Wild Night 301

Chapter 301 Discussing Business

"Look who we have here, Haha!" Tom joked once Harry walked into his office, and Harry chuckled.

"I'm glad you're no longer putting on that hideous costume and double glad that you've thrown out those stupid piercings," Harry said as he took the seat opposite Tom for them to talk since it was the first time they were going to be alone since he returned with Jade.

"You should be triple glad that I also got what I wanted," Tom pointed out, and Harry gave him a nod.

"Yeah. Although I didn't approve of your ways, I'm glad you got her," Harry said with a nod before looking around the office, "So, how have things been around here?"

"Not bad. How did things go over there?" Tom asked curiously, and then he listened as Harry brought him up to speed with Jade's case and all that had happened.

"... I should also let you know that I offered her a job with the legal team here," Harry said, and Tom narrowed his eyes.

"Why? Did something happen between you both for you to want to keep her here?"

"No. Nothing happened, and I can assure you that nothing is going to happen. She's just very intelligent, and I think we will need someone like her working in our legal team. And at least this will be less dangerous for her than starting her own practice as she plans to. I don't want to babysit her anymore," Harry babbled on defensively, and Tom just watched him in amusement, wondering what happened between him and Jade to spook him.

He could tell that Harry wasn't lying to him since Harry wasn't really the type to tell lies. But Harry also wasn't the type to talk so much unless he was feeling guilty about something, and the fact that he was avoiding eye contact right now said a lot.

"Okay. So what did she say? Did she accept your offer?" Tom asked, choosing to let Harry be for the time being until he was willing to open up on his own to him.

"Not vet."

"You think she will?"

"I don't know," Harry said with a shrug, not wanting to think about her.

"I hope she will. I also offered Bryan a job here," Tom said, and Harry's brows shot up.

"Bryan is an actor. What job could you possibly offer him? Director of playboy costumes or ACTING CEO?" Harry asked, laying emphasis on the acting, and Tom chuckled.

"I missed you," Tom said, and Harry gave him a stiff smile.

"You missed your BORING best friend?"

"Yes, I did."

"Good for you. So what position did you offer him?" Harry asked curiously.

"Before I tell you that, have you considered my proposition? I want us to make the announcement during the meeting with the shareholders later today."

"Tom, are you certain that you have thought it through?" Harry asked thoughtfully.

"We both know that I wouldn't have made the offer if I hadn't already thought of it. The company is gradually becoming too big for me to handle alone, and there is no one else I trust to do this with me. I want you to have as much authority as I have to take care of the company. Besides, you've been playing the role this whole time. We can as well just make it official," Tom pointed out, and Harry scoffed.

"How do I know you're not doing this just so you would have enough time for your office romance?" Harry asked, and Tom chuckled.

"Even if that was the case, I'm sure you wouldn't mind," Tom said, and Harry sighed.

"Have you talked to anyone else about it? Your mother?" He asked since he knew Evelyn was one of Tom's sounding board.

"Yes. She thinks it's a good idea. Lucy thinks so too. And I think so. Who else do you want me to run it by? Your dad? Jade? I'm sure all the shareholders would like that too," Tom said, and Harry gave him a nod.

"Okay. Let's do it then. Just pray I don't do my job so well that I choose to demote you if you start slacking in your duties," Harry threatened, and Tom grinned as he stood up.

"Let's celebrate," Tom said as he stood up and walked over to his mini bedroom to pick up a bottle of wine and two glasses.

"You haven't told me about the job you offered Bryan yet. And what's your plan for an assistant if I become your Co-CEO?" Harry asked, turning around in his seat to look at Tom.

"I will have the director of human resources put out a vacancy advertisement for the position before the end of the day. And as for Bryan's offer... I know I should have run it by you first. I was thinking that maybe we could start an entertainment agency. Let's sign Bryan as our first star..."

Tom was interrupted when the door was suddenly opened, and Bryan popped his head in, wanting to see if Tom was busy, "Sorry to barge in on you unannounced. You don't have a secretary, so there was nobody to ask if you were in or busy. Good morning to you two," Bryan greeted as he walked into the office and then took one of the glasses of wine from Tom before he could hand it to Harry.

"Good morning to you too," Harry murmured, thinking that Bryan and Jade were very much alike.

"What are we celebrating so early in the morning?" Bryan asked as he sipped from the wineglass he had taken from Tom.

"We were just talking about you. Do I need to ask why you are here so early?" Tom asked with a slightly raised brow as he handed Harry the second glass of wine he was holding.

"I came for us to discuss your offer. We sneaked out of the house as planned so that the old man would think that we forgot his birthday. So while we were chilling at your hideout apartment, I figured that instead of whiling away the time idly, I could as well spend the day doing productive stuff," Bryan said with a shrug as he sat down on the seat next to Harry and stretched both legs in front of his before crossing them in a relaxed gesture.

Harry glanced at Tom, who was now pouring himself another glass of wine, "I don't think this is a good idea. Neither of us knows anything about running an entertainment agency," Harry pointed out.

"Isn't that why people without knowledge in a particular field hire people with that knowledge to work for them?" Bryan asked with a slightly raised brow.

"Does that mean you're accepting my offer?" Tom asked hopefully before turning to Harry, "Just trust me as you've always done. Can you do that?" Tom asked as he returned to his seat with a glass of wine, and Harry shrugged.

"I have my conditions," Bryan said as he set down the glass and sat up, looking very serious now, "This is my career we are talking about, so we have to leave sentiments out of this," Bryan said, and Tom gave him a nod as he sat down.

"Sure. Go ahead," Tom urged him.

"As Harry rightfully pointed out, you both know nothing about running an entertainment agency, so my first condition is that you hire someone I trust to run the agency. Someone I know who is capable of handling the agency and managing my career," Bryan said, and Harry raised a brow.

"And I suppose you have someone in mind already?"

"Yes. Jeff, my manager. He is more than competent, and he is very loyal too," Bryan said as he picked up his wine glass and sipped from it.

"Jeff? Isn't he working for Paul?" Tom asked curiously.

"He turned in his resignation letter after my announcement. He still wants to be my manager," Bryan explained.

"And you're sure Paul didn't send him?" Harry asked doubtfully.

"As I said, I trust him," Bryan said in a tone that brooked no argument, and Harry gave him a nod.

"Harry? What do you say to that?" Tom asked curiously.

"If Bryan trusts the guy with his career, then we can as well trust him to run the agency," Harry said, and Tom grinned.

"So that solves the problem of who to run the agency. It's a win for us all. What other condition do you have?" Tom asked Bryan.

"My personal assistant, Mia, is coming with me too. You'll have to provide an apartment for her and also pay her double of what she was earning previously," Bryan said, and both Tom and Harry exchanged a look.

"Why is she coming with you?" Tom asked in confusion, and Bryan grinned at him.

"Because your brother is a very lovable being with a sunny personality, and everyone wants to keep working for him."

"Can we do that?" Tom asked Harry, and he shrugged.

"You're the one who chose to scout a star like him when you know nothing about running an entertainment agency, so I guess you have to do whatever he says," Harry said, and Bryan grinned.

"That's not all..."

"Don't push your luck, Bryan. As you said, there are no sentiments in business. We will have our legal team draw up a contract, and then you can reach an agreement with them. Also, invite your manager over. I need to assess him," Harry said as he picked up his glass.

Just as he raised the glass to his lips to take a sip, he remembered the taste of Jade's lips and dropped the wineglass without drinking. He cleared his throat and looked away from both brothers, wondering what they would think if they knew that he was thinking about their sister's lips while discussing business with them.

As though reading his mind, Bryan eyed him curiously, "How is Jade?"

"She was fine when I left her in bed a while ago," Harry said dryly as he stood up abruptly, making Bryan scowl while Tom chuckled.

"There is something else I need to discuss with you," Tom said, but Harry waved it off.

"Let's talk about it later. I have work to attend to in my office," Harry said as he walked away, leaving the brothers alone.

"Where is Sonia?" Tom asked once Harry left.

"She's with Lucy. Is Harry sleeping with Jade?" Bryan asked thoughtfully as he tried to understand what Harry had said about leaving Jade in bed.

"It's none of your business nor mine. If Jade wants you in her business, she will let you know," Tom said in a warning tone which implied that he didn't want Bryan hounding Jade or Harry about it.

Meanwhile, as Harry walked into his office, he was stopped by his secretary, who was standing by the office door looking confused, "What is wrong?" He asked her irritably.

"There is a lady in your office. She refused to say who she was. She just insisted on waiting for you inside your office when I told her you were busy with the CEO," his secretary explained, making his brows pull together.

A lady? Was it Tanya? That was the only person he could think of, "It's alright. I will handle it," Harry said calmly as he walked past her and opened the office door.

Jade, who was sitting on Harry's swivel chair with her back to the door, turned to the seat to face him once she heard the office door open, and she grinned at him when she saw the alarm which registered on his face.

Chapter 302 Liars

"What are you doing here?" Harry asked very slowly so as not to stutter.

"Good morning to you too, uncle Harry. I slept very well. I hope you did too," Jade greeted in her usual cheerful tone as she remained seated on his seat, watching him with concealed amusement.

She observed that he did not make any move to shut the office door behind him or walk further into his office. He just stood by the door staring at her like he was scared to move closer to her or was set bolt if she so much as made any advances at him.

Harry looked at her, trying to read her expression to determine what she was thinking, but he couldn't get anything. She looked normal. For some unknown reason, he felt some sort of

resentment towards her for being more normal than he was. Was it possible that she really didn't remember what had happened? He wondered hopefully.

"Is everything okay?" Jade asked as she watched him, and Harry raised a brow.

"Is everything not supposed to be okay? I was waiting for you to answer my question. What are you doing in my office?" Harry repeated, changing the subject quickly in his attempt to sound like everything was fine.

"I stopped by to see the company I might be working at soon. Your job offer is still open, isn't it? Or have you changed your mind?" She asked, still watching him.

Now he was feeling conflicted. He didn't know whether or not to just withdraw the job offer. Maybe if he hadn't already told Tom about it, he would have withdrawn it, but now there was little or nothing he could do to stop her from getting the job if she wanted to take him up on the offer.

Harry cleared his throat, "The offer is still open if you want it. But you didn't have to come to my office. It isn't my office that you'll be working in after all," Harry pointed out, and she flashed him a smile.

"Oh, yeah! About that... I was hoping you would show me around."

"Oh! I'm sorry I'm busy. You can just ask Tom to show you around. I'm sure he will be very willing to do so," Harry suggested.

"Why Tom?" Jade asked with narrowed eyes.

"Why me?" Harry retorted.

"Because you're the one who offered me the job. And it's the least you can do for me after turning down my offer to hang out with me last night," Jade said, making Harry, who had opened his mouth to object, shut it as he looked at her questioningly.

What was she talking about? Did she really not remember him coming to the club to meet her? Harry mused as he tried to figure out the best way to ask her about it.

Jade, on the other hand, raised a hand to her head, "My head hurts. I must have really had too much to drink last night. I have no idea how I got home. I guess I must be pretty smart to have found my way back to your place, huh?" Jade asked, answering his unspoken question, and she almost giggled when she watched his shoulders drop in relief.

She wasn't really a fan of telling lies, but she didn't know how else she could make him relax around her long enough for them to have a proper conversation. And she knew that the moment he realized that she remembered the kiss, he was going to go all defensive. If she had known that he was going to start acting this way after the kiss, she most likely would not have kissed him... Or maybe she would still have kissed him regardless.

"You don't remember how you got home?" Harry asked hopefully.

"That is your fault. If you had tagged along with me as I wanted you to, none of these would have happened," Jade said accusingly, and Harry looked away guiltily.

He couldn't believe that he had taken advantage of her and kissed her when she was drunk and incapable of making a logical decision. Of course, she was not in her senses when she asked for the kiss, and he should have known better than to do that.

"Oh, c'mon! I was just pulling your leg. It's not your fault that I had too much to drink," Jade hurried to assure him when she noticed his guilt-ridden expression. What was she going to do with this guy?

Perhaps he should tell her about the kiss? That was the responsible and decent thing to do. She had a right to know that he had kissed her when she was drunk. Or did she not? He swallowed. What if she refused to believe that she had asked him for the kiss? What if she denied kissing him and just assumed that he was a pervert who had taken advantage of her? How was he going to deal with that?

Although he had been hoping that she wouldn't remember anything about it, now that he was faced with it, and it was clear that she didn't remember the details of the previous night, he seemed to be in a different dilemma altogether.

He couldn't believe that the person who had stolen his first kiss had no memories of the kiss that was haunting him. Maybe what he needed was to talk to someone about it. That way, he will know whether or not to tell her about the kiss.

"Is something bothering you?" She asked, wishing she could read his mind and find out what he was thinking.

"No. I'm... I'm busy right now, so I can't show you around the company," Harry said, hoping that she would leave, but Jade remained in his seat.

"I'm not busy," she said leisurely as she swiveled the chair around.

"Jade, I don't have the time to..."

"I can wait until you're less busy. I will just wait here if you don't mind," Jade offered with a bright smile.

"Why wait when you can just go to Tom..."

"Because it's not fun if my brother shows me around. I can call him to ask him if you can show me around, but I'm pretty sure that he wouldn't mind me waiting for you. Besides, he placed me in your care. So until I return to his house later in the day, you're to babysit me," she reminded him with a grin as she stood up and went around the desk while Harry just watched her wearily.

"I'm curious about something, though. You don't happen to know how I got home last night, do you?" Jade asked as she sat on the edge of the desk, drawing his eyes to the slit on her knee-length blue dress, which revealed some part of her right thigh.

"Uhm I..." Harry paused to clear his throat, "I picked you up from the club," he confessed, and Jade raised a brow.

"Oh, you did? When? How did you know where I was? I hope I didn't do anything to embarrass either of us?" Jade asked, looking genuinely confused and concerned, and Harry waved off her concerns as he took another step into the office now.

Thinking that it was probably best he at least told her part of the truth since her phone's call log would back his story, he shrugged, "I called. You missed my call, and then you called back. I asked where you were, and you told me where to find you. I got there, picked you, and brought you back

home," Harry surmised, and Jade's lips curved in a smile. At least they were both guilty of telling lies now.

"How drunk was I?" She asked, giving him another chance to tell her about the kiss.

"Drunk enough to not remember anything now, I suppose?" Harry said with a shrug, and she gave him a nod.

"Did I walk or did you carry me?"

"You walked to the car, but you were knocked out by the time we got to the house so I carried you inside. I hope you don't mind?" Harry asked, and she shrugged.

"Seeing how cool you are about it, I guess I didn't do anything awful then. Thanks for picking me up," Jade said, and Harry gave her a stiff nod, feeling like a dirty liar for leaving out the important details of all that transpired between them. Or, maybe the details were only important to him, but not her.

"Go on with your work then, and don't mind me. I'll just sit here quietly and let you do your thing. I promise not to distract you," Jade assured him with a smile.

He wished he could tell her that her mere presence there was already a huge distraction seeing as his eyes seemed to be moving of their own volition and kept shuffling between her lips and her exposed thigh. And what was worse? He was trying not to breathe too much because of her scent. How was he supposed to do any work like this? He had escaped from Tom's office and had come to his office to have a reprieve from thoughts of her, only to be tormented even more.

"I'll hate to waste your time. Why don't I just show you around the company right now so you can leave, and then I can focus on my work?" Harry offered instead, and Jade flashed him a smile.

"That will be very much appreciated, uncle Harry," she said as she stepped away from the desk and approached him. If he thought that she was going to let him dismiss her so easily, then he had another thought coming.

Once she stopped in front of him, she smiled once again, "Thank you so much for coming to get me last night and for being a gentleman," she said as she leaned forward and embraced him.

Harry's heart almost exploded from his chest, and he stood stiffly in her embrace, holding his breath as she lifted herself on tiptoes, and with her arms placed around his shoulders, she kissed his cheek.

'Oh, God! What did this woman want from me?' Harry mused as he held his breath waiting for her to pull away from him as her breath on his cheek was making him feel hot all over.

Jade's heart fluttered when she pulled away from him and saw how flushed his face was. This grown-up man was just too cute and innocent for both their good.

"Let's run along then, so you can get back to your work quickly," Jade said, flashing him a smile as she linked arms with him.

Harry didn't trust himself to speak, so he swallowed hard as he let her pull him out of his office, reminding himself once again that he shouldn't have kissed her.

Chapter 303 Career-oriented

"They're all still looking in here because of you. Shut the blinds. You are distracting them," Lucy chided Sonia, who was too busy looking around the office to pay any attention to the members of Lucy's team who were following her with their eyes.

Lucy shook her head as she got off her seat and went to shut the blinds herself so that her team members would return their attention to work. They had been distracted enough for one morning.

She had been the one to spring the first surprise on them when she walked into the office carrying her stuff. She could tell from their faces that it had been a very awkward moment for them apart from Amy, who had seemed quite excited about the move and had helped her take the box to her office.

"There is no need for the atmosphere to be so tense. You're human, after all, and you reacted the normal human way. I don't owe it against any of you, and I can sure you that the CEO isn't going to fire you over this," Lucy had assured them.

"I'm very sorry, Director Perry. I feel very ashamed of myself," one of the ladies had said, and Lucy waved it off.

"It's okay. I'm glad it was all sorted out. Besides, Amy told me you all did your best to help uncover the truth. So thank you," Lucy had said with a small smile.

"Can I get you coffee?" The man who had knelt before her and Tom earlier asked, wanting to do something to ease his conscience.

"No, thanks. But maybe we can all have a team dinner one of these days. I'd like us to work well together without any form of tension or awkwardness, so please, let's put what happened behind us," she had pleaded politely and then walked away when they nodded their consent.

She had barely settled in when Sonia sauntered into her office dressed in a sexy mint-colored mini bodycon dress as usual with gladiator sandals, looking every bit like the celebrity she now was, thereby distracting her teammates who seemed excited about seeing the celebrity in their office.

Sonia turned to Lucy when she remembered something, "Those silly people are the ones who gave you a hard time, aren't they?" She asked, heading for the door, and Lucy quickly intercepted her.

Knowing Sonia, she would create a scene and just cause unnecessary trouble, "Let it go. I already addressed the issue," Lucy said as she joined their arms and pulled Sonia away from the door towards the desk.

"Still, I should give them an earful so that they will think twice before making you cry next time," Sonia said with displeasure, making Lucy smile.

"I'm sure they will think twice about that now that they know about my relationship with Tom. So you don't need to do anything about it, thank you," Lucy assured her.

"That's your boyfriend. They should know you also have a crazy best friend who wouldn't hesitate to pounce on them if they so much as make you frown," Sonia said, and Lucy giggled.

"That's so sweet of you, but no, thanks. I'm fine. They were only being human," Lucy said, and Sonia rolled her eyes.

"And your secretary who acted differently from them was being what? An angel?" Sonia asked sarcastically.

"Yeah. I actually think she is an Angel. Both Amy, Alicia, Jasmine, you, Tom, and his family. I think you're all angels. So let it rest, please," Lucy said as she leaned forward and embraced Sonia.

"Whatever," Sonia muttered with a scowl as Lucy straightened up and returned to her seat. Once Lucy was seated, she dropped onto one of the seats opposite her and looked around the office again, "Anyway, your office looks really cool. It's nothing like I imagined. Now I wish I had an office too. What do you think?" Sonia asked, and Lucy's brows arched.

"What do I think about what? You needing an office space?"

"Yeah. That," Sonia said with a nod.

"You don't need an office," Lucy pointed out.

"Says who?"

"Says me. You can write from anywhere. And we both know that one of the things you love most about your job is that you can do it from any part of the country or world as long as there is an internet connection there. Having an office will just limit you to one place, and you are not that type," Lucy said, and Sonia sighed as she went to sit opposite Lucy.

"True. You're right. But you know, working from home makes people think you're sort of jobless? But if I could just dress up and go to an office to write, I'd be seen as a serious-minded career lady or something," Sonia pointed out, and Lucy giggled.

"The world is changing now, and a lot of people work remotely these days. People no longer care about stuff like that. Besides, we both know that you don't really care about stuff like that was why you chose to stick to writing despite the job offers you got after graduation. And underneath all this craziness of yours is a very homely person, so my answer remains the same. You don't need an office space to prove anything to anyone," Lucy said, and Sonia sighed.

"Did Tom tell you that he offered to sign Bryan?" Sonia asked as she crossed both legs in front of her.

"Yes. He mentioned it last night. What about it?" Lucy asked curiously, trying to figure out what this had to do with the previous question.

Sonia said nothing for some time, and then she sighed, "What do you think about me moving in with Bryan?"

"Moving in?" Lucy repeated, not knowing what to think about it, especially as Sonia was jumping from one subject to another while she was trying to figure out how the subjects were all related

"Yeah. You can be honest as always with me," Sonia said as she waited for a response.

"I suppose I don't need to ask if you're sure about your feelings for him and his for you?" Lucy asked, and Sonia nodded.

"I know that you have always been free-spirited, but have you given this enough thought? Is it something you want to do? Or are you just considering it for his sake?" Lucy asked thoughtfully.

"I'm going to be honest with you, Lu. I can't think of staying apart from Bryan. I thought I was going to die of heartache the night I spent at your apartment after breaking up with him. I'm crazy about him, Lu," Sonia confessed, and Lucy smiled broadly at her friend's confession.

"Does that mean that if he proposes to you for real, you'll say yes?" Lucy asked, and Sonia bobbed her head.

"Of course. But that won't be happening anytime soon. Neither of us wants the pressure that marriage brings into a relationship just yet. We just want to be together and explore ourselves and the world," Sonia said dreamily.

"That's fine too. It's up to you. If you want to move in with him, you should do so," Lucy encouraged.

"What about you?" Sonia asked, eyeing Lucy curiously.

"I don't suppose you're asking if I want to move in with you both, are you?" Lucy asked with a grin, and Sonia giggled.

"As if Tom would let you out of his sight. He didn't even want to sit apart from you. That guy is really crazy about you," Sonia said, and Lucy smiled.

"Yeah, he is. I just can't understand why," Lucy said with a small smile.

"What do you mean by that? Have you met you? You're beautiful, smart, kind, sweet, charming, innocent, thoughtful, funny, crazy in a cute innocent way, and more. Girl, if I was a guy, I'll marry you," Sonia said, and Lucy laughed.

"You're only saying that because you're my best friend," Lucy said, and Sonia grinned.

"So I guess I'm back to being your best friend, huh? I thought you disbestfriended me," She said, and Lucy rolled her eyes.

"Don't remind me of your betrayal. Else I might change my mind. And that word doesn't even exist. Stop making up silly words."

"Every word in the dictionary was made up by somebody. You're just looking down on the words I form because you know me. But that isn't the point. You're amazing, and you deserve every bit of love you get from Tom and even more. I hope you won't ever forget that," Sonia said, and Lucy smiled at her.

"What will I do without you?"

"I can think of something. You'll get into less trouble without me," Sonia said with a wink, and Lucy giggled.

"Yes. I completely agree with that."

"Before we digress again, that wasn't my question," Sonia said, returning their attention to her initial question.

"What was your question?" Lucy asked, at a loss.

"I said, 'what about you?' although I asked you about it yesterday, we didn't get a chance to talk about it before meeting Candy. Why does it seem like you're against the idea of getting married?" Sonia asked curiously.

Although Sonia was one to act impulsively and carelessly most of the time, she was also a very observant and thoughtful person. Things hardly went past her without her knowledge, especially not when it had to do with Lucy.

"I wonder how you always manage to remember stuff," Lucy said in amusement, and Sonia shrugged.

"Some of us were born smart," she said with a grin.

"And by implication, you mean the rest of us were born stupid, I suppose?" Lucy asked with a stiff smile, and Sonia giggled.

"Quit digressing. Is there something else that I don't know about?" Sonia asked, looking all serious now, and Lucy sighed.

"I don't know if this will make any sense to you, but I've lived most of my adult life with the conviction that I don't need any man in my life apart from my dad and Lucas. You know better than anyone else that I was not interested in men, or relationships or marriage until somehow I fell in love with Tom. Yes, the stuff that happened in the past contributed greatly to my conviction, but even though I'm in love with Tom now, I'm still not sure I want to go all that way with him. Does it make sense?" Lucy asked once she finished, and Sonia just looked at her.

"You love him, but you don't want to be committed to him?" Sonia asked, wanting to be sure she understood Lucy.

"I'm committed to him. I just don't want to get married," Lucy said without meeting Sonia's gaze.

"You love him and will be committed to him, but you don't want to marry him?"

"Yeah. It's just like with you and Bryan..."

"No, Lu. If I'm getting you right, it's not the same thing. I love Bryan. He loves me. We both would love to get married to each other, but we don't want to do so just yet. We will do it at a future date. Maybe some years from now, or even in a couple of months. Who knows? But what you're saying, on the other hand, is that you don't want to get married, am I wrong?" Sonia asked, and Lucy sighed.

"You're not."

"Is Tom aware? Does he know that you don't want to marry him?" Sonia asked, and Lucy shook her head.

"No. We haven't talked about that."

"I don't know. I don't know what to say or how to feel about this," Sonia said with a slight frown. If she was being honest with herself, nothing Lucy was saying made any sense to her, "I thought your relationship with Tom would have changed that by now."

"No, it hasn't. I love him, but I'm not interested in getting married nor in having kids. It shouldn't be a big deal, should it? Can't we just be two people in love with each other without getting married? Oprah isn't married to her man, and they've been together for decades. Marriage is only in papers. It's not that big a deal..."

"Exactly! So do it! If it isn't a big deal, do it! It's just in papers, right? Then sign the fucking papers!" Sonia half-yelled, unable to hold back her annoyance anymore. She was scared that Lucy was going to ruin her relationship with Tom over this.

Lucy's brows pulled together in disapproval, "Sonia," Lucy called in a warning tone, "Barely three weeks ago, I didn't even want a boyfriend, and you were okay with me not getting married. All you

wanted was for me to be in a relationship of any kind with any man. Now I'm in love and I'm in a relationship, so what's the problem? Asking me to be open about the whole marriage idea, isn't that too much?" Lucy asked with a slight frown.

Sonia took in a deep breath, trying to calm herself. She tried to assure herself that if it was possible for her to switch from not wanting a relationship to being in a serious one because of Tom, then she could as well change her mind about marriage because of Tom. It might take some time, but it was possible. She would hold on to that.

"I'm sorry. I didn't mean to impose my conviction on you," Sonia said apologetically.

"It's fine. We both know that, unlike you, I've always been more career-oriented than family-oriented. I want to do something for myself. This is one of the reasons I didn't want to get involved in any relationship. I'm not willing to change that about myself," Lucy said, and Sonia gave her a nod. She wasn't going to argue with her or try to convince her otherwise. All she prayed for was that Tom would be wise and patient enough to handle this when the time came.

Chapter 304 Matchmaking Gone Wrong

Harry decided to first take Jade to Tom's office with the hope that either Tom or Bryan would get their sister off him.

"Aww, look who we have here, the handsome Hank brothers," Jade said as she happily walked into Tom's office to join him and Bryan.

"What are you doing here?" Bryan asked as he looked at Jade, whose arm was still linked with Harry's, and then at Harry, who had left only a moment ago claiming he had work to attend to.

"I came to look around the company where I might be working soon," Jade said with a smile as she stubbornly held on to Harry's arm while he kept trying to free his arm from hers, "What are you both celebrating? And who owns this extra glass?" She asked as she picked up the glass of wine that Harry had abandoned earlier and took a sip from it.

Tom watched them both in amusement as Harry begged him with his eyes to save him from her, but he pretended not to notice.

"You will be working here soon?" Bryan asked Jade before turning to look at Tom, "You offered her a job too? Did dad and mom put you up to this?" Bryan asked, and Jade raised a brow.

"Too? You offered Bryan a job?" Jade asked Tom curiously before she turned to Harry, "Was that why you offered me that job? Tom asked you to?" Jade asked, and both Tom and Harry sighed.

"It was purely coincidental. I only just found out this morning that Harry offered you a job, and I also just told him I offered Bryan a job. So can you both stop making useless assumptions?" Tom asked in a slightly impatient tone.

"You can't blame us for assuming so. You would think so too if you were in our shoes," Jade said with a smile, "By the way, what position did you offer Bryan?" She asked curiously.

"You can either stay back here and talk to them about it while I return to my office, or you can leave that discussion for later and talk with them when I'm not in a hurry to get back to work," Harry said quietly since neither of her brothers was willing to rescue him from her.

"Right. I wish I could hang around and talk to you both, but I dragged uncle Harry from his precious office to show me around the company. So let's talk after I'm done. You're still around, right?" She asked Bryan, and he gave her a nod.

"Good then. See you both soon," she said with a small wave as she turned around and dragged Harry out with her.

"Why does your friend look scared of her?" Bryan asked the moment they shut the door behind them, and Tom chuckled.

"Because he is obviously scared of her," Tom said with a grin that left Bryan curious.

"Why is he scared of her?" He asked with interest.

"He is not used to having ladies cling to him that way. He's very old-fashioned."

"Old-fashioned in what sense?" Bryan inquired, and Tom looked at him for a moment.

"He is not the sex before marriage kind of guy," Tom explained, and Bryan's eyes widened in surprise.

"Harry?" He asked in disbelief, and Tom gave him a nod.

"Wow!" Bryan exclaimed as he looked at the door as though he could see Harry. Now he could understand why Tom had felt confident enough to send Harry to Jade and why Tom believed that Harry was good for Jade.

While the brothers were busy discussing him, Harry tried to keep as much distance as he could between himself and their sister as he showed her around the different parts of the building. The last thing he wanted was for the staff to see him walking around the office premises so intimately with a woman. It was only a matter of time before they would find out who the woman was, and then rumors would start, which would only become worse when she eventually resumed work here if she does.

By the time he led her out of the part of the building that housed the legal team, Jade was already feeling tired and hungry, so she turned to him, "I'm tired, and I'm hungry. Can we have breakfast together before you return to your office?" She asked hopefully, patting her abdomen to show him that she was hungry.

"You know where the cafeteria is...."

"No. I don't want to eat alone. I want to have breakfast with you for one last time before I leave," Jade said, blinking rapidly at him until he sighed.

"Fine. Let's go," he said as he walked ahead of her, and once again, she ran up to him.

Thinking that she had given him enough space and now he seemed relaxed, she tried to reach for his arm, but before she could do so, he gave her a warning look to stop her.

"Fine," Jade said as she raised her hands in surrender and then dropped them beside her as she walked next to him silently.

"You know, I just remembered something funny about last night. You were really cool...." Jade started once they got to the cafeteria, and Harry's heart skipped a beat.

She remembered something? What did she remember? He wondered and swallowed nervously as he waited for her to go on.

Jade grinned as she looked into his face, "I still can't believe how you handled that brat," Jade said, making Harry want to faint with relief.

So that was what she was referring to? Thank goodness! Harry cleared his throat, "She was rude. I had to put her in her place," Harry said, and Jade smiled.

"You actually didn't put her in her place. You threw her out of the place," Jade said with a giggle, and Harry smirked as they walked up to the counter to get their meal.

The lady behind the counter was surprised to see Harry, and she smiled at him nervously, "What can I get you, sir? You can sit down while I serve you," she offered, wanting him to leave the counter before he would find something to query her over.

"Do you serve every staff that comes in here to eat?" Harry asked calmly, and she shook her head.

"It's because it is your first time...."

"Then you don't have to serve me either," Harry cut in before she could finish, and then he turned to Jade, "What do you want to eat?" Harry asked Jade, who was busy watching the woman who was beginning to sweat.

"Serve us your best dishes," Jade told the lady with a polite smile before turning to Harry, "Why don't we let her serve us?" She asked, and before Harry could refuse, she took his arm and dragged him away from the counter to the relief of the lady.

"If you like being served so much, you could have just sat down here and waited for me to serve you. You shouldn't stress the lady," Harry scolded, and Jade snorted.

"You were the one who was stressing her. You were making her uncomfortable. Can't believe you are so ignorant," Jade tutted.

"Me? I made her uncomfortable? How? I was only trying to be considerate," Harry said with a slight frown.

"I'm sure you were. She would rather serve you, so sit down," Jade said, and without waiting for him to pull out a seat for her, she sat down.

Harry glanced at the counter before sitting down, "Aurora gave me a call last night," he said conversationally, and Jade raised a brow.

"She did? What did she want?" She asked, surprised. She had completely forgotten about Aurora.

"I promised to go out with her before returning to Ludus, so she called to remind me," Harry explained, and Jade nodded.

"Too bad for her that you returned already," Jade said with a small smile.

"Yeah. But she agreed to pay me a visit. So we are still going to go out as planned," he said with a shrug, and Jade gave him a nod.

"She really likes you, I suppose," Jade said, and Harry's lips twitched.

Maybe it was best if he talked about another lady with her and even went out with other ladies. That should straighten him out, "Yeah, I think so."

"So? You like her?" Jade asked, and Harry shrugged.

"I wouldn't know if I don't go out with her. Isn't that what you said? But she's a lovable person, so I don't think getting along with her would be difficult. At least she is more reasonable than Tanya," Harry said, and Jade tried not to let his words upset her. It was her fault, after all.

"Well, if you're planning to go out with her because I forced you to, you don't need to do that anymore...."

"No. I'm not going on a date with her because you forced me to. She is beautiful, intelligent, upfront, and fun to talk with," Harry assured her, even though he knew that he enjoyed talking to Jade more than anyone else. The only problem he had with her was he couldn't breathe when she was too close to him, and he didn't want to get into that sort of relationship with her regardless of whatever he was feeling.

Besides, even if he was willing to risk it, he didn't think that she saw him that way, and he also wasn't sure she was ready for a relationship yet. And even if she was, he doubted that she would be willing to be in a relationship with him. There was no way she would have set him up on a blind date if she was the least bit interested in him.

"Oh!" Jade said with a stiff smile just as the lady came to serve them. He also thought she was beautiful and intelligent too. She wasn't sure he enjoyed talking to her as much as he did with Aurora since he always seemed in a hurry to get her to leave whenever she came around him.

How did she end up in such a sticky situation? Thanks to her stubbornness, she had succeeded in matchmaking a guy she now wanted for herself to someone she considered her friend. What was she going to do about it?

Chapter 305 It Was Her Fault

Anita was busy looking over some documents on her laptop when she heard a knock on her door. She raised her head just as the door opened, and her pregnant elder sister walked in. "Lisa! What a pleasant surprise," Anita said with a surprised smile as she stood up and went to embrace her elder sister, who smiled.

"I hope this isn't a bad time?" She asked hopefully, and Anita shook her head.

"Not at all. Please come sit, don't stress my niece," Anita said as she pulled her sister to the comfortable couch in her office and helped her sit down.

"How is work?" Lisa asked as she looked around the office curiously.

"Beautiful. Is there something my niece is craving? Perhaps snacks?" Anita asked, making Lisa smile. From the moment she told the family that she was pregnant, Anita had not ceased to refer to the baby as her niece. "I'm fine. I'm just here to talk to you," she said as she looked at Anita with a straight face.

"Is there a problem?" Anita asked curiously as she sat down on the couch opposite her sister. "Please don't tell me you're going along with mother's madness. Please tell me you're not," she pleaded, and Anita sighed.

"You're married. I'm not," she reminded her sister.

"I'm married to a man I'm in love with. Someone who practically worships the ground I tread on. That is the kind of man you deserve to get married to, not someone that will barely tolerate you like Bernice's husband, or someone that hits on everything in a dress like Tiffany's husband," Lisa said, and Anita shrugged.

"Still, you're all married, and mother is proud of you all," Anita said, and Lisa shook her head.

"Please, do not do that to yourself, Annie. Because you were scared of what our mother would say, you rejected the man when you thought he had nothing, and now you want to join her and plot against a woman who accepted him? What is her offense? What is her crime?" Lisa asked with a frown, and Anita frowned.

"Lisa, why are you so interested in this? It's not like you know her personally or you're close to her family, so why are you advocating for her?" Anita asked, and Lisa frowned.

"I don't need to know her to know that what you're doing is wrong! If I don't stop you from going along with mother's madness, I will feel like an accomplice if you people do anything to hurt her, and I don't want anything on my conscience. Please, for God's sake, Annie, give up on this man. You don't even love him. You deserve to fall in love," Lisa pleaded. "You're asking me to concede defeat? You expect me to lose to her?" Anita asked incredulously.

"That is the point, darling! You're not losing anything! It was never a contest, to begin with! Stop allowing your mother to brainwash you into thinking that life is a contest, and you have to compete with everyone you meet or that you have to always be first. You don't have to. How will you ever get to enjoy life if you keep seeing it as a competition at every stage?" Lisa asked reasonably.

"Do you love him?" Lisa asked when Anita did not say anything after some time.

Anita shrugged, "Now that I know who he is, loving him is easy. He's handsome, wealthy, ambitious, and everything I want. I want him," Anita explained, and Lisa shook her head. "Give it up, Anita. You're setting yourself up for a lifetime of misery and torment if you eventually succeed in forcing yourself on him, which I doubt is possible. I don't think someone like Thomas Hank will ever come back to you after you rejected him when you thought he had nothing. You failed his test already. Think about it, do you really think he will give you another chance? Do you deserve another chance? And what do you think he will do to you when he eventually finds out that you were behind Lucy's scandal? Or do you really think that it will be a secret forever?" "Mother can take care of all these things you're talking about," Anita said confidently, and Lisa rolled her eyes. "By doing what? Killing the girl and blackmailing Tom into marrying you? You must be delusional to think that mother is some sort of goddess and can get whatever she wants," Lisa said with a snort as she stood up.

"I came here to reason with you one last time without our mother in the picture to influence your decision. Trust me, that woman is going to ruin your life if you keep allowing her to control it."

"That woman is our mother," Anita reminded her. "She won't be my mother for much longer if she so much as hurts the hair on that girl's head. And none of you will be my sisters either. The moment you go ahead with whatever evil plan you have to tear them apart, I'm cutting you off," Lisa promised as she picked up her handbag and walked out of the office. Anita had a thoughtful

expression on her face as she stood up and went to stand by her office window as she thought about everything Lisa had just said. Was Tom really going to fall back in love with her if they got Lucy out of the way? Although she hated the fact that Tom was with Lucy, Lucy didn't really do anything wrong to her. As a matter of fact, Lucy had tried to matchmake them, but she had made it clear to Lucy that she wasn't interested in someone like Tom.

It was Tom who had deceived her, and judging by what her sister had heard at the salon and what she had said during the interview, he had deceived Lucy too. A part of her had felt guilty when she watched the interview and saw Lucy's emotional reaction to all that had happened to her, but the other part of her that wanted Tom had overshadowed the guilt.

Maybe Lucy didn't exactly deserve what she had done to her, but it couldn't be helped. Lucy might be a nice girl, but she was in a relationship with the wrong man. Anita's thoughts returned to what Lisa had just said. She couldn't help wondering what her mother's plan for Lucy was. She returned to her desk and picked up her phone, and then sat by the edge of the desk as she dialed her mother's line and waited patiently for it to ring. "Hello, darling!" Her mother greeted cheerfully.

"Good morning, mother," Anita greeted cautiously since she knew how easy it was for her mother to switch moods. "Good morning, my lovely daughter. To what do I owe this pleasure?" She asked curiously. She has never been one to beat around the bush.

Anita cleared her throat, "I want to know what your plan for Lucy is," Anita said tentatively.

"And why is that?" Her mother asked every trace of warmth out of her voice now. "I just want..."

"I will be very much disappointed in you if you tell me you want to chicken out now," her mother warned, and Anita swallowed nervously.

"I'm not chickening out. I just wanted to..."

"If you're not chickening out, then don't worry about my plan. I told you I would handle it and make Thomas yours. You trust me, don't you?" "I do."

"Good. Then get busy with your work. I'm sure you have a lot on your desk to attend to. Sweep him off his feet with your charm and intelligence while I get the girl out of your way."

With that, the line went dead, and Anita sighed. She couldn't afford to feel guilty or back out now. That would make her mother very cross with her.

Lucas had barely managed to sleep when he woke up to the sound of the doorbell ringing persistently, and he frowned, wondering who could be at the door since some of the neighbors who had seen him last night knew that he had returned without his parents and that this wasn't his apartment. He sat up on the bed, hoping that whoever was at the door would leave soon. He was tired and needed to sleep since he had been unable to sleep for most of the night, as he had been too busy thinking about his life, thinking about his broken engagement with Rachel, thinking about his family, as well as Tom's job offer, and how to have a fresh start.

The tears he had been looking forward to shedding once he was alone and had time to think had failed to come. All he had now were circles under his eyes and bloodshot eyes.

"Baby, I know you're in there. Please open the door," Rachel yelled from outside, causing his heart to skip a beat. Rachel? How did she know he was back? Lucas wondered but made no move to stand up to go to the door. He didn't want to see her. Rachel rang the doorbell again, and then everywhere became silent. Lucas waited quietly and listened for every sign that she had left, and when there was no sound, he got off the bed and walked to the living room barefooted, dressed in his pajamas, trousers, and a t-shirt. Once he got to the living room, he heard the sound of glass shattering, and he quickly walked over to the kitchen in time to see Rachel climbing in through the kitchen window.

"Have you gone completely out of your mind?" He yelled at her angrily.

"Baby," Rachel cried once she saw him and hurried over to where he stood to embrace him, but Lucas stepped away before she could do so.

"Get out of this place, this instant, else I will call the police," Lucas threatened. "No, you won't. You won't do that to me."

"Rachel, do not test my patience. You have no idea what I can or cannot do right now," Lucas said, and tears gathered in her eyes. "I know that I was wrong, but I'm sorry. Why can't you just forgive me?" Rachel asked as a tear dropped from her eyes, but Lucas just watched, hard-faced.

"I've forgiven you. But I want nothing to do with you and your family. Get out, and stay out," he said in a cold tone.

"After all we shared? You're going to throw the ten years we spent together away just like that?" Rachel asked, sounding very hurt.

"You know what I regret most right now? Staying with you for that long. Now leave, and don't come back," Lucas said, and Rachel wiped the tears from her eyes. "Maybe you need time to...."

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Without saying another word, she walked past him, wanting to leave quickly, but Lucas turned to her, "No. You're not going out through the door. Leave the same way you entered. And make sure you send someone here to fix the window you broke," Lucas said, and Rachel turned to look at him in disbelief.

"Babe..." she called in disbelief. Seeing the adamant expression on his face, she walked past him and ungraciously exited the house through the window.

Tears were falling from her eyes as she returned to her car, and once she was seated in her car, she rested her head on the steering wheel and broke into a sob. Her whole body shuddered at the intensity of it. It was all her fault. She had no one to blame for this but herself. If only she had not been so possessive of Lucas and jealous of his relationship with his twin sister. If only she hadn't been so desperate for Lucy to get a boyfriend so that she would leave Lucas alone, she wouldn't have easily believed Jamie when he came to her for help, nor would she have given him all that information about Lucy's whereabouts. If Jamie hadn't abducted Lucy, this wouldn't have happened. And if she hadn't been too scared of losing Lucas to confess to them about how she had helped Jamie, everything would probably have been different. So yes, it was all her fault. She had been so scared of losing Lucas that she had made mistake after mistake that had ultimately cost her the one relationship she cherished most. After crying for some time, she sat up when something else

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Chapter 306 It Was Her Fault

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Chapter 307 Missing Each Other

Harry watched as Jade ate quietly, and he wondered why she had suddenly become quiet. It was very unlike her to not have one thing or another to talk about unless she was upset about something.

"Did I say something to upset you?" He asked in concern after failing to come up with anything he could have said to upset her.

"No, you didn't," Jade assured him as she sipped from her can of juice.

"Are you sure? I'm sorry if I did," Harry said, and this time she smiled at him as she licked her bottom lip, a gesture which drew Harry's eyes to her lips, and his heart skipped a beat when he remembered how she had licked his lips like that before sucking on his tongue. Butterflies fluttered in his belly, and he blinked to clear his head so that he could focus on what she was saying.

"Trust me, you did nothing wrong. By now you should know that I won't hesitate to call you a jerk if you're being one," Jade said, and Harry gave her a nod before moving his gaze away from her lips to look at his wristwatch.

He needed the distraction since he didn't want to keep staring at her lips. He couldn't think clearly when his eyes kept following every movement of her lips that way, evoking memories that made him uncomfortable.

"I know I have taken up enough of your time today, thanks for letting me do that. I should let you get back to work now," Jade said when she noticed how he was staring at his wristwatch and assumed that he wanted her to leave.

Somehow now that she was willing to let him get back to work, he was feeling hesitant to let her go. Especially since she had been so quiet earlier, and he didn't know what was going on inside her head.

"So, where are you heading to now?" Harry asked as she pushed away from the table.

"Tom's office. I will spend some time with my brothers and then stop by Lucy's office to say hello to her before leaving," Jade said with a small smile, "Since I might not be at your apartment by the time you get back, I guess this is goodbye for us until we see each other again... Unless of course, you decide to stop by the house to wish my dad a happy birthday," she added, hoping he would do that so that she could see him again.

"Let's see how that goes," Harry said, not wanting to make any promises as he pushed away from the table, and they both stood up to leave.

"You will be fine on your own, right?" Harry asked with concern as they walked out of the cafeteria.

"I should be. I was fine before you came," she said, even though she doubted that things would ever be the same again. He had succeeded in altering her routine under such a short duration of time.

Although she would have liked to ask him to go back with her for her to finish the case and then return with him, she didn't want to be selfish. She didn't want to keep him away from his job just to babysit her, and she also knew that if he returned with her, he would likely see Aurora again and go on a date with her. She'd rather they go on their date without her help or knowledge.

Harry gave her a nod, "Okay. You can return to our suite at the hotel if you're not comfortable with staying at your apartment alone."

"I will just return to my apartment. The suite won't be the same without you," Jade said, and Harry gave her a nod.

He knew that he was nodding so much like a lizard when he should be speaking. But what else could he say? "Don't hesitate to call me if you need my help," Harry said, and Jade nodded, unable to say anything because of the lump that had formed in her throat.

Her heart suddenly felt heavy because this felt like goodbye. From the way Harry was sounding, it was as though even if she came to work in the company, he was not going to be so close to her anymore.

Neither of them said a word as they stepped into the elevator. Since they were going to the same floor, Harry pressed the button for the seventh floor. Once they got to the seventh floor, they both stepped out of the elevator and faced each other.

"I'm going to miss you," Jade confessed softly as she stepped forward and embraced him.

He knew that he was actually going to miss her more, even though thankfully, he would be able to focus on his work and breathe more easily without her around, "I will miss you too," he said quietly, surprising Jade, who hadn't expected him to admit that.

She had a wide smile on her face as she broke the hug, stepped back, and looked into his face, "Do you mean that, or are you saying it just because I said so first?"

"I actually wish I was," Harry said with a slight frown, and she giggled as she embraced him again and then kissed his cheek before stepping back once again.

"I'm going to call you every day. Make sure you receive my calls when you're not busy, and call back if you miss my calls," she told him, and he gave her a nod.

"I will."

"I don't need to set a reminder like Aurora did, do I?" She asked with a teasing smile, and Harry chuckled.

"You don't."

"Good. Now return to work. I hope to see you at Tom's tonight," she said with a hopeful smile and waved at him before walking away, while Harry remained where he stood and just watched her until she disappeared into Tom's office.

Once Jade walked into Tom's office, her brothers stopped their conversation and looked at her curiously, "How did your tourism go?" Tom asked as she took the seat next to Bryan and crossed her legs.

"It went well. Why are you both staring at me with so much curiosity? Is there something you want to know?" She asked with a slightly raised brow.

"Is there something you'd like to tell us?" Bryan asked hopefully.

"Like what?"

"Like why you were clinging to Harry? Do you like him?" Bryan asked before Tom could stop him, and Jade grinned.

"Is it that obvious?" Jade asked, and Tom chuckled when Bryan glanced at him.

"You were clinging to him while he was begging to be rescued. So yeah, it's obvious," Tom said, and then his expression turned serious, "So you now like him after trying to matchmake him? How did that go?" Tom asked, and Jade sighed.

"Oh, please don't even remind me of that. He just told me he's planning on going out with her on a date," Jade said sadly, and Tom shrugged.

"I don't think that matters. I actually think he likes you," Tom said, and Jade sat up, interested.

"You think so? Why? Did he tell you something?" Jade asked, hopefully, while Bryan watched his siblings discuss. Although he thought it was weird for them to be trying to matchmake their younger sister when they were supposed to be possessive and protective of her. Still, after hearing about Harry from Tom and seeing now that Jade was interested in the guy, he was relaxed and very curious to see how things would play out. He couldn't wait to tell Sonia about this since she seemed interested in the two.

"He didn't say anything, but I think so because right from our college days, he has always shown a lot of interest when I talk about you. And I suspect you were part of the reason he came home with me that Christmas," Tom said, and Jade shook her head in disbelief.

"That can't be possible."

"Trust me, Harry is my best friend, and I know him," Tom said confidently.

"But he doesn't act as if he likes me," Jade said thoughtfully, wondering if it was possible that Harry was interested in her, and had been for such a long time. She could believe that he liked her, but what she could believe was that he had liked her for such a long time.

"I also think he likes you," Bryan said, and Jade smiled, she was going to have to find a way to confirm it.

If he stops over at Tom's house after work, then she would open up to him about the kiss, but if he fails to show up, then she would just have to keep it to herself until the next time they meet. That would be his punishment.

"Let's say that is true, are you both going to help your baby sister?"

"You are hardly a baby anymore," Bryan said, and Jade stuck out her tongue.

"That doesn't matter. I don't know how to deal with him. And seeing how I have helped you both and given you helpful advice in the past, I expect that you will help me too," She said hopefully.

"I don't want him going out on a date with Aurora again. She is quite beautiful and smart, and he seems to admire her a lot," she said with a slight frown.

"Maybe it's best if you let him go out with her. How else will he know what he wants if he doesn't do that? You're not the type to have so little confidence in yourself," Tom said, and Jade sighed.

"I guess you're right. I will just wait and see how it goes. But I can count on your support, right?" Jade asked, and Bryan shrugged, while Tom gave her a nod.

"That's fine. By the way, do any of you know of a Tanya Rey something?" Jade asked curiously.

"Reynolds? I know Tanya Reynolds. Why?" Tom asked, and Jade scowled as she relayed what happened to them, and Tom chuckled while Bryan bristled with anger.

"Who does she think she is to embarrass you in that manner?" Bryan asked in annoyance.

"Harry handled it well. No need to get angry," Tom said, and Jade nodded.

"You could have at least told her who you were and the family you come from before leaving," Bryan said irritably.

"There wasn't any need for that. I was very pissed and embarrassed at first, but Harry handled it better than I would have done," Jade said, and Bryan sighed.

"If you say so."

"Enough of the unpleasant talk now. Why don't you both tell me why Tom offered you a job in a company that has nothing to do with entertainment, and then we can discuss dad's birthday afterward," Jade suggested, and just like that, the discussion changed.

Halfway through their conversation, Tom's phone vibrated with a message notification, and he picked it up to check what it was. He raised a brow when he saw that it was a voice recording from the person he had put on Anita's tail, and he played it.

Bryan and Jade, who were still talking about a suitable gift for their father, stopped talking when Tom played the recording and they all looked at each other when they realized that it was a recorded conversation between two ladies.

Chapter 308 Foundation For Abused Girls

"How did you get the recording?" Jade asked after they finished listening to the voice recordings. Neither of them needed to ask who the lead female in the recording was.

"How is that even important right now? Did you hear anything that was said?" Bryan asked with a slight frown, not liking any of the stuff he had heard.

"Yes, I did. And that is the more reason I'm interested in knowing how these recorded conversations got to his hand," Jade pointed out, and they both looked at Tom, who was just tapping on the desk with his fingers, a deadly calm expression on his face.

"I put someone on Anita's tail. He sent the recording," Tom explained to Jade while thinking about the last part of the conversation which he had just listened to. The first part consisted of Anita's discussion with her sister. Another was Anita's side of the phone conversation with her mother, and the last part of it had also been Anita's side of a phone conversation with a person called Rachel. The same lady Lucas had almost gotten married to.

"What are we going to do? Are you going to tell Lucy about Lucas' ex fiance's involvement in her abduction and her relationship with Anita?" Bryan asked with a concerned frown.

"I can't lie to her or hide it from her," Tom said, thinking about how this would affect Lucas. Having a sister, he knew that he wouldn't forgive himself if he were in Lucas' shoes. The guy had a lot on his mind already. He didn't deserve this.

"Yes, you shouldn't. God knows you have told her enough lies already," Jade said, and both Tom and Bryan glared at her, making her raise her fingers to her lips in a zip gesture.

"We should take care of Anita and her family quickly before any harm comes to Lucy. I don't like where all of this is going," Bryan said, and Tom nodded.

"I'm on it already," Tom assured him before glancing at the wall clock. He had barely thirty minutes left before the first meeting of the day.

"You both can conclude on dad's birthday gift and organize the party for him, right? I need to get ready for a meeting with the shareholders now, and after that, I have a meeting with the board of directors," Tom explained as he took out his black card from his wallet.

"Sure. We can take care of it. Do what you need to do," Bryan said with a nod as he stood up.

"You can use this for the expenses," Tom said, but before he could drop the card on the table, Jade snatched it from him with a wide smile on her face.

"I will personally handle it, don't worry. Let's leave you to do your work stuff now. See you later," Jade said as she also stood up.

"You didn't need to give us your card. I can handle the expenses," Bryan assured Tom, but Jade rolled her eyes.

"You can just give me your black card too. I promise to take care of everything," Jade offered, and Bryan scoffed.

"No, thanks."

"I can buy whatever I want, right? Personal stuff for myself?" Jade asked, blinking at Tom in a cute way, and he smiled.

"Buy whatever you want to," Tom said, and Jade went around the table to peck his cheek.

Bryan shook his head, "If I were you I wouldn't say whatever. Whatever for her includes a car, a private jet, a yatch, a house..."

"Stop talking and let the man work in peace," Jade interrupted as she dragged Bryan out of the office with her.

After they shut the door behind them, Tom picked up his phone and replayed the conversation between Anita and Rachel again.

"What are you talking about?" Anita asked Rachel in a slightly irritated tone.

"On Thursday morning, I told you about everything that happened between Lucy and Jamie, and then on Friday morning, the news is all over the internet. Do you expect me to believe that it was mere coincidence?" Rachel asked in annoyance.

"You are free to believe whatever you please, Rachel. She has cleared her name now, so there is no need to be talking about the past anymore," Anita said dismissively.

"How could you? How could you do something as despicable as that with a story I told you in confidence?" Rachel asked angrily.

"Don't you dare raise your voice at me, Rachel! You never even liked her, so why are you overreacting?" Anita asked, and a tear dropped from Rachel's eyes.

"How can you say that? That I don't want her being too close to Lucas doesn't mean that I hate her! Why would you do something that evil to her? What did she even do to you to deserve that?"

"Oh, please shut your mouth, Rachel! I'm tired of you and your stupid self-righteous attitude. Is what I did any worse than what you did? You are the reason she got into the hand of that psychopath in the first place, or don't you know that? If you hadn't done what you did, I wouldn't have been able to do this either, so you better don't give me any moral lectures on what is evil or not!" Anita hissed.

"I can't believe you're saying this. Do you have any idea what you have done to me? You ruined a relationship I've been nurturing for the past ten years! Because of this scandal, Lucas has called off our engagement. He doesn't even want to speak with me or look at me, and it is all your fault!" Rachel cried as she broke into a sob.

"Yeah. Trust the princess to whine and not take any blames," Anita said, her tone dripping with sarcasm. "You should thank me that he called off the engagement. What do you think he would do to you if he ever finds out that because of your possessiveness, you handed his twin sister to her stalker on a platter? Or what do you think would have happened had we all met at your wedding, and you introduced me to them as your cousin? Do you think everyone in that family is stupid, and no one would be smart enough to connect the dots? You must be very stupid if you actually did believe that you would marry him and live happily ever after. You better wake up from your slumber and stop blaming me for your screwups..."

"My screwups? Did you just say screwups?" Rachel asked incredulously.

"You heard me right! If you had done a good job of getting rid of her then, I wouldn't be trying so hard to get rid of her now. So suck it up, and quit whining. I have a job to get back to, so I will hang up now," Anita said as she disconnected the call.

Once Tom was done listening to it, he dialed Alicia's line.

"Good morning, Tom. I was just going to call you," she greeted once she received the call.

"Good morning, Alicia. Can you send me everything you have gathered on Anita and her family?" Tom asked briskly.

"Sure. I will do that immediately we hang up. I received a message from the CEO of a foundation for abused girls. They want me to connect them to Lucy. Can you text me Lucy's line so that I can inform her about it?" Alicia asked, and Tom raised a brow.

"Why do they want to talk to her?"

"They said something about wanting her to work with them on their next project," Alicia explained.

"And you checked it out? Is it real?" Tom asked since he really didn't feel so good about it. Maybe he was just being paranoid after listening to Anita's conversation with her sister and mother, but he didn't want Lucy doing anything that would so much as take her out of his sight. Now he wished he hadn't been so quick to let her return to her office. He would have preferred she remain in his office until he got rid of Anita and her family.

"Yes," Alicia said as she waited for Tom to respond.

"I'd rather you don't tell her about it. Whatever their reason is. She has a job, and she can't leave her job to work with them. Also, she doesn't need anything to take her down that memory lane again," Tom said, and Alicia frowned.

"Shouldn't that be her decision to make?"

"Yes, it should be. But it's not safe right now, and even though you have checked them out, I still have my reservations and can't trust them. Keeping her safe is more important to me," Tom explained.

"I understand what you're trying to say, but I still think Lucy should know about it and decide whether or not to accept their offer. You will be making a huge mistake by keeping something like this from her," Alicia insisted.

"So, are you saying that you're going to tell her about it?" Tom asked, and Alicia sighed.

"I will if you don't. So I will advise that you do so yourself so that I don't have to go behind you," Alicia's said before adding, "Please text me your email address so that I can send you the file I have on Anita and her family." With that, Alicia hung up, leaving Tom to decide on whether or not he was going to tell Lucy about it.

He knew that Alicia was right. He wasn't supposed to keep something like this from Lucy. He had promised not to keep anything from her or lie to her. He made up his mind to tell her about it when they meet for lunch.

Having made up his mind, he texted Alicia his email address, and less than five minutes later, he received an email from her. He quickly clicked on it and downloaded the attached document she sent. Displayed on his computer screen were the basic details of every member of the Miller family.

Rebekah Miller. Fifty-nine years old, and mother of four daughters. Wife of late business mogul Richard Miller, who had taken his life after losing all his wealth after a wrong investment. Jobless, yet a prominent member of a lot of charity organizations. Sister of Richard Wyatt, former owner of Ocean Airlines.

Tom's brows pulled together as he tried to process the information. If Mr. Wyatt was her only sibling, how was Rachel related to Anita? Perhaps they were paternal cousins? He mused as he moved to the next person on the list.

The eldest of Anita's sisters, Bernice Miller. Thirty-four years old and wife of Adam Washington Jnr, the only son of the country's chief justice. Mother of twin six years old boys. The Washington family owned their own law firm, which was made up of corrupt lawyers whose clientele list consisted of mostly wealthy individuals and companies who were oppressing the poor and bypassing the law.

Anita's second sister, Tiffany Miller. Thirty-two years old. Married without kids to Jackson Bateman, the sole heir to one of the biggest construction companies in the world. He was stinkingly rich and had been sued on different occasions for sexual harassment. The company has also been issued multiple lawsuits for using substandard materials to build. As expected, Bateman Corp was one of the biggest clients of the Washington law firm, and they had won every lawsuit filed against them.

The third sister, Lisa Miller. Thirty years old, and married to Ronnie Steel, a diamond magnate whose father was an influential businessman, and made the top fifty on Forbes list of the most influential people in the world. Lisa was the CEO of a jewelry shop.

Like their mother, Bernice and Tiffany were homemakers and societal women who did nothing other than spend their husbands' money. Lisa was the only one who seemed to be the most reasonable of the sisters judging by the conversation he had just listened to and the fact that she had her own business. For that, he would exempt her from whatever he wanted to do.

Anita was the youngest of the four sisters, and seeing how her sisters had all married into wealthy families, he could only imagine the pressure on her to bring home a prized husband. He could almost understand why she had rejected him when she thought he was a mere driver. Understanding her, however, was different from forgiving her. If Lisa could turn out differently, then so could she.

Having made up his mind, he picked up his phone and dialed a number, "Good morning, Barry, it's Thomas Hank," he said once the call connected.

"Hey! It's been a while, man. How're you doing bro?" Barry asked, excited to hear from Tom after a long time.

"I'm alright. You're good too, right?"

"Sure, I am. I saw you on TV the other night," Barry said, but Tom wasn't in the mood for the small talk.

"Yeah. You're still into hacking, right?" Tom asked hopefully.

"Always and forever, bro. Always and forever," Barry said, making Tom smile.

"Good. I have a job for you."

Chapter 309 She Can Heal Foundation

"How do you guys plan to take care of Anita and her family?" Jade asked curiously as she and Bryan walked down the hallway after leaving Tom's office.

Her eyes darted in the direction of Harry's office, but the door was closed. Somehow she wished that she would run into him in the elevator or down the hallway. She would like to see him again before leaving.

"Are you asking as a lawyer or as our sister?" Bryan asked, and Jade rolled her eyes.

"Am I only allowed to choose between the two? Why can't I be both?" She asked, and Bryan shrugged.

"Because I think Tom might have to break a couple of laws if he is going to get rid of them. If you're not going to be okay with it as a lawyer, then there is no reason for you to get involved," Bryan pointed out, and Jade sighed as they got into the elevator.

"I guess I will have to defend him in court if it gets to that. How did Tom ever get involved with a lady from such a messed up family, anyway?"

"Shit happens."

"I'm glad things didn't work out between them," Jade said, and Bryan nodded in agreement.

"Yeah. Me and you both. Theirs is a dysfunctional family. I wonder how we would have gotten along with them," Bryan said with a shake of his head.

"I'm sure we wouldn't have known this side of them. We would have gotten along just fine," Jade said, and Bryan shook his head.

"I don't think so. You need to see how dad gets along with Lucy's dad. You'd think they were best friends or brothers," Bryan said, and Jade smiled.

"Really? Lucy's dad must be interesting, seeing as even Sonia has a crush on him," Jade said, and Bryan scowled at her.

"How did you know about that?" Bryan asked as the elevator door opened, and they walked out.

Jade giggled, "I'm sure everyone who saw the interview knows about it," she said, reminding him that Lucy and Sonia had mentioned it during the interview.

"Oh, well!" Bryan sighed.

"You like him," Jade said with a grin.

"Although he can be very annoying, he is very cool too," Bryan admitted, and Jade giggled as he told her about the competition between Tom and Lucy's dad.

"He's so much fun. I can't wait to meet him. I'm sure we will get along," Jade said with a wide smile

"So, are you really going to accept Tom's offer and work here?" Jade asked Bryan curiously as they slowly made their way towards Lucy's office.

"Yeah."

"Cool. I think I'll take Harry's offer too. That way, I can be closer to you both and keep you out of trouble," Jade said with a grin as she linked arms with him, and Bryan turned to look at her with a slightly raised brow.

"You mean so you can be closer to Harry, don't you? We both know very well that if you didn't want to be close to Harry, you wouldn't be considering it," Bryan said dryly, and she grinned.

"I guess I should just say I will be closer to you both and Harry then," she said with a wink.

Bryan didn't have enough time to respond before his phone rang, "I need to take this call. Go in, and let Sonia know we are leaving soon," Bryan said as he received the call from Jeff, while Jade went on to Lucy's office since Harry had shown it to her earlier during their tour.

Inside Lucy's office, she and Sonia had moved on from their disagreement about her decision not to get married to other subjects.

"You're distracting me," Lucy said with a giggle when Sonia showed her a comedy skit on Instagram.

"So you're asking me to leave?" She asked, and Lucy bobbed her head.

"Yes, leave. Go find Bryan or find something else to do while you wait for him," Lucy said as she tried to focus on the work in front of her.

"What do you think about Harry and Jade?" Sonia asked out of the blues, and Lucy blinked in confusion. What did her question have to do with leaving the office?

"What am I supposed to think about them? Harry is Tom's best friend, and Jade is Tom's sister," Lucy said, and Sonia shook her head.

"That's not what I mean. Didn't you notice their matching outfits yesterday?" Sonia asked, and Lucy rolled her eyes.

"That was most likely coincidence. Harry doesn't seem like the type to do matching outfits," Lucy said, and Sonia looked at her with interest.

"Really? How well do you know him?" Sonia asked, and Lucy smiled.

"Well, I wouldn't say I know him so well. I used to think that he was cold and weird, but recently I'm beginning to see that being cold is just a front he puts up at work. He is actually very sweet and nice," Lucy said as she remembered her conversation with Harry that morning.

"Really? What makes you think so?" Sonia asked curiously and listened carefully as Lucy told her about their conversation earlier on, only leaving out the question he had asked her.

"Aww, he's so sweet," Sonia said with a wide smile.

"I told you so. Why are you curious about them anyway? Don't tell me you're thinking of making them into characters in your next story," Lucy said, and Sonia grinned.

"Guilty as charged. Although I don't know them well enough, I think there might be chemistry between them. So can you be my eyes and ears?" Sonia asked hopefully.

"You're asking me to spy on Harry?" Lucy asked in disbelief.

"Well, not exactly. He is Tom's best friend, and Tom will be the first to know if something is up between his sister and his best friend, seeing as he is trying to hook them up..."

"Tom is trying to hook them up?" Lucy asked in surprise, and Sonia rolled her eyes.

"I can't believe that you are in the middle of all the excitement, yet you know nothing that is going on around you," Sonia said with disapproval.

"That is because I prefer to mind my business, and that is more than I can say for you," Lucy said and then sighed when she realized that she had been drawn into another conversation with Sonia once again when all she wanted was to focus on the sketches in front of her.

"Minding other people's business is good for my business. I'm a writer, remember?" Sonia asked with a wide smile, and they both glanced at the door when someone knocked on it before it was opened.

"Am I interrupting your besties' hangout?" Jade asked from the doorway, and Sonia's eyes lit up as she waved her over, while Lucy glanced at the work she needed to do but couldn't do.

"Not at all. You are welcome to join us!" Sonia greeted her with a welcoming smile, and Lucy shot her a warning look before turning to greet Jade with a bright smile as Jade came in to join them.

"Hello, Jade!"

"I dropped in to look around the company, so I decided to say hello to you before I leave," Jade explained before looking at Sonia, "Bryan says to get ready to leave soon," Jade told Sonia as she sat down on the seat next to hers and looked at Lucy who she could tell was not as social as Sonia.

"Bryan told me about the competition. I like your dad already," she said, making Lucy and Sonia giggle.

"He does too much sometimes," Lucy said, and Jade laughed softly.

"They all do. I can imagine my dad doing something like that," Jade said before looking at Sonia, "I can't wait to see him. Something tells me that you won't be the only one crushing on him for long," she said with a teasing smile, and Sonia laughed.

"Lucy and I were just talking about you..."

"Sonia!" Lucy exclaimed in embarrassment, while Jade just watched them both with amused curiosity.

"Okay, I was doing most of the talking while Lucy was just minding her business," Sonia corrected. Lucy lifted her eyes to the ceiling, praying for patience so she wouldn't kill Sonia.

"You want to tell me what you were talking about?" Jade asked curiously.

"Sure. If you don't mind me asking, how have you been enjoying Harry's company?" Sonia asked, and Lucy shook her head.

"You don't have to answer her question. She just doesn't know how to mind her business," Lucy said apologetically, making Jade smile.

"I noticed you both were wearing matching outfits yesterday," Sonia continued, and Jade's smile widened.

"That was purely coincident. It wasn't planned," she explained, and Lucy shot Sonia an 'I told you so' look.

"So there is nothing at all? No chemistry?" Sonia asked with a slight frown, and Jade studied both ladies for a minute.

Even if she didn't tell them, she was sure that either Bryan or Tom was going to tell one of them, and once one of them heard it, the other would hear it too, so there was no reason to hide it from them. They were going to be her sisters-in-law after all.

Jade leaned forward, "I'm actually interested in him," she confessed.

"I knew it!" Sonia exclaimed as she turned to give Lucy an 'I told you so' look before looking at Jade with a wide smile.

"Do you think he feels the same way? Have you told him how you feel?" Sonia asked excitedly, but before Jade could answer, Bryan walked into the office.

"I'm sorry to interrupt you ladies, but we have to be on our way. We have a party to plan," Bryan announced before looking at Lucy, "How are you doing, Lu?" Bryan asked with a friendly smile which Lucy returned.

"I'm fine. Please can you get Sonia out of here? I need to focus on work," Lucy pleaded, and Sonia scowled.

"Come with me babe. You know I'm the only person who can match your energy," Bryan said with a wink as he held out his hand to Sonia.

"You're going to miss me when I'm gone," she threatened Lucy as she stood up to meet Bryan.

"Yeah, I'm definitely going to miss you, but please leave. No offense Jade, I just really need to focus on this before the board meeting. I need to get approval from the board, for the next design of clothes to be released this Winter. We can hang out at the party," Lucy said, and Jade smiled as she stood up.

"You don't have to apologize or explain yourself. I understand. I can be exactly like you when I'm busy with work," Jade assured her, "See you in the evening," Jade said with a wave as she walked out of the office.

"You're coming with us, right?" Sonia called after her hopefully, eager to continue the conversation with her.

"No, you're coming with me," Jade called back, making them giggle.

"I missed you," Sonia told Bryan as she kissed him, and Lucy rolled her eyes.

"Please take that out of here," Lucy muttered, and Bryan chuckled as he dragged Sonia out of the office while she stuck out her tongue at Lucy.

Just as they exited Lucy's office, they walked past two ladies who looked like they were in their early forties as they walked into Lucy's office.

They stopped by Amy's desk, "Good morning. What may I do for you?" Amy asked politely as she looked from one to the other.

"We are here to see Lucinda Perry. This is her office, right?" One of the ladies asked with a polite smile.

"Yes. I am Director Perry's secretary," Amy said with a polite smile.

"Oh, great! Let her know that we are from the She Can Heal Foundation. Our CEO watched her interview and would love to discuss business with her," the other lady said, and Amy gave them a nod as she went in to inform Lucy that she had guests.

Chapter 310 Lover's Spat

Lucy raised her head in frustration when her office door opened once again, ready to snap at whoever was there to interrupt her work.

"Sorry, two ladies are here to meet with you. They say they're from She Can Heal Foundation," Amy rushed to explain when she saw the annoyance on Lucy's face.

"What do they want?" Lucy asked as she glanced at her wristwatch impatiently. She still needed to meet with her team before the board meeting, and she didn't have enough time to waste chatting with anyone

"I think it has to do with the interview you did," Amy explained, and Lucy sighed.

"I can tell them that you're unavailable," Amy offered, and Lucy forced a smile.

"That won't be necessary. Just let them in. The sooner I'm done with them, the faster I can return to work," Lucy said, and Amy gave her a nod before leaving.

Less than a minute later, the office door opened again, and the two ladies walked into the office, "Good morning," they greeted in unison, and Lucy stood up.

"Good morning, you're welcome. Please sit down," Lucy said, pointing to the seats opposite her.

"Thank you," they said in unison as they sat down.

"We are sorry to barge in on you this way. We tried to reach you through the lady that conducted your interview, but when we didn't get a response from her, we decided to meet with you directly. I hope you don't mind?" One of them asked.

"I don't know who you are," Lucy reminded them.

"Oh, sorry! How silly of us," she laughed, and the other joined in the laughter while Lucy just continued to stare at them, waiting for them to stop laughing and tell her what they wanted from her.

"I'm Priscilla Peters, CEO of She Can Heal Foundation, and she is Maya Adams, my best friend, and assistant. Ever since I watched your interview two days ago, I've been dying to meet with you in person," Priscilla said with a wide smile, and Lucy smiled back stiffly.

"I guess I don't need to introduce myself. I wish I could offer you some refreshments, but I'm still settling in," Lucy said apologetically, and they waved it off with a smile.

"That won't be necessary. I'm sure you're very busy, so I will go straight to the point so as not to waste your time and ours," Priscilla said as she leaned forward in her seat.

"After watching you talk about your traumatic experience and seeing how you rose from it to where you are now, we believe that you are a beacon of hope to other young girls struggling to heal from such trauma. We would like to make you the face of SCHF for this year, and we would like you to work with us. We are not asking you to quit your job. Weekends would be fine," Priscilla rushed to add when it seemed like Lucy was about to protest.

"These are some of the benefits attached to our offer," Maya said as she dug into her handbag for an envelope and extended it to Lucy.

"Think about how many lives you could actually touch by doing this. I'm sure if you had met a survivor like yourself who was willing to guide you while you were struggling to rise from your trauma, things would have been a lot more easier for you. We want you to be that for our girls," Maya added as Lucy opened the envelope to check what they were offering, and her mouth almost dropped open in surprise at their mouthwatering offer.

They were offering her a car, a house, a monthly salary of fifteen grand, and an all-expense-paid trip monthly. Their offer was just too good to be true, "Why am I being offered so much?" Lucy asked with a slight frown.

"That is to tell you how much we believe in what you can do for our girls and us. We would really like you to work with us," Priscilla said with a hopeful smile.

"I'm not sure I can combine my job with this," Lucy said with a shake of her head. Although she was very tempted by the offer, she loved her job.

"That is why we are not asking that you work with us during the weekdays. Your weekends are all we are asking for. We will arrange for every meeting and trip to not interfere with your job, that I can promise you," Priscilla said, but that didn't reassure Lucy.

If she were not dating Tom already, she probably wouldn't have given an offer like this a second thought before jumping at it. It would have made her dance for joy. But things were different now.

Tom was in the picture now, and she couldn't just think of accepting an offer like this without first talking to him. This was part of the things she hated about being in a relationship, but it was also something she would expect of Tom.

She would want him to factor her into his plans and decisions. And she knew for a fact that if the reverse were the case, she wouldn't want Tom accepting a job that would take him away from her for the weekend.

"Can I think about it and get back to you?" She asked with a polite smile, not wanting to make a hasty decision.

"Sure, you can. We really hope that we get a positive response. I personally look forward to working with you," Priscilla said as they both rose to leave, and Lucy smiled at them as she stood up too.

"I hope to hear from you soon," Priscilla said as she took out her complimentary card from her handbag and placed it in front of Lucy, "Thank you for your time."

"You're welcome," Lucy said with a polite nod as she watched them leave.

The moment they shut the door behind them, she sat down and picked up the paper again. Apart from the benefits attached to the job, the thought of actually being able to help other young girls who were struggling to heal from trauma was also on her mind.

If she could really be a beacon of hope to other girls, then maybe what happened to her wouldn't just have happened for nothing. It would give her life a new sense of purpose.

"Lucy is cool," Jade said from the backseat as Bryan drove them to Tom's apartment, where all three of them could sit and plan for the birthday.

"I know, right?" Sonia said with a grin as she turned in the front seat to look at Jade, "Do you have a best friend?" Sonia asked curiously.

Jade shook her head, "Nah. I guess I'm the only one without a best friend. You and Lucy have each other, Tom has Harry, and Bryan has Matt. Speaking of Matt, how is he?" Jade asked Bryan curiously, and he shrugged.

"Heartbroken."

"That's sad. I guess he really likes her," Jade said sadly.

"I'm sure they will work things out. She likes him too but seems to be holding back. Do you mind telling me what's up with her?" Bryan asked while Sonia listened to the discussion with keen interest.

"You should ask your bestie," Jade said, and Bryan raised a brow as he looked at her through the rearview mirror.

"How am I supposed to be able to help Matt if I don't understand what is going on? You can tell Harry and Tom, but you can't tell me?" Bryan asked, and Jade rolled her eyes.

"Candace's baby daddy was a part of a dangerous drug cartel before his arrest. They tried to kill him, and he escaped from jail. Now the cartel is trying to use Jade to get to him; hence she is hiding at Tom's house," Jade summarized.

"She is likely avoiding him because she doesn't want to get him involved in her mess," Sonia said thoughtfully, and Bryan nodded.

"Yeah. That's one annoying thing you females have in common," Bryan muttered, and Sonia glared at him.

"Didn't I apologize already?" Sonia hissed in annoyance.

"Doesn't make it any less annoying," Bryan said with a scoff.

"Last I checked, I'm not Candy, and you're not Matt, so why are you making their issue about us?" Sonia asked, wanting to play the same card Bryan had played when she confronted him about Tom's deception.

"I never made it about us. You did," Bryan reminded her.

"How? When?" Sonia asked angrily before turning to look at Jade, who was grinning as she listened to their argument.

"Jade, you were here. Who made this about us?" Sonia asked, and Bryan met Jade's gaze in the mirror, daring her to take a side.

Jade raised a hand defensively, "I didn't hear anything. I don't know anything. You both should leave me out of this," Jade said, giving Sonia an apologetic smile.

"Bryan, you started it!" Sonia yelled angrily, and Bryan chuckled.

"You are the one quarreling right now," Bryan reminded her, and she huffed angrily as she turned away from him to look out of the window.

Bryan grinned as he turned to spare her a glance, and then he reached out his hand to touch her chin, "My beautiful ex fake fiancee become girlfriend,"

Bryan teased, and although Sonia's lips twitched with a smile, she refused to turn around as she waited for him to apologize.

"So tell me. What did I say to upset you?" Bryan asked, and Sonia turned to glare at him.

"How could you say that is one..." Sonia stopped halfway as she struggled between her annoyance and amusement when Bryan started to mimic her as she spoke.

"I'm not playing with you, Bryan," Sonia said as she turned away so he wouldn't see her struggling with a smile.

"This is the second time you've called me Bryan now, yet I remember you saying I'm not permitted to call you Sonia in the middle of an argument. Should I be angry?" Bryan asked.

Jade, who was listening to them in amusement, looked at Bryan, "What are you supposed to call her in the middle of an argument?" Jade asked curiously. She had almost forgotten what being in a relationship felt like, and seeing them having a lover's spat right now, she missed being in a relationship.

"Babe. She said her name is babe always," Bryan said with a chuckle, and Jade giggled.

"Okay, fine. I was wrong. I shouldn't have said what I said. I'm sorry," Bryan said apologetically, and Sonia turned to eye him.

"Yes, you shouldn't have said that."

"And you called me Bryan," Bryan reminded her.

"Fine. I'm sorry too," Sonia said, and Bryan shrugged.

"Give me a peck if you're no longer upset," Bryan said, and Jade rolled her eyes as she watched Sonia lean over to give him a peck, but Bryan turned quickly and stole kiss, making her giggle.

"I can drive the car if you both need to use the backseat," Jade said dryly, making them laugh.

Although Sonia wanted to ask her more about her relationship with Harry, she didn't want to do so in front of Bryan since she wasn't sure if Bryan knew about it, or if Jade wanted him to know. So instead, Sonia asked Jade questions about her job, while Bryan bragged to Jade about how great a writer Sonia was.