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Chapter 386 I Won't Sell You Out

As shrewd as Alex was, he naturally knew what Naomi saw in him. From now on, he'd work with this mother and daughter duo to secure Tillman Constructions for themselves.

After Elliot returned, he immediately had Felicia come to his office. He wanted her to dig into Aliona's client and why did the kidnapping happen at the café's parking lot.

Naturally, Felicia didn't dare be dismissive of it. She promptly asked Aliona for her client's profile, which Aliona passed to her.

"Aliona, how did you meet this client?"

At that, Aliona acted all docile. "She came to me first. We met at a banquet."

"Are you familiar with her?"

"No. Is everything alright, Felicia?" Aliona feigned concern.

"Yeah. You can go back to your work." Felicia thought she shouldn't let on more. It seemed that she'd have to visit that client herself.

After returning to her office, Aliona couldn't help heaving a sigh of relief. In actuality, she had been having a tough time lately, for the failed kidnapping caused her godfather to be detained. Riley's subordinates even delivered a message to her, saying that she'd have to continue the rest of the path on her own.

She loathed Anastasia. She had believed winning Elliot's heart was a piece of cake when she was living abroad, but ever since Anastasia entered the picture, all Elliot cared about was that woman.

Meanwhile, Felicia met up with the client that afternoon. Since Aliona had talked to the client and colluded the story before the meeting, Felicia couldn't find anything.

With that, she reported it to Elliot and sent him the client's profile while she was at it.

Elliot fixed his gaze at the profile as he thought about Anastasia's kidnapping. Surely something had gone wrong somewhere, especially when his bodyguards noted the kidnappers had been stationed in the parking lot twenty minutes prior.

Elliot then ordered Rey, "Dig into this client." She was in her early fifties. Judging by the woman's age, she was likely Riley's acquaintance, and Riley must've had her lure Anastasia to that café where his men had been waiting.

The whole thing made sense when he put it that way.

On the other hand, Aliona asked for leave in the afternoon to meet up with Lucas.

Aliona was all composed upon seeing Lucas at the café. "Lucas, my godfather's been taken into custody now. From now on, you have to aid me in the rest of my plan."

"Hand me my son's footage, or I won't help you." Lucas rebelled.

"Are you forgetting your position? Your son and his footage are in our hands. Now that my godfather has handed all the power to me, I can do things however I please." Malice laced Aliona's eyes as she held the cup in her hands.

Lucas felt livid as he clenched his fists, but he was like a heaving old dragon being grabbed by the throat, unable to resist.

"What exactly do you want me to do?"

"Find me a chance to get close to Elliot so that I can get pregnant and birth his child," Aliona announced shamelessly.

At that, Lucas couldn't help dissuading her, "Now that your godfather's been taken into custody, why don't you take over his business? We can make a good deal, and you don't have to worry about anything for the rest of your life."

"Just how much would you be able to give me? From what I know, your son has used up almost all of your wealth. Can you give me five billion? If not, there's nothing we can talk about." What Aliona was asking for was daylight robbery. What was more, she was planning a way out. Once she gave the Presgraves an heir, she'd have more than a mere five billion!

"It's not that easy to get close to Elliot."

"That's why I need you to give me the chance." Aliona bore into him. "Think about your family and your son's future!"

Alas, Lucas knew he could only give in. "Alright! I've been organizing a charity event lately, and I'll invite him then. Meanwhile, you should find an opportunity to get close to him."

"Good! I'm sure you know what to do if Elliot asks about me!"

"Relax! I won't sell you out when my son is in your hands." Lucas closed his eyes. What a bitter end to his life.

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Chapter 387 Promise Me This

With that, Aliona left. Now, all she could do was wait for Lucas' news before she took the next step. She had to bear Elliot's child quickly, for Riley was still waiting for her to bail him out.

Meanwhile, in Hogland, Hayley removed her bandage for the first time a week after her surgery. Now that her face was no longer swelling, the surgery results were visible.

Her originally slightly square face had now become oval. Her double eyelids were still swollen, but her nose had become taller, her lips were now prettier, and her jawline was now perfect.

Hayley got ecstatic at that—she was finally beautiful. Though it wasn't as good-looking as Anastasia's all-natural face, she was certain it wouldn't be far off from Anastasia's.

Once her swelling was gone entirely, she'd be able to see Elliot!

What she didn't expect was that the results were far better than she had expected, and she'd be able to go home after a month.

Hayley looked into the mirror to find her profile and features similar to Anastasia's. She smiled at that, her gaze laced with triumph.

What will Anastasia think when she sees my face? Will it disgust her?

Then, she wondered if Elliot would accept her and suddenly fall in love at one point once her face had healed entirely and was at the peak of her beauty.

Surely the night five years ago was unforgettable to him. If he suddenly had the urge to revisit the feeling, only she would be able to give it to him.

"You're stunning, Miss Seymour. A perfect ten," said the agent beside her.

However, Hayley suddenly stopped smiling, and the happiness was gone in a split second. The praise did nothing to delight her.

Her face was shaped according to Anastasia's. Simply put, praising her would be like praising Anastasia, and this displeased her.

Worse, this discomfort would only remind her of Anastasia's perfect, all-natural face whenever anyone praised her.

At night, after showering Jared, Anastasia planned to watch some TV and relax when her phone rang all of a sudden. She picked it up to find Elliot calling.

What is he doing calling this late?

However, she still answered the call nonetheless. "Hello?"

"Can I hang out at your place?"

"Right now?" Anastasia checked the time at that to find it was already 8.30PM.

"I just finished a business dinner, and I'll be passing by your place on my way home. I want to see you."

"Didn't you just see me yesterday?"

"To me, there isn't a second that I don't stop thinking about seeing you." Elliot became the embodiment of Mr. Romantic.

Anastasia, on the other hand, was rendered speechless.

Surely he would already have a child by now if he used this effort to court another woman!

"Alright, come up then." Finally, she said yes.

An elated Elliot responded, "Right away!"

Just like that, a regular night turned exciting following Presgrave's sudden visit.

Right after that, Anastasia got up to make tea and cut up some fruits.

Five minutes later, the doorbell rang. She checked the peephole, and sure enough, a certain someone was standing outside of her apartment.

She opened the door only to find he hadn't come alone, but also brought tons of stuff with him! The most eye-catching thing would be the latest set of Legos. Elliot carried two sets in his hand while Rey followed behind him with four more.

"Why did you buy so many?" Anastasia didn't know how to react upon seeing this.

"Jared loves them."

"You're going to spoil him," she pointed out frustratingly.

"Why don't you come in as well, Mr. Osborne?" Anastasia invited Rey in.

However, how dare he stay when his boss had come to spend some quality time with Miss Tillman? He'd like to live a couple more decades, after all. "No, thanks. I still have something to do. You two have a nice chat."

Jared thought he heard noises outside and came out, exclaiming when he saw the lego sets on the couch. "Wow! I love you so much, Mr. Presgrave!"

At that, he threw himself into Elliot's arms, leading Anastasia to shake her head. This guy has bought Jared over completely.

"You'll have to promise me one thing now that you've taken my presents. Listen to your mom, and don't ever make her upset."

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Chapter 388 Watch TV With Me

"Okay, I'll definitely listen to Mommy and not make her angry." Jared nodded.

"Good boy. Go on, have fun!"

With that, Jared picked a set of Legos he was most interested in and went into his room. Meanwhile, Anastasia stored the rest of the presents in the storage cabinet. Although Elliot looked visibly better now, she still asked out of concern, "Have you gotten over your cold?"

"It's all gone now," Elliot said with a smile. "All thanks to you."

Anastasia lowered her head upon meeting his fathomless gaze. "I didn't do anything, though."

"You don't have to. You just have to smile more at me. It works better than any medicine in this world." Elliot smiled. Not even a sliver of aloofness could be found on him whenever he faced her.

Abashed, she handed the bowl of fruit to him. "Quit yapping and have some fruits!"

Elliot handed her a banana out of the blue, asking, "Want one?"

Anastasia took it from him, but she suddenly blushed. "No thanks."

Elliot got what she was thinking immediately and guffawed. "What in the world are you thinking? Is your little mind constantly filled with lewd thoughts?"

Anastasia's face flushed bright red at that. Yes, she had overreacted, but he had clearly done it on purpose, hadn't he?

Elliot laughed at her for quite a while before finally helping himself to the fruits. Just then, he looked somewhat lustfully at her. "Feel free to come at me if you have any needs in this regard."

"I don't." Anastasia rolled her eyes straight at him.

Elliot only smiled, looking like an incubus, hot as hell.

Anastasia got up and went to gather the laundry hanging on the balcony, not daring to take another look at him. By the time she came back in, Elliot had slouched on the couch, looking weary.

Instead of watching TV, he fixed his gaze on her while holding the tea she had brewed for him.

It had unknowingly reached 9.30PM, and Anastasia looked toward the man who had been hanging around for nearly an hour. "It's getting late. When are you going to leave?"

"Can I sleep in your bed tonight?" Elliot got greedy.

"No." It was a hard pass.

At that, he sighed disappointedly. "Your bed to me is the best cure for insomnia, and my head has been hurting lately..."

Anastasia wasn't sure if he was lying or not, but when she looked at him, he was rubbing his temples, looking like he seriously had a throbbing headache.

Her heart ached for him again when she thought about how she had angered him to sickness a few days back.

"How are you going to shower and sleep when you don't have a change of clothes?"

"I have some clothes in the car. I'll have Rey bring it up!" Elliot said it as though he had come prepared.

Instantly, Anastasia thought she had fallen for his trap. This man had specially come to sleep over!

"Fine then! Have him bring it up for you!" She agreed to let him stay over in the end.

Elation immediately surged within Elliot's fathomless gaze. "Okay."

Soon, Rey came delivering Elliot's clothes—there was a suit for the next day and a set of cotton pajamas. Sure enough, he had planned to come over from the very beginning.

With that, Anastasia went to tuck Jared in, leaving Elliot to shower and go to bed himself.

Jared had so much fun with the Lego set that he exhausted himself, falling asleep as soon as his head hit the pillow. With that, Anastasia got out of bed to check if Elliot had also gone to bed.

However, the lights in the living room were still lit, and Elliot was slouched on the couch after his shower, watching TV in his black night robe.

"Why haven't you gone to bed?" Anastasia asked as she hugged her arms, feeling chilly. It was already winter. Wouldn't he catch a cold in such thin clothes?

Elliot reached his hand out to her in response. "Come here."

Anastasia knew she'd surely be taken advantage of if she went to him.

Surprisingly, she didn't reject him. Instead, she deliberately sat a little far away from him. At that, Elliot got up and sat right next to her before pulling the woman into his arms.

"Watch TV with me for a while, will you?" Elliot asked softly.

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Chapter 389 Give Me a Kiss

Anastasia couldn't help but soften as she leaned against his chest while listening to his solid, unavoidable heartbeats.

Elliot turned his head to plant a kiss in her hair. What an amazing feeling it was to have her back in his arms again.

His broad chest gave her a strong sense of security, making it seem as though there was nothing she needed to be afraid of. When had she started liking this feeling!?

The couple watched the business channel together. Then again, it only suited someone like Elliot, for she began to nod off very quickly. What was more, she was very snug being in his arms.

Just like that, she closed her eyes before she knew it, and sleepiness creeped up on her. Soon after, she started breathing evenly.

At that, Elliot turned off the TV and carried her up.

However, Anastasia shot wide awake and instinctively wrapped her arms around his neck, looking at him with somewhat amorous eyes. "Where are you taking me?"

"To sleep."

"I'm sleeping with Jared." She had no intentions of sleeping with him!

However, Elliot still carried her straight to the master bedroom. "Makes no difference."

How could it be the same!? Anastasia's drowsiness was immediately gone, and she made her way to the door as soon as Elliot put her down. However, he grabbed her immediately and pulled her into his arms, forcing her to face him.

Anastasia's hair was let loose as a result, and her milky white velvet nightgown made her face innocent yet alluring. It surely would be the death of him.

Elliot gulped, looking as though he was trying his best to hold back something.

Anastasia caught the possessiveness in his eyes, and she immediately warned, "Don't you d—" Just like that, he made her swallow the word 'dare'.

Admittedly, Anastasia couldn't say no to his kisses every time. It carried a strange yet tingling sensation, making her want more despite feeling abashed.

Suddenly, he let go of her and asked in a husky voice, "Do you want it?"

"No!" Anastasia denied her desire stubbornly, but deep down, she wanted to give it a go. She wanted to see if she could accept his approach. Not only that, she wanted to see if the trauma he evoked would come back.

She didn't want the trauma from five years ago to haunt her for the rest of her life, for she wanted to experience the joy of being a woman too. However, she still pushed him away while saying, "It's really late. You should turn in early."

Jared's still at home, for heaven's sake!

Elliot was merely asking. After all, she had to want it herself. If she didn't, he wouldn't force her even though he was on the verge of exploding.

Anastasia scurried into Jared's room, but she couldn't stop thinking about Elliot, his kiss, his breath, and his gaze.

The following morning, Anastasia opened her bleary eyes to find a pair of angelic eyes staring at her.

"What is it?" She sat up and kissed her baby boy.

"Mommy, I'm going to be late for school," Jared said solemnly.

"Huh? Isn't today Saturday?"

"Nope. It's only Friday!" Is Mommy dreaming?

Anastasia slapped her head at that. She had trouble sleeping the whole night, no thanks to Elliot. Right, Elliot! He had stayed over for the night. At that, she asked with a smile, "Is Mr. Presgrave around?"

"He is! He's waiting for you in the living room."

"In that case... Ask him to send you to school! I'm really sleepy." Anastasia wanted to be lazy this once.

"Okay!" The little guy headed out, beaming.

"Mr. Presgrave, Mommy still wants to sleep. Can you please take me to school?"

Of course, he was more than happy to, smiling as he said, "Sure! Go and pack your bag. I'll let your mom know."

"Okay."

Anastasia, who was still half-awake, happened to be shifting into a snug position so she could go back to sleep when she heard the door open. Then, she heard footsteps approaching her, and with that, she reached her hand out to pat his leg while saying dreamily, "Hurry up and go to school, Jared!"

Jared?!

Elliot chuckled under his breath, somewhat frustrated. This woman sure dared to take advantage of him.

At that, he bent over and leaned close to her. "Sure, I'll send your son to school. You have to kiss me in return, though."

Startled, Anastasia shot wide awake and reflexively covered her sleepy face. "I have morning breath!"

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Chapter 390 Tell Your Director to Come Out

"I don't mind that." Elliot inched closer after saying that, and Anastasia reflexively stretched out her arms, giving him a peck on the cheek. "Please take Jared to school for me. Thanks."

He swiftly pulled her into his arms, causing her to nuzzle her face against his chest as he nibbled her neck while stroking her hair.

The intimate scene commonly shared between married couples got Anastasia's heart beating wildly and her face suddenly flushing scarlet.

Just then, his husky voice traveled to her ear. "You really tortured me last night."

At that, he even bit her ear teasingly, causing her to jolt and shove him away while blushing. "Get the hell out of here, Elliot!"

After successfully interrupting her nap, Elliot headed out, finally content.

Meanwhile, Anastasia went back to sleep with peace of mind, knowing that Elliot would take Jared to school. It seemed she could only be this at ease when leaving Jared in his hands, right?

On the other hand, Alice came to a café nearby Bourgeois after answering a call. Upon seeing the person waiting at a table, she approached them while looking around cautiously. "Why have you come looking for me?"

"I want to thank you for the sketch you gave me last time. I'm really pleased with it. Here's the situation now; our company has decided to use this sketch to file a lawsuit against Bourgeois and ruin their reputation." The woman went straight to the point.

Alice's expression changed a little upon hearing her words. "I thought we agreed on only filing a plagiarism lawsuit? How come you're suing Bourgeois now?"

"Well, Bourgeois has taken too many of our clients. Hence, my boss has decided to take a long shot and use this opportunity to sue Bourgeois for infringement. The bigger, the better. We're not only going to ruin the designer's reputation, but also destroy Bourgeois' business."

Alice frowned at that. She didn't think this far in the beginning, but who'd have thought her actions gave the rival company such a massive advantage?! "What do I get from this? Am I not getting anything when I've done you guys such a big help?"

"Of course you'd get something in return. I'm here discussing this with you, aren't I? My boss said to give you a hundred thousand as compensation. After this is all over, you can come straight to us as our deputy director. What do you say?" "You're only giving me a hundred thousand? I took a huge risk by stealing such a good sketch, and all I get is a hundred thousand? You've got to be kidding me!" Alice was no lamb; she was going to bag a sweet deal. Besides, the rival company was surely only painting a rosy picture, offering her a spot in their company! All she wanted was what she could get her hands on.

"Alright, fine! I'll propose half a million to my boss, but that's the most you're going to get." At that, Jacqueline Sherman, designer for Bourgeios' rival company, called her boss to negotiate the deal. After a few words, she hung up and said to Alice, "My boss says he can do half a million. That is as far as he'll go."

"Deal." Alice was pleased with the amount. After all, apart from getting the money, she could have Anastasia expelled from the jewelry design industry.

"From now on, only you and I know about this plan. No one else can know about this," said Jacqueline gravely.

"Of course. You can count on me." Alice was confident that no one would know she was behind this. She then asked curiously, "When are you guys making your move?"

"We're all set to go. Our lawyers will go to your office latest by this afternoon."

Alice left the café with a malicious smile. Even if Anastasia was currently on leave, she was still Bourgeois' designer. As long as this incident blew up, that woman would have no place in the jewelry design industry any longer!

However, she didn't know about Elliot's debt to the Tillman Family. Hence, she believed the Presgraves would think otherwise of Anastasia once this incident blew up.

Hmph, say goodbye to marrying into the Presgrave Family, Anastasia!

Alice had been bottling her hatred for Anastasia for far too long, and it was high time for a good drama.

That day, everyone had just returned to Bourgeois from lunch at 2.00PM when a group of men in suits entered the lobby and headed straight to the office, looking stern. At that, the leading man shouted, "I'd like to speak to your director!"