

Chapter 31 - The Greek Billionaire's Indecent Proposal

Sofija's POV

I was seething mad! Who did that bitch think she was. I looked in the mirror at my cheek, it had turned red, and it hurt. I knew that I would have an ugly bruise there tomorrow. I gave a little scream and banged my hands on the dresser. Of course I had given all that information to the magazine and even tweaked some of it to make her look bad but it's not like some of it wasn't true! She was pretending to be a nice person just so she could come here and take control of everything.

Joud walked into the room, he didn't acknowledge me at all. He went to the bathroom and began stripping off his clothes. I followed him there. "Not even a hi?" I asked him.

"Sofija when are you going to grow up?! As your husband I asked you to drop this vendetta you have against Soraya and you deliberately disobeyed me!"

"What makes you think I did anything, she attacked me, can't you see this bruise on my cheek?" I cried out.

"And you got off lightly, I know you! I am sick and tired of your antics woman!" He spat out at me.

"You are taking her side?! Joud how could you? You must be in love with her!" I accused him.

"Are you listening to yourself? Pack your bags, I'm taking you with me to California, I have a job there!"

"No! I'm not going anywhere. There's a Gala this coming weekend and I am not missing it. Not even for you!" I said vehemently. He laughed out loud and looked me dead in the eyes.

"You can't stand her not because she reminds you of Hera or because she took Hera's place but because she makes you feel bad about yourself, you feel inadequate. She has a lovely aura about her, so everyone just naturally gravitates towards her. She is loving, kind, caring and friendly and the entire family adores her. You hate that you can't be like her, you saw this from the moment you met her and it bugged you that she didn't have to act and pretend to get people to like her."

I gasped as he said this, how could he? Tears started to run down my face.

“That’s not true…” I splattered.

“Do you even care that your brother loves her? He chose to marry her.”

“That’s because she tricked him, fell pregnant and had that little brat of hers. Do you know what it means for us if Xander doesn’t have any kids? This is my father’s estate so if I give you a son he will be next in line to take over.” I said to him.

“Are you insane? You want to commit treason against your own brother? Xander will kill you!” He said incredulously. “You can stay here to plot and scheme but count me out. Get out of the bathroom, I would like to shower.” He said and pushed me out of the door, banging it with such a force.

I didn’t want to overthrow Xander but it was just a fact that if he didn’t have any kids, the next in line would be my kids.

Soraya’s POV

We had about twenty minutes before we had to go down for dinner. I was still laying in Xander’s arms. He had fallen asleep for about an hour or so. I had watched him sleep before dozing off myself. When I woke up he was still sleeping, or so I thought.

“What made you change your mind about joining me upstairs?” He asked me.

“I think I won’t ever stop asking you the same questions so I’m just going to say, I’m not going anywhere Xander, we are married for better or worse. Tell me why you won’t open up to me?” I said quietly.

What he said next shocked me, I didn’t expect it at all.

“Hera died Soraya, eight years ago.” He looked like it still haunted him. “She was killed.”

I sat up to look at him. His eyes clouded like the memory was too painful to relive.

“What happened to her?” I whispered.

“I fear that if I tell you, you will see me as a failure. That I’m not capable of taking care of you or our son but not only that, you will see what it is I really am and you won’t like it.” He also sat up and looked at me. Tears were starting to form in his eyes.

“Xander…when I look at you, failure is not a word that comes to mind…” I was about to say something when he cut me off.

“She was at a doctor’s appointment, I was supposed to be with her but I was running late. She had her security detail with her.” He swallowed hard. I could tell he was struggling. I put my hand on his arm.

“I was rushing the driver to get to her because I wanted to see the baby on the scan.” The tears ran down his cheeks.

“She was pregnant? Oh God.” I was shocked.

“When I arrived, I had this feeling like something was wrong, I walked up to the security detail outside to tell them I had arrived but their throats were slit. Angel I...”

I got onto my knees and hugged him tight as he struggled. “It’s okay, I get it, I understand. You don’t have to carry on.”

“They massacred the entire building just to send her father a message, I kept praying that it would be better if they had just kidnapped her cause then maybe I could find her. She was in one of the consultation rooms blood all over her, stabbed to death. Her stomach covered in stab wounds.” He sobbed heavily as I continued to hold him close trying to soothe him.

“I let her down, I wasn’t there and she died. I didn’t protect her like I was supposed to. I failed her.”

“You couldn’t have know that they would ambush her at the doctor’s.”

“I failed my unborn son. They took him away from me. I went after them and I killed them. Every last one of those bastards.” He clenched his fists and jaw as he spoke vehemently.

“Xander, look at me, look at me... you did what you had to. It wasn’t your fault. I’m so sorry you had to go through that. Im not going anywhere, I’m here to stay.” I positioned myself on his lap and hugged him, planting kisses all over his face. “Im not going anywhere.”

All these years and he was still walking around carrying this guilt and I had been pushing him and taunting him. His sobs receded.

“I don’t want to fail you.” He looked at me, his eyes were red. “You’re not going to leave me are you?” He asked.

I shook my head. “Im here to stay.” He kissed me deeply with tears still running down his face. He hugged me close to him as we swayed back and forth.

“I’ll die before I let them take you away from me.” He said with so much determination.

He didn’t say the words but I felt like he wouldn’t say all these things if he didn’t care, if he didn’t love me. He had to love me right? I wanted to say that I loved him but something inside me was scared.

Xander’s POV

I hadn't been planning on telling Soraya about Hera but I decided to take Hector and my mother's advice. I hadn't expected her reaction to be like this. She didn't fight me or accuse me, I had at least expected her to tell me that my world was a dangerous one and she wanted no part of it but she just hugged me and comforted me.

I had expected her to accuse me of bringing our son into this dangerous life, she didn't. Relief flooded my mind.

"Angel I won't let the same thing happen to you." I promised her.

"I know, I know." She said quietly still hugging me. We stayed like that, the room got darker but neither one of us moved.

I felt the heavy weight that always plagued me begin to lessen. I had to make sure I kept my promise. I had to make sure my family was safe and protected at all times. I would find Moretti and end his life, Kai and Soraya would not suffer the same fate.

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Stacy POV

"So does this mean that you and Xander are okay now? This whole hot and cold thing is just giving me whiplash. I joked as Soraya finally explained that Xander had told her about Hera.

Personally I was happy he had finally done it because I didn't have to hide things from my best friend anymore.

We were sitting by the gazebo out by the garden just having some snacks and talking.

"I guess we are okay." She said sounding like she was unsure.

"You guess? Oh have you told him about you know what?" I held my belly to indicate that I was asking her about her pregnancy.

"Stace, I think I need to wait a little longer for that."

“Why? Don’t you think he’s going to notice with all your weird moods and not eating well? Are you still throwing up? Helga has an amazing tonic for morning sickness.” I looked at her and she shook her head.

“The housekeepers in this house clearly know which side their bread is buttered. If you start sharing that tonic with me, Gaia will know that I’m pregnant and then Xander will know and then he will give me hell that I didn’t tell him.” She rolled her eyes. “Im lucky that for the past week he has been leaving the house really early and coming home late.

“But why don’t you want to tell him Raya, I mean why are you hiding it if you guys are okay now.” I was confused.

“Because I have never seen Xander on edge like he is right now. Whatever it is that is bothering him at work is getting to him. If I tell him that I’m pregnant he will obsess even more over safety and we will never leave this estate ever again.” She looked really concern about him.

“So you are waiting for him to sort out this threat?”

“He needs to be calm and think logically, that’s the kind of person he is. This baby might make him happy but it won’t calm him down.”

“Well tomorrow we have the gala, I’m glad that they agreed that we could go. I mean with the security of all the guests at the gala and the venue’s security as well as the Adamos security, things should go well.”

“I still have a bad feeling about going to the gala, I mean Sofija invited us, do you think she still wants us to go?”

I threw my head back and laughed. “It’s not her event so it’s not like we are going there as her plus ones or plus twos or whatever she thinks in her twisted little mind. This invitation is for Xander, Hector, Dorian, and Joud and their spouses.”

“You know I’m not into these things.” She sighed as she popped a cherry tomato in her mouth.

“So you are going to let that gorgeous dress we got just sit in your closet and gather dust? You are going because I need you for moral support. There will be a lot of people there that I am not used to. I have been going to these social gatherings for 3 years and I’m still not used to some of those people.” I pouted my lips and battered my eyelashes making her laugh. “Please don’t feed me to the wolves.

“Okay fine, stop pouting. You have been spending way too much time with the kids. They are teaching you all these tactics.” She giggled.

“Well it worked, I have to go back and tell Kai that his pout and sulk lessons are paying off. I’m probably going to have to pay him with boxes of bitsy’s.”

We both laughed out loud.

As we were talking, her phone buzzed. She looked at it then frowned.

“What’s wrong?” It’s a message from an unknown number, the dialling code is from this country. No one here has my number expect for you, Gaia and Xander.”

“Maybe it’s one of those spam adverts, let me see?” As she handed me her phone, my palm brushed against the touchscreen and the message clicked open. It was a video and below it a picture. I could see who was in the video without having to open it. Xander and another woman, I knew who the woman was. Shock ran through me. “Let me just delete this.” I said quickly but Soraya swiped the phone out of my hands.

“This video is from two nights ago, Xander came home in this exact outfit.” She said in a surprisingly calm tone.

“It’s probably one of Sofija’s stupid pranks, I mean Xander used to date Noëmie but that was like before you came along.” I explained to her.

“He seems to have a long list of women that he dated. It’s fine Stacy. I won’t even watch the video okay? I will delete it. You are probably right, Sofija sent this.” She was still calm as she said this.

“You are acting really odd for someone with pregnancy mood swings.”

“Knowing Sofija, she probably took an innocent video and wants to turn it into something horrible so that I can fight with Xander. I’m tired of these stupid pranks.” She sighed.

I took the phone from her and deleted the message.

“So who is she? This Noëmie lady?” She smiled slightly as she asked.

“She’s a German heiress, Noëmie Krause. Xander met her while she was vacationing in Mykonos three years ago. Hector and I had just gotten married. The Adamos men love to throw lavish parties on yachts. I think Xander did business with her father after that.” I explained.

“That’s all I need to know.” Why don’t we take a walk to the tennis courts, the last time I played was in high school.” She smiled.

“Raya it shouldn’t bother you. Xander loves you. I mean he said he didn’t want you to leave him in a moment of vulnerability.”

Maybe he is just not the monogamous type and I am sitting here just expecting him to be. I mean it’s evident that he has been with many women and I’m not his type you know. He likes them leggy and tall and exotic looking. I can’t compete with that, I guess that would make me his baby making machine.” She said vehemently.

“You are letting it get to you, and are you kidding me? You are gorgeous! You may not be tall but my gosh you could give these hoes a run for their money.” I pointed out.

“Stace, ever since that day when I saw Xander at the hotel with another woman six years ago, I can’t help but think I’m not what he likes, I’m just the mother of his son. I get that we have amazing sex but maybe it’s just that. I try really hard not to be insecure about this but the memory of him treating me like I was a bother to him and just a one night stand is still engraved on my brain no matter how much I try to let go of it. Let’s just go and play some tennis. Unfortunately we both can’t go horse riding.”

I wanted to comfort her and tell her it wasn’t true but she wouldn’t believe it unless it came from the one person who had made her feel that way.

Soraya POV

After playing tennis with Stacy, I went to take a shower. I stood in the shower for quite some time thinking about the message. My mind was just swimming with questions. If Xander had dated her back then, why were they together just a few nights ago? Did any of these women actually know that he was married? Was he sleeping with these women while sleeping with me? Why could I just not let go of my insecurities?

I wasn’t usually this emotional, was it the pregnancy that was making me feel like this? Was it because I loved him and wanted him to only be with me. ‘Snap out of it Soraya!’ I chastised myself.

It felt like he was so genuine when he was with me, like he actually loved me. So he had to. I was not going to torture myself like this. I couldn’t let Sofija get to me. I shut the water off and went to get dress.

Spending time with the kids would make me feel better. I sighed as I left the room to go to the kids play room.

Sofija’s POV.

Clearly my efforts were not working, I had tagged along with Joud to one of his meetings at one of the family clubs only to find out that Hector and Xander would be there too. When Noëmie had come into the VIP, I saw a chance and took it. Even though Xander had told her he was married she had still insisted that they dance for old times sake which was funny because Xander didn’t dance at all. She had hugged herself to him and kissed him on the lips playfully.

Xander had tried to remain calm with her because after all her father had a powerful empire in Germany and Xander was in business with him. It wouldn’t do him well to tell her where to get off. I had managed to get footage from the security room, altered it so that it only showed Noëmie and Xander dancing and her kissing him.

Even after seeing all that, little miss sunshine still walked around the house looking happy. I guess my brother really did love her.

The gala was tomorrow, I still had my trump card. She would go away one way or another.

Soraya's POV

After dinner I helped the nannies get the kids ready for bed, they had decided to built a fort in the afternoon and had excitedly declared that tonight they would sleep in the fort.

“Mommy don't you want to sleep with us in the fort?” Kai asked.

“Yeah it will be fun aunty Raya, please.” Jovan put his hands on my lap and looked up at me with his puppy dog eyes. I couldn't help but chuckle.

“Is it big enough to fit all four of us?” I asked.

“Of course it is, John helped us, it looks like a tent.” Ajana declared looking so proud as she gestured at the fort.

“Please mommy please.” Kai sung and the other two joined in. I laughed.

“Okay, okay.” I agreed and they jumped up and down in excitement.

“I pick the the bedtime story today.” Ajana grinned.

“Oh man! But you are going to pick princess stories!” Kai threw his hands in the air and his head back and she giggled.

“No, this one is a cool story, it's Pocahontas. My favourite.” She ran to the shelve and grabbed the book.

“Okay that's not a bad choice.” Kai came and plonked himself on the floor next to her. Jovan sat next to Kai and they all looked at me waiting for me to open the book.

“Why don't we go and cuddle in the fort, it's nice and comfy in there.” I suggested.

They ran into the fort, it really was big and comfortable with pillows everywhere. John had helped them do a really good job. It was quite amazing how good he was with the kids. They simply adored him and he didn't mind going out of his way to entertain them.

“You sleep here mommy and we will cuddle you.” Kai beamed. I lay on the floor and they each lay down with their heads laying on me. Ajana was on my right shoulder, Jovan on my left and Kai just next to Ajana with his head on my tummy.

I opened the book and began to read it adding some flair which made the kids giggle.

When the story came to an end, each of the kids chose a place with a pillow and I tucked them in. I went to switch the lights off, leaving only the camp light inside the fort. There was a space next to Ajana, I got a pillow and laid down. She cuddled next to me.

“Aunty Raya.” She whispered.

“Yes sweetie?” I looked at her.

“I wish my mommy was more like you, I wish you were my mom.” She confessed.

My heart ached for her. I hugged her closer to me and kissed her forehead.

“Awww sweetie.”

“My mommy doesn’t like me very much.” She continued.

“That’s not true sweetie, she loves you a lot.” I had no idea what to say to her. I just hugged her until she fell asleep.

Chapter 32

Chapter 33 - The Greek Billionaire’s Indecent Proposal

Sofija’s POV

I exited the kids room as quietly as I had gone in. That bitch was turning my own child against me. How could Ajana say that? I mean yes I had never wanted to have kids, much less a daughter but she was mine.

I walked back to my room, I definitely couldn’t wait to get rid of Soraya. She would regret ever coming to Athens. She would regret messing with me! This was my home and I would never let her have it. My brother would always belong to Hera no matter what happened. She was his one and only true love.

I couldn’t help it but give a little scream. I wanted to break everything breakable in sight. I breathed in and out, trying to calm myself. Even Joud was turning on me, he was so loyal to my brother he couldn’t even see his own potential. He might have been a last born and overlooked by his family but he was much more smarter and more powerful than any of his halfwit brothers who were running his father’s businesses to the ground. I had seen his potential from the moment I laid eyes on him.

I was doing this for him and our future son. He would see it soon. He would thank me when it all became a reality.

Xander's POV

Soraya was not in our room, had she gone back to the guest bedroom? I walked there and opened the door, there was no one and the bed was made. Maybe she had fallen asleep in Kai's room. I checked the time, it was two in the morning.

I walked into the kids rooms to see that they had built a fort. I chuckled softly as I walked towards it. Soraya lay there with Ajana cuddled up to her. I couldn't help but smile. I didn't have the heart to wake her, I'd never seen any woman be such a good mother, I loved my mother but growing up I knew that I wasn't just a product of her but my grandparents and the nannies as well. Soraya insisted on spending time with Kai and doing things for him instead of letting the nannies handle everything.

I admired that so much about her. Usually Sasha and Sofija were too busy attending social events to spend time with the kids.

I exited the room and went back to the bedroom. Security protocols for the gala had been discussed over and over again. Moretti was nowhere near Greece. I had been on edge, as powerful as my family's name was, there was always someone out there looking to make a name for themselves by going after the biggest target they could find and Moretti Had chosen me.

I never underestimated my opponents no matter how small they were. Moretti was smart enough to know that I had weaknesses, a man's weaknesses could bring him to his knees no matter how powerful he was.

What put me on edge was that it wasn't even about taking over my territories anymore, he didn't care about my businesses. He wanted to see me bleed. I would not give him that satisfaction.

Soraya's POV

After getting the kids ready for breakfast in the morning I headed towards the guest bedroom and locked my door. I could feel the nausea just building up inside me. I ran to the bathroom and sat on the floor by the toilet and started to heave.

Stacy was right, I wouldn't be able to keep this from Xander for too long. With my first pregnancy my morning sickness had not been this bad. In fact it had been a simple pregnancy, even though I was terrified of doing something wrong most of the time, I had enjoyed it.

I brought up the contents of my stomach and when there was nothing to bring up, the bile came out. I closed the toilet and flushed it then sat there for a while just trying to breathe to settle my stomach.

I got up and brushed my teeth then I got into the shower. Even though I had gone back to Xander's bedroom, I had opted to leave some of my things in the guest bedroom.

After getting dressed I went downstairs, I had to take a walk, there was no way that I could keep anything down for breakfast. I decided going to visit my parents would be a better idea.

I let myself in, my mom was already in the kitchen making a pot of tea.

"Mom, do you have a recipe for a tonic that will take away my nausea?" I asked her.

"I hear Helga makes a fine tonic." She joked and I rolled my eyes. "Still keeping secrets are we?"

"No, I'm just waiting for the right time."

"The right time to do what?" My dad asked as he came into the kitchen.

"Uhhh...to tell Xander that I'm pregnant." I said in a low voice.

"And when were you going to tell your old man?" He smiled and held out his arms for me. I hugged him.

"Today..." I said and he chuckled.

"So why are you keeping it from him." My dad asked looking at me suspiciously.

"He has just been really busy and on edge dad." I said hoping that they would drop the topic. "I need something to make me stop throwing up."

"There's a remedy I can make for you. It has a little ginger." My mom smiled at me.

My phone began to ring. I took it out of my back pocket and walked to the den to answer it.

"Xander?"

"Angel, Where are you?" He asked over the phone.

"At my parents, i came to check on my dad." I lied. I was actually hiding from him as well.

"Oh, I thought I would see you this morning, you were not at breakfast." He sounded concerned.

"I will see you later, when we are getting ready for the gala." I tried to buy myself some time so that I could be completely calm about last night's situation.

"Are you okay?" He asked.

“Why wouldn’t I be? I will see you later. I have to go.” I quickly hung up.

“I’m just going to hang out in your painting room mom.” I called out. I couldn’t take the questions from my parents either.

I took out a canvas and some pencils and started to draw.

Stacy’s POV

“Okay so I have brought in someone to help with our make up and someone for our nails and another for our hair. It’s going to take all day to get ready. Oh my gosh I am so excited.” I exclaimed.

This was totally me, I loved to go out and be the life of the party. I loved to dress up in fancy clothes and have my nails and hair done. The fact that Hector knew this and spared no expense when it came to my requests was like a fairytale to me. He always indulged me.

Soraya was still looking a little down even though she choked it up to morning sickness. I didn’t believe her one bit but I didn’t push. We sat by the pool while our nails were being done.

“You know what’s missing right now? Champagne!” I sighed and she laughed.

“You are crazy. But yeah I think alcohol would definitely make me feel better right now.” She giggled.

“Remember the first time you and I had alcohol?” I asked her. We looked at each other and burst into fits of laughter.

“We were 16, your dad’s liquor cabinet. It was just before we had to leave for Carter Neeson’s party. The first one I had actually been invited to.” She laughed.

“And we thought it would be a good idea to loosen ourselves up by taking shots of my dad’s whiskey. Little did we know that it was so potent.” I added.

“We thought we were so mature with those whiskey glasses in our hands, downing one after the other, I kept wondering if it was supposed to burn my chest the way it did.” She laughed so hard she had tears running down her cheeks.

“It was the dumbest idea. We ended missing the party because we were too drunk to leave the house. I could have married a quarterback.” We settled down but we were still giggling.

“I was such a nerd but when I was around you I felt like I belonged everywhere.” She said, making me tear up.

“Awww Raya. I’m the one that’s lucky to have you.”

We got dressed together while we waited for Xander and Hector.

Soraya looked amazing in her burgundy A line off the shoulder sweep train chiffon evening gown. It had some sequins detail with a split front, she matched it up with champagne gold Jimmy Choo embellished leather stiletto sandals. Her hair was super glamorous! In multiple twists that have been overlapped to make a low bun look with some accessories to add a little dazzle.

My dress was a navy blue mermaid off the shoulder sweep train Velvet evening dress with a split front as well. I had chosen silver Gucci stilettos. My hair was done up in a big puffy bun.

Our make up was light but flawless. Gaia had given Soraya, Sofija and I beautiful neck pieces with matching earrings as gifts to wear tonight.

“I feel like Cinderella.” Soraya smiled.

“You are going to steal the show on Xander’s arm tonight. I beamed at her.

Xander’s POV

Myself, Hector, Dorian and Joud waited downstairs for the ladies. Sasha and Sofija came down first, then Stacy and Soraya appeared at the top of the stairs. I couldn’t stop staring at her, she looked like a goddess, descending down the stairs. She was the most beautiful woman I’d ever seen. I couldn’t wait to show her off. I took her hand in mine.

“You look gorgeous, like a goddess.” I whispered and she blushed. I led her out to the car. Hector and Stacy would travel in the Rolls Royce with Soraya and I. Dorian, Joud and their spouses would follow in the other Rolls Royce.

Chapter 33

Chapter 34 - The Greek Billionaire’s Indecent Proposal

Soraya’s POV

I had never been to anything like this, I felt like I was watching the Oscar’s but I was there at the same time. Expensive Chauffeured cars, red carpet, photographers, expensive champagne. Men and women in cotour

There was live entertainment, celebrities I had only seen in magazines and newspapers. This was more than just a gala, it was a ball. Where the rich and famous gathered to catch up in style while they did saw to their “corporate social responsibilities”. I was bewildered.

Xander looked dashing in his Issey Miyake Tuxedo, it fitted him to perfection, emphasising his well built tall physic. His hair slicked back drawing attention to his beautiful jawline and dimples, as we walked in, champagne in our hands, he introduced me to his acquaintances as his wife, a corporate lawyer. Some of the people there were pleased and some, mostly women would give us side glances. There was irritation in their eyes.

I felt proud to be walking with him as he held my hand to make sure it was linked to his arm, and I did what any dutiful wife would do; smile and laugh sweetly at the jokes that were told. Answer politely and smartly to any questions that were thrown my way. We looked like we were a genuinely happy couple who was so in love. I was still a little upset at him because of the video but I tried to push it to the back of my mind.

I hadn't told Stacy that I had retrieved the message with the video and picture from a cloud and watched it over and over again. I could tell that Xander had been trying to be the perfect gentleman in the video but this Noémie lady kept pushing herself towards him. I kept thinking he should have been blunt. What if the roles had been reversed and I was plastered to an ex boyfriend like that, would he be just as upset as I was? He always made jokes about how he could not stand to think of me with someone else, at least I thought they were jokes because at times they sounded like threats.

So he had to understand how it made me feel to see him around his exes allowing them to be handsy. Why did these women feel entitled to be around him and have their hands on him like that? Which begged the question did he tell them he was now married or was it just the kind of person he was? Keep a wife at home and have mistresses outside.

As we were approaching Stacy and Hector who had been mingling, Xander turned to me and smiled. “You have been holding on to that champagne glass, pretending to be taking sips. Angel are you okay?” He asked.

I hadn't thought that he would notice. I blinked a couple of times not sure what to say. “Uhhh, I had an upset stomach this morning. Probably the food I ate the previous night, I actually didn't want to drink tonight.” I said quickly.

“Mother says you been missing meals and when you do eat, you play around with the food in your plate.” He looked concerned.

“Your house has way too many spies.” I rolled my eyes.

“You mean our house. They don't spy, they inform me because that's how I make sure everything is okay on the home front.” He chuckled as he said this.

“Tomato, tomata.” It’s all the same to me. I could drop a pin in the den and you would know about it the moment you walked into the house.” I said sarcastically.

He threw his head back and laughed. “I understand that these past few weeks have been a little difficult to adjust to but things will get better soon and back to normal, I promise.” He said. “Now I will get you a non alcoholic drink.”

“My version of normal and yours are very different Xander.” I said quietly but he chose to ignore my statement.

Stacy and Hector smiled at us as we stood in front of them. “I love me a woman that can go all Ultimate fighting champion one day and slay in a ball gown the next.” Hector joked as he looked at me.

I found myself laughing. “You’ve got jokes.” I rolled my eyes playfully.

“I have never seen two women look like goddesses and angels at the same time. You and Stacy both look ravishing. I’d say Xander and I are the luckiest men here tonight.”

“Flattery will get you everything Mr Adamos.” Stacy beamed at the complement.

“Thank you Hector, you clean up pretty darn well yourself!” I grinned.

“Well I will get you that drink now, wait here with Stacy.” Xander took the glass from my hand and gestured for Hector to join him.

As they walked away, Stacy linked her hand to mine. “What was wrong with the one you had?” She raised her eyebrows in question.

“I told him I didn’t want to drink tonight because I had an upset stomach in the morning from something I ate.” I explained to her.

“Did he buy it?” She asked curiously.

“He doesn’t suspect anything. Gosh here comes Sofija and Sasha.” I secretly gestured towards their direction.

“Well we’ll well, Cinderella pulled it off after all. She is the bell of the ball and has everyone talking.” Sofija drawled and smirked. “Must be nice to have all this attention on you.”

“Give it a rest Sofija, don’t you get tired?” Stacy chastised her.

She was about to respond when a photographer walked up to us. “Ladies, you look lovely, May I get a picture of the Adamos women together?” He had a French accent.

“Of course Francois darling. You better make me look good” Sofija cooed at him.

“How do I even begin to try and improve on flawless perfection.” He drawled as he gestured for us to stand close together. He took a few snaps then he looked at his frames.

“Sans défaut! Magnifique! Mrs Xander Adamos the camera loves you and mon Dieu! That dress was made for you.” He looked at me. I couldn’t help but blush. He had a way of making women ooze confidence.

“Thank you Francois.” I smiled politely.

“Well you need to get some pictures of me by myself Francois darling.” Sofija walked towards him and linked her arm to him.

“But of course.” He smiled and winked at me as they walked off with Sasha following behind them.

“Poor Sasha, she has to deal with all that.” Stacy looked at her with sympathy.

“I think she likes being in the shadows, she feels much safer there.” I observed.

The men came back with our drinks and we roamed around some more before the dinner began. During the meal we were placed at a table with two dignitaries, their spouses and a Sheikh who had come with two of his wives, conversation seemed to flow beautifully. We were entertained by famous pianists, artists and two of the speakers were a Hollywood actor and actress.

The set menu was amazing but I was having a hard time finishing my food. I tried to have a few mouths full of everything that was put in front of me so as to not arouse suspicion from Xander but half way through i felt like some of the smells were making my stomach churn.

Hector was the more social one of all the Adamos men, he went up to the stage to make pledges on behalf of the family and even cracked a few jokes, he had everyone laughing and women drooling. Stacy beamed, she watched with so much pride radiating out of her.

As the evening progressed, one of the waiters serving our table seemed to stumble and almost fall, he managed to keep his balance but the tray with its contents of drinks went crashing into the floor. It was unfortunate that it happened very close to Sofija’s seat. Some of the champagne went flying her way and spraying her beautiful sky blue gown. She gave a little shriek and forgot where she was as she hurled insults at the poor guy. Joud who was sitting beside her quickly got up and hushed her as the poor waiter apologised profusely. They both helped her out of her chair to lead her out.

The mess was cleaned up and peace was maintained. When the dinner was done and we continued to mingle, it wasn’t long before one of Xander’s exes showed up to introduce herself. I wasn’t surprised because it seemed everywhere we went these women seemed to pop up.

I wasn’t holding his hand as I had been putting away a empty glass onto a tray that the same waiter from before held up. I thanked him politely then turned my attention this woman and

Xander. She planted an intimate kiss in his cheek and placed her hand over his chest, complementing him.

“Bella, let me introduce you to my wife Soraya Adamos. Honey this is Bella Laurent an old friend.”

“Is that what we call them these days.” I whispered so that only he could hear me but I smiled at Bella.

“Bella, it’s uhhh a pleasure to meet you, I don’t know what the etiquette is around here for respecting boundaries when it comes to one’s husband but I’m pretty sure your hands on my husband is a misdemeanour.” I said with the utmost sweetest tone and smiled innocently.

“Hector gave a chuckle in the background and Stacy gave him a small smack on his shoulder to shoosh him.

“Xander and I go way back.” She emphasised by looking up at him, rubbing her hand on his chest and smiling.

“I’m pretty sure you do but people might start to think you are throwing yourself at a married man. That won’t look good for you will it, and in front of his poor sweet wife no less.” I continued to give her a polite smile.

Xander stepped away from her and took my hand. “Why don’t we go and catch up with some of my associates.” He could see that I was angry even though I was smiling.

We walked away but as we got close to one of the exit doors that led to a hallway I shook my hand away from him and glared at him.

“She would have stopped eventually.” He tried to excuse it. I walked into the hallway and walked off leaving him standing there but then I felt like maybe I had been too dramatic so I turned around to go and apologise and the woman was standing right next to him again.

Xander’s POV

I couldn’t understand why Soraya was very temperamental lately, she usually was calm even when she was angry but lately her anger was beyond unusual. The last thing I wanted was to have Bella plastered all over me but I found it amusing when Soraya got jealous and set her straight. I wasn’t one to make a huge fuss in public, if it was in private I would have set her straight bluntly.

I saw the murderous look in her eyes as Bella lathered her hand on my chest and laughed at something. I wasn’t even listening to Bella, I was looking at my angel as she turned around to look at me. Instead of coming back she turned and walked towards the direction of the ladies room.

“Excuse me Bella, I think my wife told you that this was rude in the nicest way possible, now I’m going to be blunt. You are acting like a desperate whore, I am married, fucking stop putting your hands on me. I can’t say that it was lovely seeing you.” I said to her and she reluctantly stepped away from me with so much shock in her face.

I walked towards the way she went and saw her entering the ladies room. As she walked in I walked right behind her and closed the door.

“Excuse me, what are you doing Xander. This is the ladies room.” She said to me with so much irritation in her voice.

“I know that, I can read.” I said as I looked around making sure there was no one else in there with us before proceeding to lock the door.

“What is wrong with you, why did you just lock the door? Open it.” She looked at me incredulously.

“I want us to talk without you running off.” I looked her directly in her eyes.

“You’re the one that usually does the storming out because you don’t want to answer questions.” she said, standing there with her hands on her hips. She looked so good in her dress, it had a slit on the one side of her thigh showing of her beautiful shape. The colour of the dress making her sapphire eyes and her smile the stars of the canvas.

“And you cause silly unnecessary tantrums.” I said but before I knew it she reached forward and slapped me. The sound echoed through the silence. She retracted her hand like she had hurt herself. I clenched my jaw and rubbed the spot where her palm had landed.

“You don’t get to flirt with your stupid mistress right in front of me and then tell me I’m having a silly tantrum. She retorted.

“I dare you to do that again.” I said to her, my voice more menacing than I meant for it to sound.

“What are you going to do? Xander the mighty and powerful is going to hit a small woman?”

“You are always fighting me, why? I am trying to make you happy, everything I am doing out there is for you and Kai.” I said trying to maintain a low tone.

“Are you sure about that? I think you want me near you because im the mother of your child. To you, I am a good enough incubator! I don’t understand why you want to pretend you like me when you have the attention of other women. I bet you Bella is waiting for you! You should go to her.” She said in a seething tone. “First it was Maya, then Noëmie now it’s Bella.” She laughed and rolled her eyes.

“What?” I was confused.

“Oh this was sent to me just the other day.” She took her phone out and played a video of me with Noëmie at the club.

“Nothing happened, I have not been with any of those women ever since I married you!” I gritted my teeth.

“Liar! Don’t lie to me. It’s better if you just don’t say anything at all and you just storm out. I am tired of this Xander, being with you is emotionally exhausting for me. I want to go back home.” She looked like she was about to cry. I walked towards her but she raised her hand to stop me from coming any closer.

“I will get Cassius to take us home.” I said to her.

“No I mean I want to go back to Phoenix, why couldn’t I just meet someone normal without secrets and family dynamics to be with. Someone who actually loves me.” She cried, tears started to run down her cheeks.

“What do you mean someone who actually loves you, I love you Angel, you and Kai are my world.” I walked towards her again and she backed away.

“You don’t, when you love somebody you don’t let other women touch you, when you love somebody you want to share all of you with them. You don’t hide things from the one you love, when you love someone you tell them you love them.” She was actually sobbing. She grabbed a cloth napkin on the basin and started to dab her face with it. “If the roles were reversed and it was a man who on me the way Bella was on you, the way Noemi and all these other fucking women have been with you, you would make all kinds of threats, this is making me all so insecure and this is not me.” She gave me a cold look.

“Please leave Xander, leave this bathroom.” She said, her voice barely audible.

“Soraya...I do love you.” I tried to speak but she wouldn’t let me.

“Leave! Just leave!” she screamed.

I felt so conflicted standing there wanting to comfort her so badly. All this time she thought I didn’t love her. If she only knew that my whole being craved her so much, being away from her felt like I was living on borrowed air. If I pushed to talk with her, there would be too much of a commotion and then there would be a story on the front page of a newspaper, I didn’t care about that but I knew that she would and my mother would chastise me for it. I sighed and unlocked the door. “I will meet you in the car. We can talk at home.”

Chapter 34

Chapter 35 - The Greek Billionaire's Indecent Proposal

Soraya's POV

I rushed into the open door of the Rolls Royce and asked the chauffeur to close the door and take me home.

“What about Master Xander, is he not coming with us Madam?”

“No he's not, send for another car for him and Hector, talk to Simon. Let's go Cassius.” I said impatiently.

“Yes ma'am.” He closed the door and went to the driver's side.

Sitting through that entire gala had been a amazing at first but I could feel my mood changing as the smells of the food began to make my stomach churn. Watching that desperate brunette bimbo wrap herself around Xander, I wanted to claw at her. It took all of me to remain calm but when Xander didn't distance himself from her it made me even more mad. I took a deep breath and tried not to cry, I had done too much crying. I had tried to fix my make up in the bathroom but realised I didn't want to go back in there and pretend to play happy family while he disrespected me.

As the car was about to pull off, there was a knock on the driver's window and he rolled it down. It was Sofija, gosh what did the bitch want.

“Open the door Cassius, I will be riding with you. My husband and brother will ride back together.” She drooled and smiled.

He came out of the car and opened the back door to let her in, she slid in and draped herself on the seat like a cat. The spill on her dress had disappeared.

“Poor poor Soraya, I remember vividly telling you my brother liked models, don't you remember?”

“Sofija I really am not in the mood. I want to ride back home in peace.” I said to her.

“But where would be the fun in all that for me?.” She drawled.

I pretended to zone out and just looked out the window as we drove. She kept talking and laughing and it was starting to get to me. The partition was down so I could see our security

detail in front of us slow down, it looked like we were approaching an intersection, there wasn't a lot of traffic but the traffic lights were not working and there seemed to be a roadblock, cars were being diverted.

Cassius rolled down the window to speak to one of the men with a sign that was diverting cars to turn back. The man smiled at Cassius and greeted him in Macedonian but before I knew it gun shots were being fired at the security detail in front of us then the man outside our car pulled out a gun from behind him and fired two shots quickly as Cassius tried to close the window, there shots were not a loud bang, they sounded so swift as the bullets flew out of the gun like a sharp bullwhip crackling. Cassius went silent and his body sagged on the seat. My body went numb as I gasped, the man looked at me and smiled, he looked familiar, he was the waiter from the gala dinner. He opened the door and pushed Cassius out of the car then took his place. Sofija who had been in a shocked state began to scream right next to me, the man turned around and looked at us, I was frozen to the spot not sure how to react as Sofija began trying to bargain with the man.

“Whoever you are, whatever you want we have money we can pay. Don't hurt us.” She stammered. He pulled out what looked like a tranquilliser dart gun and fired at Sofija who screamed then turned the gun to me and fired, everything started to get very blurry, suddenly I couldn't hear Sofija screaming anymore. Just gunshots outside the car as the car took off and a very loud explosion. I thought of Xander and what this would do to him then all of a sudden a deep darkness consumed me.

Xander's POV

I guess I did deserve the slap I received from Soraya, my actions definitely earned me her outburst . I watched her walk out of the lobby and walk into the car. I wanted to go after her but it was better to let her go than try and talk to her here were there would be many eyes and ears, I would talk to her at the house, there was no way that I would let her go to back to Phoenix.

Soraya didn't believe that I loved her, how could she not? I combed my brain trying to remember if I had ever said the words out aloud or never like she had just accused me of not doing it.

“Ever since Hera had died, I hadn't expressed any kind of love to any woman, my relationships were purely for a sexual need so there was no need to say any of that to the women. I had spend time with Soraya to show her that I really loved her and wanted to be with her. I guess the fact that I'd never expressed into words how I felt about her coupled with the attention from other women, she was justified in feeling that way.

I sighed. ‘There you go blowing it again Xander.’ I chastised myself.

“Where is Soraya?” Stacy and Hector approached me.

“She just left to go back home.” I informed them.

“Xander you are a jerk you know that! That woman is going through hell trying to figure you out and you don't make it easy for her! Every time a woman goes near you she is taken back to the

day you rejected her at the hotel and left with another woman...Gosh she is stressed and the pregnancy hormones are not helping..." Stacy bit her lower lip and kept quiet.

"What do you mean pregnancy hormones Stacy?" My heart leapt.

"Gosh she's going to kill me but you need to know this! She's pregnant and you are going to endanger the baby if you keep upsetting her."

Everything made sense now, how could I have missed it. Her moods were similar to Hera's when she had been pregnant, she wasn't eating we'll probably because she had morning sickness, she wasn't drinking alcohol. I sighed. "We need to go back home." I said to them.

"You need to stop with these women. She thinks you are sleeping with them." Stacy continued to set me straight.

"I am not, I have to talk to her." We walked out and waited. Soraya had left with the first car. We only had one more. "Joud and Dorian can stay behind and wait for another car. Are you coming with me?" I asked Hector and Stacy.

"Of course." They said as the second driver pulled up. We got into the car and it pulled off. Hector informed Joud and Dorian over the phone that they would have to wait for another car.

"I'm going to call her." Stacy said as she took out her phone. "Aargh it just rings and rings. She looked frustrated.

Hector's phone began to ring then mine rang as well. We both answered then we looked at each other. "What do you mean there was a security breach." I yelled over the phone. I listened to Simon speaking then my entire body went cold. "Simon you better be joking because I will kill you! Where is my wife?!" I could feel myself shaking uncontrollably.

"What was the GPS's last location?" Anger and fear coursed through me, I could feel myself breathing heavily as I tried to remain calm.

"Get to the place Simon! Find her! I'm on my way!" I hung up the call.

"What's going on?" Stacy looked panicked. "Is Soraya okay? Please tell me she's okay." Tears started to form in her eyes.

I couldn't speak, I yelled some instructions at the driver and told him to drive fast.

"Soraya has been kidnapped." Hector informed Stacy and she went white in the face.

"No, no no no!" She screamed and began to cry. "It can't be."

Hector pulled her into his arms and began to comfort his wife. That made me rage even more because I had let my wife get into a car by herself and now she was taken. I silently sent up a prayer. ‘Don’t let them take her away from me. I won’t survive this. Please God.’

Finally we got the place where the last location of the car had pinged, it was a dark alley way. The GPS was destroyed and the car doors were opened wide but there was no Soraya. The driver’s area had blood on the seat. I couldn’t take anymore. I fell to my knees. This was my fault, I failed her just like I had failed Hera.

Chapter 35

Chapter 36 - The Greek Billionaire’s Indecent Proposal

Hector’s POV

I watched Xander’s face change from rage to worry then back to pure anger. His fists were clenched as the driver took us to the location where Cassius had been ambushed.

“I need the cameras for this intersection, the footage from every street that these goddamn people took after they dumped the car! I need the police force on this right now! I don’t care if you have to fucking wake the Lieutenant General from his sleep to give the order! You’re the fucking head of security Simon! Make it happen.”

I hung up my phone as the car halted, there were bullet casings all over the road. The security detail cars were bomb proof but the attackers had managed to throw a bomb in through the drivers windows. Cassius’ body was laying in a open body bag on the side of the road. There were a team of police, forensic squad and the ME’s combing through the place.

Xander silently surveyed the scene without uttering a word then he walked back into the car.

“Who is the lead investigator on this case?” I asked one of the police men. He pointed to a man that was talking to one of the forensic specialists.

“Lieutenant Georgiou.” I walked towards them. He excused himself and walked to me.

“Yes, Mr Adamos, I’m under strict orders to keep you informed of our findings sir.” The lead investigator said to me as we walked towards the car. “My man are combing through this scene, anything we find we will be sure to let you know.

“Good, my head of security Simon will be in touch.”

I walked back into the car. Xander was still quiet, I could not tell if he was formulating a plan in his mind or he resigned himself from thinking at all.

“We will find her Xander, she’s going to be okay.” I assured him.

“Let’s go, these men won’t find anything here.” He said then resigned himself back to his silent state.

I instructed the driver to take us to the warehouse. As we drove there, I received a text that confirmed that Stacy was home safe, I couldn’t even try to pretend I understood what Xander was going through. All that I knew was that if it had been Stacy in that car, I would be all over the place.

I had seen Xander like this before when Hera was killed, I knew very well that from this point whoever was responsible for this was living on borrowed time. He would rue the day that he decided to go against Xander.

Xander’s POV

My very instinct right now was to punch and smash everything in sight but that would not bring her back. I had to keep calm if I wanted to find her. I wondered if Moretti would keep Soraya alive or kill her right there and then. His style was more the flaunting kind. He would dangle her life right in front of me before he did anything to her. I had to find him before he laid his hands on her, I had to find her before she experienced trauma that was irreversible. She was pregnant, if he tortured her she would not be able to withstand any of it.

I wondered what state she was in, if she was panicking or calm. She was stubborn, that would aggravate Moretti and taunt him to teach her some sort of lesson. I wondered how all this would affect Kai, I’d never forgive myself if I couldn’t get Soraya back. He would be devastated. What would I say to her parents, I had promised her father that I would keep her safe. I clenched my jaw.

Simon walked into the warehouse.

“We found out how Moretti was able to come into Greece without being caught. He is working with the Cirillo boys. They have a shipping company and one of their cargo ships by the Port of Piraeus docked a few days ago from Libya, Moretti must have come here straight from Libya. We have all the exits out of Athens secured, he won’t be able to leave Athens.”

“Unless he uses a private helicopter to get him out of Athens. What makes you think that he hasn’t done that already?” I asked Simon coldly.

I could see the fear in his eyes, I could tell he wanted to look away from my stare but he dared not because he knew that it would piss me off. “Simon you better pray that my wife is alive, you better pray that I find her alive and unharmed!” I snarled at him.

Joud walked in to the warehouse, his face was full of rage. "I can't find Sofija, she must have been with Soraya. I think she was taken too.

"So what do we do next?" Hector asked me.

"We wait, for Moretti to make first contact." I said quietly then walked to an office that was in the warehouse. I wanted to pour myself a drink so badly but I had to keep my wits about me.

Sofija's POV

"Aargh!" My head was pounding so hard and my mouth was very dry, my eyelids felt so heavy. I was laying on a bed but this didn't feel like my bed. The room was too dark for me to see anything, had I drank too much at the gala? Joud would be so upset. He hadn't even helped me out of my gown or shoes. I needed a painkiller to stop this pounding in my head. I shifted on the bed and my hand brushed up against someone. I let my hand travel on this person's body, it wasn't Joud. The material of their clothes felt like it was a dress. I shut my eyes and tried to remember last night's events and then anger ran through me.

That damn waiter! He wasn't supposed to drug me too! Where the hell were we?! Why was I laying in here with Soraya next to me. I sat up on the bed and looked around waiting for my eyes to adjust to the dark. That bloody fool had messed up my instructions! I hope he didn't think I would pay him the rest of his money after this! Or was he thinking he could kidnap us both and ask my family for a ransom? He had another thing coming because Xander and Joud would kill him.

Panic ran through me when I thought of my brother, what if he told Xander that I had orchestrated the kidnapping. Xander would never forgive me, I had to get out of here. I got up and tried to find some sort of light switch, I navigated close to the door and found it. I turned it on then tried to open the door, it was locked. That stupid bastard had locked me in!

I screamed in annoyance, there were no curtains on the windows and it looked like the windows were barred. Soraya started to stir, she groaned as she shifted on the bed. My first thought was to hide but how long could I hide for, she would see me eventually. I didn't know where this bastard had taken us or how long we were out for or even how long it would take for him to come back. I had to act like I knew nothing and I was just a victim just like her.

I walked to the bed and sat down pretending that I'd just gotten up too.

She turned around to look at me. "Sofija, where are we?"

Soraya's POV

As I looked around me, the memories from the car came flooding into my mind. The waiter from the gala, Cassius being shot in the head twice, the explosions that sounded like a bomb had been detonated. The sedative being shot into my arm. Where were we? Who was that waiter and why did he take us?

Sofija sat right on the other side of the bed. The light felt like it was too bright for me to concentrate. “Sofija, where are we?” I mumbled out trying to sit up.

She looked at me and rolled her eyes. “I was laying right here next to you, how would I know where we are!”

She was shifty but her demeanour different from her panicked state when we were in the car. I wasn’t going to get into it with her, it wasn’t worth it. I needed some water to drink, my mouth was too dry and I found it hard to swallow.

I got up and steadied myself then walked to the door, it was locked.

“I already checked it.” Sofija informed me. “There’s no way out of here. The windows are barred too.”

I looked around the room, there was nothing but the bed we lay on and two side tables, she was right, we couldn’t even see out the windows to check where we were, was it morning? How long had we been out? There was another door, I opened it to find a bathroom with a bath, basin and toilet. The toilet was decent enough to use and the kidnapper, whoever he was had put two rolls of toilet paper. The windows in the toilet were also barred.

I walked to the basin and opened the water. I cupped the water with my hands and took some sips. When I was satisfied I turned of the tap then I sat on the edge of the bath and removed my shoes. The bad feeling that I had had before the gala could have never prepared me for this. I don’t know if I was in shock or what but as scared as I was I could not cry. I had this feeling that Xander would find me. I remembered his words when he told me about the type of enemies he had and how they would come for myself and Kai. Who was this man who had orchestrated this kidnapping.

It was the thought of Kai that did it. Suddenly the tears ran down my face and I fell to the bathroom floor. Xander would keep him safe. They wouldn’t be able to get to him at the estate. I had to be brave and wait for Xander, he would come. He had to come.

I couldn’t let him go through the same thing he went through with Hera. Stacy would tell him that I am pregnant, I hoped that he would stay calm and not lose control. I wiped my tears, grabbed my shoes and got up from the floor. As I walked back into the room the door opened and the waiter from the gala came in, behind him was a man with a gun and a young woman holding a tray with two plates and some bottles of water. I hurried and sat on the bed.

“Ladies, I see the sedative has worn off, you were out for quite some time.” He smiled cockily.

Sofija stood up and glared at him. “You!” She walked towards him and the second guy raised his gun making her stop. She scowled at him. “I demand to speak to you privately!” She yelled at him.

“Lady I suggest you sit and eat, when it’s time to talk, you will talk.” He said in a thick accent. If you try anything, you might not live to regret it. Stay put.”

He indicated for the young woman to place the food in the table. She looked frightened as she walked towards the side table and placed the food on it.

She walked back to stand behind the waiter. “If you don’t eat, We wont make an effort to bring you anymore food. I want to see those plates empty when I return.” He chuckled arrogantly then he turned around, leading them out. The door closed and the key turned, the door was locked again.

I turned to look at Sofija, I was confused. Why did she want to talk to him privately. Both her and I were in the same situation. What did she want to say to this man that she couldn’t say in front of me.

Chapter 36

Chapter 37 - The Greek Billionaire’s Indecent Proposal

Stacy’s POV

“Babe, we will find her. I promise I will do everything in my power to find her.” Hector held me in his arms while I cried. I couldn’t stop crying, I couldn’t stop thinking about what would happen to Soraya. The men wouldn’t give any more details about what was going on, they just kept saying they would find her.

“What if they kill her before you get to her.” I said in between sobs. “What are we going to tell her parents? Who will tell them that she’s missing... Hector! Poor Kai, he can’t grow up without his mother.”

“Babe, you have to calm down my love. It’s not good for the baby. We will find her.” He led me to the bed and pulled the covers away then sat me on the bed. “Take this, it will help you sleep. I had Dr Mariolis send it over for you.”

“I can’t sleep, not when I don’t know how my best friend is doing.” I sniffed as he wiped the tears of my face with both his thumbs. He cupped my face and looked at me with a serious face.

“Stacy, drink. There’s nothing you can do and I’m not going to let you sit here and overthink. You need to sleep.” He said sternly.

I took the pill then grabbed the glass of water on the side table. He kissed my forehead then lifted my feet so they were on the bed. "I love you baby." He sighed and tucked the covers around me.

Hector's POV

I sat down on the side of the bed rubbing Stacy's back, waiting for her to fall asleep. I had no business promising that everything would be alright but I didn't know what else to say to calm her down.

Her eyes slowly started to flutter then she was asleep. She was right about one thing, how were we going to tell Soraya's parents that she was missing. I had a feeling that would not go down well. I got up and went to look for Xander.

He was in his office with Aunt Gaia. She stood next to his chair with her hand on his shoulder. He was hunched over on his chair, his hands covered his face as he leaned towards the table.

"Snap out of it Xander! Yes they were taken but we will do everything we can to get them back. We will find them and make this Moretti piece of rubbish pay.

"Mother I need a moment to just get my head straight."

"We have mobilised all the cousins, everyone is out there looking for her and on the lookout for Moretti." I told her.

She nodded her head. "Son I know this feeling is all too familiar, but you can't break down now. You need your head straight." She pulled him up from the hunched position that he was in. "For Kai's sake you need to stay strong."

"Mother! Please! I just have a headache, I know that I need to stay calm and I am calm. Give me a moment to ride out this headache." He snapped.

"Hector, call Helga and tell her to bring some aspirins and water." She instructed, under normal circumstances she would have put Xander in his place for snapping at her but she was just as worried and understood where he was coming from.

"Before I do that aunt Gaia, we need to talk about Soraya's parents, what are we going to tell them." I asked cautiously.

"I think we should leave them out of the loop for now." His mother said.

"No, we tell them the truth." Xander said. He got up and walked towards the door. "I'm not going to lie to Soraya's father." He walked out of the office ignoring his mother's disapproving sigh.

"Give him some time aunt Gaia, I know Xander. He is preparing. If he wasn't, he would be raging and beating up everyone that got in his way." She nodded when I said this.

Xander's POV

I needed some silence to think and everyone kept interrupting me. I walked upstairs to the kid's rooms. It was early morning so the kids would still be in bed.

As I walked into Kai's room, I thought of Soraya sitting in the kids playroom laughing with the kids. I sighed heavily and went to sit on the edge of his bed. The bed dipped a little as I sat, he stirred and opened his eyes.

"Daddy..." he said groggily.

"Hey son, I didn't mean to wake you up."

"Are you back from the party? Where's mommy? I forgot to tell her that she looked like a princess in her dress." He sat up on the bed and yawned.

A lump caught in my throat. "She's not back yet son. As soon as she's back you can tell her, okay?"

He nodded his head. "Mommy is the most beautiful, prettiest mommy in the whole world isn't she daddy?" I smiled at him when he said this.

"There's no one like her, she is son. Why don't you get some more sleep, it's still early."

"Can you cuddle with me daddy?"

"Of course, scoot over champ." I lay next to him and he snuggled his little body closer to my chest. I kissed his forehead and we lay like that until he fell right back to sleep.

As I got up to leave, my phone rang. It was my secretary from the California. I walked out of the kids room before I answered. "Mr Adamos, sorry to bother you but it's an emergency. There's a caller waiting in the other line. She wants to speak to you."

"Put her through." I instructed.

"I told you that you would regret what you did to me." A voice so familiar spoke calmly.

"Leticia, you must be out of your fucking mind if you think that Moretti will protect you from me. There is no place in the world to hide where I won't find you." I said vehemently.

"Moretti is powerful, he managed to get through to your security and now your baby mama is missing. You probably won't ever see her again... alive that is. This would have never happened if you hadn't treated me like trash."

"But you are trash Leticia." I tried to master my most arrogant tone. "Moretti will see it too after a while and he will throw you out just like I did. That's if I don't kill him and you first."

“Just shut up Xander! You arrogant bastard! You don’t know anything! You don’t even know that you have a traitor amongst your own people!

I went silent for a few seconds. “If you are talking about Eugene, he’s dead.”

“No no no, I’m not talking about him.” She laughed. “It’s someone within your own family. Before you can think of coming for me or Moretti, get your house in order.” She drawled then hung up.

A traitor? In my own family? There was no way. They knew what I was capable of, none of them would step up against me. As I walked back to my office, Hector was walking towards me with a glass of water and the aspirins.

“Get in here!” I ordered him.

“I’m going to ask you a question and if you lie to me Hector I swear to you I will kill you without thinking twice about it.

“What’s the matter?”

Deep down I knew Hector would never betray me but I had to ask.

“Do you want to be head of this family? Are you secretly plotting against me?” I asked him, slowly observing his reaction.

“What? What would make you think that?” He genuinely looked surprised.

“Someone in the family betrayed me and I want to know who it is.” I said.

“And you think it’s me? Why would I do that?! I have had your back since were kids.”

“I don’t know.” I shook my head. “I don’t know what to think. I have been wracking my brain all this time trying to figure out how they could penetrate our security! We are like the fucking fortnox, those men on the road were ambushed because someone within gave away security information.”

“Relax, we will find this person. I will personally eliminate him myself if that’s the case” I saw rage on his face and I knew there was no way it was him. He handed me the aspirin and glass of water.

“I want you to question Joud and Dorian. Find out who it is and bring them to me!”

He nodded his head then walked out of the office.

Chapter 37

Chapter 38 - The Greek Billionaire's Indecent Proposal

Xander's POV

"Xander, Gaia dear how are you doing? Please come in." Soraya's mother smiled at my mother and I as she opened the door wide for us to walk in.

"Hi Alessandra, is Matthew in as well? Xander and I have something important to discuss with you." My mom gave her a slight smile. I had never seen my mother nervous ever in my entire existence. She had insisted on coming with me to inform Soraya's parents about the kidnapping.

I had argued with her that I didn't need help but she countered that I didn't have the decorum to handle this sympathetically.

"Yes Matthew is in the den, come on in. You know this move to Greece has done him a lot of good. Even the doctors are impressed with his progress. She beamed as we walked towards the den.

"That's wonderful news Alessandra." My mother could barely look at her. I could see that Soraya's mom was confused by the reaction, she turned to look at me and raised her eyebrows.

Matthew honey, he have guests. Gaia and Xander are here to talk to us.

Matthew got up from his chair to greet my mother then he acknowledged me. "To what do we owe the pleasure, where is Soraya?." He smiled.

"Matthew I'm afraid we have some terrible news." My mother started to speak but she lost her nerve, she went silent.

"This is about Soraya isn't it? Where is she? Is she okay?" Alessandra began to panic.

"Sweetheart, give them a chance to speak, Xander, what is going on?" Matthew asked sternly.

"There's no easy way to say this. Soraya and Sofija have been kidnapped, I am doing everything in my power to make sure they come back home safely." I said bluntly. There was no point in beating around the bush.

"Oh meu Deus..." Alessandra's face went white with shock. She held on to the side of the chair that her husband had been sitting on.

“What do you mean kidnapped? When? By who? Xander you told me you would protect her and my grandson!” Matthew raised his voice at me, walking towards me he grabbed my shirt by the collar and shook me. “Where’s my daughter?!” He yelled.

My mother rushed to restrict him but I held up my hand at her. “It’s okay mother. They were ambushed after they left the gala together.” I indicated for my mother to see to Alessandra who was sobbing uncontrollably with her hand on her chest. My mother guided her to a chair and sat with her, trying to comfort her.

“And where were you when all this took place? Why were you not with her?” He growled at me.

“The reason why Soraya and I married so quickly is because my family status has earned us some enemies, and I wanted to get you all to safety before it was found out that I had a son with her. I have never lied to her about the dangers that come with being my wife and the mother of my son.” I could see that he was getting angrier by the second. “Soraya and I had an argument at the gala and she decided to leave without me. I regret my decision to let her leave, Matthew I know what it is you are going through.” Suddenly I had a lump on my throat, I felt my voice break but I tried to compose myself. “I am going to bring her back home.”

“Can you promise me that?! Why would anyone kidnap her?! What did you do?!” He was raging now. “I trusted you with her! You told me you would keep her safe and protected!”

He took a swing at me, even though I saw it coming I didn’t weave. The punch landed on my jaw, he took another swing and again it landed on the same place.

“She’s my daughter Xander! My one and only! My baby! You get her back. He began to sob as well. I guided him to his chair and helped him to sit.

“I know, Matthew, I swear to you I will bring her back home.” I swallowed hard.

“Call Dr Mariolis.” My mother instructed. She looked very worried. “We are going to need him tonight.”

“The baby! She’s pregnant” Alessandra exclaimed and then she fainted.

Soraya’s POV

Sofija and I had sat in silence since the waiter had brought us the food. I wished we had been put in separate rooms, I also wished I had clothes so that I could change out of my dress. I was starting to feel very uncomfortable.

I walked over to her side of the bed and took of the cloche from one of the plates to see what was in it, burger and chips. I grabbed my two bottles of water and took my plate.

“You’re going to eat that?” Sofija looked disgusted.

“Yes, we are not at the four seasons or the Hilton’s Sofija. You heard the man, you don’t eat and they stop bringing food and besides, I am hungry. I barely ate at the gala, personally I would like to keep my strength up. I plan to get out of here.”

She rolled her eyes and scoffed at me. “No wonder you have wide hips, this is the kind of food you are probably used to anyways.” She got up and started to pace up and down.

“Let’s see how long you will last in here with that attitude of yours princess Sofija.” I sat down and began to eat. Surprisingly it turned out to be the one thing that didn’t make me gag. For the first time since my morning sickness started I was able to finish every morsel of food that was on that plate. I drank some more water then I put the plate on the side table.

Sofija was still pacing up and down then all of a sudden she ran to the door and began to bang on it. “Listen to me you filthy waiter man! You need to open this door right now! I demand to talk to you right now! I will not be ignored.”

She kept banging on the door and all of a sudden there was a sound on the other side of it like a key was being turned, she backed away slowly from the door as it was being opened.

The waiter stood there with a menacing look on his face. “Do you have a death wish or something?” He glared at her.

“I demand that you speak with me right now!” She walked up to him and yelled in his face.

“You are in no position to be making demands lady. Sit down and shut the fuck up before I make you.”

“I will be heard! Take me to whoever is in charge here because clearly I am talking to a redundant small boy!” She hissed at him.

Before she knew it he back handed her with so much force that she fell to the ground.

“How is that for a redundant small boy? Now shut the fuck up before I get the other guy to tie you up and put a gag in your mouth.” She remained still on the tiled floor.

He turned to look at me and then his smile went from menacing to cocky. “The lady of the show, so composed. Do you also have any requests?”

I stayed silent as I assessed him. He stalked up to me and let his eyes travel up and down my body. This cringy moment made the hairs on my arms stand up as I realised how unstable this man right in front of me was.

“You know you are quite something to look at, small waist, curvy legs and let’s not forget about that innocent looking baby doll face.” he smiled coyly and licked his lips.

His face kind of reminded me of an angry rabid dog that was ready to attack at any moment. A very different change in demeanour from the gala.

“Why are you looking at me like that, do you want me as much as I want you?” He asked and winked at me. “I can give you what you want.”

“I’m wondering when is the actual man who is in charge going to get here.” I said to him quietly.

He laughed out loud. “You would be better off dealing with me cupcake. At least I’d make you enjoy what I’d do to that little body of yours. I’m excited to see that you are not shy after all.” He reached forward with his hand and his fingers went to my chin, he caressed my cheek then moved his finger to my mouth, slowly he massaged my bottom lip.

I didn’t flinch or look away. I wasn’t going to show him weakness but I guess my stomach had other plans. My tummy chose that moment to bring up everything I had eaten. I leaned forward and the vomit went all over the front of his shirt and his pants.

He started cussing in another language. I heaved a couple of times and he backed away. My stomach settled as I slowly breathed in through my nose and out my mouth to settle myself.

“Well I guess that should answer your question.” I smiled innocently. “I am not interested.”

“You bitch!” He hissed as he walked towards the door.

“It would be nice if you could also bring us a change of clothes as well you know while you get yourself some.” I called out as he banged the door and locked it.

I got up and walked towards Sofija to check on her. It didn’t matter how much I disliked her, she was still Xander’s sister.

“He’s gone, you can get up.” I said as I knelt next to her. Tears were running down her cheeks and a big bruise was starting to form on her left cheek and eye.

“Don’t touch me!” She flinched as I tried to take her arm to help her up.

“Sofija like it or not we are here together. My main goal right now is to stay alive because I want to see my son grow up and I definitely don’t want Xander to go through the same thing he went through with Hera. It would be better if we could look out for one another instead of fighting.” I said to her.

She looked at me, regarded me then pushed my hand away from her. “I’m not interested in being your friend and if you had just left Greece with your little brat! None of this would have happened at all! I wouldn’t be locked in here with you.”

“Correction, if you hadn’t come into the car to gloat over Bella then you would have been just fine. I’d say this is Karma for your stupidity! And watch your mouth, I warned you that Kai was off limits. I said to her in a stern tone.

Sofija’s POV

“You think you are soo special don’t you?!” I wanted to tell her I was the reason she was here so that she could stop gloating. But the fact that I was in here too stopped me. If I wanted to get away with what I did I had to make sure that no one knew that I was involved.

How could this have gone so wrong! I got up from the floor and walked to the bed.

“Fine then suit yourself, I really was just trying to be nice to you.” She shrugged and also went back to her side of the bed but she started to heave again. She got up and ran towards the bathroom. I could hear her wrenching out into the toilet bowl. It served her right for eating that disgusting food. But then again that’s probably the kind of food she was used to.

I hoped that whoever was really in charge would come so that I could speak with him and find a way to get myself out of this mess. Xander would never forgive me for this, he would disown me.

It had been so easy for me to plan the kidnapping, When I went to the venue a while back to scope out the place to see where would be the best place to grab Soraya, I had met the waiter. He had been there for an interview, I had noticed how tough looking he was and asked him if he would like to make extra money. He had refused to tell me his name saying that I would need total deniability, I had paid him his first half in cash so that there be no traces.

The idea had been to grab her at the gala when she went to the ladies room we had anticipated that the security would be tight so he had explained to me that he needed a plan B and that he had a cousin who would join in and if I could tell them which routes the security detail would take then they would grab attack the car. I had actually given up thinking that bit would be impossible to do so, I still got him what he needed. When I had seen him at the intersection I was shocked that he had managed to pull it off but when he shot Cassius, I knew that he was more than just a waiter.

The information about the routes that would be taken that night were also easy to get, Joud had been out of the office and all the routes for the night of the gala and which drivers would be used were on his table. I had taken pictures with my phone, there was no way that they would suspect Joud. He was very loyal to my brother.

Just as Soraya walked back into the room, the door opened again and the damn waiter walked in with a camera and a newspaper in his hand.

“Here, take this.” He handed Soraya the newspaper. “Now let’s take a group photo shall we? I know that there’s no love between the two of you but I’m going to need you to huddle up.”

“What do you mean you know that there’s no love between the two of us? Soraya asked him and he chuckled.

“Open the newspaper cupcake.” He instructed her.

I gave him a stern look and he continued to laugh. “Stand together like that, ooh, your face looks bad.” He said to me and laughed. “I don’t think your brother will care much for this anyway.” He continued.

“Can you stop speaking in riddles and say what you mean.” Soraya snapped at him.

He made Soraya hold up the newspaper in front of her and took some shots with the camera. When he was satisfied he shut the lenses off.

“Your sister in law is the reason why it was so easy to snatch you. She provided me with the routes that your security detail planned to use.”

I looked at Soraya and shook my head. “He’s lying.”

Her face had gone pale with shock.

Hector’s POV

“Dorian, get in here.” I ordered my brother into the warehouse office.

“What’s up?” He said.

“The kidnapers knew our routes. There is no way they could have grabbed The women at the gala. The security was tight. There was also no way of knowing which routes were mapped out unless...”

“Unless we have a leak but that’s impossible brother. Those routes were only revealed to the drivers and security detail that night before we left for the gala, we only revealed the routes to the gala, not the routes back home. Before that it was just you, Xander, myself, Joud and Simon who had those details.” Dorian looked like he was deep in thought.

“Dorian I don’t need to tell you that our loyalty as brothers is to Xander always. You know this, there’s nothing in the world that would make me betray him.” I stated.

“And there’s nothing in the world that would make me betray you. I owe you and Xander my life. You know this.” He countered.

“Then help me figure out how this happened, help me find the person responsible.”

“I will gladly do it and help you torture that damn person myself!” He looked pissed.

“Simon is too terrified right now. He’s admitted to me that he’s gone over the details over and over again because he feels like it’s somehow his fault.” Dorian admitted.

“I still have to question him, and you know what that means. It will be bloody.”

As we were speaking, Joud walked in. “I couldn’t help but overhear what you were talking about. I think I know how the information was leaked.” He had a look of disappointment and fear in his eyes.

“You think you know or you know?” I questioned him.

“Where’s Xander? I have to speak to him.” He said as his eyes clouded.

“What did you do Joud?” Dorian asked him.

“I will only speak in front of Xander.” He insisted. Dorian walked up to him and held him by the collar of the shirt. “Did you betray us Mizrahi?”

“Dorian go get Xander.” I instructed my brother.

Xander’s POV

“Xander, Hector asked me to come and get you.” Dorian disturbed me from looking at the message that had just come into my phone.

“What is it?” I asked him.

“Joud has information about the security details that were leaked.” He looked like he was revolted as he said this.

“Let’s go.” As we walked towards one of the warehouse offices I remembered I had a message. I took my phone out and clicked on the notification and a picture of both Sofija and Soraya popped up. Relief flooded my body. I didn’t realise I had stopped walking.

Soraya was holding on to a newspaper with today’s date. I zoomed in just to get a close up of her. She looked okay, unharmed. I let out a breath like I’d been holding on to it for long time. Sofija had a bruise on her face, why wasn’t I surprised.

“What’s wrong?” Dorian asked.

“I just got confirmation that the women are fine.” I handed him my phone. “Call Jackson and see if he can trace this number and trace the coordinates of where this picture was taken.” I instructed.

“Okay but you go ahead and talk to Joud right now.” I nodded and headed that way.

Chapter 39 - The Greek Billionaire's Indecent Proposal

Soraya's POV

I breathed in and out trying to control the rage that was taking over. All I could see was red. I flew across the room and grabbed Sofija. She shrieked and tried to get away but I got a chunk full of her hair.

The waiter didn't move a muscle as I proceeded to slap her face and tug at her hair. She screamed over and over.

"Soraya stop, you are hurting me stop."

"I haven't even began to cause you pain you selfish pathetic bitch! What kind of a sister are you! You would do this to your own brother!" Tears started to run down my face. I shoved her and she fell on the ground. "You are sick! You are going to be saved a place in the lowest parts of hell where you will spend all of eternity burning!" I glared at her.

"He tricked me! This was meant to be something small." She sobbed. "I paid him to kidnap you but not to kill you, it was just to rough you up a bit and scare you enough to want to leave Greece for good but he tricked me!" She pointed at him. "You bastard!"

He looked at her in amusement. "It's not like it's the lesser of two evils." He laughed. "You still did it."

I swear to you Sofija if Xander doesn't kill you himself, I will. But first I want him to know the kind of sister he has. One that is willing to let him experience the same trauma that almost broke him." I growled at her. "What is so terrible about me that you had to put him through this? You would want Xander to never ever raise his son? Do you know how much joy that brings him? I didn't even want to marry your brother, he threatened me into marrying him. So guess what! Im not here by bloody choice! I wonder what your precious Hera would think about your actions!" I spat at her and flew at her again.

I kicked and punched and pummelled her as she screamed in agony. She was wailing and apologising. Trying to get free as I held on tightly. The waiter came behind me and grabbed both my arms to pull me off her. He laughed out loud as he did this.

“Now now cupcake, as much as this is very entertaining to watch... I can't let you continue. It's not your job to beat and torture people.” I tried to shrug him off me but he dragged me to my side of the bed. “I might actually have to move you to another room or you will kill her.

“I won't kill her, my husband will.” I clenched my teeth as I glared at her. She looked away quickly.

“Your husband won't be in any position to kill her. Tell you what, I will take the responsibility of torturing her myself.” He glowered at Sofija and she shook her head in fear. Tears streaming down her now red face from the beating I'd given her.

“Be a good girl now and stay in your corner, I will bring you those clothes.” He chuckled and walked away. “Feisty.” He said as he walked out.

Sofija looked at me as she shifted herself to the corner near her side table. She fell to the floor. She kept quiet, raising her knees to her chest and hiding her face.

Xander's POV

“What's going on here?” I demanded as I walked in.

“Joud knows something about the leak.” Hector said.

“Well spit it out! I haven't got all fucking day!” I said angrily as he stood there eyeing me.

“I'm not sure Xander but I think Sofija did it.” He said as his eyes teared up.

“What?! Are you fucking joking?! I don't have time for this Joud. You are going to blame this on my sister?! Joud! You better watch yourself.” I roared at him.

“A little over a week ago, I was yelling at for giving Soraya a hard time and warned her to stop. She made a statement that concerned me and I swear I thought I had put her in her place. I didn't think she was capable of this.” his voice was breaking as he said this.

“I'm not telling you this to save myself Xander, it's my responsibility to keep my wife in line and to make sure that my she doesn't get ahold of any of the things we discuss and I failed you. I will take my punishment.”

“What do you mean she made a statement.” I asked quietly.

“She talked about how if you didn't have an heir then by default our children would be next in line, I thought she would stop after I warned her and threatened her.” But the night of the gala before we left, I came into the office and some things on my table had been moved around. I'd gone out for five minutes, the only thing that lingered in that office was Sofija's perfume. I didn't think anything of it until you said Soraya was kidnapped. Then when we found out Sofija

was also missing I started to think maybe that wasn't the case but I can't help but think she did something." He finished off.

"And you are only telling me this now?" I found myself punching him. He staggered backwards but steadied himself like he was waiting for me to hit him again.

"Get out of my sight Joud, now!" He walked out.

"I'll kill her Hector, I am going to kill Sofija!"

"You can't kill her, she's family. There are other ways of punishing her. And besides we have to verify what Joud said first. Maybe she didn't do it.

Stacy's POV

I trudged up the stairs with a tray of food to the guest bedroom that Soraya's parents had been moved into inside the house. Soraya's father seemed to be handling the situation way better than her mom. Mrs Eaton had been kept in bed and sedated usually after her meals ever since she had been told that her daughter was missing.

It had been two days now since then. "Hi Mr Eaton." I greeted quietly as I entered the bedroom. "I brought you some breakfast, you should eat something."

"Stacy, you shouldn't have. Are you taking good care of yourself, you also have a little one to worry about." He smiled at me. I placed the tray on the bedroom coffee table set.

"It's okay, I needed to get out of bed and besides, you and Mrs Eaton are like parents to me. I grew up in your house when my parents were away working all the time." I shrugged and placed a cup of tea in front of him. "Xander will find her you know. He loves her." I said quietly.

"I know he does sweetheart." He sighed. "I wish that him and Soraya had been up front with us from the beginning about all of the family's dealings."

"Would you have disapproved of their marriage?" I asked him.

"No, I don't know Stacy. Soraya has always loved him. Even when she wasn't with him. I could tell that she wanted to be with the father of her child but I could also tell that he had broken her heart." He explained. "So when she came home that day and introduced him to us, when I spoke to him, I could see that he loved her too."

"He tried looking for her you know, when I came to you to ask for Soraya's whereabouts in New York, that was for him." I smiled as I thought about it.

"I found out a few days after we got here that the Adamos family is a mafia organisation." He said.

“Most of their businesses are legit, just maybe like thirty percent of it is organised crime.” I tried to defend them. “And they don’t sell drugs or hurt women or anything like that.”

“Stacy sweetheart, crime is crime. There is no lesser evil.” The only reason why my wife and I are still here is because Soraya seems to have accepted what Xander does. I could care less about the treatment that he has managed to get for me. All I care about is my daughter and my grandson.”

I got up and went to hug him. “I understand why Soraya has accepted, it’s the same reason I have.”

He kissed my forehead. “Sit down and have some tea with me.” He smiled.

Soraya’s POV

It had been two days since we came here. We had seen less of the waiter guy since he had brought us a change of clothes. A pair of female track pants, a t shirt and slippers. The lady that brought us food had also brought toothbrushes, wash cloths and soap for us.

Sofija looked like a mess, her face was still bruised and battered. I wasn’t proud about it at all even though she deserved it. She was too frightened to sleep on the bed with me so she stayed on the floor. I threw a blanket on to her seeing that there were two in the bed. I told her she wasn’t going to freeze to death until she got what was coming to her.

When food was brought to us, she would stare at it and pick at it before actually eating it. She looked really despaired. At night I would hear here crying for Joud.

I sat on the bed thinking about my parents and whether Xander would tell them about the kidnapping. I wondered how they would take it. This brought tears to my eyes. I thought about Kai and wondered if he was asking for me, I missed cuddling his little body and just the smell of him.

I wanted Xander to hold me in his arms as I slept I wondered if anyone had told him that I was pregnant, how would he feel about it. ‘Don’t lose hope Xander, stay strong. I know you will find me.’ I whispered to myself.

There was a sound that indicated that the door was being unlocked, then it opened. The waiter walked in and behind him was a man. He walked forward and looked at Sofija who was so resigned to her state that she didn’t even look up at him. He shook his head then he turned around to look at me. I looked him dead in the eyes. This was him, the man that was in charge.

Chapter 39

Chapter 40 - The Greek Billionaire's Indecent Proposal

Xander's POV

"Nooo! Let me go! Kai's screams were coming from his room. "I don't want to, my mommy will do it for me!" He cried. "I said leave me alone."

I walked in to the room as he was ducking from the nanny who had been trying to force his pyjama shirt off his head. "Daddy!" He cried out when he saw me. He ran towards me and wrapped his hands around one of my legs.

"What's going on in here?" I looked at the nanny with so much irritation on my face. She regarded me with fear in her eyes.

"Uhhh...Master Xander, he refuses to get ready for the day.

"That doesn't mean you have to manhandle him! He's a kid!" I yelled at her. Kai was still crying, his little body shuddering as he sobbed. "You can leave!" I dismissed her.

"Kai buddy, what's going on? Can you look at me and tell me why you are crying?"

"I want my mommy, I want mommy to get me ready." He hiccuped. Sniffing as he held on tight to my leg.

I lifted him up to my arms and walked to the bed where I sat down and placed him on my lap. I didn't even know what to say to him, all I could do was sigh.

"Why isn't she coming home?" He sniffed. "Why did you leave her at the party. She said she would come home and cuddle with me when she came back but she never did."

"Mommy had to go somewhere son but she will be back soon." He looked at me, his eyes brimmed with tears. He burst into another fit of wailing. I hugged him to my chest and rubbed his back.

"I want mommy and giagiá won't let me see grandma, she says grandma is not feeling well." He sniffed

"How about this? I get you ready for the day then we go and see your grandpa and grandma. You can have breakfast with them. I will come and cuddle with you every night until mommy comes back home, does that sound okay?" I tried to remember how Soraya usually talked to him.

“You promise she is coming home?” He looked up at me, still hiccuping. Something didn’t make any sense, clearly something had agitated Kai about Soraya’s lack of presence.

“Did someone say something to you about mommy not coming home?” I asked him.

“Davina and Thea, they said mommy was never coming back and she was probably dead.”

“What?! They said that to you?” Rage coursed through me.

“They didn’t know I was listening when they were in the kitchen, I was in the pantry looking for cookies.”

“Kai, mommy is coming home. I will go and get her myself okay? He nodded as I said this.

“It will take some time but I will get her back okay?” He nodded and I gave him a hug.

Come let’s get you ready. I had never bathed or dressed a child before. I walked him into the bathroom and tried to think logically.

“Okay so obviously you have to brush your teeth first.” I said looking around his bathroom. He pointed at the toothbrush holder and toothpaste dispenser.

“Good! Let’s do that first then you have to shower or do you bathe...?” Was it okay to put a child his age in the shower? Kai giggled and started to brush his teeth while he sang to himself.

“Brush brush brush, left and right, circle round and round and round. Over the teeth and don’t forget under. Brush my tongue and now I’m done.” He spit into the basin and rinsed his mouth, his little outburst from earlier on clearly already forgotten.

“You sing that every time you brush your teeth? I asked him with my brows raised.

“Uh huh, mommy and I made up the song.” He smiled and jumped off the the wooden step stool.
“Now I have to bath.”

I ran the water in the tub and he added some foam bath in the water. He stripped down then went into the tub.

“Now you have to wash me.” He grinned.

“I think you might be cheating me here buddy... don’t you wash yourself usually?” I chuckled as I grabbed the loofah. He giggled.

“I want to but mommy always says, Kai you missed a spot. Are you sure you are clean? Did you wash behind your ears?” He mimicked Soraya’s voice and I roared with laughter which made him giggle.

“Well we have to talk to her about letting you do some things your own way.” I chuckled. “What about your hair?” I asked.

“The shampoo is over there but you have to be careful and not put too much like I do or it will go in my eyes.” He informed me seriously as a matter of fact.

When we were done I managed to cream his body and dress him in clothes that he picked out. I had never seen such an assertive five years old who picked out his own clothes and matched them up perfectly.

My mother popped her head into his door.

“Oh wow look at you, you are ready for breakfast.” She smiled at him.

“Yes Giagiá , daddy helped me get ready. We are going to have breakfast with grandma and grandpa. He told her proudly.

“That’s great Kai sweetie.” She smiled at him then gave me a disapproving look.

“Go and get a brush for your hair Kai, I think I saw one on the basin.” I told him and he took off.

“Alessandra will take one look at him and have another anxiety attack.” She said to me.

“Or seeing him could make her feel better. It’s not up for discussion mother and I want Davina and Thea to come to my office in an hour.”

“What for? The employees in the estate are my responsibility.”

“Well then, tell them to stop gossiping and stick to doing their jobs. Kai heard them talking about how his mother was dead and would not come back. In fact I want you to fire them, if I find them on the premises tomorrow morning, I will handle them myself.” I said sternly.

Kai ran back out with a brush and I helped him with his hair. My mother just stood there watching.

“Can we get some flowers in the garden for granma?” He asked me.

“You are five years old and you are way more thoughtful than I am.” I smiled at him. “Sure buddy we can.” I said as we left the room.

Soraya’s POV

I was staring at the man who was responsible for all this, the man who was in charge. As he walked towards me he smiled. “So you are the new Mrs Adams.” He chuckled. “I guess Xander has a type.”

He looked every bit as scary as you could imagine, I don't think he had ever been regarded as good looking ever in his life. His face looked like it was set in a permanent scowl, he had a strong jaw line and a cleft chin. Dark eyes and hair with a straight nose. The man was as tall as Xander was probably but his build was way bigger, like he was a big boned man. He dressed like those typical drug dealers from the 1970s, in casual collar multi coloured dress shirts with a pair of tailored white pants and a tacky brown vintage leather coat. He sort of reminded me of a young slimmer Pablo but with a cleft chin.

I remained silent as he looked me up and down. "Stand" he ordered me.

I remained seated, just watching him. "Are you deaf? I said stand."

The waiter came forward and grabbed me forcefully pushing me to my feet. "Cupcake when the boss talks, you listen and you do exactly as he says." He spoke quietly. I tugged my hand free from him.

"You're a feisty one aren't you? We will see how long that fighting spirit will last. Personally I expected that one over there to give me the hard time, not you."

It was like at that moment Sofija decided to come alive. "She got up and walked towards us. "You must be Moretti, the man that is stupid enough to go after my brother. You need to let me go, you have what you want so I can leave now." She said to him.

I was not even shocked, nothing that came out of her mouth at this point could shock me. I just glared at her and she quickly looked away.

"What happened to your face?" He walked towards her with irritation on his face. He turned around to look at the waiter. "Nikolaj, I ordered you not to lay your hands on them." He hissed at him.

"That is not my work, I might have struck her but that right there is definitely not not my work. She would be worse than that if I had put my hands on her. He laughed like he was remembering how I'd beat Sofija up.

"Then who did this?" He yelled.

The waiter pointed at me. "Like you said, she's a feisty one." This so called boss looked at me with raised brows and bellowed in laughter. This is going to be fun.

"Did you hear what I said?" Sofija interrupted him.

"I can't do that." He said to her. "Go back to your corner and don't talk unless you are spoken to, and don't call me stupid."

"Why? You don't need me? Clearly you took her because you want to make my brother angry and I want no part of it."

He chuckled. “With family members like you, who needs enemies. Why would you betray your own brother?”

“That is none of your business, you...” before she could finish her sentence he struck her. She reeled back and covered her face.

“Okay now your face makes sense, you talk too much. Go to your corner and shut the fuck up.” He scowled. Nikolaj laughed.

“You don’t have anything to add to this rant Mrs Adamos? You are too quite. Are you not scared of me?” He smiled arrogantly

“Your mission... was it to frighten me, his wife or was it to annoy the shit out of my husband and make him lose control because if it’s the former then you have failed dismally at your task.

“You’re a feisty little thing, I think this calm act of yours is a façade though. You know what I had plans for you, I planned to take you to one of my whore houses and put you to work... that would mean not laying a finger on you right now, can’t harm the merchandise. But your attitude is making me think hey why not? Sample you myself then cut you up and send you to Adamos piece by piece. How’s that for failing dismally huh?”

“Does that make you feel big and bad Moretti? Does it make you feel powerful to threaten small women?” I rolled my eyes at him. He growled and took big strides towards me. I didn’t cower which shocked him.

“I am married to Xander Adamos, he’s more scarier than you are. No offence but I’ve never heard of you.”

His hand went to grab be by the neck with his thumb on my pulse point. He slowly squeezed. I started to choke, my hands going to claw at his hand. I scratched at it with my nails and he let go.

“Like I said Mrs Adamos, I don’t buy that little façade of yours. I see fear in your eyes. I’m going to enjoy breaking you.” He smiled.

He signalled for Nikolaj to follow him as he turned and walked towards the door. The lock turned and just like that they were gone.

Xander’s POV

“Grandma don’t be sad, mommy will be back soon. She’s just gone for a while.” Kai hugged his grandma. She held onto him and kissed the top of his head.

“Grandma is just tired my boy.” His grandfather smiled at him. “The flowers you got her definitely will make her feel better. Come and finish your toast and eggs before they get cold”

“In a while grandpa.” It’s like he understood that his grandmother just needed some affection. He held on tightly to her and rubbed her arm. “I love you grandma.” He whispered.

“I love you too Kai Bear.” She smiled slightly.”

“Do you need a cuddle?” He asked her.

“I’d really love that.” She smiled as her eyes clouded with tears but she quickly blinked them away. And pulled him into her lap as she wrapped her arms around him.

I finally understood what Soraya meant when she said I never told her that I loved her and I didn’t show her much. It was easy for Kai to share his emotions and feelings with the people around him. Soraya reciprocated those feelings back so easily as well. It wasn’t easy for me because we hadn’t really been taught as kids to do that. I was told I had to be strong because I would have to one day become head of the family. Love wasn’t just about spending money on her or taking her to the finest places, it wasn’t about the way we made love no matter how intimate it was. It was way more than any of those things.

Losing Hera had further hardened me, I wished Soraya was right in front of me so that I could tell her that I finally got it. When I got her back, I would tell her every day how much I loved her.

“Lost in thought?” Matthew asked me.

“I’m just amazed at how much I have been learning from my son.” I said.

I said my goodbyes to them, “Stacy will come and fetch him after breakfast, she will be spending some time with the kids.” I said to them. “Kai buddy see you tonight.”

As I walked out to the car that would take me to the warehouse, my phone rang.

“Yes.” I answered.

The person on the other end of the line chuckled arrogantly.

“Moretti” I growled.