

His Majesty's Possession

Author not credited

STORYPDF

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Contents

Introduction	5
EP 01	6
CHAPTER 02	9
Chapter 03	12
CHAPTER FOUR	15
Chapter 05	17
Chapter 06	19
Chapter 07	22
Chapter 08	25
CHAPTER 09	28
Chapter 10	31
Chapter 11	34
Chapter 12	37
Chapter 13	40
Chapter 14	43
Chapter 15	46
Chapter 16	50
Chapter 17	52
Chapter 18	55
Chapter 19	61
Chapter 20	64

Chapter 21	67
Chapter 22	70
Chapter 23	74
Chapter 24	76

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Introduction

Short note: This is the second part of the book and it is titled His Majesty's Possession.

HIS MAJESTY'S POSSESSION

EP 01

THREE YEARS LATER

Richard's POV

"Ashley, bring me the file of the Daystar group of companies with immediate effect. Also make sure to call the modelling agency that we'll be ready with their work in the next two hours" I shot out orders through the intercom in my office to my new secretary of three years as I went back to face the document in front of me.

For the past three years, my company has soared higher and I've managed to reach the top ten richest bachelors in the world because my dedication to work has been twice as normal, It's the only thing I live for now.

"These are the files you requested for sir" The secretary placed the brown paper file on the table.

"Thank you, you can take your leave" I replied, not looking away from the work.

"The Queen has requested to see you sir, should I let her in?"

"Do you need an official announcement for you to know you should let her in?" I spat.

"I'm sorry sir, I'll let her in right away" She walked out of the door and not long after the door opened to reveal Tiffany in all her smiling glory.

"Joblessness does look good on you" After the accident she had three years back, the fall had affected her brain and the doctor had advised her to stay away from anything that'll make her stress her brain. She had to close down her company and stayed at home to help with the affairs of the country.

"You'll never be nice, will you, Richard" she said playfully

"You know me too well to know that nice no longer exists in my dictionary" I replied and stood up from my seat to attend to her.

"When was nice ever included in your so called dictionary, but you were once nice when a beautiful woman was in your life, but I know she's at peace right now" the mention of that woman caused my head to spin a little, I just don't buy the idea of anyone talking about her.

"I think we should change the topic, Tiffany, we should focus more on the reason why you're here. You never come to me without a reason, what's your agenda, Queen?" She smiled a little before replying.

"I have a proposal or should I say I'm here to remind you of something really important" Taking a small paper from her bag, she gently opened it and raised it up for me to see myself.

Reading the content of the letter, I stood up from my seat to resume my work.

"You just can't ignore it right now, Richard. It's been three years and I think it's time you move on"

"Move on with what exactly, Grandfather's will. I should get married to a woman I don't even know. Someone who's from a rival family. That's totally insane, I won't do it and I still won't do it. That's final"

Placing her hand on her forehead, she was silent for a few minutes. I know she's trying to keep her cool.

"This is what your grandfather wants, it's his wish. You're not even in a relationship anymore, your fiancé and your baby are gone. What else do you want to do apart from following your Grandfather's wish"

She explained gently.

"Not all last wishes are granted, Tiffany and his won't be an exception. I won't get married to this Bella or whatever and it's final. Nobody can change my mind about that" I roared

"Your father wants you to ascend the throne in the next few months and you know it's not possible to rule without a Queen by your side, you need a powerful woman by your side. It's not all about love"

"Yes, maybe it is not all about love, but I don't want to end up the same way you and Dad ended up. I want a life of my own" I've already said the word before my brain could process the gravity.

"I'm sorry we turned out that way but what is the way forward here? Do you have a woman you're in love with?" That took me by surprise because Tiffany is not that type of person to bother about your love life

"What happened to the old Tiffany?"

She grinned

"The old Tiffany died that night and this Tiffany" she said pointing to herself. "Is a brand new one, I have to take things easy now, if not my brain will end up not functioning and I'll be brain dead in an hour" She sat down back.

Taking a deep breath, she looked at me

"What do you want to do now, Richard? You don't have a woman, do you?"

"You've asked once already, twice is annoying"

"Just answer the question so we'll know the way forward from here" She said

"No, I don't" I replied finally.

"I have two options for you, Richard. The best two solutions that I have for you now and you have to choose one"

"Bring it on, I'm listening" I sat down opposite her

"The first option is for you to go out there and hire a woman to introduce to your father and after you ascend the throne, you tell him you've divorced the woman already and keep rolling in lies till you find a proper woman"

"That'll take me right back to where it all started" I said, remembering the whole drama I had with Vanessa back then.

"What do you mean" she asked with Curiosity.

"Nothing, the first option is good but not good to the extent that I could follow it. It's a no for me. What's the other option?" I asked

"Meet up with Bella Malik" she paused a little, maybe she was waiting for my brain to process it

"Think about it Richard, if you finally agree to this and we arrange the meeting for the two of you to meet, after the meeting, come up with a reason why you can't marry her. That'll delay the whole process for a while. Think about this Richard" She swallowed one of her pills and downed the water placed on the table.

"Why are you doing this, Tiffany? I don't trust you this much"

"I'm sorry if I never did anything to enable my son to trust me, but I'm doing this because I don't want you to end up like us, your parents" I nodded in total understanding of what she had said.

"What do you say about this, Richard"

"Let's do it, arrange a meeting with Bella on my behalf"

HIS MAJESTY'S POSSESSION

CHAPTER 02

RICHARD'S POV

My brain kept on telling me to go back home as I drove to Ladrade Restaurant to meet up with Bella, the supposed wife-to-be.

The meeting was finally arranged much to everyone's surprise, as they all believed I would never agree to something like that without a reason. The fact that I'm doing this without a tangible reason scares me too. Maybe I was not ready to move on yet ready to move on.

Ladrade Restaurant is one of the best in town and totally for the rich and VIP. Reservations are tough as you need to have been on the list for over two weeks before you get to use the restaurants but since the restaurant belongs to Bella's father, they decided to use it.

I looked out of the window, on my way to the restaurant, when there was traffic to see the lights of my former office on. Maybe someone is using it now, I thought as I drive away from the area. Moving out of the office three years back affected a lot of things but it helped me move on with life without them.

"Sorry I'm late, the traffic was a little heavy" I apologized immediately I sighted Malik's family butler.

"It's alright sir, Miss Bella just arrived a few minutes back. She's waiting for you, please follow me" I moved after the man to see the if or if not future wife, should I say maybe or maybe not.

Let's just pray she's worth the money I used in buying the fuel I burned while coming here.

"You may enter sir" I opened the door leading to the VIP lounge gently and the woman sitting in the room had her back turned to me.

Instantly she heard the door being closed, she turned her face to me and smiled. Instantly I remembered her, the fat girl in school that we always made fun of.

I must confess, she's really pretty now and too skinny but her beauty can never be compared to Vanessa's.

Pushing Essa's thoughts to the back of my mind, I greeted the woman in front of me with a smile, the best I could get.

"I'm Richard Amaan and it's nice to finally meet you" I extended my hand in greeting and in return, she looked at it as if it was shit and went back to the cup of coffee that was in front of her.

Who drinks a coffee at this time of the night?

That one got me.

"There's no need for any formal introduction, Richard. Let's get straight to the main point" I took a seat opposite her and without thinking twice, confessed to myself that I hate her. It's a no to this, she's just so rude and the first time she's met me in a long time, there's no formality in any way.

"I heard you wish to marry me"

"Is that a question or a rhetorical question?" I asked

"Maybe if you paid a lot of attention to your Grammar classes in High school, the need to ask that question will not arise now" She replied bluntly and I cursed under my breath.

Calm down Richard, it's just for a few minutes.

"If you wish to marry me, your need to follow some of the rules I have here, my personal assistant will soon come here with the list. Before she does, let me ask you why you wish to marry a woman as beautiful and rich as I am" What a peacock.

"I don't have an answer to your question, Miss Bella. I don't think I'll have an answer to any of your questions ever"

"I don't like men who are rude and I'm not a fan of the throne either. I'm just here because my father wants me to be here. I'm from a rich home and I deserve some respect and dignity which is why I'm here. I need to balance my rich life equation with Power and Fame" I looked at her and start to think if her brain was under her feet. My God, what am I even doing here?

"You don't have to behave as if you like being here, you can leave if you want to, Prince Richard. I'll let my Clumsy and sluggish personal assistant bring it to you" I was so relieved hearing those words.

"Thank you, Bella, it was nice seeing you again even though you lost those baby fats already. You're no more the fatso I know back then" I mocked before walking out of the room, wishing I had stayed to watch the look on her face.

Smiling to myself as If I had just done something that'll save the world, I walked up to where I parked my car.

I was about to open the door when I heard a voice calling my name.

"Mr Amaan, I need to talk to you for a minute" I don't think this is possible, that voice is one I'll never mistake for another, the voice I thought I'll never hear for the rest of my life.

"I'm Miss Bella's Personal assistant and I've been asked to give this to you" she adjusted her glasses and stretched out her hand holding the paper.

"Vanessa" I said almost in a whisper.

"Sorry?" She looked surprised because I just called her Vanessa.

"You need to take this sir, I have to go back now" she dropped the paper on top of my car when she realized that I won't take it from her and started walking away.

Following her, I grabbed her hand and turned her to face me

"You think you can run away from me, Essa. You're wrong"

"I'm sorry sir, I think you've got the wrong person" she swallowed and it made it obvious that she's scared, why will Vanessa be scared of me?

She has to be scared, after everything she did to me, she has to be scared.

"Stop pretending Vanessa"

"I swear on my life, I'm not Vanessa. You need to let me go before I call the police on you. I'm not Vanessa"

"Stop fooling around Essa" I screamed and she cringed

"What's going on sir?" The butler I met earlier asked

"Who's this? What's her name?" I asked the man.

"That's Miss Bella's Personal assistant and her name is Scarlet sir not Vanessa"

HIS MAJESTY'S POSSESSION

Chapter 03

RICHARD'S POV

Song for this chapter: Kim Yeon Jin// words of my heart/// I'm not a robot ost

"Scarlet?" I repeated after the butler and unconsciously, I released her hand and studied her face closely as if the answer I was looking for was there.

"Miss Scarlet, you're needed inside. Kindly follow me" the butler instructed and Essa moved away from me and followed the man.

I was forced to follow them upstairs as I haven't recovered from the shock.

"What took you so long, Scar?" I stood in front of the room listening to their conversation.

"She had a little mishap with the prince at the parking lot, he mistook her for another person" The Butler explained.

"That's quite interesting, why will the prince even think he knows a lowlife like you. His sight might be really poor" Bella is the modern-day Jezebel and her character had confirmed my claim, how could a person be this rude.

"I'm really sorry about that ma'am, it won't happen again, we already explained things to him" Essa or Scarlet explained, I'm confused as to what to call her but I'm pretty sure this is Vanessa and all I'm interested in is the whereabouts of my child

"Did you give him the paper?" Bella asked

"Yes, I left it on the top of his car when he didn't take it from me"

"How can you be so clumsy and stupid? do you expect him to see the paper on the top of his car? Most times I wonder why I even bother to employ you. You're just as useless as my other employees, you have no value and nothing, you lowlife animal" Bella screamed.

Why is Vanessa living like this? Did she run away from me to live a life like this? Is this what it's all about?

"I'm sorry" I could hear Vanessa apologizing.

"Sorry? Do you think sorry will fix any of these? You better find a way to get it to him, you're just too stupid and...." I didn't let her finish her statement when I barged into the room and went straight to face them.

"She already apologized, what else do you want?" I asked

"I didn't know the prince also eavesdrop, that's really bad for our country's image, you know?" She said with an evil grin on her face.

"I don't care about your gospel, just stop with the insults, she's human too. She might not be in the same level as you are, but she's got blood and flesh just like you and you both will end it in a six feet grave at the end of your lives" I explained.

"The way I treat my employee is not your business, so stay out of it"

"She might be your employee, but She's my baby mama, so speak to her with respect" I declared and I could see the surprise on their faces.

I know I just took the wrong move by saying this, but that is for Bella to know her stand. I'm not interested in her not ever.

"I already told you I don't know you, what else do you want from me? I'm not this Vanessa or whatever you call her. It was funny at first, but now it's no funnier" Essa replied

"You shouldn't talk back to the prince like that, Scarlett. When will you start using your brains?" Bella screamed

I tried keeping my cool but I just couldn't, "I thought I warned you already, Bella, don't you dare talk to her like that again or we'll start talking about how your father will turn into a jailbird for his *secret crimes*" I warned and with that I dragged Essa out of the room.

Ignoring both her whining and refusal, I dragged her out of the restaurant to my car.

"Get inside the car Vanessa, or I'll make you" I warned

"You need to leave me alone and for the umpteenth time, I'm not Vanessa. You need to stop all these, please. You took me for the wrong person"

"Just stop this madness, Vanessa please. Just stop. I've had enough of this for a whole night. You keep denying that fact. Did you lose your memory or something? Answer me, did you?"

She only looked at me and didn't reply.

"Just get into the car and you can tell all about yourself. Maybe you're my Essa or you're Scarlett, I want to know. Please" I pleaded

"I'm not going anywhere with you" she replied

"Where do you think you'll go then? Back to your boss?, You think she'll take you back?"

She laughed a little then paused. The look on her face said it all; she's more than angry.

"You think you're better than her? I was even surprised when you stood up for me there, Richard, you're annoying and what you did upstairs is annoying as anything. Wow, three years really change people, I was so stupid to pretend I didn't know you" She moved back a little bit away from me. Like I was disease or something similar.

"Vanessa?" I tried reaching out to her and she slapped my hand away

"Vanessa? Did you just call me by the name of the most clueless, stupid and foolish woman in the whole world?, Vanessa is dead, she died that night along with her child. I'm really apologizing to my dead child for pretending to not know her father. When I could have hit you in the face and get revenge for all you did to us back then. You're heartless Richard.

What did you even say upstairs the other time? Baby mama?, Wake up your highness, we're over" She screamed and no single emotion was evident in her eyes than anger and pain. I tried processing the fact that the child I had lived for till now, the only reason why I worked so hard is not even alive. I pushed the thoughts to the back of my mind and faced the present situation.

"Vanessa, it was you who pushed my mother, it was you tried to kill my mother, so stop talking as if I had a fault in all these. It was all your fault that our child died. Don't you think I'm done with you Vanessa, I'm not done"

"Why did I even bother to open my mouth and talk to you? The bond that brought us together is broken Richard, your royal highness needs to get that into your head. I hate you Richard, I hate you with all the strength left in me"

I feel a strange feeling wash over my body and it was just like I was hit with a volcano.

His MAJESTY'S POSSESSION

CHAPTER FOUR

RICHARD'S POV

"I insist Vanessa, get into the car and let me drop you at your apartment so we'll talk about all this"

I opened the door of the car seat for her to enter but she stood still and didn't move an inch.

"Vanessa I'm talking to you, get into the car immediately. We need to talk about us, about everything that has happened and I want to hear your own side of the story because it's pretty obvious that these our stories are contradicting one way or another"

I explained

"I already told you, my name is Scarlet and not Vanessa. You need to respect that"

"I won't call you by that, you're still Vanessa to me and we have a lot to talk about"

"There's nothing to talk about Richard, our chapter is over bro. This is it, this is the end. What am I even talking about? our chapter ended that night and there's no Vanessa's side of the story because Vanessa died and this is Scarlet. Old things are passed away so leave me alone" She spat and walked away from the restaurant's parking lot.

Sighing in defeat, I entered into the car and closed my eyes for a few minutes thinking about what I should do next.

Through the past three years, I've hated and loathed Essa, promised myself to kill her with my bare hands if she tried keeping my child away from me.

All I asked for was a chance to hold my child in my arms, to kiss her and let her know that Daddy loves her. Apologize to her for not being there and take her to see the world, I worked so hard, I worked this hard to give my child the life she deserves and the best of everything.

But now, it's just over. Seeing Vanessa brought me to my knees and I've realized how much I missed her and how much I want her back in my life with or without the child.

I don't deserve her but I know I want her.

I removed my phone from my pocket to see who was calling me by this time of the night.

"Hey Tiffany" I picked up her call.

"Richard, you don't sound too good, is everything okay? Did you see Bella?" I could hear the worry in her voice.

"Yeah, I saw Bella and I saw someone I never expected to see" I replied and she was silent for a minute.

"I'm sorry Richard, I should have warned you before going. But I know you wouldn't want to go if I mention her to you"

"You knew about this? No wonder you insisted on this date with Bella"

"I saw her once at an event that Bella attended too, and even though I approached her, she ignored me totally. I kept on going to their office to talk to her but it was all negative. You need to talk to her"

"It's not possible Tiffany, she told me by herself that the bind that brought us together is broken. She doesn't need me anymore Tiffany. The child is dead and I don't think I have any more reason to talk to her"

"What she told you doesn't matter Richard, what matters most is you being there for her. You too should imagine the burden of losing a child. You're hurting right now and her seeing you again today will hurt her once more. It'll open up memories she had managed to seal up. You need to talk to her Richard. Even if you guys don't end up together, clear the misunderstanding between the two of you. That's all I care about son"

"I'll try my best and I'll come see you at the apartment tomorrow" I replied and she thanked me and promised to send Vanessa's phone number to me before the next day, she dropped the call.

I leaned against my car with no will to move on or get through. Ten minutes later, I entered the car and drove off to my office.

Guess I'll be sleeping there for today.

HIS MAJESTY'S POSSESSION

Chapter 05

Vanessa's POV

Three years have passed since I had an encounter with death, that I survived a near death experience and three years, nine months, three days and two hours since I vowed never to have anything to do with the Prince or his family ever again.

After I was rescued that night by a God sent friend, I moved to Philadelphia with the little money I had, even though it was hard to get past the death of a child and betrayal from someone who I was just starting to trust, I didn't have any other choice than to move on for my child.

Working minor jobs day and night, I was able to sustain my baby and myself for a while before I got a secretary job at Malik's company. That job sorted out most of my financial problems but emotional ones can't be sorted with money.

I spent at least two years in Philadelphia before I got my transfer letter back to the place that I dreaded the most, where Richard resides. I didn't have no other option that to go, if not ill definitely lose my job.

Moving back was hard because it took all the strength in me to go back to a place that I've vowed never to go back to. I didn't make any close friends in Philly, so it was not hard parting with the few people I met there. I changed my name to Scarlet immediately and I got to Philly because I wanted to leave everything behind.

Malik's group of companies in Philly was totally different from the one in New York. A human was the CEO over there and here, it's a monster in a girl's clothing.

Bella Malik is a devil incarnate herself. She has managed to turn herself into a mini god to her co-workers and employees. Within three months of getting there, she had managed to suck the life out of me, frustrated my entire being and turned me into a zombie walking in broad daylight.

It was during one of the frustrating events that she organized that I met Richard's mother again.

I knew at that moment that meeting Richard will be anytime soon and that's why as Bella told me to run after him and give him the so-called nonsense that she had done, I was ready to not be Vanessa but to be Scarlet.

After he defended my honor before Bella, he dragged me out of the place to his car.

"Get inside the car Vanessa, or I'll make you" Over my dead body

"You need to leave me alone and for the umpteenth time, I'm not Vanessa. You need to stop all these, please. You took me for the wrong person" I screamed at him.

"Just stop this madness, Vanessa please. Just stop. I've had enough of this for a whole night. You keep denying that fact. Did you lose your memory or something? Answer me, did you?" I ignored his question.

"Just get into the car and you can tell all about yourself. Maybe you're my Essa or you're Scarlett, I want to know. Please" he pleaded and I was forced to reply him.

"I'm not going anywhere with you"

"Where do you think you'll go then? Back to your boss? You think she'll take you back?"

"You think you're better than her? I was even surprised when you stood up for me there, Richard, you're annoying and what you did upstairs is annoying as anything. Wow, three years really change people, I was so stupid to pretend I didn't know you"

"Vanessa?" he tried reaching out to her and I slapped my hand away

"Vanessa? Did you just call me by the name of the most clueless, stupid and foolish woman in the whole world? Vanessa is dead, she died that night along with her child. I'm really apologizing to my dead child for pretending to not know her father. When I could have hit you in the face and get revenge for all you did to us back then. You're heartless Richard. What did you even say upstairs the other time? Baby mama? Wake up your highness, we're over. I hate you Richard, I hate you with all the strength left in me"

I felt bad at my statement but at the same time, I was relieved.

HIS MAJESTY'S POSSESSION

Chapter 06

Richard's POV

The meeting with the board of directors took longer than expected, though it ended up giving me what I wanted exactly. A chance to expand my business chain. I'll be acquiring the old building beside the Empires' building and converting it to a hotel.

I left the office with my personal secretary to check out the building to see if it's worth the stress and more than five hours meeting.

On getting to the Empires' building, we were told that we'll have to check with the previous owners to get the necessary documents that will facilitate the purchase of the building.

"Who did you say owns the building previously?" I asked when I saw the Malik proudly written on their elevator, doors and everything available here.

"Farad Malik, Sir" kill me already. Of all persons to collect a document from, Malik should have been the last.

"Are you stalking me now?" That voice that has tortured my dreams for the past three years now startled me as I was about getting into the elevator. She was clutching her purse bag which showed that she was already leaving.

"You know I don't do things like that, Vanessa"

"People can change within three hours, so I can't say what you can do and undo" I just shrugged off her comment and decided to ignore her.

"You still work here? Even after all the insults and abuses you receive each and every day" This new Vanessa baffles me. "You can come work for me anytime, your post is always vacant, Essa"

"One, I've already told you that I'm not Essa or whatever you call her and Second, ill rather eat dog poops and watch Bella ride me like a horse than work for you" With that, she left and when I turned to follow her, that was when my Personal Assistant called my attention back to why we were there.

We went into the administrative office and retrieved the documents we needed.

I was almost passing the bus station that was a few feet away from the building when I saw Vanessa entering the bus that just stopped and without thinking twice, I followed the bus.

Curiosity killed the cat but I know I have family that'll bury me.

Thirty minutes later, the bus stopped and checking closely I realized that Vanessa already came out.

I parked the car by the side of the road and I followed her

"Vanessa" I called out so it won't look like I was stalking her.

When she turned back and realized it was me, she quickly increased her pace without looking back.

I kept on following her, half walking and half running, she reached the front of an apartment and opened the door, before she could close it back, I quickly used my feet to block the door.

"You need to leave me alone" she commanded.

"I will but that'll be after you tell me your own side of the story. I'm not giving up on you anytime soon"

"I've already given up on you" She replied

"Why?" I asked

"Do you need a reason for that? You are too late to ask for my own side of the story. You should have asked back then before you instructed your family members to kick me out of the house in the middle of the night"

"What did you just say?"

"Now you're playing dumb with me, right? As if you didn't know"

"I..." Paused when I heard a tiny voice inside the house calling mommy.

"Miss Vanessa, I need to go home now, can you please come inside so you'll pay me before I go"

"I'm sorry Mrs. Smith, I'll come do that immediately"

She turned to face me "you're overstaying your welcome already, Richard. You need to leave right now"

Removing my leg from the door, I tried going inside but she won't let me in

"I'm serious Richard..."

"Mommy, who's that?" A little girl came to her side to hold her hand while looking at me with curiosity with those blue eyes that looked just like mine.

"Go inside Rachel, I'll come meet you" the little girl nodded and waved at me before going back inside, my heart melted.

"How old is she? She's my daughter, right?"

"Nope, she's Scarlett's daughter. The child you had with Vanessa is dead. She died that night three years ago"

"You need to stop all these Essa, this isn't funny anymore"

"Good night, Prince Charming" With that, she slammed the door shut in my face.

HIS MAJESTY'S POSSESSION

Chapter 07

Richard's POV

“The next step to take now is sue her, Richard. You need to take custody of your child, you can't sit here all day and mop over the loss of a child to her mother who is refusing to let you have her. You're more than this Richard and you deserve better too. Sue Vanessa Decruz and get your daughter out of there”

After she had slammed the door in my face the previous day, I walked away from the house with all the strength left in me. Suddenly I felt too weak to drive home, too weak to sleep through the night, too weak to carry my office documents and take a look at them, too weak to attend the board of directors meeting, too weak to carry on with life. Vanessa had managed to shred me off the rest of energy left in me.

After my friend who also happened to be one of the company's lawyer, a friend I had managed to make within those three years of loneliness and agony, noticed that I was absent from the meeting, he quickly came over to my office to ask me what was going on. After I had explained everything to him, he decided suing her was the best option and the only option left.

“I don't want my daughter to get involved in that family mess, No, I can't let her have that memory growing up. She's too young for that” I rejected his offer.

“Maybe you should tell me the way out of this then”

“I'll keep begging her till she decides to let me see my daughter, it's a family issue that we'll sort out ourselves” I explained

“What are you begging for exactly? Forgiveness?, For what!. It was her who left your house after she pushed your mother down the stairs and even with the agreement you people had, she still left. Wake up Richard, this woman is not who you think she is back then”

“Vanessa was never like this, something must have happened that made her this way. She mentioned something about me instructing my family member to push her out of the house that night she left and I've been trying to call Tiffany to ask her what happened exactly, she didn't pick up her call. There's more to our story, Felix. I just can't sue her like that without asking what went wrong that night” I explained

“You have a point here, but what do you think we should do?”

"Honestly, I don't know. I don't even have the strength to carry on without the both of them. I know I was rude, evil to her back then, I even manipulated her into signing the contract back then. Guess I'm just paying for all my sins"

Breaking the 20 seconds silence that lasted between us, Felix finally spoke up "Talking about contract, did you guys sign a contract about the pregnancy deal, I mean a document where she agreed to give you the baby?" He asked

"Yes, we did. We had an agreement" I replied and he smiled while I wondered where this was leading to.

"Do you still have the documents with you?" He asked

"Yes, it's here" bringing out the documents, I passed them to him.

"This is exactly what we need right now, we'll go to her and remind her about this, failure to agree to this means we'll drag her to court and we'll work the case, get the custody of the child and we all will move on with our lives"

"I don't want Vanessa to go through that, it's not easy separating a mother from her child, I just need joint custody and even if possible, both of them"

"Forget about Vanessa, she's gone. Let's focus on the child here. All we'll do is let her know that you want joint custody of the child and if she doesn't agree, we'll threaten to take the case to court"

Two days later, I was sitting in a cafe with Felix while we waited for Vanessa. We already invited her through her boss, Emily.

We need to get things clear so we won't get to take this case to court and I don't even like the idea of a court case.

"I'm sorry I'm late, the traffic was hectic" She apologized immediately she entered and joined us taking a seat opposite mine. She was beautiful as always. Only God knows how much I want to hold her right now.

"It's all good, this is Felix, he's my lawyer and friend and we'll be talking about the custody of our child" I explained

"What child, please? You mean my child" Felix and I looked at each other at the same time.

"Vanessa, you need to know the fact that you guys had an agreement three years back." he brought out the document and passed it to her.

"Failure to agree with the contract means we'll take this case to court and you'll lose custody of your child" Vanessa was still looking at the documents, after she was done with it, she pushed it towards us.

"The documents states that he'll pay 300,000 dollars for the child and he only paid 150,000 dollars"

"If it is the rest of the payment that you need, we'll give that to you" Felix answered

"I never knew you'd stoop this low, Richard. You want to threaten me the same way you did back then, remember it was you who manipulated me into all these messes that I am right now. My life would have been better if not for the fact that you just won't let me live my life in peace"

She cried out.

"I'm sorry Vanessa, for everything but still I need joint custody of my child" I said.

"It's not possible" she replied

"What do you mean by that, the documents clearly state that.."

".....I give the child to you, right? not children"

"What are you talking about, Vanessa?"

"She was a twin, her twin sister died with the old Vanessa back then and moreover, you only paid half of the money which means you get to have one of the twins and even the document clearly states that I give you one child. So, I decided to give you the dead one because you killed her yourself that night by throwing me out of the house into the street that I knew nothing of."

Standing up from her seat, she picked up her bag and smiled before leaving us with the shock evident on our faces.

"You don't know what you're in for Richard, you chewed more than you can swallow years back and it's time for you to pay the price. It's payback time." She said before leaving finally.

//////////

Do you think Vanessa is taking this too far?

HIS MAJESTY'S POSSESSION

Chapter 08

RICHARD'S POV

Without thinking twice or thinking about what the outcome will be, I stood up from my seat and ran outside to meet up with Vanessa. Taking hold of her hand, I turned her to me to see the surprise on her face and the next thing I knew was her hand meeting my face: she slapped me.

I didn't flinch because I know I'll still get kicked too and I don't care, all I want right now is to clear all this between us.

"I don't care if you hit me or slap me or even get me arrested Vanessa, all I want is for us to talk about this. Please, I need to know what happened that night, I want to hear it all from you, please"

She looked at me furiously for some seconds before replying.

"I need to be somewhere right now, maybe another time, I'll explain to you" she said and looked at her wristwatch. "I'll go with you anywhere you're going and after you're done, we'll talk about us"

"What if I don't want you to go there? What if it's my boyfriend's apartment I'm going to?" She asked

"Then I'll wait in the car and behave as if I don't even exist and when you're done, we'll find someplace to talk about it"

"Your new attitude amazes me, did you just change within a few minutes or what happened exactly?" She said

"I've just realized none of my tricks will work on you and it's better we both talk things through before taking any drastic steps. I'm sorry for everything Essa, even till now, I'm sorry"

"Keep the sermon till Sunday, Richard. Let's go" She started walking away towards the parking lot.

"Are we taking your car or mine?" I asked

"I don't have a car so obviously we'll take yours"

Ten minutes into the ride, we were both silent and this was very awkward. The previous Vanessa will definitely have something to say but I guess this new Vanessa is more damaged than the old one and the worst part of it is that I caused it.

"What address did you enter into the GPS?" I asked trying to bring up a conversation

"Airport" she replied curtly.

"Are you seeing someone off?"

"No, someone is coming in"

"Who is the person, your friend?" She turned to give me a weird look before positioning her head back facing the road.

"No, the person who saved me the night you and your family abandoned me on the street to die" I suddenly stopped the car by the side of the road.

"Why do you keep talking about this, Vanessa? Call the person you're going to see at the airport that you're not coming anymore, because we're talking about this right here and right now" I shouted

"Richard, you need to be in your right senses, I'm not explaining what you already know. So just keep driving or I'll make sure I get out of this car and never talk to you again"

"Let me watch you do that" I locked the car and relaxed into my seat trying to ignore her angry stares

"Richard, open the door or I'll scream right now"

"We're surrounded by bushes and only 2 to 3 cars pass this lane in every thirty minutes. So, let me watch you scream for help and how the bushes will end up saving you" The hard stares she was sending me was enough to transform into daggers and kill me in my seat.

"The day you travelled to the city for a business and left me in the palace" she started talking after remaining silent for ten minutes.

"Thank you" I whispered, loud enough for her to hear. "I'm just doing this so you'll take me away from this place" I nodded smiling to myself

"Your mom came up to the room to call me down for breakfast, and asked about your whereabouts, i followed her and I was so engrossed in my conversation with Dae that I didn't get to see what happened or how she fell. Then I started walking down the stairs to take a look at her when the maid had rushed in to look at her, then she looked up and saw me at the edge of the stairs, so she thought it was me who pushed her" she turned to look at me trying to decipher the emotions in my eye

"We got to the hospital and before I knew it, I was in the police station and before I could blink, we were already back at home, and I met your family outside excluding your father, telling me to leave the palace, and they were acting on your instructions"

“Wait! What did you just say? My instructions?, That's not possible even if you killed my father, I would never throw you out of the house in that condition. I swear to God” She looked at me with surprise and shock.

“Let me finish with my story first before you start yours. After I had left the house with no phone and no roof over my head, I was hit by a car, hit and run case. I was lying in my own blood in the middle of the street when Michael found me, one of his sisters who was present at the palace that day had called him to inform him about what happened. Luckily enough for me, he was nearby, so he saw me on the road, took me to the hospital and watched over me and my baby while I was in a coma for three weeks.

I was operated on immediately I got to the hospital and only one baby survived, when I woke up, he already left because your family won't let him live in peace for helping me. He left me with a letter though telling me about what had happened”

She was already crying and my emotions were mixed up already.

“So, tell me why I shouldn't hate you Richard”

“I'm sorry Vanessa, for everything. I don't even have any explanation or anything but I swear they'll pay” I looked over at her and cleaned up her tears with my hands while I tried keeping my calm.

“Where do you want me to drop you off? I need to be somewhere right now”

“You need to calm down Richard, you're shaking and that's not a good sign”

“Don't worry Vanessa, just tell me where to drop you off” I turned the car back into the city.

“Manager, this is Amaan, get the private jet ready, I'm going home right now and don't make me repeat myself” I dropped the call and stopped the car in front of Vanessa's home.

“Go home to our daughter” I said

“Promise me you won't do anything stupid” I opened the door for her while she stepped out of the car.

“Promise you'll visit me in the prison when I'm done with them”

HIS MAJESTY'S POSSESSION

CHAPTER 09

Vanessa's POV

It's been seven days since I last saw Richard, a week of freedom from his trouble and visitations and one part of me is really grateful for this.

But the other part of me is really worried, not like I care though but because of the last thing he said to me before leaving that day.

"Promise you'll visit me in the prison after I'm done with them" Those words kept on ringing in my head over and over again and getting it out is really difficult.

If only I have his mobile number or home address, I would have checked up on him to see if he hadn't done anything stupid. Maybe I should call his mom but I don't think that's a good idea. I need to stay on my own lane and respect myself.

"Scarlet, I need you in my office right away" My boss, Emily's voice brought my attention back to earth. I stood up, adjusted my skirt and checked myself properly before entering her office.

She hates seeing people untidy and dirty.

"You called for me, ma'am"

"Yes, I did. A friend of yours who happens to be a part of the royal household of the Arab Emirates which you're very familiar with, has requested for your presence. I can't deny it because it's an official request. So, send the rest of the work I gave to you earlier to the secretary, I'll give her the necessary instructions myself. You can take your leave, a car will be waiting for you outside" Her politeness towards me these days has been kind of different, if I tell you I understand what's going on, then I would be lying.

"Okay ma'am, but I have a question" I said and she smiled lightly at me.

Ok! That's weird. Emily... Smile

"Who's this person that requested for my presence?"

"His name is Michael O'Brien. He said he's a really good friend of yours" She replied.

Michael arrived in town a week ago, the Same day Richard disappeared. I was supposed to meet him at the airport but because of what happened between me and Richard, I couldn't go to the airport.

Even though we've been talking on phone, I never had the time to visit him but guess he really used his Royal power this time around.

"Thank you, ma, I'll take my leave now"

"Before you go..." I stopped in my track and turned toward her. "I want to ask you for a little request"

"Okay ma" I replied and she gestured me to sit.

"As you know, my status requires that of someone powerful but yours require that of someone like you, you know the way things are, status and all. In case you need to know, even if you had a child with Richard, he's still not the right guy for you, you're below his status and it'll be poisonous for the Prince and dangerous for you too. If you don't mind, can you make Richard mine?"

She requested and I got tongue tied.

How am I supposed to make him yours, like am I being a matchmaker right now? Do I even look like one?

"I can't guarantee anything," I told her honestly.

"Just promise me you'll do this for me, Scarlett" She asked

"I'll try my best, but I can't promise a good outcome of this"

I walked out of the office building and I saw a black car right outside, still contemplating if I should enter the car or not, the driver's side open to reveal Michael.

"OMG, you look handsome as ever, tell me you've got like 32 girlfriends presently and 100 ex-girlfriends" I exclaimed.

He hugged me immediately I got to his side

"Is that a way to greet a friend of yours that has been out of town for three years?"

"I just couldn't stop myself from admiring this hotness of yours" I admitted

"Where did the old Vanessa go? The shy and ever innocent Vanessa" he joked.

"That Vanessa realized life is too short, therefore shoot your shot before it's too late"

"It's too late already, I have a fiancée now"

"Okay! I need to be normal now. Hey Michael, long time no see. How's everything?" I said the greeting properly this time.

"Get your head into the car and stop being naughty"

We entered the car and after he received a phone call, he turned to me, gave me a weird smile and said "I'm actually here on a mission to kidnap you"

"Stop with the joke and tell me why you're here" I said

"I'm serious, the Queen ordered me to kidnap you. When was the last time you saw Richard?" I looked at him weirdly before replying to his question.

"A week ago, why do you ask?"

"Did he mention anything to you?"

"He mentioned going back home and to be sincere, I'm really worried because he said I should visit him in prison after he's done with his family members"

"Guess you told him about what happened that night, right?" I nodded

"Well, he went back home and caused a whole lot of ruckus that they couldn't handle. The royal household is hot right now, Richard took over the throne that day in the absence of his father, removed his uncle and everyone involved in your case from the royal cabinet. He proceeds to sue them for the death of his daughter and the endangerment of the life of his baby mama and the other daughter. The maid who testified to the case was also imprisoned for testifying to something that was untrue. His nephews who got involved were banished from the royal household including my sister and the Queen was saved due to the fact that she knew nothing about the whole incident" he explained all in one breath and I couldn't believe what he had just said.

"I don't understand one thing here, are you telling me Richard didn't believe I pushed his mother that night?" He nodded before responding

"Yeah, he didn't believe any of it and the Queen also told Richard that she slipped that night due to the slip-on she had on and nobody told her about you being accused of pushing her. After she was discharged from the hospital, she asked about you and they told her the same story they told Richard. Vanessa ran away. Why? They couldn't get an answer for the Queen but they had one for Richard. Richard would have learned the truth all these years only if he never shuts the Queen up anytime, she wants to talk about you and the girls" I still can't believe any of these. I need to hear it all from Richard himself

"Where's Richard?" I asked

"He came back to town three days back and hadn't moved an inch from his house, he's not picking our phone calls and the worst part is our fear, we don't know if he's dead or alive because he can't get to forgive himself for everything that happened" My heart crushed at his last words.

HIS MAJESTY'S POSSESSION

Chapter 10

Vanessa's POV

RECAP

"Where's Richard?" I asked

"He came back to town five days back and hadn't moved an inch from his house, he's not picking our phone calls and the worst part is our fear, we don't know if he's dead or alive because he can't get to forgive himself for everything that happened" My heart crushed at his last words.

PRESENT

"That's really scary, what do you think we should do about this? I mean we can't just keep watching him this way, he might harm himself or something"

"Exactly and that's where you come in. The Queen asked me to bring you to Richard and if you refuse, I should kidnap you" He explained

"Okay! Whichever one suits you. Where is he? How can I get to meet him?" I asked nervously.

"Calm down ma'am, you'll get to see him. I see you're really worried about Richard, maybe you're still in love with him"

"You crazy or something, how can you say something like that? Just stop with the joke and just take me to his place, I'm just being human here. I don't have any feelings for him, not before and definitely not now" I explained

"You want me to believe that, Vanessa D'cruz. That's not possible. The same Vanessa who wouldn't let me drop her off at her apartment because of her man"

"You should understand Richard's anger more than anybody. I was scared about what his reaction would be, that's why I never allowed you to drop me off at my apartment. You can't even understand If I try to explain to you" If only he knew the truth about me and Richard.

Yes! I wouldn't deny the fact that a part of my soul yearns for him.

"Try me, maybe I'll get to understand you"

"Let me burst your bubble, me and Richard were never an item. It was just business between the two of us"

"I don't understand"

"I mean, me and Richard signed a contract for me to have a baby for him. Surrogacy but a little bit different, different in a way that I had to go with his lies about me being his fiancé to his family. He forced me into agreeing to be his date for a night"

"The same night where he announced that you were carrying his child?" He asked

"Yes" I confirmed

"Okay, let my tiny brain process that for sometimes" He was silent for a while before he faced me "I can't judge you because everyone in one way or the other is not all that innocent. Let's forget the past and face the present. Let's go to Richard's apartment" he said

"Okay, let's go"

Thirty minutes later, we got to Richard's apartment and after pressing the bell and knocking for what seemed like a century, still, he didn't open the door.

"Richard, it's Michael. You need to open this door" No response.

"We all are worried about you" No response

"Your mom is worried about you" No response

"You need to stop being a child and open this door. Even Vanessa is worried about you" At the mention of my name, we heard his footsteps coming towards his door and I decided to take it up from Michael

"Richard, I'm here. Your Vanessa is here, not Scarlett."

"You need to leave now Scarlet, I've done enough damage to you. I'm too toxic for you" my heart broke at the fact that he called me Scarlett and not Vanessa.

"I'm not going anywhere until you open this door and I'm serious about that Richard" I screamed

"Please go away from me." His voice was shaking, an evidence of the fact that he was very weak.

"I said I'm not going anywhere; don't you get it? You need to open this door. Open this door first before I decide to leave or not" I said

"Don't you get what I'm trying to tell you. The more you're with you, the more dangerous it is for you and the child. You should know that far better than anybody" he explained

"I didn't go through hell for things to turn out like this, you need to be strong for your child. She needs you and you can't keep hiding in your hole till forever. You need to come out, face your fears and move on with your life"

"I've trashed out my fears Vanessa, the remaining fear I have is you. Can I trash you along with my fears too? Do I even have the right to move on after everything that my family did to you?"

"It's not your fault Richard, it was never your fault"

"I started it all, this beat we all are dancing too, I started playing it first. Can you forgive me? Will you ever have the strength to forgive me?" He asked

Through tears, I summoned up the courage to reply. "Yes, Richard. I'll forgive you. No! I've forgiven you for everything"

"You're lying Vanessa, show me an evidence that you've forgiven me"

"Is that what you want? An evidence, right? I'll be back with one. Trust me on that"

With that, I started out of his apartment with only one aim in mind and it was when Michael dragged me back to his car as I was walking away to the bus station that I remembered that Michael was there too. I totally forgot about him.

"Where are we heading to?" He asked, breaking the silence.

"Somewhere" I replied after inputting the address into the GPS.

Twenty minutes after going and coming back, we finally reached Richard's apartment for the second time that day.

"Richard, you need to open the door or else I'll break it down" I threatened

"You need to stop now Vanessa, it's all over. Move on with your life"

"Maybe I can, but can she move on with her life too, can your daughter move on?" There was silence as he had no answer to my question.

"Say hi to daddy, princess" I told the little bundle of joy behind me

"Hi Daddy, can you pwease open the door for mommy?" That did the magic. Richard opened the door with haste and almost immediately the door opened, he hugged his daughter.

"I'm sorry Baby, I missed you so much all my life. I'm so sorry baby, I'm sorry" My heart froze at the moment.

HIS MAJESTY'S POSSESSION

Chapter 11

VANESSA'S POV

My heart froze at the scene that unfolded before me, I was surprised and amazed at how soft Richard could become because of his daughter.

"I'm sorry I wasn't there for you when you always need me. I know I'm the worst father in the whole world but I promise to make it up to you from now on. I'm sorry baby" He said while hugging his daughter tightly to his heart.

"She can't breathe properly Richard, you need to let go for a minute" I tried taking the child out of his hands to prevent her from suffocating. He didn't release her, he only reduced the tightness.

"What's her name?" He asked while looking at the girl.

"Racheal Amaan" I replied and he smiled. "Thank you for giving her my surname, thank you" he said.

"Are we invited inside or we'll continue with the reunion service out here?" Michael who had been silent the whole time finally said something.

"Okay" Richard answered and led all of us inside. The living room was just like Richard, Dark and Empty, even with all the expensive furniture and equipment you'll find in a billionaire's living room, the feeling of emptiness filled the air.

Rachel let go of Richard's hand and ran to hide behind me, I guess the color of the room scares her.

"She's scared of anything black and I think that's what's affecting her" I explained when I saw the questioning look on Richard's face.

"I'll change everything by tomorrow and you can help me pick a design for her room, that's if you'll want her to stay over here sometimes" I nodded in understanding.

"Thank you so much" he appreciated

He moved towards Rachel and played with her hair before proceeding to pull her out from my back. "I'm sorry princess, I'll change the color tomorrow so you don't have to be scared of anything. I'm here now darling, I'll protect you"

"Since this is a family reunion, I think I need to go to my own family reunion now. My fiancé is in town and I'll love to introduce her to my family" Michael suddenly announced.

"You have a fiancé?" I asked out of surprise and shock.

"Yes, I do and you'll get to meet her at the wedding"

"You're getting married?" I screamed

"Yes, next week" I picked up a rubber knife from the dining table.

"I'm going to kill you, you bloody betrayal. How dare you? You got engaged and you didn't tell me, now you're getting married next week and you're just telling me" he took hold of my hands and forcing me to sit on a chair, he tied both of my hands together with a cloth.

"Richard take care of the crazy woman" Turning to Rachel, he said "I'll see you later princess" He scattered my hair and placed a kiss on my hair. "I'll explain later when you're normal. You're crazy right now. Bye everyone" he left after placing a kiss on Rachel's cheek.

"Thank you so much, Richard," I said after he released me from the bondage that Michael had put me. After placing Rachel on a chair in the dining area, I turned to him, waiting for him to say something.

"Should I offer you anything?" He asked me to break the silence and it was so awkward.

"No, I'm okay and I think Rachel is good too" I replied.

"Princess, should daddy get you anything?" She shook her head.

"Am I a pwincess mommy?" The fact that Richard won't stop calling her princess had made her curious

"Yes, you're your daddy's princess and our beautiful baby, we love you too much" I told her

"Can I talk to you about something? I know it's too early to ask but can I please have joint custody of Rachel?" He asked while we sit on the couch with Rachel on his lap.

"That's okay if you want but who will look after her when you're at work or when you travel?" I asked

"I'll bring her to you when I'm on a trip and I'll try to get a nanny also. I think that will help for now" he explained.

He finally broke the lingering silence between us after several minutes.

"After I had a meeting with the man who changed my life till now, I called your number because I wanted to share the good news with you. When I couldn't reach you, I called home hoping someone would pick up and give the phone to you but still to no avail. The next day, I went back home thinking "I'll eat your head off for making me worried" I took a while for my head to figure out he was telling me his own side of the story.

"Then, they told me you ran away from home after you pushed my mom off the stairs. I was sad and angry, so mad at the fact that you left when I was able to open my heart to someone. My anger clouded my thinking, I didn't bother to look for you. Even till now I still can't forgive myself for everything I made you go through. Maybe under the stars, someday, we'll work it out again"

"Maybe someday, I have hope" I said trying not to ruin the mood

"I have hope too," he replied.

Hours after, Richard left the house to make an appointment with those that'll change the color of his apartment. With Rachel playing with the toys we ordered online, I was in the kitchen trying to make dinner when I heard the doorbell ringing.

I quickly left the kitchen to open the door not without checking on Rachel to find out she was sleeping already.

"What are you doing here, Vanessa?"

"I think you know the answer to that question and I should be asking you what in God's name you're doing here? After three years, I didn't expect that you'll show up here, Richard's house of all places"

"Leave the sermon for the priest, Vanessa. I'm Richard's girlfriend"

What in God's name did you just say?

HIS MAJESTY'S POSSESSION

Chapter 12

Vanessa's POV

What in God's name did she just say?

I looked in bewilderment at the figure before me, someone I called a friend for years and confided in for everything that happened to me. Dae, a name that became a past tense. The last time I heard that name was the day Richard's mom fell off the stairs and after that, I lost contact with her and no matter how much I tried to get to her, it was all in vain.

Watching her stand in front of Richard's door and telling me she was his girlfriend got me in a mold. I'm beyond surprised and amazed, this is just too... unbelievable.

"Okay babe, just come in. We need to catch up on things. How have you been? It's been three years babe, how's everything?" I asked, smiling wildly at her as I opened the door fully to allow her into the house.

"Is that your daughter?" She asked when she saw her sleeping so peacefully and I nodded. "She's so cute, what's her name?"

"Rachel, I gave her my paternal grandmother's name" I replied.

"That's nice, where have you been?"

"I haven't been in town for two years now, I just managed to stay off the camera and spotlight. Had to do that for my daughter" I explained

"Guess it didn't take Richard long to find you and the girl. It's really nice seeing Richard reunite with his daughter. Even if he never talked about it, I know he always missed her. I'm glad you're back" She sat down on the couch and brought out her phone to send a message.

"I'm actually glad you're with Richard, I was already scared of the woman in his life thinking it'll be a strange woman who won't like my daughter. But now that I see you here, I'm glad. I'm relieved also" I said sincerely.

Not like I have anything against their relationship and it's not even like I expected Richard to take me back into his life. I knew from the start that having a future together is uncertain.

"So, now that you're back, do you have a plan of getting back into Richard's life?" She asked.

"I understand that every woman will be scared about that, and it's okay that you asked. I don't have any plan on getting back into his life. All I want is just a father's figure for my daughter. That's all I desire, nothing more, nothing less" She only nodded.

"So, tell me, what have you been up to? You look good actually" I asked

"Nothing much, I've been around. I work for Dexter right now, it's a really big company but am working on bringing up my own company later and I'll be glad if you'll work for me. You're really good at the personal assistant work, it's like you're made for it" I don't know why but I felt insulted by her words.

"That's really good" I replied and left her in the living room to resume my cooking.

But I just couldn't stop myself from thinking about what she said.

Richard's POV

After I made an appointment with the decorations company to change the color of my apartment, I decided to call Tiffany in the car.

"Hey Tiff"

"I could hear the excitement in your voice from here. Don't bother telling me, Michael already shared the good news" Tiffany said smiling.

"Michael is too fast with my news" I replied and we both laughed.

"What next now Richard? You shouldn't wait anymore longer. Your woman is here now, don't sleep on that" she advised.

"There are some things I need to sort out first, I'll get to that after I'm done"

"Sort them out fast, before someone else do that for you" She advised again and we said our goodbyes before I made my way back home.

I got to my apartment to meet Vanessa and Rachel at the doorstep, ready to go home.

"What's going on?" I asked with curiosity. I thought they'll be spending the night.

"Your girlfriend is here" Essa replied with amusement on her face. Girlfriend! Where is that one coming from? It might end up being one of the girls that my dad introduced the other day.

"My girlfriend? Leave that issue apart, let me drop you off at your apartment" I suggested.

"We already called for a taxi and it'll soon be here. You can't leave your visitor like that, go attend to her." she looked at the street and beamed with excitement when she saw the taxi park in front of the house.

"It's here already, I'll get to see you later. Goodnight"

She went into the car with my baby sleeping peacefully, I leaned into the car and kissed Rachel at her forehead.

"Till when?" I asked

"Maybe this weekend, I'll drop her off" I was partly sad and happy. Happy because I'll get to see my daughter and sad because I won't be seeing her.

"Goodnight" I whispered and watched the vehicle drive away. I turned to see what mystery girlfriend I had that I didn't know about.

"Welcome Richard, how was your day?" Dae greeted instantly I entered and my face fell.

"What do you want Dae and why did you tell Essa that you're my girlfriend?" I screamed at her

"You can't scream at me like that, you know the rule Richard"

"Get out of my house" I commanded

"I'll go but I promise you I'll be back. Don't forget, I have in my hands what can bring down everything you've brought up so far. It won't take me ten minutes to release your birth news on social media. A little scandal for the royal household, I'll say" She replied before walking out of my house majestically.

What did I do to deserve this!!!!

HIS MAJESTY'S POSSESSION

Chapter 13

Vanessa's POV

That morning, I decided to drop Rachael off at Richard's place.

"Hey"

"Hi" he replied from the other end of the line

"I'm on my way to your place, where are you?" I inquired because I didn't want to stay too long at his place. I have other plans for the day.

"I had to go to the office for an emergency board meeting, I'll soon be home" he replied and also told me the password to his luxurious apartment.

On getting there, we settled in his living room as I put on the Disney kids Channel for Racheal while I went into his kitchen to fix us breakfast.

After waiting for what seems like two hours, I called his line and it was not going through.

I was

I engaged Racheal in all various activities so she wouldn't get bored while we waited for her father. Richard has really gotten on my nerves this time and I'm way beyond angry. Really angry.

Richard's POV

After I dropped Essa's call, I went back to the meeting and it lasted for almost two hours. After the meeting, I went into my office to pick a document that I wanted to drop at the administration office when the door of my office was forcefully opened.

"Sir, I tried stopping her. I'm really sorry" My secretary apologized and I quickly dismissed her because I knew it was not her fault.

"To what do I owe this unpleasant visit, Dae" I dropped the file on the table and took my seat.

"Be a gentleman Richard and tell me to sit down" She walked properly into the office like she own the place.

"In your wildest dreams Dae, we both know I won't offer you the floor not to talk of a seat"

"Stop playing difficult, Richard. Or else I'll reveal your little secret" She threatened and I had to laugh at that.

"My country is known to be a little difficult and stubborn right. Let me tell you something you don't know, that news or secrets of yours would not pass the first tabloid before you hear and see the reward of your actions. Trust me Dae, you wouldn't live to tell the story" The fear was evident on her face and I knew at that moment that she had flopped.

"There are other things I can do apart from that, you know. Do you think Vanessa would look at you the same way if she gets to know that you're a bastard" she said smirking and I laughed a second time?

"She's aware sweetheart and it didn't change anything" Her mask was already slipping little by little.

"You don't know what I'm capable of and what the person behind me is capable of, Richard. Until we get what we want from you, we won't stop" With that, she went out of the office and I quickly called my friend who also happens to be a detective to do a background check on her, so as to know whoever it is that's behind her.

I called one of my cousins who know everyone in the blog and news section of the country. If any news leaks out about the royal family, none of them should take it and put it up on their blogs or website.

"Thank you for doing this for me" I shook the detective's hand as he met me by the door of his workplace.

"It's a pleasure, my highness" We walked into a small room in his building.

"What do you have for me?"

"For now, there's nothing on her or this person that you told us about. Apart from going to work and home, we haven't picked up anything strange around her"

"Kindly keep me updated on anything, I mean anything"

"We'll surely do that sir"

I left the office and headed straight home, I knew I'd messed up by going home at this time of the day, but what I didn't know was the angry, furious woman waiting for me at the other side of the door.

"I'm really sorry I came at this time" I apologized to Essa immediately when I entered the house, she just dropped her glare and faced my laptop that was in front of her to continue the movie.

"Essa, I'm really sorry. It won't happen again" I approached her and placed my hand on her shoulder, she shook my hand off and stood up to enter the kitchen.

"She's sleeping already"

"Sorry?" I tried comprehending what she had just said.

"Your daughter, she's sleeping already"

"Ooh" I turned to go Check on my princess in her room.

"You know what Richard, I won't blame you for not being able to make time for your child. It's all new to you and I get it, so in case you won't come next time, just let us know" I turned and my hand dropped.

"I already told you I'm sorry Essa, I don't want us to argue about this"

"We won't argue because I get the message loud and clear, you don't want us in your life"

"Don't ever say that again Essa. I want you guys in my life and you have no idea how much I want you, especially you" she remained silent and I used that opportunity to move closer to her.

"From the start you were mine, even till now, you're still mine, Essa"

"You're joking" I stopped her from moving back and I held her around her waist with my right hand and used the left to lift her chin up so she'll look at me face to face.

"I'm serious, baby" There and then, I captured her lips in mine and let myself get loved for the first time in years.

Even though I was expecting her to pull away, she didn't, so I lifted her up by her thighs and placed her on the kitchen table.

Heated passion turned to a moment that I'll cherish forever.

HIS MAJESTY'S POSSESSION

Chapter 14

VANESSA'S POV

"Do you Michael O'Brien take Stephanie Smith as your lovely wedded wife, to love and to hold, to cherish and to respect till death do you part"

"I do" Richard replied grinning and the priest turned to the bride with a wide smile on his face.

Michael had managed to get me to understand the reason why he made his marriage a silent one. He had met Stephanie at a restaurant and they fell in love.

Can you believe it? Love at first sight and it took me months before I could fall in love with this man beside me and even the love ended up being an unrequited one. Sad right? Yeah, I know. Even after what had happened the other day, we both pretended it didn't and went on with our lives like that. Though Richard has become a little touchy these days, I still ignored it and let him kiss my forehead, hold my hands and stuff like that.

Steph and Michael's love story is not as complicated as mine and the bride is even a princess of a small country somewhere in the world that I refused to know. Steph is all sweet and cute, she can make you fall in love with her within minutes and I think she'll be a really good friend. I'm really happy for them both right now.

"Do you Stephanie Smith take Michael O'Brien as your husband, for richer for poorer, till death do you part?"

"I do" she replied and the rings were exchanged

I looked beside me to see Richard and Rachel smiling at the scene that unfolds before them and I couldn't stop myself from laughing either. It's so beautiful, I mean, the bride is the most beautiful woman out there right now.

Every woman's dream is to be with the man they want irrespective of the fact that they'll have a big wedding or not. But it's really amazing though and I wish I'll get the chance to have one too someday.

"With the power vested in me by God almighty, I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may kiss your bride" Michael turned to his bride and kissed her lightly on the lips before they both turned to the congregation who won't stop cheering them on.

"Wow, now I can go home and have a nice rest. That was incredibly amazing though" Knowing what he meant, I gave him the stink eye.

"You need to admit the fact that the ceremony was amazing, stop being too sarcastic for Christ's sake. You need to start being happy with marriages" I told Richard.

"I didn't say anything negative and I don't have anything against marriage but i might have against the ceremonies though"

"I know you better, Richard. I totally understand what you mean by that statement. Moreover, I'm excited that you and Dae will be getting married soon enough" I grinned and he frowned at me instead.

"Are you really that happy that I'll marry your best friend?"

"Yeah and also, the fact that Rachel will end up having an amazing step mom too" I explained.

"How much do you know this Dae of a thing?" What! He just called his woman thing

"That's disrespectful Richard, you can't refer to your woman like that" I scolded him

"She's not my woman, Essa. You're not that dumb you know. Fine, me and Dae dated for a while before I even met you and I did some really bad things then. But we're not together right now. If anyone will ever be my woman, that will be you" He stormed out of the hall with Rachel in his hands, leaving me alone in my bewilderment and I didn't have much of a choice than to follow him out of there.

"Do you want me to get you anything Princess?" He asked Rachel and she shook her head before he started the car and made his way home.

"Richard, I'm sorry okay. I don't even know why Dae lied to me that she was your girlfriend. How was I supposed to know? You can't just get mad at me for no reason, you know?"

"I'm sorry I got mad at you. But I thought you should know better than that" I was actually dumbed trucked at the fact that Dae dated Richard even before the whole drama started and she never told me anything about it. The fact that I called her my best friend and I confided in her made me look like a fool right now.

I'm torn between calling her and tearing at her face or I should just pretend as if I didn't hear anything and just move on with my life.

"Should I take you to my place or I should drop you at yours?" Richard asked

"You can take your daughter with you, just drop me off at my house"

He nodded not saying anything any further.

"We'll be at the park down my street in case you need anything, just call me. Take care" I smiled and opened the door not without kissing my baby goodbye.

If only I had known, I would have followed them that day.

HIS MAJESTY'S POSSESSION

Chapter 15

Vanessa's POV

After Richard dropped me off at my apartment and drove off with Rachel to the amusement park, a part of me detected that something was wrong.

I had locked the door before leaving this morning and now the door was slightly open, I looked around to see if anything appeared strange or suspicious and when I couldn't see any, I proceeded into the house.

Immediately I turned on the light, my eyes almost left his socket as a result of the shock that ran through my cold blood when I saw the state of my house, everywhere were turned upside down, it was as if a world war just broke out in my apartment.

I was about to bring my phone out of my clutch purse when I saw a movement just a few minutes away from me, the shadow was reflecting from my kitchen. At that moment, I knew I had made a grave mistake by entering the apartment.

I quickly turned to walk out of the apartment, I was almost by the door when a hand roughly pulled me back and slammed me against the opposite wall.

I struggled to run away from the big guy when I felt his hand around my neck, squeezing the life out of me as I was still held against the wall. I kicked and kicked with the little strength left in him, hoping he'll let go but the bastard didn't budge.

I felt my strength being drained, my eyes closing and the last thing I saw before I got surrounded with darkness was a familiar young lady standing close to the big guy and smirking evilly.

The first thing I felt when I opened my eyes was cold water running down my body, I was about to curse out when I felt a hand on my cheek.

I cried out and a hard hit landed on my stomach, I coughed out vigorously and opened my eyes to see the same guy inflicting pain on my body and this time, it was Dae and an unknown man that was standing behind her. My hands were tied behind my back and so were my legs tied together.

"Dae" I coughed out

"Awwn, sweet Vanessa, I never intended to get you involved in this mess darling but we can only get through to Richard by using you. You're his weakness and the plan was to kidnap both you and the child. It's such a pity we have only you"

"Trust me, Richard will kill you if you touch his child"

"You think he won't care if we kill you right now, he'll go mad, Essa" I coughed out blood as I was punched once more but this time, it was Dae that punched me.

"I'll kill you if I ever get my hands on you, Dae. I promise I'll kill you and feed your flesh to your betraying mouth"

"That's if you get out of this alive.

"All we need from you is to instruct Richard to transfer all his assets, money and the company to my name and that's all." The man who had remained silent finally uttered the most stupid thing in the world.

I laughed

I laughed so hard I started to cough out blood.

He ignored my attitude and took out a phone from his pocket, dialed Richard's number and waited for me to say something.

I didn't because I couldn't do what they wanted.

I did what seemed right to me, I remained silent.

RICHARD'S POV

After waiting for Vanessa's call all afternoon for me to bring Rachel to her, I finally picked the last option which is to take Rachel home.

I tried calling her phone for like the umpteenth time but she's still not picking up and I'm worried already. I've even sent someone to her house and they couldn't find her there.

"Where's mummy, daddy?" Rachel asked

"She's fine. She'll soon be here, okay" she smiled and nodded.

We entered my living room and I gently placed her on the couch before going into the kitchen to fix up something for the two of us.

If Essa won't call in the next thirty minutes, then I don't have a choice than to get the police involved.

I'm trying to keep my cool right now and it's not easy I swear. I'm so worried right now. Essa please, be fine.

My phone ringing in my pocket pulled me out of my thoughts and I picked up the call.

"Hello" there was no response from the other line. I removed the phone from my ear to end it when I kept on saying hello for like forever without response, then I heard Essa's voice.

"Richard, don't listen to them okay! You can't do what they're about to tell you. Just don't do anything stupid. Please Richard" she was crying and screaming.

"You bitch, what did I tell you about this? You can't be a snitch and still be forgiven. You'll regret this" A man's voice said and the next thing that followed was Vanessa's scream.

"Hello, who are you?" I screamed into the phone.

"You want to know who I am? That's a good one though. I'm your nemesis Richard. I told you I'll be back and I'm here but this time, I'm back with a whole lot of goodies, old friend"

Andy! It's him and I know it's really him. I've been expecting his comeback but I never knew it'll be this soon. That bastard, I know he's working with Dae.

"You know the reason why I'm here more than anything"

"If you touch her, I swear I'll kill you Andy. You can't touch Essa. This is between you and me, leave my woman out of this" I screamed

"I won't touch her but only on one condition"

"What condition?" I asked

"You'll resign as the CEO of your company and give the position to me. You know better that I deserve that position more than anyone. You took that position from me illegally Richard"

"It was partnership Andy before you brought Dae into the business. I was never in support of the way you guys were running the business, you kept on using Dae to get business from our clients and you even used her against me, Andy. You're not as innocent as you claim" I replied

"Stop the preaching, priest. Just do as I say or else, I'll send your woman mutilated body back to you for early Christmas present" he threatened

"You know me far better than to do that Andy. You know I'll chase you down and send yours to your family members if you try that"

"To avoid that, do the needful. Resign from the position and give it to me. Deal or no deal"

"Deal" I replied.

"You can't do that Richard, that's everything you've worked for. They just can't take it away from you like that" Vanessa screamed

"Anything for you baby, anything" I replied biting my tongue to stop myself from swearing.

Since Tiffany was in town for Michael's wedding, I quickly dropped Rachel off at her place, and warned her not to take her anywhere. Even though she asked me what happened, I didn't say anything. It's too dangerous for her health.

Years back, after graduating college, me and Andy founded the company that I'm running now together. Even though things didn't start on a good ground, we still kept on pushing till we were able to get potential clients.

He had introduced Dae to me as his friend, just friends he had said. Through one of the few workers we had back then, I realized that he had been using Dae to get clients to do business with us.

They have s*x with her and in return, they accept our deal with them.

It went on for a while till I couldn't take it any longer.

The next thing I know, Dae told me she was in love with me and also tired of such a life, until I got to know that a meeting has been held behind my back to remove me from my own company.

Using Tiffany and my dad, I got rid of Andy from the company and left Dae. Keep your friends close but your enemy closer, they say. Ever since Dae found out about my biological mother, she has been using that as a threat.

“This is Richard Amaan, I need your help”

His Majesty's possession

Chapter 16

Richard's POV

"We have tracked his location, it's down town in an old industrial building, though from our surveillance camera, there's no activity going on inside. Our only guess is that they're using the basement" the detective informed me. I had called a friend who was a police officer to get involved in the matter. I didn't want to do anything that could jeopardize the life of Vanessa. I can't afford to lose her, for me and for Racheal's sake.

"Don't you think this will be dangerous? What if Essa gets hurt? I can't afford that" I complained

"She'll be fine, I'll have my boys get her out of there before we engage in any shoot out with the guy and we'll only engage in a shoot-out if they have any weapons on them or fire at us first"

"Okay, I'll trust you on that. Shall we leave now?" After tracking down the building where Essa was held hostage, I had to stay outside away from the gunshots and wait for the signal before I joined them in the building.

Ten minutes after the gunshots had stopped, I was given the signal and when I entered, it was Andy I first saw lying in a pool of his own blood and then I saw Dae being taken away by the police.

Moving closer to the detective who brought me here, I saw Essa sitting on the floor looking disheveled and sad.

I bent to her level and I removed the dirt in her hair. Her eyes lightened up immediately she saw me.

"I'm sorry you had to go through this Essa, I'm sorry you're paying for my sins. I'm sorry baby" She shook her head.

"It's not your fault Richard, it was never your fault and the best part is that I get to see you and our daughter again" she said

"It's all good, Essa. It's all good"

"I've been thinking a lot and I'm grateful I get to tell you how I feel about you, Richard. I think we've played enough games with ourselves. No more hide and seek, I..." I quickly placed my middle finger on her lips shutting her off.

"Let's get you to the hospital first, Essa. I don't want anything happening to you. Heck! I can't bear seeing you in pain"

His Majesty's possession

Chapter 17

Richard's POV

On getting to the hospital, Vanessa was admitted and quickly taken to the emergency room while I lobbied at the corridor, pacing and waiting.

After waiting for more than 10 minutes, I got a call, it was from my mom.

"Richard!"

"Mom, everything is fine and I don't want you to worry about anything. Just stay at your place and I'll come get you and my daughter tomorrow morning"

There was silence for a few seconds before she finally said something.

"I didn't ask you if anything was wrong, Richard. You just hinted at it just now, what's going on with you son?" Her voice was laced with concern

"I'm sorry mom, I can't tell you because of your health. You might not like it and I don't want you to get panic or scared or anything"

"I'm not that fragile. Do you even know what I've endured during the past few months? I wanted you to get back to the palace with your family before I discuss the issue at hand with you. I didn't faint or die because of that. So I want you to tell me what is going on exactly" I knew at that point, I had to let her on. She needed to know the truth.

"Vanessa got kidnapped" I heard gasp and then silence. "Are you okay, Mom? What's going on....,"

She cut me off before I could panic anymore longer.

"I'm fine, I'm just trying to process what you just told me, son. My God! Where is she? Have you contacted the police? Should I call my brother who's working for the FBI? She panicked.

"I want you to call down, everything is fine. We were lucky enough to rescue her before any damage could be done. I don't think I would've lived with it if anything had happened to her"

I then proceed to explain the whole situation to her, how Dae and her accomplice had kidnapped her and how the rescue had happened up to how we got to the hospital.

The thing I was totally grateful for was the fact that she didn't panic while I was explaining.

"How's she now? Which hospital are you so I can come meet you guys over there?"

"Don't worry mom, just stay put till tomorrow morning. I'll call you immediately I know about her situation. Tell my daughter I love her and she'll get to see daddy and mummy tomorrow morning"

"Can't I be there now?"

"No mom, stay home and stay safe, okay? I'll text you the address by morning"

"Okay, Richard. Don't forget to tell Vanessa about how much she means to you. Tell her you love her" she suddenly started and my heart skipped a bit.

"Mom, let's focus on her health right now, I'll get to that part later"

"Does that mean you'll tell her soon?" I was about responding to her question when I saw the doctor in charge of Vanessa coming towards me.

"I'll call you later mom, the doctor is here to see me" I quickly used that as an excuse to drop the call.

"Richard Amaan?" The Doctor asked

"I'm Richard Amaan. How's she?"

"She's fine except for a few broken bones and her face is a bit swollen as a result of a hit taken to the face but that will be fine in a few days. If she stays on her meds regularly, she'll be fine within two to three weeks"

I heaved a huge sigh of relief. I was really glad she was fine.

"Can I see her now?"

"Definitely, we've moved her to the VIP section as per your request." The doctor left to attend to the other patients and I made my way to the VIP room that she was in.

When I saw her in those bandages, I almost lost my sanity and tried not to go after Dae and bash her head into a wall. I didn't even realize I was close to tears until a lone tear dropped down my face.

I was happy and scared for my woman at the same time. Glad that she's fine this time and scared of what she'll go through as a result of my mistakes.

My business relationship with someone like Dae and Andy was my fault and not hers and I hate myself for letting her get hurt because of me.

I gently moved towards the bed and placed a strand of hair back to its position. I tried not to let my hand touch her swollen face so she won't wake up. She needed her beauty sleep.

I smiled when I remembered the first time I saw her. After I had threatened her into taking the job, I had smiled when she left. She was drama and the right dose of crazy that I needed that day.

"I must look really terrible for you to be smiling like this" I quickly turned my head and realized she was awake already.

"That's not it. I remembered something" I took her hand in mine.

"What's that?"

"The first day we met!" She smiled at that.

"You were an asshole, a terrible one. I wanted to strangle the life out of you but it was impossible or else I'll be in a prison uniform right now rather than in a hospital gown" I was the one laughing at that time.

"I look terrible right" she suddenly asked

"No Essa, you're wrapped up in a bandage right now but you're beautiful. You make that thing look good though" I winked at her and she blushed.

"How's Rachael?" She was tired and trying to stop herself from falling back to sleep.

"She's fine and she'll be here by morning. Just try to get some rest. I'll be here"

"You need to rest yourself, Richard. You've done enough" Her eyes were closing.

"I've not done anything yet, I'll be rest assured that I've done enough after taking you on the dates that I've planned" I looked over at her and realized she was sleeping already. I can't say if she heard what I said or not. But I meant it. I meant every single thing that I said.

His Majesty's possession

Chapter 18

Richard's POV

It was almost dawn the next morning when I heard a knock on the door. I was still fully wide awake, checking up on Vanessa almost every minute. I couldn't sleep a wink.

The whole incident really shook me to the core and for the first time in my life, I was scared. I was scared for the people I called mine.

The doctors came in to check up on her pulse during the night, as per my request and assured me that everything was fine, my Vanessa was fine.

She had woken up few hours back to ask for water, after giving it to her, she also asked about our daughter, I had to assure her that Rachael was fine for the second time.

We talked a little about the incident, and I had to explain to her about how I met Dae and Andy. She drifted off to lala land even before I got the story to the mid part.

Things would have been different if I had met Dae during those periods when Vanessa was still around. If only I had asked to see this roommate of hers back then, I would've averted this right from the past.

All these kept me up during the night.

Another knock on the door brought me out of my thoughts and I quickly moved towards the door before the knocking will wake Vanessa up. I opened the door to reveal Micheal and his new bride.

"Aren't you both supposed to be at your honeymoon by now?" I spoke gently trying not to raise my voice and disturb Vanessa.

"Can we come in? I just need to look at her" Micheal asked and I knew he was worried about her. Opening the door gently to avoid a sound, I used my hand as a sign to let them know we have to talk gently.

"How's she?" It was his wife who asked, as Micheal already placed himself beside her bedside.

"Few broken bones and a swollen face, the doctors said she'll be fine. She's been sleeping since yesterday but woke up around midnight to request for water" I explained

"Thank you God" Micheal was still studying her face thoroughly and his wife placed a hand on his shoulder. Maybe she was assuring him that she'll be fine.

"We had to come over to see her before going on our trip, I was really worried immediately the Queen called me and told us about what happened. We barely slept through the night"

"I'm really sorry we had to disrupt your wedding night that way. If we have it another way round, you wouldn't have to be here" I apologized sincerely.

"What are you going to do now, Richard?" Micheal suddenly asked.

"What are you going to do to protect her and the kid? This is the second time you'll expose them to danger, it's getting out of hand, Richard. I can't bear to see Vanessa like this again the second time and I'm so sad I'll have to leave her here again the second time. If you don't want to have anything to do with her or the child, let them go. But at least make them safe. You need to make a decision. I don't like all these in any way. Why is she the only one fighting for this relationship? What have you ever done to make her happy? It's totally unfair on her and the child. If you want her to stay, show her and do everything in your power to keep her and Racheal safe. That is your duty as a man and a father"

Even after Micheal and his wife left, hours later, I was still thinking about what he said. I hadn't given the first incident a connection to this incident until Micheal mentioned it.

This is the second time Vanessa will be in danger because of me and I need to take responsibility for her and for Racheal.

Mum and Racheal turned in around eight in the morning and I knew mom used everything in her power to stop herself from showing up earlier. Racheal was even barely awake when mom came running into the hospital.

We gently placed Racheal on the spare bed in the VIP room and mom went to check on Vanessa.

"How's she?"

I had to tell her what I told Micheal and his wife, few broken bones and the doctor's news too.

"When will she get to go home?" She inquired

"Two to three days" I replied

"Don't you think she needs to rest more?" I knew she needed it but I know she'll have that over at somewhere better.

"She'll do that at my place, I'll hire a nurse but I need her out of this place in three days" I replied to my mom and also explained further. "Because of security issues, I can't risk it again mom"

"I understand you son, when I called your father this morning, he requested to handle your company for you for the time being while you take care of her and I'll handle Racheal"

"I can't allow you both to do that, you're not strong enough"

"We are not toys, Richard. We'll be fine. We just want to be parents to you for once and as for Racheal, she'll be fine. The palace is the safest place for her, I know she'll be okay"

"I can agree on dad managing the business for a few days but Vanessa will have to make her own decision on Racheal. We'll have to wait for her to wake up" She agreed and told me to go home to shower and sleep for a while.

"Don't be reluctant about it Richard, you stink. Go home and shower and take a rest. I'll call you immediately when she wakes up" she had said.

"I'll be back immediately after the shower" I was about to leave when I remembered something.

"You said something was going on at home on the phone yesterday, what's it about?"

She was silent for a while before replying

"Every effort I made in the past was all to waste, Richard" What efforts?

"Your father has illegitimate sons, from two different women"

After the sudden revelation by my mom, I knew things would go ugly in the next two to three months. Once the news becomes official, different protests would hold and I wouldn't have a choice than to get back on my feet and claim my place as the royal prince of the Empire.

I would've willingly stepped down for one of the illegitimates to become king while I continue with my business but I know that will be definitely wrong as the Malik's would become the new Royal Household.

To be sincere, I don't really care if the Malik's become the ruling house but as a result of my grandfather's last wish, my hands are tied and I know I couldn't escape it.

The man knew just how much I respected him, he knew I wouldn't take his wish for granted.

Because of that, I was ready to go extra miles to get to that throne.

Knowing I had just only a month or if lucky, two months to fulfill all of my promises to Vanessa and show her that I care so much about her and how much I've missed her, I had to take a new step.

I picked up my phone and called an agent who knew just how much I wanna satisfy my woman.

With the plans set, taking care of her health to her full recovery is the next step for me to take.

On getting home, I quickly took a shower and changed my clothes from the formal one I've worn to something casual; a round neck and a pair of jeans.

I went into my kitchen to get a bar of chocolate for Racheal and also ordered for some foods to be delivered to the hospital and not just to Vanessa's room but to other rooms in the general section.

After leaving my building and about starting my car when I got a call from someone I never expected to call me.

Bella Malik

"Hi Mr Amaan" She said from the other end of the line

"How can i be of help to you, Miss Bella Malik" I replied the same way she greeted me.

"Well! I think I should be the one who should help you at a time like this, Richard Amaan"

I was confused for a second until it dawned on me.

"Your help is of no importance to me. If you have nothing else to say, I have better things to do"

"How about we talk about your illegitimate siblings before you drop that call?" I knew it! The news has already leaked out to the ones in the higher ranks and I knew at that moment that I didn't even have up to a month anymore.

"That is none of your business" I replied

"Well, the cabinet might say otherwise which will make things a little bit difficult for you and your father" she threatened

"If you and your father make any wrong move about my father and I, you'll have to do me a small favor, Bella" when she didn't reply, I decided to continue

"Try to remember the name of the third family in line to the throne, you know why, they'll rule for thousand years"

"You can't do nothing, Amaan" she replied

"Exactly, because I can do something. You mess with me, I mess you up!" I dropped the call and drove out of the house angrily.

I knew the Malik's will definitely make a move about this illegitimate issue and try to persuade the cabinet to try and probe the ruling house. This might end badly.

But I was ready for them, battle for battle!.

I got into the hospital and met my mom at the reception trying to get the attention of a nurse.

"Mom!" I called her attention to me and when she turned, she was grinning.

"What are you doing here? Anyone could easily see you"

"Don't worry Richard, everything is fine. Vanessa woke up few minutes ago and I'm only trying to get the contact of the doctor in charge so he could check up on her" She explained

"Is there no other doctor on duty?" I asked

"I don't like any of them" That was one problem I had with her, it's always difficult for her to like people. She'll definitely see a fault in that person. No wonder the nurse was irritated.

"Let's go back upstairs. We'll work with any doctor we get." I told the nurse and gestured my mom up the stairs.

"I told you to call me when she wakes up" I reminded her

"I wanted you to get enough rest" she simply replied.

We got into the room and the first thing I saw was Racheal resting her head on her mother's chest with her tiny hands tied around her mother while Vanessa whisper to her ear and she was giggling.

I smiled at that scene and reminded myself this is where I always want to be.

This is my whole existence!

A place I'll always call home! As long as the both of them are there, I'll always be happy.

I was staring so hard at them that I didn't notice my mom pass my side to remove Racheal from Vanessa. Vanessa sat up straight and when our eyes met, I couldn't take my eyes off her. She looked tired yet majestic, hurt yet powerful.

She's my woman!

"We're going downstairs to get some ice cream" Really? Ice cream in a hospital.

"Tell her" she whispered at me before going out of the door with Racheal.

"What are you supposed to tell me?" Vanessa asked laughing while I walked towards her slowly.

"That I love you!" She appeared shocked for her while confused too.

"That I'll love to live my forever with you and Racheal. That I'll love to cherish and love you for the rest of my life. That I missed you my whole life and not ready to let you go now. That you mean so much to me I wish I met you earlier. That you're my whole world and how much I want to spend my days being in your arms"

"Don't say what you don't mean Richard. Don't! Please"

"I know you'll never be able to forget any of these things that have happened to you because of me and I so wish I know a way to erase all of them and replace it with good memories again"

"Essa! Please give me a chance to prove myself to you. Let me love you the way you deserved to be love"

His Majesty's possession

Chapter 19

Vanessa's POV

After I had woken up at the hospital, it took me more than enough minutes to try and decipher my location.

My brain was in a haze and I had to pause the different thoughts in my head for a moment before it finally dawned on me that I was in the hospital.

I tried standing up from the bed and resting my back against the head of the bed before I watch the Queen walk out of the bathroom with my daughter in her arms.

I was mesmerized for a moment. I never knew Richard's mom would care this much. I actually thought she was this stone cold, witch from the North of a cold region. Maybe people really do change and I hope this change is something that'll be of benefit.

Seeing my daughter again was the best thing that had ever happened to me and I'm really glad to be able to see her and grateful that I didn't die in the arms of Dae and her friend from something I knew nothing about.

My eyes got blurry with tears, but I promised myself already that I wouldn't cry not even from the pain, nor from the heartache nor from the suffering nor from the rejection.

I think I've had enough tears to last me a lifetime.

"Oh My God, I'm so glad you're awake, Vanessa" she had quickly placed Racheal beside me and went out of the room to get a nurse. I wanted to call her back and let her know that I didn't slip into a coma. I just had a normal sleep after the several injections and drugs that I had received.

But I didn't stop her and let her do what she wanted. She was a Queen after all.

The first doctor came in and when he was midway into asking how I was feeling, Tiffany requested for another doctor and another one after that until none came in anymore.

We talked after that a little bit and I was tempted to ask about Richard until she told me he went home to get a bath and also get some rest. I guess he deserved that much.

She didn't talk much about the incident but only apologized and asked for a chance to be a part of Racheal's life. I couldn't deny her of her right as a grandmother.

She later went downstairs to get another doctor, yet again even though I protested against it, a royalty shouldn't do all these but she insisted, telling me I was family after all.

Racheal was being too clingy and I know it's as a result of the condition she was seeing me in. She had always never liked being in an hospital so I hugged her closer to me and started telling her her favorite stories, including the funny ones she loved listening to.

The door suddenly opened to reveal Richard and his mom. The way he was looking at me got me thinking otherwise. Maybe he really does care like Michael had been saying.

"Tell her" I hear his mom whisper before walking out of the room with Racheal.

"What are you supposed to tell me?" I asked laughing while he walked towards me.

"That I love you!" I couldn't breathe properly from the sudden outburst.

"That I'll love to live my forever with you and Racheal. That I'll love to cherish and love you for the rest of my life. That I missed you my whole life and not ready to let you go now. That you mean so much to me I wish I met you earlier. That you're my whole world and how much I want to spend my days being in your arms"

"Don't say what you don't mean Richard. Don't! Please" I pleaded

"I know you'll never be able to forget any of these things that have happened to you because of me and I so wish I know a way to erase all of them and replace it with good memories again"

"Essa! Please give me a chance to prove myself to you. Let me love you the way you deserved to be love"

I don't want to go through any of these issues again. I know I'm done playing hide and seek, my feelings for him is soo bigger than my heart that I want to pour it all out for him. I can't trust Richard with my heart, I don't want to be broken again.

But giving it a trial won't be a bad idea. So.....

I nodded.

"Let's give us a trial"

He pulled me into a hug and placed his face into my hair and before I could say anything, he kissed my forehead and his lips linger on my cheek before moving to my lips.

I had to pull away because of the pain his hand was inflicting on my cheek.

"I'm sorry I didn't mean to hurt you" He apologized

"It's okay, you didn't mean to"

"I've been planning on some things though but I want your opinion" I nodded and he continued. "I want to take care of you for the time being and I want to take you back to my country after that but

taking care of you comes first. For the time being, Can Racheal go back to our country with my mom?"

"I don't know Richard, I don't trust your people with my child not after I lost one because of them"

"I promise you Vanessa, nothing will happen to her. She'll be fine. My mom will take care of her and protect her with everything. If you insist, I'll trust your decision and let her stay with us"

"I think I'll love that, I want to have her around me" He agreed to my decision and we closed the topic. Though he never closed his lips, kissing me at every opportunity he got.

Two days later, I got discharged and we went to his house together as a family.

His Majesty's possession

Chapter 20

Richard's POV

Vanessa was discharged from the hospital and I couldn't be anymore grateful that nothing happened to her.

We were both in the house when mom came visiting hoping to have some time with her granddaughter.

Mom was smitten with Racheal and I couldn't help but smile at the thought. Who wouldn't love that angel though? Nobody I guess.

After making me attend a tea party yesterday and also this morning, I realized that what a daughter wants, a daughter gets.

Being a father is still a new feeling for me and I'm praying I don't mess things up before she could turn into an adult.

Everyday I keep walking around her like she's an egg, pampering and loving her the best way I could and even though Vanessa complained about it once, I had to let her know I was trying to make up for the lost days.

"Where's my cute little angel?" My mom inquired as she walked into the house. Her bodyguards were outside the door, that I'm sure of. She never went anywhere without them.

"I guess I don't exist in your dictionary anymore, Tiffany" I pretended to be sad.

"You're just jealous, son. I'm trying to give all of my love to my granddaughter. Don't even dare stop me by getting jealous unnecessarily" she chastised my childish attitude and I smiled.

If my mom had been my mom from the start, it'll be a different story entirely.

"Grandma!" My daughter came yelling down the stairs running into the arms of her grandmother.

"How's my little buddy?"

"Fine and cute"

"Yes, you're my cute little buddy"

"She's a girl" I corrected my mom and she glared at me.

"Go tell your mom to come downstairs Baby, I need to speak to your grandma about somethings" I instructed my daughter and she went back upstairs to meet her mother.

Vanessa was taking a shower before I left her room.

Ever since she got here, she suggested that she'll stay in a different room and even though I didn't want to accept it, she promised she'll be fine. So I made sure to check up on her every minute to avoid any incidents.

"Bella called me the other day. I think the high ranks know about this issue" I informed her and from the look on her face, it was obvious that she wasn't surprised.

"I'm not surprised, I know if anyone would know about your father's affair and it's products, it'll be the high ranks"

"I don't understand why dad would do something like this, he should have thought about his reputation before involving himself in an extra marital affair for Christ sake" I said.

"One of them was your dad's childhood love. They met when they were in college and they fell in love. They lost contact but later met again when he became king. Guess old love never dies" she explained bitterly

"But still, he could've thought about you and I before engaging with her. How could he not have thought about his marriage, his wife and his child. It's so unfair on you"

"I need to tell you a few things, Richard and I want you to listen attentively to everything I'm about to say. It'll help you a lot from this moment onwards and it would also change a lot of things"

We were sitting in my living room, opposite each other. Vanessa was already on her way down the stairs, carrying Racheal on her hips.

"I can go back upstairs so you guys could talk" That was what got my attention and made me turn to them. Vanessa was wearing a yellow tank top with a short and had her hair down. She looked so beautiful I could kiss her till tomorrow. I smiled at her and she blushed.

"I want you to listen to this too, Vanessa. You'll always be by his side, so I want you to listen" she nodded and sat down beside me while she placed Racheal on the floor in front of her and gave her some of her toys to keep her attention.

My mom started "When I was in college, I met this really cool guy, he was everything a lady could ask for, tall, handsome and intelligent. I fell for him and before long, I moved into his house. My father had always told me I was meant for royalty, I thought he was talking about love.

This guy was every girl's dream and I was glad he was mine. He was my safe haven until I fell pregnant. He denied both me and the baby, telling me to abort it. Once I refused, he changed in every possible way. Once he threw me out of the house and I slept on the streets for three days. I couldn't go back home pregnant and none of my friends then were ready to take me in. I

succumbed to the pressure and aborted the pregnancy. It was the most difficult moment of my entire life”

“I went back to my place and told him about what I did. He threw me out of the house and told me he had no intentions of getting back with a girl like me. I packed up my stuff and went back to my parent’s house. I continued via homeschooling. I was at home one day when my father told me that I had been betrothed to a prince since I was a child. I couldn’t fight it and I didn’t question it”

“I met with your father and I got married to him, few months into the marriage and after several tests, they found out that my womb had been damaged from the abortion. I only had 0.5% of ever getting pregnant. Your father was not aware of this and I kept it from him. Later, he became King and the pressure to have a crown prince began”

“I was still troubled about my problem when I heard about your dad’s rekindled love affair. I tried everything in my power to stop him but nothing worked, Richard. Your father loved her and every other woman who looked like her or shared the same name as her too much. Before I could push any further, she got pregnant”

“I’m not your mother, Richard” she suddenly declared.

“I’ve known for a long time, mum and I’m okay the way things are. You’re my mother and nothing can change that” She smiled.

“Well, I think I should let you know about this too. You’re the product of your father’s rekindled love affair and one of the just found princes is your biological brother, Richard”

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His Majesty’s possession

Chapter 21

Richard's POV

Two hours after my mom left, I still couldn't get over her revelation. It was shaking and I was surprised.

Finding out that I have a brother somewhere in the world was a strange feeling. I've always known myself as a single child and I don't even know how to feel right now.

Mom said I was a product of my father's extra marital affair, that I knew about but having a brother was not the type of package I was ready to accept.

I felt withdrawn from Vanessa and Racheal all of a sudden, it was as if a cold bucket of water was poured all over me. I had rejected myself to the chair placed in my kitchen. Thinking back and forth about what I should do.

Should I call this my so-called brother and ask him about our mother? Can I even call her mother?

Yes! She's my biological mother, but will it be right if I call her mother despite the fact that it was easy for her to give me away to another woman.

She never showed up for years and she never cared about how I was surviving or adapting or even care if I was alive.

Telling myself I was done with unnecessary questions, I picked up my phone and called my father.

"Hello, father!"

"Richard. I was expecting your call all day, son. Your mother told me about everything. How's Vanessa and the child?" He asked.

"They're fine, father. Mother told me about your affair and your illegitimate sons" I attacked him straight instead of beating around the bush.

"There's nothing like illegitimate. If you think they're illegitimate sons, what are you then? You are not Tiffany's son either"

"I could have said she raised me as a son but We both know she was busy raising you and your extra marital affairs. It's totally unfair on her. Why did you do something like that?" I asked.

"You won't understand, Richard" he simply replied

"Make me understand father" I pleaded

"Come home son, and claim your rightful position, that's all I ask of you"

"I'll think about it. Can I ask you a question?" He replied with a yes.

"Do you regret it? Do you regret any of your actions?"

"Even if the world changes a thousand time,I'll still choose you, your brother and your mother"

With that, he dropped the call and I was left confused and annoyed.

I didn't plan On going home anytime sooner. I was hoping I'll stay behind and date my woman the normal way, ask her to marry me and have some alone time with her.

I was still thinking about what to do when I felt a light tap on my shoulder. I turned back to see it was Vanessa.

"Hey"

"Hey" she came to stand beside me.

"What are you thinking so much about?"

"Everything that my mom said. It's really really frustrating. Having a brother just like that is not something to happen suddenly. My father isn't regretting any of his actions even though the family is in a mess at the moment. It's so unfair to my mom. Imagine what she'll go through once it's out there that I'm not even her son"

Vanessa's POV

Seeing Richard pour out his feelings that way made me understand just how much he loves Tiffany.

I wish I could do something to help him but I guess there's nothing else I can do other than listen to him.

I ran my fingers through his thick hair and rested my chin on his head. "You don't have to think too much about it, Richard. Everything will definitely be fine. You can keep rambling and nagging forever about it but that won't change anything. Take action. Think about what you can do to help this situation on the ground and do it. Be the Richard that I've always known" I told him.

He pulled me by the waist and sat me down gently on his lap. My face was looking straight at him and then the next thing he did surprised me.

He first pulled hair back to its position and then looked intensely into my eyes.

His gaze moved slowly to my lips and then.... his soft lips landed on mine.

Gently grazing my lips with his teeth, I gave him access to my mouth, invading it like it belonged to him.

After an intense make out moment, he looked into my eyes yet again.

“Go home with me Vanessa please. I can’t do anything without my family beside me”

I couldn’t say no when he asked like that.

“Okay, I’ll go with you” I replied and he pulled me back, kissing my senses away.

I knew I was deep into whatever I was feeling for him yet I’m not ready to deny it.

I think I’m in love with Richard.

His Majesty’s possession

Chapter 22

Richard's POV

We arrived at the Palace a few days after and we were welcomed by my mom, dad and other important royal cabinet members.

My mom couldn't stop gushing about Vanessa and her grandchild. I knew how much it was difficult for her to accept that the relationship between her and I might change after my biological mother had surfaced, still I didn't let it bother me.

We were eating at the dining table when one of my uncles started up a conversation that he couldn't finish.

"When are you going to meet up with your mother Richard?" Uncle Thomas was a distant relative. He was more of dad's childhood friend than family. Even though I never had any string attached to him or any of his families, I had to respect him and knew he had to know his boundaries too.

"My mother is right here, so what are you talking about?" I purposely said that as I understood his question very well.

"I mean your biological mother, Richard. A woman can bring up a child but that doesn't mean she's the child's birth mother" He said.

"Well! Coming from a man who abandoned his own children to lust after girls young enough to be mother's last child isn't a surprise. Fools are not just born, they are also brought up" That came from my mother and that stopped me from saying a word.

She continued, "I also heard that was the same way your father deserted you and your mother to date a child old enough to be his granddaughter. Instead of you worrying so much about my family issue, why don't you worry about the generational pedophile that your family is busy breeding?" I quickly placed a hand on mom's to stop her from saying further.

"Uncle Thomas, it's either you stop saying nonsense or you leave this instant" I requested.

"He's my guest, Richard. I have the right to tell him what to do" My Father cautioned me and turned to him. "You're in my house, give my family some respect"

The issue closed at that but my mom won't stop glaring at him.

My father tried to break the tension by having small talks with Vanessa and Racheal.

In between meals, he suddenly asked for me to see him in his study room.

"Sit down Richard" My father gestured for me to sit immediately and we got inside the room.

"Is everything okay?" I asked when I saw the worried expression on his face.

"I'll be making a huge decision for the Royal Household tomorrow Richard. Be prepared. No matter what happens, don't fret and don't shake" I knew what he was talking about, I knew I couldn't delay it any further.

"I'll be prepared, Father. All I need is your blessing"

"That you'll have"

.....

"Will you prefer to meet your brother here or at the restaurant tomorrow?" My father asked.

I was silent for a few minutes, thinking about the best answer I could give him. It was beginning to get on my nerves.

"Is it necessary for me to meet him?"

"Yes! Because he'll be stated as a Royal tomorrow and I want you guys to meet and talk before I make my announcement" he explained

"Maybe you should announce him as the king and let me go back to my life with my girls in New York" I requested.

"I've watched you both grown up to be fine men. He's more like you, Richard. You'll love him and I know who's meant for what and what. Don't jeopardize your birth right, Richard" I nodded and knew it would be a baseless argument if I continued.

"Vanessa is a good woman" he suddenly remarked.

"She is" I stood up to leave his study room. I was about to walk out of the door when he called my name.

I turned to him and he said "Don't make the same mistake I made, Richard. If your happiness is with her, hold her tight and don't lose her" i never planned on losing her.

With everything so fast paced, I knew I had to do something.

I got back to my side of the palace and went straight to Vanessa's room. She was with Racheal in the bathroom.

She was wearing a robe and my body ached for her, knowing how naked she would be underneath the robe.

"What took you so long?" She suddenly asked.

"I was talking to dad about stuffs" she nodded and went back to bathing Racheal and getting her ready for bed.

After I had helped to get her into her pajamas, I told her a bedside story and before we knew it, She was out like a light.

Vanessa wanted to get into her own side of the bed, when I pulled her hand.

"Sleep with me tonight, please" I pleaded

Her breathing was loud and I knew she was confused.

"No pressure, babe. I won't do anything you don't like"

"It's not like that, I don't think I can control myself around you" I laughed at that and we made our way to my room. It was directly opposite to Racheal's room. We even had to put a baby monitor, Incase she wake up in the middle of the night.

We got into my room and I quickly made my way into the bathroom to have a shower.

When I got back, Vanessa was sitting on my bed while flipping through the channels on the TV.

I purposely dropped my towel and she blushed when our eyes met. I wore a simple pant and decided not to wear a shirt.

"We need to talk Babe" I told her and she dropped the remote.

I dipped my hand into my pocket and brought out a small box. I gave it to her and when she opened it, a gasp escaped from her mouth.

"I'm sorry this is not as grand as you expected it but I want you to know that every bit of this moment is something I'll forever cherish. I've been planning on doing this for a while now but I guess time is not on my side to plan the best proposal any woman has ever had. You're the best woman for me, Essa. You made me feel things in ways nobody else can. You gave me hope, you gave me light and you gave me the strength to move on" I was already on my knees beside the bed.

After she had told me at the hospital about how her mother had disowned her because she couldn't make it to her father's burial, I had reached out to her to try and change her mind. But the woman was stubborn, claiming she'll never take her back as a daughter.

I was able to reach her sister who promised to show up someday for her sister.

"You gave me the best gift, Vanessa and you are my best gift. I don't want to go into the world without you. Vanessa Decruz, would you do me the honor of being my wife?" She was already in tears and I quickly got up from my position to wipe away her tears.

"You don't have to say Yes, Vanessa. No pressure baby, No pressure"

"Ja, Si, Oui, Evet, Sim, Tak, Ya" I was confused for a while.

"That's Yes in seven languages. Yes, I'll marry you" I was lucky to be able to call this woman mine. I'm the happiest man on earth for this chance.

"Thank you for making me the happiest man. Thank you"

Pulling her into a deep kiss, I removed her robe and grinned when I knew I was right.

I took the moment and made it mine. Not scared or baffled about what tomorrow may bring. I decided to enjoy the night with my best woman beside me.

His Majesty's possession

Chapter 23

Richard's POV

The next morning came just like every other day, normal and nothing unusual other than the fact that I got to wake up to a beautiful face.

After taking a shower and having my breakfast with mom, Vanessa and our daughter, I made my way to dad's office that was in town.

He was in the middle of a press conference when I got there.

"What are your intentions towards your illegitimate sons?" One of the reporters asked

"Is there anything called illegitimate? They have a father as well as a mother. Where's that coming from?" One thing I've always appreciated about my father was the fact that he always had his head held high no matter what could happen.

"We heard it was a rape case. The alleged Concubine of yours was raped by you, what do you have to say about this?"

"Is there any court case against the Royal Household?" He turned to his cabinet members and asked. They all shook their heads.

"There's nothing like that. Even though they know we've won, they still went that low. It's such a disappointment" We both knew who he was referring to. The Malik's thought that would bring the Royal Household down but what they didn't know was the fact that the people respected our family enough to respect my father.

As I stood in the corner watching my father doing his job, I imagined myself in that same position, hoping one day, I'll be in that same position.

"The big announcement we have this morning for the citizens of our great country is to announce the coronation of the New king, who is my son, Prince Richard Amaan and the inauguration of the new cabinet members who will be headed by my other Son Aslam Amaan in the next three days. We hope you give us your blessings"

Father stood up from the hot seat and made his way into his office. The reporters were still following him, trying to get his attention one way or the other while I find a way to get away unnoticed.

"Father" I called out once I entered his office. I saw someone who looked just like me- the younger version of me, standing beside the window.

"Richard, you're here. Since the two of you are present, let me do the introduction" I stopped him before he could say anything more.

"Don't bother father, I know who he is. He's Aslam, right?" Father nodded. I moved closer to him and gave him a handshake.

"It's nice to finally meet you" I greeted

"Same here brother, mother would have loved to see you once again" Father had already told him about her death the other day.

"Well! Let's get ready for your coronation Richard. Is Vanessa ready too?" That was when it clicked.

I didn't tell her about it. She has to be there, not just there, right beside me as the Queen.

His Majesty's possession

Chapter 24

(Final Chapter)

Richard's POV

Vanessa said yes!

She was ready to be crowned with me as the Queen. Even though it took much persuasion and begging and arguments, she still ended up saying yes. I was thrilled and grateful she had said yes.

I watched as my whole family prepared for the coronation day, different clothes were brought in and Vanessa was getting too tired from picking a cloth for herself and also for Racheal from the thousands of clothes being brought to our place.

I didn't mind if she had worn just a jean and a tee shirt or a simple gown, I would have been satisfied with just anything but because it'll be the same day as our wedding day, I knew I have to care. I want her to be her best because it'll be a memory that I'll love to cherish forever.

The coronation ceremony was tomorrow, I was nervous and scared about the things that'll have to happen now. I'll have to leave my business to my dad to manage and I'll have to live life as per the rules and regulations of the country as a Royal family. I'm scared the most for Vanessa and Racheal.

They'll have to also neglect their normal lives and do things our way now.

The most amazing part is the fact that Vanessa's sister came in today for both the wedding and the wedding and that will be a surprise for Vanessa.

Aslam had helped in preparing for the ceremony and even though I haven't had the chance to talk to him that much, I know he's a good person.

There was a brief knock on the door, pulling me out of my deep thoughts.

I opened the door to reveal my brother standing there looking tired and exhausted.

"You look tired, Aslam" I remarked

"It's the stress" He replied and I gestured for him to enter the room.

He sat on the sofa placed at the far end of the room and I sat back on my bed.

"Why are you here Aslam?" I asked after a few minutes of silence. His head shoot up at my question.

"I'm sorry to disturb you, I can leave if you want me to" I quickly stopped him.

"That's not what I meant. I only asked because you haven't said anything since you got here" I replied and he nodded.

"I don't really know what to say, it's kind of weird talking to someone I haven't spoken to in years. Mother won't stop talking about you so I knew you existed since I was two. I never approached you because mother said I shouldn't. I looked you up online and saw your pictures and that gave me hope some how. Reaching out to you was a no no" he explained

"I know what you must be going through. I just don't want to question her decision of letting me stay here with father and not with you both. You could have reached out to me, maybe things won't be too awkward right now" He only smiled

"What would you have thought if someone called you three years back and said, Hi, I'm your brother. It's nice to finally talk to you"

"Thinking of it now, I think it'll be weird." We both laughed at that.

"Your family is beautiful especially your daughter and you're lucky to have a woman like Vanessa" he complimented and I smiled. I am a lucky man.

"How about you? Any girl at the moment or should I say girls" Even though I'm five years older than Aslam, he's not too young for a relationship at 25.

"I'm not into commitment" he simply replied

"Ooh, one night stands then" I replied jokingly

"Once in a while" He shrugged his shoulder. Looking at my brother right now, I couldn't believe he's into that type of thing. He kind of looks innocent to me.

"What happened to you Aslam?" I asked

"I fucked up. I lost her" I knew he didn't want to talk about it.

"Que Sera Sera, what will be will surely be. Don't think too much about it. Just forgive yourself first. I don't know what happened back then or why you don't want to talk about it, but anytime you're ready, I'll always be here to listen to you" He nodded

"Is this one of the perks of having a brother? Someone to talk to about stuffs like this" I smiled at him.

"Well! Let's stop talking about this and focus on the future. When I say future, I mean tomorrow. Long live the king"

He smiled widely at me and replied "Long live the King"

Richard's POV

The day of the coronation came faster than expected. I watched distant relatives, both known and unknown come into the palace all for the sake of the celebration.

The coronation hall was made ready by the interior designers and as I watched my mom get busy with the decoration and everything, I quickly slipped out of my room to see the most important person to me right now.

I got to Essa's room and her sister won't allow me to enter the room, claiming it's a bad omen for the groom to see the bride before the wedding. I reluctantly left the place and headed into my room.

I heard a soft knock on my door and when I opened it, it revealed my father and Aslam. He was holding the royal garment in his hands.

"Today is the day I get to visit the Maldives like I've always wished for" My father jokes

"I thought you had your own fair share of enjoyment when you were young" I replied and he looked at me weirdly.

"Your mother didn't let me go too far" he placed the robe around my shoulder, tying a little knot at the front. He placed his hand on my shoulder as a sign of assurance.

"I've ruled for many years, Richard. It's your turn. I've always been proud of you son and I'm glad you'll have your brother with you every step of the way. Now is your time, Richard, take it and make it yours"

Those words followed me till I got to the door of the coronation hall and I heard the door being opened from the inside once my arrival was announced. Everyone was at their feet.

I walked towards the throne, my father and the crown and I couldn't help but reminisce over everything I've been through. If anyone had told me I'll be here by now, walking towards a different dimension, I would've argued and tell the person to shove it up their a**.

This is real! This is it.

"Do you Richard Amaan promise to serve your country and its citizens as best as you can?" Father asked

"Yes, I do"

"Do you Richard Amaan promise to protect the country and the citizens with your light and every power in you?"

"I do"

"Do you, Richard Amaan, promise to make the safety of the country and it's citizens an utmost priority till your last breath?"

"I do"

"With the power vested in me as the previous reigning king, I proclaim and declare you, Richard Amaan as the new King of this country. Long live the King!"

Long live the King! Long live the King!! The echo roared across the whole hall.

I watched as my father removed the crown from his head and gingerly placed it on mine. The weight and the burden of a whole nation was been placed on my head, I couldn't help but feel it. He who can bear the weight, wear the crown!

The service proceeded to the wedding ceremony and the arrival of Vanessa was announced. The door opened to reveal our child, our mini angel walked through with a basket of flowers in her hand and I couldn't help but gush out at her cuteness.

Vanessa walked in next in a red bridal gown, other brides would die to wear white, but there is my woman wearing the same color as my robe and I couldn't help but wonder at her uniqueness, beauty and dazzling eyes.

"Do you, Vanessa Decruz, accept King Richard Amaan as your lovely wedded husband, for better and for better?" The whole crowd laughed and I couldn't stop myself from blushing. I couldn't take my eyes away from hers.

"For richer and for richer, till death do you part?"

"I do"

"Do you, Vanessa Decruz, accept to be the Queen alongside your king?"

"I do"

"Do you, Vanessa Decruz, promise to serve the country and its citizens alongside your king with diligence and utmost dedication?"

"I do"

"With the power vested in me as the officiating priest and the former king, I declare you Vanessa Decruz, which will be known henceforth as Vanessa Amaan, as the Wife of Richard Amaan and the Queen of the nation"

my father reached for another crown and placed it on her head "Long live the Queen"

“Long live the Queen! Long live the Queen”

I took her hand in mine and bent down to kiss her lightly on the lips, promising myself it won't be lightly later on.

As we sat on the throne, I began to ponder on the future. Things might not go smoothly, a time will come when everything might appear dark and slow. But one thing is sure, we'll always be there for each other.

I held her hand tightly and made a vow to myself to always and always protect this woman with my life. This is my promise to you.

The end

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I want to say thank you to everyone for staying with me till the end of this book. You guys are the best that I could possibly ask for.

If you want to read more of my stories, excluding the ones on this platform, you can follow me on Instagram (m.asya97) for updates on new, exciting and regular stories of mine.

Thank you 