Grace

The sudden kiss startles me. But I regain my senses quickly and bite his lips, hard.

Ethan groans and pulls away. "What the-"

My knee hits his crotch. Instantly, his hold loosens around me as he cups his treasure and bends down.

Taking this chance, I grab my bag from the bed and hurry towards the door.

"You-"

"Don't take me lightly, Ethan Calder." I seethe, and pause in the doorway.

His face turns red with pain. A little part of my heart still aches when I see him like this. But I tuck it away.

I won't fall for him again. Not in this life!

With the back of my hand, I wipe my lips that taste like him. "Don't disgust me with your touch. You are filthy, Ethan. A terrible man."

"You—You will pay." He hisses through his teeth.

Before he can straighten up again, I rush out of the hospital room.

I know the kind of crazy Ethan Calder can be. The city is scared of the man who is the King of the Calder Empire.

Being alone with him, after he has disregarded everything is dangerous.

"Catch her!" I hear him roar to his men.

What does he want now? He killed my child and is getting the divorce he so desperately wants. Why is he after me then?

I huff, getting out of the hospital. Several men clad in black suits surround me from all sides.

People halt in their way and record the scene on their phones.

"Mrs. Calder, please come back with us. Boss wants you there." Ethan's assistant, Josh steps ahead and says sternly.

" Tell him to go to hell! " I scoff and tighten my

grip on my bag.

"You leave us no choice than to take you back by force." He gestures towards the other men, giving them the green signal to start dragging me.

They hesitate for a moment. Until recently, I was their young Madam, the only woman their Boss cherished and pampered. Now, I was to be treated like cattle.

"What are you waiting for? It's Boss' order." Josh snaps.

They progress towards me. I glare at them.

"Don't you dare-"

I freeze when several men come running from the opposite direction. They are clad in expensive black suits, just like Ethan's men but they are bulkier and look scary. Like a bunch of gangsters, with tattoos and scars.

"What's happening?" I murmur.

" Ms. Grace. Our Boss is waiting for you in his car. Please follow us." One of them turns to me and says politely.

"Boss? Who?" I frown.

He doesn't reply, just waits for me to start walking.

"Mrs. Calder. Boss is still waiting for you to come back to the hospital room." Josh's loud voice reaches my ears.

I look at him, then at the men who are facing each other. It's like a scene from a movie where a gang war is about to unfold.

My heartbeat quickens. "What is...happening?"

" Grace Whitlock!" Ethan hisses, standing at the entrance of the hospital.

I look at him. His face is still red but from anger this time.

Fury burns in my veins but I know it's not a good time. If he locks me up somewhere, I won't be able to protect myself without any support.

Without further delay, I turn towards the black Mayback waiting in the distance and walk in that direction.

" Grace! Come back here if you don't want to

suffer." Ethan growls.

I ignore his threats. "I already suffered with you, Ethan. You killed our child. What more can you do?"

" Grace! "

Behind me, I can hear the clash of men. Angry voices and fists slamming into each other's faces but I don't stop.

The man who addressed me earlier follows me to the car and opens the door for me. As I expected, the man sitting inside is none other than the mysterious Tristin Roberto.

He is staring out the window coldly. I slip beside him on the backseat. Sweat coats my palms as the door closes, leaving me in an enclosed space with a stranger.

"Your husband is an interesting character." He says, in that deep voice that makes me shudder.

"Why did you help me again?" I whisper, clenching my hands into fists.

" He is an idiot. " Tristin's lips twitch.

Slowly, his face turns towards me. He gives off a

different vibe than earlier. He appears dark, twisted, and cold. His eyes, the ocean blue color have deepened into a darker blue.

"Mr. Roberto..." I trail off.

Suddenly, it's too hard to speak. The space in the expensive car seems too small to breathe properly.

"Drive." He commands, without looking away from me.

I glance outside the window to see Ethan glaring at the tinted window. I can see how enraged he is. It satisfies a sick part of me.

"You want revenge." Tristin says hoarsely.

I blink, shifting my attention to him. "what is it to you? You left in a hurry earlier so I thought we were done. Why have you returned now?"

" Work for me. " The man says without blinking.

My eyes widen. " what...kind of work? "

Tristin unsettles something inside me. His eyes display a menace that is hard to find in normal people. It's like he is a Devil, ready to claim the soul of every sinner. A devil out on a mission.

"You are an architect." His eyes lower to my lips.

" How do you know..." My heart misses a beat. " did you run a background check on me?"

"You are smart, Grace." Tristin takes out a handkerchief from his suit's jacket and offers it to me.

I take it in my unsure fingers, wondering what I am supposed to do with it. "Mr. Roberto, can you please be more straightforward?"

Tristin eyes his handkerchief in my hand and takes a slow breath. A heavy silence falls between us which is both, awkward and intriguing.

A moment later, he snatches the handkerchief back. I glance at my hand which is hanging in the air.

He presses the handkerchief to the corner of my lips. My body jolts violently.

Unconsciously, I reach out to his hand but stop myself from touching him midway. My muscles stiffen as I look into his eyes which are focused on my lips.

" You heard earlier. Lily, your sister was my sister-

