

Wild Night 131

Chapter 131 - Mystery Man

Tom raised his head from the documents he was working on when he heard his office door being opened, "Inform Miss Perry that we would be leaving together for the meeting soon," Tom said informed Harry who had just walked into his office.

Harry arched a brow, "What's with the broad voice?" Harry asked when Tom spoke to him in a voice that was different from his usual voice.

"I'm trying to get used to speaking this way," Tom said, making Harry roll his eyes.

"I wonder when this whole madness will come to an end," Harry said as he dropped some files along with Lucy's car key on the desk in front of Tom before taking the seat opposite him.

"And what did you just say I should tell her? You want her to come with us?" Harry asked i

"Isn't she my personal assistant? She should attend meetings with me so that the others wouldn't think that she is merely occupying a space in my office. Besides, I want her to be there since Anita would be there too," Tom said, and Harry looked at him in confusion.

"I don't understand. Why should she attend the meeting simply because Anita will be in attendance when Anita doesn't even know your true identity yet?"

"It's only a matter of time before she finds out, and when that happens, I want her to be clear on the fact that Lucy is the only lady I always want to have around me. So can you just stop questioning me and ask her to get ready to leave with us?"

"Are you sure she won't recognize you if she spends too much time in your company? And, is that the best you can do in disguising your voice?" Harry asked, looking Tom over once again.

"You have known me far longer than she has, if you didn't know anything about this disguise, would you have recognized me in this costume? With this voice" Tom asked, and Harry shook his head.

"I don't know. Maybe not."

"Good. So ask her to get ready to leave with us. I suppose you have taken care of her car?" Tom asked as he picked up the car key which Harry had dropped on the desk.

"Alright. We will pick her up at the front of the company building while we take the elevator," Tom said after Harry gave him a curt nod, "Ask her to come in," Tom said as he dropped the car key in one of his drawers.

"Have you been able to reach Jade yet?" Harry asked as he stood up to leave the office.

"She didn't respond to my call. I guess she is busy at the moment. I will let you know once she gets back to me," Tom said, and Harry gave him a nod.

"I will get the car ready," Harry said before walking out of the office.

Once again Lucy looked up when she heard the door open, and sighed inwardly when Harry approached her desk. What did he want this time? She wondered as she stood up.

"Mr. Hank has asked me to inform you that you will be leaving with us for a meeting in the next forty-five minutes, and you should get ready," Harry informed her.

"Meeting? What meeting?" Lucy asked with a slight frown. She had thought her position here was just so that he could monitor her, not necessarily because he needed an actual personal assistant, so why was he expecting her to attend a meeting with him?

"We are heading to Ocean airlines for the official handover meeting. As his personal assistant, you are expected to be present during all his meetings," Harry explained, and Lucy gave him a curt nod even though a frown still creased her brows.

"He also wants to see you in his office now," Harry added, making Lucy's heart skip a beat as her gaze moved from Harry to the office door, and then back to Harry again.

"Now?" She asked, trying not to sound alarmed.

"Right now," Harry said with a nod and walked away before she could ask him another question.

Lucy took in a deep breath to calm her nerves, as she was beginning to feel very nervous, "Calm down, Lu. It's not a big deal," She assured herself as she adjusted her skirt before stepping away from her seat.

Walking over to the door she knocked on it once before turning the knob, "Good morning sir," she greeted politely without looking directly at him. Instead, her head was bowed and she was looking at her feet since she had heard he didn't like being stared at.

Tom cleared his throat, "Good morning. Please have your seat," Tom said in his rehearsed voice, and Lucy raised her head to look at him.

Looking at him now, she noticed that he didn't look as weird as she had thought he looked the first time she set her eyes on him. Apart from the mustache and beards, he seemed like a normal person, with his glasses on.

"Do you intend to stand there all day?" Tom asked coolly, reminding her that he had asked her to sit down.

"Sorry sir," she apologized as she quickly went to take the seat opposite him. She folded both hands on her lap and bowed her head as she waited to hear what he had to say.

Tom watched her as she took her seat, and he could tell that she was nervous. He couldn't help but wonder why she always seemed nervous around him, "Do I make you nervous?" He asked, and Lucy quickly shook her head.

"Not at all sir," she lied and hiccupped almost immediately. Just great!

"Good. You have nothing to be nervous about. I wanted to see you because I heard from my brother that you are his fiancée's best friend, is that right?" Tom asked without beating around the bush.

"Yes sir," Lucy responded without looking at him. Her heart was beating really fast for reasons she couldn't explain.

"What a coincidence," he said, and Lucy winced at that. Coincidence was a word she had come to associate with just Tom since everything between them seemed like a coincidence.

"Well, my younger brother wants me to take care of you, so I guess I have to know you better."

'Know me better? What for? No. Please don't know me better,' Lucy pleaded in her head. What had she been thinking coming up with that plan about getting close to the CEO? Now that she had sorted out things with Tom and didn't need the CEO's help to get rid of him anymore, she no longer needed to be close to him.

"We don't have much time left before we leave for the meeting, so let's have lunch together after the meeting, is that okay?" he asked, and Lucy gave him a nod even though what she really wanted was to say no to him.

"You can return to your office to clear up your desk. Meet us in front of the company in twenty minutes," Tom said, and Lucy stood up immediately and gave him a polite bow before walking out of the office.

Watching her leave, Tom couldn't help but wonder what was going on in her head. Why had she tried getting close to him in the first place if she was this timid?

Twenty minutes later the private investigator who was still staying hidden at one end of the parking lot between two cars, sat up when he heard the ding of the elevator and he watched as Tom came within view.

His brows furrowed in confusion when he saw Tom come out alone. This was Thomas Hank? Of course, it had to be. This person looked more like a responsible CEO than the first guy who had taken the elevator that morning. If this was Thomas Hank, when did he get in? Did he usually sleep in his office? And why was he alone? Where was the other guy who had gone in earlier? He wondered as he clicked on his camera, and captured several photos of Tom.

He lowered his camera when he saw Harry walking towards Tom from the opposite direction. It was confirmed that this was Thomas Hank, he thought as he took another photo of them both.

"Did I keep you waiting for long?" Harry asked as he automatically unlocked one of the saloon cars parked close to the private investigator.

Immediately the private investigator heard the car beep, he crawled on his knees to hide behind the next car as he kept his ears open to hear their conversation.

"I just got here. Let's leave now so we don't keep her waiting," Tom said in his broad voice as they both approached the car. Once he opened the back door of the car to get inside, he paused when his phone vibrated in his pocket.

He took it out to see if it was Jade returning his call but looked slightly surprised when he saw that it was a call from Lucy and he stepped away from the car. Why was she calling him when she was supposed to be outside waiting for them to pick her up? He wondered as he received the call.

He cleared his throat, "Sup, love?" He asked in his normal voice, and Harry who had gotten into the driver's seat of the car looked at him with a slightly raised brow.

The private investigator narrowed his eyes when he heard the automatic switch in Tom's voice. Why was he using a different voice? And who was he talking to? Was he in a relationship?

Lucy felt butterflies flutter in her stomach when she heard his voice. Love? Why did that sound so good in her ear? She cleared her throat, "Are you at your workplace now?" Lucy asked, trying to sound unaffected.

"Yes, I'm busy with work at the moment. How are things going over there in the office?" He asked as he got into the car. Harry didn't bother to start the car since he knew Tom was speaking with Lucy. There was no need to be in a hurry to pick her up when she was busy on the phone.

"Everything is alright. Uhm... I don't know if it's necessary but I'm just calling to let you know that I'm leaving with Mr. Hank for a business meeting, and we might go out to have lunch after that. You don't have to rush back to pick me up, I will find my way home. So you can take your time to do whatever you need to do, we can see when you get back," Lucy said in a rush, and Tom's lips curved in a smile. She might not know it, but she was gradually beginning to act like a girlfriend.

"Sure. Let's talk when I get back then," Tom said before hanging up with a grin on his face.

"That was your girlfriend I suppose?" Harry asked in amusement as Tom returned to the car.

"Yeah, she's calling to let me know about her movement. We should leave now so we don't keep them waiting," Tom said as he got into the car, and Harry drove off immediately.

Once the car had left the driving lot the private investigator stepped out from where he had been hiding. One thing was sure from all he had heard, Mr. Thomas Hank had a lady in his life. However, there were only two questions plaguing his mind as he walked away from there.

Who was the other man who had used the private elevator earlier? And why hadn't he come out with Mr. Hank?

Chapter 132 - Badmouthing Employee

Once the car came to a stop in front of Lucy who was standing in front of the company, she opened the front passenger seat and got in. She didn't risk glancing at the backseat of the car where the CEO was seated, rather she gave Harry a polite bow before buckling her seatbelt.

Between the CEO and Mr. Harry, Lucy couldn't decide on who made her feel more nervous. While Mr. Harry was always looking at her with an expression on his face that seemed like he could see through her or he knew something that she didn't know, the CEO just seemed very intimidating. Maybe it was because no one really knew anything about him as he hardly interacted with others, hence she didn't know how to interact with him.

Lucy wondered whether she was being unnecessarily anxious and wary of them or perhaps any other staff would also feel just as anxious as she was around them when seated with both men.

Harry turned to spare Lucy a glance and his lips twitched in amusement when he noticed how she sat still like a statue, looking straight ahead of her. He feared that she would faint soon if she continued to hold her breath for much longer so he decided to engage her in a discussion.

"I hope you are enjoying your stay in the City?" He asked, turning to look at her.

Was this man ever going to leave her alone? Why was he always trying to start a conversation with her? Lucy wondered as she gave him her fake smile, "Yes. There are lots of nice places around," she managed to say before looking out of the window.

"So, about your driver..." Harry started, making Lucy shift in her seat uncomfortably as she turned to look at him in once again, while Tom cleared his throat in a silent warning, making Harry grin at him through the rearview mirror, "I guess you get along with him now," Harry said, and Lucy couldn't help but wonder why he was so interested in her relationship with her driver. Why was he bringing it up again after she had already told him so earlier?

"Yes, sir."

"By the way, as I was driving in earlier I noticed that your car wasn't parked in the parking lot I. Did something happen to the car? Perhaps it has developed a fault?" Harry asked, ignoring Tom who he could see was glaring at him through the rearview mirror.

"The car is in perfect condition. I sent him on an errand after he dropped me off this morning," Lucy rushed to explain.

"Oh! I see. It's a good thing you are putting him to good use. He seems like a rascal to me, doesn't he?" Harry asked with a grin.

"I'm not sure about that," Lucy said with an awkward smile since she didn't know how else she could respond to his question. She remembered Tom complaining about him this morning. Did he have something against Tom? Or perhaps he was trying to make her say something that would make her look bad in the presence of the CEO?

"Of course you're not," Harry said with a small chuckle, as though he was enjoying himself. He risked a glance at the rearview mirror and chuckled some more when he noticed that Tom was still glaring at him.

"Do you make it a habit badmouthing the employees?" Tom asked with disapproval.

"We weren't badmouthing anyone, were we?" Harry asked Lucy.

What did he mean by 'Were we'? Who was the we? Why was he involving her in this when he had been the one badmouthing her boyfriend? Without saying a word Lucy gave him a stiff smile and shook her head. All she wanted was for them to get to their destination very quickly so that she would finally be able to breathe.

Lucy decided that she needed to keep herself busy until they got to their destination, so that Mr. Harry wouldn't talk to her anymore. She took out her phone from her handbag to send Sonia a text since she couldn't talk over the phone at the moment.

"Sup? Are you very busy?" She typed, and her eyes widened in surprise immediately she clicked on send and then realized that she had mistakenly sent the text to Tom instead of Sonia.

Oh God! Now he was going to think that she was a clingy girlfriend and was reaching out to him for the second time because she was missing him badly, Lucy thought, cringing with embarrassment. She started to type another text to let him know that the first text had been a mistake.

Tom who had just been sitting in the car thinking about the meeting they were about to attend, looked at his phone when it vibrated and then glanced at Lucy when he saw that the text was from her. Why was she texting him? He wondered as he placed his phone on silent so that she wouldn't hear the vibration of his phone each time he received her text.

"Not busy enough to ignore you. Want to talk?" He asked since he knew that Lucy wouldn't be able to receive a call from him in their presence.

Lucy who had just finished composing the text to tell him that her text to him was a mistake and he should ignore it, decided that it wasn't necessary and erased it when his text message came in. She quickly typed a response, "No, I can't talk right now. I'm in the car with Mr. Harry and the CEO," Lucy explained.

Harry glance at Lucy and when he noticed that she was busy on her phone, he looked at Tom through the rearview mirror and noticed that he also seemed busy. Were they both communicating with each other right now, while he was busy doing the job of a driver? Harry thought with a scowl as he returned his gaze to the road.

"Why can't you talk because you are with them? Are you scared of either of them?" Tom texted back curiously.

"Mr. Harry is very weird. I don't feel comfortable talking when I'm around him," Lucy texted back, and Tom burst out in laughter before he could stop himself, making Lucy turn to spare him a glance as she hadn't expected someone like the CEO to laugh that way.

Harry also looked at Tom through the rearview mirror and rolled his eyes at him, not knowing that he was the reason for Tom's laughter.

Tom didn't notice that either of them had turned to look at him as he was still busy chuckling to himself in amusement as the thought that Harry who had called him weird was the one being referred to as weird.

Harry sighed, "I guess everyone else is busy having fun with their phones while poor old Harry has to be the driver," Harry said pitifully so that Lucy would feel guilty and drop her phone, that way Tom would also have no one to text him.

"I also think he is weird." Tom texted back.

"Let's talk later, he is sulking already," Lucy texted back before returning her phone to her handbag making Tom chuckle. It was obvious that Lucy wasn't very fond of Harry.

"Well, we are here now," Harry announced, and both Tom and Lucy looked up to see that Harry had just driven through the gates of Ocean Airlines, and most of the staff were standing in front of the building as though they were waiting for them.

Chapter 133 - MISS Anita Miller

The first person Lucy took note of amongst the staff who stood outside, was Anita who was dressed in the dress that they had picked out at the dress shop that weekend. Anita had made so much fuss over picking the perfect dress, and for what? This? This was the reason she had kept rejecting so many dresses insisting they weren't fit for the occasion? This was the occasion? Meeting the CEO? Wow!

Harry parked the car in front of the building, and almost immediately one of the security personnel standing outside, opened the door for Tom to get out of the car, while Lucy and Harry also got out of the car. Harry handed the car key to the valet who stepped forward to take it from him, before joining Tom and Lucy where the staff of Ocean Airlines were standing.

Seeing the beads of sweat that coated Anita's brows on closer observation, it was obvious to Lucy that Anita had been standing out there for a while. Wow! The length women could go to get a man. If she had any doubt that Anita was out to get the CEO, then this had just cleared it all. She would have to do well to not get in Anita's way. The more she knew Anita, the more she wanted to stay away from her. If only Tom had been honest from the start, she wouldn't have approached a person like Anita to be friends with her.

With a smile pasted on Anita's face she took a step forward, "Good morning Mr. Hank, Mr. Harry. I am MISS Anita Miller," Anita greeted, ignoring Lucy while emphasizing on her marital status with a wide smile on her face as she extended her hand to Tom for a handshake. . She had been kind of worried about his physical appearance considering the fact that he had remained away from public view for so long. Seeing him now, she was more than happy that he was good looking, regardless of his beards and mustache.

Even though this was supposed to be the first time 'Thomas Hank' was meeting Anita, he couldn't seem to hide his dislike of her as he stared at her hand "Where is Mr. Wyatt?" Tom asked, without bothering to take her hand, and Anita dropped her hand to her side, but maintained the smile on her face even though she was feeling quite embarrassed. She wasn't going to let his standoffish attitude deter her from trying to win his heart.

The other staff murmured amongst themselves when they noticed how the new CEO had ignored Anita.

"He is waiting for you in the meeting room. I will lead you..." Before she could finish her sentence Tom walked past her to another lady behind her, "Please show me the way to the meeting room."

The lady glanced at Anita nervously, and when the young man standing behind her poked her back, as though reminding her that Tom was the new boss, and Anita didn't call the shots anymore. The lady quickly stepped forward, and led them in the direction of the office.

Anita grabbed Lucy's hand before she could walk past her like the others, "What is with your boss?" Anita asked with a slight frown. They had never met before, so why was he being rude to her?

Lucy who had noticed how Anita ignored her earlier, tried not to sound irritated as she looks at Anita, "What do you mean?" Lucy asked innocently, even though she had also noticed the CEO's attitude towards Anita.

At first she had assumed that the CEO had a thing against females but that impression had been quickly corrected when he asked the other lady to lead him to the meeting room. Now it seemed to Lucy that it was just Anita who the CEO did not like. She found it funny that Anita had gone through so much stress to pick a dress that would impress him, only for him not to even accept a handshake from her. That served her right for treating a nice guy like Tom the way she had done.

"Don't tell me you didn't notice how he ignored me? Does he have a thing against me?" Anita asked, but before Lucy could respond to the question, Tom who had walked far ahead stopped in his track and turned around when he suddenly noticed that Lucy wasn't walking beside him. He raised a brow when he saw Anita holding Lucy's hand and walked back to join them, making the other staff who had been following him to also stop.

"What relationship do you have with my assistant to be holding her arm in that manner?" Tom coldly asked as he approached them, startling Lucy who hadn't been expecting that.

"We are friends," Anita said with a smile as she moved her hand from Lucy's arm to place it around her shoulder.

"Then save your friendship for later. Miss Perry, shouldn't you be walking by my side?" Tom asked, jerking his head to the side for Lucy to move.

Lucy quickly shook off Anita's hand from her shoulder as she quickly went to stand beside Tom.

"What did you say was your name again?" Tom asked, pretending not to remember her name, while Harry who was standing few feet away from them tried not to roll his eyes at Tom.

"Miss Anita Miller," Anita quickly answered.

"I'm thirsty, go and get us something cold to drink," Tom ordered her, making Anita blink at him in disbelief, while the other staff who could overhear what they were saying tried to hold back their laughter. It was nice to see Anita being treated that way, considering how she liked to treat others like they were beneath her.

"I will have someone..."

"Get it yourself. And get something for all three of us. Don't keep me waiting," Tom said before walking away, and Lucy hurried to keep up with him.

Anita remained in that spot staring after them as they all disappeared one after the other. This wasn't part of her plans. She hadn't envisioned this when she was making her plans. She looked down at the dress she was wearing. She definitely hadn't spent so much money to buy this dress just so that she would be his messenger. And why had he seemed so protective of his assistant?

Anita closed her eyes and drew in a deep breath. She was just going to get him the drinks he had requested for. As the saying goes, 'Nothing Good Comes Easy'. If she was going to get a man like Thomas Hank, she would have to be prepared to do whatever it takes.

Chapter 134 - That Spot Is Taken

"Where is Anita?" Mr. Wyatt asked his assistant with a frown when he saw the other directors and staff walking into the meeting hall with Tom, but his niece was nowhere in view.

The major reason he had asked for this official handover even though they had already completed their business transaction, was because he wanted his niece to meet Thomas Hank in person. So if she was absent from the meeting room, then the whole thing would be pointless without her. Besides, he had asked her to lead the others in welcoming him, so why was everyone else here apart from her?

"I will find out, and let you know at once," His assistant said to him before walking away quickly to get the answer.

Mr. Wyatt who was seated on the chair positioned at the head of the table, stood up when Tom approached him, "We have been waiting for you," he said with a polite smile as he stretched out his hand to shake Tom.

"I hope we didn't keep you waiting for too long?" Tom asked politely as he shook the man's hand.

"You didn't."

"I'm glad. So, can we start now? We have other appointments to attend to after we leave here," Tom said as he took out the seat next to Mr. Wyatt and lowered himself on it.

Although he was the owner of the airline now and had every right to sit at the head of the table, he also understood that this was the old man's last day in the company, and as such, it wouldn't hurt to let him remain at the head of the table. Besides, they were doing the official handover, so it would be weird for the person who was handing over to him to sit anywhere other than the head of the table.

The other directors and staff in the meeting hall took Tom's gesture as a go-ahead for them to sit down too, so they all sat down after Mr. Wyatt was seated.

Harry went around the table to sit down directly opposite Tom so that they could maintain eye contact through the meeting period, while Lucy stood behind Tom not knowing where to sit since this wasn't the company where she worked, and she didn't know what was expected from her here.

As if reading her mind, Tom turned to her, "You should sit down next to me," he instructed as he reached out with his hand, and pulled out the last unoccupied seat on the table.

"That spot is taken," Mr. Wyatt hurried to point out since the plan was for Anita to sit beside Tom, and that was the reason no one else had dared to take that seat.

"Yes, it is. By my assistant," Tom said bluntly, as he jerked his head to Lucy who was still standing to sit down.

Lucy reluctantly sat down, wondering why the CEO was being this way with her. Was it because his brother had asked him to look out for her? Didn't he realize that he was making her uncomfortable and putting her in a difficult position by paying extra attention to her and making it seem like he favored her? Knowing the way people gossiped, she was certain that if care was not taken, rumors were soon going to start flying around that she was having an affair with him, and she didn't want something like that to happen.

Mr. Wyatt's lips were set in a thin line as he looked at Lucy with disapproval while wondering who she was, and why Tom was going against him so openly just because of her. Before he could comment on it his assistant returned to his side and bent down to whisper into his ear, "Mr. Hank sent her to get them drinks."

"Drinks?" Mr. Wyatt asked, trying not to sound upset. Why would Tom choose to humiliate his niece in that manner? Of everyone he had met at the entrance why did he choose to send her on that sort of an errand?

"Yes, sir." His personal assistant said, and Mr. Wyatt waved him away dismissively as he turned to look at Tom with a forced smile.

"You didn't introduce the young lady with you. I know Mr. Harry, but I don't know her," Mr. Wyatt said, and Tom nodded.

"My apologies. This is my personal assistant Miss Lucinda Perry," Tom said, and looked at the man, as though daring him to speak further.

As far as Tom was concerned his business with the man was done and dusted, and the man had no right to question him. The only reason he was here doing this with him was that he wanted to honor the man's request. He understood that it wouldn't be easy for one to easily let go of one's Company as a result of financial reasons, so he was trying to make it all as easy as possible for the old man.

"I see, but shouldn't she be seated at..."

Seeing that the old man was bent on being difficult, Tom looked away from him and looked around the table. "Since everyone is here, we should start the meeting," Tom suggested even though he knew that Anita was yet to return from the errand he had sent her.

"We can't start yet since one of the directors is not here yet. I was informed you sent her to get you something to quench your thirst, so we can't proceed without her," Mr. Wyatt said with a stiff smile since he was offended that Tim had cut him off so rudely.

The door opened before Tom could say anything and Anita who was sweating profusely walked into the meeting room as graciously as she could while carrying three cold cans of coca-cola on a tray. She clenched her teeth together when she saw Lucy was seated on her spot beside the CEO. She pasted a smile on her face as she walked directly to where Tom was seated and placed the tray in front of him, before standing by his side.

"You sure took your sweet time to get here. Are you always so slow or today is just special?" Tom asked as he took one of the cans and passed it to Lucy, before throwing one to Harry, surprising the others on the table who didn't expect such a carefree action from the CEO.

Most of the people on the table, including Lucy couldn't help wondering what Anita must have done wrong to deserve such treatment from the CEO. Why was he picking on her?

Anita spared a glance at her Uncle whose lips were set in a thin line. It was obvious to her that he was very angry with Tom's ill-treatment of her, and she knew that her mother would have a fit if she heard that her daughter had been subjected to the duty of a messenger, and treated this way in the presence of others.

"I'm not a fan of Coca-Cola, do you mind getting me something else? Water, perhaps?" Tom asked Anita who was still standing there, and Harry's lips twitched in amusement at Tom's pettiness. Harry looked around the hall to see what the others thought about Tom's callousness, but from the glint in their eyes, it seemed like they were all enjoying themselves, and the only people who seemed remotely upset by Tom's behavior was Lucy who was looking at her leg, and Mr. Wyatt whose countenance had changed, and his face was ruddy.

"My assistant will get you whatever you need. We should proceed with the meeting now that she is here as you already mentioned that you have somewhere to be after now," Mr. Wyatt said, making Tom raise a brow.

"Is there a particular reason you don't want her to get me what I want? Isn't she under my payroll now?" Tom asked, reminding Mr. Wyatt that this was no longer his company even though he was seated at the head of the table, and as such he should know his place.

Seeing how her Uncle was about to be humiliated because of her, Anita quickly spoke up, "I will get the water," she said with a smile as she picked up the tray to leave with the last can of drink, but Tom was quick to snatch the drink.

"Don't worry about it. I guess I will just have to manage this since I have to be somewhere after now, and I can't wait all day for you to get what I need," Tom said dismissively making Anita grit her teeth in annoyance. If he had known he could manage the drink, why then had he asked her to get him water? Was he trying to humiliate her? Why? She couldn't recall meeting him anywhere or doing anything wrong to him, so what was this about?

Anita gave him a polite nod before she signaled to her secretary who was seated with the other assistants at one end of the hall to take the tray from her.

She returned to where Lucy was seated and tapped her arm gently, "You are on my seat," Anita said with a stiff smile, as she expected Lucy to go sit with the other secretaries and assistants instead of being on the same table with her.

Lucy picked up her handbag, ready to stand up, but Tom placed his hand on her arm to stop her, "You sit where I ask you to. She doesn't have a seat on this table unless I say so. This is no longer a family-run company, are we clear on that?" Tom asked, looking at Lucy even though the message was meant for Anita and her uncle.

Having said that he turned to Anita, "Seeing as there is no empty seat on the table, you can sit with the assistants as no one will be leaving their seats for you."

Both Anita and Mr. Wyatt were surprised to know that he was aware of the relationship between them.

This made Mr. Wyatt even more upset. If he knew Anita was his niece, why was he going out of his way to embarrass her?

Lucy on the other hand fidgeted in her seat and she cursed herself for asking Sonia to tell Bryan about their friendship.. If only she hadn't done that, the CEO wouldn't have been doing all of this to her, or would he? Here she was trying to avoid stepping on Anita's wrong foot at all cost, yet it seemed like the CEO was bent on feeding her to the shark.

Chapter 135 - Fun To Watch

"So tell me, how did it go last night? It worked, didn't it? You know, when his mouth dropped open the minute you walked through the door, I knew he was toast," Mia said with a wide smile once the make-up team finished with Sonia's make-up and left the room so that Sonia could change from her clothes into the matching clothes they had gotten for her and Bryan.

Bryan was also in his bedroom changing into his clothes with Jeff's help, while the production crew set up the cameras around the house.

Sonia who was putting on her suit pant turned to look at Mia and pursed her lips as she considered Mia's question. The corners of her lips curved in a smile when she remembered how flustered Bryan had been, "It worked, but I'm not sure that he likes that he is attracted to me. He seems to be fighting it," Sonia said thoughtful sigh, and then pursed her lips again when she recalled the incident that took place at the swimming pool the previous evening. What would have happened

between them last night had she not stopped him right there because she was upset? Would he have made love to her? Butterflies fluttered in her belly at the thought of that, and her toes curled.

"I would have been worried if he wasn't fighting it. Seeing that he is fighting it, I can confidently say that you are doing a good job," Mia said with a satisfied smile, giving Sonia a thumb up.

"Well, let's not celebrate too soon. We can say that I have done a good job only after I get him where I want him,"

"And where do you want him, if I may ask?" Mia asked, just to be certain that she was on the same page as Sonia.

"My bed?" Sonia asked with a grin.

"Just on your bed? I thought you like him?" Mia asked with a slight frown. The last thing she wanted was for Bryan to end up falling in love with her, as she knew he would, only for Sonia to leave after having sex with him.

"Of course, I do. Sex is always a good start, don't you agree?" Sonia asked with a grin, and then she moved closer to where Mia was standing when she noticed that Mia didn't look satisfied by her response, "Don't worry, I'm not going to break his heart or do anything rash that might affect his career. I promise," she said, and Mia drew in a deep breath before giving her a nod.

"I trust you," Mia said as she took a step back so she could take a good look at Sonia's outfit, "I think you were made for the camera. Let's join them,"

Sonia turned to look at her reflection in the mirror and she had to agree with Mia that she was set for the camera. Both the makeup on her face, and the clothes she was putting on looked perfect on her, and it gave her a celebrity feel. Although she would have preferred that they both wear simple homely clothes since they were shooting the interview in his house, she also understood that Bryan was a celebrity and as such he was always expected to look his best, and so was she as his fiancée.

"Let's go," she said to Mia as she led the way out of the bedroom. She stopped by the doorway when she saw that Bryan was getting out of his wheelchair to sit on the white-colored couch that they were using for the interview.

Bryan who was now seated on the couch, turned in Sonia's direction when he noticed that Jeff and the other guys near him were staring at her.

Like him, she was wearing navy blue colored pantsuits. The only difference in their outfit was that while he was wearing a white turtleneck top under his suit jacket, she wasn't wearing anything under hers. The neckline of her suit jacket had a deep V neckline which almost stopped midriff, revealing her cleavage, and she was wearing white stiletto heels to match the white in Bryan's outfit.

Seeing their audience, Bryan flashed her a proud smile as he stretched out his hand to her, and Sonia didn't hesitate to take his hand, "You look ravishing as always," Bryan said with a wide smile that reflected in his eyes as he pulled her to the space next to him on the couch, while Jeff quickly moved the wheelchair away from there when he noticed the cameras clicking.

Sonia looked into his smiling eyes, wondering why his smile seemed so genuine. He must be a really good actor to be able to fake such a smile, Sonia mused as she smiled back at him, and leaned in to kiss him, "You don't look so bad yourself," she said as she patted his chest.

Bryan tried not to react to the kiss, even though as always his body responded to the brief contact. His eyes fell on her ears, and he signaled Mia over to his side. Once Mia got to where they were seated, Bryan signaled her to lean forward as he wanted to tell her something for her ears alone.

Sonia watched curiously as Bryan whispered something into Mia's ear, and she whispered something back to him, and when they were done Mia gave him a nod, and looked at Sonia with an amused expression before walking away.

"What were you talking to her about?" Sonia asked curiously, still leaning into him with her head on his chest.

"Something I didn't want anyone else to hear," Bryan said as he raised his hand to pat her hair as though it was the most natural thing in the world.

Sonia pulled away from him to look into his face with a cute pout, "You shouldn't be hiding anything from your fiancée," she reminded him.

"Says the same fiancée that refused to confide in me about her best friend," Bryan said with a small smile as he watched her. He still couldn't believe that he was falling for her under such a short duration. She must have bewitched him as Matt had suspected the last time for him to have fallen so easily.

A shadow of a frown touched his brows when he recalled how terrible he had felt while watching her cry the previous evening. "I'm sorry about last night," Bryan told her softly, making Sonia blink at him in surprise as she hadn't been expecting an apology, especially not at that moment.

"Huh?"

"I wouldn't have played such a prank on you had I known you had such a painful memory. I'm sorry," Bryan murmured again for her ears alone.

She felt oddly touched by his apology, so she looked away, "It's fine. I was only worried about you," Sonia said, feeling slightly embarrassed now that she remembered that he had seen her in that state. She was sure her face had been red, especially her nose.

The sides of Bryan's lips twitched in amusement when he noticed that she looked embarrassed by his apology. She seemed like one of those people who didn't know how to respond to an apology. Or was she perhaps embarrassed because he had seen her crying? Knowing Sonia, that was probably it.

"Do you know what I discovered last night?" Bryan asked, making her turn to look at him once again with a pair of curious green eyes.

"You look very hot when you are pissed. Also, I didn't think a person could look so beautiful when crying, until last night," Bryan said, looking into her eyes with such an intensity that made Sonia's heart flutter. Not that she believed him anyway, since she knew she was definitely not beautiful when she cried.

She blinked at him in confusion when his right hand moved to her face and he moved his thumb over her cheek in a caress as he said, "However, no matter how pretty you look when you cry, I don't want to see your tears."

What was he doing? Why was he being so sweet? What was she doing? Why was her heart fluttering this way? Her main aim here was to make him fall in love with her, only after that could she fall in love with him. So why was her heart feeling funny? She asked herself as she turned to look around when she heard the clicking sound of cameras that reminded her that they were not alone in the living room. She couldn't believe that for a moment there she had completely forgotten about everything and everyone else because she was engrossed in their conversation.

At last, now she knew why he was being so sweet. He was made for the camera after all and his actor mode had been activated, Sonia thought as she tried to calm her fluttering heart and play along with him.

"That's so sweet of you," Sonia said with a sweet smile as she allowed her face to rest on his palm. They both looked up when Mia stopped in front of them.

Bryan reached out his left hand and took the box she offered him, before turning to look at Sonia, "Although you already look perfect, and I hate to tamper with perfection, I think this piece of jewelry would be perfect on you," Bryan said as he opened the box which held a diamond earring stud.

When he looked at her ears earlier, he had noticed that although the pair of earrings she was wearing looked new like she had just gotten them, they didn't look very expensive. Knowing the kind of fans he had, he knew they were going to take note of that, and make comments that might embarrass Sonia. Hence, he had called Mia to find out if that was the only piece of jewelry they had purchased during their shopping. Mia had in turn informed him that Sonia had insisted that she didn't want to use his money to buy anything that she couldn't afford for herself.

On hearing that, he had asked Mia to look through his closet where he usually kept the gifts he received from both fans and companies whose products he endorsed, to see if she would find something better.

Sonia opened her mouth to refuse, but Bryan placed a finger on her lips to shut her up before leaning forward to whisper into her ear, "Don't you think it is weird to reject a gift from your fiancée? Be a good girl, and let me fix it, okay?" Bryan asked in a husky voice, and Sonia swallowed past the lump in her throat as she gave him a short nod, while Mia watched the both of them with an amused expression.

They could both deceive themselves all they liked that they were acting for the camera, but from where Mia stood, it was clear as daylight that Sonia was also beginning to fall for Bryan, whether she knew it or not. This was going to be fun to watch.. She couldn't wait to see who would open up first.

Chapter 136 - Impressive!

Anita was seething with anger as she went to sit amongst the secretaries and assistants who were there to take the minute of whatever was going to be discussed there on behalf of their boss.

Anita's secretary was the only person there who bothered to make room for her to sit down since she was directly under Anita's payroll. In the past, every one of them feared Anita because their

bosses were under Mr. Wyatt's payroll, and as such if Anita so much as found any of them wanting in any regard, and wanted them out of the company, all she needed to do was report them to her uncle, and her uncle would ask the director in charge of that secretary to fire them. But now that the new CEO had announced to their hearing that it was no longer a family-run company, and it seemed like the CEO wasn't very fond of Anita, they all didn't see any reason to condone her excesses anymore.

Once Anita was seated, she pasted a false smile on her face as she watched the others who were seated on the table, especially Lucy who was seated in her spot. Even though she still didn't think Lucy was qualified enough to be viewed as a threat, since Lucy was nothing compared to her, she also knew that she needed to get rid of Lucy. This was the second time the CEO had embarrassed her because of Lucy, and that wasn't acceptable.

Why was he so protective of her? How many bosses were that protective of their employees? Perhaps something was going on between the CEO and Lucy that Lucy wasn't telling her? Was Lucy pretending to be naive when she probably had ulterior motives and wanted the CEO for herself? Seeing how good-looking and wealthy the CEO was, how was it possible that any lady around him would claim not to be interested in him? She was just going to have to keep her eyes on Lucy by pretending to be her friend. She had to keep her very close to herself to be sure that Lucy wasn't trying to take her man from her.

"So? What are we waiting for?" Tom asked Mr. Wyatt when everywhere remained silent after Anita was seated.

"The director you just sent away from the table is the person that's making the speech," Mr. Wyatt stated irritably.

"Ah! I see. Well, since she can't speak from where she is seated, can nobody else tell me all I need to know?" Tom asked, cocking his head to the side as he looked around the table at the other directors.

Most of them bowed their head or looked away from Tom since they had been instructed to let Anita handle everything that involved speaking with the CEO. They had been threatened by both Mr. Wyatt and Anita that the new CEO was very mean and wouldn't hesitate to fire anyone who made a mistake.

"I don't know how you have managed to run your company until now, but in this place we are disciplined, and we do things in an organized and..."

Harry snorted, interrupting Mr. Wyatt's sentence, "We have run things so well in our company that we are buying other companies that seem not to be doing so well," Harry said irritably since it was becoming obvious that Mr. Wyatt wasn't deserving of the respect they were showing him.

Mr. Wyatt tried his best not to look embarrassed as he met Anita's gaze across the room. She flashed him an apologetic smile even though she was feeling pretty angry herself.

Tom grinned at Harry. Of course, they were best friends for a reason. He had been about to say exactly the same thing that Harry had just said. The old man was just as annoying as Anita was, and it was becoming quite clear that Anita's problem was a genetic issue and not just personal.

"Am I to assume that Miss Miller is the only person here who can speak on behalf of the company? We should probably fire every one of them and retain just Miss Miller, shouldn't we?" Tom asked Harry, making the others around the table sit up quickly.

The lady who had led Tom to the meeting hall earlier raised her hand when her colleagues urged her to speak on their behalf, and Tom gave her the go-ahead to speak.

"We were only informed of your coming yesterday, and we were told not to bother preparing for anything as Miss Miller would handle the presentation," she explained as she didn't want to lose her job over something that wasn't her fault.

"Is that so?" Tom asked, turning to look at Mr. Wyatt, and then Anita who was still seated amongst the secretaries. When neither of them answered his question he nodded his head and looked at Harry who also gave him a nod to proceed with whatever he wanted to do.

Tom stood up from his seat and went to stand beside Mr. Wyatt, "If that is all, you can excuse us so that I can have my first meeting with my staff," Tom said to Mr. Wyatt whose face became beet red with a mixture of anger and embarrassment.

"I beg your pardon?" Mr. Wyatt asked, his eyes shooting daggers at Tom.

"Our business with you ended the day we paid you for the airline in full. All the documents have been signed and as such your presence is no longer needed here. We only came here to honor you, and now that we are done with that, you can excuse us," Harry spoke on behalf of Tom.

Lucy who had been sitting quietly this whole time thought that this had to be the worst meeting she had ever been present at in her entire life. As far as she was concerned the CEO was ruthless, and Mr. Harry wasn't any different from him. Now she was kind of glad that she was on his good side, and wasn't at the receiving end of his cold and ruthless treatment. She intended to remain on his good side, as it was more profitable to be on his side.

Mr. Wyatt looked around the table with a flushed face, and no one could tell if his face was that red because he was angry, or because he was feeling very embarrassed.

"You are keeping me waiting," Tom told him coldly, and Mr. Wyatt reluctantly stood up before storming out of the office. Anita stood up as if to go after her uncle, but she paused when she remembered that she had a mission here, and her uncle's humiliation would be for nothing if she didn't stay back.

Tom sat on the head of the table where Mr. Wyatt had just vacated before looking at Anita, "Are you leaving with him or joining us?" He asked her before looking at Lucy and jerking his head to the seat he had just vacated for her to occupy it. Lucy quickly moved to the next seat.

"I'm staying," Anita said politely.

"Good. Now you can occupy your place on the table," Tom said, giving her the go-ahead to occupy the seat that Lucy had just vacated.

Although Anita was very pissed off by this, she managed to give him a polite smile as she walked over to sit down where Lucy had vacated.

"So, let's hear what you prepared," Tom said to Anita.

Anita tried her best to tell him everything about the company in detail and state statistical facts where necessary. She told him about the company's areas of strength and weakness, as well as the ideas she had to move the airline to the next level.

By the time she was done, Tom had to agree to the saying that no one was bad all around. Although she was a golddigger and had a shitty attitude, she was good at what she did in the company.

Setting aside his personal grievance against her, he gave her a nod of approval as he clapped his hands, "Impressive! That was a brilliant presentation," he said, surprising everyone else in the hall, apart from Harry who knew that Tom wasn't going to let his personal grievance against Anita blind him from seeing her potential in the company.

Anita was slightly taken aback by the compliment. Her lips pulled up in a wide smile as the hall erupted in applause. Of course, he had been won over by her intelligence. She knew that successful men like him were often drawn to intelligent women like her. All she had needed was an opportunity to show him how intelligent she was, and thankfully he had given her the opportunity despite his initial coldness. She was happy to see that he was impressed.

After they were done with the meeting, Anita and the other directors took both Tom and Harry around the company premises to show them the various departments and the staff that functioned in them.

Once they all got to the front of the company where the valet was already waiting for them beside the car, Tom turned to look at Lucy, "It's not too late for us to have lunch, is it?" He asked as he glanced at his wristwatch.

Anita's brows creased with a frown when she heard this since she was standing very close to both of them.. He was having lunch with Lucy? Why? She was going to have to do something about Lucy before things get out of hand and the CEO ends up falling for a snake like Lucy.

Chapter 137 - Chemistry

"So, how would you describe Bryan Hank in one word?" The female interviewer who was in her early thirties, and had been put in charge of their interview asked Sonia who was seated across from her on a couch with Bryan. Sonia's left leg was crossed over the right while brushing Bryan's leg intimately.

"Bryan..." Sonia let her words trail off as she looked at Bryan with a small smile on her lips as if she was thinking of the right word to describe him. She didn't need to lie or make up anything.

"Well, he is impulsive... Take for instance the marriage proposal. That was completely unexpected," Sonia said as she reached out to touch Bryan's face lovingly.

Bryan met her gaze with a little smile of his own. He could tell that she was trying to answer as honestly as she could while keeping the truth from them.

"Interesting. I actually thought you would use words like romantic, sweet, charming, or something related to describe him. I wasn't expecting you to say impulsive," the lady said with an amused smile.

Sonia grinned at her, "Well, if I told you what you expected to hear, then I wouldn't be Sonia Smith, would I?" Sonia asked as she turned to look at Bryan who chuckled lightly.

"If I were you I wouldn't expect anything or try to predict her answers. She is quite an enigma," Bryan advised the interviewer with a grin as he took Sonia's hand and raised her knuckle to his lips, sending tingling sensations down Sonia's spine.

"I will keep that in mind," the interviewer said with a small smile.

"So can you tell us what it feels like to be engaged to someone like Bryan Hank?"

Sonia smiled as she shifted her gaze from Bryan to the interviewer, "Uhm... Being engaged to him feels like I'm on an exciting adventure. I'm always looking forward to seeing what happens next between us," Sonia said with a thoughtful smile before looking at Bryan who was also staring at her with a smile.

The interviewer watched them both with a smile on her face. She loved the chemistry between Bryan and Sonia as they were fun to watch, especially how they kept staring at each other and touching each other at the slightest opportunity "Everyone is curious to know how you managed to win his heart. Although we know that every playboy eventually meets their match who tames them, we want to know how you were able to accomplish such a feat."

"I think that question should be directed at him, not me. I'm also curious to know how I managed to win that stubborn heart of his," Sonia said with a teasing smile as she turned to look at Bryan.

"Can you answer the question since your fiancée is also curious to know about it?" The interviewer asked as she turned to Bryan.

"What was the question?"

"How did she capture your heart? What did she do to make you decide that you were done with other ladies, and wanted to stick to just her?" The interviewer asked, and Bryan shifted his gaze from the interviewer to Sonia.

"Well, what can I say? Other ladies pale in comparison with her. She is more beautiful, more intelligent, and way sexier than every other lady I have met combined... No offense to them. When I'm with Sonia, I can't think of anything or anyone else, because she captures all of my attention. And when I'm away from her, all I can think about is being with her. She intrigues me in every way possible," Bryan said as he looked into Sonia's eyes.

Hearing the words coming from some distant part of him, Bryan knew beyond reasonable doubt that he was done for. His words might seem like mere words to Sonia, but he knew deep down that that was exactly the way he had started to feel about her.

It was strange that he hadn't thought about being with any other lady since Sonia came into his life. It was even more strange that the thought hadn't crossed his mind, not just because he no longer had the liberty to do so because he was engaged in the eyes of the public, but because he had not desired or lusted after anyone else.

Sonia on the other hand felt her heart flutter at his words as she gazed into his intelligent blue eyes. She tried to remind herself that Bryan was merely acting and he didn't exactly mean what he was saying. A part of her wanted those words to be true. She wanted to mean that much to someone. She wanted to mean everything to Bryan Hank.

"Are you sure nothing is going on between those two?" Jeff asked Mia in a whisper as they both watched from one end of the room.

Mia who had an amused smile on her face turned to look at Jeff with an innocent expression on her face, "What are you talking about?"

"Well, they don't look like they are acting to me. Even though I know that Bryan is an excellent actor and he can pull off anything when given a script, I don't think the Bryan in front of the camera right now is merely acting," Jeff said thoughtfully. He knew that look on Bryan's face. That was the way a man looked at a woman he was in love with. It wasn't something a person could fake so easily no matter talented they were in acting.

"So what are you thinking? That Bryan is in love with his fake fiancée?" Mia asked under her breath so that no one else would overhear them, since they were the only ones who were aware of the fake engagement.

"He is either in love with her or very well on his way there. I don't know much about Sonia, I can only hope that the feeling is mutual," Jeff said as he kept looking at the couple.

"I hope so too," Mia said, giving away nothing.

The interviewer who still had a lot of questions to ask, felt her lips curve in a smile as she watched them. Why did they seem like they were at the early stages of falling in love? She hated to interrupt their moment of intimacy, but she needed to continue with the questions.

"How long have you both been together?" She asked, making them both reluctantly look away from each other and then back to her.

Bryan opened his mouth to speak, but Sonia placed a hand on his leg to stop him, "Not for long, yet way too long," Sonia said, making the interviewer look at her in confusion, while Bryan's lips twitched in amusement.

"That is quite an ambiguous statement," the interviewer said with a confused smile.

Seeing the confusion on the lady's face, Sonia smiled, "Well, what I mean is, some days it feels like we have known each other for days, and then other days it feels like we have been together for months, and then sometimes it feels like years since we have been together. Isn't that how you feel?" Sonia said with a wide smile as she turned to Bryan.

"Yeah. Some days it even feels like hours since I've known you. And that's because there are times I feel like I know so much about you, and at other times I feel like I don't know enough yet," Bryan said, and Sonia nodded enthusiastically.

"That's how I feel too," Sonia said with a big smile as she turned to the interviewer, "Do you understand that feeling? Like, have you felt that way about a person before?" Sonia asked the interviewer who looked slightly flustered by her question as she was used to asking the questions and not being questioned.

"I'm not sure I have, but I can tell it's a beautiful feeling seeing how happy you look together," the interviewer said, wanting to turn the table to them once again.

By the time they were done with the interview, everyone else in the room was convinced beyond reasonable doubt that both Sonia and Bryan were head over heels in love with each other, even though the two persons involved had no idea that their growing feelings for each other were mutual.

"Now that we are done with the interview can we change into something simple? This celebrity lifestyle is not for me," Sonia murmured to Bryan as she took off the earrings while the others were busy looking at the interview video.

"What celebrity lifestyle?" Bryan asked curiously.

"I mean, I can't just sit around wearing expensive stuff like this when I'm not going anywhere," Sonia explained distractedly while Bryan watched her as she took off the earrings.

"Here," she said, handing the earrings to him.

"What for?" Bryan asked as he continued to watch her.

"You gave them to me for the interview show, and now that we are done with the interview you can have them back," Sonia explained as she waited for him to take the earrings from her.

"That was a gift from me to my fiancée, I can't take it back," Bryan said with a shake of his head.

"I thought that was for the benefit of the camera," Sonia asked in confusion as she looked at the pair of diamond earrings which she knew must have cost a fortune.

Bryan was almost tempted to tell her that nothing he had said or done was for the benefit of the camera, but he reminded himself that he needed to keep that information to himself until he knew what she wanted from him, "It wasn't. Feel free to go change into something more comfortable while I have a word with the producer," Bryan said, jerking his head in the direction of the bedrooms so that she would leave.

Sonia looked at him like she wanted to argue but after a while, she gave him a nod, "Thanks," she murmured before walking away from there, while Bryan followed her with his eyes.

"Is there something you want to tell me?" Jeff asked as he sat down on the spot which Sonia had just vacated.

"Something like what?" Bryan asked as he met Jeff's gaze.

"I've known you long enough to know that you don't look at ladies that way. You are falling for her, aren't you?"

"What are you talking about?" Bryan asked, pretending not to understand what Jeff was saying.

"Don't even think about lying to me. Does she know how you feel about her?" Jeff asked, making Bryan raise a brow.

"I still don't know what you are talking about.. Please get me the wheelchair, and inform the producer that we would be changing out of this outfit into a more comfortable and homely wear," Bryan said as he shrugged out of the suit jacket.

Chapter 138 - Sniffing Around

Once it was time for the lunch break, the private investigator placed his camera in the pigeonhole compartment of his car and picked up a brown delivery envelope from the backseat of his car before stepping out of the car. He walked into the company and made his way towards the cafeteria where

most of the staff were heading to. He looked around the place casually as though he was trying to find someone.

"Hello, young lady!" He greeted politely, stopping a young lady who was walking in the same direction with him.

"Hello, sir!" She responded, looking at him curiously.

The private investigator smiled at her, "My name is Ralph. I'm a cab driver. I dropped off a young man here sometime this morning and he seems to have forgotten this parcel in my vehicle. I would love to give it back to him, but I don't know anything about him apart from the fact that this was where I dropped him," the man said with a polite smile.

"I don't suppose you know his name?" The lady asked, looking from the envelope to his face, and the private investigator shook his head with a slightly distressed frown on his face.

"Unfortunately I don't know his name. But he is this tall," the private investigator said, raising his right hand slightly above his head to indicate how tall Tom was, "He had an earring on, and his hair was colored..."

"Copper brown?" The lady filled in for him as Tom was the first person that came to mind with that description.

"Uhm, I'm not sure," The private investigator said with a slight frown. Although that was exactly the color of the person's hair he was enquiring about, he wanted to be able to leave without having the lady inform Tom that someone had been asking questions about him, "Does this person you are talking about work here?"

"Although I don't know him on a personal level, he is one of the company's drivers," the lady explained.

"Oh! I see," the private investigator said with a nod. It made sense that he was one of the company's drivers seeing how he was irresponsibly dressed. But why was a mere company driver using the CEO's private elevator? "I'm not certain yet if we are talking about the same person. What is his name? Can you help me find out if he is around?"

"Give me a moment please," the lady excused herself as she went to one of the tables close by where some other ladies were having lunch.

"Do any of you ladies know if that handsome driver is around? Someone is asking for him."

"You mean Miss Perry's driver?" Lucy's secretary who was at the next table asked, as she looked up to see who was asking for the driver.

"Yes. His name is Tom, right?" The lady asked to be sure that her information was correct, as she moved over to the next table to meet Lucy's secretary who seemed to know more about the driver.

"Yes. Although I'm not sure that he is anywhere around the company's premises. I didn't see Miss Perry's car in the parking lot when I came in this morning, and Miss Perry isn't in either," Lucy's secretary informed the lady who gave her a nod.

"Alright. Thank you," she said with a small smile before returning to meet the private investigator.

"His name is Tom, and he is not in the office at the moment. You could leave the package with me and I will make sure it gets to him," she offered with a polite smile, hoping she would use the opportunity to hit on Tom.

"I will just hang around for a while and wait for him to come so that I can hand it over to him," the Private investigator said with an apologetic smile, "Thank you for your help," he said with a bow before leaving.

Although he still had some unanswered questions concerning this driver, Tom, who had used the CEO's private elevator, he knew he couldn't ask this lady too much about him or else that would blow his cover.

He was just going to keep an eye on this Tom guy and the CEO. He had a hunch that there was an interesting relationship between them both. Although it was unrelated to his job, it wouldn't be a bad idea to sell his findings to a good tabloid.

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"You should stay back to make sure everything is in place over here, while I leave for lunch with Miss Perry," Tom told Harry, who nodded in agreement while Anita and the directors who stood close to them wondered what relationship the CEO had with his assistant for him to be having lunch with her.

"I will drive," Lucy offered, reaching out to take the car key from the valet. She needed the other staff to believe that she had nothing special to do with the CEO, and their lunch was nothing other than official business.

"You don't have to," Tom said, ignoring the others who he knew were listening to them as he took the car key from the valet. He walked over to the front passenger door and held the door open for Lucy to get in. Lucy looked down as she got into the car while trying not to meet anyone's gaze especially Anita's gaze.

The corners of Anita's eyes twitched jealously as she watched the scene before her, and her blood boiled with anger. She couldn't believe that her man was holding out the car door for another woman.

Once Tom shut the door after she was seated, he turned to look at Harry and the others, "I will be off now," he said with a wave before walking around the car to get into the driver's seat.

Once he got into the car he buckled his seatbelt before turning on the car's ignition and driving off. Neither of them said a word for some time until Tom glanced in Lucy's direction and he once again noticed how tense she was, and how she was looking straight ahead of her like she was holding her breath, while she wriggled her hands on her lap.

"Why do you always seem so uncomfortable around me?" Tom asked, even though he knew he had asked her that before.

"I'm not uncomfortable sir." Although she felt uneasy around him, there was something oddly familiar about him even though she couldn't seem to place a finger on what it was. She felt like she knew this person, yet she knew she didn't know him.

Tom sighed. It was obvious that it was going to be very difficult to get her to relax around him, "How long have you been friends with Sonia?" Tom asked, wanting to ask her simple questions that might help her relax and loosen up no matter how little.

"We have been friends for as long as I can remember," Lucy said as she turned to spare him a glance.

"I guess you both grew up in the same neighborhood?"

"Yeah. Our homes were just a couple of blocks apart," Lucy explained, not wanting to give him more information than was necessary.

"That means your family is well acquainted with hers?" Tom asked, and turned to look at her in time to see the shadow of a frown that touched her brows before she turned away from him.

"Kind of," Lucy said, not wanting to talk about her history with Sonia's family. Talking about it meant she had to think about it and remember it, and remembering it meant she had to face those nightmares again. She didn't want to.

Seeing how tight-lipped she was, and knowing that she didn't want to talk about it, Tom decided to leave the subject for later, "So you are friends with Miss Miller?" He asked, reminding her of her brief conversation with Anita earlier.

Lucy considered the question briefly. Were they really friends? She wasn't sure that what she had with Anita was friendship as it was clear to her that Anita wanted to use her to get close to the CEO, while she had also approached Anita because she thought Anita was the one Tom had wanted. They had no mutual respect, and that was the foundation of every friendship.

"Not exactly. We are acquaintances," Lucy clarified, making Tom's lips twitch in amusement. It was good to know that Lucy was smart enough to not call someone like Anita her friend.

"I see. So what do you think about the meeting earlier? How did I do?" He asked curiously, wanting to know what she thought about this aspect of him. Although she knew him as Tom the friendly and down-to-earth person, he was also just as harsh and ruthless when it involved his business.

Lucy winced, not wanting to answer such a question as she didn't want to lie to him or tell him the truth, "It was okay."

"You can be honest with me. I want to know so that I can do better," Tom said when he noticed her hesitation.

"It was fine."

Tom sighed to himself once again. It seemed like no matter what he said or did, she was bent on remaining tight-lipped. Now he wondered if he would have gotten anywhere near where they were in their relationship had he told her from the start that he was the CEO. He decided not to pressure her for a response anymore. He would hear her opinion concerning the meeting later in the evening as Tom Handy.

Neither of them said a word to each other until Tom pulled the car into the parking lot of a five-star restaurant, "Give me a minute," he told Lucy as he got out of the car, and before she could figure out why, he went around the car and opened the door.

What was he doing? Why was he doing this? She wondered, feeling very uncomfortable by his action as she stepped out of the car.

Tom shut the door and they both walked into the restaurant side by side, even though Lucy kept trying to move a step behind him, Tom kept matching her pace. A waiter met them by the door and led them to their seat which had been reserved earlier.

Tom pulled out a seat for her, and once she was seated, he took the seat opposite her and picked up the menu, leaving her to do the same.

"Are you okay?" He asked some minutes later when he noticed that Lucy was still looking at the menu, or better still, she seemed to be hiding behind the menu.

"Yes sir," she said with a nod but didn't put down the menu.

"You seem to be having a difficult time making up your mind on what you want. Would you like me to help you?" Tom asked politely, and Lucy gave him a nod as she dropped the menu on the table and met his gaze.

Tom didn't bother to look at the menu before signaling to the waiter closest to them. Once he placed their orders, and the waiter left, he returned his gaze to Lucy, "So, I heard from Harry that your fiancé was involved in an accident and you both called off the engagement," Tom said, making Lucy swear under her breath.. It seemed like that one little lie was never going to stop haunting her.

#### Chapter 139 - Talented Actress

Tom watched Lucy in amusement as she told him about her fiancé's 'accident' which had resulted in her resuming at the office late.

"...We were so glad that he only fractured his scapula and femur," Lucy concluded, and Tom nodded his head in agreement. Not in agreement with what she was saying, but in agreement with what Harry had said.

Harry had been right when he said Lucy was a natural born actress. If he didn't know better, he would most definitely have fallen for all the lies she had just told him. He needed to inform Bryan that Lucy had the potential of becoming an award-winning actress.

"And he chose to call off your engagement simply because you were not there at the hospital to look after him?" Tom asked, wanting her to continue with the entertaining story.

Lucy gave him a nod, "Unbelievable, right? He said I was a workaholic and that wasn't the kind of person he wanted to share his life with. After dating him for three years I still can't believe he did that to me," Lucy looked away from him as if she was too sad to meet his gaze, but she was actually feeling shocked hearing the words that were coming from her own mouth. How did that come out of her mouth? Where did she get such inspiration to tell such a magnitude of lie? Three years relationship? How?

'Lucy, when did you become such a liar?' she asked herself inwardly.

"Aww. That must have really hurt you. How did you get over the heartbreak so soon?" Tom asked, leaning forward in his seat to look at her while he sipped from a glass of wine a waiter had served them some minutes ago.

Talking to him this way, Lucy realized that her boss wasn't really as frightening as he had seemed a moment ago. The more she looked at him and talked to him, the less weird he became in her eyes. She was becoming more and more comfortable talking to him. He sounded like a regular guy having a conversation.

"Work. I buried myself in my work."

"Yeah. Work. That always works," Tom said with a nod and leaned back in his seat when two waiters approached the table with their orders.

Neither of them said a word until the waiters were done, "Thank you," they both told the waiters in unison.

The waiters gave them a polite bow as they left, while Tom and Lucy stared at each other. Lucy was impressed to know that someone as wealthy as Tom still had the good manner to thank the waiters for serving them.

"I noticed that I've been the one asking all the questions, is there nothing you would like to know about me?" Tom asked as he picked up his cutlery, waiting to know how curious she was about him.

Seeing how much effort he was putting into trying to get her to talk freely, Lucy decided to loosen up some more, "I actually have a question. Why do you like to stay hidden?" She asked the first question that came to her mind.

"Stay hidden?" Tom asked, cocking his head to the right to look at her as he diced the steak on his plate into smaller sizes.

"Yeah. Most people don't know what you look like, not even your staff. I'm just curious to know why you try so hard to not be known," Lucy said with a shrug before picking up her cutlery set.

"Not everyone loves to be seen or known. Some of us prefer to live like a wallflower," Tom said, and Lucy looked at him curiously.

"Don't you think yours is extreme? I mean someone like you should be known, right?" Lucy asked, making Tom's right brow arch.

"Someone like me?"

"Yeah. I mean someone as successful as you are shouldn't be completely faceless," Lucy explained and looked at Tom in confusion as he switched their plates, giving her the diced steaks, while he took hers, "Thanks," she murmured.

"Why do I need to be known? I shouldn't be my introverted self simply because I am successful? Only an unsuccessful person is allowed to remain unknown?" Tom asked with a curious smile.

"That's not what I mean. I'm just trying to say, apart from the fact that it raises speculations which may lead to harmful gossip and rumors, there are people out there who could easily impersonate you, and anyone would easily believe them because you are faceless," Lucy pointed out, "Also, don't you feel somehow when most people think Mr. Harry is the CEO?" She added.

"Maybe the first thing you should know about me is that I don't care what people think about me. If I did, I won't be where I am right now. I don't have any issue with people thinking Harry is the

CEO. He puts in almost as much work as I do into the company, so it's okay for others to think he is the CEO. I have no problem with that," Tom said making Lucy sigh in resignation.

"Okay."

Hearing her resigned tone, he smiled, "I guess I will just have to work on my personality then," Tom murmured as he chewed on a piece of steak, "You will help me, won't you?"

"Help you with what?" Lucy asked in confusion. Why was everyone asking for her help now?

"You should help me work on my personality," Tom said, making Lucy look at him with a slight frown. How was she supposed to do that? Lucy decided it was best not to say anything, so she picked up her glass of wine instead, and took a sip from it.

"You haven't touched your meal," Tom told her, jerking his head towards her plate as he ate from his.

Lucy picked up her cutlery set to eat again, but dropped it when Tom spoke, "You are not in a relationship at the moment, are you?"

Why was he asking that all of a sudden? What was she supposed to say? If she said she wasn't in a relationship, he might start getting ideas, and she didn't want that to happen. Lucy's thoughts drifted to Tom and she was quickly reminded of their relationship. Although it was temporary, it was still a relationship.

Tom watched the different expressions that flickered across her face as she considered his question. He wondered what her response would be. Was she going to deny being in a relationship?

"I am in a relationship," Lucy said, and Tom raised a brow.

"Already? I thought you just broke up with your fiance sometime last week? Were you cheating on him?" He asked making Lucy's face redden in embarrassment.

It was beginning to seem like whatever she said to either Harry or the CEO was always going to be used against her. Every lie she had told them seemed to always come back to haunt her. She needed to be careful with whatever she told them.

Thinking fast to come up with a suitable response, she said, "I wasn't. I just figured that there is no need to cry over spilled milk. He broke up with me, not the other way around, so why do I have to suffer any heartache over him?"

The corners of Tom's lips twitched at that, "Ah! I see. So who is the lucky young man? Someone you met here in Ludus?" He enquired, making her shift uncomfortably in her seat.

Why did he want to know? Was he perhaps suspecting that she was dating her driver? Was there any company policy against it? "No. He is my childhood friend," she said making Tom's brow furrow slightly.

Childhood friend? What was she talking about this time? Now he was beginning to wonder who told more lies between them.

"I see. Please eat," Tom urged her and decided to remain quiet since he noticed that she wasn't the type to eat and talk at the same time.

They ate in silence and after they were done, Tom paid the bills and they left. Once they got to the car he turned to her, "I think I like conversing with you. Let's do this again sometime soon, okay?"

"Yes sir," Lucy said with a nod. He didn't seem as weird anymore as she had thought. She couldn't wait to see Tom and tell him all about the meeting earlier, and also about her lunch date with the CEO.

"Where do you live?" Tom asked innocently making her frown. She didn't want him to know where she lived. What if he visited her uninvited? Why would he visit her uninvited? It wasn't like they were friends or anything, he had better things to do with his time, Lucy reminded herself.

"You don't have to drop me off at my home. You could just drop me off at the office if you are returning there, I need to pick up some personal effects from the office."

"The office it is then."

## Chapter 140 - Eavesdropping

Sonia stood in front of the mirror staring back at her reflection with a frown on her brow as she thought about how her body had reacted to his words and touch during the interview. Was she falling for Bryan already? That wasn't good at all. What if she ended up loving him deeply and he didn't return her feelings? She would only end up getting hurt. Although she planned on making him fall in love with her, she hadn't planned on falling in love with him so soon. Not that love was something anyone had control over, but still, how could she have fallen for him under such a short period? Her heart wasn't that weak. She needed to find a way to keep her heart safe.

Sonia sighed to herself as she took off the suit she was still wearing. She put on a black strapless bodycon choker dress which stopped mid-thighs with a tiny slit and wore a pink fur flip flop before returning to join them in the living room.

It was time for them to start shooting the reality show, with the production and camera crew in the background while she and Bryan would act as they would if they were alone in the house.

Standing by the door, she looked around the living room and when she didn't see any sign of Bryan, she walked over to his bedroom to check on him, since that was what was expected of her as his fiancée.

She gave a single knock on the bedroom door before walking into the bedroom. Once she walked in, Bryan who was seated on his wheelchair buttoning his shirt, cocked his head to the side as he looked at the object of his affection.

"Don't tell me you are missing me already?" He asked in a teasing tone, trying to appear unaffected by her outfit.

"Yes, I am. Why do you ask?" Sonia asked in an equally teasing tone as she walked over to where he was seated and started undoing all the buttons he had just done.

"What are you doing?" Bryan asked with a frown as he held her hand to stop her, but she slapped his hand away and continued.

"I've been here for about three days now, and in all that time I haven't seen you wearing a button-down shirt," she pointed out as she walked over to his closet and picked out a plain white cotton tee-shirt, "Here, I'm sure this is more comfortable for you," she said as she handed it to him.

"What a thoughtful fiancée I have," Bryan said with a mocking smile.

"What would you do without her in your life?" Sonia asked in an equally mocking tone as she helped him take off the shirt, so he could wear the one she had just given him.

Sonia sat on the edge of the bed as she watched him dress up, "Your leg doesn't hurt anymore, does it?" She asked curiously as she looked down at his legs.

"It doesn't. Why? You want it to hurt so that I don't go anywhere and just stay indoors with you?"

"Exactly! I enjoy your company so much that I want you all to myself," Sonia said with a roll of her eyes.

"Sonia Bardi," Bryan said with a teasing grin, making her narrow her eyes at him, and then her eyes widened slightly when she realized what he meant, and her face flushed a bright red making Bryan laugh out loud, "I never thought I would ever see the day where you would look so embarrassed," Bryan said in amusement as he laughed.

How could she not feel embarrassed to know that he had watched and heard her sing and dance to Cardi B's song while naked? What had she been thinking? "Pervert!" Sonia muttered under her breath.

"How can you call a man a pervert for silently enjoying a private show from his fiancée?" Bryan asked with a naughty smile as he held out his hand to her.

Sonia looked at his hand in confusion before tentatively placing her hand on his. Her heart skipped a beat, and she gasped in surprise when Bryan suddenly pulled her towards him such that she had to sit on his thighs if she didn't want to fall, "What are yo..." Her words trailed off when his other hand came around her neck and he pulled her face closer to his so that their lips were just a kiss away.

"I just remembered that you owe me a kiss," Bryan said in a husky voice as he looked into her eyes, his breath fanning her face.

Sonia's heart skipped a beat, "A kiss? What kiss?" She asked, unable to think clearly because of the proximity.

"Do you think I forgot that you were going to wake me up with a kiss? I want it now."

Having said that, Bryan crushed his lips against her warm and soft lips. Her pliant lips parted in a soft moan, allowing his tongue to slip in. Bryan didn't bother to kiss her slowly or softly. He kissed her passionately. The more he kissed her, the more he was consumed by the need to touch her. He wanted to taste every inch of her body. He wanted to have her writhing under him and moaning his name feverish ecstasy. Bryan tried not to let his hands stray, as he kissed her.

Although he wasn't touching her, her whole body was on fire for him. She wasn't having the innocent butterflies in the belly or toes curling feeling, all she wanted was to feel his hands on every part of her. Sonia impatiently untangled her hand from his hair and moved his hands from her shoulder to her boobs.

Bryan's eyes popped open when he felt the movement, and he gazed directly into Sonia's eyes which were staring back at him. He could see his own lust and desire reflected in her green eyes. He squeezed her left boob softly, and a soft moan escaped from her lips as she deepened the kiss.

Their breaths mingled as their bodies pressed together heatedly. Sonia's arms went around his neck, and her fingers carded through his hair as she returned his kiss with a matching passion.

Soon they were both panting breathlessly, but neither of them could stop or felt the need to break the kiss. At that moment Bryan prayed for self-control. He knew that they needed to stop as they weren't alone in the house, and there were others in the living room waiting for them to come out for the show...

"Bryan are you..." Jeff's words trailed off as he pushed open the door, and he blinked in surprise when he saw Sonia seated on Bryan's thighs with their lips locked in a kiss, and Bryan's hands on her boobs.

Bryan pulled away when he heard Jeff's voice, and silently cursed himself for not breaking the kiss earlier when he should have.

Sonia batted her lashes at Bryan to clear the haze of lust before turning to look at Jeff with a grin, "Oops, you caught us in the act," Sonia said without apology before returning her attention to Bryan. She smiled when she noticed that her lipstick had smeared both sides of his lips, so she used her thumb to brush off the lipstick stain on his lips before getting off his thighs.

"I guess Jeff needs to speak with you now, so let's continue from where we stopped some other time, okay?" Sonia said with a wink as she walked past Jeff, and left the room.

"She is crazy," Bryan murmured to Jeff in a form of explanation, but Jeff didn't miss the amusement, or was it awe in his tone?

"And you are crazy about her," Jeff said with a shake of his head as he approached Bryan who tried to adjust his trouser which had suddenly become too tight at the groin region.

"It's nothing serious. I was only practicing for the camera," Bryan said lamely, making Jeff chuckle.

"It must have been some mind-blowing practice seeing as you can't seem to hide your boner. Admit it, Bryan, you have fallen for her," Jeff said with a shake of his head.

"It's natural to have a boner when you kiss someone as hot as she is. What did you want?" Bryan asked, changing the subject.

"Nothing. I saw her coming into your room, and when she didn't come out after a while, I decided to come in here and remind you both that we are waiting for you, so you shouldn't do anything naughty," Jeff said with a wink.

Bryan sighed, and without saying a word to Jeff he headed for the door with his wheelchair.

"You don't have to feel embarrassed about how you feel for..." Jeff let his words trail off when Bryan stopped by the slightly open door and turned to glare at him.

"I don't love her. I don't even feel anything for her!" Bryan growled at him. Of course, he wasn't feeling embarrassed because he was in love with Sonia. He knew how he felt about her. He just didn't want anyone else to know about it, at least not until he confirmed that the feeling was mutual. That way his ego wouldn't be hurt.

Sonia who had been standing just outside the door eavesdropping on their conversation felt her heart twist painfully in her chest. Although she knew he was attracted to her sexually and wasn't

really in love with her, it hurt to hear him say out loud that he didn't feel anything for her. She was just going to find a way to keep her feelings to herself and not bother him with it, she thought as she hurried away from there since she could tell from the closeness of his voice that he was by the door.

"Sure. You don't love her. You are not even attracted to her.. You only love kissing and touching her," Jeff laughed out loud when Bryan slammed the door behind him.