live in 30 seconds," Jupiter announced as he went around making sure everything was in order.

"Five... four... three... two-" Jupiter mouthed, his right palm up as he counted down to one with his fingers as well.

"-One!"

"Good evening, everyone, and welcome back to Spotlight Moments. I'm your host, Tom Bennett and today we have a guest whose journey has captivated headlines and stirred quite the controversy. Please join me in welcoming Renee

Monroe to the show!" He said with a bright smile.

The camera cut to Renee who was already waving with a bright smile on her face, her eyes glistening.

Tom turned in his seat so he was facing Renee directly. "It's a pleasure to have you here, Renee. Before we delve into the recent events, how have you been? Any exciting projects or personal milestones you'd like to share with **our** viewers?"

"Thank you for having me, Tom," **She** said and looked at the camera. "Life has been a rollercoaster, but I've been focusing on my upcoming fashion collaborations and spending time with loved ones. It's important to find balance. amid chaos, you know?" She chuckled.

I don't even know if my career will ever rise after this.

Tom nodded in agreement, "Absolutely. Now, let's address the elephant in the room," Renee nodded and continued. "The recent fake pregnancy scandal has taken the media by storm. Can you walk us through what happened and how you found yourself at the centre of such controversy?"

She cleared her throat. "I'd like to start by saying what you heard in the recording is true," she said, her tone remorseful.

"-Lying to my fans was never my intentiona"

"And your husband?" Tom interrupted.

"Neither was lying to him my intention. Due to the nature of our... relations, he assumed I was pregnant when I started showing some of the symptoms. I also thought the same but when I went to the hospital, I realized I was ill and not pregnant-"

"But you didn't tell him that?"

Renee nodded, "No, I didn't."

"And why is that?"

"Because he looked so happy and was so excited about being a father. I didn't know how to tell him it wasn't true and I was going to start taking precautions. because I wanted to focus on my career," she looked with a dejected sigh.

"-I planned to reveal the truth to him, but days turned into a week. Then came the scandal about him getting a divorce and he revealed the news about my pregnancy. One thing led to the other and here we are," she dug her nails into her

purse.

If not for the fact that I'd be required to take another test, I wouldn't have admitted this. This is so annoying.

Tom turned to the camera, "A lot of you have been torn on whether or not the recording that **was** released was true or not, but I believe you have

Your answers now," he turned to face Renee again. "As regards the recording, are you making any attempt to find the one who released it?"

Heck yeah, I am!

She shook her head negatively. "I don't think it's necessary. I just have one thing to say to the one who released it-"I'll fold their limbs, put them in a mortar and pulverize them to ashes. "-thank you. Thanks to you, I feel lighter and I'm no longer being eaten by guilt," she **said**, staring at the camera.

"It must have been hard lying to those who love you," Tom commented.

She let out a heavy sigh. "You have no idea how hard and painful it is," she looked at the camera. "I strongly advise you all to stick with the truth no matter how hard it is."

"You heard her, folks," Tom said. "The truth will always come to light."

She nodded in agreement, despite she was lying about her marriage to Daniel. "And how did your husband and his family react to this?" Tom asked.

"William Monroe was livid when he found out," she stated. Search The website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

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Chapter 36

36 WHAT NEXT?

"Livid, that's a rather interesting word to use," Tom commented, "If I may ask, Renee, what exactly do you mean when you say he was livid? How exactly did he react?"

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Renee sat up straight, letting out a heavy sigh. "There's no one who wouldn't get mad when they find out the source of their joy was nothing but a lie. Just like husband, my father-in-law and the entire family weren't happy about it-"

"But despite that, they didn't attack me or make my situation worse. On the contrary, they were quite supportive" she wiped a tear that was trickling down her face and

sniffed, “-Even though they were affected by it badly, they didn’t hate me for it, especially my husband,” she concluded with a smile.

“I’ve caused them a lot of pain and trouble, and I hope the public sees that this is all me and they aren’t involved in any way,” she said with a pleading tone.

With a slow, disbelieving shake of the head, Tom said, “I must say the Monroes truly live up to their reputation. It’s impressive they didn’t abandon you after the damage your actions caused... although I wouldn’t call it abandoning if they did

Now that that’s been cleared, let’s move on to the next questions,” Tom said with a wide smile.

“Bring it on,” Renee said with a light chuckle.

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Now that I’ve destroyed Renee’s career to some degree, what next?

Anna sighed as she leaned back on the couch, grabbing a handful of chips from the bag of potato chips in her hand.

And how exactly do I take Daniel’s company and leave him with nothing? It probably won’t be easy with the amount of influence he has, even with the help of Davis.

She sunk further into the couch as though she was trying to become one with it. Regardless **of** how hard it would be, she had to take the company from Daniel without destroying it. She had to destroy while keeping the company safe from the destruction.

“Aish! What a sly fox!” Lily exclaimed, grabbing a handful of chips and throwing it at **the** big screen. “How can she talk about always telling the truth when she and Daniel are lying about being married? She’s something, isn’t she?” Lily

asked through a mouthful of chips.

When she didn’t receive an answer from Anna, she turned to her to see her absentmindedly chewing. “Anna?” she called her. Not receiving a response, she waved her hand in her face. “Are you still in there?”

“Who knows,” Anna breathed, sitting up straight.

“Why do you look distraught?” Lily questioned with concern but to her surprise, Anna burst into laughter instead. “Did I say something funny?”

Anna raised a brow, "Why do you look so distraught? You've been reading the word of the day, haven't you?" she said with a chuckle.

"Well, yes," Lily said bashfully before squinting her eyes, "Don't even try to change the topic. Is it Renee's interview that made you look like this?" she asked, her eyebrows drawing together.

"It can't be that because I haven't been paying attention to all they've been saying since they went live."

Lily drew closer to her, "Then what is it? Is it Davis?"

"No, it's not," she answered and sat up straight, facing Lily. "It's just..."

"It's just..." Lily repeated as she stared at her expectantly.

Anna let out a sigh. "I don't know if it'll be possible for me to take over Daniel's company-"

"His company! What for? Why would you want to take over his company?" Lily asked, her brows knitted together.

Anna rolled her eyes. "You make it sound as though I just announced that I intend to marry him again," she joked, but Lily didn't get the joke because, in a split second, she was in front of Anna.

"Is that an indirect announcement?" she exclaimed, with a deep frown on her face. [Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.](#)

face.

"It's a joke, Lily. Quit exaggerating," she squalled, glaring at her. "Seriously, Lily, it's getting annoying."

Lily's shoulders dropped. "I'm sorry, I just get so angry when I hear

you mentio

that... that... I don't even know what to call him, but I hate when you talk about him unless you're dissing him or plotting his downfall," she said in a monotone voice.

"I don't know if I've said this before, but I'm glad you're on my side," Anna said with a wide smile, trying to lift her mood.

"As you should be," Lily raised her head high, a proud smile on her face making Anna shake her head playfully.

“Anyway,” Lily started. “You can always run his company. Since he’s into food processing, we can spread rumours about him using chemicals and-

“That would ruin not only Daniel but the company itself. I can’t let that happen,” **Anna** shook her head.

“Why not?” Lily raised a brow.

Anna shrugged, “Well... we can’t ruin the company because-” It belongs to me. -it would cause problems for innocent people. If the company does, then the employees will have to be laid off. Besides, what we’re trying to do is to show the world they’re not the angels they pretend to be-”

“—but the complete opposite. Although it’s rather tempting, we can’t stoop to their level in the name of revenge. Then we’d be no different from them,” she concluded, jerking her head backwards at the words that came out of her mouth.

I forget how wise I am at times.

Lily stood from the table she was seated on and sat on the couch, next to Anna. “Thanks for that. It’s not my revenge, yet I’m being overly zealous about it. You’re right, I shouldn’t let those who are innocent suffer and we should stick to exposing them.”

Anna nodded in agreement, “Precisely. I’ll have to talk to David about this, although I doubt he’d be that much of a help. After all, he can be such a pain in the ass most times.”

“I’m so sorry, Anna,” Lily suddenly said, her voice flat.

“Sorry? What for?” Anna questioned, placing her hand over Lily’s.

Lily turned to her with watery eyes. “I should be the one keeping you on track if your thirst for revenge starts to lead you astray or cause you to lose your sense of reasoning and compassion, yet I’m doing the opposite and egging you on to

become like them.”

Anna’s lips widened into a smile, “Lily, I know you’re looking out for me and have my best interest at heart. **And** we can both keep each other on track, so don’t worry about it.”

Lily nodded with a sigh, “I need to do something with my life, don’t I? If I wasn’t so jobless, I wouldn’t be sitting here trying to turn your **life** into a live-action series.”

“You’re being too hard on yourself, but... I do admit we need to find something. I

IN WHAT NE

can't keep relying on Davis's money, nor can you keep relying on your father's," Anna pointed out and they both sank into the couch, exhaling simultaneously.

"My father is threatening to remove me from his will if I don't make a decision. soon," Lily threw a chip in her mouth. "But again, I'm not getting any younger, am I?"

Anna chuckled, "We both know your name isn't coming off that will, but yeah, you should make a decision soon," she let out a groan of frustration, "I wish I had properties to inherit. Perhaps I wouldn't be this stressed out if I did."

"Trust me, it doesn't make that much of a difference with a father like mine," Lily snickered.

Anna nodded, "Well-" The ringing of her phone cut her off.

"Hey there, Baby," She said as she picked up the call, making Lily turn to her with a raised brow.

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Chapter 37

37 A TIE

"Was that necessary?" Davis questioned, his tone sharp and cold.

"No, not really," Anna said with a light chuckle when Lily kept making gestures, asking her who she was on the phone with.

"In that case, refrain from unnecessarily using endearing names for me. I don't appreciate it," he

stated.

She rolled her eyes. "Sure, darling," She could have sworn she heard him curse. She was about to ask when she remembered who it was she was talking to she'd most definitely get ignored. "Now, why are you calling me?"

"You asked to see my house, how could you forget the day we agreed on?" Her mouth formed an 'O' as she recalled their meeting.

“Right. I’m sorry I forgot, my mind’s been-”

“I didn’t ask. I’m outside, so come out and let’s get this over with,” He snapped, ending the call before she could respond.

Will he ever stop being rude?

“Since when did you have a baby? And why don’t I know about him?” Lily raised a brow.

Anna rolled her eyes as she stood from the couch. “Since I got married to Davis,” she replied, picking up her sling bag from the table. “I have to go now. He’s waiting outside.”

Lily’s eyes widened as her hand flew to her mouth, “You’re going on a date?” she yelled.

Anna’s lips dropped as she stared at Lily with tired eyes. “I’m starting to think you need to get your cars checked. How and when did I say I was going on a date with him-?” she exhaled deeply.

Sometimes she wanted to crack her best friend’s head open **to** check if something was broken; perhaps then she’d know how to deal with her.

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He’s taking me to his home because I asked to see it and I’m also going there to sign the new contract he wrote. And please, don’t exaggerate or make a big deal out of me going to his house-” She folded her fingers into a fist and raised it high, “-Do that and I’ll hit you this time,” Anna

finished.

“Since when did you two become so close?” Lily raised a brow.

“I doubt that’ll be happening anytime soon.”

“Wait up! Let me get my bag, I’m confused with you as well,” Lily told her, standing from the couch

as well.

Anna shook her head negatively, “You can’t come with, Lily. After what he did to those reporters, it’s clear he doesn’t want people to know where he stays and he’s only showing me because it would be

odd if I didn't know where my husband lives-

"And he really wouldn't appreciate me bringing you along because he already said he doesn't want you to be involved in every single thing we do."

Lily's shoulders dropped. "I'm guessing he doesn't like me," she remarked.

"I'm his wife and he doesn't like me either," Anna shook her head slowly. "But I doubt it's because of that. Since he and I are supposed to be married, he's probably trying to maintain that image and it wouldn't be proper for you to always be with us."

Lily raised her hand in surrender, "Fine, then. You're right," she exhaled deeply and added, "You should get going now that he's waiting for you. We'll be all later and I'll just find something else to do."

Anna pulled Lily in and wrapped her hands around Lily, embracing her in a tight hug. "I'll keep you updated on what happened and don't take what he thinks about you to heart, okay?"

Lily nodded with a wide smile. "It's fine. Now, go." Anna nodded and dashed out of the house.

"Now, I'm alone," Lily muttered as she fell back on the couch. "I need to get something to do with my life and stop being so nosy about Anna's-

-Soon, she'll be too busy for us to hang out the way we do now," With a deep sigh, she closed her

eyes.

Outside, Anna hurried toward Davis who was leaning against his car with his arms crossed across his chest. "Took you long enough," he muttered, through gritted teeth, his eyes darkened as he glared at her as though she had betrayed him.

"I'm sorry," she apologized, stopping in front of him with an awkward smile on her face. "But you seem to be forgetting we're supposed to keep an image of the perfect couple that's in love. What if we're being followed and they see you frowning?" she corked a brow. Search the (F)indNOvel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

At her words, he immediately replaced the frown on his face with a wide smile that looked as fake as a plastic flower in bloom.

37 0- She She leaned forward and pinched his cheeks. "That smile isn't going to convince al wrapped her hands around his neck, making him raise a brow. "-you'll have to try harder. Perhaps watch some movies-

"No way!" he snapped, the thought of becoming whatever Paul was turning into made him shudder.

She nodded slowly, "O...Kay. So you hate movies. Now I know something about you," she said with a wide smile before pulling away from him. "We should go now, no?" Without waiting for an answer, she walked over to the front seat of the car and got in, leaving Davis in a daze by her actions.

Shaking it off, he entered the car, sitting on the driver's seat and started the engine.

"By the way, how did you find me here? Did you already check my mansion?" she asked as he pulled out of Lily's driveway.

37 A TIE

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"I didn't have to check to know you'd be here. Whenever the Monroes leave to work, you always come here to stay with your equally jobless friend," he stated, his tone communicating he wasn't interested in a conversation with her.

"She's jobless by choice," Anna snapped.

"And how does that make it any better? She's still living off her father's money at age thirty, isn't she?" He questioned.

When she couldn't come up with a response that was capable of shutting him up, she looked out the window, biting her lips in anger.

"I'm working for you so I'm not jobless," she finally said after a while.

"You will be if you keep spending all your time at your friend's place, rather than using it to find out the secrets the Monroes are hiding," he threatened, his eyes fixed on the road.

She scoffed, "And that's exactly what I'm doing, okay?" She sat up straight, staring fixedly at him. "They're still battling with the last news I dropped on them and that has created a rift between them for sure. I'm-

"That doesn't mean you can take a break or go on a vacation," he turned to her. "I'm paying you enough for the work you do, aren't I?" he questioned and looked back to the road.

She nodded slowly. "Talking to you is pointless and just so you know, I've done way more than you ever did in all your years of planning so you might want to get off your high horse and quit acting so

high and mighty.”

“You couldn’t have done all of that without my help,” he stated bitterly, his grip on the steering wheel tightening.

She chuckled unhumorous, “The only thing you did is to get me into the house and make them doubt our love for each other. Lily, who is jobless, and I have been the one doing everything, so don’t give yourself too much credit and focus on improving your acting—”

“-You should also try watching those movies you hate so much, perhaps then you about how to treat a woman, especially when you love them.”

‘earn a thing

He didn’t reply to her and gripped the steering wheels harder. With a satisfied smile, she scoffed and stared out the window. “That’s more like it,” she muttered, letting out a yawn as she felt herself drifting off to sleep.

At least I put him in his place. Now, it’s a tie.

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Read Chapter 38

Chapter 38

38 A KISS. A DEMON, A REQUEST.

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38 A KISS. A DEMON. A REQUEST,

She had shut him up; he couldn’t believe it. He glanced at her as she slept like one who had no care in the world. “Is my acting that bad? Can people tell we aren’t married because of me?” he asked. More questions filled his mind, but he had no answer to them and going to Paul for advice didn’t seem like a good idea now that he was filling his mind with the nonsense he saw on TV.

Although he didn’t want to, he knew he’d have to ask him for help. He let out a deep sigh. “Perhaps I’ll have to invest my time in learning how to be a good fake husband,” he muttered as he pulled up in front of his house, a deep frown on his face.

One thing is for sure though, I didn't pick the wrong person for the job. If he wanted to, he could have destroyed the Monroes himself, but he had been waiting till they were big enough so their downfall would be much worse and meaningful.

If he wanted to, he could bring them down himself, but with Anna, he could destroy them from the inside out and make them suffer as he did. They would watch all they had built on blood and lies crumble and see their loved ones turn against them. They would suffer ten times more than he did; he

would make sure of that.

"We're here," he announced to Anna, but she didn't flinch. He shoved her roughly, "Wake up!" he snapped.

"What! Where?" She yelled as she shot up from the car seat and in the process, hit her head against the roof of the car. Ow!" She winced in pain as she fell back in her seat, rubbing her head and looking around as though she was a drunk trying to act sober. Davis watched her in amusement, snickering

when she turned to him with a dazed look on her **face**.

"You laughed," she stated, her hand slowly falling from her head as she stared at him, her mouth hanging open.

The amusement on his face was immediately replaced with a frown as he got out of the car. Anna followed suit, still staring at him as though he revealed himself to be a demon from hell, although she

wouldn't have been as surprised as she was at that moment. [Search the website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

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"I had no you were capable of such genuine emotions," she told him in awe. "Although, laughed because I was in pain," she added with a slight shrug, following behind him like a puppy.

He turned to her with a glare, "Could you please stop making a big deal out of my laughter?" he asked through a forced smile.

She crossed her arms across her chest as she nodded her head in approval, "Now, this is more like you. Always glaring and giving fake smiles that won't convince anyone of your love for me."

He scoffed, "Even if I feel something for you, it definitely won't be love."

She took two steps towards him **so** she was directly in front of him, "But we want them to believe we're in love, don't we?" she cocked a brow.

38 A KISS A DEMON A REQUEST.

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With a mischievous grin, he moved closer to her so there was no space between them at all and wrapped his hands around her waist. "What are you doing?" she questioned with a nervous chuckle as she tried to discreetly pull out his hands.

"We're in public, aren't we?" he said, brushing her hair out of her face as he held her closer to himself, making her hold her breath. "Since you're so desperate to show we're a couple, then..." he trailed off, his eyes lingering on her lips before he looked back at her longingly, his eyes needy,

What's with that look in his eyes? Her heartbeat quickened as several interpretations of the look he gave her flooded her mind. What am I even thinking? What is he thinking? He couldn't possibly kiss me, right?

He inched his face closer to hers. "What..." she trailed off, her words stuck in her throat as she watched his face get closer to hers.

He's going in for it. He's going to kiss me; it's finally it's happening.

Just when his lips were a few inches away, he stopped a sly grin on his face. "So you want me to kiss you?" he pulled away and with his hand around her waist, walked towards the front door of his

apartment.

She bit down on her lips. He tricked her, but she was more annoyed by the fact that she had wanted it. "I didn't want you to kiss me," she snapped, prying his hands off her waist as he inputted his house lock in the door. "People would either think we're having problems in our marriage if I had pulled away and those who already doubt we're married would be certain we aren't."

The door unlocked and he pushed it open, "Ladies first," he said. She rolled her eyes as she entered his house. "Are you sure you weren't complaining about me not acting as though I love you not because you don't want people to doubt us, but because you're hoping for something, like that kiss you're still annoyed I didn't give to you."

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"You must think you're all that, don't you?" she let out a sigh. "Fine, so maybe the look you gave me made me weak and I anticipated your kiss at that moment, but I sure as

hell wasn't lying about your bad acting. How many girls have you gotten into your bed with that look?"

"-You know what? I don't wanna know. Just let me sign that damned contract and get the hell out of your house which is, by the way, very nice."

He stared at her with a genuine smile, "Thank you for your honesty and if you must know, I accidentally learnt that look a few days ago-" When I walked in on Paul watching those dramas **of** his. "-and so I haven't gotten any girl into my bed with that look although I might have gotten one today if I hadn't held back."

"I said I didn't want to know," she reminded him with a smile that told him she wanted nothing more than to vanquish him from the face of the earth. "Can you please bring out the contract so **I can** be on my merry way?"

"It's on the table in the living room," he informed her.

Without waiting for him, she briskly made her way to his living room which was completely painted

38 A KISS, A DEMON A REQUEST

grey and was nearly empty, except for the chandelier, grey couches, grey centre table and the Smart TV. "Your life seems unsurprisingly drab," she announced as she took her seat on one of the couches and picked up the pen next to the contract.

"You aren't-"

"Done," she cut him off as she handed him the signed contract.

"-going to read through it," he completed as he collected the contract from her. "You never read through contracts, do you?"

"Apart from the fact that I haven't had to sign contacts except maybe when I was getting married **to** and divorcing Daniel, I'm choosing to trust you which is something you probably don't understand, but now that we're done with this, let's move on to the next thing I want to speak with you about."

He nodded, setting the contract on the table, "Would you like a drink or anything?"

"No, thank you," she said as she pointed at the couch opposite her, "Have a seat."

"One would think this is your house with the way you're acting," he said as he sat opposite her, wearing a serious expression. "What is this important thing you want to talk to me about?" he asked, leaning against the couch.

“I want you to open another branch of your company that will partner with Daniel’s company with me as the head,” she stated.

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Chapter 39

39 A CAPABLE BUSINESS PARTNER.

Davis’s eyes darkened. He couldn’t believe his ears. He had begun to believe she was finally getting over her ex-husband, but her request was beyond not just crazy, it was insane. He hated having anything to do with Daniel, but partnering with him? Not only would it help Daniel’s company by making his image and status soar, but also put him at risk if anything were to happen to Daniel’s

company.

“What sort of request is that? And why would you think I’d agree to it?” he asked, his voice low and filled with venom. Anna shuddered in her seat but hid her fear perfectly.

She hadn’t expected him to agree to it immediately because she knew he, for some reason she hoped to find out, hated them but she hadn’t expected him to dismiss it with so much anger. “Calm down, Davis. Let me explain,” she told him.

He stood up from the couch, “Explain that you want me to support your plans to pursue Daniel and get him back?” he let out a deep breath as he clenched and unclenched his fists. “I’m incredibly disappointed with your foolery, Anna. I thought you had wisened up and had given up on a future with that total red flag-”

Tch! You might not be as bad as Daniel, but you’re no green flag yourself.

“-But here you are requesting I partner with a company I want to bring down? Have you gone completely insane?”

She stood up from the couch. “I’m not Insane, Davis and you’d see it if you just let me speak and stop being an angry bird. Seriously, Davis, calm down.”

He nodded, slipping his hands into his pockets, “Fine then, I’m listening, but if what you say turns out to be arrant nonsense-” he pointed at the contract. “-then I’m ripping the contract apart and

won’t bother trying to protect you even if you become a target to my enemies.”

His enemies. Who are his enemies? Although she wanted to ask, it wasn't as important as getting him not to dispose of her as a partner and convincing him to partner with Daniel's company.

"Like I told you before, I want to take over Daniel's company and for me to do that, v it. Even if we cause it some damage, it has to be something that won't destroy the company's

reputation and can be fixed by pulling a few strings-"

't destroy

"-I want you to partner with Daniel's company with me as the head so I can prove my leadership abilities. As Mrs Solorante, people will already want to gain my favour and I foster strategic relationships with the key players in Daniel's company and eventually, take over as the leader of his company."

Upon hearing her explanation and plan, his anger dissipated, although the plan didn't rub him the right way. He still didn't want any close relationship with Daniel or any of the Monroes. "That's not the only way you can take over his company though."

"Regardless of how I want to do it, I'll still need a company **I'm** heading and a branch under your

company will save me having to work years to build credibility or scale in the industry. After all, we only have six months to finish up with all of our plans," she told him and paused to take a breath before continuing.

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-Any other way other than this is going to be illegal and we wouldn't want that. Plus, I want him to feel the pain I felt when those I considered my family and relied on turned against me. To do that, seems like the best option."

He sat back on the couch, his brows knitted together as she pondered on what she said.

"Besides, you complained about my joblessness, wouldn't it help if I was walking closely with you?" she added, hoping to convince him.

Please, agree to this. She hoped as she impatiently watched him think about it.

After an excruciatingly long period, he finally looked up and said, "I'll think about it."

Then what have you been doing for the past six minutes? She sighed, giving him a small smile. Although he hadn't given her the answer she wanted, it was better than nothing. "Thank you," she said, picking up her purse.

"But-" she froze when he spoke. What is it this time? "-why should I let you head a branch of my company? You'll need more than a title as my wife to properly lead a company and although you studied Food technology with business management, you'll still need to have a few years of experience."

She crossed her arms across her chest, chuckling lightly. "I see you've done your research on me, but of course, it wouldn't be in your character if you didn't dig around for information about me," the smile on her face grew wider. "But I doubt you know that I also interned at three different companies for two years before I got married."

"I didn't think you were much of a liar. Turns out I'm wrong," he said with a frown. There's no way

Paul wouldn't have found that out.

She clicked her tongue, "I guess your sources aren't all that reliable. William Monroe went to great lengths to keep the fact that I was working a secret for some reason," she shrugged. "As you probably know, I graduated at age 25 and it took a year for me to convince Williams to let me w

"— After two years of interning, I got married to Daniel and here I am, jobless and hoping you'd grant my request. I have evidence of my internship, by the **way**," she finished with a proud smile before quickly adding. "And if you must know, I helped William with running his company while I was

married to his son."

Davis stared at her, "How come you were never hired at any of the companies you worked at **if** you are as good as you claim you are?"

She rolled her eyes, "If William didn't want me to work or **let** it get out that I was working at that company, do you think **he'd** have **let** them hire me as an employee?" she raised a brow.

"And why exactly didn't he let you work?"

99 A CAPABLE BUSINESS PARTNER

“Probably because he didn’t want me to be capable of living without their money,” she shrugged. “ Besides, he stopped me from working at all after I got married to Daniel because he didn’t want anyone to know I was married to his son,” she said with a bitter smile on her face.

Why would they keep her a secret for so long? No matter how he thought about it, Davis found it odd. If it had been after she got married to Daniel, he would have assumed it was because they didn’t want news of the marriage to get out. I’ll have to ask Paul to look into this. Perhaps we’ll find something interesting.

“I’ll be taking my leave now,” Anna said, before adding, “I’ll show you my credentials when you get home tonight. Also, if you couldn’t find out about my internships, how will you be able to find out what the Monroes are hiding?” With that said, she headed for the door while Davis glared at her.

“I’ll drive you,” he told her, standing from the couch as well.

“No, don’t worry. I’ll take a taxi outside the estate,” she told him. “By the way, I haven’t heard a single sound since I arrived. I mean, the sound of cars, people and sounds like that. Is this place always this quiet?”

“I live alone here. I bought the entire estate,” he stated. [SEARCH THE WEBSITE TO ACCESS CHAPTERS OF NOVELS EARLY AND IN THE HIGHEST QUALITY.](#)

She blinked rapidly and when his words finally settled, she nodded. “Right. See you tonight then.” Sometimes I forget how wealthy he is. “I’ll need your help with the door!” she yelled when she

arrived at the door.

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Chapter 40

40 A DINNER DATE

Giovanni pulled up at the local restaurant Anna had arranged for them to meet for dinner. “Of all the places she could pick, she chose here,” he muttered as he scrutinized the restaurant which looked as though the slightest gush of wind would topple it.

He dialled her number, leaning against his car while nodding and smiling at the ladies that passed him by, staring at him like he was a god from their fantasies– it was an occurrence he was now used

1. to.

"I just arrived at the deathtrap you call a restaurant," he eyed the restaurant warily. If I'm going to die, it's not going to be beneath the debris of such a classless place.

"You can either come in, keep complaining or just leave; the choice is yours," He could almost hear her eye roll.

"Or-" he crossed his arms across his slightly open chest, "-you could come to pick me up before these ladies whisk me away to have dinner in bed," he told her, winking at another passing lady who immediately scurried off, her cheeks red.

"I didn't have to hear that but suit yourself. I'm not leaving from where I'm seated," she remarked.

A wide grin spread across his face. "That's not a nice way to treat someone you invited out to dinner, you know?"

His jaw dropped, eyes fixed on the phone screen. The call ended abruptly. Puzzled, he tilted his head, grappling with an uncertain response. After a moment of stunned silence, he muttered, "She's quite

rude."

Effortlessly slipping his hands into the pockets of his well-tailored pants, he confidently strolled SEARCH the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

toward the restaurant.

"Well, that's unexpected," he muttered as he entered the restaurant. The interior was far more glamorous than the exterior, although not as glamorous as the restaurants he dined at, but it was something he could work with. "I guess I won't be dying tonight," he muttered.

"Mr Giovanni?" a waiter dressed in a blue shirt and black trousers, with an apron asked.

nd his waist

Giovanni turned to him with a smile. "Yes, I'm him. I believe a woman is expecting me at one of your tables?" he inquired, looking around the full restaurant, only now realizing several others were dining in it.

What a letdown, it's just as classless **as** I had thought. His disapproval was etched across his face.

"Come with me, sire," the waiter said.

Giovanni nodded, following the waiter as he disdainfully surveyed the room, a gathering of individuals dressed in the remnants of fashion's forgotten past.

40 A DINNER DATE

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They had second-hand clothes that said they were purchased based on necessity rather than choice. The atmosphere exuded simplicity as the customers looked over the menu with cautious consideration. Their gestures were a mix of practicality and frugality as if the word "extravagance was foreign to them.

"Thank you. We'll have two glasses of water," Anna said to the waiter when he arrived at her table with Giovanni. She turned to Giovanni when the waiter left, "What's with the scowl on your face? Is it because I didn't come to get you myself?"

He wiggled his finger negatively before leaning towards her, "Why are we eating here? I could have taken you to a very nice restaurant with quality meals so why here-" he looked around the restaurant, "-with these people?"

It was Anna's turn to scowl when he realized what he meant. "I can't believe I considered you an Angel," she clicked her tongue in disappointment. "Of course, you're nothing but a mere human who just happened to help me because of my husband."

"You considered me an angel?" he questioned, pointing at himself with an amused expression on his face. "Of everything you could consider me, you thought of me as an Angel. I must have made quite the impression on you."

"And you just ruined it. I see why you and Davis are... or were friends. You both are such ill-mannered men," she went quiet when the waiter came back with a tray that had two glasses of water.

"If I'm ill-mannered, then Davis is much worse," Giovanni stated as soon as the waiter left.

She shuddered inwardly. Apart from being rude, and cocky, he also looks down on people, what more could he do? Although she knew it wasn't her business the type of person he was, it wouldn't matter to her anyway since she was supposed to be her loving husband and she most likely wouldn't see a lot of his bad side, but she still wanted to know the type of person she was married to.

"You don't say," she muttered, picking up her glass of water and taking a sip. "Tell me more."

He shook his head, a sly grin on his face. "You asked me out for dinner and that's what we're going to have, even if it's-" he looked around, a scowl replacing his smile, "-at this place. Is there food even healthy?" he questioned, looking back at Anna.

your dinner

"If you're gonna keep complaining about everything here then you might want to h
elsewhere. I brought you out so I get to decide where we have it. Besides, their food is
amazing and this place has a lot of my childhood memories but that's not important right
now; what is important is that no one will recognize me here," she looked around before
adding.

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Although you seem to be getting a lot of attention from the ladies," she commented with
a frown. "Anyway, let's focus on what we're here for."

"Not water though," he flashed her his best smile but she simply rolled her eyes. She
had no time for discussions over dinner. All she wanted was to find out about Davis
from the one person who knew him and seemed like he could tell her all she needed to
know.

"So, how did you meet Davis?" she asked.

40 A DINNER DATE

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A frown settled on his face. "Did you invite me over here to talk about your supposed
husband?"

She chuckled nervously. She shouldn't have been too forward. Even she wouldn't be
glad if someone she had invited out to dinner rejected her only to finally agree and it
turned out it was because they wanted something else. "Now that you know, not like I
could have hidden my intentions for too long, are you going to tell me what I want to
know?"

"And what do you want to know, Tesoro?" he asked, resting his chin on his palm.

"A whole lot of things about Davis, including the true relationship between you two, but
first-" she sat up straight, "I'd like to know how you found out that Davis and I are faking,
our marriage."

"I took a wild guess and you confirmed it," he said with a grin.

"Be serious," she frowned.

"I'm being serious. In all the years I've known Davis, marriage or romance isn't something he's interested in and I've been keeping an eye on him for a while now. You two didn't know each other till a few days before you legalized your marriage at the registry."

"People change and he's very secretive about his activities so how could you have been so certain about the fake marriage?" she questioned.

The smile on his face widened. "Like I said, it was a guess and you confirmed it for me. I've known Davis to be eccentric so if you had denied that you two were in a fake marriage, I would have believed it was true, but you admitted it."

Her face fell. Yeah... I'm not letting Davis know I'm the reason Giovanni knows the truth; he'll kill me if he finds out and there I was talking about how good I was at acting when I already exposed our

secret.

"Now that you've answered that question-" she started to say.

"I won't be answering any more," he stared and signalled for the waiter to come over to their table. "If you want to find out more about him, then ask him yourself."

Her smile fell, but it wasn't because of what he said, it was something else. I'm screwed.

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