The Marvelous Elijah's Return By Rever Chapter 105

Chapter 105

Leave it to me

The room was quiet as the silence dragged on as Elijah and Bryan sat there, relaxing on the couch, now that Curtis, Hosah, and Joey had left them alone.

"Well, I don't know why I underestimate a Maxwell... But I thought you were going to find Joey's words offensive and not want to work with him." Bryan broke the silence.

"And miss the opportunity of correcting my image in the eyes of someone who acted out of ignorance?... After today, what do you think Joey's impression would be of me... still the same or...?" Elijah paused and looked at Bryan

"He seemed to respect you."

"And he didn't have that for me when I first walked in here... Have you ever worked under someone you have wronged and had to live up to correcting your image with them, every time you see them?"

"He's going to be very careful around you, from now on, always remembering his mistake."

"Exactly. Now, isn't that more fun watching the one that disdains you in your face, spent his days respecting your opinions and you, rather than have him out there, being salty about you, and you, having resentment for him?"

Seeing the half smile forming on Elijah's face and hearing the soft chuckle escaping his lips, Bryan smiled, mumbling, "Well, I never thought that far ahead before, but, yeah, it is."

After a brief silence, Elijah looked at his watch and said, "I need to get back to my wife."

"So it's really love?" Bryan questioned, raising his eyebrows.

"What is love?"

"You and her..."

When Elijah didn't respond immediately, Bryan elaborated, "Forgive me for such sensitive words… But, first, you kept your identity for years, while being married to

Melina, and allowing everyone to walk over you, and now, you are with Peach, and judging from the last name she bears from you..."

A brief silence passed between the two men again as Bryan saw how Elijah tensed, and then he mumbled, "She doesn't know that you are a Maxwell... till this day, does she?"

Again another awkward silence followed between the two men, and Bryan brushed his hand through his hair, laughing out the tension he felt, saying, "I should stop trying to pick at your brain... you are way too complicated, man." 1

Ignoring Bryan's words and the feeling that came with it, Elijah just chuckled in response, turning off his phone and putting it away into his pocket. Then he stood up from the couch, saying, "Thanks for today... I appreciate everything you have done so far. I know how to scratch the backs of those that scratch mine, So when the day comes for me to repay my debts, know that I got your back."

A short laugh left Bryan's lips as he stood up from the couch, meeting Elijah's gaze as he let out, "I know that this started as a business transaction, but you have rubbed off on me quite a lot, man."

A half, a slight smile was the only response Elijah gave before walking off, and Bryan shook his head with a smile, following him out the door.

Shoving his hands into his pocket, Elijah continued down the hall, realizing that a couple of Bryan words had stuck in his mind, and he frowned slightly.

"My eyes are not deceiving me!" A voice that Elijah remembered way too well grabbed his attention, and

he gazed to the right to see Mr. Gordan, approaching with his golf gears in a bag, smiling like he had won a lottery. "I was right! It's you.."

"Mr. Gordan," Bryan said with a grin at the old man.

When he reached them, Mr. Gordan glanced between Bryan and Elijah, looking confused and yet amused, asking, "What an odd pair to see together... You two know each other."

Grabbing Elijah by the shoulder, Bryan wore a big smile on his pinkish lips and said, "Well, what do you think?"

"Umm..." Mr. Gordan began, before staring at both of them in confusion.

One of the biggest CEO in the country was actually being goofy with the so-called low-life son-in-law of the Hayes family was a mathematical solution that seemed impossible in Mr. Gordan's opinion, and he let out, "What the relationship here?"

"Just buddies," Bryan said with a mischievous smile.

Even more confused and curious now, Mr. Gordan darted his gaze between the two of them, and he muttered to himself, "is that so?"

"I should get going," Elijah said, eyeing Bryan's arm around his shoulders, making him notice the stare, and withdrawing his hand slowly.

Meeting Bryan's eyes, Elijah hesitated, and then he gave him a manly pat on the back and said, "Goodbye, Bryan."

Before he turned on his heels and walked away, leaving Bryan smirking as he watched his back and then turned to Mr. Gordan and said, "Well, this is my cue to leave."

"But... B–ut... Who is he?! Why are you friends with a, 'nobody?!" Mr. Gordan blurted out at Bryan as he turned to leave.

Halting in his steps, Bryan looked at Mr. Gordan and then laughed in an amused tone, mumbling, "A nobody? Hah, you are a funny man, Jeffrey... Good one."

Speechless from Bryan's remark, Mr. Gordan watched him stick his hands in his pockets and walked off before he mumbled, "Am I missing something here?! Why would I be joking about him being a, 'nobody?'... except, he is... not!"

The sky was becoming a bit dull as five o'clock approached, and the car came to a stop in front of the hotel, causing Elijah to sigh as he shut his eyes.

After a brief moment of calmness, he unlocked the door, stepped out, deeply inhaled, and then smiled as the thought of seeing Peach ran crossed his mind.

The suite had been quiet for a while until Peach reached her gaze to stare at Ryan, and then dropped her pen, blurting out, "I am Ninety-eight percent sure!

"Umm?!" Ryan exclaimed, almost falling out of the chair.

Holding back a laugh, Peach took a second to suppress it all and mumbled, "Sorry that I startled you... I was talking about what I said back in the restaurant. Elmer had been using accounting loopholes to hide millions of dollars of bad debt, while simultaneously inflating the company's earnings. It's all in the records..."

The sound of the door suddenly unlocking made Peach and Ryan look over, and after a moment, Peach stood from her seat, smiling at Elijah as he approached her.

The moment he reached Peach, his arms wrapped around her waist, and he pulled her close, resting his chin on her shoulder as he kissed the side of her neck.

When Elijah pulled away from Peach after a few moments, he took a step back and smiled as he asked," Is everything okay?"

Then he subconsciously stared over at Ryan as his buddy let out, "I should get back to Matt and the other."

"Hey... Thanks for today." Elijah called out, causing a faint smile to appear *on* Ryan's face as he nodded before walking out of the room.

As soon as they heard the door closing behind him, Peach looked back at Elijah with this excitement, and he chuckled at it as he asked, "What is it?"

"I found out that these papers are corrupt transactions and entries from Investistic Co. and Elmer had been hiding millions of dollars in loans using accounting loopholes and simultaneously inflating the company's earnings, and all the records are here to back it... Well, two briefcases of it. I have not checked the others."

"Are you serious?" Elijah whispered, a look of disbelief on his features as he took his time to process her words.

When Peach nodded in excitement, he didn't hesitate in believing her word, grabbing the sides of her face and kissing her repeatedly on her lips and cheeks, and then he pulled back, grinning, and murmuring, "You beautiful genius! I freaking love you so damn much!"

The last sentence of his made Peach's eyes widened, and she stuttered, "Y...you do..?"

Considering how their marriage happened, and the circumstances at that time, Peach had never been certain of just how far Elijah's feelings extended for her, and since this was the first time she heard him say those words with so much honesty and excitement, she was shocked.

For a second, Elijah watched her eyes grow watery, and he wiped at the tears running down her cheek, and then he brought his finger beneath her chin and lifted it, whispering, "I do, Peach."

Her eyes slowly searched for deception as he spoke, and then when she saw none, she smiled, trying to memorize every inch of his handsome face, and then replied, "I love you too, Elijah Darius."

A slight sense of guilt hit Elijah as he realized how long he had been lying to Peach, and then he pulled her closer by wrapping his arms around her waist tightly, holding her there, and kissing her hair before resting his chin on her head.

Her smile reached her eyes as she buried her nose into his chest, breathing in his scent deeply be fore letting out a small chuckle, and they stayed in that position for a few minutes before Peach whispered," So what are we going to do about Elmer?"

"Leave it to me." Elijah mumbled, closing his eyes at the feeling of her warmth. "I will handle him and his ten accomplices."

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Chapter 106

The Marvelous Elijah's Return by Rever Chapter 10 The fear of the unknown

The silence in Mr. Bamford's office was ruined when his door cracked open, making the chief constable raise his gaze to see Elijah and Ryan, and he immediately dropped his pen, resting back in his seat with a small smile tugged on his lips.

"Good morning. Mr. Darius and Mr. Katz." Mr. Bamford let out as he watched them approach him. "Please take a seat,"

At first, Ryan seemed shocked that Mr. Bamford knew his last name, and then he remembered that he gave the chief his bar card.

After Elijah and he sat down, Mr. Bamford studied Ryan's face with this suspicious glint in his eyes, and then he turned to Elijah, saying in a dead–serious tone, "You are not the man you claim to be."

The silence in the room after that statement was deafening. It was like someone had turned up the volume and it took them a moment to realise that there was no sound other than that of their own breathing

The calmness in Elijah's eyes didn't fade as Mr. Bamford held his gaze on him, waiting for him to say something, anything.

"I don't follow," Elijah finally said, raising an eyebrow at the older man.

A muffled laugh erupted from Mr. Bamford before he looked away and shook his head, turning back to Ryan.

"I am just wondering how you can afford a lawyer like Ryan Katz and have him at your fingertip every second, so easily..." Mr. Bamford began, leaning forward in his chair. "The thing is, I got curious about you, Elijah, and did some snooping around, but

everything about you before you became Melina's husband is gone...like you never existed before you met her. We can all agree that that's strange."

Raising a brow, Elijah said nothing, wondering why his thought to meet the chief about the accounting fraud had suddenly become an interrogation moment.

"The only people who have the power to completely wipe out a part of their existence are those that control great power and influence... And so, I decided to dig around on Ryan, and although there was not much to get, a couple of lawyers from Bordoria were happy to let me know that he's the highest paid lawyer in his firm and only works for top notch people..." Mr. Bamford trailed off. "So, tell me, who are

vou?"

"I am just a man, who needs your advice on handling an accounting fraud case," Elijah responded calmly, trying to avoid letting his guard down too much.

Silence filled the room once again before Mr. Bamford let out a long sigh, mumbling, 'You know that you dodging my questions only makes me feel like I am right..."

"I never claimed that you were wrong." Elijah said quietly, watching the chief's eyes widen like he had cracked years of cold cases.

For a moment, he was taken aback by the fact that Elijah wasn't denying or fully confirming what he said, but he saw the look of impatience in his eyes and decided to not push the topic further.

"That's the issue?" Mr. Bamford asked, raising an eyebrow and shifting in his seat.

"As I said before, I need advice on how to handle an accounting fraud case..." Elijah replied, leaning back in his chair.

For a while, Mr. Bamford stared at Elijah, taking a deep breath before nodding his head slowly, as if

processing what he had heard, and then he said, "The Securities and Exchange Commission are the ones responsible to take care of such a issue, and SEC investigations are civil and not criminal, but if, in the course of its inquiries, the agency discovers possible criminal misconduct, it will refer the matter to the appropriate law enforcement authority... Why do you ask?"

"I need them to oversee a case for me." Elijah said, his expression remaining unreadable.

Calmly. Mr. Bamford leaned back even more in his chair and crossed his arms over his chest, tilting his

head slightly as if he were trying to figure him out.

"Well, I don't have nothing important to do right now, so I can take you to their office, under one, condition ... Tell me this, 'Why put on a mask?" Mr. Bamford asked, his voice low.

Holding back his words, Ryan eyed Elijah, and then at the chief, saying, "Respectfully, sir... We don't have time for Q&A. Can you help us or not?"

It took Mr. Bamford a few seconds, before shaking his head and letting out another sigh. "Very well then. Let's go."

At nine o'clock, Elijah, Ryan, and Mr. Bamford entered the SEC building, and the moment they saw *Mr.* Bamford, the room became silent.

"Chief, you are here." The lady behind the desk asked, looking at him in confusion "How could I help

vou?"

"Where is Ben?" Mr. Bamford asked, his voice calm, but serious.

A short silence followed before the woman answered. "He is in the office,"

"Can you take us to him?" Mr. Bamford asked, his eyes fixed firmly on her.

Gently, she nodded, walking from behind the desk, and she eyed Elijah, then looking over at Ryan, saying," Please follow me."

For a while, they walked down a silent hallway with only the sounds of their footsteps echoing in the hallway.

When they got to a big door, which led into the office, the lady stopped and pushed it open, before

stepping aside to let them walk in.

"Sir?" The lady called out, following them in. "Mr. Bamford is here to see you."

A blonde haired man wearing glasses, raised his head to see Mr. Bamford standing beside Elijah, and Elijah.

"Chief? I was not expecting to see you here." Ben said, sitting straighter in his chair.

"Well, my buddy here needs your help…" Mr. Bamford said with an amused tone, his eyes locked on Elijah as he continued speaking. "You are gonna be doing his case for him…"

Darting his gaze towards Elijah, Ben brows pulled together a little, studying his face, and said, "Buddy...? Ain't you the Hayes new son–in–law–"

"Yes, I am... Are you acquainted with my grandmother–in–law and my uncle–in–laws?" Elijah asked in a pleasant tone with a smile.

A raw look of disbelief crossed Ryan's face to see his boss suddenly shift in emotion and tone, especially when his tone was full of respect for the Hayes.

"Umm... not really. I don't have any closeness with that family or know much about them... It's just that your name... Hmmm, it has been popular lately in the atmosphere." Ben replied slowly with a sheepish smile.

Silently, Elijah studied his eyes, looking for any sign of deception, saying, "Really... My grandmother–in–law is a very famous person, it's strange and a little bit dishonest that you haven't had an encounter with her... I mean, she's a Hayes, and we Hayes has our influences printed on everyone..."

Alaugh broke loose from Ben as he shook his head, amazed at Elijah's arrogance, and then said, "Almost everyone... Well, Sorry to pop your bubble, but you will be surprised how many more famous people than the so-called Hayes that I don't care much about... So, if that offends you, but yeah, I really don't care about some of the rich..."

"Well, that's good then because I have ten briefcases with incriminating documents of Elmer Hayes and the board of directors, and I need you to take a look and confirm with the authorities that they have incriminated peices of informations for them to get arrested." Elijah said, his tone shifting into a more serious one as he stared at Ben, who blinked several times after hearing Elijah's sentence.

"What?" Ben said, his brows furrowed together as he tried to comprehend Elijah's request.

"I have ten briefcases."

"I understand what you said. But, sometimes it take years to investigate these things-"

"But that is not needed because I am dropping all the evidence on your table, and all you and your team need to do is confirm that they are indeed the same as I claim..."

When Ben looked over at Mr. Bamford, the old man shrugged, and Ben turned his attention back on Elijah, "Alrighty then... If that's the case, I can summon my team to take a look at these files... Where are they?"

Pulling out his phone and dialing Matt's number, Elijah waited patiently, and after three rings, he answered the call.

"Hi, Matt... You, Jerome, and Larry can bring in the briefcases." Elijah stated plainly.

A look of confusion crossed Mr. Bamford's face as he watched Elijah, and when he ended the call, the Chief let out, "Who are those guys you just named?"

Immediately, Ben raised a brow at those words, and Elijah noticed both men wearing the same expression, and he shoved his phone back in his pocket, saying, "Close friends of mine."

"I thought it was just you two," Mr. Bamford said, scratching the back of his neck.

"It was... the three are in another car-"

"And they have been following us?"

When Elijah nodded, Mr. Bamford felt speechless just standing there, looking at Elijah, suspicious of him, and yet, feeling pressure to take his side because the fear of the unknown was real for him, and Elijah was a man he didn't know, and just how much power this guy holds.

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Chapter 107

Judgment day

The silence in the lobby was ruined by Daniel, Mr. Boone, Elrod, Madden, Laurier, Viotto, Fox, Caddel, Francis, and Mr. Amana's steps as they walked through the front door of Investistic Co.

The ten men looked confused, seeing that Elijah was not there to greet them, and only Dice with a bunch of security guards were standing in the building, and some guarding outside.

Since they recognized Dice from the other day, they approached him, and knowing Elijah's instructions, Dice smiled softly at the men, giving them a welcoming atmosphere.

'Where are Elijah and Peach?" Mr. Boone asked him.

"My boss will be here soon, but in the meantime, you guys can wait on him in the board room." Dice said, keeping his face calm while looking into their eyes.

"This is crazy. Why host a meeting if you can not show up on time," Mr. Elrod said, frowning hard.

"Please follow me to the conference room."

"Ignoring me, I see."

A faint smile was the only thing he got from Dice before he walked off, heading for the elevator.

The board of directors was hesitant to follow him, feeling uneasy to be in an empty building with men they knew nothing off.

"I don't think this is a good idea," Mr. Caddel said, looking at the nine men.

"If we start to act suspicious, it will only give rise to that boy to dig into the files, so we have to stay calm and not act restless." Mr. Fox said, hardening his face to look tough.

"What if he already did?" Mr. Francis asked in concern.

"It's just been a day since he got hold of the briefcases, I don't think he had thought about them, Fox. Also, look at the state of the company... I think he has his hand filled with that." Mr. Madden said, trying to convince himself as much as the others.

"You thinking is not a Guarantee... I am with Caddel on this matter, and I want out of this shit!" Mr. Amana said in a low, but aggressive tone.

When the elevator door opened, Dice turned to look at the ten men still standing in their same position, and he called out, "Are you guys coming?"

Desperate, Mr. Amana looked back at the entrance of the building and saw that security has blocked the doors, causing chills to run down his spine.

With one last glance in Dice's direction, he decided to go with the others, who started moving towards the elevator, knowing that there was no other way out.

The room was quiet as Mr. Bamford, Ben, Matt, Ryan, Jerome, and Larry with Elijah and a few others sat

the table, and Elijah silently watched Ben and his team review Peach's works from the two briefcases since that was what he gave them first.

His legs slightly bounced up and down as the tip of his index fingers slowly brushed against his lips, studying their faces as if they would tell him something.

He was getting restless, waiting for someone else to speak up, and then Elijah met Ben's eyes when he raised his head, finally saying, "Who did these transactions?"

"My wife," Elijah said with pride and confidence, a small smile forming on his lips.

"She did?

"Why? Is there a problem?"

Silence settled in the atmosphere for a second as Ben looked back at the paper, and then mumbled." Wow."

Then he turned to look at everyone else, and then continued, "Because of the time limit you had given us. we were only able to review a few of her works, but, no... there's no problem... At least not with her reports ... There's a serious problem for Elmer Hayes... She successfully unraveled the issues with these transactions, and well, there is serious criminal misconduct within them."

That's all Elijah needed to hear, and his smile grew even bigger as he watched the concern on everyone's else's faces.

"Mr. Bamford?" Elijah said, turning to the Chief, who looked amused and troubled at the thought of going head to head with the Hayes

"This is a costly and dangerous road you are about to take... Are you sure you want to push this further?" Mr. Bamford said, looking straight into Elijah's eye.

"I have the money and resources to do this, and I am not stopping until Elmer Hayes is locked behind bars," Elijah stated calmly, his smile gone and replaced with a cold stare.

"Alright... If that's how you feel, then let's put your plan into action. I will open a police investigation as Ben and the others continue gathering more evidence... That way, Elmer Hayes can not escape out of the country..."

"Good,"

Confused about the fact that Elijah was going hard on members of his wife's family, Ben held back his tongue from questioning, saying, "This a serious issue from the evidence your wife had already given us, and it might go to court... That can be costly... Do you have a reputable lawyer—"

"He does." Mr. Bamford cut in, staring at Ryan directly in the face, meeting his calm eyes.

The conference hall had been quiet for a while until the board members slowly grew restless as the sound of the ticking from the wall clock became louder with each passing second, making the men feel uneasy.

As the minutes slowly completed an hour, they stared at each other's faces, and then, Fox stood up finally, lashing out, "This is bullshit! I am leaving this—"

The rest of his words faded in his head when the door burst open, and Elijah walked in with Matt, Ryan, Jerome, Larry, Rick, three policemen, and Mr. Bamford,

As fear squeezed tightly on his heart, Mr. Fox raised his hands in the air, freezing in his steps with trembling legs.

"Put your damn hands down, Fox!!" Daniel blurted out, pissed that he was acting guilty before they could even find out what was going on.

Then Daniel looked over at Elijah after Fox snapped out of his trance and slowly lowered his hands.

Frowning slightly, he watched Elijah's unreadable expression and asked, "What's with all the officers... I thought this was a board meeting."

"It was... until my darling wife gave me a beautiful surprise," Elijah said with a look that sent shivers down the board members' spine, not because he looked like an evil genius, but because the man standing in front of them looked bold and confident, and that intimidated the shit out of them.

Heart throbbing in their chest and with sweaty palms, the board of directors tried to remain calm and collected, but they couldn't hide the nervousness in their eyes.

"Daniel, Mr. Boone, Elrod, Madden, Laurier, Viotto, Fox, Caddel, Francis, and Mr. Amana, you ten along with Elmer Hayes are under investigation for fraud, conspiracy, and filing false documents... You are not allowed to leave the country until further notice." Mr. Bamford announced with a firm voice.

'Fuck!! We were all wrong... We are all damn idiots!!! This is not good! It's not

good! Shit! This is bad!! Really bad!!' Mr. Amana kept screaming in his head, his heart racing as the words echoed in his mind and he felt his blood freeze within seconds.

'I was wrong... This bastard actually made the file his top priority... But why? Why is this boy doing this?! Coming for the Hayes with such strong motivation. Why is he not af raid?...'Mr. Madden thought as he kept his head low in shock and confusion, unable to comprehend the situation

'Is someone behind you, boy?! Who's your puppet master, playing you by the strings... is that why you are this unshakable in the face of a storm you have made?' Mr. Viotto thought in his panic, holding himself back, knowing better than to say anything as he could only watch Elijah's face without daring to move.' Or... Are you the master of your own strings?'

A cocky laugh from Daniel broke the silence, bringing everyone out of their thoughts as his gaze went to Bamford, saying, "You are wrong... We."

"We have briefcases of incriminating evidence against you all that are being investigated as we speak, so let's not act like we left our brain at home... Okay?" Mr. Bamford interrupted, sounding bored with their pretentious attitudes.

'We sell out ourselves to this boy out of ignorance... Delivering our crimes right in his hands... How foolish we acted!! Damnit!!' Mr. Francis thought furiously.

'No! This is not our fault... Exactly... This boy fooled us all... He played with us like toys! Mr. Viotto thought as his hands started shaking, feeling powerless once again.

"With that said, this board meeting is adjourned, and you all are fired from your position as a board of directors from this company... You are free to go home and wait for judgment day..." Elijah said, the corner of his lips tilting upwards in slight amusement as he looked at each member in their shaky gaze.

'Who the fuck is his devil?! Like seriously, whose child is this?!' Mr. Amana thought with anger.

Trying to stay confident, Daniel ignored the pounding sound of his heart in his ear and said, Judgment day... Let's wait and see if Madam Jewel has anything to say about that... No one, not even you, boy, is locking Elmer's ass in prison when his mother is a Hayes!

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Chapter 108

Over my dead body

In the left corner of the casino, at the red leather couches, Elmer Hayes sat with his table covered with expensive wines and snacks.

A couple of young girls sat on his right and left side as he and his old friends sat around a mahogany table in front of him, drinking and Elmer took the deck of cards in his hand.

"Okay... this time, I am going all in!" He laughed loudly, slapping the cards together on top of each other before pushing them into the center of the table, "I bet five million dollars on this

one..."

Immediately an awkward silence circled among his friends and he instantly noticed their disturbed and hesitant gazes toward him.

"Don't be such a mood killer and place your bets!" Elmer smiled, trying to diffuse the tension around him.

"I don't have that kind of money to bet on cards...." His friend Lucas said looking at the cards and Elmer could tell he was lying by the expression on his face.

"Come on man we're all good here... just make your damn bet and play, no need to be shy" Elmer smiled widely, nudging Lucas's arm.

"No. I don't feel like this is a game, but a cocky move to rob us of our money..."
"What?!"

Even though he knew Lucas hit the nail right on the head, and he was right about him cunning them to get money, he screwed his face in annoyance as soon as he heard it.

"Why are you guys acting like sour grapes? Come on, just chill your asses down and play some cards" Elmer laughed again, taking a swig from his champagne glass and throwing his head back as much as he could while doing so.

But that didn't seem to do anything to ease the tension between the group, and they were still staring at him like he lost his mind or something, which irritated him even more than he already was.

"We heard of what that boy... Elijah... Did to you, and how you lost the company to your dead step-brother daughter because of him... You are broke, ain't you?" Jenkin said, a hint of anger in his voice.

"Right..." Lucas sighed, "You have never bet this high before... Do you even have five million to give any of us if we win this round?"

The way his friend's tone had suddenly changed against him, and how they were talking down to him left Elmer pissed off, and he glared at his friends, saying, "That lowlife day is numbered on this earth! Do you think a Hayes like myself will allow a punk shit all over me and continue to have air in his lungs for more than a week?!" "Is that so?" Mr. Bamford's voice startled the group, he came up behind Elmer's seat, smiling at Lucas who immediately shut his mouth when he felt the chief constable's intimidating

presence, and saw the four officers standing behind him. "At a casino in broad daylight, Mr. Hayes... Isn't three o'clock a little bit early for playing card

games?" Mr. Bamford raised his brow at him.

Remembering how the chief put him in handcuffs and sided with Elijah, Elmer felt rage and annoyance towards the chief constable's presence and he blurted out, "I am a free man. Bamford. It's my damn right to be wherever, whenever I want!"

"I see, ... That's the mindset that messed you up and dragged you in this deep, sticky mud," Mr. Bamford said in a serious and cold tone.

Pissed off by the chief response, Elmer hit his glass on the table and lashed out, "What the hell is an honorable man like yourself doing in a casino when you should be playing some superhero for the civilians?!"

"Looking for a dishonorable man like you, so I can be the superhero for a company that is dying because of the accounting fraud you and the board of directors committed!" Bamford retorted back in a cocky voice.

'That's one way to deliver the news,' One of the policemen thought with a faint smile and raised brow.

"What? What accounting fraud?! Why would we cheat anyone out of their money? My family is filthy rich!" Elmer yelled, slamming his fist on the table causing the glasses to rattle as fear gripped his heart, not letting it go and leaving him restless. "Well, they might not be rich enough because that didn't stop you from getting into this mess." Mr. Bamford let out, matching Elmer's energy. "What the hell are you talking about?!" "You are under investigation for fraud, conspiracy, and filing false documents... and there is incriminating evidence against you so far, so you are not allowed to leave the country until further notice, and if you try to run, we will hunt, capture, and lock you away till the day of your court hearing or bond gets paid for your release."

The atmosphere around the table grew cold and heavy, no one wanted to say anything, and Elmer sat frozen on his spot unable to comprehend the gravity of what happened and all of its consequences. "Who is behind this absurd accusation, Bamford?! Where is the proof?!" Elmer yelled, his voice growing louder. At this point, everyone's attention in the room turned to Elmer, watching the scene unfold in front of them, and knowing who he was, they were shocked at the fact that such a humiliating situation happened to him, which stunned many, including his friends. "Elijah Darius, and as I said, he has great evidence to back his claim... if he didn't, I wouldn't be poking a bear with a stick... So stay in Syldavia, and make our job easier, okay?" The name, "Elijah," hit Elmer like a hammer right in his chest, it felt like being struck by a truck at full speed, knocking every breath in his lungs along with the last drops of air as reality settled in and he went quiet immediately, his eyes freezing open. Seeing the look of doom on Elmer's face, Mr. Bamford shook his head before walking off with his men, and just like that, the five

young girls and Elmer's buddies stood from the couch, hurrying off like he had become a taboo and they should have no business with him anymore. As Elmer watched them leave, everything about his life felt like it was crumbling in slow

motion for him, his pressure mounting in intensity, and his heart beating fast inside his chest Suddenly, he stood, grabbed a bottle, and threw it at the wall, screaming, "That fucking bastard!!" Rage consumed him, his whole body shaking as a single tear rolled down his cheeks as he lashed out, "Fuck, Elijah!! Your piece of shit! I will end –"

A tap on his shoulders made Elmer turn around slowly, and he realized he was surrounded by five robust bouncers, standing tall behind him, one of them hand gripping his shoulder. "Mr. Hayes, you are scaring other customers, please pay up and leave." The beefiest bouncer spoke sternly.

"This is bullshit!!! Bullshit!!" Elmer screamed, "I am a regular customer of this place! Do you know the thousands of dollars I have spent in this damn casino!! And now, you are kicking me out for smashing a bottle!?" Elmer blurted in a loud furious voice.

"Slow down, sir!" One of the bouncers said calmly, "You cannot stay here now and cause more trouble! Pay up and leave. This is your bill."

Staring at the black book, Elmer hesitated, but the presence of these men was getting to him, and he snatched it from their grab and opened it, letting out a moment later, "Those backstabbers left their debt for me to pay too! What a bunch of assholes!!"

"Sir, we were told you were the one paying, so please don't make this an issue and pay up." One of the men replied, still calm and collected.

Frowning, Elmer reached into his pocket and took out his wallet, mumbling under his breath, "Elijah, you piece of –" "Achoo!" Another sneeze left Elijah's lips as he sat in the back of his car, and he rubbed his nose before inhaling deeply.

"Do you need a tissue boss?" Dice asked, eyeing Elijah in the rearview mirror and then focusing back on the road.

After sniffing deeply, he slightly shook his head and said, "I am fine. Maybe it's just something in the air that is making me constantly sneeze." Then he stared at the ten briefcases, smiling faintly before shutting his eyes and resting back to relieve his tension.

When the doorbell rang, Butler Gray sighed, feeling sick with the Hayes' nonsense and arrogance, and walked down the hallway.

the moment, he opened the door, the boredom on his face suddenly faded with slight anger as Elmer pushed past him, banging into his shoulder, shouting, "Where is my mother?!" "Good afternoon, sir," Butler Gray said curtly after a brief silence. "She's in

the living room." Even though her favorite tv series was on, Madam Jewel's mind was distracted by one thought, 'Why?... is it that he has not killed him yet... Is that why I have not heard Elijah's death news yet?' Disturb and a bit frustrated, she picked up her phone from the table next to where she sat on the couch and scrolled through her contacts. But as she dialed Scorpio's number, her sight rested on her son storming into the room like a

mad man, his face contorted with fury, looking like he wished to tear someone apart.

Immediately, she felt uneasy in her own house as her heart started to beat faster, dread and anxiety creeping upon her as she asked, "What's the matter, Elm?"

"Why is he not dead yet?! Why is Elijah still breathing!!" Elmer exclaimed with a harsh growl.

Startled by his question, Madam Jewel stared at him in confusion and fear and asked, "What did that rat do this time?"

"He just declared war on us!! Elijah has the documents... he has all the damn files and he's using it to get me behind bars!" Elmer roared, pacing around the room.

Those words left Madam Jewel speechless and in shock, her eyes widened as doubt forced her to not believe that her family was slowly getting dragged deeper and deeper into filthy dirt by a so-called, "Nobody."

Rushing toward his mother, Elmer grabbed her hands tightly as panic raised in him, and he blurted out, "Mother, you can not let him do this to me... You have contacts, right?! You can get me out of this mess"

Yanking her hands out of her son's grip, Madam Jewel raised her arm and landed her palm hard against his cheek, lashing out, "Pull yourself together! The only way you are going to prison is over my dead body! You are not getting sent to that dirty place by a filthy rat, who thinks he's a lion!"

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Chapter 109

A week to get it done

Pacing back and forth as she bit on her nails, Peach couldn't get herself to stop panicking like her hold world was on the line, and she kept tapping her phone against her palm, wondering if she should send Elijah a text or call. "He said he will handle it... You trust that he can take care of it... So why are you freaking out, damn it!" Peach hissed at herself through gritted teeth. Then she froze when she heard the sound of the

door unlocking, causing her ears to raise slightly, listening, and then her eyelids shut when she heard Elijah's voice in the living room, saying, "You can just leave them here, Dice"

For a moment, she didn't move, not even when their room door opened and she heard his footsteps approaching from behind her. Smiling softly, Elijah hugged her from the back, nuzzling his nose into her neck as he wrapped an arm around her waist before pressing his cheek against hers.

Her body stiffened as her emotions got the best of her. She tried to hide it, but it was too late, and Elijah knew from the response of her body toward him, and he said softly, "What is it, darling?"

"I trust you... But every time you walk out that door, my heart gets restless and I am scared..." Peach sighed quietly, letting out a shaky breath. "I swear I can not help it."

Her words woke up a part of him that Melina killed... During their entire marriage, she never worried about his well-being. When he walked out, she never cared to be concerned, except when she was drunk or frustrated and needed someone to dump her toxicities towards and make her feel better.

"I don't think I want to abide by rule one anymore... It kills me to know that you are out there, and I know nothing about your well-being or whereabouts... So..." Peach trailed off, her hands fisting her t-shirt while she fought tears threatening to escape from her eyes.

Pulling away from her, Elijah grabbed her arm, slowly turning her around to face him, knowing that she was slowly destroying the walls he built after his divorce... and his one thought was, 'Fuck this.'

Eyes locked with hers, his heart was beating fast, he stroked her cheeks, saying, "If you miss me, ring my phone up, and whatever you want to know, I will try my best to ease your worry

and curiosity, okay?"

Nervous that he was understanding about her interfering with his rule, Peach just stood still, looking down at their feet as she processed what he had said.

"Honestly, I do miss your voice when you are not around me," Elijah chuckled, cupping her chin lightly.

Raising her head, Peach blinked rapidly, staring at him as he kissed her forehead, whispering, "So, let's make it a habit of texting and calling each other, okay?"

Without hesitation, Peach nodded hard, her eyes shining brightly and a huge smile stretched her lips wide across her face.

Testing the water now that rule one was a bit lenient towards her, Peach watched his eyes and

asked, "So how did your day go?" "Elmer and the ten board of directors are being investigated by Mr. Bamford and a couple of detectives." "Really?" Peach asked excitedly. "Yep! And you earned yourself a dinner date later this evening at somewhere fancy because of that."

"Huh?!"

Squeezing her cheeks and making her mouth into an 'O'shape, Elijah brought his face close to hers and let out, "Because you my darling is the reason it happened in the first place." "I am?" Peach murmured, her cheeks feeling warmer. Seeing the light of excitement in her eyes glowed brighter, Elijah mumbled, "Umm… Let me put it this way… My wife is a genius."

Silence settled between them as he stared into her gaze, feeling the heat of passion rising within him, and his hand clapped her chin, his thumb slowly brushing against her moist lip as if asking for permission.

As a smile tugged at the corner of her mouth, Peach nodded lightly and closed the space between them, allowing him to capture her lips, his fingers running through her hair gently, deepening their kiss as she inhaled his hot breath, tasting his tongue on her parted lips.

Not caring that he was about to break two rules in one day, Elijah guarded Peach to the bed, their kiss becoming heated as they both felt the passion growing inside them, their bodies moving together rhythmically until he laid her down on the bed and hovered over her.

Suddenly, Peach smiled shyly as she pulled at his shirt, pulling it off him before rolling to the side and then she crawled on top of him, kissing his chest slowly as she ran her tongue along his skin teasingly, making his body shudder at her touch. A groan left Elijah's mouth when he felt her fingers running down the length of his stomach before grabbing his belt buckle and starting undoing it quickly, a chuckle escaping her lips as he looked down at her and whispered, "You are enjoying yourself." "Mmhmm," Peach replied huskily, grinning widely as she saw Elijah trying to control himself, trying so hard not to take charge and give her freedom. But suddenly, grabbing her by the t—shirt and pulling her down, Elijah raised his lips to her ear and whispered, "I can't wait any longer."

Letting out a soft gasp, Peach could feel his warm breath fanning against her sensitive skin, sending shivers all over her body, and suddenly, she wanted him so badly and craved nothing more than for him to take full dominance.

Within a matter of minutes, her wish was fulfilled as her body moved under Elijah, gasping loudly when he entered her with one swift thrust, his arms holding her tightly to keep her from going anywhere as her legs wrapped around his waist, her back arching as she felt him fill her, giving him complete freedom of her body without having to fear getting hurt. His grip on her body tightened as Elijah started thrusting harder and faster, burying his face in the crook of her neck while she kept raking her nails roughly on his back and biting her lip as she screamed out loud at the feeling of ecstasy.

Unable to control himself anymore, Elijah lifted her hips, positioning her so that he could bury himself deeper inside her, and he gave her another hard thrust, making her cry out as her walls contracted around him, her hands clinging onto his shoulders as she held onto him for dear life.

This was the first time he wasn't holding back himself, and she knew it because, after a couple of minutes of making her body feel like it was about to explode from pleasure, Elijah released himself inside her, moaning loudly as he leaned down, kissing her deeply as they tried to calm down and catch their breaths, panting heavily.

"That was..." Peach exhaled with a smile.

Chuckling, Elijah placed a gentle kiss on her forehead, then on each of her cheeks before trailing kisses down to her shoulder, whispering, "Ready for round two?"

Her eyes widened as she felt Elijah smiling against her skin, hearing his muffled, deep chuckle before she felt his body press against hers as he rolled to the side and lay beside her.

"You deserve a lot more, Peach, and I am going to make sure you get them." Elijah stated softly a moment, smirking at her as he rubbed her thigh.

Shifting on her side to meet his eyes, he watched a soft smile gracing her face before saying," I know being in here alone after I leave is exhausting, but give me a couple of days, and I will have it ready for you."

"What is, 'it?" Peach whispered.

But all she got from Elijah was a kiss on the head before he snuggled her into his arms.

The evening–harshed air blew aggressively at Madam Jewel's body as she hugged herself, standing outside of a shabby building, frowning at the huge lock on the front door.

Unlike last time, not a soul was outside of the building, and it looked really abandoned and creepy for her comfort. Sighing out her anger, she reached into her purse and took out her phone, dialing Scorpio's number. His phone rang for a couple of seconds and then it went straight to voicemail, so she hung up angrily before calling again, and again, and again, each time raising her blood pressure, making her angrier by the minute. After her sixth call, a storm of rage hit her when she heard Scorpio ask, "Who is this?"

"Why haven't you gotten the job done yet?!" Madam Jewel yelled hysterically, her face twisted with rage.

"Who is this?!"

"Jewel Hayes?!"

The line went silent for a second before his deep voice echoed, "It's a simple job to put a bullet in a man's head, but making sure you don't get caught is the goal here. Elijah will die, but I need to make sure he doesn't ruin yours and my lives after his death. "The fact that he's still alive is ruining my life. I need you to do your job and make this bastard a dead man! Do you hear me, Scorpio?"

Another short pause followed the phone call and then she heard, "Yes, ma'am. He will die. You can be sure of that."

"Good!!" *M*adam Jewel snarled before hanging up. "I am giving you a week to get it done, or else."

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Chapter 110

Putting a price on Justice

"Why is Elijah not dead yet?!" Madam Jewel screamed, her voice echoing throughout the walls of the living room of the Hayes mansion. "We are in the new month and that scumbag told me last month that he was going to complete his job soon, and now, we still have a pest problem. The living room went silent after those words and none of her children spoke for a while, their faces clouded with worry.

But then Cora couldn't hold back her thoughts again saying, "How is he doing this?!... We all thought he would be dead by now, but he's still very much alive... We thought Investistic Co. would be bankrupt by now, but in the past few days, the company has started operating again with new employees and will soon kick off... Nothing is adding up."

"... I tried talking to an employee from 'SEC' to tell me about the document those fools made Elijah get a hold of and see if we can get them out of the company. But I got told that Elijah has all the original copies and the agency is working with the photocopies. He refused to let them keep the original." Dean sighed with a look of helplessness on his face.

There was this reluctant look in Mathew's expression as he withheld his words for a second and said, "I tried using my contacts to get the investigation to be terminated, but Mr. Bamford is going in hard on this case, and most of the officers I had spoken with say that the case is high profile and the chief has the best detectives on it. They can't do anything."

"He's a good digger... he's somehow in a gang... He's hanging out with a man like Bryan Check... He's running a company that should have gone bankrupt by now, and now, he has somehow manipulated the chief of police to his will... This isn't making sense anymore!!" Amelia said as she threw her hands in the air in frustration.

Screwing his face into a frown, Tommy ball his fingers into a fist and let out, "How is that bastard getting the money to do all this shit!! Didn't Melina tell us when she first brought up the idea of marrying him that he didn't have a job and much connection in this country, so what is this?! How is he pulling all these shits off... at a fast pace!"

That was a question no one had an answer for and the room went cold with silence.

"So, what now?" Elmer finally found the courage to ask, trying to be hopeful even though the room had a hopeless vibe.

The quietness dragged on after his questions and within a matter of seconds, he was pissed, and he suddenly lashed out, "So, you all are fucking giving up on me?!"

"Damnit, Elm. Shut the hell up! No one is giving up on your ass, but Elijah is shutting down all of our efforts to erase this shit that you brought on yourself!!" Eli roared at his brother.

"The problem I created? If Dean's useless child would have kept her legs closed and stayed the hell away from that piece of shit, I wouldn't have this problem in the first place." Elmer snapped back. Without a word and rage pumping through his veins, Dean rushed from his chair and locked his grip around his brother's throat, causing immediate chaos in the situation as Mathew and Tommy tried to pull him away while Madam Jewel and her daughters screamed for Dean to stop.

After a lot of struggle, Mathew managed to hug onto his brother's waist and yank him back,

but not before Dean had gotten the chance to strike Elmer in the face, screaming, "Keep my daughter's name out of your fucking mouth!!" "But it's the truth!" Elmer pushed on, wiping the blood from his cut.

"Elm, that's enough nonsense!" Madam Jewel screamed, trying to get back dominance in the situation. Looking his mother dead in the eyes, his face went cold as he let out in a deadpan tone, "This is your fault! If it wasn't for your bullshit plan, this would have never happened. You should have let Peach stay the fuck away from this family!"

Before Madam Jewel could get the chance to say a word, Elmer looked at his siblings and said, "Don't you guys get it?! You are all filthy sinners with dirt that could land you guys in worse conditions than me... If this boy gets me, he is one step further to being bolder to come for the rest of you...! Mark my words!"

The truth in his statement was enough to shut everyone up, and they knew that he was right... Elijah was a threat that was getting bigger and more powerful than they expected, and now that the table was slowly turning, they had no idea how to shift it back in their favor.

The sudden sound of footsteps made the living room silent, and the curiosity in the atmosphere quickly shifted into fear as Butler Gray walked through the doorway with tenpolice officers and Mr. Bamford.

Immediately, Madam Jewel's heart dropped, and the color drained from her face as she watched one of the officers reach for his handcuffs while the chief constable announced," Elmer Hayes, we have a warrant for your arrest, and you have the right to a lawyer and to remain silent, or else anything you say or do will be used against you in court. Do you understand these terms?"

As terror washed over his face, Elmer's breathing became uneven and shaky as an officer walked up to him, locking his wrists with the cuffs.

His siblings just stood there, dumbfoundedly, in disbelief at the sight of Elmer in cuffs, but that wasn't what shock them, but the fact that this was Elijah doing. "Bamford, can we talk," Madam Jewel asked, looking at the officer pleadedly as she fought the urge to lose herself to her emotions.

Hesitantly, the chief constable looked at her, and then he sighed, asking, "What is it, ma'am?" "Can you step this way for a second, please?" Madam Jewel asked politely, eyeing the cuffs on her son's hands and the other policemen. There was a brief pause, and then Mr. Bamford nodded his head at her and followed her a couple of steps away from the others.

"For the past few days, I have been coming to your office, and you refuse to see me..." Madam Jewel whispered as if to avoid any eavesdropping ears around them. "My days have been occupied with work," Mr. Bamford replied, avoiding looking directly at her.

"Too busy to see me, I see, and that's okay. But what I want to know now is how much did it cost?"

"Excuse me?"

Looking over his shoulder to peek at the other officers, she sighed heavily and then focused back on him, saying, "How much did Elijah pay you to do this to my boy, huh? Whatever it is, I can double that... No, I can triple it." "Ma'am, never again insult me in this manner. You can't put a price on justice, and if I had the slightest doubt that Elmer isn't the wrongdoer here, the handcuffs would change course. But your son is the perpetrator... the evidence is completed and undeniable, so please excuse me... I have a job to do."

Speechless, Madam Jewel watched as Mr. Bamford walked away and approached his men, commanding, "Take him away."

The room felt like a graveyard at night as Elmer was carried away in handcuffs, making the rest of the Hayes watch in horror, and then, Madam Jewel's face hardened after the officers had left with her son, and she picked up her phone before hurrying away. "Mom, where are you going?" Cora cried in concern, but her words were left unanswered as Madam Jewel disappeared into the hallway.

Slightly waking up from the bed, Elijah slowly kissed Peach bareback, his fingers tracing down her spine slowly and gently.

Without opening her eyes, a smile formed on Peach's lips as she whispered, "Good morning, my love!"

And then she turned over to her right to meet his eyes, just staring at him with a smile on her face as the memories from last night came rushing back into her mind, and she couldn't help but blush slightly.

Then like a switch had clicked in her head, she noticed the brightness of the sun coming through the glass, and she mumbled, "You are not leaving early today?"

Shaking his head, Elijah brushed her hair behind her ear and whispered, "I was waiting on you to wake up because today is the day." "What?" Peach huskily whispered, sleep still weighing her heavy eyelids, "What's going on?" Smiling widely, Elijah cupped her cheek and mumbled, "The company is ready to be fully operated. Although Elmer's awful leadership took a toll on it, we have everything needed to have it running up again, so you can finally take charge." "Hold up, wait, what does that mean?" Peach asked in confusion. With a soft chuckle, Elijah pressed his lips to hers in a tender kiss as he whispered, "You are going with me to work today."

Her eyes widened in astonishment as Peach stared at him with wide eyes and she let out," Seriously?!"

When Elijah nodded, she rushed into his arms and wrapped them tightly around his neck. Smiling softly, she hugged him tightly and murmured, "Thank you, thank you, thank you! This is the best present anyone has ever given me!" The sound of his ringtone had no respect for the moment and ruined it with its harsh voice, which caused Elijah to look over at the nightstand, reaching for it, When he finally picked it up, he noticed Jerome 's name flashing across the screen and he

immediately answered, "J," "The spy we planted outside of the Hayes mansion just confirmed that Elmer Hayes has gotten arrested and is leaving the fence in a police car." Jerome informed him. Knowing that shit was about to get way uglier and dangerous than before, Elijah paused for a moment, looking at Peach before mumbling, "Thanks for the heads up, J."