That Thing Called Love

Author not credited

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Synopsis

Narcia Daniels, an orphan. She lost her parents at a tender age, the sad part is that she was a witness to her parent's murder. A few years down the lane, her best friend died from a hit and run accident to which she witnesses again. A witness to both incidents made her traumatised and the nightmares weren't making her recover from them.

Jayden Daniels, heir to Daniels empire, and a playboy. He's been a rock for his younger sister all through the years. He's blind to love of a woman who is just after his money and nothing else, his best friend Courtney is head over heels in love with him but he doesn't seem to notice or perhaps he's in denial.

Reign McClurkin, bad boy, baby daddy and a CEO to a chain of cafés around town. And oh, he's just an 18-year-old trying to fight off the demons of his past.

What happens when he meets Narcia?

Would love conquer all their silent battles?

Chapter 1.

Madison Pettis as Narcia Daniels.

Age: 17

Anya and Zhavia's best friend, Jayden Daniels sister.

Keith Powers as Jayden Daniels.

Age 26

Narcia's brother.

Chrissie Fit as Zara.

Age 36

Daniel's caretaker and Chloe's mom.

Little girl as Chloe.

Zara's daughter.

Sabrina Carpenter as Anya McClellan.

Age:18.

Narcia and Zhavia's best friend.

Zhavia Ward as Zhavia McDawson.

Age 17

Narcia and Anya's best friend.

Brighton Sharbino as Brittana Coleson.

Age:18.

Zoë's best friend.

Queen bitch.

Zazie Beetz as Zöe Odette.

Age:18

Brittana's best friend.

Ava Allan as Michaela Modest.

Age:17

Zoë and Brittana's minion.

Zayn Malik as Reign McClurkin.

Age:18

Badboy Zaid and Sean's best friend.

Rafael Miller as Zaid Peterson.

Age:18

Badboy Reign and Sean's best friend.

Jon Kortajarena as Sean McClure.

Age:18

Badboy Zaid and Reign's best friend.

Margot Robbie as Courtney McClellan.

Age:25

Jayden's best friend and Anya's sister.

Hailee Steinfield as Amy Miller.

Age: 24

Narcia emerged from the shower with her towel wrapped securely around her.

At 17, her height was 5'8ft tall. She dried her curly hair and then walked into her walk-in closet to pick clothes for school. It was the first day of her senior year, and for once she had slept peacefully after her parents had died.

She picked a black blouse and wore a denim short carwash jumpsuit over it. She paired it with black Nike sneakers and a black bag.

She picked up her phone, bag, and car keys and then headed downstairs for breakfast.

"Hey Zara, Hey Jay- Jay." She said as she sat at the table as Zara served her breakfast.

"Hey, Sweetie ...how was your night?" Zara asked.

"Surprisingly it was fine...I didn't have any nightmares." She said munching on her muffin and sipping her hot chocolate.

"That's good...pumpkin promises me you'd enjoy your senior year, you'd make new friends, go to parties, you'd have a boyfriend... just promise me."He said staring into his sister's eyes.

At 26, Jayden stood at 6'8. He had a well-built body that attracted a lot of the female species. Most males we're jealous of his body and success at that age, but he didn't seem to care. Being

the eldest child of the Daniels, he was the heir of his parent's companies that we're scattered all over.

"I will...that's if you promise to stop sleeping with that hoe." She mumbled the last part as she dropped her mug and plate into the sink.

"See you later Zara, say hi to Chloe for me when she wakes up." She added hugging her caretaker.

"Bye Jay Jay." She said giving her brother a peck. " Its Jay, pumpkin, Jay."He added as his sister stuck out her tongue at him and picked her bag, keys, and phone and dashed out.

She went to the garage and picked her favourite car, the orange Lamborghini.

"Hi, baby." She said to the car as she sat inside and started it. She checked the time and it was 7:55 am. The school didn't start till 8:50 am. Today being the first day it might not start early.

She reached Kingston high at exactly 8:00 am since it was a five-minute drive from home. It was a private school but they were allowed to wear normal clothes and not a school uniform but a typical high school, there were the popular that included the barbie dolls and the queen bitch and the jocks, the nerds, the weird ones, the normal students, and then the typical bad boys except the ones in her school weren't in a gang nor did drugs.

Narcia got off her car and headed into the school looking for her best friends. Those girls have been her friends since diaper days and she couldn't love them any less. She spotted Anya by her locker talking to Zhavia. Probably about some hot gossip or her summer holidays. They were so engrossed in the conversation that they didn't see her coming."Excuse me, you're in front of my locker," Narcia said smirking. "Bitch this is our-" Anya said as she turned to see her friend laughing.

"You got me there you know I was about to beat the person's ass." She added as they hugged their friend.

"Damn girl you looking fine...I like this first impression of yours for senior year." Zhavia added. " You looking good as always Zhav, you too Anya....you looking smoking hot."

Narcia added as Anya turned 360° just as the bell rang signalling the beginning of the school year.

"Here we come bitchesss!" Anya added as they walked to their first class laughing off their asses.

"What subject do we have this morning?" Anya asked sipping from her bottle.

"We've got homeroom dummy," Zhavia added as Narcia chuckled.

"Typical Anya, always forgetting what subject we have... I wonder how you're going to get your high school diploma." Narcia teased.

Brittana and her best friend Zöe entered the class dressed in skimpy clothes and killer heels with their faces caked in make-up and their minion Micheala in tow as they headed for their seats chewing gum loudly and shooting daggers at Anya and her friends.

Zhavia stuck out her middle finger at them making them huff and sat down talking about who knows what.

"Poor, poor Michaela, they'd just dump her after she's done all their nasty work," Zhavia added.

"Who cares? She wanted it and now she's got it. Let her face the consequences later on." Anya replied.

"You're just one mean bitch aren't ya?" Narcia asked rhetorically.

"Aaaand Mr Grumpy is here." Someone said from the back making everyone chuckles.

The homeroom teacher just presented what they had to do for the term without any care in the world if the students were listening or not.

It seemed as if time wasn't moving at all. It had only been 15 minutes into the time as students groaned with displeasure.

After a while, the bell rang and everyone began gathering their stuff to exit the class. They had enough boredom to deal within one day. The girls walked to their lockers to get their books for the next period as Brittana and her friends stopped in front of them.

"What the hell do you want now? Don't you have someone else to bother?" Narcia asked uninterestedly.

"Well, we just decided to say hello to the girl who just lost her best friend or let me say bodyguard," Brittana added laughing.

"Are you fucking serious right now, do you want to go down that lane?" Narcia added clenching her fists.

"I thought as much Brittana, don't go saying things that will put you in a tight corner cause karma is gonna hit and when it does it's gonna hurt real bad," Narcia added walking of as her friends followed suit leaving Brittana stunned.

Chapter 2

Reign sat at his usual seat with his friends. He was staring at Narcia and her friends as they were engrossed in a conversation. She'd been one bubbly girl during freshman year until the middle of junior year when she changed.

She kept to herself and her two best friends hardly letting anyone into their circle. Since then its been the three of them and no one else.

He'd been wondering why the once bubbly girl changed all of a sudden. But she seemed to be better now. He sat thinking to himself. He was bored of having the guys as his friends and no other person. He loved his friends to bits, but he wanted other people to be part of their friendship circle. But most people just wanted them for fame or to have sex with them, especially Brittana and the devil of her best friend Zöe and then that other girl who runs errands for them. He thought.

"Earth to Reign," Zaid said waving his hand in front of his friend's face.

"What." Reign said unamused and slightly bored. "Someone pissed in your cereal this morning ?" Sean added as he burst into laughter with Zaid.

"Care to share what's damn funny ?" Reign said glaring at them. "Anywho, we wanted to know if you were up for bowling tonight ?" Zaid questioned.

"Sure, I'm in...same time right?" He asked.

"Yeah, same time," Sean said as the grumpy old math teacher entered the class.

The groans of his classmates filled the class. "Whether you groan or not I'm her you twats." Mr Goldwick added as the torture began.

The bell rang signalling the end of the lesson as everyone picked their books and bags and rushed out of the class before Mr Goldwick gave them homework.

Narcia and her friends hurried to the cafeteria to get food after a quick stop at their lockers. After they had ordered, they went outside to their table since they enjoyed there more than the cafeteria filled with drama every day.

"How's Chloe?" I miss that adorable child. Anya said sipping on her strawberry smoothie. "She's fine," Narcia added smiling as they continued with their chat, laughing and eating.

The doors to the Cafeteria opened as Reign and his friends entered. All eyes were on them as some girls sent them flirty winks, some adjusting their tops and skirts while some guys looked at them jealously and angrily. They decided to sit outside with Narcia and her friends instead of their usual table inside the cafeteria.

"Mind if we join you girls ?" Zaid asked as the girls looked up. "Of course we do m-."

"We don't mind, we don't mind at all," Anya added cutting her best friend off who was shooting daggers at her.

Anya had had a crush on Zaid since the junior year when they were paired up for a chemistry project. He was tall and had black curly hair and black eyes. He also had a killer smile.

Anya thought dreamingly. She was brought out of her thoughts by Narcia and Reign's bickering.

"...cocky and assholey much...I loathe it," Narcia added munching on a fry. Zhavia was talking to Sean and Anya to her long crush. Narcia was glad her friends were talking to other people besides her. She had been trying to get them to do so but to no avail.

"A penny for your thoughts?" Reign whispered. He had a smooth deep voice. He was staring at her with his brown eyes. He had tattoos on both his hands and wore a black ring on his right ring finger.

"I'd rather buy skittles with that penny." She said sticking her tongue out just as Brittana and her minions reached their table. "Rey -Rey...I missed you, why weren't you at our table today?" She said pulling her cropped top to reveal her cleavage.

"Oh come on, this is why we left the table and now she's here?" Sean said annoyed as Brittana ignored him.

"The name is Reign Brittany, Reign not whatever you just spat out and one more thing STOP FUCKING FOLLOWING ME AROUND LIKE A STRAY DOG," Reign added angrily.

"But- but...." "Oh come on Tweedledee and Tweedledum, the guy said to leave him alone so L-e-a-v-e," Anya added munching on a burger.

"Bitch...nobody was talking to your fat ass." Zöe spat at Anya.

"Woah, hold up...your bitchiness and your ugliness can you please leave our table in peace we trying to get good food in our system but we can't with you girls spitting everywhere so bounce, skedaddle get the fuck out of here ASAP!" Zhavia added as Brittana and her friends left their table stomping just as the bell rang.

"Way to ruin lunch," Narcia said as they all got up from the table and left for their next class.

"Hey wait up!" Zaid called. The girls stopped wondering why he was calling them.

" We have a class together". He added nervously as his friends chuckled behind him.

"What of them?" Narcia asked.

"They have a different class". He added as his friends walked passed him.

"Alrighty let's go, we don't want to get late and face the wrath of Mr Boring," Narcia added as they laughed walking to class.

They got to know more about Zaid and his friends. They didn't seem bad as people portrayed them to be.

"Typical high school gossip," Narcia murmured to herself as they entered the class and headed for their seats. Most people were wondering why Zaid was with them, others shooting daggers at them especially the queen bitches.

Narcia smirked and sat beside Anya a few seconds bbefore their history teacher entered the class.

A few minutes into the class, people were dozing off, others asleep, others were on their phones and the rest were chatting amongst themselves but the teacher didn't seem to care. He continued teaching until the bell rang signalling the end of the lesson.

"FINALLY!" One of the jocks shouted picking his bag and running out of the class making everyone burst into uncontrollable laughter.

Jayden got out of his car and headed towards Amy's house." I'd be back soon Courtney." He said winking at his best friend whom he practically dragged with him to come to visit his girlfriend. He was a big-time Playboy before he met Amy.

Courtney, Narcia and even Zara complained about Amy's fakeness and rudeness but to him she was kind, caring and even loving.

Courtney sat in the car as she watched the love of his life enter his so-called girlfriend's house. She'd been in love with him since university days but he's turned a blind eye towards it.

"Babe, I've been calling you.." He trailed off as he saw his girlfriend having sex with another man on her couch.

"Amy?...how, how could you .... THEY ALL WERE RIGHT AFTER ALL , ALL YOU EVER CARED FOR WAS MY MONEY....YOU NEVER DID LOVE ME LIKE YOU CLAIMED NOR CARED FOR ME YOU PRETENDED TO...I LOVED YOU AMY, I DID BUT YOU'VE BROKEN THAT LOVE AND TRUST I HAD.....WE ARE OVER, I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU...."

"Oh come on Jayden, I never loved you, never have and never will, I just wanted your money and fame...enjoy your miserable life with your miserable family." Amy cut him off as he stormed out of the house with tears in his eyes. Jayden entered his car heartbroken with teary eyes.

"Court, s-s-s-she cheated on me with some man.....FUCKING RIPPED MY HEART OUT." He added screaming as Courtney hugged him while he sobbed into her shirt.

“Shhhhh I got you, Jay, I got you, "Courtney said as she got out and helped him to the front seat while she sat at the driver's seat and then drove off.

Chapter 3.

Narcia knocked on the door of her brother's bedroom. He had been moody and cold towards everyone since he broke up with Amy. He had buried himself in work and he didn't join her, Zara and Chloe for breakfast anymore.

To make matters worse Courtney wasn't on talking terms with him since he didn't apologize for the hurtful words he said to her while she was only trying to help. She knocked on the door again this time harder than first.

"Jayden Cohen Daniels, I know you're not asleep and you can hear my knock...open up the fucking door before I break it down."She said.

"As if you can break down the doo," Jayden said as he opened the door.

"Good morning to you too and what the hell do you want from me ?" He spat at his sister.

He was in no mood for her whinnying and long speeches.

"Sorry...I-I-i missed you and decided to come to check on you." She said with her head down.

"WELL AS YOU CAN SEE I'M FUCKING GREAT, SO SKEDADDLE AND STOP ANNOYING ME ...GO AWAY AND STAY OUT." He yelled as his sister flinched with tears rolling down her face she turned and run to the room banging the door in the process.

He entered his room and shut the door behind him. He knew he'd gone too far by screaming on the two people he loved the most, his best friend Courtney and his little sister. He sighed as he entered his bathroom to shower.

Courtney sat in her office sipping her cappuccino. It's been two weeks since she saw her best friend and since they talked.

Even though he'd hurt her, she missed him dearly. She missed his smiles, his voice, the way he tilts his head when she says something unbelievable.

"I'll be the better person and talk to him." She said to herself as she continued with the workload on her table.

"Hey, Chloe you up for ice cream ?" Narcia crouched down to talk to the little girl.

She felt drained after those tears she shed and she needed fresh air. She had called Anya and Zhav to come to pick her up since she was in no mood to drive.

"Icccceee cwwwwweeeam," Chloe said as she squealed hopping up and down.

"Mama can I go please." She said staring at her mom with her big brown eyes.

"Sure you can go and have a fun baby." She said as Chloe went upstairs to wear her shoes.

"Are you alright? I heard all that went on between you two." Zara asked her.

"I'm fine I just need fresh air." Narcia said sighing." He'd come around give him sometime baby."

She added rubbing Narcia's shoulder as Chloe descended the stairs and Anya honked her car horn.

"Thanks, Zara." She said smiling. "Bye, mom, a" Chloe added.

"Bye babies," Zara said as they left the house. Narcia helped Chloe into the car as she sat and Anya drove off to the ice cream parlour.

"What flavour of ice cream do you want ?" The server asked as the girls sat at their table.

"We'd take cookie dough, mint, vanilla, and chocolate,e," Zhavia said as the server wrote down their orders.

"I'd be right back with your orders." She said and left for the counter. "Isn't that Zaid and his friends?"

Anya asked as they all turned to see the guys entering the ice cream parlour. Sean spotted them and alerted the guys as they walked to their table.

"And their coming," Zhavia added as their ice creams were brought to them as they all took their flavours.

"Hi." Zaid greeted. "Hello," Chloe said with ice cream all over her face. "Awwwww, she's cute... I'm Zaid and you are ?" He added as they had already taken their seats and ordered for their ice cream.

"I'm Chloe...and I'm four." She said grinning. "I didn't know his highnesses were fans of ice cream,m," Narcia added wiping Chlo e's face.

"But everyone loves, Ice cream". Reign said as a matter of fact.

"Even the big bad boy?" Anya teased in a baby voice as they all burst into laughter.

Narcia began to feel better than before. The girls and guys made her laugh so much that made her feel lively again.

"Hey, Zara is Jayden around ?" Courtney asked as she entered the house. She had closed from work and decided to check on her best friend to see how he was fairing.

"He's upstairs Aura, just be careful he's been harsh to Narcia this morning that she had to go out...so please be careful," Zara added taking the chicken out from the oven.

"I will... thanks, Zara," Courtney said as she climbed upstairs to Jayden's study. Her full name Courtney Aura McClellan. Zara was the only one who called her by her middle name Aura.

She took a deep breath as she knocked on the door to the study.

She opened the door as she headed inside as she heard a muffled "come in". She stepped into the study and took in her surroundings.

The study hadn't changed since last she was here. She stared at her best friend who looked worn out and dark bags under his eyes. His head was down he didn't look at her.

"Hey, Jay". She said as he raised his head quickly almost snapping his neck in the process. The last time he heard that voice was two weeks ago. No matter how he denied it he had missed her badly.

"Courtney..." He said as he stared at her.

She had sleepless nights and the bags under her eyes could tell. She had tried to conceal them but he could still see them. She looked exhausted.

Courtney took a seat on the sofa. She had taken a soda from the fridge in the study. "How's life treating you apart from you being harsh to those who care." She spat.

Jayden got up from his chair and sat beside her. " Courtney, I know I fucked up big time and I was an ass not to come apologies but I'm doing that now. I'm so sorry Courtney, I am. I miss you, I miss your suggestions, I miss your laughter and I miss hanging out with you. I just hated how right you were from the beginning ...that's why I lashed out and I know I shouldn't have, so I'm sorry." He apologized.

Courtney set down her empty can of soda as she clapped."Woah...what an amazing speech Jayden." She added.

Jayden had noticed the harm that his words had caused. He'd hurt her badly and was ready to make up for it.

"Jayden, you hurt me... It is obvious that I'm in love with you no doubt but I was trying to console you as your best friend nothing more or less. But what did you do, you threw that back in my face. I've decided to let it go, cause believes or not I miss you, but the next time it happens I'm sorry this friendship will be done and dusted." She added wiping the tears from her eyes as Jayden hugged her.

"Thank you, Courtney." He added.

"You look like shit...you know that right". Courtney added chuckling.

"You look no better." He added. "At least I look better than you do...what are you working on ?" She asked as she joined him at his desk.

"Bye Courtney," Jayden said as he stood at the door as Courtney sat in her car. Just at the same time, Narcia came out of Anya's.

"Jay!" Chloe said as she runs towards him as he hugged her.

"I hope you enjoyed your day baby...I'd come to play with you later I need to talk to the pumpkin." She said as he set Chloe down as she runs into the house. As Narcia was about bypassing him he held her hand.

"Pumpkin I'm so so-" He was cut of Narcia hugging him while she sobbed into his shirt. It broke his heart to see her cry. "I'm sorry." He added wiping the tears off his baby sisters' face.

"It's fine I'm glad my Jay is back I missed you." She added as they entered the house.

"How was your night?" He asked.

"I did, it was fun with the guys and girls." She added as they walked up the staircase.

"I'm glad you're finally opening up, they would be proud of you." He said to her referring to their parents and Mason.

"Thanks Jay, that meant a lot to me." She said as she stepped into her room, locking the door behind her. She entered the bathroom for a quick bath and then headed off to bed since she was exhausted.

"*Get down on the floor!" One of the masked men said pointing the gun to her parent's heads. She was hiding under one of the big tables in her father's study so she wasn't seen.*

"What do you want, how much do you want? We'd pay, please spare us." Her mom pleaded.

"Tsk tsk tsk, poor woman. We don't want your money, you've been a threat to our company for many years, so we need to eliminate you so we can be at the top." The man said.

"You'd never be at the top even if you kill us never!" Mr Daniels added as they shot him in the head. His wife let out a piercing shriek attracting the attention of the police who were nearby. Narcia covered her mouth with her hand as she sobbed. The men heard the sirens of the police and then shot Mrs Daniels also on the head. They tried escaping but it was too late. The police caught up with them and had them arrested. Narcia crawled out letting a cry as Zara and Jay came out to meet corpses.

"I saw them, Jay, I saw the men. They were t-t-there." Her 8-year-old self pointed at where the men stood.

"Shhhh, it's going to be fine." Jayden hugged her sobbing as well.

"Mama, Dad wake up." She said breaking free from Jay's grasp.

"Wake up!" She screamed.

"Wake up!!" Another voice said shaking her awake. Jay had a spare key to her room in case of moments like this.

She woke up shaking and sobbing as he hugged her right.

"Its gonna be fine." He kissed her temple giving her a glass of warm milk.

She lay down and tried to go to bed again when another nightmare happened.

"Mase, please don't leave me. Hold on help is on the way." She sobbed holding the head of her friend.

"Hey, it's not like I'm gonna die, stop crying Nar. I'm fine and here with you." He tried to crack a joke.

"No, you're not. You're bleeding. Ppromise not to leave like mom and dad did." She said as he was closing his eyes.

"Promise me, Mase, " She probed further.

"I promise." That was the last thing he said as he closed his eyes. The paramedics arrived just in time to take him away.

Narcia woke up with a start, waking Jay in the process. "Hey, are you okay?" He asked.

"I-I'm fine, over some sleep Jay." She scooted over as he climbed in her bed with her.

"You're gonna get through this Nar, you're a strong girl." He murmured to her as he fell asleep.

Chapter 4

Can we go out to the mall today?" Narcia asked during lunch. It was just the three of them at the table today.

The boys hadn't joined them for lunch since none of them was at school.

Typical bad boys. Narcia thought to herself. "You know you miss them." A voice in her head said as she broke out of her trance.

"You hat,e shopping so why now?" Zhavia said munching lazily on her apple.

"I just don't want to bump into one of Jay's airheads for the night I just don't know where he picks them from." She added sighing.

Ever since he stopped sulking about his breakup its been one girl after another. Courtney had tried talking sense into him but to no avail. Narcia and Zara tried also but he's just become an asshole who wouldn't listen.

"How's Courtney holding up anyways?" Zhavia asked Anya. "At first she was broken about it, but I think she's coming to terms with it she'd gradually get over him." She added.

"Then it will be that asshole's own fault and loss," Narcia added stabbing her bun with her fork harshly.

"Don't kill the poor bun, he's done nothing," Anya added pouting as Narcia dropped her fork.

She stood up and walked towards her friend rubbing her back. "Everything will be fine, just you wait," Anya whispered.

"So about the mall what time?" Zhavia asked as she sat down after dumping her pack in the trash.

"Let's make it the mall and the movies. We get to the mall at 8 pm, then head for the movies at 11:00 pm. They'd be showing Frozen II and Trolls world." Anya added excitedly.

"That's not a bad idea since we have a sleepover at Narcia's the whole weekend," Zhavia added smiling.

"So see you at mine after school". Narcia said as the bell rang signalling the next period.

"Seven cool hours of our lives being wasted...School." Zhavia added as the walked lazily to class.

Jay's phone rang as he was feeding Courtney ice cream. They'd both taken a day off work to hung out.

"Way to ruin our moment," Courtney said rolling her eyeballs. Jay stuck out his tongue at her while she chuckled.

"Hey babe, I hope we are up for tonight". Nina one of his s*x buddies said through the phone. "Of course we are, get an uber, and come around 8 pm," Jayden added.

"Babe, come pick me up, please," Nina whined.

"Baby, I can't so you meet me at mine at 8 pm," Jay added with finality in his voice.

"Alright, babe...I'd be there at 8 pm." Nina added. "I guess this is my cue to get going," Courtney said getting up and walking to the kitchen.

"Already?" Jay asked to whinny. He knew she didn't like him sleeping around but he needed to release some stress and try to move on from the bitterness his ex left him in. She was living her life to the fullest only God knows where and he was here suffering from the aftermath.

Why should it be so? He thought to himself.

"Yeah...you need to get ready for your barbie doll," Courtney said hurt but masked it with a fake smile.

"But-but..." "Jay I don't want her to come to meet me here...I don't want to run into a walking STD." She added sticking out her tongue cutting him midway.

"Let me make it up to you...tomorrow we will go to the movies at 9 pm." He said with his fingers crossed.

"Okey dokey," Courtney said as she picked her bag as Jayden saw her off to the door.

"Hey Zara, Hey Jay." Narcia greeted as she came home from school just as her friends climbed up the stairs.

"Hey, pumpkin...how was school?" Jayden asked dropping his glass in the sink.

"Same old, same old," Narcia answered taking skittles from the fridge.

"Hope you're making new friends?" Zara asked washing the dishes. "Well...I can say so." She added walking towards her room.

"Before I forget I'd be going to the movies with the girls and we'd be back late...so I won't be joining you for dinner today," Narcia said.

"Alright, have fun, and take care." Jayden and Zara said at the same time.

"I will," Narcia said climbing up the stairs to join her friends.

"Are we still going to the game arena tonight?" Sean asked looking at his friends. They hadn't been in school today.

Reign had business to take care of and needed their help with it.

His mother had died right after his birth and his father had been the one taking care of him ever since even taking time off his busy schedule.

But all that stopped as soon as he brought in that witch of his stepmother. He stopped spending time with him and his stepmother never cared a hoot about him.

He fell into the wrong crowd at the age of 15. He used to deliver unknown packages to clients whom he knew nothing about. He had a debt to pay and each month he had an amount of money to pay until God knows when.

"Of course we are, we need to blow off steam," Zaid added.

"Zara we are off to the movies...tell Jay when he's done with his barbie doll." She added pecking her on her cheek.

"Do take care," Zara added as Narcia and her friends stepped out.

I'm driving, tonight." Anya said as she sat in the driver's seat of Narcia's seat with Narcia and Zhavia at the backseat. She zoomed off into the night.

Anya played songs in the car as they sang to it on top of their voices.

"That was fun!" Zhavia said as the song ended.

"Next song!!!!" Narcia said on top of her voice.

"Sorry to burst your bubble baby girl but we're here," Anya added searching for a spot to park the car.

" Awww." Narcia pouted. "I was enjoying the moment, why did you drive so fast?" She whined as they walked into the mall.

"I didn't Nar, the mall is 15-minutes away from your house," Anya stated the obvious rolling her eyes as Zhavia laughed at them bickering.

Chapter 5.

"Which shop are we going to first?" Anya asked as they got down from the car shutting the doors and making sure they were locked.

"Errmm...MacDonald's cause I'm kinda hungry." Narcia said with Zhavia nodding her head in agreement.

"Alright, let's go get some food into our system then," Anya added as they all walked towards MacDonald's.

"Guys, can we stop at MacDonald's for food I'm hungry," Zaid asked as Reign drove and Sean seated at the back tapping on his phone.

"Which one?" Reign asked making a turn.

"The one at the mall, its closer to the game arena," Zaid answered as Reign drove on.

"Courtney's planning on furthering her education she's going to do her PhD," Anya said eating her fries. "Where?" Zhavia asked.

"I dunno, Yale, Harvard...any of them." She answered absentmindedly.

"From LA to Harvard is like four hours and thirty -three minutes and from LA to Yale is like five hours thirty- one minute that's my flight, but by road, it can take some days," Narcia stated.

"I know, when the time comes we'd know what to do, she's now applying," Anya added.

"Errm guys no need to burst your bubble but Reign and the guys are headed this way," Zhavia said drawing her friend's attention.

Reign, Zaid, and Sean entered the mall and headed to MacDonald's to get food before they continued to the arena to blow off steam.

"Aren't those Narcia, Zhavia, and Anya?" Sean said drawing the guy's attention to them.

"Let's go sit beside them," Zaid suggested. "...must we always do so...its enough we sit beside them at lunch but not here too." Reign disagreed.

"Suit, yourself we going," Zaid said as he pulled Sean to their table.

"Hey, guys." Zaid greeted as they pulled chairs to join them.

"Your highnesses to what do we owe this pleasant surprise," Narcia said sarcastically.

"Well, your majesty we missed your presence and so decided to join you tonight," Sean added as the rest of them chuckled.

After being bored sitting on his Reign decided to join his friends on the other table.

"Ha! his cockiness finally decided to join us are," Narcia added after the waitress had spent 20 minutes cleaning their table. 15minutes flirting with the guys and 5minutes doing her work.

"Says the girl who thinks she's funny but she's not," Reign added looking on his phone.

"And that's our cue to leave," Anya added as they got up from their table.

"Where are you headed?" Zaid asked. "To the cinema, wanna join?"Anya asked.

"Term...Ummm how about we all do something fun." He added smirking at Reign who was glaring at him.

"You not gonna do what I'm thinking are you?"Reign asked getting mad. "Oh, of course, I am." Zaid smiled.

"Anya, baby do you girls want to join us at the game arena for a game of paintballing?" Zaid asked hopefully.

"Oh, hell no". Oh hell yeah!" Narcia, Anya, and Zhavia said at the same time.

"Lead the way baby," Anya said as she, Sean, and Zaid took the lead with Narcia, Zhavia, and Reign following in tow.

"Someone shoots me," Narcia murmured but Reign heard it as he responded

"Gladly." He said as he walked past the group.

"Hey, I thought you'd be asleep by now," Courtney said checking the time. It was 11:30 pm.

"Naah, I needed to check on some work files. What if you what are you doing still up?"Jayden asked sipping his cup of hot chocolate with marshmallows floating on top.

"Well, I was checking on some PhD forms, actually applying for them." She said waiting for his response.

"You're furthering your education, that's nice I'm proud of you...Which of the universities in town are you applying to? " He asked excited for her.

"Jay, I'm applying to Yale and Harvard whichever picks me I'd go." She added.

There was silence on the line for about two minutes.

"Jay are you there?" Courtney asked. "Ermm...yeah Courtney I'm kinda exhausted let's talk tomorrow." He said hanging up not allowing her to answer.

He needed a distraction and knew where to get it from. "Hey babe, come to daddy." He added as he opened the door to his bedroom as Nina approached him with a smile.

"We make a pretty good team." Reign said to Narcia as they walked out of the game arena.

"Says the one who didn't want us to tug along," Narcia said as she stuck her tongue out making Reign smile.

"We had a pretty awesome night. Thanks, guys." Zhavia said checking the time as it read 2:30 am.

"Your welcome, we'd meet on Monday at school," Sean added as they all walked to their cars and drove.

"I guess, y'all had fun as I did," Anya said from the driver's seat as she drove.

"We did." Both Zhavia and Narcia said with Narcia yawning.

"Mr Bed, here I come." She said as Anya neared the house.

"Jay you're still up?" Narcia asked walking towards the staircase with the girls.

"Yeah, pumpkin I needed to know that you girls arrived safe and to check on some files." He replied.

"...okay," Narcia added not convinced. "Make sure you get enough rest Jay and don't stress too much." She added climbing the stairs to her room. Her friends had already freshened up and prepared for bed. She took her shower and then headed to bed.

Jay reviewed the files in his hands. He had filed for full custody over his baby cousin Myra. Her parents were a no-good influence on such an innocent and precious soul. He had been fighting this case in court for about a year now. His sister and best friend didn't know about it because he didn't want them to worry much about it.

She was coming to live with them starting tomorrow. Her flight might have taken off as the time read 4:30 am.

Roughly, in two hours or three, she'd have landed in L.A., He thought to himself as he dozed off.

Chapter 6

Reign and the guys had gotten close to Narcia and her friends during a couple of weeks they'd spent time with them.

"I hope you girls haven't forgotten about the road trip?" Sean asked sitting down. "Nah, we haven't we did with our packing since we leaving today," Anya added sipping on her soda. "Incoming alert," Narcia added as Zöe and Brittana approached the table sitting on Reign and Zaid's laps.

Reign pinched Brittana hard enough as she shrieked in pain jumping off. Zöe seeing that got up on her own will in order not to be pinched.

"What the hell was that for?" Brittana screeched. "That was for..." Reign put his hand on his chin pretending to think.

"I got it now...GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE!" He exclaimed as the whole school burst into laughter with Zöe and Brittana running out of the cafeteria.

"That was a nice scene to watch," Zhav added bursting into laughter.

"Anyways Xavier's coming back home today." She said happily.

Xavier once attended their school but had to leave to go live with their dad for a while. But now he's decided to come home because he said his dad had become an asshole.

"So he'll be joining us tonight right?" Sean asked. Xavier was his best friend before he left for Colorado.

"I dunno, that's if he wants to," Zhavia stated as a matter of fact.

They walked to their lockers together after school had ended.

"You guys are picking us up right?" Narcia asked punching Reign's arm lightly.

"Yeah, we'd use Zaid's SUV it has everything in it". He added smiling.

" Babe, we'd pick you girls at 8:00 pm, we'd be at Zhav's around 7:00 pm," Zaid stated. His nickname for Narcia was Babe just to annoy her.

"Catch you later," Anya added walking to the parking lot. Narcia dropped Zhavia off and then proceeded to drop Anya. Xavier had arrived but they couldn't chit chat cause they had to prepare.

" I'd be at yours in an hour and a half," Anya added as Narcia drove home. She parked in the garage and then headed inside.

"I'm ho-- Myra?" Narcia retorted.

"Narcia." She said running to hug her cousin.

"I missed you, baby," Narcia added as Jay came to explain everything to her. "I'm so sorry and I'm glad to have you here. Come let's pack we're going on a road trip and since you're here you're tagging along." She said with finality in her voice leaving no room for arguments.

"When are you guys coming back?" Jayden asked.

"Sunday afternoon," Narcia stated as they climbed upstairs to her room to pack. About an hour and a half, Anya got to Narcia's house.

" Bitch I hope you'- Myra?" She added with the same reaction Narcia had on her face when she saw her.

" Hey, Anya." She replied smiling. "She's coming with us, I'd explain everything on the way," Narcia stated as they got dressed and dragged their bags to the living room to wait for the guys.

Exactly at 8:00 pm, the horn to Zaid's SUV blew as they headed out. "Bye Jay, bye Zara." They yelled from outside. "Bye babies! Have fun." Zara replied as they entered the car.

"Xavy!!" Narcia added hugging her friend. "I missed you too darling." He added.

"Myra, good to see you." Zhav added hugging her and giving Narcia the "you've got a lotta explaining to do" look as Narcia burst out into laughter.

They stopped to get food on the way. They were headed to the next town to spend the weekend at Sean's parent's log cabin.

"Are we there yet?" Anya whined for the umpteenth time.

"Bitch, you ask that question one more time, only God knows what I'd do to you," Reign added angrily.

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"You grumpy, someone piss in your cereal?" She retorted as it turned into a heated argument.

"AND WE'RE HERE!" Sean exclaimed as he parked in front of the cabin drawing the attention of his friends.

The cabin was beautiful and huge. It had a pool in front of it. It looked like a mansion just that it was made with logs.

They entered and we're shocked at how beautiful the interior decor was. The staircase was made of rare marbles and the walls of the cabin we're polished beautifully.

"This is gorgeous," Myra stated. "Thanks," Sean replied.

"For the rooms, we have access to only two rooms, the girls get one room and the guys get another, and don't you worry they're huge enough to accommodate us all." He added as he showed the ladies their room.

"Wow!" Zhavia exclaimed as they entered their room. It had two huge beds and a couch bed. The floors were polished and they sparkled brightly. The view from their room was a beauty.

The girls unpacked their bags as they gisted. "I know you're curious to know why Myra is here," Narcia said after a few minutes.

" Jay adopted her because her parents have been a bad influence on her. All they care about is drugs nothing else. She's been abused physically, emotionally, and mentally."

"So sorry baby...no one needs to go through all that. You're a fighter and we're glad to have you here. I'm tired of these already." Anya added sticking her tongue out making Myra chuckle.

"Hey any food around here, I'm hungry," Narcia added as they descended the stairs into the living room.

"In here!" Reign called from the kitchen. He was wearing a black tight vest and jeans as he turned the pan stirring it.

"Like what you see?" He asked Narcia who was still drinking his outfit in.

"Pffffff... I've seen better." She retorted walking closer to him.

"What are you making?" She inquired. The aroma of the food had filled the house making the stomachs of his friend's rumble.

"My infamous Chicken stir fry." He started dishing the food out.

"Can you help me set the table?" He added pulling the apron from his body.

"Sure!" Narcia agreed as she carried the tray full of food to the table as Reign brought the orange juice and the glasses.

They all hurried to the table as Narcia served them. "This is heavenly." Zhavia moaned taking a bite. After the meal, they talked, played games, and teased each other.

"It's 3:30, I'm retiring to bed," Zaid stated. "Wait up! I guess we'd see you all later in the morning." Reign said as he went up with Zaid. Sean and Xavier followed suit after a couple of minutes.

Anya and her friends cleared the table and then did the dishes after which they cleaned the kitchen after which they retired to bed

"Sleep tight." Narcia said to her friends and cousin who murmured a "you too." as they fell into a deep slumber.

Chapter 7.

Narcia woke up to birds chirping and sunlight that reflected inside the room. Her friends weren't in the room. She went to the bathroom and had her shower.

She emerged and picked her outfit for the day. She closed the door to her room and headed towards the living room when she heard Reign ask someone how Kayla was. Who could Kayla be? His girl? She thought to herself as she headed downstairs.

"Good morning sleepy head!" Zaid greeted as she sat at the table joining them for breakfast. "Morning baby, hope you slept well?" She asked taking a bite from her muffin.

"Yeah, I did." He answered as he gazed at Anya. He had liked her the very first time he saw her and his love for her continues to grow day by day.

"Babe, can I talk to you in private?" He asked Narcia using his pet name for her. "Sure babe." She said getting up to follow him. Anya pushed her plate aside as she climbed up to their room.

The crush she had on Zaid had begun to develop into love. It seems he likes Narcia. She thought to herself lying on the bed. She deserves someone like him. She sighed.

"Zaid what's the matter?" She asked. "I'm in love with Anya, that's it..." He added. "It's about time you realized it...we've known since you and Anya are both blind to notice, you better go tell her before she reads meaning into this." She added pointing her finger between them.

Zaid walked back to the dining but she wasn't there, he proceeded to their room and knocked on the door. Narcia checked the guy's room to see if Reign was there but he wasn't then headed towards the pool area.

Reign lay on the lazy chair talking to someone on phone. “Edwardo, let me call you back," Reign added as Narcia sat beside him.

“Girlfriend problem?" Narcia questioned. "I'm single hun." He added. "Your kidding right?" She asked shocked.

"Nope, it's me, my baby girl, and her nanny." He concluded.

"You have a kid?" She asked further. "Yeah I do, she's the best thing that happened to me, she's going to be two this year." Reign said as they continued to talk about random stuff.

"Come in," Anya said as Zaid entered. "Narcia's not here." She added fake smiling. "I didn't come for her, I came for you." He started sitting on the couch.

"...okay" Anya added wondering. "I have something to tell you," Zaid said scratching his head.

"I'm all ears Zaid." She added amused.

"I like you, Anya, I always have. Since we started hanging out with you girls, I've grown to like you more." He finally added.

"But I thought you-- liked Narcia? No, she's my best buddy and no strings attached. It's you I want." Zaid moved closer to where Anya was standing and held her hands.

"Will you go on a date with me?" Zaid questioned.

"I will, we'd go on one date when we get home then we'd see what happens from there," Anya said hugging him.

"Catch you later love." Zaid flirted as he left the room.

"Anya, you up for a swim?" Myra asked as she entered with Zhav picking her swimsuit and that of her cousin.

"Hell yeah!" She exclaimed as she picked her blue two-piece swimsuit heading out of the room with her friends in tow.

"So.....we saw Zaid come in here to look for you. What did he say?"Zhav was eager to know?

" Well, he likes me and wants us to go on a date." She grinned. "I bet you thought something was going on between us aye?" Narcia questioned.

"Who wouldn't have, the way you guys became close and started flirting, I thought something was going on." Anya guiltily stated.

"Anya, I'd never do that to you besides Zaid is my best friend just like how Mason was before he was killed.." She spat bitterly. She was angry at how her best friend's killer roamed the halls of the school freely just because her parents paid off the judge in charge of the case.

Mason's parents and baby sister had to leave town because it was too much for them to bear especially his mother.

His Soul Rest In Peace. She broke out of her trance.

"There's something you girls don't know about Mason's death." She added. It was time her friends knew the whole truth. She was tired of harbouring it within.

"... the truth?" Zhavia asked stunned. "Yes, the truth he wasn't killed by an unknown assailant." She paused for a few seconds. " He was killed by drunk Brittana. I was with him that night because he forced me to a party. So when we were crossing the road, I didn't see the car so he tried to save me and she hit him. I begged her to help me but she ran away. I called the police and handed the digits of her number plate to them because I had taken a picture of it. Mason's body was taken to the hospital and then I followed behind. But when I got to the hospital, he was gone. I didn't get to hear his voice for the last time. His mom told me his last words to me were "live life to the fullest no matter what you're going through." She narrated as tears poured

down her face. "Her dad paid off the judge so the case was thrown out of court. His parents refused compensation and left town." She finished.

"...wow, wow." Anya was dumbfounded. She just couldn't fathom such cruelty. " So she gets to walk out as a free person but still won't change her ways. Did she even care about how others felt?" Myra asked.

"I'm as shocked as you are Myra." Zhavia added.

The ride back home was fun. It was filled with laughter, Zaid and Anya flirting, Xav and Myra engrossed in a conversation of their own. Sean and Zhav cuddling as Reign drove.

Narcia had been quiet the whole time. She just wanted to get home and then crawl up in her bed. Mason's story was a touchy subject for her and she always got sad when she talked about it.

Would Mason be proud of who she'd become? Will he be happy that she's moving on? That was his last wish for her so he would. She consoled herself.

"Is everything alright?" Reign asked her as they stopped to get fuel. She was sitting at the front with him.

"It's not but I'd be fine Reign don't you worry." She half-smiled. "I am worried but if you say so." He said honestly.

" I'd let you know at the right time Reign." She placed her hand on his assuring him as he smiled showing his dimples and driving on into the night.

"We'd see you guys in School on Tuesday...we're too exhausted to come to school in a few hours," Anya added getting down with Myra and Narcia. They didn't leave early on Sunday so they got home at 2:30 am Monday dawn.

" Same here, we might come over later in the day," Zaid added as Reign drove into the night. The girls entered the house and locked the door.

Narcia picked a note from the centre table from Jay that read " I'm gone on a business trip, do take care of yourselves and I'd be back before you know it." It read.

Typical Jay. Narcia added as she climbed up the stairs to her room retiring to bed.

Chapter 8

It had been months since Courtney had applied to Yale and Harvard for further studies. She had been sent an admission letter that she's been accepted into Harvard.

Jay had appointed a temporary CEO for his company in LA because he had to start up another business in Massachusetts. She'd been hearing from him frequently.

Anya had decided to stay with her friends Narcia and Myra until they left for college.

She had settled in perfectly with her roommate and new friend Mel.

"See you after school Zara," Myra said as they left the house. Narcia drove them to school as they talked about random stuff.

"So when is the date?" Zhavia asked Anya. "It's tonight." She grinned from ear to ear.

"Do have fun yeah!" Myra added. It had been two weeks since she started attending the same school with her cousin and friends. She hadn't heard anything from her mom or dad. Not that it bothered her but at least a call or text would do. But since they were happy without her so was she.

"Hey, babe!" Narcia added jumping on Zaid's back. "Get your fat ass off me." He added twirling around with her still on his back.

"Sorry to break your fun but some of his actually have the education to get." He started rudely walking off to class.

" Umm, what crawled up his ass and died there?" Narcia added getting off as they walked off to class.

Reign had been moody all day. He hadn't joined them for lunch nor had they seen him after school.

"You guys sure he's alright?" Narcia asked walking to the parking lot with her friends. She'd called his number countless times but he didn't answer.

"He will. I'd pick you up at 8 pm Anya." Zaid added as they headed home.

"Hey, Zara." Narcia greeted. "Hi, baby...where's Anya and Myra?" She asked. "Anya went home to pick a dress and Myra is at Xavier's place." She stated.

"Okay, freshen up and come down for some snacks." Zara winked at her as she climbed up to her room. Narcia tried Reign's phone again for the umpteenth time. What was going on with him? Had something happened? She couldn't help but worry.

Anya wore a white tube top and black tight shorts that stopped at her knees. She paired them with black all-star converse. Her hair was curled by Narcia as she helped her do makeup.

"Zaid won't realize what hit him...you look stunning," Myra added. "Thanks, dear." She said as Zaid's horn blew from downstairs.

"Gotta go." She scrambled down the stairs making sure she didn't trip. Zaid was dumbfounded. She looked pretty. His heartbeat rapidly. He couldn't even form proper words as he was struck by her beauty.

"You look wow...just, just wow." He added not getting an adjective to describe how he looked.

"Thanks." She said laughing as Zaid opened the door for her to enter then driving off into the night.

"I'm gonna go catch some fresh air Myra, you wanna come?" Narcia asked her cousin picking up her phone. "Sure, I'm bored by the way," Myra added as she also picked up her phone and hoodie.

"We off for fresh air Zara!" Myra yelled as they headed out. "Do take care" She answered. Narcia and her cousin took a stroll outside talking about random things and remembering their childhood.

"Seems you're worried about something," Myra stated the obvious. "It's Reign, he's not picking my calls and I'm just worried." She said walking on. They hadn't noticed that they had walked a little farther than they intended to. "I think we should go back." Myra reasoned.

"Yeah, you're right," Narcia added as they turned back.

"Hey, love." A voice said behind them. "What do you want?" Myra spat. "Easy there." He said grabbing Narcia's wrist and the other guy pulling on Myra's hoodie

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"Let go!!" She yelled kicking her legs in the air. Narcia tried removing her hand from his but his grip was too tight. She tried kicking him in the groin but he noticed it and dodged.

"You're hurting me." Myra sobbed.

The tears in her cousin's eyes made her blood boil. She bites the guy who was holding her wrist hands as he yelped in pain letting her go and then proceeded to rescue her cousin by kicking the other attacker in the groin as he left the hood of Myra's jacket.

The girls made a run for it without looking behind them.

Reign and Xavier heard screams down the street and decided to go check it out. They saw two female figures running as fast as they could as they ran to catch up with them.

Xavier tapped Myra on the shoulder startling her and making her scream. "Shhh....we aren't here to harm you," Xavier added. "Xavy?" Narcia called. "Narcia?" Reign called.

"What we're you, girls, doing late outside?" He added. "None of your fucking business Reign, to hell with you. Come on Myra, let's get home." Narcia stated as she took her cousin's arm and started walking off. Reign grabbed the injured wrist of Narcia making her flinch in pain.

"Let me see that." He said pulling the sleeve of the hoodie up to see a nasty purplish bruise forming just as She pulled her hand.

"What do you care about Reign? I've been calling you for God knows how long, you never picked leaving me worried sick about you. I wanted to take a stroll to clear my head and now I hurt my wrist trying to rescue myself and Myra and now you suddenly care?" She asked as hot tears poured down her face.

Myra flinched as Xavier's hands touched her neck. He pulled down the good to see red angry bruises on her neck as the street lights showed. He clenched and unclenched his fists.

"I'm sorry Narcia, I really am... I just let some foolish thoughts cloud my judgment about you, and now you girls got hurt because of me." He said sadly.

"Just let us help you girls with the bruises Reign's house isn't far from here," Xavier suggested as the girls agreed and went with them.

"Nora you're still up?" He asked his daughter's nanny. "Kayla was having a hard time falling asleep." She stated.

"My poor baby." He added as he introduced Myra and Narcia to her. Nora climbed upstairs to her room as Reign and Xavier applied first aid to their bruises.

"I really enjoyed the night babe." Anya flirted with Zaid as they sat in his car parked outside Narcia's house.

"I did too...Anya babe, will you be my girl?" He asked with his fingers crossed. "Yes, Zaid...I will." She kissed him passionately as Xavier and Reign arrived with the girls.

"Too much PDA," Xavier added knocking on the window of the car making them get out. " Are you girls okay?" Zaid added spotting the bandage on Narcia's wrist and ointment around Myra's neck drawing Anya's attention to it.

Myra explained everything that had happened. Narcia was still in shock. What if something had happened to her cousin? She couldn't bring herself to think about it. She flinched when Zaid touched her making him mad at what those guys had done.

"Thanks, guys, we'd meet at school tomorrow," Narcia said as Reign and Xavier joined Zaid as he drove off and they entered the house locking the door behind them.

What a night! Myra thought to herself as she lay on the bed wide awake.

“Hey, are you still awake?” Narcia asked Myra as she met her in the kitchen.

“Yeah, I couldn’t sleep.” She confessed.

“What’s bugging you?” Narcia asked as they sat on the kitchen stool.

“Its nothing much.” She brushed it off.

“Nope, tell me Myra. I’m all ears.” Narcia pushed.

“Fine, I was just wondering why, my parents decided to take that part in life. Couldn’t they have gotten normal jobs like normal parents did. Couldn’t they have loved me enough like normal parents do? Or I was just a mistake to them?” She lamented.

“Hey, good thing you were adopted now. You have us now. And as for your parents, I think they lost the best thing that ever happened to them. If they saw you as a mistake, then your the most sweetest mistake I’ve ever met. Live you life to the fullest Myra, make them feel like they don’t matter to you no more.” Narcia advised.

“You’re right, they weren’t bothered when Jay signed the documents for legal adoption, why then should I bother. They are dead to me.” She said.

“Wait, do you remember me having an older brother?” She asked all of a sudden. Myra had an older brother, Green Reynolds. He was Jay's age mate. But, he disappeared and she didn’t know where he was or what had happened to him.

“Yes I do, his name was Green, but we lost contact with him. We don’t know where he is.” Narcia said.

“I’m pretty sure, it had something to do with our parents.” Myra reasoned.

“Why do you say so?” Narcia asked.

“Because they are capable of anything and besides, when I was quite young. I heard them have and argument and that was the last I heard of him.” She told her.

“He’s out there somewhere, we would find him some day.” Narcia consoled.

“Maybe Jay could help., Myra said.

“Probably, but right now, we need some sleep. We have school tomorrow.” She said as they climbed up to their room.

Chapter 9

Narcia woke up with a start. She was sweating profusely. She had spent the night at Reign's house. He had asked her to help him take care of Kayla. Nora had to travel and take a break. She had a nightmare. Another nightmare, It was about Mason's death. Today marked 2 years since his death. Ever since he died, she had been having nightmares about his death on his anniversary.

"You okay?" Reign asked beside her. She was having a panic attack as she pointed to her bag. "What is it?" He asked worriedly. "M-My pills are in the m-m-my bag." She said as he rushed to get the pills and a glass of water. After she took the pills she felt better. "Are you okay now?" He asked turning on the lights.

"You might be wondering what that was." She said after a few minutes of silence.

"Yeah." He added.

"Well, I always get nightmares on the death anniversary of my best friend, Mason Collarad." She added.

Reign remembered Mason, he always used to be around Narcia and her friends. But in middle school, they heard he had died. They weren't told of what had killed him. They only told them he had died.

"A teenager drunk driver killed him when we were returning from a party. He tried to save me and got hit in the process. He died in a hospital. I didn't get to see him before he left or hear what he had to tell me. She didn't care that she'd killed an innocent soul. Her parents bribed the judge and the case was thrown out of court. She walks as a free person whilst my best friend is 6ft underground." She added clenching her fists as tears streamed down her face.

" You have to let go, you're hurting so bad." He started hugging her. She nodded as she wiped her tears. "Thank you." She said.

"I guess no school?" He inquired. "Yeah, I gotta go to his grave and I don't want to see the bitch who killed him today." She said walking to the bathroom to freshen up.

Did she attend our school? And who could that be? He wondered.

Narcia helped dress Kayla for school. Reign was already done and waiting for them. She packed lunch for Kayla as she carried her to the car where Reign was waiting.

"Bye Nar... I'd miss you." She said as Reign helped her in the car. "I'd see you after school sweet cheeks and take care." He added as he drove off. Narcia walked home since his house wasn't far from hers. "Hey, Zara." She greeted as she entered. "Hey, baby." She hugged her. She knew she needed that hug.

"I got flowers for you." She stated. "Thanks, Zara...i'm off to see Mason." She said picking up her keys. She drove to the cemetery reminding of the fun times they had together wiped off a stray tear as she parked her car. She entered the cemetery walking to his grave as she spotted a figure in front of his grave. She could tell who that was. It was his murderer.

"What the hell are you doing here?" She spat angrily. "Narcia calm down I just came to see him it's been a while I did," Brittana added looking down. "I don't give a flying fuck about that. It's your fault he is in this grave. Your fault he died young. Your fault no one knows where his family is. It's because of you Brittana, you!" She finished panting hard.

"But I loved him!" She defended herself. "You stand there and talk about love? You left him to die when you hit him. I begged you to help us but you refused and drove off. You stand there and preach about love? She questioned with tears flowing down her face.

"Mase, it's been two years yet I still miss you. I'd come and see you later because if I spend a here, I'd kill someone." She said placing the flower on his grave and walking out. She sat in her car breathing heavily.

Did she know what it meant to love? Did she know what it even was? She never attended his funeral or his first death anniversary and she's here claiming to love him. She thought to herself as she drove off. She parked the car in front of her house. Her friends had closed from school.

"Hey, you guys are back quite early." She added. " Naaah, we closed the normal school time," Zaid answered. The guys hung around for sometime before leaving. "I'd call you when I get home," Reign told Narcia.

"Alright, tell Kayla I said hi." She added as she drove off. She knew her friends were eager to. know what happened.

"She was there, the fucking bitch was at his grave preaching love to me." She finally let it out. "That explains why she wasn't in school today." Myra expressed.

"I don't get it, what did she want there? To raise him from the dead or what?" Anya asked angrily.

" I don't know Anya," Narcia added lying on her bed. "Take heart and you gotta try and move on. He'd be glad you did. Try and find some closure." Myra expressed.

"Reign said the same to me this dawn...He said I should try and move on. Maybe you guys are right". Narcia said. " How I wish his family were still here, it would have been much easier." She stated closing her eyes for a few minutes and then opening them.

“Girl, where have you been?” Mel asked her friend and roommate.

“I went out with Horris on a date, I thought I told you, so what’s the matter?” She asked dropping her bag on the couch.

"I know you did, but what happened to your phone?" Mel asked again.

"Funny story, my phone battery died." She lied buying her lips.

"Yeah, right and my grandma is a nun." Mel rolled her eyeballs at her.

"Why, what's up?" Courtney asked.

"What's up is that, Jayden was here today and waited for you all day, he's been calling but you decided to turn off your phone and hang out with Horris." She air quoted.

"Shit, is he gone?" She asked Mel.

"Of course he is, he's long gone." Mel added.

"The guy loves you Courtney, he's finally realised he was in love with you all these years. It's gonna be a pity if you loose him." Mel scolded.

"Mel, enough of the pro talks and help me find him." She said as they run out of the apartment.

He had given her the address to his apartment some weeks back. They stopped a cab and then gave the driver the address.

Jay walked at the park with his hands in the pocket of his coat.

Was their friendship going to continue or that was the end of it since she had found another man?

Is this how she felt what he went out with different women?

Courtney knocked on the door after ringing the doorbell in countless times with no answer. She gave up and sat on the staircase with her head in her hands.

She had yearned for this for year's and now that it was here, she had ruined it.

"Excuse me?" A young boy said.

"Hi." Mel answered.

"Are you looking for the handsome young man that stays here?" He asked.

"Yes!" Courtney exclaimed.

"I saw him headed to the park." The young boy said as they hurried there.

Jay sat on the bench feeding the pigeons. He wasn't going to lose his friendship with Courtney even if he went out with another man. Their friendship couldn't end that way.

"Slow down Courtney." Mel said stopping to catch her breathe as Courtney continued running.

"Is that Courtney?" Jay asked spotting her running in his direction. He sat amused looking at her and waiting for her to reach where he was. She sat down beside him to catch her breathe.

“My, my don’t you look stunning.” Jay teased her dishevelled hair. She didn’t say anything but instead kissed him hard catching him by surprise.

“I thought you were dating someone else.” He aid after the kiss.

“No, it’s you Jayden Daniels I want.” She said.

“I thought I had lost you to him, I might have been an ass all these years, but I love you Courtney, be my girl.” He said.

“I’d love that.” She said as Mel blew wolf whistles behind them.

“Hey, next time don’t go cray cray and run like that. You owe me a massage.” Mel whined as they walked back.

“Fine, when we get home I would vice you a massage. Now quit whinnying.” She said as they burst into laughter.

After dinner, Jay skyped them to tell them about their real whining status. The girls were so happy for them. Narcia was glad her brother was able to realize his feelings before it was too late before he lost a wonderful soul to another man. They talked for a while. and then hung up with the excuse that they had some work to do.

"Is Chloe asleep?" Myra asked Zara. "Yeah, she was too tired when she returned from school that she went straight to bed." She added smiling.

"Poor child," Narcia said as they laughed, climbing up to their room.

Narcia : *Hey, you guys heard from Reign yet?*

Zaid : *Nah, I’ve been trying his phone it’s not going through.*

Narcia : *Have you checked his house?*

Zaid : *I’m there rn, Nora is panicking, TG Kayla is asleep.*

Narcia : *Let’s try to get some sleep, maybe he’s safe and we'd see him tomorrow.*

Zaid : *I hope so, goodnight Nar, thanks for texting. I feel much better now.*

Narcia : *You welcome sweetheart.*

Reign McClurkin, wherever you are, be safe. Narcia thought to herself as she fell asleep.

Chapter 10.

“Guys, Xavier would be throwing a party tonight, I hope you'd be coming?” Zhavia asked her friends at the table.

“Yeah, but iisn’t your mom home?” Anya asked.

“Naah, she’s gone on a trip.” She answered sipping on her iced tea.

“What time does the party start?” Narcia asked. It was a Friday and a good time to throw a party.

“ 8 ish.” Zhavia said.

“Okay, we'd be there.” She said to her friend.

“Its Friday then its Saturday Sunday what Its Friday then its Saturday Sunday what Its Friday then its Saturday Sunday what Its Friday then its Saturday Sunday what Its Friday then its Saturday Sunday what Its Friday then its Saturday, Sunday what..”

The guys sang at the table attracting the rest of the student population. Most of the students started to drum and beatbox to the song making a joyous melody. The bell rang signalling the end of lunch.

“We’d catch you guys later, and I hope you’re picking us up?” Anya asked no one in particular.

“Of course we will.” Zaid winked at her making her blush.

“Hey, Zara.” Anya said as they entered the house. Courtney had left for school so she was staying with Narcia and Myra.

“How was school?” She asked.

“It was alright, hey we have a party at Zhav's place tonight.” Myra told.

“Alright, stay safe and don’t do what I won’t do.” She said to the girls as they climbed up to their room

Soon, it was almost time for the party and the girls were all dolled up and ready for the night.

“We gonna party and have a good night.” Anya sang off key.

“Slow down girl, chill.” Narcia said as the doorbell rang.

“ We move!” Myra added as they walked out of the house locking the door behind them.

“You guys look stunning tonight.” Zaid added winking at Anya making her blush.

“You mean, she looks stunning.” Narcia emphasised on the she, making everyone laugh. Her house wasn’t far from Zhav's in a couple of minutes, they had arrived.

Zhavia came out with Sean and Xavier to welcome the girls. Sean went in with Zhav, Xavier with Myra.

“And then there were three.” Narcia said.

“Come on, let’s go.” Anya dragged her inside the house. The music was loud. There were people kissing at the doorway, some puking their guts out on the front lawn.

Narcia craned her neck to see if she would find Reign but she didn’t. Anya and Zaid we’re no where in sight.

“And then there was one.” She said as she walked to the kitchen, picked a soda and then walked out of the house since it was becoming too stuffy.

She sat on the swing starring into the skies, enjoying the silence.

Shakira's Hips don’t lie started to play from inside as she sang along to it bobbing her head while sipping on her soda.

“Ladies up in here tonight No fighting We got the refugees up in here (no fighting) No fighting Shakira, Shakira

I never really knew that she could dance like this She make a man wants to speak Spanish ¿Cómo se llama? (Sí), bonita (sí) Mi casa, su casa (Shakira, Shakira)

Oh, baby, when you talk like that You make a woman go mad So be wise (sí) and keep on (sí) Reading the signs of my body (uno, dos, tres, cuatro)

I'm on tonight You know my hips don't lie (no fighting) And I'm starting to feel it's right All the attraction, the tension Don't you see, baby, this is perfection?

Hey, girl, I can see your body moving And it's driving me crazy And I didn't have the slightest idea Until I saw you dancing (yeah) And when you walk up on the dance floor Nobody cannot ignore the way you move your body, girl (just move) And everything so unexpected, the way you right and left it So you can keep on shaking it (let's go)

I never really knew that she could dance like this She make a man wants to speak Spanish ¿Cómo se llama? (Sí), bonita (sí) Mi casa, su casa (Shakira, Shakira)

Oh, baby, when you talk like that You make a woman go mad So be wise (sí) and keep on (sí) Reading the signs of my body (no fighting)

I'm on tonight You know my hips don't lie (no fighting) And I am starting to feel you, boy Come on, let's go, real slow Don't you see, baby, así es perfecto? They know I am on tonight,

my hips don't lie And I'm starting to feel it's right All the attraction, the tension Don't you see, baby, this is perfection? (Shakira, Shakira)

Oh, boy, I can see your body moving Half animal, half man I don't, don't really know what I'm doing But you seem to have a plan My will and self-restraint Have come to fail now, fail now See, I am doing what I can, but I can't so you know That's a bit too hard to explain (uno, dos, tres, cuatro)

Baila en la calle de noche (yeah) Baila en la calle de día (let's go) Baila en la calle de noche Baila en la calle de día

I never really knew that she could dance like this She make a man wants to speak Spanish ¿Cómo se llama? (Sí), bonita (sí) Mi casa, su casa (Shakira, Shakira)

Oh, baby, when you talk like that You know you got me hypnotized So be wise (sí) and keep on (sí) Reading the signs of my body

Señorita, feel the conga Let me see you move like you come from Colombia

Yeah (ladies sí) (yeah yeah) (Hey, yeah)

¡Mira en Barranquilla se baila así, say it! En Barranquilla se baila así (yeah)

Hey, brra!

Yeah, she's so sexy, every man's fantasy A refugee like me back with the Fugees from a third world country I go back like when 'Pac carried crates for Humpty Humpty We leave the whole club dizzy Why the CIA wanna watch us? Colombians and Haitians I ain't guilty, it's a musical transaction Bo bop so bop, no more do we snatch ropes Refugees run the seas 'cause we own our own boats (no fighting)

I'm on tonight, my hips don't lie And I'm starting to feel you, boy Come on, let's go, real slow Baby, like this is perfecto (no fighting)

Oh, you know I'm on tonight, my hips don't lie And I am starting to feel it's right The attraction, the tension Baby, like this is perfection

No fighting No fighting

She got up from the swing and started to whine her waist to the music.

“Someone's got sexy moves.” Reign said as he held her waist as she grind on him.

“Where have you been?” He asked as she turned to face him.

“I was here, it was getting quite stuffy inside. I couldn’t find you either.” She defended as she sat back on the swing.

“I was with the guys, but they dispersed, so I decided to look for you.” He added sitting beside her as they talked for a while enjoying each other’s company.

After a while, they heard commotion inside, and it was getting serious by the minute.

“Stay here and let me go and check.” He said as he entered the house. He could recognize who they were just by their dressing.

What did Rahul's men want here?

He walked towards them and asked what they wanted but it rather turned bloody. They started to attack as people run out. Myra, Anya, Xavier and Sean made it out in peace. They were looking for Narcia and Zaid. Zaid went to the back of the house and caught Narcia right before she entered the house.

“Where are the rest?” She asked trying to free herself.

“Calm down, they’re out front.” He said as he led her there. She run to hug the girls thanking God they were good.

“Where’s Reign?” She voiced out.

“He’s gonna be fine, he asked me to take you girls home.” Zaid said as they entered the car and he drove.

I hope you can handle this man. Zaid silently added.

“Hey Jay, can we ask you a question?” Narcia queried as her and Myra skyped him.

“Okay, go ahead.” He said walking to his study.

“Where’s Green?” Myra asked.

“You remember him?” Jay answered with a question.

“Of course I do, but do you have any idea where he is?” She inquired.

“The last I heard of him, he was in London. I haven’t heard from him since then.” He told.

“Could I get his contact?” She asked.

“I would send it in the morning, get some sleep.” He assured.

“Thanks Jay, talk to you later.” Narcia said hanging up.

“Such a wild, and unforgettable night.” Myra added.

“Tell me about it, lets try to get some sleep.” Narcia said as they climbed up to bed.

Green Reynolds, I hope all is well with you, I’ve missed you man. Jay texted.

I miss you more , bro. He replied.

Chapter 11

Reign hadn’t been in school and hadn’t been in touch with them since the incident at the party. For once the guys didn’t know ,is whereabouts and it disturbed them. Narcia poked her lunch.

She had no appetite for food these few days. Their table hadn't been lively since Reign's disappearance. Zaid hadn't been himself and it was affecting his relationship with Anya.

"Hey, you guys wanna ditch?" Sean asked. "I'm in," Xavier stated as they all got up and got their bags. They headed to their cars and drove to Reign's,,, money, I miss my b you need to recover, you've been in a coma for two whole weeks, we almost lost you, man," Edwardo explained.

"Thanks, guys for having my back, especially you Jack." He told him. "Welcome, sir," Jack added.

"At least, can I turn on my phone?" He pouted. "Nope," Edwardo added sticking his tongue out as he walked out. "I fucking hate you!" Reign yelled after him. "The feelings mutual!!" Edwardo yelled back.

Edwardo sent the money to Rahul as Reign had directed. It had been close to a month since his disappearance. His friends gathered courage and believed he was fine. Anya and Myra's relationships we're going much better and Narcia spent more time with Kayla taking her mind off her dad for a while.

It was a Saturday morning and Narcia was helping Nora in the kitchen and Kayla watching cartoons. The doorbell rang and Narcia rushed to open it before Kayla did.

She was shocked and relieved to see who was at the door. "Dada!!" Kayla screamed as she jumped to hug him. Narcia retreated to the room, picked her bags, and left without a word. She was relieved he was alright at the same time angry.

Why hadn't he called all these weeks? Didn't he care about how they felt? She wondered without realizing she'd reached home.

"You're back quite early," Zaid said from the couch.

"Reign's back, he finally came back after a month." She announced as she collapsed into the couch.

"When did he come?" Sean asked. "A couple of minutes before I left." She answered.

"Did he say where he was or what happened?" Xavier inquired.

"I didn't ask him anything, I just left as soon as Kayla saw him. She needed some time with her dad." She said void of any emotions as she walked up to her room locking everyone out.

"I don't understand, now he's back she's become hostile" Xavier added confused.

"She's not hostile Xav, she's broken, she can't seem to understand why he never bothered contacting us to tell us he was okay. She had built walls around herself, but she let him in and this so she feels betrayed and heartbroken." Myra remarked.

"She's been lonely since y'all are dating, yet she is extremely happy for y'all, so when she and Reign started hanging out she felt better until all this," Zara added.

Reign rang the doorbell to Narcia's house. He had to talk to her and explain himself. Zara opened the door for him as he limped in. His friends rushed towards him and hugged him.

"You guys are suffocating me." He stated as they let him go. "What happened man?" Sean asked as Reign sat down to explain himself.

"You could have taken Jack's phone to tell us you were okay." Zaid retorted. "It didn't come in mind ok!" He yelled frustrated.

"Where's Narcia?" He asked as she descended the stairs. "What do you want in my house?" She spat. "Sweetcheeks, I can explain." He tried.

"Reign, whatever explanation you have, keep it you could have called. You could have." She stated. "Do you know the emotional trauma, the little girl had to go through or the emotional trauma you put your friends through, they almost lost their relationships because of you and you stand here to tell me you tried?" She inquired.

"I know my explanation sounds lame but I almost died, I was in a coma for two weeks Narcia two fucking weeks!" He raised his voice as tears streamed down Narcia's face. His expression softened as he saw her tears. He limped towards her to touch her face but she leaned back.

"I thought I lost you just as I lost Mason but you were somewhere else forgetting that people were dead worried about you, welcome home Reign." She added walking out of the house.

"Let her go, she needs to clear her mind." Zaid held him leading him to the couch to rest. He looked dishevelled. He had eye bags under his eyes and even though he had enough rest in California he looked like someone who hadn't slept in months.

"Welcome home," Zara added as she served him food to eat. After the meal, Reign left Narcia's house.

Where could she be? She thought to himself as he walked along the road? He saw a figure on a swing at their backyard and then turned back towards her house approaching her. She sat on the swing with headphones on her head singing "Someone You Loved" by Lewis Capaldi. She sang ;

I'm going under and this time I fear there's no one to save me

This all or nothing got a way of driving me crazy

I need somebody to heal

Somebody to know

Somebody to have

Somebody to hold

It's easy to say

But it's never the same

I guess I kinda liked the way you numbed all the pain

Now the day bleeds

Into nightfall

And you're not here

To get me through it all

I let my guard down

And then you pulled the rug

I was getting kinda used to being someone you loved

I'm going under and this time I fear there's no one to turn to

This all or nothing way of love got me sleeping without you

Now, I need somebody to know

Somebody to heal

Somebody to have

Just to know how it feels

It's easy to say but it's never the same

I guess I kinda liked the way you helped me…

"Hi." He greeted starting her. "Sorry I didn't mean to startle you." He added sitting on the next swing as she took the headphones off and stopped singing.

"You have a wonderful voice." He added as she nodded a thank you.

"What do you want to Reign?." She mumbled. "I just want you to hear me out, and if my explanation isn't good enough I leave." He finally said.

"I'm listening." She added. "At 15, I fell with the wrong crowd, I joined a gang that dealt in drugs. I never took in drugs my boss didn't allow since I was young. I was their delivery boy anytime an order was made, I did the delivery.

A few months after I met Zaid, Sean, and Xavier I decided to quit and Rahul my boss wasn't happy about it. We made a deal that I would be paying $5000 into his account every time he needed it. The first month, I found it difficult to pay but within a few weeks, I was able to do so.

I started working in a restaurant to earn money to be able to pay for him. With time, I decided to open my restaurant at 17. It wasn't easy but I was able to get recommendations and then startup something business was booming so I decided to open another one in California and in no time, I had restaurants and cafes around and it wasn't difficult to pay Rahul anymore. Zaid suggested I employ a CEO so I can focus on school while he runs the business so I employed my elder cousin Edwardo to do so and he's been handling it relatively well.

Before Xavier's party, Rahul called making obnoxious demands and I got angry because I had already paid him a week ago so I didn't understand why he needed more money. He threatened to send his men in but I doubted. So when the gunshots began I knew he was at work. I tried taking them on but I got shot in my abdomen making me lose consciousness. I woke up in one of my apartments in California and pain. Edwardo explained how I was in a coma for two weeks and how I miraculously gained consciousness.

I begged him to allow me to contact you guys but he refused to say I had to fully recover. So when I felt better I told him I was coming back because I had to see my baby girl and you guys." He finished.

There was an awkward silence between the two of them before Narcia broke it. "Where were your parents when you joined a gang?" She asked. "My mother had died when I was 10. It was me and my dad. We lived in peace and happiness until he decided to remarry.

My stepmother was more than a which and she changed my dad he no longer cared about me, so that pushed me to join a gang." He explained.

"How come you never took Jack's phone to call... we were frustrated and at the verge of giving up." She added playing with her fingers.

"It didn't cross my mind, all I had in mind was to come back and I'm sorry." He apologized. "I forgive you Reign, but don't you ever go missing in action again." She added hugging him.

"Thank you." He smiled and heaved a sigh of relieve.

“You welcome, but if this happens again, I ‘m gonna beat your ass.” She said making a first with her tiny hands.

“With what?” He asked trying not to laugh as she punched him on his arm.

“Um, I didn’t feel nothing.” He flexed his muscles as she pinched him making him wince in pain.

“Now, you did. ” She said sticking out her tongue at him as she got up and run. He also got up and chased her around the house.

Chapter 12.

They what?" Myra asked angrily as they skyped Jayden. "They planned with my ex-girlfriend to kill us, luckily for us, we were able to escape." He explained.

"How is Courtney, is she alright?" Anya worriedly asked. "She's just in shock, but she's fine." He answered.

That was the height of this! How could they do this? Myra thought of battling with herself. "Where are you guys now?" Narcia inquired. " I'm at the police station right now and there's more to this than we think we knew, Anya baby, your parents were a part of this whole thing." He added.

"What! they tried to kill their own daughter, how heartless can they be?" She asked fuming.

"Where's Courtney? Is she safe?" She questioned. "Calm down baby, she's fine and she's on campus. I hired bodyguards to protect her from afar. She's aware I've done so and she's fine by that." He explained.

"I've done the same for you girls, I don't want anything bad happening to you girls, I'd call you back later." He said as he hung up.

"Are they deranged or what? how can they plan to kill their own child?" Anya asked questions pacing about?

"Calm down," Narcia said as she hugged her friend tight. "Everything would be fine." She assured.

Narcia woke up with a start panting.

What kind of dream is this? She pondered. She looked around her room and Anya and Myra were still fast asleep.

Thank God I didn't wake those two up. She thought to herself as she tried going back to sleep.

"Hey pumpkin, your text sounded urgent what's up?" Jay asked Narcia as she descended the staircase. It was a Saturday Afternoon and both Myra and Anya were out of the house.

Narcia narrated the whole dream to her brother who listened attentively on the phone. "Jay, I really need you to be careful around aunt and uncle. Those two are up to no good and for Courtney's parents unless you ask her about what they do and warn her to be careful. I'd talk to Myra and Anya when they get back." Narcia stated.

"Well, Courtney's here and she wants to tell us about her parents," Jay added putting the phone on loudspeaker.

"My parents own a drug cartel. They've been supplying drugs in Colorado and around the country. They never forced me to join their cartel or supply drugs to anyone on their behalf and them for that.

But they use to abuse me and Anya. I was able to fight back but my poor Anya couldn't. So at 14, gathered the courage to run away and there was no way was going to leave her with those people. I contacted my Aunt who lived in L. A and narrated everything to her and she told me when to come.

She bought us tickets and I stole some of my parent's money and then we disappeared. They never bothered looking for us not contacting us.

So when my aunt died, I was 18 and had gained full custody of Anya and inherited some of my Aunt's property they tried getting in touch with me but couldn't, that was the last I heard of them." She confessed.

"Wow. For now, no one knows what those two are planning so we all ought to be careful." Jay added.

"I'd get bodyguards for you girls. They won't be following you like stray dogs but would be watching over your every move including your friends." He added.

"And that goes for you too babe. I can't risk it." He said to Courtney.

"Tell Myra said she's answerable to me for not introducing her boyfriend to me," Jay added tightening up the mood.

"Yes Sir," Narcia answered. "You know you have to get one for yourself right? Or you wanna grow old and live with 99 cats? He teased.

"Jay stop torturing the poor child," Courtney yelled from afar making Narcia burst into laughter.

"Bye Jay." Narcia hung up as Anya and Myra entered.

"You had fun?" She asked startling them.

"You scared us " Myra added with her hand on her chest.

"Sorry, but I need to talk to you girls, sit." She said tapping the couch as they sat down. She explained the dream she had to them and the phone conversation she had with Jay and Courtney. The girls sat down without saying anything to each other.

"My parents own a drug cartel? Courtney never told me she only told me that they were bad people. She never told me all the trauma she had to through." Anya ranted.

It's okay Anya." Myra said hugging her. "Everything is gonna be fine, just you wait." She assured.

"Anyways young ladies Courtney and Jay said y'all answerable to them you girls didn't tell them you had boyfriends." She added sipping hot cocoa with a smirk on her face.

"Erm well--" Anya was saved by the doorbell as they hurried up the stairs making Narcia burst into uncontrollable laughter.

"Hey, guys." She greeted Reign and Kayla who stood at her door. “Come on in." She added as they entered. Reign wore a black V-neck t-shirt that hugged his muscles and arbs and paired them with grey joggers that hung dangerously loose on his waist."Well, this little missy wouldn't stop crying until we stopped by to say hi and we're here." Reign explained.

"Who wouldn't miss me?" She said as she got cake and juice for Kayla and soda for Reign.

"Thank you," Kayla asked as she dug her hands into the cake giving her dad a toothy smile.

"Won't you give daddy a bite?" He asked. "No." She added making them burst into uncontrollable laughter.

"We better get home now baby, Nora would be waiting for those groceries." He said carrying her. "Thanks, sweet cheeks, see you later." He added carrying a sleepy Kayla out of the house and into his car as he drove off.

"You like him." Anya teased. "Shut up you." She stated with rosy cheeks.

"Narcia's in love." She sang in an annoying voice. "Anya!" She whined chasing her up to their room as their laughter filled the house.

The friends did not hang out more often as they did because of their finals. They were busy with school work and exams and also preparation for their graduation.

“I can’t wait to be done with these exams, I’m tired,” Marcia whined

“ You’re right, this is torture!” Myra said entering the room.

“Tell us about it.” Anya added as they burst into laughter.

“Hey guys, I figured you’d be tired, so I brought some ice cream and McDonald’s.” Zara said as she set the food before them.

“Zara, I love you, you’re the best!” Narcia said as she hugged her nanny tight.

“I love you too more, just relax, watch a movie while you eat then get rest, you’d be refreshed and can study well when you get up.” Zara advised.

“Thanks Zara, you’re the best.” Myra added as she left the room.

“Netflix right? What are we watching?”,She asked the girls.

“Holidate!” Both Myra and Anya said

Chapter 13.

“I can’t believe graduation is tomorrow and prom too," Myra added. The prom management team decided to make prom on the same day as graduation, that is the night of their graduation.

"Thank goodness we got our dresses earlier, to avoid dress shopping stress," Anya said as they walked to their lockers to clear them out. Anya, Myra, and Zhavia had been already asked out to prom except for Narcia.

"Why do I even have to go, I don't have a prom date yet," Narcia whined.

"You are not staying home tomorrow night missy." Anya firmly added.

"But-" "No buts!" She was cut off by Myra. "Whatever!" She huffed packing her books into a box. After they had finished, they headed to the parking lot to put their boxes in the trunk of her car.

Reign had decorated her car with turquoise cutouts spelling P-R-O-M? and a question mark at the end of it. Kayla held a red velvet cake with the inscriptions "Hey sweet cheeks would you go out to prom with me?"

"Aww." Myra and Anya said at the same time as they set their boxes on the floor. "Will you?" Reign asked behind her whispering into her ears.

"I'd love to." She dropped her box and turned to hug him. She then took the cake from Kayla and handed it to Anya while she carried her and pecked her on the cheek. "Thanks, baby." She said as Kayla giggled.

The guys helped the girls pack their boxes into the car. They drove off to Narcia's house to continue with the celebration.

"That should have been me!" Brittana exclaimed. "Oh come off it Britt. Can't you he's chosen her over you?" Zöe asked filing her nails. "They aren't dating yet, so there's still hope." She assured herself.

"Don't be a dumbass, graduation and prom is tomorrow, high school is overdone and dusted." Zöe tried to reason with her. "There's always college, we're all going to Duke University baby...she should watch her back." She added with finality in her voice walking off.

She's *totally deranged.* Zoë thought to herself.

I am not going to let her win again this time. Mason was always closer to her than he was to me. She's not winning this time. Britt thought to her self as she sat in her car and drove off.

***

"Girls, you're gonna be late for your graduation!" Courtney called from downstairs as they hurried down wearing their graduation gowns over their clothes and holding their caps.

"We're here Sis," Anya added. Jayden took a picture of the four friends and showed it to them.

"Thanks, Jay-Jay, but let's get going," Zhavia added as they hurried into the car. Zara and Chloe were already outside waiting for them.

They entered the car as Jayden drove off. The ceremony had started a few minutes before they got there. The guys had already found seats for all of them. Narcia sat beside Reign, Nora, and Kayla with Chloe.

After mentioning a couple of names for their diplomas, Narcia's name was the last name to be called up the podium. She climbed up the platform and took the microphone. She waited for a few minutes before speaking.

"...the only person I knew who was excited about high school was my best friend Mason. He used to talk about what he'd do when he gets into high school. But unfortunately, he died in middle school." She started staring at Brittana who looked elsewhere.

"His last words to me through his mother was to live life to the fullest, learn to let go and move on. Love will find you." She wiped a stray tear from her eyes. " I'd be forever grateful to him and to the wonderful people I met in high school. She added smiling at her friends.

"In all, I want to say is live life to the fullest, because high school turns out to be one shitty crap hole, I'm out people!" She added taking her diploma as the crowd cheered her on.

"That was one pretty speech," Jayden added hugging his sister. "Mama, dad and Mason will be so much proud of you." He added as she joined her friends taking pictures and laughing.

"We gotta go prepare for prom, we'd see you at 8 pm," Myra added as they walked towards Jay's car as he drove off.

***

Narcia was dressed in a peach sexy heavy beaded sparkle side split mermaid long dress. She paired it with a beaded peach clutch and black open toe platform heels. Courtney helped style her hair. She held her curly hair half up and half down. Her make-up her face and outfit. It was just simple and stunning.

Anya was also dressed in a golden off the shoulder sparkle beads sequined appliques dress. She paired it with a golden clutch and silver pencilled open toe heels. Her blonde hair was curled and partly braided down to her waist. Her make up was stunning.

Myra dressed in a violet simple spaghetti-strapped A-line V-neck dress with sequins. She paired it with a black clutch and violet 5-inch heels. Her dirty blonde hair was held up and curled at the ends.

Finally, Zhavia dressed in a rose gold A-line strapless long dress with appliques. She paired it with a gold clutch similar to that of Anya's and rose gold sparkle diamante lace-up block heels. Her strawberry blonde hair was curled and held up in a messy up do. And her make-up complimented her face and skin colour leaving her breathtakingly beautiful.

At 8:00 pm, the girls descended the stairs and then took pictures whilst waiting for the guys.

The doorbell rang as Zara answered it. The guys looked handsome in their tuxes and each had a touch of colour of the girl's dresses. Jayden made them pair up as they took a couple of pictures.

"Have fun!" He called as they headed out. There was a Limousine parked out front waiting for them as they entered and driving them off to the prom.

Did I tell you, you look breathtakingly beautiful?" Reign asked hugging Narcia from behind. "You did, for the umpteenth time." She added smiling as they enjoyed their night.

****

They all had admissions into Duke University and had convinced their parents and guardians to let them get one huge apartment for the eight of them.

It took a lot of convincing before they finally agreed on the basis that the girls take two rooms, these two girls. each room and same applied for the guys.

“The rooms are huge and beautiful.” Anya said as they unpacked. She was stating in one room with Narcia and Myra and Zhavia we’re in another.

“I’m in love with the interior decor, it’s beautiful.” Narcia added.

“Hey, who's hungry?” Zaid asked walking to their room.

“We are, like literally starving.” Narcia exaggerated.

“Did someone mention food?” Myra asked entering with Zhavia.

“Yeah, we going out to grab some food, you in?” Zaid asked.

“Of course, I’m hungry.” Zhavia started as they walked down the stairs to join the guys.

“Where’s the food?” Anya asked making them laugh.

“We’re eating out.” Reign added. “Then let’s get going, we’re starving.” She grumpily said.

“Okay, take it easy Ms grumpy pants.” Xavier added as she rolled her eyes at him while they walked out to get food.

Chapter 14.

“Classes are so stressful.” Narcia whined to Anya as she lay on her bed.

"Tell me about it." She added rhetorically.

"Get your lazy ass up Narcia, we've got class," Anya announced as Narcia lazily headed to the shower.

"Hey, sweet cheeks you've got class?" Reign asked.

"Yeah." She added. "Anya, stop smooching faces with Zaid. We're gonna be late." Narcia called as they rushed out of the apartment.

"What's up with you and Reign?" Anya asked making small talk as they sat at the lecture hall. The lecturer had not yet arrived.

"I dunno what to call us Anya" She sighed. She never thought she'd fall for Reign. Ever. But here she was hopelessly in love with him.

Anya was about talking when the lecturer walked in. Narcia saw Reign with Brittana and some other girls at the cafeteria. Anya had another class so Narcia had to walk home alone.

She decided to pass by the cafeteria to get something but as soon as she saw Reign with Brittana and some other girls, she left.

Reign saw Marcia leave the cafeteria. He runs out after her to talk to her.

"Sweet cheeks wait up!" He called. "Can't do unless you catch me first." She smirked as she set off running.

Within a couple of seconds later, Reign caught her from behind and lifted her up. Her laughter filled the air as he twirled her around before setting her down on her feet.

He flung his hands over her shoulders as they walked to the apartment talking about random stuff.

"Don't you have another class ?" She asked remembering that he had two lectures on Tuesdays.

"I do but, I'm tired." He whined.

"Big baby." Narcia teased unlocking the door. The house was quiet since everyone had left for class.

"Do you have class tomorrow ?" Reign asked as they watched a movie cuddling and munching on popcorn and drinking soda.

No, tomorrow's my birthday anyway." She remembered sitting up. "I almost forgot that." She added.

"I know, but tomorrow's my busy day, I got some business to take care of with Edwardo. Sorry, we can't hang." He grinned sheepishly.

"I hate you." She said sticking out her tongue and poking his rock hard arbs. "I love you too Sweetcheeks." He added smiling at her as her heart skipped a beat.

"Aww, the movie has ended," Narcia whined drawing Reign's attention.

"Sorry" He teased. "Hey, can you help me with dinner ?" He asked Narcia looking at the time. It read 4:30 pm and roughly by 6:00 pm everyone would be home exhausted and starving.

"What's for dinner?" She asked. "Meatloaf and mashed potatoes." He stated.

Narcia preheated the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. She added the beef, bread crumbs, onion, milk, egg, 2 tablespoons ketchup, Worcestershire sauce, parsley, salt, garlic powder, and pepper into a large bowl.

She used her hands to mush and mix these ingredients together until they were well combined. She added the meat mixture to a loaf pan and pat the meat down into an even layer.

In a small bowl, she added 1/4 cup ketchup, the brown sugar, and vinegar. Stir to combine. Then she poured the sauce on top of the meatloaf and spread it into an even layer. She put it into the oven and allowed to bake uncovered for 55 minutes.

She let the meatloaf rest for 8-10 minutes as Reign prepared the mashed potatoes. When he was done, Narcia dished the food into a large storage bowl and carried it to the table as Reign followed suit with plates and glasses and a bottle of orange juice.

Surprisingly, their friends arrived at the same time starving and exhausted. They went to their rooms to freshen up and then later joined Narcia and Reign for dinner.

"Nar, can Reign sleep here tonight ?" Anya added scratching her head. "Sure he can, Miss lover girl and don't do what I wouldn't do." She teased her friend.

"By the way do you know Zhavia and Sean are going out ?" Anya asked.

"What! That sneaky little girl and she didn't bother to tell us." Narcia added.

"Zhav!" Narcia screamed for her friend's name.

"What!" Zhavia replied from her room.

"Get your huge behind in here this minute!" She called as Zhavia and Myra entered their room.

"You and Sean ? and you never bothered to tell us?" Anya questioned.

“ I was about telling you girls tonight before you called me, you can ask Myra." She confessed.

"She's right sis" Myra admitted as Zhavia explained the whole thing to them.

"That was beautiful" Anya replied wiping off tears.

A knock on the door interrupted them. "Come in!" Narcia yelled as Reign walked in with his pillow and duvet. Zhavia and Myra gave sneaky glances at Narcia as they hurried out.

"Hey Reign, Goodnight Narcia, see you in the morning," Anya said as she left.

"Hope I didn't interrupt anything?" He inquired.

"Oh no, no you didn't" Narcia replied as Reign sat on her bed.

"Ummm, ain't you sleeping in Anya's bed ?" She questioned.

"Nope, I wanna cuddle now move your fat ass." Reign teased.

"But, but---" "Shhhh" Reign cut her off by putting his finger on her soft plump lips and stared into her eyes.

His Adam's apple bobbed up and down as he swallowed hard.

"But why?" Narcia added breaking them out of their trance.

"Way to ruin the moment Narcia." He mumbled thinking that she didn't hear him.

"How's Nora and Kayla doing by the way?" She asks ed making small talk.

"They're good, doing well actually." He yawned lying down. He knew it was 2 minutes to her birthday but pretended to be sleepy in order not to ruin the surprise.

He's asleep already? She pondered as she heard small snores from his mouth. She pulled the duvet to cover his body.

Her phone rang and she picked it immediately so as not to wake him up from his sleep.

"Hey Pumpkin, happy birthday!" Jayden exclaimed through the phone. "Thanks, Jay" She smiled. “May this day be the best day ever and may all your heart desires be granted," Courtney added. "Thanks, Court," Narcia stated.

"Anyways, your birthday present would arrive on the day, so just have some sleep. We'd talk to you later." Jay added.

"I can't wait to see it, thanks Jay, you guys sleep well." She said hanging up and then heading for bed.

Happy birthday, bitch!" Anya yelled as she jumped on Narcia.

"Thanks, Anya, you're crushing me," Narcia said pushing her off.

Happy birthday cuz, happy birthday Nar." Zhavia and Myra said.

"Thank you lovelies." She said as she got up to hug them. "Don't you have class today?" She asked them.

"We do, we're about leaving. Enjoy you, day love." Zhavia added as they headed out. Narcia got out of bed and headed to the bathroom to shower wondering where Anya run off to.

The house was quiet since everyone had you to change If perfect's what you're searching for then just stay the same So don't even bother asking if you look okay, you know I'll say

When I see your face There's not a thing that I would change ‘cause you're amazing Just the way you are And when you smile The whole world stops and stares for a while 'Cause, girl, you're amazing Just the way you are

The way you are The way you are Girl, you're amazing Just the way you are

When I see your face There’s not a thing that I would change ‘cause you're amazing Just the way you are And when you smile The whole world stops and stares for a while 'Cause, girl, you're amazing Just the way you are.

He sang ."That was amazing!" Narcia exclaimed. "Sweetcheeks, would you do me the honours of being my girl ?" He asked staring into her baby blue eyes.

Was she dreaming or its reality? She asked herself.

"I know you're insecure, asking yourself what if. But I'm for real, no games. I love you Narcia and only you.

I'd climb every mountain

And swim every ocean

Just to be with you

And fix what I've broken

Oh, 'cause I need you to see

That you are the reason

He sang again convincing her.

"Yes, yes! I'd be your girl." She accepted as she hugged him. He took a box from the bedpost and handed it over to her. "Happy birthday love." He added pecking her on her soft plump lips.

"Thanks, Sweet." She added opening the box. There was a charm bracelet that had their initials carved on it. There was also a gold necklace that had the inscription "Just to be with you." On it. Then lastly, there was a pair of the latest puma cell phase sneakers.

She jumped on him and hugged him as he came out of the bathroom.

"Thanks, babe!". She added.

“ You welcome love, you deserve it and more.” He added as she blushed.

“Ah, someone's shy.” He teased as she buried her head in his chest.

“Happy birthday, and have a good night’s sleep.” Reign said as they cuddled each other.

Chapter 15.

"*Jay, you know I'm in my final year and there's a whole lot of pressure and stress on me. I wish we could hang, but I've got an assignment due tomorrow, I'm sorry but I'd make it up to you.*" Courtney said through the phone as she typed on her laptop.

"*It's fine, I'd let you do your assignments and when you did let me know,*" Jay added swirling on his chair.

"Don't be like that Jay." She added.

"*Talk to you later babe."* He hung up.

" Boyfriend troubles ?" Mel asked entering her friend's room. "He's just being insecure." Courtney sighed shutting her laptop.

"How so?" Mel asked sitting beside her friend.

"He wants us to hang out, more often like we used to do. But our finals are coming up Mel." She added.

"But you get time to hang out with Cody at the coffee shop?" She teased.

"But, its just for like 30 minutes, just to release stress". She added.

"Courtney, you've wanted this for years and now its finally here, you want to give excuses. Would he disturb you or be insecure when you spend some days at his place and finding time to study?" She asked.

"I guess I haven't thought of it that way. He would understand and even help me." She reasoned.

"Thanks, Mel, you're the best." She added hugging her best friend.

"It's fine, now call your man...cause I'm going to Will's for a couple of days you don't want to stay here alone do you?" She teased as Courtney burst into laughter.

"Hey, Jay," Courtney added as he picked up. "Hey babe, how is it with the assignment?" He asked rubbing his eyes.

"It's going well, are you home or in the office?" She questioned. "I'm at home in my study working on some files." He explained.

"Is there any problem babe?" He asked.

"Not really, I just wanted to come over." She stated.

"Okay, I hope there's no problem." He wondered how and why she could change her mind that fast.

"Not at all, so I'd be on my way, talk to you later." She added hanging up as she packed her stuff into a little suitcase.

Mel had already left a couple of hours back. Courtney cleaned the room and then took their shower, dressed up, packed her bags and left locking the door behind her.

****

"Hey Myra, where's Zhavia?" Anya asked as Myra caught up with her and Narcia on the way to the ice cream parlour.

It wasn't far from the campus so they decided to walk and clear their minds of the stress they were going through.

It had been a month since she and Reign had been going out and he had been distant lately.

"Are you okay Cuz?" Narcia asked Myra as they sat down waiting for the waiter.

"Its Xav, he's been a little distant lately." She blurted out sighing. "Welcome to the club," Anya said shocking Narcia. "You too, I thought I was the only one being insecure." She admitted.

"I know you girls might be thinking that just a month and then--" She was cut off when she saw Reign enter with Brittana and some other girls.

"Ummm, should we go?" Myra asked awkwardly.

"No, we came to get ice cream so let's get it." Narcia insisted as the waitress came for their orders.

"Hi, what may I get you?" Daya asked with her head bent.

"Daya?" Narcia called. "Oh hey Narcia, how are you?" She smiled. "I'm good, this is Anya, and My cousin Myra, I don't think you know Myra but you might remember Anya," Narcia stated.

"I do remember her, she used to love pinching my cheeks," Daya recalled.

"She's Daya Collarad." Narcia introduced. "Mase's sister?" Anya asked shocked.

"Yeah, the one and only," Daya added smiling sadly as she got their orders for them.

"Say hi to Mindy for me," Narcia said as Daya went back to her work.

"Who's Mindy?" Myra asked. "Her 7-year old daughter," Narcia added.

"So does she know it was Britt?" Myra whispered. "She knows but I don't know if she'd remember her face." Narcia explained.

The girls talked on for a while and then decided to go to their apartment.

They met Xavier and Zaid with a bunch of girls talking and laughing heartedly. They were glad that the guys hadn't seen them as they sneak past them.

"I dunno but I think Daya's up to something," Myra added as they neared their apartment.
"How so?" Anya asked looking at Narcia.

"You guys said she left with her parents when she was young, how come she vividly remembers you, girls?" She asked as they entered the house.

"You do have a point there Myra," Anya said. "We must be careful," Narcia added as she headed into the kitchen to fix lunch.

"...are you okay with that or you just want me to be fine when you're inconvenienced?" Jay asked as they watched the movie.

"I'm okay with it, you can even help me in somethings I don't understand." She added as she pecked him on the forehead.

"Mom, I saw Narcia and Anya today," Daya said through the phone.

"I hope she's grown beautifully?" Mrs Collarad beamed with smiles. She was fond of those girls a lot.

"Yes they have, although I didn't see the murderer, I'm still looking for her," Daya added as she narrowed her eyes.

"Can't you let go?" Her mom asked firmly. "I will mom when I find her," Daya smirked.

"Call you later okay, Mindy just got back." She said hanging up and attending to her daughter.

"Hey, babe". Zaid said hugging Anya from behind. " Hi, how was your day ?" She asked. "It was boring without you, I missed you." He flattered.

"Really?" She questioned. "Yeah babe, I did." He explained as she turned round to face him pecking him on the nose and walking off.

Zaid stood and stared at his pretty girlfriend walk off to her room.

****

“Hi, um, who’s this?” Myra said through the phone.

“It’s me Myra.” The voice said.

“You who?” She asked entering Anya and Narcia's room.

“Its Green, your big brother.” He dropped the bombshell.

“G-G-Green? Where have you been? Why did you leave?” She asked waiting for answers.

“I’ve been London...” He trailed off.

“Its a long story Chubby.” He called her the pet name he used when they were kids.

“You can make it shorter then.” She retorted.

“Fine, meet me at the coffee shop by your school, in 15minutes.” He said.

“See you soon.” She hang up.

“Was that Green?” Narcia asked as Myra nodded.

“We're coming with you.” Marcia said as they picked their phones and then hurried out of the house.

The coffee shop wasn’t far from their apartment so they got there in less than 15 minutes.

They ordered drinks while waiting for Green to arrive. He sent her a message when he got there and she waved from where she was sitting so he could see.

He walked towards her, happy to see her again.

“Green?” She called as she hugged him tight.

“Hey, I missed you.” He said as they sat at the table.

“Narcia, is that you?” He asked shocked to see her cousin.

“In flesh and blood, but why did you leave?” She asked the question that was on her mind for far too long.

“I had to.” He said all of a sudden.

“Why?” His sister asked.

“They wanted me to join them, and when I refused, they threatened to torture me, and in the end kill me.” He said remembering it as if it was just yesterday.

“They what?” Narcia, Anya and Myra asked at the same time.

“Yeah, that’s what they did. But I knew most of their secrets and threatened to tell the police about their dealings, so when I’m found dead the police could track them. They became scared and told me to leave and never return. I wanted to take you along Myra, but I couldn’t. So I told Jay to adopt you when he had the power to do so.” Green told.

“That’s so messed up.” Narcia said.

“Surprising enough, they never bothered me not tortured me. They just didn’t care I existed.” Myra spoke up.

“They knew you couldn’t do their bidding, so they had no choice than resenting you.” Green answered side hugging her.

“I’m glad you’re okay Green, I missed you.” She said.

“I missed you too Chubby.” He teased as they laughed.

Chapter 16.

Jayden had gone back to L. A with Courtney after she was done with her studies and the company in Massachusetts had expanded.

She was now the managing director of the company in L.A. Narcia and her friends were in the sophomore year of college.

Zara had retired as the caretaker of the Daniels mansion. Jayden had bought her a new house in New York and had sponsored Chloe's education until she was done with school.

He still paid Zara a monthly allowance which she was always grateful for.

I'm not getting any younger. I need to settle down and start a family. Jayden thought to himself as he swirled in his chair.

He booked a reservation in one of the most expensive restaurants in town. He had already gotten a ring for the proposal.

He saw how much Courtney was looking at the ring when they went out to shop.

He had secretly gotten the ring for her, but now he was going to use that ring to propose to her.

"Hey, Mel." Courtney greeted her friend through the phone. "Hey, Bestie!" Mel exclaimed.

"How's married life treating you ?" She asked. "Courtney, I get got married yesterday." She added rolling her eyes. "But it's going well." She smiled.

"I'm happy for you," Courtney added. "Tell Jayden to put a ring on that finger, y'all aren't getting younger," Mel advised.

"Alright Ma, I'd tell him." She teased her friend. She knew deep within that Mel was right.

The two friends talked for a while and then Mel hung up saying she had some stuff to do.

"Hey, love," Jayden said as he entered the office and sat in front of her. He stared at her adoringly and lovingly. He was glad he had a wonderful woman in his life.

"Babe?" She called breaking him out of his trance. "Are you alright?" She worriedly asked.

"Yes, I'm fine. Are you done here or you have more work to do?" He asked. "I'm done for the day." She confirmed.

"Any problem? She inquired again.

"Well, I want to take my baby out for dinner today." He said staring at her.

"What's the occasion?" She asked absentminded. "Seriously Courtney, do I need an occasion to take you out?" He asked getting offended.

"I'm sorry Jay, its just---" "It's fine, just finish up and let's go home so that we can freshen up and go for dinner." He started walking out of the office.

Courtney sighed as she picked her handbag and followed suit. She was in no mood for any arguments or quarrels. She had a lot on her plate and mind to deal with.

Courtney emerged from the shower to see a box wrapped in beautiful paper on her bed. She secured the towel tightly around her body as she walked towards her bed and picked up the box. It had no inscription on it.

She sat on her bed unwrapping the box to reveal a beautiful A-line V-neck Burgundy dinner gown with leg split and a pair of beautiful black 6-inch open-toed heels.

She was awed by the present. She wondered why Jay got her this beautiful gown.

Where are we going and what has she planned? She asked herself.

She held her hair in a tight ponytail and then wore her dress then paired it with the heels. She picked a blue clutch to match her dress.

Her make-up was nude and beautiful. She twirled in front of the mirror for one last time before descending the staircase.

She decided to go to her house where Jay said he would come and pick her from. The doorbell rang as she opened the door to reveal Jay wearing a tuxedo that matched her outfit.

He looked hot. "Ready?" He asked after oogling at his girlfriend soon to be fiancée.

"Yeah." She smiled as she got out of the house locking the door behind her. He opened the door of the car for her as she sat inside and he joined her in the car and sped off.

They had fun talking and singing in the car just like old times. Jay finally parked his car in the parking lot of one of the most expensive restaurants in town.

She wasn't surprised much though, but she wondered why he decided to bring her here.

"Any reservations Sir?" The waitress asked as they entered. "Yes under Jay Daniels." He added as the waitress led them to their table.

The view from their table was beautiful as it was close to the window. It showed how the city brightened at night. It was just marvellous.

"A penny for your thoughts?" He asked startling her. "Just enjoying the view from here." She smiled. "You look stunning love." He added as the waitress came for their order.

Jay intentionally dropped his keys beside Courtney's leg. He went down to pick the keys as he pulled a ring from his pocket kneeling before her.

She was speechless. She thought marriage wasn't on his mind for now and that was making her stressed out because she wasn't getting any younger.

"Courtney, you came into my life as my best friend, my best pal, my playmate and gradually I began to fall for your kind heart, your loving soul and beautiful smile. We've both been through a lot in life but we still held on to each other. And now we're here. Would you do me the honours of becoming Mrs Courtney Aura Daniels?" He finally asked as she sobbed and nodded a "Yes."

He slipped the beautiful ring on her hands and hugged his fiancée. There were claps, whistles and "aaaaaws" filled in the air as she buried her face in the crook of his neck shyly.

They returned to their seats and then enjoyed their meal. "But how come I didn't think that you were going to pop the question, it was as if you didn't care about starting a family anytime soon." She explained.

"I made you believe so so that you won't think that was what I was about to do this night." He added grinning.

"Thank you for choosing me." She mumbled. "No love, thank you for showing me love, for teaching me how to love and I'm sorry it took me long to realise that I love you." He added as her cheeks turned rosy.

“I should have done that long ago, but I was blinded by lust which I believed was love, but when I realised I was in love with you the whole time, it felt good and I felt happy.” He told her.

“That day I almost lost your love, I told myself I wasn’t going to loose your friendship even if I lost your love to another man, I could be just bear to loose you, not to have you in my life. The thought of that alone, tore me apart. When I saw you run to me, I thought, maybe there’s hope for the future.” He added as she chuckled.

“You’ve got Mel to thank for that, I almost gave up you know. She talked sense into my head, she was right. I won’t have lasted with that dude anyways.” She said smiling at him.

“Thank God!” He exclaimed making her laugh.

“I think, we were meant to be, soup mates for life.” She said as they clicked their glasses together.

“I can’t wait to marry you Courtney, and rip that wedding free off your body on our honey moon.” He said wiggling his eyebrows.

“You, naughty naughty Jay.” She blushed again.

“What, you’ve got a sexy body.” He teased.

“Why , thank you.” She smiled.

Chapter 17

I'm happy for you baby girl," Melinda said through the phone. "Thanks, Mel," Courtney added as they continued with their talk.

"Hey pumpkin, I have good news for you," Jay said through the phone as Narcia lay on the bed with Anya beside her.

"What is it?" She asked putting the phone on the loud speaker.

"Well, Courtney and I are getting married. I finally grew the balls to propose." Jay said as the girls squealed in excitement.

"Did I hear someone say he's getting married?" Myra asked as she entered the room.

"Its Jay, he's getting married to Courtney," Anya explained.

"He finally grew the balls to propose," Myra said.

"Come on My, " Jay whined as they laughed at him.

"Next week Wednesday is mom and dad's death anniversary." Jay dropped the bombshell. "I know Jay, my exams start that same day. I don't know what to do." Narcia cried.

"Its fine pumpkin. They'd understand. You can go visit their grave when you get home for the holidays." Jay consoled.

****

"And she didn't bother telling us?" Courtney's mom said as Mr Rolands, Myra's dad sat on the couch sipping coffee.

"Truth be told hun, we weren't the best parents to these girls. They deserve much better." Her husband added joining in on the conversion.

"That doesn't mean we aren't going to the wedding, the bitch owes us that. If she doesn't invite us, we're still going." He added as they burst into laughter.

"So Rolands, when next are you getting more money from the brat of a nephew you have?" Sam, Courtney's dad asked.

"Relax Sam, very soon and he's not going to see what hit him," Roland added.

"And besides, Rahul is taking my money from on bastard, he pays him good so we can rely on that for now and the money I extort from the company too." He barked in laughter as Meg, Courtney's mom looked on sceptically.

"You better make me your chief bridesmaid." Anya playfully threatened her sister. "Well, I'd have to decide on that its either you or Mel" Courtney added.

"Whoever you choose, I hope you have fun on that day," Anya said sincerely. There was silence on the line for a while before Courtney spoke.

"What's wrong baby?" She worriedly asked. "Would they be there?" She asked him hesitantly.

"I haven't invited them yet but I'm sure they already know. I'm very much certain Myra's parents might have told them. I know they'd be present. They won't want to miss a spotlight at the chance given." She told.

"Then we'd ask them to leave. We don't owe them anything." Anya firmly added.

"No baby, we'd leave them. Sending them away would give them more reason to hurt or come near us. But If we leave them to have their liberty, they'd think twice about their situation." She explained.

"You're right," Anya admitted.

"Young Missy, you're going to introduce me to that piece of hunk you're going out with." Courtney teased.

"Courtney, I have a class in a few, can I call you back?" She tried to change the topic.

"Nice try Anya, but I mean it...now off to class. Take care and I love you." Courtney said.

"Love you too Sis, Bye." She ended the call.

"Anya! get your behind down here we'd be late for class." Zhavia called. Narcia and Myra had already left for class leaving Zhavia and Anya behind.

"Jeeez, calm your tits mama, I'm here." She said putting her books in her bag.

"Whatever." Zhavia rolled her eyes balls as they walked out of the apartment.

Operation befriends Brittana, ongoing. Daya thought to herself as she walked beside her. Zöe had found a new set of friends and ditched Britt.

She was tired of being mean and picking on others. She was tired of doing Britt's deeds. So as soon as they started class, it was bye-bye to Britt.

Britt easily fit in with the popular crowd because of her beauty and her fashion tips. And for Daya, because of her beauty, status and sweet character, she also joined them. Little did they know she had a revenge plan.

The only plan she had was to *Let everyone know Brittana was a criminal and also let her have a criminal record.*

"Is that not Daya with Britt?" Myra asked as she walked with Narcia to the cafeteria. "She is but what is she doing with her or she's up to something like you said?" Narcia voiced out.

"I'm very sure, or else why would she be friends with her brother's murderer," Myra whispered as they sat at a table eating their food.

"Hi." A girl greeted them. She looked Latina with her long curly brown eyes. She had freckles on her face and then big baby green eyes. She had long legs and a brown smooth olive skin. She was a beauty.

"Hey, join us," Narcia said as the girl sat. "My bad I am Isla, a Latino-Americano." She introduced. "Nice to meet you Isla, I think I saw you in class today. I'm Myra and this is my sister Narcia Daniels." Myra added.

" Yh, I was in the General English class, I'm new here, I just transferred a few weeks back. I thought you girls seemed nice so I decided to join you here." She said as Anya and Zhavia joined them at the table.

"Hi, I'm Zhav and She's Anya and you are ?" Zhavia asked sitting beside Anya. "I'm Isla, nice to meet you." She happily smiled. "You're pretty," Narcia stated as Isla smiled showing her dimples.

They talked for a while getting to know each other better and exchanged contacts.

"What's Daya doing with Britt?" Anya asked out of the blue. "I don't know Anya, we were as shocked as you are right now when we saw them," Narcia added.

"She might have had her reasons." Zhavia shrugged as they walked out of the cafeteria. Myra and Isla had left since they had another class together.

"Maybe, because befriending your brother's murderer, she definitely has something up her sleeve," Anya whispered.

"Let's hope it's not something nasty," Zhavia concluded.

"Well, Mel's gonna be the maid of honour and you girls will be on my bridal train," Courtney said through the phone to her sister. "I'm so happy for you, at last, your dreams have come to pass," Anya stated.

"Thank you, but young lady as soon as you girls get back I am going to meet your Mr. sexy, no excuses," Courtney said. "Alright, alright Sis," Anya added giggling.

"Are they going to be there?" Anya asked referring to her parents.

"I don't know baby, but I'm aware that they know because Myra's parents are aware so they might have told them," Courtney added.

"Whatever be the case, let's pray nothing goes bad," Anya added.

"Sis, I'd catch you later I have a paper this afternoon, once again congratulations," Anya said.

"Thanks, baby, I hope you ace this exam, just do you. Bye!" Courtney encouraged as she hung up.

Narcia dragged her feet into her room. She was exhausted both physically and emotionally. Things between her and Reign had gone sour within a span of one and a half months. He no longer spent much time with her but with Brittana and Daya and that was draining her.

I wish I was at home. She thought to herself.

Chapter 18.

"Tough day?" Anya asked picking her clutch and phone. She had learnt enough for the paper and didn't need any book until the exams began.

"Very stressful, try having two of your elective courses in one day and you'd feel my pain." She said dramatically.

"Don't worry, you'd finish your papers soon," Anya added rubbing her friend's back.

She walked to the door and opened it then shut it again as if she remembered something she left behind. She sat on her friend's bed and saw her scroll through to see if she had received any message from Reign.

"Hey, it's gonna be fine." She added rubbing her back. "I hope so Anya, I really do. It's that bad that we both can't stay without him running out to answer a call or saying he's got somewhere to go." She sighed.

"Don't stress it, when I get back we'd talk about it," Anya added as she rushed out almost bumping into Reign.

"Sorry." He said as he rushed inside not looking up for a second with his eyes glued to his phone.

Wierd. She thought as she doubled her steps.

The colours for Jay and Courtney's wedding was Gold and Mauve. The venue for the wedding had already been booked. It was going to be held at Daniel's penthouse at the Bahamas.

"Mel my feet are killing me," Courtney complained as they entered another wedding dress shop. "This is the last shop, I promise," Mel said as they met the shop attendant.

After five tries, the next dress she wore was stunning. She felt that the gown was the one and she wasn't changing her mind no matter what Mel said.

"So--" Mel was cut off by the beauty in front of her.

"You look absolutely breathtaking." Mel finally said.

"This is the one." Courtney murmured.

"It definitely is," Mel said. They discussed it with the shop attendant and the day when she would come for the dress.

"Cake testing?" Mel asked. "No, Mel, no I'm tired just take me home." She added getting cranky.

"Alright, Missy," Mel said as they entered the car and she drove off.

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"Watch it, Man." Reign said as he bumped into Narcia walking away. She stood rooted at the spot looking at Reign's back. She had, had enough of all that. She walked towards him and then pulled his phone out of his hands.

"Hey, I was using that." He said as he looked up to see his girlfriend.

"Narcia can I have my phone back?" He asked.

"No Reign, no this has been going on for far too long, I'm tired of this." She sighed.

"I'm sorry, but you know we all are busy with our finals that's why." He defended.

"And actually some of us have other businesses and things to worry about unlike you, the princess of the Daniel empire who looks down on others, I wonder what I ever saw in you." He spat.

"Me? Look down on others?" She asked shocked.

"Just let me have my phone." He added snatching it from her grip.

She shook her head and then left for the kitchen. She decided not to cry over his hurtful words and behaviour.

What lies have Brittana been feeding him with? She asked herself as she prepared dinner for her friends.

"I smell something nice," Zaid added as he entered the house.

"You came on time. How was the paper?" She asked hugging him.

"It was good, where's my baby girl?" He questioned. "Well, she would be in anytime soon," Narcia added as Anya, Myra, Zhavia, Sean and Xavier walked in.

"Ah, the whole squad is in," Narcia smirked.

"Nope, where's your boyfriend?" Xavier asked.

"Do I have one?" She murmured loud enough for them to hear as they sadly smiled. They were aware of the way Reign was treating her.

"Miss me?" Reign asked as he joined the rest of his friends at the table.

"I can't believe that by tomorrow I'd be done with my papers for the semester," Narcia said drinking her juice.

"I guess we all would be done tomorrow," Zhavia added. "What if you guys?" She asked.

"Well, I and Zaid would be done tomorrow but Reign and Sean are done with theirs, they finished today," Xavier said to his twin.

"I wish I were in your shoe babe." Zhavia cooed as Narcia stared at Reign.

How come she never knew? She asked herself.

"Guys, I have news," Reign added avoiding Narcia's eyes.

"Spill it," Anya said sitting down.

"Next academic year, I'd be moving into my own place." He dropped the bombshell.

"That's good, you and Narcia would get all the privacy you need," Xavier added.

"We're not moving in together, I'm going alone." He said finally.

"Any problem man?" Zaid asked his best friend.

"No, I just need my space, that's all."He added.

"Point taken," Narcia said to her boyfriend.

"How was dress fitting?" Jay asked Courtney as she stepped into the house.

"It was stressful, Mel made us visit five shops before we found a dress." She added sitting down.

"It's fine, in a week all this will be over babe." He added pinching her cheeks.

Chapter 19.

School had vacated and the squad had gone home. The relationship between Narcia and Reign had gone from bad to worse. He only visited when he wanted her to babysit Kayla or his friends had invited him around. Even at that he always left after a couple of minutes.

Narcia, Anya, Mel, Myra and Zhavia were in a guest room in the penthouse with her as they were being prepared for the ceremony. Their dresses were gold with mauve fascinators on their heads. They all looked good with their make-up on.

"I'm extremely happy for you guys. How I wish I had the love you guys share instead of being accused of what I don't even know." Narcia added wearing her heels. The hair does of all the bridesmaid was a sleek ponytail.

"Hey, he'd come around but if he doesn't and he wants to go, let him. He'd realise a grave mistake he had made. So chill yeah." Mel advised.

"Thanks, Mel," Narcia added. "You welcome, besides if he decides he doesn't want you anymore I have a baby brother your age, he'd make a good boyfriend. He attends Duke too." Mel teased.

"That won't be a bad idea, what's his name?" Narcia asked.

"Axel." She said as they continued with their conversation.

In a few minutes, Mel's dad walked Courtney down the aisle. He had taken her as a daughter and when she told him she wanted this, he agreed immediately.

Jayden stood at the shore of the beach as he watched his soon to be wife being walked down the aisle. He was filled with joy. She looked absolutely stunning.

She got to where he was and the held hands as the officiating minister began to bless the union. "We gather here to witness the union between Miss Courtney McClellan and Mr Jayden Daniels. Genesis 2:24, says, therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Now Miss Courtney say this after me "I Courtney McClellan take thee, Jayden Daniels, to be my wedded husband to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I pledge thee my faith [or] pledge myself to you." The Minister said as Courtney repeated.

And Mr Jayden does say this after me "I, Jayden Daniels, take thee, Courtney McClellan, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, according to

God's holy ordinance; and thereto I pledge thee my faith [or] pledge myself to you." Jayden repeated.

"If thou take Me, Jayden Daniels, as your wedded husband say "I do".

"I do," Courtney added.

"And if thou take Courtney McClellan as your wedded wife say I do."

"I do," Jayden said.

"By the power vested in me, I pronounce you man and wife. You may kiss the bride." He said as Jayden passionately kissed his wife and the crowd cheered on.

The reception for their wedding was not far from the wedding venue. It was a walking distance so most people preferred to walk rather than driving.

Anya was talking with her sister when their parents walked towards them. Courtney quickly grabbed Anya's hand and pulled her towards her.

"Easy Ney, we're her parents we wouldn't harm our baby girl." Her mom said stretching her hands to touch Anya's hair as she pulled back.

"You're capable of that mom, I know you. And I've been a victim of your abuse for far too long." She spat.

"Oh shut up you ungrateful bitch. You stole from us. So you owe us and you'd keep paying back until we say it's enough." Her father spat.

"I wanted to see my parents so badly, but having seen you guys here shows me how much of horrible parents you were. I hate you with every fibre of my being." Anya added with a shaky voice.

"Awww, so touching but we don't give a flying fuck about that." Her mom added.

"You guys are so callous !" Courtney's voice rose drawing the attention of her husband and friends.

Jay walked to where his wife was standing with his sisters in tow.

"Remember our deal Ney, don't think about ignoring it or dire consequences." Her dad laughed showing his brown teeth as he walked off with his wife.

"You okay babe?" Jay asked as Anya walked off with Narcia and Myra.

"It's okay Anya, we're here for you and will always be." Myra reasoned.

"I've always wanted to see them. Courtney used to tell me how evil they were and even at that, I still wanted to see them. And just as I got the opportunity to, they didn't hesitate to show they're horrible nature, gosh I loathe them with every fibre of my being!" Anya exclaimed.

"Relax, Anya." Narcia consoled.

"They threatened my sister on her wedding day. How heartless can they be!" She yelled as the guys approached them excluding Reign. But there was another guy in their midst. He had curly jet black hair but had faded under. He stood at 6'8, he wasn't lanky but well built and had freckles and dimples, making him handsome.

"Who's Mr Handsome?" Anya asked.

"Well, Mr.Handsome is Axel, the chief bridesmaid's brother." Axel introduced smirking.

"And once again Reign's missing from the group," Zhavia said joining them.

"It's his natural habit these days so there's nothing new about that," Narcia added her voice.

The squad headed off to the dance floor while Narcia sat with Axel getting to know him better.

I've been wasting so much time brooding over Reign. I've got to let new people into my life. She thought to herself as they continued with their conversation while her friends danced on.

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Chapter 20.

Axel and Narcia's friendship bond grew stronger within the months. The school had reopened and true to his words, Reign had left the apartment.

I need a new friendship circle. I'm tired of my current one. I need to explore. He thought to himself.

"I'm tired of this sour relationship between both of us. It's either we talk it through or we take a break from each other. This is becoming toxic." Narcia said to Reign in his apartment.

"Whatever you want, you can do. I need a fun girl, you're just boring and I think the break will do us good. At least you can learn to relate well with the less fortunate." He spat.

"I don't know what Brittana or whoever spewed that nonsense to you, but when you realise your mistake just pray, it's not too late Reign. Just pray." Narcia added as she walked out of the apartment.

I'm no longer going to cry over him, I've done enough of that. Narcia thought as she walked off to her apartment.

Even though their relationship had gone sour, she was still fond of Kayla and checked up on her and Nora regularly. Nora had confirmed that Reign had changed, and it was affecting his child.

"Any luck talking sense into his thick skull?" Zaid asked her as she entered the apartment.

"Nope, still the same." She said plopping down next to him on the couch.

"He's changed so much, he's not himself anymore," Zaid added affected.

"We pray he comes around, but we're gone on a break now. And I think it's best for both of us right now." She said

"Are you fine with that?" He inquired.

"Honestly, I thought I won't. But I'm actually fine." She smiled.

"That's nice, I wish everything falls in place okay?" He added.

"Thanks, Zaid, you're a good friend." She said ruffling his hair.

"Not the hair." He groaned as Narcia runoff.

"Hey," Narcia said picking her phone. "Heyya." Axel greeted.

"Hey, Xel." Narcia greeted.

"What's up?" He asked lying on his bed.

"Nothing new, just heading to my room." She shrugged opening the door to see her friends waiting for her.

"Xel, let me call you later, something just came up." She added.

"Alright Princess, talk to you later." He added hanging up.

Narcia sat on her bed and looked at her friends who were waiting for her to spill the beans.

"...So, we've taken a break from this toxic relationship. If we're meant to be, we'd find our way back but if not, well it was fun while it lasted." She explained.

"But are you alright?" Zhavia asked.

"Shocking enough, I'm pretty well, j guess my tears are too tired of crying over Him." She smiled.

"I'm sorry this had to happen to you." Her cousin consoled.

"Its fine Myra, I'm fine," Narcia added.

"So, what's going on with you and Axel, you guys have grown pretty close," Anya asked wiggling her eyebrows.

"Anya, I just broke up with my boyfriend sympathize with me." She said teasingly.

"Oh sorry, so what's up with you and Axel, spill," Anya added again making them burst into laughter.

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"Sorry." Reign said as he bumped into someone. He was in a hurry to go meet his friends that he didn't notice the person.

"Reign?" A female voice called as he lifted his head to the shock of his life.

"Marcy?" He called clenching his fists.

"Are you stalking me or what?" He spat.

"No, I go here too." She explained.

"Whatever, have a nice life." He added about walking off as she held his arm. A zap of electricity went through him.

"What?" He asked clearly angry.

"Hh-how is ----" "Don't you dare ask how she is cause you fucking left Mar, you left and stay far far away from me and my daughter." He barked as he stormed off to wherever he was going.

Marcy bowed her head down as she walked to her room. She knew she was at fault and deserved every treatment he gave her. But the pressure she was getting from her family was so

bad that she had to leave her child behind and force herself to say she wanted nothing to do with them.

"You okay?" Daya asked her roommate as she entered the dorm.

"I run into him." She replied.

"Reign?" She asked as her friend nodded.

"He was mad right?" She probed further.

"Yes he was and I kinda deserved it, how I wish I could turn back the hands of time," Marcy said as she sat on her bed.

"Enough about me. How's the plan going?" She asked Daya.

"Pretty well, in a short time to come, Brittana would not know what hit her," Daya added.

"Mason deserves justice, that's the least I can do for him." She smiled sadly.

Chapter 21

How dare she come and ask about my baby girl? Where was she when Kayla craved for her mom? Where was she when I needed help? Where was she when we needed her the most? And now she thinks she can drag herself from nowhere and ask of my baby? No way, no fucking way! Reign thought to himself as he stabbed his food harshly.

"You okay baby?" Brittana asked.

"No, I'd talk to you later and the name still remains Reign." He said coldly walking out.

"Hey man!" Zaid called running after him with Sean and Xavier in tow.

Reign stopped as his friends caught up with him.

"You guys up for a cup of coffee?" He asked.

"Of course." They nodded as they walked with him to the coffee shop.

They placed their order as soon as they got a table.

"You don't look happy, you alright?" Xavier asked.

"Marcy's here." He said as his fists clenched.

"What!" Sean exclaimed.

"What does she want?" Zaid asked his best friend.

"Apparently, the bitch schools here and she had the nerves to ask of my daughter." He added as he rubbed his temple.

"Seriously, after all, she did and said no matter how much we pleaded?" Zaid spat recalling the incident.

"Yes." Reign said calming down as he took a sip of his cappuccino.

"The nerve!" Xavier added as they caught up with old times. They never asked him anything concerning Narcia. They didn't want him to get angrier than he already was.

Courtney sat at her desk remembering what her parents had told her. She was in no doubt that she stole their money. But she did that to save her life and that of her baby sister. She couldn't allow herself and her sister to grow up in the footsteps of her parents.

They just wanted a way to stress our lives and they've found one. They want their money, I'd pay it but theirs no way I'm going to pay it more than once. They can go to hell! Courtney pondered as she continued with her work.

It was much more important than thinking of those people who called themselves her parents.

Narcia and Anya decided to take a walk just to relax their nerves. They were both fighting demons on their own. The time was 8:00 pm when they left their apartment. Zaid wanted to follow but they disagreed so he had to stay back.

"How I wish I never got to see them," Anya said after a while.

"Hey, its fine don't stress yourself too much about it. We've all got your back. You have friends who cherish you, a sister who loves you to the moon and back, a brother-in-law who adores you and a husband who loves and cares for you. So relax and don't stress too much." She told her.

"Thanks, Narcia, your the best friend one could ask for," Anya added smiling.

"How I wish I had a boyfriend who loves me and not one who leaves without explaining himself." She added.

They had walked around the park for a while and decided to head back since it was getting darker.

"Don't worry, you'd get a man you who love and cherish you, just you wait. After all, we're left with a year more to be done with college." Anya stated.

The girls heard footsteps behind them and hurried their footsteps getting scared.

The person's footsteps were faster and before they could scream, a baseball bat was used to hit Narcia in her head and Anya on her arms and neck knocking them out.

Blood oozed out of Narcia's head like a water fountain. The last they saw before blacking out was a bunch of people talking.

Sean was part of the people who saw them unconscious on the ground. They hadn't seen the person who had done that to them.

An ambulance was called as soon as possible as he hurried to the apartment to report the incidence to his friends.

Zaid drove to the hospital like a maniac despite his friends yelling of him to slow down. The love of life and best friend were in the hospital battling for their lives.

As soon as they reached the hospital, he parked and then jumped out of the car rushing into the hospital and leaving his friends behind. Sean locked the car while holding a sobbing Zhavia and the Xavier took the lead with a devastated Myra.

They spotted Zaid talking to a doctor as they approached him.

"What did she say?" Myra managed to ask.

"She said they're still unconscious but Anya is doing better than Narcia." He added as Myra slipped onto the floor and let out a sob.

Zhavia cried into Sean's chest as he held her tight. Zaid's head was into his hands as tears trickled down his face.

Why were all these happening to them? He asked himself. *Everything was fine before, what happened?* He pondered as he punched the wall letting out a cry.

Chapter 22

"It's going to be the fine man they'd be alright," Axel said rubbing his back and leaving everyone shocked.

"How--how?" Zhavia asked shocked as to how he got to know.

"I was amongst the crowd that saw them, but when Sean hurried out from the crowd I knew he was coming to tell you guys so I decided to wait for a while before coming." He explained.

"I need to make a phone call," Myra stated excusing herself as she called Jay.

“...Myra, it's 1 am in the morning what is it." Jay groaned in a husky voice.

"Jay..." Myra sobbed alarming him waking up his wife in the process. He put the phone on the loudspeaker.

" What's wrong baby?" He questioned.

"Narcia and Anya are in the hospital, they went out on a walk and we're attacked. They're both in critical conditions.” She added as Courtney broke into tears.

“Baby, try to calm down. We'd be in North Carolina early in the day. Take care and provide us with any update.” Jay said hunting up as he consoled his sobbing wife.

“They would be fine love, let's try to get some sleep.” He added hugging her tight.

Anya opened her eyes and tried to adjust them to the bright lights. She tried moving her body but everywhere hurt as she groaned in pain drawing the attention of her sister who had bowed her head.

" Baby, you're awake.” She added letting a sigh of relief.

“What happened? Where is Narcia?” She asked panicking.

The doctor entered her ward and injected some medicine into her making her drift into bedtime.

“She needs more rest, she doesn't need the stress.” The doctor advice as Courtney went out to join her husband who was talking to a police officer.

“You guys need rest, food and a shower,” Jay said walking towards Myra and the guys.

“We're fine Jay, how are they by the way?" Zaid asked.

“Well, Anya woke up a few minutes ago and had an attack so she had to be sedated. Her progress is being monitored. And Narcia hasn't woken up since she came out of surgery.” Jay added with a sad smile.

“She would pull through this, she's a fighter.” Said assured him as they decided to head to their apartment for a change of clothes.

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Anya and Narcia's conditions we're getting much better as the weeks passed by. Jay and Courtney checked in on them a few times due to their work schedule but called them every day to see how they were fairing.

A nurse has wheeled Anya to Narcia's room to where the rest of their friends were laughing and talking.

“Hey, love,” Zaid added pecking the top of her head as she smiled.

A couple of minutes Reign entered the room. Zaid had informed him since the incident happened but he didn't know how to show up at the hospital after everything he'd done.

“Hi--i.” He awkwardly greeted. “Wow, look who decided to show up.” Zhav spat as Myra glared at her.

Narcia asked a question that shocked everyone. “Hey handsome, who are you by the way?” She questioned with a blank look.

“You don't remember him?” Myra asked.

“Is he someone I should remember, cause I don't.” She started as Sean walked in with a doctor.

“Miss Daniels, do you remember all these people?” The man asked.

“Yes, I do, except that young hot guy.” She pointed at Reign just as Axel entered.

“What of him?” The doctor pointed to Axel. “Yeah I do, he's my friend.” She smiled at him.

“I'm afraid she's lost some part of her memory, to be precise memories she shared with this young man. I think she buried those memories before the accident that is why she can't remember them.” The doctor added.

“Would she be able to recover them?” Reign asked.

“Only if you spend time with her.” The doctor excused himself as Reign sat beside her and said.

“Hi, I'm Reign and can we start all over ?” He asked.

“Hi, Reign, nice to meet you. I'm Narcia.” She smiled leaving everyone perplexed.

Chapter 23.

Reign and Narcia had gotten closer even though her friends happy with what he did to her earlier before the incident, they were glad there was some progress.

Isla had travelled on study leave for a year before the incident so Narcia didn't remember her that much. Although she had gotten quite close to Axel.

“Hey, how's your daughter Kayla?" Narcia asked out of the blue as they were walking home from class.

“You remember my baby?” Reign asked enthused.

“Of course I do, how would I forget such a cute little girl.” She looked on smiling.

“Why's Brittana with Daya?” She asked Anya as she saw them approaching.

Anya was okay but she had broken her left hand and it was in a cast.

“I dunno what's up with them." She clearly added uninterested.

“Just ignore if Daya says hi, we respond if not, we walk away,” Myra added.

“Hey Narcia, I hope you're better now. Sorry I couldn't come to see you at the hospital.” She said.

“It's fine, I'm getting better.” She fake smiled at her.

“I'd see you around.” She said as they walked past them leaving Brittana shocked as to how Reign completely ignored her like a plague.

Daya smirked as she looked at her companion's expression.

By the time i'm done with you Britt, you won't know what hit you. Daya thought to herself.

“I can't believe he didn't even say hi to me, I mean how could he?” Brittana continued to rant.

“Maybe, he discovered you lied to him or someone else told him you were lying about Narcia to him.” suggested as she walked off leaving her confused.

“But wait up!” Britt called after Daya who was almost at the entrance of the cafeteria.

“I can't believe that she was once my best friend in high school,” Zöe told Marcy.

“Really, was she as horrible as this or worse?” March asked digging for information for her friend.

“She was worse and had no regard for people, she always followed Reign around like a lost puppy, in the end, he chose Narcia over her. I won't be surprised if she's the one behind Narcia's and Anya's accident. She's capable of it.” Zöe finally said.

“Jay, I'm fine and I'm not stressing myself. I don't need a bodyguard, we've got the guys.” Narcia tried convincing her brother.

“I'm not taking no for an answer, in fact, he's already been hired.” He stated as a matter of fact.

“Okay, Jay. I hope he won't be following us around like a stray dog.” She asked.

“No, he won't.” He assured.

“Whatever you say Jayden,” Narcia added.

“How's Anya's arm?” He asked. “It's gradually healing.” She added looking at her sleeping friend.

“I hope Courtney's fine and not worrying too much?” She inquired knowing how much of a worrywart her sister-in-law was.

“She's fine,” Jayden added.

“She's just worried about you girls, we all are.” He admitted.

“Jay, we're fine and would be fine don't you worry. Now shoo, you have work to do.” Narcia added.

“Alright pumpkin, take care.” Jay hung up.

“Hey, how long have you been here?” She asked Axel and Zaid who were seated on the couch in their room.

“I guess you didn't hear us come since you were busy talking to Jay.” Axel teased.

“You guys don't have to check on us every minute. We'd be fine.” Narcia assured as there was a knock on her bedroom door.

“Come in.” She called just as Isla entered the room.

“Hi, babe,” Isla said as she sat on Axel's laps.

“What the heck, when did that happen?” Anya asked rubbing her eyes trying to wipe off the sleep.

“A few days back,” Axel admitted rubbing his neck.

“And you didn't think to let us know?” Narcia asked the couple.

“We planned to tell you guys,” Isla added.

“When?” Said asked finding the whole thing amusing.

“Urgh, is this an interrogation or what?” Axel groaned as his friends burst out into laughter.

“How's your arm, Anya?” Isla asked her friend.

“It's healing gradually.” She smiled.

“Anyways, we brought lunch, so you girls eat lunch and then take your drugs...no buts,” Zaid added with finality in his voice.

“Yes, dad.” Anya teased as Isla set a tray of McDonald's before them.

“Where are Myra and Zhavia, it's like we haven't hung out with those two for ages,” Narcia added.

“They've gone to the mall with Sean and Xavier, they went to get stuff for the house,” Axel added stealing a fry from Anya's plate. They had run out of groceries and some toiletries so they decided to go since it was a Saturday.

“Reign said he'd be here later in the day to check on you, I met him when I was coming here,” Isla added as Narcia blushed.

“You're blushing,” Anya added.

“No, I'm not.” She defended.

“You are too,” Anya said.

“I'm not.” Narcia insisted.

“You--” Urgh, you guys gonna go on and on with this?” Zaid asked clearly bored.

“Shut up Zaid,” Narcia said throwing a pillow to his head as she held her head in pain.

“Woah, you hit me with a pillow and now you're holding yours in pain?” He asked.

“My head hurts, ” She said relaxing on her bed.

She had remembered when Reign got missing for a whole month and later apologised and asked for her forgiveness.

“Are you okay?” Isla asked worriedly as they neared her bed.

“I'm fine.” She smiled assuring them.

Axel handed her drugs and a glass of water as she took them.

“You need rest, get some we'd come and check on you later.” He added as she pulled her blanket over her and her friends left the room including Anya.

Do I reallto remember those memories I shared with Reign?

What if they hurt?

What if they didn't end well?

I don't want to remember I'd rather prefer new ones with him.

Baby steps Narcia, baby steps. She said to herself as she dozed off into la-la land.

Chapter 24.

Listen up everyone, there's something you need to know about your wanna-be queen B," Daya said smirking at an utterly confused Brittana.

She had been waiting for this day for years and finally, that day had come. Adrenaline pumped through her as people gathered round to listen to her.

"My name is Daya Collarad and I'm here to seek justice for my brother Mason." She added as Brittana's face paled.

"Make sure Brittana, doesn't in." She added as Brittana was about sneaking out. The jocks held her in time before she disappeared into the crowd.

"What's going on here?" Anya asked as they joined the crowd.

"Daya says she's getting justice for Mason, whoever that is I think Brittana's involved." A random student added as Anya and her friends pushed forward until they were in front.

Daya smiled down at them as she proceeded. "Mason Collarad was the best big brother and a best friend one could ever have. He was sweet, caring and loving. He was always there for me and his friends. But all that changed when he met Brittana. He claimed it was love at first sight." She sighed.

"He stopped hanging out with his friends and started to put up a different behaviour, my parents were worried but they thought it was adolescence that had set in. His best friend, Narcia Daniels was affected by it the most since their relationship was crumbling. But when he invited her to a party, she was excited because she thought Mason was back. They went to the party and he ditched her for Brittana. Narcia decided to go out and get fresh air, He saw her and went after her leaving an angry Brittana who was tipsy behind. Brittana was jealous so she immediately got in her car and driving at top speed with the hopes of hitting Narcia, but unfortunately..." She wiped the tears off her eyes.

"It hit my brother. As soon as she saw that, she fled leaving Narcia and unconscious Mason behind. Narcia managed to call an ambulance to take Mason to the hospital, then she called my parents and me. When we got there, they had operated on him and he was okay, that's when mom asked him all that happened and he narrated this whole story to us. Unfortunately, he had an arrest and then it was too late he was gone." Her voice quavered.

"His best friend didn't get the chance to say goodbye, she didn't get that closure because she arrived too late. The case went to court and because of this Bitch's parents money, they declared her a free person. She got to walk out free while we suffered emotional trauma. I and my parents had to leave town for a fresh start."

“But I vowed to expose her, I vowed to make her life miserable and as we're speaking the cops are on their way. She was the one behind Anya and Narcia's attack, don't know why she did that or who asked her to do that. By the way, daddy dearest can't do anything because you'd both meet in jail. Where you belong.” Daya added as she got down from the table and hugged Narcia.

“He'd be proud of you, now you can move on with life without any hatred,” Narcia added as the cops took a protesting Brittana away.

“Jay, Brittana was the one who attacked us, but I think there was someone behind it,” Narcia told looking at the faces of her friends.

“You think it’s uncle Roland? He asked through the phone looking at his wife.

“Yes, I don’t know how or what he might have promised her to do that this but her close friend just told the entire school and the cops are here as well.” She continued

“Is Myra fine?” He asked knowing how she could relate to the news.

“She’s fine.” Narcia said looking at her cousin.

“You girls stat safe, we'd take care of this issue, I promise we will.Uoure almost done with school, just finish well.” He consulted his sister.

“Thanks, Jay you’ve been the best brother one could ask for, I love you.” She told.

“I love you too Pumpkin, be safe.” He said dropping the call.

Chapter 25.

A few years later...

The case you brought to court is not strong enough to prove that the McClellan's and the Reynolds are to be blamed for the attack on Miss Daniels and Miss McClellan, I thereby pronounce them not guilty." The judge declared hitting his gavel.

Myra's Parents and Anya's parents smiled at them while they walked away.

"Stupid children, thinking you can take us on. How foolish can you be? We run this town and everyone I mean everyone knows that. You better watch your backs, you don't know what might hit you." Myra's dad said to Jayden and his wife as he walked off.

"They're seriously going to take his side?" Myra burst out in anger.

"I'm sorry Myra, but the judge has spoken." A five-month pregnant Courtney said patting her shoulder.

"I would reopen this case if it's the last thing I do." She added determined.

Present time

Jayden and Courtney had a cute baby girl who was a year and a month old. They named her Aly Aura Daniels. Anya was now a medical doctor, she and Zaid we're still going strong. Narcia was a psychologist and worked in the same hospital as Anya. Her relationship with Reign had blossomed into a beautiful one.

After the whole Brittana incidence, his relationship with Narcia took a different turn. It blossomed into a beautiful one.

Zaid was running his own business which had grown into one of the biggest, Zhavia was a Human Resource officer in Zaid's company, She and Sean had parted ways before they graduated college, Sean had moved on but Zhavia claimed she wasn't ready for another relationship.

Myra was one of the best lawyers in town, though she and Xavier were no longer an item. She caught him cheating with another woman and they broke up instantly.

Isla, was a renowned writer while Axel was a radiologist in the same hospital as Anya and Narcia. They had a cute baby girl and were set to get married soon since Axel had proposed marriage.

Kayla was a cute 10-year-old girl who had grown to love her dad and Narcia that much. She had accepted her as her mother until *Marcy* came and started to demand custody over her.

“There's no way I would ever get back together with you, we would meet in the courtroom." Reign said to her through the phone the night she claimed she wanted them to come back as a couple.

Since Reign outright rejected the offer, she decided to take the matter to court, just to spite him. It wasn't as if she wanted the child to herself.

“Miss Brittana, today you walk out as a free woman. Go out and sin no more.” The judge added as the police released the cuffs off her hands.

She smiled as she smelt fresh air. It had been 5 years since she was thrown into jail by Daya Collarad. She was to serve a jail sentence of 25 years, but due to her changed attitude, when she served 5 years, she was pardoned by the government and set free.

I deserved every bit of it. She thought to herself. She had applied to the police force long before the whole incident. She opened the door to her old house. Her mom had left town to live her own life leaving father and daughter to their fate.

She picked up her laptop and checked for e-mail. Fortunately for her, a mail had come in three days back accepting her into the police academy. She wouldn't have been accepted due to her criminal record but her uncle pulled some strings for her and threatened to throw her out if she misbehaves.

She was going into the police force to take revenge on those who paid her off to almost kill Anya and Narcia and then left her in jail to suffer. *It was time they paid.* She thought to herself.

“Hi babe, how did court go today?” Narcia asked Reign as he walked into her office.

“The case is getting tougher, they want to give custody of Kayla to her, I think she's pulled some strings.” Reign sighed.

“Its gonna be alright, we're not losing our baby to her. There's gonna be a way .” Narcia assured rubbing her hands on his.

“I hope so, there's going to be a change of judges, let's see how that goes.” He added.

“Hello, how may I help you?” Daya said through the phone in the office.

“Your honour, you've been selected to substitute Judge Nicol on the case of Reign and Marcy for the custody of their daughter.” The secretary spoke.

“When is the next hearing?” She asked smiling. “That would be next week Tuesday.” She said.

“I'm sorry, by then I wouldn't be in town, get someone else.” She stated. She had to be there for Mindy's high school graduation. There was no way she was missing that.

“Thanks, ma'am, we'd get a replacement.” The lady added.

“Okay, do so, but I may pass by during the hearing that's if the case isn't over when I do so.” She assured.

“Okay.” The secretary added as she hung up.

“Come in" Daya added as Myra entered.

“Your honour." She greeted sitting down.

“Lawyer Myra, what a pleasant surprise,” Daya added offering her some juice.

“The pleashere’s mine.” She said.

“To what do owe this visit?” Daya asked.

“I need your help in opening a case that was closed 6 years ago.” She added as she handed over the document.

“Ah, the McClellan's and the Reynolds Vs the Daniels,” Daya smirked.

“Yes, I need your help putting those drug dealers behind bars and need them to be proved guilty of hiring Brittana for attempted murder.” She added.

“This case seems pretty interesting, I'm in, but you know we need the culprit, Brittana, right?” Daya added.

“Of course, last I heard she's been released and she's training as a CID,” Myra added.

“Yes, She's almost done and when she's done then it's time to pay an old friend a visit,” Daya smirked.

“I'm glad I could count on you,” Myra added as she stood up and walked away.

They would not know what hit them. She giggled.

Chapter 26.

“Hey, how far with Reign's case?" Axel asked Narcia as he entered her office.

“It's getting tougher by the day Xel." Narcia sighed.

“It's going to be fine, no one is going to take your baby girl away from you. No one." He assured.

“Thanks, how's Isla, it's been a while I saw her?" She asked.

“She's fine, just caught up with book signings and book events. It's been a while the gang hung out, how about a getaway this weekend?" He suggested.

“That's not a bad idea though, I'd check in with the rest of the gang then get back to you before Friday," Narcia added as Anya walked in

“Check in on what, Hey Dr Axel," Anya asked and greeted.

“Hi, Dr McClellan, we were just thinking about a getaway this weekend for the whole gang, just to release stress and catch up." He added.

“That sounds fun, I'm in. I'd let Zaid and Zhavia know and get back to you guys." She added.

“Cool, I'd let Isla, Sean and Xavier also know and Narcia you tell Myra and Reign and then let's start planning," Axel added.

“Alright guys, but I have a patient to attend to, so I'd see you soon." She said as Anya and Axel left her office.

“Hey, mom, " Kayla greeted Narcia as she entered the house. "Hi baby, how was school today?" She smiled.

"It was good, I made a new friend today, she's new to our school." Kayla beamed as she hurried to her room. She knew Narcia wasn't her mom but she had grown to love her as her mom since her biological wanted nothing to do with her.

“Hey, babe." Reign came in a few minutes later.

“Hi, you look stressed." She added.

“I am stressed." He added as Narcia brought him a glass of juice and a piece of his favourite velvet cake. She had lowered the pot of meatball sauce and pasta she was preparing for dinner.

“How about a getaway this Friday with the gang, so we can release stress. It's been long we hung out." Narcia suggested.

“It's a nice idea, but what about Kayla and Frankie where would they stay?” He asked.

“Jay and Courtney's, they'd love to have them around." Narcia suggested.

“Besides Zara came down to take care of the newborn twins, so having the girls around to play with Aly, would be no problem for them." She convinced.

“Okay, I'm in, if you say so. A break from all this would be quite fun." He reasoned kissing her.

“Hey Myra, how are you doing ?” Narcia asked her cousin.

“I'm good Sis, just stressed from work." She added rubbing her temples.

“Aren't we all?" She rhetorically asked.

“Well, the gang decided on a weekend getaway, so are you in?" Narcia inquired.

“When are we going?" Myra perked up.

“We'd leave on Friday." She replied.

“I'm in, a little fun won't hurt right?" She asked.

“How's the case going, Kayla's custody?" She inquired from her cousin.

“Not too good Myra, Marcy is just doing this to spite us, but the next hearing would be on Tuesday. I just hope we gain custody of Kayla, I can't bear to lose my baby." Narcia added.

“Don't worry Narcia, everything would be fine," Myra stated as they talked for a while before dropping the call.

Narcia sent a message to Anya telling her that Myra and Reign were interested. Anya replied saying the whole gang was in and that she'd give her more details when she comes back from her night shift.

Chapter 27.

“Hey Aly, where's mom and dad?" Narcia asked as she entered her old home with Reign, Frankie and Kayla. Axel had dropped Frankie off at Narcia's place before he headed for work.

They decided to bring the kids to Jay's place on Thursday evening because they would be leaving early the next morning on their trip.

“We are here pumpkin," Jay called from the parlour where he was giving his wife a foot massage. Aly took Kayla and Frankie up to her room to show her the new stuff her dad had gotten her.

“Hey, Courtney." Narcia hugged her.

“Hi Jay, Hi Courtney," Reign added sitting down.

“Y'all looked stressed," Zara added bringing them tubs of ice cream.

“Thanks, Zara, how's Chole doing?" Narcia started small talk.

“She's fine, enjoying high school and all." She added as he left to check in the twins.

“How's the case man?" Jay asked Reign.

“It's not going well at all, Marcy just wants to spite me, that's all she wants to do. She doesn't love Kayla." Reign added rubbing his temple.

“Take it easy, Reign it's all going to be fine," Courtney assured.

“I think this trip would do you guys good, y'all deserve a break from all this," Jay added as they caught up with old times.

Reign, Isla, Anya, Zaid, Narcia, Axel, Sean, Zhavia and Xavier stood around Reign's house waiting for Myra. She claimed she was caught up in a traffic jam and would be there soon.

“I'm pretty excited about this trip." Zhavia squealed like a 17-year-old girl.

“We all are Zhav, we need this," Xavier said to his twin as Myra parked her car in the garage. They were taking the SUV since their luggage would ft in.

The had planned to go to the Bahamas, Daniel's penthouse where Jay and Courtney married.

“Finally, Myra, Finally," Anya added as the whole squad burst into laughter.

They put their luggage into the trunk of the car and then Narcia drove off to the airport. They parked the car and then their baggage was put into Reign's private jet as they all entered.

“This is wow!" Isla added as she sat by the window.

“Bahamas baby!" Zaid exclaimed popping a bottle of champagne.

“I've missed all this," Myra added in between giggles.

The jet landed and then the guys took their luggage and stood out of the airport as the butler stood outside waiting for them with a sign held up that read "Daniel's." Narcia and her friends immediately headed towards him and piled into the car as he drove off.

“Welcome home, Miss Narcia." The caretaker said as they entered the house.

“Everyone can choose the room that they want to stay in," Narcia stated as Reign helped her with their luggage upstairs to their room.

Narcia wore her hottest bum shorts and then her transparent nightwear over it. She leaned by the window still looking into the night. The waves of the sea crushed creating a cool and serene atmosphere.

“Babe, where's my coffee?" Reign asked wiping his wet hair. He wore his grey joggers that hung loosely around his waist showing his V-lines.

“It's on the table, " She replied sipping her juice.

“A penny for your thoughts?" Reign asked standing closely behind her.

“I am just enjoying the view out there." She added bending further making her ass brush against his groin.

“Okay, " He said huskily as Narcia smirked. Reign moved from her side to put his mug down and check his mail. Narcia stood for some minutes then gulped down her drink.

She bent down seductively and placed her glass on the table but Reign didn't seem to notice as his concentration was on his phone.

Steamy Scene

“Babe, I'm bored." She said as she sat on his laps and started to grind on him. His breath hitched as Narcia turned to face him taking his phone from his hands. She dipped her head down and kissed him. The kiss was soft at first then it turned to a rough one as he laid her on the bed.

“You look hot." His whispered as he took off her nightie and then reaching for a condom in the drawer. He tore opened the condom and rolled it on while he looked deep into her eyes.

He thrust into her as she let out a cry of pain and pleasure. The walls of her room were soundproof so no one could hear their moans. After a while, the pain turned into pleasure. They enjoyed their sex-filled night as they explored different sexual positions understanding their bodies more.

Narcia lay on the bed feeling sore from lovemaking. “Are you okay?" Reign asked as he lay naked beside her.

“I feel sore." She murmured.

He wore his shorts as he headed to the kitchen to get her a mug of hot chocolate with marshmallows floating at the top. “Here you go, this would make you feel better." He said handing over the mug to her.

"Thanks, love," Narcia added as she sipped the hot chocolate. Reign headed to the bathroom to fix a warm bath for her. He added a bath bomb to the water. It had a mint and coconut scent.

“Babe, your bath is ready." He called Narcia wore her bathrobe and then entered the bathroom. She took off her robe as she sat in the bath relaxing at once.

“Join me, babe." She told Reign as he took off his shorts and then entered the bath.

“This is heavenly." Narcia moaned as Reign smiled at her. He was glad they were able to fix things back in college. He was thankful for the accident she had unless he wouldn't have been sitting in a bath with the love of his life.

“I love you." He said after a while.

“I love you too babe, I always will." She replied taking his hands into his.

Chapter 28.

Reign and Narcia joined the rest of the gang at the breakfast table.

“Good morning." The greeted.

“Morning," Zaid replied.

“Where are the girls?" Narcia asked to no one in particular.

“In here!" Zhavia called as Narcia filled the sound of her voice to the kitchen. It smelled heavenly. There were scrambled eggs, muffins, bacon and ham.

“Morning sleepyhead, " Myra teased as Narcia grinned.

“What can I do to help?" She asked.

“You can make a pot of fresh coffee," Isla implied as Narcia got to work.

Within a couple of minutes, the coffee was ready and then she sent it to the table. Anya and Myra brought the rest of the food to the table.

The girls went out to the beach after they had cleared the table, done the dishes and then had their showers.

“I feel it's been like forever since we hung," Isla added.

“Actually, it has, we've all been busy with our lives, yet none of us is married except Isla who is yet to," Myra added.

“Yh.” Anya sighed.

“Life happened guys, life happened," Zhavia said sipping her mocktail.

“This is nice, we ought to do this sometime, only us ladies," Isla added.

“Whenever you girls are ready," Narcia said as they sat down recalling the good old days.

“Miss Brittana." Her name was mentioned as she received her certificate. “Congratulations, welcome to the force." The Chief said.

“Thanks, Chief." She smirked. After the ceremony, she had a call from Daya, she was hesitant to answer but she did anyway.

“Hello, old friend, long time no see," Daya added smirking. She had left town to go see her daughter and be there for her at her graduation.

“Hey, Daya what do you want?" Britt asked.

“I need to see you, there's a case we want to reopen and we need your help." She stated.

“Who's we and what case?" She inquired moving away from the noise.

“I and Myra Reynolds, the McClellan's and Reynolds, Vs the Daniel's," Daya said as Brittana chuckled.

“I'm in on this case." She added as adrenaline pumped through her veins.

“I knew I could count on you." Daya confided.

“Those motherfuckers have to pay, and they are going to pay dearly," Britt told.

“I'm out of town when I get back we'd meet, see you soon Britt." Daya hung up.

“My first assignment and boy, am I going to love it." She smirked walking back into the ceremony.

“Its time we showed Mr and Mrs Daniels, who's boss." Mr Reynolds said to Sam, Anya's father.

“They won't know what hit them." He said taking a drag from his cigarette.

“They've taken us granted for far too long, let's see how they'd like it when their kids pay grandpa dearest, a nice little visit," Sam said with a sly glint in his eyes.

“I'm fucking sure they'd love it here." He spat as his eyes turned cold.

Narcia sat amongst the court in the crowd as the hearing was ongoing and it wasn't going so well because it was going against Reign. She couldn't bear to see him lose his daughter, it would crush him. Just as the judge was about to hit his gavel to give his judgement, Daya entered the court and headed up to where the judge was sitting as she sat beside him.

“This woman doesn't deserve the child, I know her too well, she just wants to break Reign because he never wanted her back in college, so I rule in favour of Reign Clarkin, you have full custody of Kayla Clarkin and a restraining order for Miss Marcy if she's seen two inches close to your daughter alert the police." She hit the gavel as the case was dismissed.

Reign was excited as he run to hug Narcia. “ I'm glad all this is over." He added.

Brittana waited for Daya in her office as she took her surroundings in. She had done well for herself and she was proud of her.

“Ah, nice to have you hear, Miss Coleson," Daya added as she sat down.

“The pleasure's all mine," Britt answered.

“Sorry I'm late, I had to take care of some business, anyways someone would be joining us if you don't mind," Daya added as she gave her a mug of coffee.

“I don't." She sipped her coffee.

A while later, Myra entered Daya's office. “Sorry, I'm late." She sheepishly said.

“That's fine, have a seat," Daya added.

“Now, to the case onboard, Britt we need your help to reopen the M&R vs Daniel's case. We know they threatened Mrs Daniels at her wedding and a few days later, you almost killed Anya and Narcia, per their orders." Myra spoke.

“So how do I come in?" Britt asked.

“We need you to find a way to get back in the gang, to be our spy," Daya added as Britt smirked.

I was going to take revenge on them anyways. She thought to herself.

“Alright, I have a pretty easy way of getting in, they owed my dad a ton of money, I know they'd threaten to kill me if I use that to blackmail them, but, there's a gang that's deadlier than theirs and my dad was a member so they dare not touch his baby, with that I can get back in and get information for you," Britt said.

“Fantastic, so when you're about going let us know," Daya said.

“I will." She said as she walked out of the office leaving Myra and Daya.

“How would we know if she's loyal?" Myra asked.

“Well, if there is one thing she doesn't joke with, its loyalty and I installed a tracking device onto her phone." She replied as Myra nodded.

“I'm happy for you guys, finally the case is over and you won," Anya said to Narcia.

“I'm glad we did, I don't know what would have happened if we lost." She sighed.

Chapter 29.

Zara felt as if she was being followed as she entered the shop with Aly. She had picked her up from school and decided to grab a few things from the supermarket.

Wierd. She thought to herself every time she turned and saw no one. She held Aly tightly and closer to her. After she had paid for the stuff she hurried into the car with Aly and drove off, heaving a sigh of relief.

That was a close one. She thought to herself. The stalker smirked and then walked to the black van that was parked along the sidewalk.

“You targetted our victim?" A voice asked through the speakers.

“Yes Sir, I have." The man said.

“Good, I'd let you know when to strike." The voice said again as the van drove off.

When they got home, Zara locked all the doors as Jay descended the staircase.

“Hey." He startled her.

“Relax Zara, it's just me...what's the matter?" He asked.

“Someone was following us," Aly said shocking her nanny.

“You felt it too?" She asked the little girl who nodded her head vigorously.

“I thought I was paranoid or something." She relaxed as Aly climbed up to her room.

“Did you girls see the person?" Jay asked Zara.

“No, no we didn't." She answered carrying the groceries to the kitchen.

“Maybe there was no one, it was just a feeling." Jay brushed it under the carpet as Zara looked at him quizzically.

“But Jay--" “But nothing Zara." He cut her off as he unlocked all the doors and walked out.

Zara shrugged and then continued with what she was doing.

“How dare she, fuck..I was in the middle of winning this case!" Marcy said throwing a glass on the wall as it shattered into tiny pieces.

“This isn't over Reign Clarkin, it ain't over at all." She said with a smirk and an evil glint in her eyes.

Zhavia sat at the coffee shop sipping her coffee and reflected on her life. All her friends had men in their lives except her and Myra who wasn't interested in dating at the moment. She wasn't

getting any younger at all. Sean had moved on with his life, he was engaged to Zoë, the girl he cheated on her with.

“Can I join you?" A male husky voice said. She looked up and saw a fine gentleman starring at her and waiting for her answer.

“So can I?" He asked again.

“Oh, sure my bad. Of course, you can." She said as he sat down.

“I'm Jose Miguel and you?" He asked in a sexy Spanish accent.

“Zhavia." She replied smiling.

“It's nice to meet you, Jose Miguel." She added.

“The pleasure is mine." He responded.

“So why is a beautiful damsel like you sitting here alone?" He tried starting a conversation.

“Well, I came here to get coffee, I'm on a lunch break." She replied.

“Okay, anyway I was wondering if you'd like to go for lunch tomorrow?" He asked.

“Hmm, are you asking me out on a date?" She answered with a question.

“Well, it's just- I was just-- oh fuck it, yes I am." He added making Zhavia giggle.

“Okay then, let's meet here tomorrow, same time so you can take me out on your date." Zhavia teased handing him her contact number.

“Fine by me," Jose said.

“I gotta head back to the office, it was nice meeting you Jose Miguel." She said getting up.

“Okay, Zhavia, see you tomorrow." He added as she left the shop smiling.

It wasn't a bad break after all. She thought to herself as she sat in her car and drove off to the office.

Aly, Frankie and Kayla stood at the parking lot waiting for their parents to come to pick them up.

“I'd talk to my mom, she might allow me to come over," Aly said to Frankie. Kayla was busy on her phone and hadn't recognized her surroundings until two masked men in black carried Aly and Frankie. She tried to scream for help, but another man carried her as she tries to break free from his grasp. She managed to send a message to Narcia just before her phone was destroyed.

Narcia emerged from Anya's office as her phone lit up signalling a text message from Kayla. Her heart dropped as she read the message. She let out a gut-wrenching scream before collapsing on the floor. The last thing she heard was footsteps.

Aly, Frankie and Kayla were locked up in a small room. They tried screaming for help but to no avail. Kayla climbed the bed and tried peeping out, all she saw were trees which had surrounded them.

I hope mom got my message. She silently prayed. Narcia sat on the bed hugging her knees as her boyfriend, brother and a best friend tried making calls. Isla rushed into the hospital as soon as she heard. A nurse directed her to where her friends had gathered.

Axel threw his phone across the hall in rage. His baby girl was out there somewhere and, he had no idea how to find her.

“Babe," Isla called as he walked towards her and hugged her.

“We'd find her." She whispered into his ears.

Courtney sat beside her sister, she felt numb.

Where was her baby?

Was she hungry?

Was she cold?

Was she safe?

Those were the questions running through her mind as the others panicked.

“The police are on it, you guys clearly," Myra said as she walked in with Zhavia.

“Why didn't I believe them?" Jayden said all of a sudden.

“Believe who?" His sister asked.

“Aly and Zara, they told me someone was following them a couple of days back, and I didn't believe it. I told them it was all in their head." He slid down the hospital walls.

Just when everything started to look bright for everyone, then this comes in? Narcia asked herself.

Chapter 30.

Myra walked a little further from the crowd and called Daya.

“I heard the news, I saw it on TV." She said as she picked up knowing what Myra was going to say.

“But do you think it's them?" Daya asked.

“Of course it is. You've got to find a way to ask Britt if the kids are safe and what the next move is." Myra said to her.

“Okay, I will even though I doubt it. I know they have a problem with Jay and his family but Axel and Isla, how do they come in?" Daya questioned.

“Frankie was just at the wrong place at the wrong time, a victim of chance," Myra explained to her.

“Okay, I'd call you up if I hear anything from her." Daya hung up.

“You and Amy take care of those brats, that way it can prove your loyalty." Mr Reynolds said to her.

“I can handle them alone, I don't need Amy." She said.

“Good, I didn't want to work with this bitch anyways." Amy huffed as she walked off.

“Whatever, Coleson, just take care of those brats until we get our money." He barked and walked away.

You won't know what hit you, you fool. She smirked to herself as she entered the room where the kids were.

“Shhh, she calmed them down, I won't hurt you." She said to them.

“We wanna go home!" They yelled at her.

“Calm down, you'd get out soon." She whispered to him.

“When?" Kayla whispered back.

“Quite soon." She smiled at them handing them the MacDonald's she got for them.

She took her phone out and sent a message to Daya, telling her the kids were safe and she was able to get back into the gang.

Narcia and her friends and family left the hospital to their various homes with the hope of hearing good news the next day.

“Hey, we'd find her," Isla said a heartbroken Axel.

“Why would anyone want to harm her, why?" He asked frustrated. He felt he was in a tight corner and there was nothing he could do.

“In this world, there are fucked up people who just do things without realising they are hurting others." She told.

“She's a strong girl, we'd find her." She consoled.

“I really hope we do, I miss her." He sighed hugging his fianceé.

“Reign you need some sleep," Narcia said touching his shoulder.

“Does she have a hand in this? Because she lost the case she took her away" He added.

“I don't know if she does, and I don't think she does." She told.

“Then who would have?" He loudly said.

“Maybe those who attacked you long ago in high school when you got missing for about a month." She said shocking him that she recalled.

“You might have a point there, It may be Rahul and his boss, the one who owned a drug cartel." He said.

“Wait, wait did you say drug cartel?" Narcia got up from the bed and paced around.

“Yes, why?" He inquired.

“My uncle and Anya's parents run that cartel." She dropped the bombshell.

“No, no, no, no, No!" Reign let out.

“I know where that cartel is and they may not be there." He added.

“Of course, they'd be dumb to take them there," Narcia added checking the time. It was 1:30 pm in the morning and they both had work in a couple of hours.

“Babe, we need to rest, for now, later in the morning you contact Edwardo, he might find a way to help." She suggested.

He had long forgotten that he had people who could help him locate the girls especially Edwardo.

“Alright, babe, goodnight." He told her as he cuddled next to her hoping for good news later in the day.

It had been three weeks since the girls got missen and the police hadn't found anything about their whereabouts. Jay sat on his office chair as he starred out of the window wondering what or how the girls felt.

“Hey Nephew." His uncle said face timing him. “What do you want Reynolds?" He spat.

“Say hi to your baby" He added as he showed the phone up to Aly's face. The great of the girls were asleep except Aly.

“Baby, are you fine?" He asked.

“I wanna come, home dad." She yelled as his uncle took the phone from her.

“What do you want?" Jay said.

“I want ownership to the wine industry or, you never see her again." His uncle added.

“You have 24 hours and no police or, you'd find their dead bodies. Do not underestimate me." The man stated as he hung up.

“Got it." He said to no one in particular. He had recorded the conversation he was having with his uncle on phone.

“So how are we going to get the girls back?" Myra asked Britt on phone.

“The gang is expecting a drug consignment today, Mr Reynolds called Jay to bring the documents of the wine industry tomorrow, he's going to sell it and then share the money amongst them. Tell Jay not to do anything stupid. I've sent a message to my partner, he's the only one who knows about this. He's going to disguise himself as one of those bringing in the consignment, so by the time they get there, other cops would have surrounded the building in disguise as well, then we take over from there." She explained.

“Okay, I'm counting on you Britt, if this backfires, you're going down too," Myra said as she hung up. Britt came out of her car and entered her building, planning on what next to do.

“Jay, I've been trying to get you on the phone where have you been?" Myra asked as he finally picked up.

“I was driving to the police station, Reynolds has the kids." He told

“Jay, wait don't go, you'd ruin everything, drive by my office as soon as possible, " She said to him as she hung up.

Jay reserved his car and then drove to his cousin's office. He was wondering why she had asked him not to go to the police.

“Sir, the consignment is almost here, the guys are bringing it from the port." One of his men said.

“Thanks, Rahul has your guy sent the money yet?" He asked referring to Reign.

“No, not yet." He answered.

“This guy is testing our patience, how about Courtney's husband, any news?" Sam asked.

“I haven't heard a word from him, besides he's got until tomorrow to send the documents else he loses his child," Reynolds added.

“I'm here Myra, what have you got ?"Jay asked as he spotted Reign and Axel in her office.

“Well, we've got an insider, she's a cop and has gotten a hand on this. Besides Reign's men have also gotten a hand on this.

“So, you said, I sit and wait." He questioned.

“Yes, let's wait." She good him as she opened the tracker to Britt's phone on her laptop.

The consignment had arrived and the police and Reign's men were these who had it delivered. Reynolds didn't know his men that much so he didn't care whoever they were all he cared about was that his consignment was in.

“Sir, the girls aren't in their room, their gone," Amy said to him.

“What? Where's Coleson?" He barked.

“In here, Sir." She smirked.

“Where are they?" He asked taking dangerous steps towards her.

“On their way to their parents." She boldly said.

“What, you betrayed us and sold us out?" He spat.

“Oooh, talk about betrayal Reynolds, You and he betrayed me. You set me up to a task and let me rot in jail for 5 fucking years. You're going down." She said as he pulled a gun and pointed it up to her face.

“Wrong move Reynolds, wrong move." She said as the police pulled out their guns and pointed them to Reynolds and his men.

“Fire!" Sam shouted as the shoot out began.

Sam and Reynolds were about escaping as two policemen got a hold of them.

“What's going on here?" Mrs Reynolds asked as Mrs McClellan was about escaping.

“No, you don't, it's game over bitch." Britt said slapping the woman across the face.

“That's payback for the slap you gave me years back." She said.

“I could pay you millions to let me go, start up a new life and leave town, better still enjoy life." She begged.

“Ob no you don't, I begged you, to bail me out, to help me get out, but what did you say, you told me it's my fault I got into that mess, so I should deal with it, it's game over." She said as she handcuffed her.

Amy walked behind Britt quietly and pulled her gun about shooting her as a gunshot was heard at the background as Amy fell unto the floor. Rahul had shot her just before she was about shooting Britt. They took Mr Reynolds and his cohorts in the police car as they drove them to the station.

The policemen lead the kids into Myra's office as they run to their parents.

“Frankie, are you hurt?" He asked hugging her tight.

“I'm fine dad, the nice lady took care of us." She said.

“Which nice lady?" He asked looking at Myra.

“An old friend." She smiled at them.

“Hi," Britt said through the phone.

“Hey, good job," Daya added.

“Thanks, Daya, I hope you find it in your heart to forgive me for what I did to your family, I wish there was a way I could pay," Britt said.

“It's fine Britt, you're a good woman. Deep down your bitter soul, you're a good woman, I've forgiven you, so forgive yourself and live life to the fullest. You deserve it." She said.

“Thanks, Daya, for everything, you're a good friend. Maybe we'd go get some coffee sometime." She stated as she hung up.

“Mom," Kayla said as she run to hug Narcia.

“Baby, I'm glad you're safe." She said hugging her tight.

Chapter 31.

Epilogue

“Hey mom, hey dad." Kayla greeted as she entered. “Hey, babe, how was the last day of Sophomore in high school like?" Reign asked his daughter.

“It was fun, in fact awesome." She grinned.

“Where are the pumpkins?" She asked referring to the triplets. Narcia and Reign had married a year after Myra won the case against her parents and Anya's parents.

Along the line, Narcia got pregnant and gave birth to triplets. Two boys and a girl. They were both protective of her even though she was the eldest. Their names were, Lois, Lex and Logan.

Anya and Zaid got married before Narcia and Reign, they had two kids Kaia and Mason, they were adorable little kids.

Frankie was in high school with Aly, freshmen, Isla and Axel had married and Isla was expecting another child. She had complications after Frankie. So she was grateful and glad she was pregnant with another child.

Jay's twins were entering middle school in the coming year, Aly was in high school with Frankie, they had grown to be best of friends.

Zhavia and Myra still weren't in any relationship after they broke off with Sean and Xavier respectively. Sean had married Zoe, for Xavier he hadn't yet settled down. He claimed he wasn't ready for commitment.

“Hey, guys we've been through a lot, looking from where we came from and where we are now," Anya stated. They had gone to Jay's house for a barbeque party he was throwing on Christmas Eve.

Zara and Chloe couldn't make it but they sent their love and greetings to all of them. Chloe was almost done with her catering course. She had studied to become a caterer. She grew up to love cooking and baking, thus she pursued her dreams and was almost done with school. Everything else had been sorted out for her by Jay, he was building a restaurant cum café for her as a graduation gift.

“You're right Anya, this thing called love, is a whole mood on its own, but I'm glad we survived it." Courtney hugged her sister.

THE END.

A/N

Hi guys, So Narcia and Reign's love story has come to an end. So as Jay, Courtney, Anya, Zaid, Sean, Zoe, Isla and Axel.

But what about Zhavia, Myra, Xavier, Daya and Britt?

Their love stories won't be left out. So, the sequel of that thing called love continues from the next chapter that I would be updating, I felt it would be better for me that way instead of writing the sequel on its own.

So, let's see if they would find love or they would grow old with 99 cats and live in a small apartment, regretting... 😋

Oh, and Narcia and her friends, as well as their kids, would feature in the sequel.

Sneak peek.

“Ms Britt Coleson, this is your new colleague, Mr Fidel Armando. You both would be working together on cases until whatever." The chief of police announced as he gave Fidel his badge.

“Hi." He said in a strong sexy voice.

“Hello, pleased to work with you," Britt said as she withdrew her hand from his. A surge of electricity ran through her veins making her retrieve her hand in haste.

“Zhavia darling, I'm glad you could make it." Jose Miguel said in his sexy Spanish accent.

“The pleasure's mine Jose and this place is gorgeous." She smiled at him.

“Don't mention it." He added holding her hands as she blushed.

“Aly! we gonna be late, hurry up." Frankie honked her horn in front of Daniel's mansion.

“Calm, your tits, I'm here." She said as she opened the car door and sat inside.

It was their first day of high school and they didn't want to be late, as much as they wanted to fit in, they didn't want to be a part of the popular group or those stuck up plastic barbie dolls. They just wanted to fit in and have friends who would love them for what they were and not who they were.

“I'm sorry Sir, the receptionist, Kassandra Chanel picked up the files she had unintentionally dropped in front of her boss. She bent down to pick them as Xavier walked passed her without a word. She wondered what she had seen in his stuck up ass that made her crush on him.

She sighed and picked up the files from the floor and stacked them up on her desk, still daydreaming about Xavier who had long forgotten about her existence.

He was the CEO of versus systems in Los Angeles, It makes conditional prize technology for gamers. The software provides a more interesting game environment, matching users to prizes redeemable through an app. From downloadable content to real money, Versus allows gamers to choose prizes based on their age and location.

“Hi, you must be my new neighbour." A sexy man said holding cookies and standing behind Myra's door. He had moved in the day before and was going round to greet his neighbours.

He was mesmerised by Myra's beauty. She wore a black tank top with blue bum shorts that hugged her figure. Her hair was held up in an updo. It was her day off from work so she was just relaxing at home, it wasn't as if she had somewhere else to go.

“Yeah, I'm Myra Reynolds and You?" She smiled.

“I'm Byrant Grey." He smirked.

“Nice to meet you, Grey." Myra blushed.

“The pleasure's mine love." He winked handing the cookies over to her.

Daya set her stuff beside her as she lay a blanket on the sand and was about setting her beach umbrella, but it wasn't working. She groaned in frustration as a man approached her.

“Can I help?" He asked.

“Yeah, sure," She rubbed her hands around her neck. The man looked so familiar, he looked like someone she saw ages ago the man she fell in love with, the father to her daughter, Mindy.

“ Chaz?" She called as he turned to look at her.

“Daya?" He said in surprise