

His Majesty

Author not credited

STORYPDF

Complete English text · US Letter reading edition

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About this edition

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Chapter ONE

The silence that followed the last word said by the person on the other side of the line gave hint on what was about to happen and whoever stays on line of vision will feel the heat of his anger.

Richard dropped the call and slammed it on the wall out of annoyance. His mother had managed to get on his nerves this time and he was too afraid to admit she was successful on ruining his good day. Now things will have to go bad.

“Sir, is everything alright?” His secretary of a year entered into his office when she heard the noise.

“Did I ask you to come in?” He demanded in a raised voice.

“I'm sorry sir, I didn't mean to invade on your privacy. I heard the noise and wanted to check if it was not a break in or maybe something terrible happened to you” she explained

“Without my permission?” He inquired.

“Do I need your permission for such issue, I thought that's part of my job sir” She fired back at him and he was taken aback for a minute, the secretary he hired and has known for a while never talked back at him. Who was he deceiving, he didn't even know her name not to talk of listening to her opinion about things? Well, none of that matters now, her tenure is over, she needs to pay the price for what she did.

“Get out of my office, you're fired. Don't let me come back and meet you in this office. Clear out your desk and leave” he stormed out of his office hitting Vanessa on her shoulder as he made his way out. The young lady was left shocked at what just happened.

Richard was never happy to see his mother, maybe it's due to the fact that the two were never close enough from birth or because his mother had always been busy going after her husband's side chicks and she never had the time to check up on him. Now that her husband is done having his own fair share of the women in the world., she decided to give her only son the attention she thinks he deserves and that is one thing that annoyed Richard the most.

He got into his car and drove off angrily to the building that he had always hid from—his mother's company.

“Tiffany and co, how may I help you?” he could hear the receptionists on the hallway attending to their customers on the phone and he proceeds to talk to one of them that was less busy.

“Good day, Mr. Amaan, how may I help you sir?” He couldn't hide the surprise on his face

“How do you know I'm Amaan, I've never been here before?” He asked.

“Our superior here called me to attend to you immediately you stepped into the building” The receptionist replied with a smile and Richard wondered if they were also paid for the smile. He looked around once more and realized there were CCTV around and that's what the superior would have used.

He nodded before talking. “Is Tiffany around? I'll very much like to see her”

“Please follow me” the receptionist walked with him in tow to the office.

“Thank you” he said curtly before entering the office without knocking

“I thought I raised you better to know you should knock before entering an office. It's a privacy issue” Tiffany raised her head from the work that had gotten her attention all morning to give her son a smile.

“All you did was raise my father, not me. That same privacy issue got my secretary fired this morning, just reciprocate that and tell me to get out of your office and never come back” he said without walking away from the door.

“I'm not gonna do that, so son, sit down. You've been standing all the while” she gestured him to a sit.

“That's so nice of you Tiffany. Thank you”

“Sarcasm, I know you much better than this”

“I don't think so” he counters back.

No matter how much his mother had tried to make things right, he was always there to bring them back to where they started from.

Tiffany looked at her son and admired his looks for a while, those looks can bring any lady to her knees, his chiseled nose and ocean blue eyes brought out his beauty and also at the same time the player in him. He had quite good and sour reputation with ladies, always on the cover of playboy magazines and all. He really is an heartbreaker. Yet the 27 years old was nowhere ready to settle down, and that was Tiffany's major concern. “You should take a picture, it will definitely last longer” Tiffany ignored his rude comment and only smiled weakly at him.

“When was the last time you talked to your father?” Tiffany asked

“Am I here to discuss my calls logs?” He asked rudely

“It's just a simple question, Richard”

“Maybe to you” he fired back.

“Why do you love dragging matters out of hands, all I want is an answer not counter back”

She stood up from her seat to sit opposite him. “Just answer the question Richard.”

He groaned loudly before replying. “Last year, I think. I'm not too sure”

“Well, if you had been in contact with your father, you would have known that he's terribly sick and he's all out of life” She said with pain evident in her voice.

Richard might not like his mother but he definitely like his father. The old man was always there for him through thick and thin until Richard got too busy to even call him. He didn't realize the man stopped calling him, he thought he was actually too busy anyways.

“What's wrong with him?” He asked.

“Maybe you should call him and ask him about why he has been in and out of hospital for nine months” She replied angrily.

“Nobody told me anything about it. How could I have known?”

“Says the person who didn't even bother showing up for his grandfather's burial service and the will reading. The same grandfather he said he cherished”

“One thing I want you to know is that I loved pa with all my heart. I had a meeting with international clients that day and how was I supposed to leave them to attend the burial of a man who lived a full life” His mother looked at him with disbelief

“Have I ever told you that you're heartless?”

“You did once” he replied briskly before he continued. “About the will, I really don't care about it. If he left me with something, you guys should share it among yourself or give it out to charity. I don't need it” he said

“Yes, I raised my son to be a billionaire and now look at him, he's nothing but a irresponsible young man. The only thing you care about is the throne, right?” He replied with a nod before explaining his intentions. “I'm only interested because grandfather made me promise him to claim it and let the family legacy continue, if not the throne will be passed to the Maliks and that is not good” The Malik's and the Amaans has always been on each other's throats when it comes to the throne. Even though the Amaans has been ruling for over hundreds of years right after the Maliks lost the throne to them, they still don't have the intention of losing it not to talk of a Malik ruling over them. It was forbidden

“Well, your majesty. If only you had bothered to come for your grandfather's will reading, you would have saved me the trouble of seeing your pathetic face here today” She brought out a letter

“Don't worry son, I won't bother you with reading it because I did it for you already. Since your father is sick and he won't be able to be in charge of the Arab Emirate any more. You will only be allowed to ascend the throne, quote according to your grandfather” she used her fingers to make the quote sign in the air.

“if and only if, you marry Bella Poonam Malik. The only daughter of our rival family” His mother threw the bomb and even though he laughed for a while, he had to stop when he realized she was not joking.

‘That's totally insane, absurd, uncalled for, arrant nonsense, abject stupidity and mostly and thoroughly impossible’ were the only words that left Richard's mouth as he looked at his mother with bewilderment.

“Are you done with all the grammars and defaming words because if you are, I'll suggest you leave my office, I have a lot to do. How dare you call your grandfather's wishes insane. Why are you like this Richard? give the dead man some respect” If only looks could kill, Tiffany would be long done.

Chapter TWO

Richard's POV

“**You know** that will never be possible, Tiffany. Not while I'm still alive will I marry a girl that is yours or any other person's choice. Trust me on that, woman”

I've never been in a relationship, not after what happened to one of my friends in school that made me hate the word *love* so much. If I end up being in a relationship today, it won't be a love affair, it'll all be about business and money.

After graduating from Imperial university in Mexico with a degree in Business administration and top of my class too, I came back to London to develop my own business while moving away from the family's web. Being a descendent of the Amaan's has a lot of strings attached and if you don't get yourself out of their web soon, you'll end up dying in it.

My life was arranged for me since I was a kid, following their ambitions and dreams for me, but after graduating college, I broke off every contact I had with them.

Now, they think they can get me married like every other rich parent do, they're playing with fire.

“You need to listen for once, Richard” she scolded me.

“All I've done my whole life is listen, I never argued with anything you guys said till college. Now all I'm asking for is to rule my life after college and make my own decisions for myself. Stop getting involved in my life” I argued

“You only listened at that time because of the benefits you were receiving from us, like your school fees, cars, houses and so on, but now that the benefits are not there anymore, can't you do this for your parent even with no strings attached? is that too much for us to ask as a parent?”

“Yes” I declared. “Yes, it is too much to ask. I'm not getting married to any person on this earth except the person I choose myself. What are we even talking about here? father is not yet dead, he'll still rule for more than 10 years. Let him continue his reign while I continue my life” I said picking up the letter and stuffed it in my chest pocket.

“That was your grandfather's wish, Richard. You can't just go against his last wish like that. You know it meant a lot to him” she warned

“Like a wise man once said, not all last wishes are granted. Have a nice day Tiffany”

I was about opening the door when she stopped me.

"Wait, I'm not supposed to tell you this. But as your mother, I will. There actually another condition to the one on ground" I stopped her

"I don't want to hear of it" I said

"I don't care but it says if you were already in a relationship, a serious one at that. The other condition will not be valid" I only nodded and walked out of the office with an angry scorn.

I groaned loudly immediately I entered into my car, I can't even imagine the pressure that will start coming from my family now. Both conditions are horrible and I have nothing better to do than yield to one of them.

As I brainstorm for options. The only prayer at the back of my mind, is for God to preserve the life of my father. He can't die now, not yet.

I picked up my phone and called the most useless person in my life right now, maybe he'll be a little useful.

"Hey bro, what's up. Did anything unusual happen?" he said immediately he picked the call.

"Why did u ask?"

"You don't call unless there's something" I could hear him talking to someone in the background

"Is that a girl?" I asked while laughing

"Yes. It's not supposed to be a guy unless I'm gay, then we can talk about me being with a guy" he replied while talking the person to buzz off.

"Stop living like this, you'll die someday."

"Thanks for the advice Father, but I think you need it more. Loosen up a bit and get involved" he advised

"Whatever sails your boat, Jamal. I need your help"

"Hit me. I'm listening" he replied

"Tiffany called me and I went to see her, so she said my grandfather left a will for me. To marry a girl from our rival family or I lose the throne to the same rival family. And the conditions will remain valid as long as I'm not in a serious relationship" the other end of the line was silent for a while before he finally talked.

"That's a little absurd. But it has a solution. I know you don't have a girlfriend currently, only bedmates who are not even presentable, but you can find someone and make it seem real to them.

Just hire the girl, pay her and let her do the acting. The following morning, everybody is back to normal without anyone troubling another”

“It's easier said than done. How am I supposed to find a girl that'll be ready to do that” I complained bitterly?

“I'm giving you this advice because I've done it myself. My mom was complaining bitterly about me not getting serious or thinking about settling down. So, I sat down, strategized the whole plan and took this girl to see them. Since then, we all have been living fine. Just find a simple girl whose life is not surrounded with too much dramas and let her help you with it” he explained

“Yeah, especially with the family dinner coming up the day after tomorrow, I really need to get it done and fast”.

“Do you have any idea who I could offer this to?” He was silent for a while and he was thinking if the person to use.

“What about your secretary?” He suggested

“No way, she's way too simple for me. I don't even know the girl's name. She's not even my type so don't let us go there”

“Her name's Vanessa and I've been trying to get close to that girl but she's made it impossible. That means she's without drama and I want you to know she's the right girl for this job, at least your only option for now. SO just cool down and do your thing for just one night. It doesn't matter if she's your type or not. Just go for it” he Said

“It's not possible because I fired her this morning”

“Then call her back bro, she's the only way out here”

Chapter THREE

Vanessa's' POV

After the little but yet not little encounter I had with my boss today, I drag myself to the cafe that was directly opposite the office to meet Dae, my roommate turned best friend for lunch. I met Dae when I first got a job in New York. I didn't have anywhere to stay and she offered me one when we were introduced to each other by a mutual friend. We've also had our own fair share of crazy stuffs like the one you write down and call bucket list, yeah, we're currently on that one too. But now that I've been fired from work, I guess I should start looking for work rather than trying to fulfill bucket list wishes.

"Girlfriend, what's next on our bucket list?" I'm seated in the restaurant directly opposite my office and all the while I've been staring at the skyscraper that is too weird to go back into.

Dae, my best friend of three years was sitting next to me holding her tablet while ticking off the goals we've managed to attain these past few weeks.

We started the bucket list two months back to celebrate her pre birthday session. We have to complete all the goals before her birthday or on her birthday.

We kicked it off by getting arrested, yes you read right, we spent two days behind the bars before Dae's sister came to bail us out. We had entered a restricted building in our area just to watch the sun set.

Even though we ended up getting arrested, that was the most beautiful thing I've ever seen in my life.

The following week, we went for skinny dipping and that also was awesome. Girls gonna live, right? The next one was to drive around town for 24 hours without stopping and we did with a trip bus that we borrowed from one of her boyfriends.

Dae is a total opposite of me. Though, we've both had our fair share of boyfriends but hers is an extreme. She's the extrovert who loves night club like her children, she never stays with a guy for two weeks. She's gorgeous, she'd gotten many offers from upcoming model agency to climb that ladder of success together but girl stayed being an accountant while I got a job as a secretary to a dimwit.

Life is fair only if you get to appreciate what you've got.

"Y'all should stop staring as if you've seen beasts with two horns. Where the hell do you come from? a gutter with ugly ducklings where beautiful girls don't exist" Dae's screams drew my attention back to her.

I dragged her back to her sit as she was standing and about hitting one of those High school boys. "Calm down, what's going on? They're just kids. What happened?" She yanked my hand off hers as she adjusted her skirt and sat down.

"I should be asking you what happened, you sat there for minutes just staring at nothing"

"I asked first" I said raising my eyebrows

"They were staring at us and I don't appreciate that"

"Let them stare, we don't care. It's their eyes and it's not like they came here to borrow yours. In case you need to know, I got fired at work today" I told her and I was bothered with her unsurprised look.

"Is it your boss that fired you or the office administration?" She asked

"My boss" I replied while I feel the tears building up already

"He'll call you back" she assured me

"How can you be so sure? It's not like you know him personally or something. Maybe this once you should be realistic" I told her

"Baby girl, it is you who should be realistic here. I've been working in that building two years before you came in and that guy, I mean your boss only had two secretaries. The first one and you" I turned my face to her to be able to catch up properly with what she was saying.

"The first one was fired more than 12 times, he kept on calling her back every time he fired her and she had to quit when she got a better offer with the quillx. Don't be discouraged babe. He'll call you back. Trust me on this one" She assured me

"What if I really went wrong? I really need this job. It's all I've got. I don't know what to do anymore. All I did was go into his office and ask if anything was wrong" I complained

"I assure you this, you'll be fine. Trust me" I was about talking again when my phone started ringing.

"Hello"

"Hi, this is Vanessa Decruz, how can I help you?"

“This is your boss. If you still cherish your work. Let me see you in my office in the next twenty minutes” with that he dropped the call and before my brains could process what happened, my legs already carried me.

I didn't bother saying a word to Dae, before dashing out of the restaurant and going into my office to face the clown I call a boss.

I was in the elevator when I got a message from Dae.

“Your reason for leaving me here should be tangible or else I'm gonna kill you. Trust me on that one. Xoxo.

I decided to give her a quick reply before the elevator gets to my floor.

“I'm so sorry, I got a call from my boss. I promise to make it up with you.

The elevator made the sound to notify that I was at my floor. I quickly got out and ran towards his door before waiting to catch my breath and compose myself before going inside.

“Sir, you called for me” I made sure I knocked before going inside because I won't want a repeat of what happened to me this morning.

“Yes, I did. Have a seat” I quickly placed my flat ass on the chair opposite him. “As a boss to a employee, if I ask you for something, will you do it?” He asked looking straight at me and I couldn't help but wonder what the help was. It can't be something bad, I think I should give it a try since it involves the boss to an employee

“Okay sir, I'll do just anything for my boss” He smiled and brought out a document and asked me to sign on it. As stupid as I was, I did. I signed the goddamn document without thinking twice or trying to read it through.

“Okay, so what you just signed is actually limited. It's just for tomorrow evening. My family is hosting a party, a medium sized event. Nothing that big though and you just agree to go with me as my girlfriend” what!!

“Sir, that's is not possible. I'm not even your girlfriend. Just tell me you're joking sir” he smiled weakly while pointing down at the document that I just signed.

“That's the only thing you can do to keep your job. Miss employee” it was obvious the son of a gun doesn't even know my name. I've been working with him for over a year and still.

“What if I say no?” I asked

“You'll lose your job, I'll Sue you to court and you'll have to pay me for breach of contract and you'll also pay with your image, I mean your reputation”

"This is pure blackmail" I said out loud

"That's all for today, use the door please" He instructed

"You're walking me out of your office after you blackmailed me into signing a stupid contract with you"

"Am I supposed to get you an entourage or a princess carriage for you to leave my office?" I almost lost my sanity as I carried my tiny legs and walked out of the office with the little pride left with me.

I got out of the office and slumped against my desk. I took out my phone from my jacket pocket and called my girl.

"Hello Dae, what did you say was our final on the bucket list?"

"Do something crazy, something almost impossible"

I think I just got myself signed in for the craziest thing ever.

Chapter FOUR

Vanessa's POV

¶ They tell me everybody's fifty minutes in a different time zone.

And since I had it at the moment, you're the one I wanna shine my light one.....

¶.....I like you girl in particular¶

Dae kept on singing on and on to the music playing on her phone while the events of yesterday kept on playing in my head. It's just morning and my boss will be here anytime soon. I just want to fade away and never come back

"Can you just shut up for five minutes and let the Major Lazer's music rest?" I screamed at her.

"You can't pass aggression at me just because things are not working out fine. Moreover, I didn't ask for you to be in that position" she replied while she switched off the music

"You're my best friend, you should share in my sorrow and pain" I feigned crying and expected her to come and console me but no, the girl kept glaring at me as if I just wished her grandparents dead.

"What stupid sorrow are you even talking about? just because your boss asked you to be his girlfriend for a night, just a night, you're here wallowing in pain"

"Point of correction, he forced me to be his date. Do you even have an idea what will happen to me if I refuse?" I asked

"Then don't, don't refuse and just go with the deal. At least you'll still have your job after everything is over and it's just for a night not for a decade"

"Why are you so mean, Dae?" I started another fake crying fest which earned me a hit at the back.

"What?" I shouted at her.

"Your phone is ringing" I looked down at the phone to see it was my mom. I was about cutting off the call when I felt Dae's hot stare at the back of my neck, so I decided to talk to her this time and not ignore her. "Hey mom, how are you doing? it's been a long time and I've missed you so much"

"Will you just shut up and tell us when you're coming home?" We are both not nice and I know it.

"I don't think I'll be coming till Christmas, it's kind of hectic here you know"

"I'm so tired of your rubbish and nonsense, just come home by yourself before we are forced to force you" She warned and I know better than anything that her threat are not just empty ones.

I looked up at Dae who just gave me the weird look after I dropped the call.

"Home is where your heart is, babe. Your parents miss you and they want to see you" she said

"I will try and go before Christmas that's if this whole issue is out of my neck"

"You know one thing about you that just amazes me" she came closer to me.

"What?" I'm always curious to find out what others think about me. Not like I'm self conscious or I like to impress people with my public figure but the fact that I like the fact that I'm just curious.

"You were a widow in your first life. With no kids and family, you lived alone in a hut till you die. I think you were widowed at the age of nineteen, that's why your life is like this in this new life" I slapped her hand away from my shoulder as I glared at her.

"What are you now? A psychic. I need you to help me solve the issue on ground, not behave like an asylum patient" I said

"Okay, so Let me give you a little bit of advise from this mommy here. Stand up, pick up your tiny behind, go into that bedroom, find some really nice cloth to wear and step out of that door because we're going now to get you a sexy, killing dress" She stood up and started getting ready by picking up her purse and her car keys while I sat there looking as if I heard magic speaking gibberish.

"Don't let me say it twice, it won't be funny the second time" She declared and I was so unhappy that she made that decision.

After spending several hours and minutes moving from one store to another in search of a "sexy" dress as Dae would say it, I decided to go with the floral gown we saw at a Victoria secret's store.

"This is what I call perfect" Dae commented immediately I came out of the dressing room.

"Don't you think it's kind of too revealing?" I asked

"Nope"

"The dress is kinda too tight and I don't get why the slit has to be this long. I think I'll look for another dress" I complained which warned me a glare from Dae.

"Girl, trust me when I say this dress is perfect. You look stunning and I can bet it with you that your boss will be stunned. He might even fall in love with you" she winked at me and I just smiled.

"You mean that ice Prince, forget it. He changes girls the way he changes his clothes and he's got class, he goes for international models. I hate to say this but it's true, I'm way below his standard" I explained

“You can give it your shot tonight, it won’t kill you, you know”

“Trust me, it will. He’ll disgrace the hell outta me” we both laughed at that before I went back into the dressing room to change while Dae went on to pay for the dress.

We finally arrived home exhausted and tired. Dae never give up on anything unless she gets the best out of it.

I literally dragged myself to the couch and sprawled myself on it ready to get a nap when I heard my phone ringing

Can this person just call again?

I groaned inwardly before picking it up.

“Hi” I greeted

“This is Richard”

“Okay, what can I do for you and who do you wish to speak with?” I asked caring less about whoever it was.

“Guess you’ve not been doing your assignments well, Secretary, This is your boss” What!!

“I’m so sorry sir, I didn’t...”

“I’ll pick you up by 7pm, be ready” he cut me off and dropped the call. I looked at the time on my watch and realized I had just thirty minutes to get ready.

“Dae, he’ll be here in thirty minutes, I need to get ready. I’m doomed. Help me out” I screamed and dragged Dae from the bed to help me get ready. After taking a quick shower, Dae helped me get into my dress, a pretty one I must confess, and helped me with my makeup too.

“Wow! you look stunning” Dae declared and gave me a peck while I just stood there admiring myself.

“Thanks friend” The doorbell rang and my eyes met Dae’s at the same time. The fear that crept in was evident and Dae could only give me an encouraging smile. I had to quickly move and open my door to reveal my boss staring at me like I just dropped down from one of the other planets.

Guess, I look really good! I applauded myself inwardly.

Chapter Five

Richard's POV

"Good evening Tiffany" I picked up the phone, used my shoulder to hold it to my ear while I try to fix the buttons on my shirt.

"Good evening son, how was your day?" I removed the phone from my ear to look at the caller again, hoping It was a wrong person.

"Cut the pretence off Tiffany, go straight to the point. What do you want?" I demanded. Growing up, Tiffany made it clear that she doesn't have the time for a child and I may be nice to every person in the world but not to Tiffany.

"I'm trying to be nice here, Richard and give me some respect too, young man" she replied angrily

"I'll try, now, what..." I paused trying to get a nicer way that I could ask her why she was calling me.

"How can I help you?" I guess that came out cool enough.

There was silence before she replied "Are you still coming to the party?" She asked and I replied "Yes, I'll be there"

"Okay then, we'll be expecting you and the surprise you mentioned to your father earlier" After a long silence, I dropped the call and proceed to finish dressing up for the party. I still don't understand why they'll bring the party all the way from our empire to New York.

Picking up my phone, I tried calling my secretary for the second time to see if she hadn't changed her mind but on a second thought, I called the office to ask for her home address.

Hot! Sexy!

That was the first word that came to my mind when the door to her apartment was opened.

Who is this sun goddess! that is dressed in floral print dinner gown with an embroidery placed fittedly on her chest? Her face glow just like the morning sun and I'm nothing but consumed by this amazing beauty. I couldn't get to take my eyes off her breast, how much I wish I could hold those two beautiful babies.....

"Sorry, Hi, I'm here to pick Vanessa the secretary, is she in there?" I asked and the person at the door could only look at me as if I just declared I was Adolf Hitler.

"This is Vanessa, sir" my eyes went wide as I recognized the voice that had sang good morning and good night into my ears for over a year now.

“Okay, I just couldn't recognize you. You look cleaned up and it does fit you a bit” I said trying to cover up my shame and desire that’s running through my veins. The look on her face makes it so obvious that she was angry and I don't give a damn. Just because she looks beautiful doesn't mean I should go on my knees and worship her.

“My car is down the street there, let's go” I gestured for her to come out of the house and follow me but she stood still before opening her mouth to talk.

“My purse is inside, you can go. I'll meet up in a second” and with that she disappeared into the house and I was forced to drag myself back to the car and wait patiently for her.

I faced the rear mirror of the car and addressed myself. “You almost blew it off there, Richard. Beautiful women are still your weakness, just because of that you almost lost your dignity and pride in front of a secretary. Control Richard, Control!”

I didn't know she was already by the passenger door side until she knocked on the window and I had to unlock the car

“I'm sorry I took so long, I had to fix something back at the house” she apologized immediately she entered the car.

“I almost thought you'd stand me up, but good job secretary, good job” To be sincere, I had busied myself with teaching the man in the mirror “control” that I hadn't noticed she took her time coming out.

“My name's Vanessa not Vanessa the Secretary sir, at least for tonight” She corrected me and turned her face to the window. I only nodded at this new Vanessa or was she always like that. Anyways, I need a brave woman tonight.

Spotlights was the menu at the venue, the lights were blinding as I struggled to get Vanessa inside the party, with the help of the bodyguards and the bouncers and when we successful did, I heaved a deep sigh of relief.

That was tough, I told myself

“Do you think I'll be able to get back to my normal life by tomorrow?”

“Why do you say that? Miss Vanessa” I queried as we strolled towards the door leading to the hall where the party is being held.

“Control Richard, Control” I warned myself.

I was about opening it when I felt Vanessa's hand on mine stopping me from opening it.

“With that spotlight and cameras, family and friends, enemies and allies, you think my life will be the same?”

“Don't try to play smart with me, Vanessa. You know what you were up to before signing up for it” I scolded

“Are you being serious right now? you practically forced me into this and now you're telling me this?” She cried out.

“There's a party right in front of us, we'll have this discussion later” I took her hand into mine and dragged her into the party not without whispering into her ear— let the show begin*

“Hey Richard, who's the hot chick with you?” I bit my inner cheek as I watch my second cousin who also happens to be my most hated family walks towards us.

“That's Sam, we are not really close” I whispered to Vanessa before turning to greet my cousin with a side hug.

“This is Vanessa, my girlfriend and meet Sam, my cousin” I introduced the two of them and after they exchanged greetings, Sam winked at me.

“You've got a hot one there, cousin. She's totally gorgeous” he smirked at her.

Vanessa turned to me to rub my chest. “Thank you and my baby here has told me a lot about you”

Where is that coming from?

“I hope they're good things though”

“Both good and bad but mostly good” she replied and clinged her hand to mine.

After greeting some important guests and people for a while, the entrance of both my parent were announced and both me and Vanessa walked towards them.

“Seeing your face like this is a drug to my system” Dad's face glowed as he said those words.

“I hope it's medicinal drug and not the other one” I said before pulling him into a hug.

“Hey dad, long time no see. You look old”

“You can say that again son and I'm proud to see you're doing really good. I'm proud of you son” he pulled me into another hug.

“Hi Tiffany, you look good” I greeted My mom grudgingly. She didn't respond at first before proceeding to ask Vanessa who she was.

“Sorry, my bad. This is Vanessa, my girlfriend and Vanessa, meet my parent”

I knew my mom didn't believe anything I said and all she did was look at the tiny lady beside me with disbelief.

"Which household are you from, Miss?" I had to roll my eyes at her stupid question.

"She's not of the Arab emirate, mom. She's from the Philippines" I answered for her.

"She has a mouth Richard, let her respond to her own question" she cautioned before pulling Vanessa to the table for the dinner.

"Silence please everyone" my big uncle said before making the toast. "To the king and his family and to the only prince given to the Arab emirate who most of us are just seeing for the first time in two years. Long live the Arab emirate"

"Long live the Arab emirate" we all chorused after him

"Why are you with my son?" My mom asked her and for the second time that night, she was tongue tied.

"Because I love him" she replied smoothly.

"Love is not a word in my son's dictionary, so don't give me that part, my dear one" my mom said glaring at me.

"I don't know what you're talking about, but I love Richard a lot" her voice was shaking and it was evident that she was scared.

"I haven't seen you guys hold hands or talk to each other with smiles on your faces and your eyes shining brightly and you want me to believe it's love. You guys are behaving like an employer and employee and you want me to think this is real"

Before Vanessa could lie under her breath again, I replied her myself even though I knew I'll regret the next thing that came out of my mouth

"She's pregnant with my child, I think that should be enough proof" I said glaring directly at Tiffany Fucking Amaan.

Chapter Six

Vanessa's POV

"Love is not a word in my son's dictionary, so don't give me that part my dear one" his mom said while keeping the angry look on her son.

The whole energy I got ever since we arrived here is all mostly negative and the positive ones only came from Richard's father. The Arab king, and that has totally made me realize the more trouble I've gotten myself into.

By tomorrow, I'm very sure more than 30 persons will be after my story, wanting to know if I'm fit for the throne not knowing I was forced into this pile of shit. Richard's mom is not making the issue easy for me, maybe she thinks I'm one of those gold diggers who would probably be after their wealth.

I looked over at the mother with a forced smile and lied under my breath.

"I don't know what you're talking about, but I love Richard a lot" with all the glares coming from most people on that table, the fear was starting to creep in. These people are too powerful for my type of person. I've always avoided this type of clique. Moreover, I didn't come here to steal your prince away neither am I here to kill your king. Can I disappear? please.

"I haven't seen you guys hold hands or talk to each other with smiles in your face and your eyes shining brightly and you want me to believe it's love"

Can this woman just stop for once? I didn't sign up for this. I only agreed to the girlfriend part. I didn't plan for the questions.

"She's pregnant with my child, I think that should be enough proof"

I turned my head to see where that came from hoping my instinct was wrong but it was too true to be wrong. Did a hurricane just happen? Because the silence that ensued after that could cause a storm.

I looked at him with a thousand question lingering in my eyes but all I saw was the cold, lifeless blue eyes looking back at me with no answer.

"I think we've had enough for tonight, she's tired already and she needs her rest, so goodnight everyone" He stood up and pulled me up with him.

"Richard, you need to sit back now and let's discuss this as a family" His father warned

"There's nothing to discuss, father. Because your wife over here has no reason to keep on peppering me and my girlfriend with stupid questions and I'm not in any way comfortable with that" he replied rudely.

This man is not only rude to his workers, he has the reputation too at home. A royal prince at that.

"Richard, for the last time, sit down. If not, all hell will break loose" he warned

"Do your worse, like I care" with that he walked out of the party using the back door while dragging me along with him so as to avoid the paparazzi and their nosy attitude.

We got into his car and almost immediately he drove off.

Ten minutes later, he abruptly stopped and forced me to look at him while holding my chin up in between his large palms. I could feel the electricity charge running through my body and stopping directly at my core.

"What you saw today and everything you heard should be your secret till you die" I slapped his hand off my chin as I hissed bitterly.

"What did I see exactly that you're talking about? the fact that you're a prince or the fact that you're from the Arab Emirate"

"Or the part where you said I'm pregnant for you, which one exactly? tell me" I screamed

The whole scenario had turned my head and I regretted following him today. It's not really my fault, all I did was allow myself to be forced into a stupid contract.

"Everything so far, keep them to yourself and you'll still keep your job, once it leaks out, your job is gone, trust me on that" he warned while I kept on glaring at him.

"You know what, keep your job for all I care. At least the contract is only for tonight. I don't need you or your job anymore. The contract was all for your own good, you selfish human while my own life is not your business. You're here talking about losing the job, do you even have an idea what will happen to me after this? do you know the number of people that'll be after who the hell I was to appear at their party with their prince"

"Hold on to your job like it's your child and let me keep my life, at least that's what matters most. Have a good night, boss" I laughed bitterly before exiting the car.

I alighted from the car without even waiting for his reply and hailed a cab down to my apartment.

"How was your night, love?" Dae asked almost immediately that I entered the house.

"Don't even ask me, you won't want to know" I replied

I got into my room, unzipped my dress and removed my shoes and without taking a shower, I dropped my self on the bed.

“What is really that bad?” Dae asked

“No, it was worse and I'm really not in the mood to answer any question, just leave me alone and get some rest yourself. You've been a good friend Dae” I heard her mutter goodnight before leaving and closing the bedroom door behind her.

The alarm beeping woke me up from my sleep and when I saw it was seven, I quickly stood up from the bed and dashed towards the bathroom.

I gently walked back out when I remembered I can't go to work and that was because I quit the job the previous night.

I walked into the kitchen to see a note from Dae telling me she left for work already. I picked up some bread to make a toast and first made myself a cup of coffee before anything.

I opened the newspaper to check if there'll be any vacancy after I had eaten breakfast.

Circling the important ones with my pen, I went into my room to get my phone so I'll start calling them.

I heard a knock coming from the door and I was forced to stand up and open it.

Without looking at the person, I opened the door and kept on pressing numbers on my phone.

“Why didn't you come to work?” I looked up to see it was my bad news AKA my boss.

“Because I quit, I did last night or have you forgotten sir?” I replied rudely.

“As for last night, you didn't wait to hear my reply. I'm not that bad...”

I cut him off before he could continue.

“I don't want to hear your reply Richard, what else do you have to say. You lied to your family that I was pregnant with your child and that is totally out of what I signed up for. And that only shows how selfish you are and I have no damn respect for a man like yourself. Do me a favor Richard, just leave me alone please” I was about closing the door on his face when he used his leg to stop me from closing it.

“All I ask is one thing, let me protect you”

Chapter Seven

Vanessa's POV

My mom once told me she was seventeen when she met my father who was just a year older than her then.

They had met at a friend's birthday party and the two had ended up being cat and rat, fighting and arguing over unnecessary things, even never agreeing on one thing until it was time for my father to move to another country entirely for his university education.

That was when the two of them realized they were made for each other. Love, as she had said can be found in the strangest of all places.

I've always hoped to find my prince charming in the most romantic way but with what my boss AKA worst nightmare just told me, I think I'm bound to never know love. Who cursed me with someone this horrible?

"I just said something important and I need your reply, are you even listening, Vanessa?" He flipped his hand in front of my face to get my attention.

"Yeah, I can hear you and honestly I don't know what to say to you but I can bet I'll scratch your eyes out if you repeat that thing you just said. The funniest thing is when you knocked on my door and told me you wanted to protect me, I thought maybe you've changed overnight but with the new request of yours, I just realized that you're still the same as ever" I spilled out not thinking twice.

"Okay, say whatever you want to say to me, I don't care. All I need is your answer because that's the only way I can protect you from anything. If we don't do this Vanessa, it will be dangerous for us to handle" He warned and I was forced to look at him if this was real. If this whole thing was real. I just want to explode and melt away from here, I just want to go far away from civilization or anything associated with Richard or anything Amaan..

Is that too much to ask?

"Maybe you should change the word, 'us' to me' because you're still the same self-centered person I knew even before working for your selfish ass" I corrected

The first day I met Richard Amaan was a very eventful one, I had come to his office for an interview after I had seen the advert for vacancy in the newspaper.

Having applied for the position, I put on the best of my dresses and off I went to Amaan's enterprises with a positive mind that I'll get the job.

On getting there, I saw over five people sitting down and waiting for their turn. I was late and it was due to the fact that I had a little accident with someone who is as arrogant as a peacock. He crashed into my car with his and I was forced to take it to the mechanic before coming for the interview. Even with the guy's pretty face, he had the ugliest heart.

"Is Vanessa around now?" A woman in her late forties asked.

I raised my hand and followed her after she gestured for me to come along with her.

I was directed into the office and after turning my back to face the interviewer after closing the door, I discovered it was the same arrogant prick I had issue with that morning.

"What are you doing here?" He asked after he had lifted his face from the document.

"I'm here for the job, what are you doing here?" I asked and for some few moments he refused to reply.

"You know what? you're hired. I'm giving you this job because you have to pay for the damages you did to my car. Do you even have any idea how much I purchased that car? I bet it will feed your generations to come and even your ancestors." I couldn't help but wonder why I had to come across this bad luck.

"You hit my car from behind, you should be the one paying for the damages, not me" I argued.

"You stopped abruptly on the road without trying to see if a car was behind you"

"Why come too close to my car with yours, this fault is from both sides if I'm to be fair, I can't accept this" I said trying to make him see reasons with me.

"If the fault is from both sides, then I guess the job I just offered you will make it fair to both sides. With that car that you're using, I bet you need this job as much as I think you do" He continued with what he was doing ignoring me.

"What's your gain from all this? what do you get from all this" I was already tired

"You get to pay for the damages and you get to work under me despite the fact that you proved all great and awesome this morning. It's just a revenge for insulting me" He smiled wickedly and I was forced to drag myself out of his office without an interview but yet with a job. I couldn't say no to the job offer because he was damn right, I needed it like I needed air.

My life in hell started since then because till now, according to him, I'm still paying for the damages. I hope I don't end up doing this till I'm fifty. Damages my Foot!

As I looked at that same man right in front of me, I realized he hasn't changed a bit, still the same bad, arrogant prick that he has always been.

"For the last time, what do you say about this?" He asked again drawing me out of my thoughts.

"What if I say no to your request?" I inquired and he smirked in response.

He stood up from the sofa he had been sitting on, adjusted his suit and brought out a cheque from his chest pocket

"What if I offer you three hundred thousand dollars for the job?" It was my turn to laugh at him.

"You're so miserable and pathetic that I just can't imagine how I got to know someone like you. You're selfish, arrogant and self-centered" his eyes went wide in surprise.

"Ooh, you think I'm dumb right? And I'm stupid enough to clean up the mess you made. You started this game, Sir. I bet you should finish it yourself" I advised and walked towards my door ushering him out of my house.

"Please, use the door sir. Ten more minutes here, I might end up killing you" I warned

When I looked at him, he was still standing at the centre of my living room looking at me with surprise.

"Are you walking me out of your house?"

"No, I'm asking you to sit and enjoy yourself. You have one more minute to leave this place or else I'll call the police on you" I threatened and then he moved to walk out of the house.

"What's the big deal in being a surrogate? All you have to do is carry the pregnancy for just nine month and disappear afterwards and I'm also offering you a whole lot of money for that." he said while outside the door making me wonder why I stayed back to listen to him. He was looking at me intensely and I swear, I could drown in those beautiful eyes.

"Afterwards, what will I get to gain or what will I even be gaining from this stupid plan of yours?" I was screaming my lungs out.

"Three hundred thousand dollars and my Protection, that's the only way I'll get to protect you" I smiled wickedly at his stupidity

"Go protect your cat for all I care. I'll rather die than take that from you. Bye Mr. Richard Amaan forever" I banged the door hard at his face.

Chapter EIGHT

Vanessa's POV

"Good morning" I greeted her royal highness immediately I was taken to the room where she was.

I woke up this morning with a negative feeling and anytime I feel that way, things never go right. As I was trying to decipher where the feeling could be coming from, I got a call from her royal highness, Richard's mother, to see her at the Italian restaurant I've always dreamed of going to.

As I stepped into the heavenly restaurant, I was welcomed by one of their staffs who asked if I had a reservation or an appointment, after confirming the latter, I was taken into the room where she sat in all her glory away from the noise and issues of the world, I guess.

I still don't know the reason why I'm here but I don't think it's about the surrogate matter, it can't possibly be.

"Good morning" I greeted the second time trying to get her attention from the magazine she was reading and I was ignored, after standing for what seem like five minutes, she finally looked up from the magazine and gave me a weird look before dropping the magazine on the table beside her.

"Ooh you're here, you may seat" she finally talked. She can talk! After several minutes of standing here, if only wishes were horses....

"And please bring the hand sanitizer for her; I can't afford getting germs on my table. It's only the VVIP that use this room" she directed the instruction to the man who had been standing by the door, he bowed and went out of the room to get the hand sanitizer. I know she was referring to me, as if I was a pile of walking germs.

"I bet you must be hungry, what can I offer you?" she questioned

"Nothing, I already had breakfast. Thank you very much" I rejected politely, I can't afford getting poisoned too.

"If you say so, but how come you look so skinny and dry, I don't think you feed really well" I was getting irritated by her words already, but since she's an adult, I think I'll let this one slide.

"At least i work for the money I use to feed this so-called tiny body of mine" I muttered under my breath and I could swear she heard me because she glared at me after that.

"What do you do for a living?" she asked with the type of attitude that'll make you think you're the poorest person in the history of mankind.

"I work for Richard's company as his secretary" I replied

"No wonder you were able to get my son's attention. I'll go straight to the point. I did my one research about you and I realized you're from a lower caste in the Philippines, your father works for a construction factory and your mother sells goods on a very low scale in the market. You ran away from home with your boyfriend and ended up here with nothing after he left you" she paused a little when the man brought her the hand sanitizer. She told him to take it back since I won't be needing it and from their conversation, I think the man is the family's butler.

"To what I was saying, I called you here to ask you about your worth. Tell me, how much should I give you so you'll leave my son alone?" What! After she had the goddamn guts to talk about my life like she owned it, now she's trying to buy me.

"I mean after you deliver that thing inside you. Richard has a bright future ahead of him and he shouldn't settle for something like you" my boss does get his attitude from someone.

"No one said anything about me having a dead, dark future. I can't stay here and watch you step all over the little pride I have left. I'll have to go now; do have a nice day, your highness" I stood up from my seat

"The only reason why you're still alive is because you're pregnant with his child, if not Vanessa, you'll be long dead, so if I were you, I'll be careful about everything especially with that child" I was shocked to the core that I stood still for minutes.

I managed to dragged my feet out of the restaurant and tried everything in my power not to lose my sanity. The emotions were becoming too overwhelming for me and I just couldn't hold back the tears from falling.

Where do I go from here? Maybe I should just go back home to the Philippines. I cursed Richard under my breath for everything he had done to me.

I can't go back home, not now, things aren't going smooth back at home and I just can't take my own burden and add it to theirs. Even if mom wants me back home, I can't go back just like that with nothing.

If the Amaans get to know that I'm not pregnant, if they get to know that it was all a lie, I'll be long dead before I can say cheese.

The ringing of my phone brought me out of my thoughts and when I checked it, I realized it was from home

"Sis, it's me Rachael"

"Rachael, what's up, where is mom? Why are you calling me with her phone?"

“mom is in the hospital, sis” What!

“What happened to her?” I stood up from the roadside bench I had condemned myself to as fear started creeping in

“Mom said I shouldn’t call you, but I have to. Father had been in the hospital for over a month now, the doctors discovered there’s a hole in his heart. We were told to look for money so they’ll start the necessary treatment for him and possibly surgery” No! this isn’t happening to my father, he deserves far better than this

“Are you there, sis?”

‘I’m here, I can hear you. How much have you been able to gather?’

“Mom is planning on selling the house but the money will still not be enough for the treatment. We don’t know what to do. Father is dying sis. He’s dying’ she cried and dropped the call.

I was transfixed at the same spot for a long time brainstorming for just four letters word H.E.L.P.

After brainstorming for options, I opted for the worst and last one.

Hailing down a cab, I headed for that destination, a place I had refused to go back to, my office.

I ran all the way from the first floor to the boss office hoping and praying that the offer still stands. Three hundred thousand can go a long way right now, I know what I’m doing is not right, but I’m too desperate to differentiate between right and wrong and also I’m not in my right senses.

Taking only two reasons into consideration: without the pregnancy, I’ll be dead and without the money, my father will be dead too and pregnancy equals to money.

“Boss....” I ran into the office without knocking and I watch my boss banging a red hair girl on the office desk.

She was moaning out loud and I couldn’t get myself to look away.

I was tongue tied as I watched a lady climb down from my boss desk and adjusted her gown while my boss was busy adjusting his trousers. This useless man whore. If only wishes were horses....

“I’ll see you later Richard, thanks for the treat” she winked at me before walking out of the office. They just had s*x on the office desk, can I unwatch this, please?

My head will not let go of this scene for a long time.

‘How can I help you, Vanessa?’ He queried snapping me out of it.

Taking a long deep breath, I finally said it. ‘I’m ready, I’ll be your surrogate’ The bastard could only do nothing but smirk with surprise evident on his face.

Chapter Nine

Vanessa's POV

I stood up from my bed grudgingly and looked into the mirror as I took in my weird morning appearance. Face look swollen, hair all over the place and the worst part of it, I looked like someone who was going to faint any moment from then.

I hesitated a little bit when I heard the doorbell ring, I picked up a baseball bat behind the door.

I mean who picks up a bat before opening the door, well that's me.

My violent action is due to the fact that those nosy paparazzi won't try their very best to mind their business. After I've ended up getting myself into the biggest mistake of my life by accepting to be my boss date to his family dinner last week, I think the whole of America and the Arab are now after my life.

After I accepted to be his surrogate, we had gone to a private clinic, according to him, to get the procedure done.

The doctor had insisted on opening my legs to insert the stuff, I won't say it. Not like I'm the Virgin type, but please I felt my privacy had just been invaded.

Another whole drama started as Richard refused to leave because he wanted to see the whole procedure being done, all I could do was scream and beg my pride off till he agreed and excused us.

I was about having breakfast the next day after the procedure when I heard my doorbell ringing, I opened the door only to be greeted by cameras and reporters.

Making me wonder about how they got to know about the whole thing or even about my address. I Closed the door out of anger and three days and a week later, I'm in front of my door with a bat and to make my reason clearer, I haven't moved an inch out of my door since because I now have what it's called paparazzi phobia even though Richard told me that he had handled the issue with the reporters.

"What the hell is this?" I quickly dropped the bat on the floor when I realized it was Dae.

"Nothing, just a thing to protect myself against those bloody reporters. To smash their cameras too" I smiled

"What? Why are you staring at me like that?"

"You look awful, is it due to the fact that you haven't moved out of this house for a while or because you're pregnant?" She moved her grocery bag to the kitchen table.

"Maybe both" I replied as I get ready for the outcome

"Repeat that and let me smash your head with this rolling stick" I just couldn't repeat myself.

"I think I'm pregnant" I finally said

She looked at me for a while before she left the kitchen and made her way to her room to remove her shoes. She's just returning from a trip to her parent's house and I'm glad she's here because I really need someone to talk to.

"You think you're pregnant or you're pregnant? Which one?" She asked after removing her accessories.

"I'm not sure yet, I haven't taken the test and I'm supposed to go to the hospital with my boss tomorrow so as to be sure about this pregnancy thing" I explained

"Why will you go to the hospital with your boss for pregnancy test? Are you dating your boss or was it a one-night stand? I'm in the dark here, explain to me. What's going on? What's happening to you? The last thing I'm aware of is the fact that you went out with him to be his date for a night and you came back unhappy. So, please, I'll ask again, what's going on?" She inquired

"I agree to be a surrogate for my boss. After what happened at the dinner where he lied to his parent about me being pregnant, we don't have a choice than to make it all real. So, they'll believe him" I recounted that night event to her.

"I don't understand one thing here, he was the one who lied, so why are you both paying for the consequences of his lies? he's supposed to be the one suffering not you" Did she just say suffering?

"Dae, get one thing clear, I'm pregnant and that does not in any way resemble suffering" I corrected her.

"You're not serious with what you said, right? The paparazzi drama, it's you who look like shit not him, you'll be the pregnant one not him. You'll be the one threatened by his parent not him. How does that not relate to the word suffering? I'm not even sure if you know what you're getting yourself into" she argued

"I know the consequences of agreeing to this, I didn't call you here to judge me. All I want is just a friend to see things my way too. I need the money; my family needs the money. If I can do this to help my father get his heart surgery, then I'll do it a thousand times. I don't care what you think about me and this decision, I just can't sit down and watch my father die" I cried out and she moved closer to hold my hand.

"You know he'll take the baby away from you, neither of us have experienced what you'll go through in the next nine months, but you know it will be difficult for you, right" I nodded in response "Babe, it's not like I'm judging you or anything but this is the most difficult decision in the world. But I'll always be here for you no matter what. Just be safe" she advised and hugged me.

"So, the main reason why I'm here is to take you clubbing because it's Friday. It's the groovy night babe" She said after the lingering silence.

"Nah, I ain't in for that. I'm pregnant or maybe not but whichever way, I'm not going" I replied

"It will be fun, you'll get to enjoy yourself and for a little while, forget over this Prince Richard issue" she managed to convince me to go with her.

"I hate you" I said as I dragged myself to the room to get ready.

"I love you too baby, Wear something hot!"

I smiled at that and went on to my wardrobe to fish out a gorgeous black dress with fake gemstones all over them.

After Dae had finished our makeup, we called a cab to stay close to the house so I'll be able to avoid the paparazzi drama this evening.

All through the ride to the club after a safe exit from the house, we were just singing along to almost all of Major Lazer songs because they were Dae's favourite.

I fixed up my dancing heels immediately we got into the club, facing a guy, I started dancing with him and I was having fun knowing tonight may be the last day of my freedom.

I was so engrossed in the dance that I didn't get to see the person that stood beside me ready to punch the guy off my back until he grabbed my hand and turned me to face him.

Oh No, why him of all people.

"Hey Richard, what's up??"

Chapter TEN

Richard's POV

I had gone to the club to see a friend on that Friday night after a hectic day at work, the club was really lit and I could say my friend did himself real good, even the lights were amazing too.

After finding a spot to seat and wait for my friend, I saw two girls walking into the club and one of them looked like Vanessa. *It can't be her, she's not the club type.* I told myself and withdraw my attention from it.

I was about leaving the club after one of his workers informed me that he'll not be coming today and having enjoyed the scenes that unfolded before me during the last few minutes when I realized that the girl looked a lot like Vanessa, especially the Vanessa that went with me to the party and not Vanessa, the secretary.

What the hell is going on?

I brought out my phone from my pocket and decided to call her just to confirm if it was her or not. She brought out her phone from her purse immediately it started ringing at my own side of the line and that was what confirmed my suspicion.

Angrily I walked up to her and dragged her away from the man that was getting too close to her.

"Hey Richard, what's up?" Wait! What! Did she just say that? Is she drunk or what?

"Vanessa, what are you doing here? I thought you are not the club type" I had to talk really loud so she'll hear me clearly as the music was too loud.

"Yeah, you know girls who go clubbing usually paste it on their foreheads that they're club girls" She removed my hand from hers and started walking towards the guy again.

"Vanessa, stop. It's obvious you're a little drunk. It's unhealthy for both you and the child" I screamed.

"Sorry, what child? The last time I checked, I wasn't pregnant. Today is the last day of my freedom, so let me enjoy myself in peace" she screamed into my face.

"You signed a contract, remember? You belong to me now and whatever I command, you follow" She looked at me with eyes glistening with tears and before I could say anything, she ran out of the club leaving me behind.

The day she came into my office and told me she agreed to be my surrogate, I had sat her down and told her the rules that'll be binding the agreement. Even though I was suspicious about how she readily agreed to everything, I had to keep my suspicion at bay because it's not my business.

After walking out of the club, I saw her standing far away as possible from the front of the club. I strolled towards her and stood beside her.

She moved a bit far away from me, I moved close, she moved away and I moved closer. She repeated the action and i did my part too.

"Can you just stop this stupidity of yours already?" She cautioned and I could see a tiny smile already forming on her face.

"It takes two to tango. You too should stop your stupidity"

"Don't you have anything better to do than follow me around?" She said changing the topic.

"Point of correction, I didn't follow you. I came here for a very important business transaction and I ended up meeting you, my future baby mama, here in that embarrassing position"

"What embarrassing position are you talking about? I was having fun and you just carried your *mother transferred it to me* attitude to ruin my day" Mother what??

"That does not in any way translate to fun. You were wasting yourself away and dancing with a stranger that you don't even know. He was rubbing himself on you for God's sake, Vanessa. Don't you have no shame?" I replied angrily.

She glared at me before replying "Are you even serious right now, I've been stuck in my apartment for days because of a mess you decided to create on your own and throw me inside" She complained

"Is your brain hurting you or do you perhaps have memory loss, it was you who came back to my office to beg me to make you my surrogate. Maybe if you get that into your skull, you're not as innocent as you claim"

She looked at me with surprise and turned her face away in defeat.

"That's my car down there, let me drop you home"

"No, thank you. I don't want to go in the car of the man who dragged me into this mess I'm currently in, by blackmailing me to sign a contract and who still think it's also my fault" She moved away from me trying to get a cab. People were already watching us waiting for what we'll do next.

"You're creating a scene here. Get into the car and let's go" I instructed

"No, I'm not going anywhere with an arrogant and self-centered dimwit like you"

"I'm serious Vanessa. You'll regret my next action. Get into the car peacefully or I'll make you"

"What are you gonna do? Force me the way you've been forcing me. It's nothing new right..." I didn't let her finish before I bent down and carried her on my shoulder like a bag of cement to my car.

I locked the door immediately I entered the car and I started driving towards her apartment.

The journey was silent but I could feel the daggers her eyes were sending to me. When i turned to look at her, she had a murderous look on her face.

If only looks could kill, Vanessa would have murdered me by now.

"Do you want me to get you a new apartment? Something better than this" I asked immediately the car stopped in front of her house.

"Did I ask you to? Stop behaving as if you're the richest thing on Earth" She emphasized on the word thing so I'll know how it felt like to be called a thing. The family's butler had called me during the day to inform me about what happened between Vanessa and my mom.

"We'll talk about what happened between you and my mom later. But for now, I'll see you tomorrow. Goodnight" She was about opening the door when I called her to remind her of one important rule that she mustn't forget.

"Remember, you're not allowed to work until after you give birth"

"In your wildest dreams, Boss" she closed the door so hard that it could remove from the car and I was left to wonder if the *boss she's always calling me was nothing but a mockery.

Chapter ELEVEN

Song for the chapter: Westlife ft Mariah Carey///// Against all odds

Vanessa's POV

“Congratulations Mr. Amaan, it's positive” the doctor congratulated Richard and I was forced to smile. Truthfully, I was hoping it was negative, I can't imagine myself carrying this man's baby in my womb for nine months. I mean 9 solid months.

Leaving the doctor's office, Richard had this huge smile on his face that's making me question a lot of things right now because that devil, never smiled. I was confused, sad and angry. Angry at myself for agreeing to this, angry at my father for having a hole in his heart, angry at the universe for bringing someone like Richard into my life.

We got into his car and he brought out his cheque book. After writing whatever gibberish on it, he stretched it to me and when I checked it, it was a whopping one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

He actually did as he said. The fact that we're both acting civil towards each other was a surprise to me.

After dropping me off at the bank to deposit the money, I quickly transferred some of the money to my mom's account and switched off my phone so I would be able to escape her interrogation session.

I went job hunting and even though I knew I was going against the agreement, I just can't let someone control my life for me. I need to be doing something other than sitting around the house and waiting for Richard to fix things.

Having walked for more than an hour, I finally saw a vacancy board right outside a restaurant. The restaurant needed a cashier and I think I can do this before the pregnancy starts showing, at least for three months.

While praying to God to let them not recognize me, I entered into the restaurant and approached the first person I saw. His back was turned to me so I had to tap him to gain his attention. When he turned, my jaw dropped, he's drop-dead gorgeous.

I think he just came out of those movies with Greek gods. Even the Greek gods are super junior to this guy. He smells royalty unlike that stupid boss of mine.

Why will I even think about that man at this beautiful moment in time.

How can I even possibly think about his name? All he's about is pride and selfishness, if only someone would help me teach him a lesson one day. But damn, this bro before me is super handsome, I can't believe what I'm seeing. The white Tee he wore under the shirt was tight enough to reflect those sexy babies called abs. His skin tone is to die for.....

"When you're done checking me out, please tell me so I'll ask you if you need anything" He speaks English, the Greek god speak English

"I'm really sorry, but I was not checking you out in anyway" I quickly composed myself and internally hit my head on an invisible wall so I'll die to avoid this embarrassment.

"It's written all over your face" I just embarrassed myself.

"I'm Michael and you are?" He stretched his hand out for a handshake and I quickly took it

"I'm Vanessa" I replied

"I know you're Vanessa Decruz, fiancée of the great one and only Arab prince, Richard Amaan"

I'm so busted

"What are you doing here?" He inquired not giving me the chance to ask how he knew me. But I guess I'm quite popular now.

"I'm applying for the cashier's job I saw outside; can you please take me to the manager?" I asked politely

"I'm the owner of this place and before I offer you the job, can I ask you about why you need this job?"

"I don't want to stay jobless and idle and also save for the dry season" I replied

"Okay, don't worry. Your secret is safe with us here. Let me tell you my real name, I'm Michael O'Brien"

That surname sounds familiar though but I can't guess where it's coming from.

"Let me help you solve the puzzle, I'm the son of Daniel O'Brien" I gasped out loud in surprise. Daniel O'Brien is a rock star, I remember how I use to keep the man's poster in my locker back in high school and I also remember not being the only girl who did that.

"So, you see the reason why your secret is safe with us here" I nodded in reply.

"When can I start work?" I asked

"You can start now if you want to, it's all good" he replied before walking over to the table and brought out books of records as big as an encyclopedia for me to sort out.

"There it is, Vanessa. Are you sure you can handle this?"

"Why do you ask?" I was already flipping through the book checking the way things are being done here.

"You look all frail and fragile"

"Just because I look like this and you look like that doesn't mean I'm the weaker sex. Stop seeing we ladies like we're too lazy to do things. We're strong too you know"

"Feminist alert! I didn't mean anything big, I was just worried about you that's all" he explained

"Okay, how did you get to know about me because I'm very sure Richard cubed the whole issue before the Paparazzi released my pictures online" Curiosity killed the cat

"I was at the party, I mean the party where you were introduced to the whole of the Arab Emirates that you were the future queen"

"Future queen my foot" I grumbled

"You don't want to be the queen; most girls would die to be in your position right now"

"What's so special about being the queen? Most girls would have died if they're in my position right now" I started making notes on the book and started sorting it out too.

"Are you from the Arab Emirates?" I asked based on the fact that he said he was there at the party.

"Partially, my mom is from there but my Dad is an American and the queen is my mom's elder sister" he explained

"Thank goodness I didn't say anything bad about the queen. Wait a moment, that means you and Richard are somehow related" he nodded before he started walking off to the room attached to the back of the restaurant.

"The workers will soon be here and you'll get to meet all of them" I smiled and when he smiled back, I almost fainted. That was when I realized that I'm crushing on my new boss. So help me lord

"I think we'll make really great friends" he said before disappearing to the back of the restaurant.

Chapter TWELVE

RICHARD'S POV

Barging into my mom's office without knocking or giving her a prior notice about my arrival at her office, I charged towards the man standing in front of her holding a book and pen taking down the instructions she was giving, I proceed to drag him by the hand and throw him out of the office before facing Tiffany who had both surprise and confusion written all over her face.

"Hey Tiffany, you always want to see my face, right? so here I am for you"

"What's the meaning of all these, Richard? I didn't bring you up so you'll turn out to be this rude' the surprised look on her face had changed into anger.

"I'll keep correcting you till you decide to accept the fact that it was my father you brought up, not me. Get that fact, Tiffany" I corrected her as firm as I could

"I did all that for you, Richard. That is the reason why you're the only heir to the throne; I think I deserve some accolades for always being there to clean up the mess made by your father"

"But you never deserved any accolade when it's about me, the fact still stands that you were a wife and not a mother" Growing up, I longed for my mother's affection and love but in return I got nothing and now that I don't even need her, she's trying to take up the mommy's role.

She sighed in defeat before looking at me "What are you doing in my office? To what reason do I owe this unpleasant visit" she asked

"I'm here to tell you to stop being the mother hen you never were, you were not even there when I needed you and now you feel you can just come back and get involved, over my dead body, Tiffany. I won't accept it"

"What are you even talking about?"

"Don't play dumb with me, you understand me totally. You met up with Vanessa without my consent or my permission"

"You don't have the right to raise your voice at me, son' she corrected and she's forgetting the fact that I don't care.

"Address the issue I came here with, not the one about the manners you forgot to teach me" I stood up waiting for her to give me a tangible explanation for why she approached Vanessa behind my back.

“What’s the big deal about meeting up with her, she even had the guts to tell you about it” she said the last part almost in a whisper

“She didn’t tell me anything, I have my own ways of doing things. You’re not the only one who is smart”

“Try to understand me, Richard. Vanessa is not the type of girl to rule beside you. She’s from a low-income family and she’s not even up to standard. If you want me to help, I have a list of girls here with me that you can get to choose from. Vanessa is not the girl for you. Just take the baby from her after birth and get her out of our life forever’ she advised

I laughed

I laughed so hard my body was trembling

“Why am I even surprised at your level of intelligence, if it’s the same tiffany that was ever ready to kill for her husband is saying this, and then I guess she’s still the same as ever? But let me make this known once and for all, if a single strand of her hair goes missing, I’ll destroy things and at your own interest, back off. Leave Vanessa and the baby alone”. I’ve made myself known and I think that’s clear enough.

Without waiting for her response, I walked out of her office and headed toward Vanessa house to see her because it's been a week since we went to the hospital for a test and it's been a week since I’ve last seen her, though we do talk on the phone, that was only once, I had to make sure she was safe

“Where have you been?” I asked immediately she got to the front of her apartment. I’ve been standing there for more than three hours.

“I’m not a kid, stop asking as if I’m five years old” she proceeds to unlock the door and entered with me following behind like a lost puppy

“It’s few minutes past nine; anything could have happened to you out there, it’s not safe for you and the baby” Ever since I’ve learned about the pregnancy, all I’ve been doing is trying to protect both of them, I don’t know why Vanessa keeps coming to my mind. If I really need the baby, then I’ll protect the mother at all cost.

“Maybe it’s you that’s not safe for me and the baby. What else do you want me to do? Stay indoors for the next nine months as if I’ve been condemned to house arrest’ she replied angrily

“I’m not saying you shouldn’t leave the house. I just don’t like the idea of you staying out late at night. It’s not safe” I explained

“Well, your highness, there’s absolutely nothing I can do about that”

“What do you mean?” I asked

“My work won’t allow it. In case you didn’t know, I work at a very nice place now”

What is she even saying!

“You’re totally out of your mind, you’re breaking the contract and you’ll pay for this, Vanessa. I promise you” I turned to help place the vegetables she had brought into the kitchen properly. She had scattered them all over the dining table out of anger.

“Why are you doing this, Richard? I know you hate me but this is getting too much. Nine to twelve months from now I’ll be out of your life forever and I won’t even have the chance to be a mother for my child after that. Where do you think I’ll turn to?, all I’m doing is trying to fix the future from now, a way to get away from everything after all this is over, is that too much to ask?” she asked through tears

To say I was moved is an understatement, I was touched and I realized how unfair I was. I’m taking twelve months away from her and all I can do is let her do things her own way instead of forcing her.

I moved close to her and lifted her chin up “I totally understand you and I’m sorry if I’ve been too harsh on you. You can continue with the work but if it gets too stressful you have to stop, promise me you’ll do just that? And also promise me you’ll give me the full details about this place so I’ll do my own investigation, promise me?” she nodded in response and I pulled her into a hug.

Chapter THIRTEEN

Richard's POV

Having pulled her into my hands, I felt her arms wrapped around me in a tight embrace as I tried to figure out how I got here.

I never had the intention of getting intimate with Vanessa.

It's just a hug, chill out big man

I gently removed her from my body and held her face up to wipe off her tears with the back of my hand.

I led her to one of the sofas facing her kitchen directly and sat her down there. Kneeling before her, I looked up to her face and smiled at her. I could swear something happened to me when she smiled back. I just can't explain the feelings.

"Why didn't you told me my mom invited you to her restaurant?" I went into the kitchen to fix her something to eat.

"It doesn't matter, it happened a long time ago" she replied curtly

"Yeah, like I'm the 80s right" she only smiled and gave me a weird look. "What are you doing?" She asked when she saw me cutting some of the vegetables.

"Cooking" I said ignoring her

"I'm not hungry"

"I never said I was cooking for you. I've been waiting in front of your door for hours, so I think I deserve some food for my stomach" I lied

"I wasn't expecting you to be nice, you're the cruelest person I've met in my whole life" she fired back and I could predict what will happen in the next minute; we'll keep bickering over and over till one of us gets tired or too angry and walk out. But I'll try my best to prevent that from happening this night.

"I'm not cruel, I'm just strict. You don't really understand me, do you" She rolled her eyes. "I'm not your mother" I laughed out loud at that.

"Even if you don't understand me, I could bet it with my whole life that you understand me far better than my mother. Let's just say I'm not that lucky to have a really good mother. Don't blame

me for not having manners, young lady” She remained silent and didn’t say anything, even after I finished cooking dinner.

After serving the both of us some good food, we ate in silence even though I could see her staring at me with those sapphire blue eyes that’s always taking my breath away.

I was about putting the plates away into the kitchen when Vanessa held my shirt at the back.

“Hey, what’s wrong?” I turned back to see tears rolling down her face. What’s with this water works, I hate it.

“Vanessa, talk to me, what’s wrong?” I pestered and when she looked up, I was torn.

“Promise me nothing will happen to my child even after I’m gone”

“I promise Vanessa, you don’t have to be scared about my mom or any other person from my side, you and the baby will be fine. I’ll protect you both with my life” I wiped her tears for the second time that night before quickly placing my warm lips on her forehead.

“I still can’t believe we’re this civil towards each other” she laughed before taking the plates from me.

“It’s not a surprise to me at all, since it’s you who’s always out to make things difficult” I said and she turned back to glare at me.

“You’re the one who’s always acting like a Barbarian and a vagabond ever since I met you” she said

“Really? I thought it was you who actually wanted to become a baby mama to a vagabond” I fired back

“Get out of my house, I swear to God that I can kill you right now. You think I want to be here like this dude. All you did was throw me into the stupid scheme of yours and get me trapped in between your mom and the rest of your stupid royalty shit” she cursed out

“At least you took the money” I couldn’t believe that came out of my mouth.

“Get out” I picked up my car key and my phone before walking out of the house.

Talk about being civil.

Chapter FOURTEEN

Vanessa's POV

After the little outburst between I and His royal highness, we never talked that much ever again.

He'll only call during the day to ask how the "baby" was doing and remind me of my checkups at the hospital.

I was almost closing at work when I saw Michael walk into the place with a suit on and I swear I'm drooling, I can never get enough of this guy's cuteness. Scratch that. Hotness

"Well, what's the occasion? you look great" I praised and he smiled. God, that smile.

"Had a meeting with some investors and it was a success. I can get open two new cafes around town"

"Wow, that's really nice. Congratulations boss. I hope we get to celebrate this when others are around" he nodded

"Thank you. Let me drop you off at home..." his words were cut off by the ringing of my phone

It was the devil himself calling and I could curse him for ruining the moment without heavens blaming me for it.

"What do you want?"

"Hello to you too, Vanessa" he knew how much I hate him and he's doing his best to rub it on my face.

"Yes, cut to the chase, I'm busy" I reply rudely and Michael gave me a weird look which I ignored totally.

"I know you're working for my really hot cousin, sweetheart. I just called to remind you of the contract. He's out of bounds for you and remember my eyes are everywhere" What??

"You know what, asshole, you don't owe me...." he dropped the call, he freaking dropped the call.

"Who was that?" I faked a smile at him and told him it was nobody.

Though somebody I'll love to beat up someday. Ooh, the joy I'll derive.

"So, can we go now?" He asked

"Go where?"

“I said I’ll drop you off on my way” he said looking at me weirdly.

On a second thought, “You know what, it’s totally fine. I can get home safely and thank you for the offer. Good night”

I grabbed my bag and ran out of the shop without waiting for his reply.

Chapter FIFTEEN

Vanessa's POV

“Good morning Nancy, Drake, Kelvin, Liza and finally good morning Michael” I greeted everyone as I entered the restaurant to resume for the day's work. It's been two months since I walked into the restaurant looking for a job and fortunately enough that I got one.

Even though the pregnancy was starting to show, it was still a little bump that can be pass for normal. Everyone had been nice enough to work with except for Nancy, there's always a witch in the castle, right? I'm not all that surprised about her behavior, I've been with people like her in the past.

“Good morning, Essa” they all chorused back. I got the name Essa two days after I started working here, they were all complaining about how Vanessa was too long for them to pronounce therefore decided to shorten the name to Essa.

“See me in my office with the account book within ten minutes, I need to clear somethings out” Michael instructed before going into his office without waiting for my response.

I guess he's furious about what had happened yesterday night after he insisted on taking me home and I refused.

I was only trying to avoid the wrath of Richard who never really liked his own cousin. Who does Richard likes anyway? No one, I guess.

If Richard was to see him with me, I guess he'll start reminding me about how I'm breaking another part of the contract.

Only God knows how many rules that contract contains. I didn't get to read it because it was more than 50 pages, I didn't have the time.

Going into Michael's office with courage, I knocked on his door.

“Come in” I entered and placed the book on his desk.

“I'm sorry about yesterday, I didn't mean to be rude. I'm really sorry” I apologized

“Sorry??, About what?”

“About me not allowing you to take me home” I explained

“Are you being serious right now Vanessa? Maybe my expression yesterday gave you the wrong signal, I was not even angry about that”

“Are you saying you're not angry at me?” I asked

“No, but since you mentioned it, I think I should have been angry at you yesterday. That means, if I'm to forgive you, you owe me something then” he said smiling

“Whatever sails your boat. What do I owe you then?”

“A date, be my date tonight” I couldn't respond because the first time I agreed to be someone's date, I ended up as a surrogate.

“It's nothing complicated, it's all good. I asked Richard already and he agreed to it. It's all clear, your fiancée is good with the flow”

“You sure Richard agreed?”

“Yes, I called him myself” maybe Richard likes this one.

“If you say so, but I'm still surprised he agreed. Tonight, right” I asked

“Yeah, tonight it is”

“Where are we?” I asked for the hundred times that day hoping I would get a response from him.

“It's a surprise,” he replied before giving the key to one of the men standing outside to park it properly before ushering me into the Hall.

“It's been a surprise before we left my house and we're here now and it's still a surprise” I complained

“We are there already, just stop with the complains”

“In case you don't know, I hate surprises. Just tell me where...” I didn't get to finish the statement when I saw the giant banner placed at the front of a door.

“Wait! What is going on exactly? It's your dad's concert”

“Yeah, you don't like him?”

“Are you serious? I love him to pieces. I'm so excited... I'm so happy I'm here. Thank you so much for bringing me here. It has always been my dream to see him perform live. Thank you”

“Enough with the Thanksgiving service, mother Teresa. Let's go inside, the show will soon start in twenty minutes”

We entered into the room and when I saw the arrangements and designs, I fell in love with the whole thing.

“This is amazing” I whispered loud enough for him to hear

"That's one if my dad's specialty, making ladies fall in love with his works. He should be back stage, let's go see him" he suggested

"I don't think I'll be able to do that...I'll make fun of myself" I cried

"Don't worry, you'll be fine" with that he dragged me to the backstage to meet with his father.

"Who do we have here? The prodigal son is back" his father joked immediately he saw him

"You have to prepare a feast to celebrate my homecoming, father" they started making different signs with their hands and ended it with a butt hit before hugging each other. I laughed so hard my stomach started to hurt.

"Long time no see, son. You look ugly as always"

"At least, I got it from someone"

"Definitely not me, who's the gorgeous lady with you?" His father asked

"Na Na, don't even think about this one dad. She belongs to the throne. Meet Vanessa Decruz, Richard's fiancé" He introduced

"Gorgeous ladies like you should really belong to the throne. I'm Daniel O'Brien and it's nice meeting you"

"It's a pleasure meeting you too sir, I've looked forward to this moment all my life sir"

"Remove the sir and placed call me Dan. I'll feel younger that way"

"Ok Dan" I smiled as we watch him walk away after he was called to the stage and we had to go find our seats too.

"Your father looks young though, he really took care of himself"

"He had me when he was 18 and now, he's just 42 years old"

"Meaning you're only 24 years old" I said

"Are you older than me"

"Call me big sis from now on" I ordered before turning to face the stage ignoring his laughter that had erupted through the whole room.

The concert was already at his peak and I was totally enjoying myself when I got a message from the devil himself. It says

I'm behind you, don't turn and if you do, don't you dare acknowledge me. We're total strangers here

Deciding to be a witch this once, I turned back and I saw a lady holding his hand like a five-year-old holding her toy.

“Hey Richard, I didn't know you'll be here. Call later darling, I miss you especially that body of yours” I smirked as I saw the look on his face. Facing the concert back, I was happy knowing fully well I just gave him a taste of his own medicine.

Chapter SIXTEEN

Vanessa's POV

"That was one hell of a stunt you pulled yesterday, I guess I underestimated you. You're crazier than you look Vanessa"

"What do you want? Demon"

It was a weekend which means a work free day and I was enjoying my sleep before the devil decided to pay me a visit.

"Let me in" he said and I pushed the door towards him more trying to close it.

"Get the message boss, you're not wanted" I was too tired to allow him inside because he'll definitely complain about something and I'm seriously not in the mood for an argument today.

"I'm not here for you in any way, I'm here for the baby" I finally succumbed and opened the door for him.

He entered the house with a box

"What's that? I thought I told you I don't need anything from you"

"You think I'm this nice to buy you a present, I saw it at your doorstep. It's a package and the name on it... it's your name"

"I didn't order for anything, it might be from a friend, just help me put it there" he dropped the package on the floor and put his hands into his pocket.

"I'm not your slave, you can't order me around"

"Ooh I totally forgot, I'm sorry, your royal highness" I picked up the package myself and placed it at the corner of the room.

"What?" I asked when I saw him staring at me

"Who forced you into that dress?" He asked looking at me as if I just dropped from the ape's dormitory.

"Don't even go there, I'm two months gone and you expect my clothes to fit"

"Then buy new dresses, what happened to the money I gave you. I didn't give it to you to keep, I gave it to you for your upkeep. What happened to it?"

"Not your business. It's no longer your money, so back off"

"Wait, do you have a boyfriend?"

"No"

"Your case is a special one, you don't have a boyfriend, yet no new dresses, where did the money go then" I ignored him and went into my room to take a quick shower before making breakfast.

"I need to take you shopping, let's go and I mean now. If you try to argue or resist, I'll so much surprise you. You know me well Vanessa, don't tempt me" I glared at him.

Knowing fully well the consequences of failing to follow his instruction, I dragged myself out of the house with him in tow to where only God knows.

After ending up at the Victoria secret store, he literally did all the shopping himself

Picking up clothes by himself without asking for my consent or permission to choose them.

As arrogant as he was, he didn't ask me what my shoe size was when we got to the shoe section that he ended up buying a shoe size 42 instead of 40 and I've decided he'll be the one to wear the shoe himself, I won't tell him about this until we get home. If he decides to be arrogant, then I'll be little miss dumb.

"Can you please stop at MacDonald down the street there and get me a hamburger? I want it really bad" I requested

"No, I'm not your servant and I won't in anyway stop and buy you anything"

"Richard please" I gave him that innocent look and he groaned outwardly before stopping the car in front of the shop to get me one.

"Thank you.... You even included a milkshake" I stretched my hand to collect the milkshake and the hamburger.

He started the car while I munched on the food with joy.

On getting to the apartment, we noticed the door was unlocked and that's strange because I locked the door myself

"What! Don't look at me like that. I'm pretty sure I locked the door"

A worried look appeared on his face immediately I said that.

I screamed immediately I got inside when I saw that the whole house had been turned upside down. The chairs, tables, cloth and even my room was worse.

The package that Richard brought in was already opened and when I checked it, I couldn't hold back the fear that ran through me. I was shocked to the point of just standing in a position as years roll down my face until I was pulled into a warm embrace

"It's going to be fine, you need to calm down for your sake and the baby's sake. I'll try my best to find the person who did this"

"That was my picture torn in the face with blood all over it. I can't stay calm when someone wants me dead" I moved away from him a little.

"You can't be sure that's the message that's been passed across. Everything will be fine, I promise"

He held my hand and pulled me into him again

"We need to get you out of here first, I can't afford you staying in a place like this and I can't let you stay alone either. Move into my house" I looked up at him to refuse but then, the look on his face made me realize I'll regret it if I say no to his Royal Highness.

"Okay I'll stay with you but it's going to be for a while"

"Thank you for your cooperation"

"As if I have a choice" I glared at him before walking out of my apartment to his abode.

Chapter SEVENTEEN

Vanessa's POV

"Good morning, Vanessa" It has been two days since I moved into Richard's luxurious apartment that was gracious enough to have a jacuzzi and a swimming pool just at the backyard of the house. The. Inner view was stunning. It left me speechless after I saw the house for the first time.

"Hope your night was perfect?" I looked at him weirdly before dropping my bag on the table that was in the kitchen.

"More like you wish I died in my sleep, right?" He placed the coffee mug that was in his hand on the table and shrugged.

"I'm not that evil, Vanessa"

"Says the man who manipulated me into signing a contract and still use every opportunity he gets to blame me for signing the stupid contract" I knew bringing up that topic will cause n early morning ruckus but I needed him to know that I will always be angry at him.

"Are we going down that lane this morning? It's Monday for Christ sake Vanessa and even though you behaved as if I didn't exist throughout the whole weekend, can't we just be civil towards each other for the time being?" He appealed,

"Whatever sails your boat, Prince Charming. Not like I care about you being civil or bring a vagabond like you always are" He remained silent and I knew he was trying as much as possible to avoid an argument.

"Coffee?"

"I work where they make them. I'm on my way to work and I'll be a little bit late because I'll have to check out some apartments on the way back and when we get back, we'll have to discuss some chores that I'll be helping around with, I can't stay here for free"

"Yes, you can" he replied.

"No, I won't Richard. Because one day, you,l still remind me of how I stayed in your place without paying a penny"

"That's likely, you're right because I'm not the gracious. But with your condition, I can't let you work here, it's too dangerous for the child so just relax and we'll work something out later. About the house, I've looked into some apartments for you and we can see them together later.

"You what?"

"I looked for apartments" Not because I didn't hear the first time but because I was stunned and angry.

"You don't have to do things like that for me. Yes, I know you're rich but I don't need your help, I'm not a charity case" I didn't wait for his reply, I left the apartment.

On getting to work, I met only Micheal waiting at one of the tables, with no other workers around.

"You're my favorite employee, you know that right?" I smiled at him and he opened his arms for a hug.

I needed it so I moved closer to give him a hug.

"Hope you're fine? Richard told me about what happened"

"How?"

"Well I went to your apartment on Sunday to return the bracelet you left in my car and I didn't meet anyone there, so I called your number and It was Richard who picked up so he explained everything" What! Richard did what?

"I'm fine, thank you for asking. All I have to do is look for another apartment and I'll do that later after work"

"I'll help you with that. And you can ask Richard for the bracelet, We met up and he took it from me" I'm not asking him, I'm killing him and frying him.

I nodded and he left for his office, not long after the rest turned up and the day was hectic.

After work, I went house hunting with my new boss, AKA, hot and sexy, AKA, Micheal and after looking into four houses in my previous street, three in a neighboring area, I just couldn't find the perfect one and some were too expensive for my budget. Even though Micheal asked to help, I had to decline, this was my battle that I had to fight alone.

Micheal later dropped me off at the apartment around seven and when I entered I saw Richard looking at me with thunder on his face.

"I though you said you were going on a house hunting spree not Micheal snuggling spree" I closed my eyes for a moment out of frustration.

"He helped me to look for an apartment"

"And you declined my offer"

"You don't get it, do you? You didn't ask, you went ahead to look for the house without asking for my own preferences and you expect me to follow you like a puppy. Impossible!" I declared

"That doesn't explain the explain the fact that you went with your boss"

"Well, That doesn't explain the fact that you picked up my call behind my back and stop acting like my boyfriend, it doesn't suit you" I left him standing again.

Chapter EIGHTEEN

This Chapter has mature scenes, read at your own risk?, I won't be responsible for any of my actions on this ??. Lol

Vanessa's POV

After our little "usual" argument a while ago, I decided not to leave the room, until it was few minutes midnight when I decided to stop punishing the baby by not feeding myself.

I was craving some ice cream and I remember Richard stocking up the fridge with various flavors Incase I craved one.

I left the room and headed to the kitchen. I put on the light and opened the fridge to search for a chocolate flavor and when I got it, I looked for a spoon and settled on the chair behind the kitchen counter to have some and later eat some Pringle before going to bed.

I heard footsteps and before I could find a way to leave the kitchen, the demon appeared in front of me even before I could blink.

"I see that you decided to leave your room finally" I stood up from the chair to exit the kitchen so as to avoid another round of argument.

I was about to pass his side successfully when I felt his hand on mine pulling me back into the kitchen.

"I want to say picking up your call without your permission and selecting apartments for you without asking for your consent is wrong. It was totally wrong of me" I blinked, is that the Richard that I know.

"Is that a way of saying you're sorry?" I asked and he nodded staring at me.

"Is that even a sorry for you?"

"You know it's not easy for me to say that word and I'm trying here to pass it across to you as much as possible that it's totally wrong of me to do that to you" he apologized and as much as I saw his struggles, I still won't let go of the issue. I guess the hormones were at work.

"Why did you pick up my call? It was totally wrong. You should have told me after you did that"

"It's not a big deal" he shrugged

"That's it! You're selfish, you do things as long as it satisfies you and not think about somebody else. It's totally unfair."

"What else do you want from me, Essa. Don't you get tired of arguing? I'm stretching the olive branch to you here. Just let go of the matter"

"Let go, fine. I didn't know I'll get to see the day you'll admit you were wrong about something" his eyes were focused on my lips and I just couldn't breathe properly at the moment.

"It's a one in a lifetime privilege, don't expect to see that side of me or hear me say that another day" I bit my lip in order to avoid his intense gaze.

"Don't do that!" He removes my bottom lip from my mouth. I shivered from his touch and even as much as I wanted him right now, I just can't jump him.

"I was wrong too, the whole issue is not that much of a big deal, so we'll just settle the whole deal once and for all but don't expect me to say sorry too" I admitted

"Expectations hurts" his voice was different and I knew he felt the sexual frustration as much as I was.

"I guess that's true. Before I forget, Micheal said my bracelet was with you____" My words were cut off as I felt his lips on mine, he was kissing me and before I could register what was going on, I couldn't stop and I was kissing him back.

He hands was roaming my body and I was standing on my toes without his mouth leaving mine. Sensing my struggle with reaching his height, he grabbed my a** with both of his hands and placed me back on the kitchen stool that I was sitting on. My legs was wrapped tightly around him. I could feel him in between my legs.

I placed my hands on his chest. His abs were hard and I wanted to taste them at that instant. I removed my mouth from him and before he could protest, I removed the singlet he was putting on and placed my lips on his chest.

He removed my mouth and resumed his torture on my lips. He moved to my neck and sucked on my G-spot till I could no longer breathe. I was high on sex!

His hands left my shoulder and grabbed my thighs to place me on the kitchen cabinet. He removed the cloth I was wearing and I could feel the cool breeze on my body.

He removed his mouth from my neck and stared at me intensely, "You're beautiful" he breathed out heavily.

"You're bipolar" he laughed and placed one of his hands on my breast, teasing me.

Before I could say more, his mouth was on my nipples, sucking and biting gently and another hand was moving closely to the spot in between my legs.

I was moaning out loud and I couldn't stop myself or him either, I just had to give in to my feelings.

Suddenly, I felt a vibration, something was vibrating against my hand that was on his trouser. It was his phone!

"Your phone?" I tried shifting from him but his hand has left my breast and already pinning me against his body.

"It'll stop ringing"

"Pick it up, it might be an emergency" I appealed and even though my inner self was telling me to shut up and continue what was going on, I couldn't stop.

He grudgingly removed himself from me and placed his left hand on my bump before using his other hand to remove the phone and pick up the call.

"Yes, who are you?" He replied angrily

"Okay, I'll see what I can do about it but I can't promise I'll do it now, I'm busy" he shouted back into the phone.

"Whatever Tiffany, I'll see what I can do"

He dropped the call and looked at me intensely for the nth time that night.

He bent down to place a kiss on my baby bump and also on my forehead.

"Who was it?" I found myself asking

"Tiffany"

"You mean your mom. Can't you just call her mom and not Tiffany?"

He removed himself from me totally and gave me an irritated look.

"It's not your business Vanessa. I have work to do, I'll see you in the morning." He picked up my cloth and placed it on my lap before leaving me half naked and sexually frustrated on the kitchen cabinet for Christ's sake.

Bipolar he is! Freaking Bipolar!

Chapter NINETEEN

Vanessa's POV

"Let me help you with your seat belt, I know you're too local to handle something like this" Richard mocked with an evil smirk on his face.

After moving into his house for what seemed like years even though it's been for two weeks, I've tried my best to ignore his wrath and mad attitude.

I've also learned to warm up to him, understand him for who he really is but not accept the mad attitude in him.

"This is your first time in a plane, right?" He asked

"If your brain had been working instead of mocking me, you'll know that I didn't fly or crawl all the way from the Philippines" I retreated into my space to ignore him for the rest of the flight.

"Little Miss Smarty pants, you could have explained in clear words"

"I'm too tired for your troubles today and that doesn't mean we won't talk about the incident that happened yesterday" I declared

"What incident?"

"You remember, stop feigning ignorance. You want me to say it but I won't"

"I don't remember the incident you're talking about, maybe you should tell me"

Taking a deep breath, I decided to say it because I know he won't talk about it.

"You almost kissed me, Richard and you think I'll ignore that. Over my dead body"

"You almost slipped yesterday and all I did was help you not to fall then you came at me with your lips, I thought you wanted a kiss" bloody liar

"Admit it Richard, you almost kissed me yesterday and it was your fault, admit it"

"It's not like I kissed you, stop dragging the whole matter" He dipped his hand into his pocket to retrieve a box and when he opened it, it was a diamond ring.

"What's that for?" I asked

"It's a way for me to protect you where we're going, we'll tell them I proposed to you officially already" Few days back, Richard got an invitation from his parents telling him to come home and bring me with him for proper introduction to his family members.

"This is getting insane, Richard. I don't think I can go through all this anymore" I complained

"I'm sorry you have to go through all this but for the sake of our child, please bear with me. I'll try everything possible in my power to make sure we spend nothing less than three days with them and after that, we'll go back. Please Vanessa, I need to protect you, I don't trust most of them" He explained and I was surprised at the fact that he said sorry, he actually said sorry.

"Okay, but nothing more than three days"

We finally got to the palace late at night and the beauty of the place got my jaw dropping. This place is majestic.

We entered and we were introduced to his cousins and relatives.

"Thank you for coming along with our son" Richard's father, the king, appreciated me and I was wondering how that man was able to stay married to the queen for that long. Richard look so much like him and I must confess, at his age, he's still good looking.

"It's nothing, your highness. I'm glad I got invited to such a beautiful place. Thank you" I replied

"So, when are you guys getting married?" Fiona, Richard's cousin who was introduced earlier asked

"I think you should focus more on your abusive and estranged husband, Fi" Richard replied

I stepped on his feet to keep him at bay and he returned the act by placing his hand on my thigh and working his hand upwards. Biting my lower lip to keep any sound from coming out of it, I glared at him to stop but he smiled back and winked.

That son of a devil.

"Very soon, we'll get married very soon" I managed to answer the question as politely as I could.

"I guess you're used to Richard's sarcasm now" Fiona said while I nodded.

"If only your head will tell you it's not sarcasm but insult" I said to myself.

Richard's mom who had been silent all through kept on glaring at me finally talked when she noticed my uneasiness.

"Is everything okay Essa?, You don't seem comfortable" how can I be comfortable with your son's hand on me. You expect me to be fine" I wanted to scream at her.

"I'm fine, thank you. How's your business going?" I asked

"It's going quite well" she replied curtly like the witch she is.

After managing to slap Richard's hand off my thigh, I excused myself to use the toilet and on getting back to the dining table, I realized that everyone was done with their food.

"This is going to be your room" the butler who had brought us smiled a little after showing us the room.

"Wait, you mean both him and I will be using the room" I asked

"According to the instructions from the queen, yes ma'am" he replied and left the room.

"I'll go use the bathroom first, you can use it after I'm done" Richard said breaking the ten seconds silence.

"Before you take a shower, let's settle the sleeping arrangements. I'll sleep on the bed, you can sleep on the couch or on the floor. Choose one"

"What?!, That's totally ridiculous. You can't expect a royal to sleep on the couch not to talk of floor. It's not possible, I won't do that" he protested.

"If you want, then I'll sleep on the floor with the baby, if I have a miscarriage just know it was you who killed your own child" I feigned sadness as I tried to pick up my bag on the floor.

"Okay fine, but I'll agree only on one condition" he said helping me to place the bag on the bed so I'll be able to pick my pajamas.

"What is the condition?" I looked up at him waiting to hear the rubbish he'll say this time around.

"You'll stop talking to Michael and you'll stop picking up his phone calls, it's getting too annoying these days" my shoulders slumped as I asked God why he decided to let me meet this man.

Chapter TWENTY

Vanessa's POV

I woke up to hear my phone ringing, not bothering to look at the screen, I picked up the call

"Good morning Essa, how was your night?" I removed the phone from my ear to see who the caller was and I realized it's Michael.

"Hey Michael, good morning to you too. My night was okay, thank you"

"How's Richard?"

"You're just being polite, you don't like him that much to ask about him" I could hear his laughter from the other end of the line.

"Why will I hate my own cousin? That's totally unfair, Essa. You just broke my heart" I imagined him placing his hand on his chest.

"It's the truth, it's not like you really like him that much" I replied

"That's true though, but we both know who the green monster is" I started laughing real hard.

"Richard is a green monster indeed" The door was suddenly opened revealing a really angry Richard.

He heard what I just said.

"Michael, I'll call you back later. Thank you for checking on me" I dropped the call before facing the judgement of the green monster.

"I thought we had an agreement, I was coming up to call you for breakfast and you're here talking to your boyfriend"

"I didn't agree to not talking to Michael, you made that decision by yourself Richard. Michael is a great friend and I can't stop talking to him because you said so" I stood up from the bed to take a shower.

"Next time try to explain to your boyfriend that you're in my family house, so he'll know his boundary"

"Why do you keep saying the word boyfriend? I don't even have any relationship with him except friendship"

"I don't believe that"

"Are you jealous?" I asked

"Jealous? Me? That's impossible, I'll never be jealous of someone like that" he huffed before walking away from me. I stopped him and folded my hands.

"Admit it Rich, you're jealous" I was laughing while jumping in front of him to stop him from walking away.

"Stop behaving like a kid, Essa" he instructed

"No, I won't until you admit it"

"I'm serious Essa, stop it or I'll make you"

"There's nothing you can do, just admit it, you weak hearted human. You're jealous Richard"

"Stop Essa, you'll regret it if you won't stop" he threatened

"Admit it Richard, jea...." I didn't get to finish the statement when I felt his lips on mine and before my brain could comprehend what was happening, my hands were already in his hair.

Then, I stopped when I realized what I just did. What was I thinking? I shouldn't have kissed him back. Now, we're both guilty.

The knock on the door made us to pull apart and it was a call from the butler telling us to come down for breakfast.

I quickly had a shower before going down to join them for breakfast.

Sitting beside Richard was awkward and I wasn't able to breath properly praying the breakfast should end quickly.

After breakfast I was invited by Richard's mom to join her for shopping. Not like i had a choice because if I did, I won't even go anywhere with that woman. She's a threat on her own.

"This is my daughter in law, I'll be shopping here with her today. Treat her with some respect' she told the girl that was in charge of the shop.

"What will you like to buy? We have different clothing and shoes from amazing designer. If you'll like, I'll take you to see them" she said

"I'm not buying anything, thank you. You can attend to her" I replied, it's better to be naked than take anything from the witch.

"You don't mean that Essa, the clothes you brought here were nothing less than rags and i can't allow you to wear something like that, it's too poor for our image" I knew she was up to something when she insisted, I follow her.

"I insist ma, I don't think I'll buy anything ma. I'm okay with what I have. Thank you" before she could say anything to argue back, my phone rang and when I looked at the screen, it was a call from home.

"I have to pick this call, it's from home" I said before excusing myself to pick the call.

"Mother, Is everything okay? How's Dad?" She was silent for a while

"That is why I called you, you need to come home"

"I can't do that mother, not at this time. Maybe sometime around next year I'll be able to go home but for now, I can't. I'm sorry" how was I to go home when I'm pregnant, even though me and my mother never had the best of all relationship, she'll be disappointed in me for having a baby without being married.

"For once Luisa, come home to family. We need you here" she used my native name

"Mom, can't you try to understand, I can't come home"

"Even if it is for your father, come home to give him his last respect. He deserves it"

"What do you mean by that?"

"Your father is dead Luisa, he's dead"

My hand moved to my mouth to stop me from screaming. My world was spinning with tears rolling down my eyes, my shoulder slumped and my heart broken. My world is so dark right now.

I carried myself with the little strength left in me to tell Richard's mom that I'll like to go back home and seeing me in that state, she told the driver to take me home.

On getting home, I entered the bathroom and opened the shower on my head so I'll be able to cry my eyes out without any hindrances.

"Oh my God, Essa, is everything okay?" Richard asked with worry. He stopped the shower and bent down to my level.

"Your burden is my burden Essa, talk to me, please"

"My fa...ther" I stuttered out

"What happened to your father, Essa. Talk to me. I can't bear looking at you like this, it's killing me here"

"He's dead, Richard. He's dead" I finally managed to say and before I could guess the look on his face, he gathered me into his hands.

He later carried me to the bed after i had stopped crying my eyes out.

Placing me gently on the sofa, He looked into my eyes and asked "can I kiss you?, Maybe it will help a little"

I don't know what came over me but I nodded and gave him the go ahead.

He placed his lips on mine and fireworks exploded in my head and I saw butterflies everywhere. For that little moment, I was able to let go of my pain.

Chapter TWENTY ONE

Vanessa'S POV

"I was seven when I started noticing my mom's absence; she is out of the house before I wake up and I'm asleep when she gets back. For three years it continued that way with nannies and family members explaining to me that it was the workload. I can't even imagine how stupid they thought I was for them to give me those crappy lies. I believed them, I mean every of their words until one night. She came back home with dad in tow, they thought I was asleep already, I don't know what led to their fight but mom was complaining about dad's promiscuous ways, telling him she was tired of it all and if he pushed her too far, she'll end up revealing the truth and let the world know what my father was. You want to know what that secret is?"

We were both lying on the bed with our back and our eyes fixed to the ceiling as if the story was being played and Richard was the narrator, it reminds me of a school play.

After the emotional moments had ended, reality kicked back in as it dawned on me that my father was actually gone. My tears ended after Richard threatened to call the doctor to give me a sedative so I could sleep for three days nonstop, the threat did the magic. I don't really know why he's telling me his story right now, if he thinks this is making me feel any better, he's absolutely wrong, I feel sad a little bit for him

"Essa, are you sleeping?" His breath fanned the back of my neck as he leaned closer trying to check if I was sleeping

"No, I'm not and move back, I don't like you breathing on my neck" I pushed him back a little

"I asked you something and you didn't reply"

"I did, I nodded my head"

"You expect me to see that, with the lights out. That's really clever of you"

'Continue with the story your highness even though it was your dumb head who switched off the light' he laughed a bit before going silent.

After thirty seconds, he finally said something, something that made my jaw drop to the floor; I mean that's just a description of how surprised I was. "That she's not my biological mother, she's just saving his ass by claiming I was hers, because she was father's ladder to the throne"

'Did you ask them about it?' I asked hoping he'll answer

'Nope, I didn't and you can call me a coward because till now I didn't bother to face them and ask them about it. That's the reason why I don't want the throne; I just don't want to live the same way they're both living. Just enduring each other for the sake of the throne. That's also the reason why you're here"

'How is this attached to me? I don't think I have any ancestor that is related to the throne not to talk of me helping you claim the throne" I explained

'I was tied to a stupid condition by my grandfather to marry a girl I barely know, but the only way out was if I was in a serious relationship, I hired you and here we are" I nodded continually trying to comprehend what he just said and I stopped nodding when I get the whole scenario

'Tell me about yourself Essa" that's the first time he'll ask me to do that and I was taken aback a little bit

'You'll be bored' I replied

He nudged me by the shoulder and said 'try me'

'As you already know, I'm Vanessa Decruz, I worked as your secretary" we both laughed at that before I continued. 'I grew up in the Philippines and lived there all my life till I moved for college and that's the end of Solomon Gandhi' I ended my story there

'You're no fun in any way' he teased me

'Says the man who is forever sad and grumpy. You should be eighty something years old; you're way too old for your age'

'Why don't you want to go home?" he asked changing the subject. 'I can't go home in this condition, my mom will flip out. We've not been on good terms these days. I actually ran away from the Philippines with my boyfriend then, my mom won't allow me study abroad and I thought it was the best idea'

'What! I can't believe the all innocent Vanessa Decruz ran away with a guy from home, I need to put these on social media'

'Keep teasing me, I don't care' I suddenly started laughing real hard

'What's funny" he asked

'The fact that we're this civil with one another is really funny. When did you start to be normal? You're not this friendly, guess I'm that pitiful'

'No, you're not. I just think I've had enough'

'Enough of what?"

'Enough of your angry face, all I want now is your happiness and in case you change your mind and decide to go home for your father's burial, I'm with you' He proclaimed

'And after few months, it will all be over' I ruined the atmosphere with my words 'Don't try to pretend to be nice anymore, I might get too attached to you and it'll tear me apart when all these shows are over' I finished my words and lied down straight on the bed ignoring my legs that were now lying on his.

Chapter TWENTY TWO

Vanessa's POV

'I didn't do it, someone should please believe me, it was just a mere coincidence that I was there at that particular time. I was even at that spot because she called me down by herself for breakfast' I explained hoping someone would believe but all I got was an angry look from almost all of them.

'If you think we'll believe this sappy story of yours, you're mistaken. We saw you when you pushed her down the stairs, you were right behind her when she fell' One of the maids explained angrily.

'I never knew you were capable of doing something this horrible, Vanessa. You didn't just do it to anyone; you did it to the queen herself. I thought you were innocent but it turns out I'm wrong and my wife was right about you like always' the king shouted angrily at me and I lost all hope in the fact that anyone would actually believe I didn't do it. The king was my last hope but now..... I guess it's all over at this junction.

EARLIER THAT DAY

I was in my room busying chatting with Dae, telling her how much I've missed her and how I'll love to go on crazy adventures with her after I give birth and made jest of my psychopath neighbor who fell in love with a girl down the street when I heard a slight knock on the door, I stood up from the bed and opened the door. Immediately I did, my smile faded away

Not so early this morning

'Good morning, Essa. Where's Richard?' The Queen questioned as she tried pushing her body into the room to check if Richard was there.

'Richard isn't here; he said something about going into town to get some work done. I think one of his clients is here so he wants to kill two birds with a stone, I guess' I replied in full details hoping the woman will stop questioning me and just find her way. I might not really like her but with what Richard told me the other day, I find her pitiful. Not pitiful the bad way but just pitiful

'Down to earth Vanessa, I just came here to call you down for breakfast. Maybe if you'll come downstairs to check on your fellow humans, we won't go through the stress of coming here to beg you royals to eat' she complained and gestured for me to follow her downstairs immediately.

I turned back to take my phone before walking out of the door to follow her down the stairs.

Taking my time to make sure she's five feet away before I proceed to follow her, I don't want her to turn back and see me walking closely behind as if I was stalking her.

I was busy texting on my phone and sending funny and horrible memes, jokes and emojis to Dae who won't stop talking about my neighbor who got duped by the girl he fell in love with, telling me how sorry she felt for the guy, then I heard a heavy thud and someone screaming, as I drag my eye from the phone screen, I realized it was the queen who had fell and rolled down the stairs.

I quickly used my mouth to cover the scream that'll come out from it as I pocketed my phone and slowly moved down the stairs, scared to see if she was dead or not. One maid was already out of the kitchen and rushed to her side, she looked up and when she saw me, her eyes turned dark

'What happened here? What happened to the queen, what happened to my wife' the king cried

Pointing at me, the maid said 'She pushed her, I saw her. She pushed the queen down the stairs'

Chapter TWENTY-THREE

Vanessa's POV

RECAP

'What happened here? what happened to the queen, what happened to my wife' the king cried
Pointing at me, the maid said 'She pushed her, I saw her. She pushed the queen down the stairs'

Chapter 23

'No I didn't do it' I tried explaining but everyone attention was back to the queen whose head was already bleeding and unconscious.

'Someone should call an ambulance' Rich's uncle instructed and someone did.

When everyone realized they couldn't wait for the ambulance, we all rushed her to the hospital in more than five cars, it was like everyone living in the palace were going to the hospital.

On getting there, we were attended to quickly and its due to the fact that it was the royal family, as the woman was carried away on a stretcher, we all sat at the waiting seat.

'Who is Vanessa Decruz?' I turned around to see the person who just requested for me and it turned out to be a man in uniform.

'I'm the one' I replied curtly

'We'll love to speak to you at the station and it'll be at your own interest to follow us right now. You've been reported for an attempt at murdering the Queen'

What!

'You should go with them Vanessa, we don't want to cause a scene in here, it'll be too bad for our reputation' The king suggested and the only thing I could do was nod.

'We'll be following you' the king said as I walked away with the officers in tow.

PRESENT TIME

'Maybe we should stop asking you if it was you who did it, because it's obvious you won't confess to committing the offence. I think it's time to ask you why you did it' one of the officers who was interrogating me asked.

'I didn't do it so why should I have a reason for that. Is there no CCTV at the house that can confirm my innocence?' I inquired

'There's no hidden camera at that part of the house. You really disappointed me Essa, and I know even Richard will be disappointed. To let you know, he called earlier while we were at the hospital that he'll be in town for some few days and we didn't bother telling him about the situation at home. His work is important too right now, but we'll tell him very soon" I was surprised because he didn't tell me anything about staying back for three days.

A phone call came in from the king and he excused himself to pick the call, on getting back the wrinkles on his forehead had faded a little.

'The Queen is past critical stage, all we can do now is pray she wakes up, I've instructed everyone to go back home and you too should go now "he said to the maid who had come to witness.

'Release her for me, we'll settle this matter the family way since the queen is no more in danger' I was released and given back my phone while one of their cars took me back to the palace.

I checked the time and I realized it was few minutes past ten. I haven't eaten all day and I'm so hungry right now I could faint. The stress is enough for a lifetime and all I could do was pray to God to allow me get out of this mess hale and hearty.

I saw my travelling box outside the front door when I alighted from the car and I had doubt and fear somewhere in my heart

Could this be happening?

'You're a danger to the family, woman. You need to leave" Richard's uncle said while folding his hands and blocking the entrance just like the rest of the family.

'At least, let me stay here for the night. I'll leave first thing tomorrow morning' I pleaded

'No way, Vanessa. You're leaving tonight' He snapped

'Okay, i'll go but where do you want me to go at this time of the night with the baby. If you can't do it for me, please think about this child, he's your family at least'

'How are we even sure the child is ours, stop being a talkative and use the gates before I get the guard to make you'

'Richard will never forgive you for this, for doing this to his child' I said hoping that will work on bed but instead they laughed and it sounded as if they were mocking me.

'It was Richard who instructed us to kick you out of the house'

'What!'

'Are you playing deaf now?', I said it was Richard. Richard is behind this action of ours. So get off your high horse and....' I couldn't hear their remaining words as my heartbeat raced twice as normal and I could have sworn it stopped at some time.

Betrayal hurts twice as much as a scorpion stings.

Before I could get my senses back, I was dragged out of the house and I found myself wandering around at late hour with a protruding belly and tears rolling down my face. My phone had fell and broken when I was dragged out of the house and I didn't have the chance to call anyone to help me.

Spotting a shed at the other side of the road, I decided to cross the road and sleep for the night'

I was about getting to the centre of the road when I started to feel dizzy, I tried crossing the road without seeing the car coming towards me, at a high speed.

I landed on the floor after I felt the heavy impact of the car on me, I heard the screeching of the car tires and the door opening.

As I was getting enveloped by darkness, I had only one request for God. 'if you won't save me, save my child'

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We've gotten to the end of the first part of this book

Thank you so much for the love and the patience so far. It has been incredible.

I really appreciate it.

His Majesty's possession (This book's sequel) is on the way and it will be continued as a new book.

Thank you