

Romance Novel Sample
Writer: Molokwu Anthonia

Chapter One

Lucian

While sipping my cup of coffee on my balcony, my eyes met with the most gorgeous woman. Her beauty was an embodiment of elegance that emanated elegance in both appearance and demeanor.

“How come I have never seen her around?” I said. I couldn’t help but stare at her, she was the most beautiful and graceful woman I had ever seen.

I didn’t care about anything else in the world but the sight I fed my eyes with.

There she was, sitting at the rooftop, engrossed in deadheading her flowers.

I smiled at every conversation she seemed to be having with the flowers. I found myself laughing.

Surprisingly, I felt her gaze shift towards me. It was as though I lost control over myself.

“Shit!” Clumsiness took over me, and I spilled my coffee on my flawlessly white T-shirt.

Heart racing, hands shaking, I felt unable to control myself, aware that she was now looking at me.

“Hi...” I said as I waved slightly at her, knowing she wouldn’t hear me.

She giggled, enjoying the moment. I smiled back at her, attempting to calm the fluttering butterflies in my stomach.

Her sensitivity intrigued me. I was rather reluctant about changing my T-shirt, I didn’t want to break the spell. She blushed a little, hinting at me that she may be nervous as well.

She smiled and stroked her hair before she went in. It was absolutely divine!

I couldn’t get my mind off her throughout the night and even till the next day at work. Our brief wordless conversation left a lasting impression. No one had ever captured my attention, and maybe my heart so effortlessly. It was as if my whole being had awakened. I wanted to know this lady, I hoped to bump into her soon.

“What’s going on? Where is the architect? I need us to conclude on this today.” I said to Linda, the project manager, in charge of the new construction project. Her attention was glued to her phone throughout the presentation.

I struggled to focus, understanding the significance of this project.

“I-I’m so sorry, Mr. Barclay but the architect is unavoidably absent I’m trying to get through to my sub, she’ll be here in no time.” She said.

“I’m disappointed, Linda. The only reason I hired your construction company is because it is labeled as the best in Los Angeles, I didn’t expect such unprofessionalism.

“My investors are people with busy schedules, I need the architect here in fifteen minutes, else, I’ll withdraw the contract with your firm, I’ll let your boss know I’m no longer interested,” I said, expressing my disappointment.

It was a pity that we couldn’t move forward with the meeting without the architect, and as much as I understood that mistakes happen, I tried to always be as professional as possible with anyone I worked with. I perfectly understood the concept of time and I hated to waste it.

“She’s in the building. I’m so sorry for the delay.” Linda said with an apologetic gesture.

“It’s alright,” I said as I had my seat, and my nerves became calm.

“Hello everyone, I’m sorry I’m late.” A voice cut through the room, pulling my attention. I turned to find the source of the interruption, it was the substitute architect, Sarah Greyson who had arrived, yet it was her secretary who captivated my attention. She was the woman from yesterday!

She stood at the entrance, composed and professional, with a portfolio in her hand. Her name was a mystery but there was something magnetic about her presence, an allure I couldn’t shake off.

“Apologies for the delay, I’m Sarah Greyson, the substitute architect,” she announced, proceeding with the presentation.

Throughout the meeting, my attention kept drifting to the secretary, she looked stunning in her dim blue dress. Her eyes met mine, I heard her heart skip a beat, forcing a smirk on my lips, I felt great!

I found it difficult to divert my gaze, her occasional stolen glances back at me and her subtle blushes when our eyes met suggested a shared intrigue, her hazel eyes, betraying an unspoken connection... She often tried to use her ballpoint pen as a distraction but I still felt her gaze on me when I wasn’t looking.

As the meeting progressed, I found myself utterly captivated by her professionalism and I couldn’t wait for the meeting to end!

Twenty minutes, thirty minutes, finally, the meeting ended. I had to talk to some of the investors to thank them for their interest in my project. I did that quickly so I could talk to the secretary at

least before she went.

As everyone dispersed, I scanned the room, hoping to catch her eye but she was nowhere in sight. I felt bad, realizing she may have left already.

“I guess I may never get the chance to talk to her.” I sighed deeply as I arranged my work gadgets in my briefcase.

To my surprise, my eyes caught a familiar bracelet lying on the table. I rushed towards it to take a closer look at it, just to be sure it was the same one I saw on her earlier.

“Yeah, that’s it!” I said to myself as I chuckled in self-satisfaction. I was going to use that as an excuse to talk to her. I picked up the bracelet and left with it.

It looked really expensive; it was adorned with diamonds and rubies.

As I drove home, I couldn’t contain the excitement in me. I felt like I won the lottery.

“But can I?” I thought to myself as the smile disappeared from my face.

I contemplated how I would return the bracelet to her, there was no guarantee that I would see her again, I didn’t have any other meeting with the construction company until next week and even if I decided to wait till next week, the actual architect may be available by then.

“I think I can do this,” I said to myself as I approached her house.

“Nehh, I’ll just send Julian to return it,” I said and drove past her house. I didn’t think it was appropriate going there. It was an errand my personal assistant could easily run.

“I could buy her flowers, ladies love flowers right?” I said to myself. I tried to make a good impression.

“Maybe that’s too much. I’ll just give her the bracelet.” I thought.

Finally, I decided to give her just the bracelet, the other options I considered were rather a stretch. I just put it in a small satchel and laced it with my perfume. I slid in a small note into the satchel, “*Business lunch? Call me if it’s a yes,*” it read...

I felt it was a little too early to ask her to go out with me but I needed an excuse to have a conversation with her. When I see someone I like, I go for them, regardless.

“Deliver this to block 7. Give her my card too.” I instructed Julian as he took the satchel.

I waited for what seemed like an eternity for her call, I tried to distract myself and act like I didn’t really care but my subconscious mind kept reminding me. It was frustrating!

Finally, my phone rang, it was an unknown number, I answered quickly, hoping it was her. “Mr.

Barclay?" she inquired, her voice instantly recognizable.

"Yes, I hope your bracelet was returned in one piece to you." I said.

"Yes, thank you very much. I thought I had lost it forever."

"You're welcome. I haven't quite gotten the pleasure to know your name."

"...I'm Daisy," she said briefly. I liked to take note of surnames, but I was surprised when she only told me her first name.

"That's a lovely name, Daisy. So uhh I guess you got my note?" I said. I felt my heart skip a beat as I awaited her response.

"Yeah...I'm sorry but I don't think can make it to lunch, I have a lot on my plate tomorrow, she said.

"Okay, that's fine. Just let me know whenever you're free"

"Okay, I apologize again."

"That's alright; enjoy the rest of your day, Daisy." I said and ended the call.

I felt bad a little that she declined my request but it was intriguing because I felt like I still stood a chance with her, maybe not tomorrow but definitely some other time. The other ladies I had met in the past would jump at the offer right away.

Although I really wanted to go today, I could surely wait for as long as it would take for her to decide.

A while later, I received a text from her. *"Dinner instead? I'll be free then."*

"Yes!" I shouted in excitement as I felt a surge of anticipation for the evening ahead. I promptly replied, confirming my interest.

"I'll pick you up by 8,"

I stayed up throughout the night and some hours of the next day, making sure that I finished all of my work and rescheduled all my meetings. I didn't want any disruption in the dinner date I had with Daisy.

The evening arrived, the air heavy with anticipation. I took a glance of myself in the mirror for the last time. "I hope I look good enough." I muttered to myself while struggling to fix my bowtie.

"You look stunning, you always do." Julian, my personal assistant announced across the room. I guess he noticed my tension.

“Thanks, man.” I felt a bit relaxed as I headed out. I didn’t want to keep Daisy waiting.

Her house was just opposite mine, so, I got there in no time. As I stood at Daisy’s door, my heart raced with a blend of nervousness and excitement.

She opened the door, dresses in an elegant yellow dress that complementary her hazel eyes. Her brown hair packed loosely in a bun with a few strands falling looked absolutely stunning.

“Daisy, you look absolutely enchanting.” I uttered, mesmerized by her flawless beauty.

“Thank you, Lucian. You look quite charming. I just need to tweak your tie a little.” She said warmly as she walked towards me to arrange it.

I was taken aback by her nice gesture. Each delicate moment felt like a magnetic pull. I yearned to draw her closer, to brush my lips lightly against hers but I resisted, respecting her boundaries.

“I knew something was off when I looked in the mirror earlier. Thank you, Daisy. Shall we?” I said as I led her to the awaiting car.

I couldn’t help but admire her elegance, poise, the way her laughter sounded like music to my ears.

“We’re here.” I announced.

As we walked to our table, all eyes were on Daisy. Her presence captivated everyone, every step she took drew attention and I couldn’t help but develop a sense of pride beside her.

Talking to her was easy and she seemed genuinely interested in me, her laughter was infectious and the way she looked at me made me wonder if there was something more between us.

“I thought you were going to turn down my offer, I’m glad you accepted.” I said as I sipped my glass of wine.

“Only a joker would turn you down. I was surprised by your interest in me.” She said, blushing slightly.

“You’re a beautiful woman, Daisy, any man with good taste wouldn’t pass an opportunity to with you.” I said with a smile as I watched her cheeks flush.

Suddenly, her phone rang and she answered the call right away. I became worried and curious as I watched her expression short from elated to troubled.

“I’ll be there shortly!” she said briskly as she ended the call.

“I’m sorry but I have to go. It was lovely spending time with you but there’s an emergency.” She

said hurriedly as she picked her bag and got off the chair. I could see the fear and worry in her eyes.

“What’s the matter? What’s going on?” I asked, trying to get a grasp of the sudden turnout of events.

“It’s my baby, Aurora, she’s been rushed to the hospital. I need to go, right now!”

Condition set in, this kind of surprise caught me off guard.

She had a child! Instantly, I felt a sense of guilt wash over me and I couldn’t help but ask.

“Are you married?”

Chapter Two

Daisy

“Are you married?” He inquired. I could hear the shock and confusion in his voice.

“I have to go, right now,” I said as I fled the room.

“I’m sorry if I said something wrong. But let me give you a ride at least.” He offered as he chased after me

I didn’t stop, I simply didn’t want to answer his question. How was I supposed to explain that I got out of a disastrous divorce a year ago on my first date with him? It would surely spoil my plans.

I quickened my pace towards the street, hoping to catch a cab.

“Ahhh!” I grunted in frustration, stomping my feet as I couldn’t get a cab, I didn’t even see any available one at the moment. My eyes twitched and my hands trembled slightly; I struggled to stop myself from freaking out.

Now, I had no choice but to accept Lucian’s offer, I really needed to see my baby girl, and I wondered what could be wrong; she was perfectly fine when I left this evening.

Lucian just stood by a corner looking at me. I was sure my reaction tonight must have surprised him and left him with tons of questions.

“Please, let me give you a ride. Tonight seems very busy, you may not find any available cab.” He said as he walked toward me.

“Okay, thank you,” I said with a warm smile. Surprisingly, he remained kind to me despite my reaction earlier.

We got to the car, and he drove off, speeding a little. It felt great that he understood the urgency of the matter.

“Uhh, which hospital is she admitted to?” He said with his eyes fixed on the road.

“Oh, I almost forgot... I think it’s Fountain High Memorial Hospital,” I said as I looked through the message, I received from Sarah earlier. I was still quite unfamiliar with the city since I just moved in a month ago.

“Do you know where that is?”

“Yes, I do. It’s quite popular around here. It’s a bit far but we’ll be there soon.” Lucian said.

He was an impressive driver, and although he seized every opportunity he saw to speed off and drove a little roughly because of my panics, he still ensured our safety.

My heart raced with several thoughts, and I wished we got to the hospital sooner.

“What if we don’t get there on time?” “What exactly could be wrong with my baby?” I thought to myself.

“Everything will be fine. I’m sure your daughter is in good hands.” Lucian said as he placed his hand on mine, rubbing and squeezing it a bit.

Oddly, that felt very relaxing, and I wondered how he knew exactly what I needed at the moment. He didn’t turn to look at me, he just focused on the road.

“Thank you, that meant a lot,” I said with a brief smile.

“You’re welcome. I’m glad it helped.” Lucian said.

Soon, I felt the car slow down as it entered through a gate, all the while, I was totally absent, drowning in my thoughts that I didn't notice when we arrived at the hospital.

"We're here!" I exclaimed as I looked up and saw the hospital's name in bold prints. The journey seemed to last forever, I was glad we finally got here.

The moment he unlocked his car's door, I opened it hurriedly and fled inside the hospital's reception while Lucian followed behind.

"Please where is my daughter? Aurora Jameson," I inquired as I approached the receptionist.

"Please, do you have an ID?" the receptionist said, looking at me blankly.

"An ID? I-I uh, I'm not with one at the moment, I'm not coming from home, I uhh didn't bring it with me." I said, trying to explain. I wondered why I was asked for my ID in the first place.

"I'm sorry ma'am but you can't see Miss Aurora without an ID, it's the hospital's protocol." The receptionist said.

I felt my head spinning and my legs trembling lightly as I realised the gravity of what I just heard.

"You're gonna have to let me through, miss, I need to see my daughter right now!" I said at the top of my voice, drawing attention towards me.

"Calm down, okay, I'll fix this. She's just doing her job, I'm sorry I didn't remind you about your ID." Lucian said apologetically. None of this was his fault.

"I'll just call the manager, he's a friend of mine," Lucian said as he dialled a number.

How exactly would I have scaled through this night without Lucian? I would have probably still been on the road and even if I finally got here, I would be blatantly denied access to see my own daughter because I don't have an ID with me. That's one messed-up scenario.

"He'll be here shortly, please just calm your nerves," Lucian said as he held my hands and squeezed them lightly again. I really did not know how he did that bit somehow, it always worked perfectly to calm my nerves.

Soon, I saw a man talk to the receptionist. I figured it was the manager Lucian mentioned.

"I apologise for the inconvenience, you can go see your daughter, she's in ward 15. Shouldn't be hard to locate if you go through the stairs" he said with a warm smile.

"Thank you very much, sir, thank you, Lucian. I'd surely repay this kindness." I said as I sped off to see my baby.

I walked as fast as I could till I got to the room where she lay, she seemed fine and for a moment, I felt relieved.

Sarah was by her side, watching her sleep. "You're here... I'm glad I was able to get her here on time, she would have been worse." Sarah said.

"What's wrong with her? What happened?"

"Turns out she's allergic to strawberries I bought a lot today because she requested for them, I'm so sorry." Sarah apologized.

"It's not your fault, Sarah, you didn't know, it's alright. I should be thanking you for getting her here on time. How is she?" I inquired as I picked up Aurora's little hand and kissed it.

"She is fine. The doctor said she will be discharged by morning."

"Oh, thank goodness" I heaved a deep sigh of relief.

As I watched Aurora sleep peacefully, I couldn't help the tears that fell from my eyes. I didn't know what I would do if anything happened to her. She's literally my whole life and it made me calm to see that she was alright.

I made up my mind to stay with Aurora throughout the night. I felt bad for Sarah as I saw her doze off on the couch next to the bed. She must have had a busy day.

Just as I sat by the bed, my mind went through everything that happened today, the beautiful dinner date I had with Lucian, and how he saved the day.

"Oh, Lucian!" I gasped as I checked the time. It was well past 10 pm. I forgot Lucian this whole time. I wondered if he was still waiting or if he had left.

"Sarah... Sarah..." I tapped her to wake her up.

"I'll be back. Please watch Aurora." I said and left.

I hurried down the stairs and to the reception. My eyes caught him pacing back and forth, he seemed tense. The moment he saw me, he rushed towards me.

"Are you alright? How is she? I've been waiting to hear from you." Lucian said, he looked genuinely worried.

"She's fine. Thank you for today, I truly appreciate it." I said.

"I'm glad she's alright." He said as he caressed my cheeks softly as he peered into my eyes. What was he doing?! I felt a magnetic pull to him, and with each finger that lightly stroked my cheek, I felt chills down my spine.

I found myself drowning in his deep blue eyes, and I didn't want to take my eyes off him.

"Can I see her?"

That question knocked me back to my senses; I immediately got my guard up. I didn't feel comfortable with the fact that he wanted to see Aurora. What for? He was shocked when he found out I had a child, why did he suddenly want to see her?

I knew I was being a bit paranoid and Lucian may notice but I didn't care at this moment. I just came to thank him for his help.

"Uhhh I don't think so, she's asleep," I said as I frowned my face a little.

"Okay, are you alright? You seem upset." Lucian said. I was impressed by how much he paid attention to details.

"I'm fine, I think you should go now, I don't want to keep you waiting any longer," I said with a faint smile.

"Are you sure you don't want me to wait up? Because I can..." Lucian said, with a smirk on his face.

"I'm okay, thank you very much for your generosity." I said with a warm smile. But I was concerned about the sudden look on his face as he looked into his phone.

He seemed really troubled and lost.

"Is everything alright? You don't seem okay." I said..

"I wish I could say yes, but I'm not." Lucian said as he paced back and forth.

Chapter Three

Lucian

“The government is shutting down my project...” I said as those heavy words flew out from my mouth.

I couldn’t believe my eyes as I read the email from the minister about shutting down my project. I went through the due processes of acquiring that property, why this now?

Rage and disorientation surged through me.

“This project was going to be a very big shot, and with all the investors interested in it, it would blossom, why this setback? Why?!” I said as I kept on pacing back and forth.

“I need you to calm down, Lucian, we’d get through this together. Don’t panic.” Daisy reassured me as she held my face. She seemed so certain that she could actually fix this.

“I’d make a few calls and see if I can fix this. I’ll be fine.” I said as I feigned a smile.

“Okay then, I hope that works out, I’m really sorry about this, I know this project really means a lot to you.” She said, still holding my face.

There was just little space between us, maybe if I was in my right mind, I would have been thinking of ways to bridge the gap. But I was worrying about a lot of things at the same time.

“Can I go now? I’m sorry I can’t stay.” I said as I broke away from her grasp.

I felt very bad that I had to leave her like this but I didn’t want her to worry about me plus, I had a lot of things to put in place.

“But, it’s midnight. Are you sure you’ll be safe?” She said as she moved back a little.

“Don’t worry about me, I’ll be fine. I’ll call you tomorrow to know how your daughter is.” I said and kissed her on her right cheek and left. I don’t know why I did that but she seemed surprised and pleased.

As I walked to my car, I dialed my assistant’s number after leaving him tons of messages. I knew he would be sleeping at the moment but we had serious work to do.

“First thing tomorrow morning, set a meeting with the minister, the earlier I rectify this, the better,” I said when my assistant finally answered his call.

My mind raced as I drove back home, that property meant more than a lot to me, my life depended on it. When I got home, I headed straight to the basement. I stared at the giant hourglass covered with a blue cloth, I was hesitant about pulling it off because I didn't know what to expect.

"Shit! Not again!" I said as I pulled the cloth that covered the hourglass. I was almost shattered when I saw that it had started counting again. I was able to stop it before, I didn't know exactly what triggered it again.

"I can't be dying! I'm almost there, I've come too far to lose this." I said to myself as I fell to the ground.

My main purpose for embarking on that project was simply to secure the location of the dagger of immortality. I looked okay on the outside but each day, I kept dying slowly, most of my species had died off because they were not strong enough.

All I had to do to end the plaque before it ended my species was to obtain this dagger of immortality. The funny thing is, I already knew where it was, it was buried somewhere around the perimeters of my new property. I just hadn't found the last missing piece to get the exact coordinates.

If I allow the government take it, I might just be signing my death warrant and that of my kind too. So, I had to act fast.

I stayed up all night negotiating and trying to get back my property but it wasn't successful. It wasn't reasonable, why would the government want back a property they already sold to me?

As I paced back and forth the room, buried in my thoughts, I got a call from my assistant. My face instantly beamed up with happiness.

"Finally, some good news" I hoped. I picked up my phone and answered the call.

"I'm sorry but I couldn't get the minister to have a meeting with you. He simply wouldn't. I...I tried to coax him but he was unyielding. I'm sorry sir." Julian said.

"It's alright, you did your best," I said and ended the call.

I was frustrated! I had done literally everything I could and called everyone I knew but there was no positive result. I couldn't give up now, I just couldn't. Even after living for a thousand years, I had never prepared myself for death.

I sat on the ground hopelessly when I got a call from Daisy. I ignored it, I didn't want to talk to her in my current state but she kept calling over and over again until I finally answered.

“Hi! Sarah was able to talk to someone and you’ll have your property back. You’ll receive an email soon.” Daisy said in an excited tone.

I was confused and surprised at the same time. I tapped myself just to be sure that I wasn’t dreaming. I was already giving up hope and now, this?

“Are you sure about this, Daisy? I don’t want to get my hopes up.” I said, threading with caution.

“Yes, I told you we’d fix this, right?” Daisy said, she sounded so sure and for a moment, I wanted to believe her.

“Hold on a sec...”

I checked my email box because I just got a new notification and she wasn’t joking, my property had actually been released.

“H-How d-did you do this? I-I... I thought I had lost it.” I said. I just couldn’t believe how things turned around .

“I’m glad I could help, I’ll talk to you later. Take care.” Daisy said and ended the call.

I was in shock for the next five minutes, I really thought long and hard about how she was able to fix this mess but nevertheless, I was excited that I had my property back.

“Thank you so much, Daisy! You’re such an angel. I must make it up to you for this kindness!” I spoke loudly to myself as I chuckled.

I was very happy, all the fear and apprehension I felt just fizzled away and all I was left with was a profound gratitude to Daisy.

“How will I thank you, Daisy? Maybe a gift? But what?” I thought long and hard to myself.

I just couldn’t come up with anything to gift her at the moment and so, I picked the most expensive wine in my bar to give to her, I was going to deliver it myself this time.

For the rest of the day at home, I was anxious, yet looking forward to the evening.

“I could buy her flowers, she loves flowers right?” I said to myself. I tried to make a good impression.

Finally, I decided to give her the flowers and the wine. That was just a little way of saying thank you but I still owed her a lot.

It was 6:45 pm and I decided to go. I slid into comfortable pants and a T-shirt. Soon, I got her house. I stood by the door for a while contemplating my decision.

I finally mustered the courage and rang the doorbell. In a few seconds, someone came to get the door, it was her.

“Hi...” she said with a beautiful smile.

“H-Hi.. I... I uh... I came to thank you personally. I appreciate what you did, Daisy, it means a lot to me. I said sincerely.

“I’m glad I could help,” she said with a big smile.

“These are for you. It’s a small token of my appreciation. I’d surely make it up to you for this huge favor you did for me.” I said as I handed the gifts to her.

“Awww you didn’t have to get me anything. Thank you very much. The flower is beautiful, I love daisies,” she blushed as she smelt them.

I found myself drowning in her beauty. Her radiant smile and elegance in the way her long hair fell on her shoulders were breathtaking. I noticed a certain spark in her hazel eyes when she smiled at me.

“Behave, Lucian!” I whispered to myself, I didn’t want to make things awkward.

“Do you wanna come in?” She said.

“Yes, thank you,” I said as I walked in. I was glad that she made it a lot easier for me. Maybe she wanted to get to know me, or she was just being nice, I didn’t know.

Her house felt very warm and welcoming. There wasn’t much décor, just chairs and a few pictures hanging on the wall.

“Do you wanna stay here or go to the garden?” She said.

“Garden,” I said almost immediately.

“Yeah, me too,” she chuckled as she led the way. We went through the back door, I guess and there the little garden was.

Although it was a bit dark, it still looked very pretty, there were all sorts of flowers and a few fruits planted there.

“You have a beautiful garden,” I said as I sat down.

“Thank you. You look a lot better today, I’m happy about that,” She said, chuckling as she ran her hand through her brown long hair.

Oddly, it triggered a sensation in me but I tried to compose myself.

“Oh, I’m sorry I didn’t remember to ask, my mind was occupied. How’s your daughter? Has she been discharged yet?” I inquired.

“Uhh she’s fine, she’s already asleep. She sleeps early.” Daisy said with a warm smile. The apprehension she had in her eyes when I spoke about her daughter yesterday seemed to have disappeared.

“That’s good to know,” I said. I didn’t want to ask further questions.

I tried not to focus on it but I could feel the tension rise between us as our legs touched while we sat. Her scent filled my nose and the deafening silence made my heart race as I couldn’t tell what was to come.

“Ahem!” I cleared my throat just to break the silence. I felt like the moment was right to tell Daisy exactly how I felt about her, she may have figured it out already but I had to tell her still.

“I must admit, Daisy, there’s something about you that captivates me,” I confessed, my gaze meeting hers.

Her eyes widened in surprise, and she chuckled nervously, “Uh, what do you mean?”

“I mean from the moment I saw you at the rooftop, engrossed in your conversation with your flowers, to now, sitting right next to you, I have felt this undeniable pull towards you,” I explained.

Daisy’s cheeks blushed slightly, and she looked down for a moment. “I-I uhh don’t know what to say. Honestly, I didn’t expect things to turn out like this when we first met.”

“I don’t want to pressure you or make things awkward. I just wanted you to know how I feel about you. I know we just met, so, you can take as long as you want to process this.” I said sincerely.

She looked up at me, her ocean eyes meeting mine as she pushed some strands of her hair behind her ear.

“Damn!” I wanted to pull her in and kiss her; she didn’t know how much effect that particular act had on me. Just at that moment, a little voice disrupted our moment.

“Mummy? Mom?!” I heard a child’s voice laced with fear and confusion. It was definitely her daughter. She was coming towards us.

Immediately Daisy rushed to her.

I caught a familiar scent in the room as she walked closer. Suddenly I started having an immense

pain in my head as I struggled to breathe. I turned to see her face but I couldn't. Despite being in pain, I had to control myself as I struggled to stand upright.
The last time I had this feeling was in the presence of a witch.

"Baby, I'm right here. Did you have another nightmare?" Daisy said as she carried the little girl off the ground.

When she lifted her, my eyes met her daughter's and I staggered hitting the flower vase beside me.

"Are you okay? You are sweating profusely" Daisy asked looking confused.

"Is Daisy's daughter a witch?" I thought as my hands trembled.

Chapter Four

Daisy

"Uhh yeah, I'm fine. I just felt a little lightheaded." He said as he got a grip of himself.

"Are you sure you're okay?" I inquired. I noticed he was looking at Aurora so intently, I wondered why.

"Meet Aurora, my daughter," I said, trying to clear the air.

"You have such a lovely daughter. How are you, Aurora?" he said to Aurora with a big smile on his face. The troubled look on his face seemed to disappear.

"I had a nightmare, I'm scared," Aurora said.

"Aurora?" I said in surprise. I was shocked because she didn't talk to strangers, she was very shy. She only had one friend in school.

"I'm sorry about that, Aurora. I'm sure your mom would make you feel better.

"Yeah, she always does. Her back rubs always do the trick." Aurora said with a big smile.

I was left in shock as the both of them conversed warmly. How did my five-year-old introverted daughter get so comfortable with someone she's just seeing for the first time?

"I'll leave now, Daisy, it's getting late," he said.

"Go and meet Aunty Sarah in the living room, I'll join you guys shortly," I said to Aurora and kissed her forehead, she liked kisses.

“Thank you for the gift again. I guess I’ll see you around.” I said as I walked him to the door.

“You have such a beautiful and smart daughter, you’re lucky.” He said with a big smile on his face as he swiftly kissed my cheek.

“Next time, I wouldn’t miss your lips.” He flirted with a dark grin on his face as he winked at me.

“Sexy...” I thought to myself as I stood by the door blushing while I watched him walk to his house.

I went back inside to meet Aurora and maybe put her back to sleep because I knew it would be hard for her to go back to sleep after her nightmare.

“What the...? How did you make her sleep in such a short time?” I said with utmost surprise as I watched my little girl sleep peacefully.

“I..I was shocked too when I saw her fall asleep. Sue seemed very happy though.” Sarah said.

“Yeah, she had a little talk with Lucian, they just got along so easily.” I said with a look of surprise still on my face. I still couldn’t place a finger on exactly why my little girl was suddenly so comfortable with Lucian whom she just met.

“Anyways, I’ll take her in.” I said to Sarah as I carried Aurora to her room and laid her to sleep.

I couldn’t help but smile wholeheartedly and be pleased by the way she welcomed Lucian, I certainly don’t expect that from her. She already seemed to like him, she didn’t like my brother this much, so why Lucian? What was so special about him?

“Daisy, focus...” I whispered to myself as my thoughts shifted to the kiss he gave me on my cheeks earlier. It felt really good but I wished he had just kissed me properly. The tease was killing me.

Soon, I got a call that interrupted my thoughts, it was Owen, my brother. I was reluctant to answer at first but then, I finally did because of how persistent he was. I quietly left the room because I didn’t want to wake Aurora.

“What’s this I’m hearing? Why did you help Mr Barclay? What happened to our plan? Your promise?!” Owen thundered.

“This wasn’t part of the plan, besides it’s too soon to start seizing his properties, you wanted intel about his businesses, I gave that to you, but you went too far this time.” I blurted.

“What I do with whatever information you fetch for me is none of your business. Don’t ever get in my way again, ever! And you better hold up your end of the deal, else, you will be sorry.”

Owen said and ended the call.

His voice was laced with so much anger and hate. I wondered why he hated Lucian so much. The closer I got to Lucian, the more I realized that he wasn't as bad as my brother made him look. He was just as fierce a businessman like my brother and wanted nothing more but to succeed.

"What have I done?" I said as I broke down in tears.

I started regretting why I made that deal to infiltrate Lucian's life in the first place. I didn't know he was this nice. I didn't know how but I had already started developing feelings for him and I was sure that he liked me too. Now, there's no going back, I either had to finish what I started or I face the consequences.

I cried myself to sleep and woke up to a call. It was from Lucian. I thought it was a bit too early to call but when I checked the time, it was well past 11 am.

"Ahem!" I cleared my throat and got a grip of myself before answering the call.

"Yesterday was amazing. Thank you for allowing me meet your daughter. She takes after you." Lucian said. He sounded happy.

"Yeah, she does. She was very happy to meet you." I said as I struggled to keep my eyes open because of how much I cried yesterday.

"Her nightmares... does she always have them?" Lucian inquired. I was a bit hesitant about answering the question at first but then, I just had to.

"Yeah, since she turned three. I have no idea what to do about it." I said.

"Don't worry, we'll figure it out together." He said and I couldn't help but smile.

"Thank you, Lucian. That means a lot." I said.

"You're welcome. Let's just say that's one of the ways of saying thank you for what you did for me. Here's the second... Will you be free this weekend?" he inquired.

"Well, technically, yes. I could be busy with Aurora but Sarah can take care of her." I replied.

"Perfect... What do you think about a weekend getaway at any location of your choice?"

"It sounds nice and refreshing.. Why?" I said, pretending not to know where he was driving at.

"So, are you interested?"

I paused for a moment, I didn't know if I should accept or not. My whole being prompted me to jump at the offer...

“Well uhh, since this is your way of saying thank you, I accept. But I want it within the city; I don’t want to be far from my baby.” I said.

“That’s perfect; I’ll make reservations now and send you the details.” He said in an excited tone and ended the call.

I sprang up from my bed and danced around the room. I was so excited about the weekend already. It was Friday already, so I wondered if we were going today or tomorrow.

So many questions popped up in my head but I managed to calm down and do this discreetly, I didn’t want Owen finding out about this date with his enemy, I would be ruined.

I started packing my bags, taking just a few essentials since it was for only two days.

Soon, I received the details from Lucian, we were leaving this evening. I tried my best to calm down although it was futile.

Time went by so fast, soon, it was evening. Lucian stopped by to pick me and then, off we were.

We were quiet for the most part of the journey. Our occasional glances at each other were getting very awkward and the tension in the air seemed to syndicate me.

“Thank you for this, I guess I needed the distraction.” I said.

“You’re welcome. I guess you’ve given thought to what I told you yesterday. So what’s your reply?” He said as his eyes were fixated on the road.

“Men are really clueless, aren’t they? Why do you think I agreed to this?” I said as I blushed lightly.

He smiled at my response. “Can I kiss you?” he said.

“Well, not while you’re driving. Maybe when we get to our destination.”

“I don’t think I have that kind of patience,” he said as he parked his car by the road.

“May I?” he said as he leaned forward. I leaned too, bridging the gap between us. I gasped at the chills kissing him sent down my spine.

“Are you okay?” he inquired as he saw the way my hands trembled.

“Yes, I am... the kiss felt so good and it’s been a while since I’ve been intimate with anyone.” I said shyly as I pulled some strands of my hair behind my ear.

He rushed at me again, this time, more intense than the last, I liked it though.

“If you keep doing that, we may never get to our destination, it’s getting late.” Lucian said with a dark smirk as he started the car engine and drove off.

“Keep doing what?” I had no idea what he was talking about.

“That thing with your hair... it’s sexy.”

I blushed so hard that my head almost exploded. I didn’t know he found me that attractive. I may have been too forward but I really looked forward to having sex with him, I felt his little man bulging in his pants while he kissed me, now, I was too curious to get my mind off.

“We’re here...” he announced as he drove into the compound. It was a resort!

I looked around in delight as I fed my eyes with all the beautiful sceneries, the pool, the game arena, the club, damn! I knew we were going to have the time of our lives here. It looked very expensive...

“This place is beautiful,” I said as we walked to our apartment.

“I’m glad you like it.” He said.

We got to our apartment; I was surprised that it had separate rooms for the both of us. It had a very simple décor and large beds. I was already getting comfortable at the thought of it.

“I didn’t want you getting the wrong impression, so I opted for an apartment with two rooms.” Lucian said as he saw the surprised look on my face.

“Yeah, I completely understand. I wouldn’t mind if you got an apartment with a single room, though.” I said as I walked towards him, looking him directly in the eye, so he would know how serious I was.

“I don’t think I’ve told you how excited I am that you agreed to be mine.” He said as he kissed me lightly on my lips. I hated the tease, I wanted the real deal, I wanted him.

“I’d rather you showed me.” I said in a slitty voice as I took off my jacket, it was getting hot, despite being in an air conditioned room.

His blue ocean eyes drowned in mine, as he stroke his black wavy hair which kept me guessing on all the naughty things I could do to him.

Standing in front of me with his divine height and muscular body, I just knew I wanted him to take me to ecstasy.

“This may be too soon but I love you, Daisy... since the first time I set my eyes on you.” He said as he kissed my forehead, trailing down to the tip of my nose before my lips finally, tasting the goodness that dwelt there.

At that moment, I wasn't thinking, all I wanted was to get a taste of him and satisfy my lustful desire.

I returned his energy, kissing him passionately... he carried me off the ground, and laid me on the bed, kissing me all over and I responded with soft moans and gasps.

He took off my blouse and made his way with one hand through my bra, cupping my breasts and the other, down my skirt and slid into my panties, rubbing my clit.

"Ohhh how I've wanted this," I said shamelessly amidst moans.

I loved what Lucian was doing to my body, it was as if he read my mind and knew exactly what to do.

It had been a while since I felt this good. I had already planned all the wicked and slutty things I'd do to him before he suddenly pulled away..

"I'm sorry, we shouldn't be doing this."

Chapter Five

Daisy

"Uhhh why? Is something wrong?" I inquired. I was already getting embarrassed and I couldn't look him in the face.

"No, I'm just concerned about you. I want to be sure you really want this. I don't want to pressure you into anything." He said. I couldn't help but be impressed by how much he cared and still put me first despite his obvious needs.

“Yes, I want this, Lucian, I want you.” I said as I pressed my lips on his, kissing him deeply and intensely.

I closed my eyes as I felt his lips on the back of my neck and his hands caressing my butt. He did it with so much finesse and before I could get a grasp of what was going on, my bra fell to the ground.

“May I?” Lucian said in a husky voice as he attempted to take off my shoes. I nodded in agreement.

He placed soft kisses on my legs, up to my thighs, sending chills down my spine. He artfully took out my panties and ate my pussy away. It felt so intense and breathtaking, I was sure I came multiple times already.

“Ahh! Mmm!” I could not help but moan shamelessly like I had been sex-starved. Indeed, I had been.

When he was done eating me out, he took off my dress completely and paused for a while.

“You are perfect, Daisy..” he said with a dark smirk as he admired my naked body lustfully.

“Thank you.” I muttered.

I was very shy and a bit embarrassed the way he looked at me.

I wanted to impress him too and make him feel as good as he made me feel.

So, I got off the bed and pushed him against the wall. I kissed him hungrily, and he did same as he unbuttoned his shirt.

I worked my way down his neck and to his chest, sucking his hard nipples. I was enticed by how firm they were.

I could tell he was enjoying it by the slight moans he let out. I kissed my way down to his waistline. Now kneeling in front of him, I unzipped his pants, kissed his hard crotch from his briefs, teasing him a little before taking it off. I was amazed at the size and length, I loved it big and bold, just like his.

His hard crotch pointed directly at my nose. I giggled at the sight of his long penis.

I slowly kissed the tip of his penis before taking it slowly into my mouth. No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't take his full length inside my mouth, still, I enjoyed the feeling of filling up my mouth with his length.

“Fuck my mouth...” I said sluttily and he obliged without hesitation.

With each slow thrust in my mouth, I sucked and rolled my tongue around his length. I could feel my fluids dripping.

“Fuck!” Lucian gasped as he pulled my hair back and forth, deepening the thrust of his penis into my mouth.

I felt his penis growing bigger inside my mouth.

“This would feel a lot better in between your legs..” Lucian whispered.

I just smiled..

He helped me to my feet and carried me off the ground. “Ahh!!” I screamed in excitement at the gesture.

“I’ll make this the most memorable night..” he said as he laid me on the bed. He spread my legs wide open and ran his fingers around my clit, to make sure I was ready.

“I didn’t know you wanted me this much.” He whispered as he penetrated me slowly. I groaned slightly at the stinging sensation I felt, that area hadn’t been visited in a while.

He noticed my pain and went slowly... “Yeahh... mmm...” I moaned softly as he gained full entrance.

I couldn’t help the wild moans that escaped my lips as his penis went in and out of me, with each thrust more sensual than the last.

I wrapped my legs around his waist. “Fuck!” that was the best sex I had ever had. Where in the world was Lucian this whole time?

I felt like I had transcended into another realm, it felt so good and hearing his moans made it even more electrifying. I didn’t want it to end, I was having the time of my life.

“You wanna get that call?” Lucian said as my phone wouldn’t stop buzzing.

I couldn’t think of anything other than the pressure between my legs at the moment. With each deep thrust, we both grew closer to climax.

“It’s coming!” Lucian cried. I felt a rush that felt like my head was going to explode.

“I’m gonna cum too.” I whispered.

And swiftly, he pulled his crotch and placed it on my stomach as he gave it a few massage, letting out his fluids, some of it splashing on my face.

“That was amazing. You are so sweet” Lucian said with a wide grin before he fell to the bed.

“I enjoyed every bit of it.” I said as I kissed him deeply.

“Are you sure you don’t want to take that call?” “ he said as my phone began buzzing again.

I wondered who would keep calling at such an odd hour but I decided to answer the call.

“... It’s Luke, there’s something important I have to tell you, let me know when it’s convenient to talk.” He said and ended the call even before I could say a word.

I was so confused and a bit angry. Since our divorce two years ago, we hadn’t talked and now, he called me to say this trash.

“What’s the matter? Is everything alright?” Lucian said as he noticed the displeasure on my face.

“It’s a wrong number. Excuse me, I have to use the bathroom.” I lied as I left the room to the bathroom. I didn’t want to bring back bad memories and ruin the moment with Lucian. I wanted this weekend getaway with him to be a distraction from my reality and my problems.

But then, I couldn’t help but wonder what was so important that made Luke call me by this time and still didn’t want to say anything unless it was convenient for me to hear it.

“I’m not getting back with you, Luke.” I said to myself. I felt like maybe he wanted to fix things and get back together but that would be impossible.

“Can I join you?” Lucian’s voice disrupted my thoughts and brought me back to reality . He stood at the entrance of the bathroom, ogling at me.

I wondered why I was still shy, we just had sex!

“Yeah...” I said with a smile, as he came in.

Bathing with him was very relaxing, he helped me bath myself and I, he. I felt really good, it had been a while since someone actually paid attention to me.

“Thank you for this, Lucian, I really needed it.” I said.

“You’re welcome...” he said and kissed my forehead.

Throughout the night, I was restless; my mind kept guessing what Luke wanted to tell me. To save my self the curiosity, I made up my mind to call him in the morning to know what’s really going on.

The next morning, Lucian woke up even more handsome than he was when he slept.

“Are you okay? You didn’t sleep, did you?” He said.

“Uhh I didn’t really but how did you know?”

“You kept moving, besides, that phone call from yesterday, it wasn’t a wrong number, was it? Your mood changed after the call. Is everything alright? Maybe I can help out” Lucian said.

I was a bad liar, that I knew.

“It’s nothing, Lucian, I can fix it.” I said.

“You seem to be forgetting that I’m your man now, I should help out if the need be.” He said.

“Oh I totally forgot” I said with a smile.

“Well I hope this helps you remember” he kisses me on my cheeks.

“It was my ex husband. He said he wants to talk, I wonder why.” I finally said.

I noticed a change in his countenance; he didn’t seem very comfortable with what I had just told him.

“Why don’t you call him up and hear what he has to say, you seem very curious about it.” Lucian said with an expression that I couldn’t interpret.

“It’s just that since our divorce two years ago, we hadn’t been in touch. So why is he suddenly calling me now?” I said.

“Just hear him out. I think you should call him.” Lucian said as he put on a shirt and left the room.

I felt bad that I made things awkward between us but no matter how hard I tried to stay reluctant, I really wanted to know why Luke called me after this whole time.

After Lucian left, I picked up my phone and dialed his number, he answered almost immediately.

“..What do you want, Luke? Why did you contact me all of a sudden?” I said.

“I need you to calm down, listen to me very carefully. I need you to give me custody over Aurora, it’s for her good.” Luke said. He had always been arrogant and spontaneous.

I was enraged by his utterance. “You must be out of your mind. You think you can just wake up one morning and ask me to give my daughter out?” I thundered.

“You’re forgetting she’s my daughter too, Daisy, Aurora is a witch, she needs to be with me so I can nurture her. I’m sure you know about her nightmares. She’s special, Daisy, please let’s give her a chance at a better life.” He said.

“Aurora’s a witch? Please don’t be ridiculous. Call me back when you actually have something to say.” I said angrily and ended the call.

“Aurora’s a witch?” Lucian suddenly said, throwing me off balance. I didn’t know he was there.

Chapter six

Lucian

“I...I’m sorry... I uh... I didn’t know you were on the phone with him, I-I just wanted to grab my phone on the table,” I stuttered, trying to gain control over myself.

I knew it was rude cutting in, whatever conversation she was having was none of my business. I just quickly wanted to grab my phone; I assumed she would take a while.

“It’s... its fine. Luke is just talking nonsense, there’s no way Aurora is a witch. I mean, Luke may be a descendant of a witch bloodline but it’s nothing serious, besides, he didn’t practice witchcraft, his mother didn’t either, so, the trait is dormant, right?” Daisy blurted.

I just stood by the door, almost in shock. I didn’t expect her to talk about it so casually. I was short of words for a while, most of the time, I was contemplating what to tell her, I didn’t want to act so knowledgeable.

“Did you hear what I just said?” Daisy said, this time, she was closer to me. I couldn’t recall seeing her walk towards me or her footsteps.

“Uhhmm yeah, I’m just surprised, that’s all. And just because your ex husband and his mother didn’t practice doesn’t mean that Aurora can’t be a witch, it’s in the bloodline.” I said, trying to stay neutral but deep down, I felt a bit insecure about her ex husband showing up out of the blues.

“Uhhm.. I... I don’t know, I really don’t ... I can’t deny that she has weird nightmares but it’s not enough proof that she’s one of them, right?” Daisy said, this time, pacing back and forth. She was really troubled and I hoped I could call her down.

“Daisy, I want you to know that we are in this together. You can totally ignore what you just heard and pick it up at a later time or we can start digging the truth now, whatever your decision is, I’d help out.” I said as I held her face and looked directly into her hazel eyes.

They weren’t as calm as they used to be, I could tell that she was clearly worried.

“But you should know a thing or two about your ex husband’s family.

“Lucian, I’m sorry for the interruption in our little vacation but I need to look into this, actually, I’ve had that underlying fear. I really hope she’s not one of them.” Daisy said as she pressed her hands together to stop them from trembling.

“You don’t have to apologize, I’ll help you out. We can start right now if you want, just tell me his last name, the internet is a great tool now...” I said with a brief smile as I helped her sit down.

“Garfield... his name is Luke Garfield.” She said calmly.

“The Garfield - Quinn?” I said. I wanted to be sure it was the same name I had in mind.

“Yes, how did you know that?” Daisy inquired. But I couldn’t tell her the truth yet.

“Well, I uhh have a business partner bearing the name. I can’t remember his first name though.” I lied.

“Oh, that must be uncle Patrick, he loves to work. They have enough money to last them a lifetime, but uncle Patrick prefers to earn his money.” Daisy said with a brief smile.

I could tell she had a lot to say about that family, I really wanted to ask her questions and find out more but I had to control myself and focus on the current matter at hand.

I hurriedly picked up my phone. I was sure that the name sounded very familiar.

“Is everything alright ” Daisy said but my eyes were glued to my phone. I was just confirming if it was a name I was familiar with.

“Whoa whoa whoa.. this is crazy, I found it!” I chuckled a bit as I tried to contain my excitement.

I had been searching for the Garfield’s for a few years, they managed to stay under the radar for quite a while and truly, I must commend their cloaking spell, it really was strong, but guess what? I just found them on a platter!

“Is everything alright?” Daisy’s voice brought me back to my senses.

“Uhhm yeah, it is, let’s see what we can find..” I said. I was absolutely sure that we wouldn’t

find anything useful on the internet, I just wanted to give Daisy that false hope that we could, just so she would calm down.

I had already decided to take it upon myself to find out everything I can about the Garfield's, after all, they had the last piece to make up the ingredients for my sacrifice.

There wasn't any much information about them, just as I expected. I had looked them up before but there was nothing.

"I'm sorry but there's nothing here but I'll pull a few strings for you, I owe you one." I said.

"Thank you, I'll find out what I can too." She said.

"But... you were married to him, how come you don't know much about his family? It's a bit surprising." I said, finally letting my intrusive side win.

"Well, Luke and I didn't have an actual relationship, plus he kept a lot of secrets. I just got tired of asking, I barely met any of his relatives, just his mom once and uncle Patrick quite a few times. It's embarrassing, I know." Daisy said. She seemed sad and I wished I hadn't asked such a sensitive question.

"I'm sorry, I shouldn't have asked that. You don't seem comfortable about it." I said.

"No, no, please don't get the wrong impression. I know this is barely the early stage of our relationship, we literally just started dating, I want you to know that Luke means absolutely nothing to me, you're the one that matters now," she said softly as she pulled closer and kissed my forehead.

"That felt really good. Maybe you can repeat the same thing on my lips." I teased and we chuckled.

"I'm sorry I acted a bit off this earlier, I was just surprised, that's all." She said.

"It's alright, I totally understand." I said and kissed her hand.

The name "Garfield-Quinn" kept ringing in my head, I wondered who the last descendant actually is because that's who I need for my quest.

A part of me was excited because I was finally close to finding the last piece to performing the ritual to save my species but another part had a certain fear of the unknown, I wondered why but I knew I had to tread with caution.

"Let's go have breakfast, I'm starving." Daisy said.

I quickly picked up my phone and put on a shirt before we left. Daisy didn't seem to enjoy her meal much, her mind was obviously occupied, I'd be worried too if I were her.

I noticed she rolled her eyes and turned off her phone after a beep came in.

“What’s making you upset? You’ve barely touched your food. Do you not like it? We can get you something else.” I said, showing my concerns.

“No, it’s not that. It’s Luke, he said he wants to meet up and explain things himself... Said it’s urgent.” Daisy said.

“Okay, there’s nothing wrong with that, I mean it has to do with your daughter right?” I said, trying to mark my displeasure.

I know one thing about old flames; they can always be rekindled...

“I’m sorry about all of this, Lucian. He said he’s already on his way, he’d arrive before midnight. I’ll have to see him tomorrow, the earlier the better. I’m really sorry for ruining our moment.” Daisy explained.

“There’s no worries, I mean, we’re supposed to leave this place tomorrow, so, you’re not exactly ruining anything.” I said with a faint smile.

“If you need my help with anything whatsoever, don’t hesitate to ask me.” I said.

“Why did you end things with Luke though? You don’t have to answer that if you don’t want to.” I said, letting my intrusive side win once more.

“Crazy thing... He had another family aside Aurora and I, the lady kept harassing me until I couldn’t take it anymore. I could have left the moment I found out about his affair, but I was too busy trying to fix what had been broken into a million pieces.” Daisy said with barely an expression.

“That’s terrible, I’m sorry about that, you didn’t have to go through that.” I said. I was enraged on hearing that, why would he do such a thing to her? I hated Luke instantly and I hoped our paths never crossed.

For the rest of our stay in the resort, Daisy kept calling home to know if Aurora was okay. I tried to calm her down but there was very little I could do to help the situation.

“I’m sorry, Lucian but we have to leave right away.” Daisy tapped me at midnight as she threw her stuff inside her box. I was confused at first but then I saw how serious she was and I had to make her stop and talk to me.

“What’s going on? Why are you suddenly leaving?” I said.

“It’s Luke. He’s at my place, he wants to take Aurora...”

Chapter Seven

Daisy

I was supposed to feel bad for abruptly ending our weekend getaway but I wasn't really... All I cared about at the moment was Aurora's safety and getting to her immediately.

"But Daisy, it's midnight, it's not really safe. Can't we just wait till dawn?" Lucian's voice interrupted my thoughts.

I was quite aware of that fact and I didn't care, people drive at midnight all the time, it wasn't a big deal. Lucian looked very exhausted and it was all my fault, I made him research about Luke's family and still listen to everything I had to say. He must have had a hard time trying to comfort me.

"I can't trust Luke, only God knows what he wants from Aurora. I just need to get there as soon as possible, please..." I said, trying to explain the urgency of the situation.

"But if you really can't come with me, then it's fine... I can go alone." I said as I threw in my last set of clothes and zipped my bag.

"It's not safe out there, I can't leave you all by yourself at this time. Give me a moment to pack my bags." Lucian said as he went into the closet.

My fear intensified as I dialed Sarah's number and it was no longer reachable. I feared that Luke may have done something to her.

"What could possibly be going on, Sarah???" I paced back and forth as I tried to control myself and stop myself from imagining all the terrible things that could possibly be happening.

"Is your ex really that scary?" Lucian said. He probably heard me panicking.

"Well... Luke is unpredictable and so much time has gone by, I barely know who he is anymore. I wouldn't forgive myself if anything happened to Aurora or Sarah." I said, still fidgeting.

"I'll give him a call, I don't understand this madness." I said as I picked my phone and dialed Luke's number.

Of course, he didn't answer, as expected.

"Shit!" I cursed as I tried to control the mix of fear and anger that built up inside me.

“Everything will be alright, I’m here and I’ll help you.” Lucian said as he pulled me into his bosom, and enveloped me in a warm hug, filling my nose with the most amazing scent! It was a mix of lavender and chocolate, with a hint of an almost musky, woody smell.

I didn’t know if it was his scent or the warm hug that did the trick but I seemed a lot calmer afterwards.

“Shall we?” Lucian said. I looked at the time, it was some minutes past 1 am.

“Yeah...” I managed to say and we headed out. I knew I ruined Lucian’s plans but I decided to make it up to him after resolving this crisis.

It was quite a journey from the resort back home but Lucian drove as fast as he could and we arrived a while later.

I didn’t bother to take my things out of the car, I just raced to my house, ringing the doorbell like a psychiatric patient.

Soon, Sarah came to open the door, she looked like she was deep asleep and I had just interrupted that.

“Where is he? Where is Aurora? Is she hurt?” I said as I scurried off into Aurora’s room.

I was a lot relieved as I saw her sleeping soundly. At that moment, nothing else mattered but knowing my baby was safe. The closer I walked towards her bed, the more I realized something was wrong.

“Aurora, baby.. Mommy’s home..” I said as I kissed her forehead. I jolted at the feeling of her body’s hotness.

Aurora didn’t respond or move at the sound of my voice. That was very unusual. My body paralyzed with fear as my thoughts wandered..

“Sarah? What’s going on with Aurora? She’s burning up!” I shouted as I carried her off the bed and held her in my arms, she was shivering.

“Uhhh.. S-she has been a little sick since yesterday but it wasn’t this bad. Luke said it would only get worse if you don’t do what he says. What’s going on, Daisy? I thought he was just bluffing.” Sarah said.

“My baby was sick and you didn’t think it appropriate to let me know? Where’s Luke?” I said with all the disgust I had in me.

I was disappointed in Sarah’s lack of judgment. Why exactly did she keep something something as important as this from me?

“H-he left already, he wanted to see Aurora but I didn’t let him. I’m sorry, Daisy that I didn’t tell

you about Aurora's health. I actually had it under control, she suddenly just became worse." Sarah explained.

I knew she was telling the truth but I was so scared to think at the moment.

I quickly rushed to get a wet towel to reduce her temperature. I received a text from Luke and I checked it immediately.

"There is no need to let our daughter suffer, let me help. I have no intention of getting back with you, you've already gotten a replacement, that's fine. The clock is ticking, she will only get worse." It read.

I couldn't help but feel Luke was close, watching my every move. But I just decided to ignore him, I had been indulging him too much.

It was at that moment that I remembered Lucian, I had completely forgotten he was around.

"Lucian?" I called out but I got no response.

"Please check if he's in the living room." I said to Sarah.

I was glad that Aurora's temperature had reduced and her tremor stopped. She slowly opened her eyes.. I was elated at the sight of that.

"Mom... he said he can make my nightmares go away, he said I don't have to be scared anymore. I think you should listen to him, mom, he said you don't want him to help me." Aurora said with her eyes filled with tears.

It broke my heart seeing my baby like this.

"Who's he, baby? Where did you see him?" I said, just to confirm my curiosity.

"It's daddy, he always visits me in my dreams and protects me. But he visited me today, mom. I miss daddy, why can't he come live with us?" Aurora said. It broke my heart as I listened to her.

"Daddy visited you?" I asked, just to be sure

"Yes, mom."

I was enraged, I had tolerated enough nonsense from Luke, it was time to finally confront him.

I didn't want to put her back to sleep, so I just turned on the Tv for her and left.

Soon, Sarah was back, it was then I remembered that I had sent her to call Lucian but he wasn't with her.

“I didn’t find him anywhere, I think he left.” Sarah said.

“Okay, that’s fine, I’ll call him.” Why did you let Lucian meet Aurora? You know what that means.. you know how much I’ve kept them away from each other.

“You know exactly how I felt when I found out about his betrayal and how I vowed to never let him see Aurora again yet, you disrespected me, my wishes. What for?” I thundered..

“What are you talking about? Please, calm down.” Sarah said, looking a bit confused. I knew she was trying to pretend like she didn’t know what I meant.

“Oh please, don’t try to act up right now, I’m in no mood for that. Why didn’t you let me know that Aurora was ill? I’ve told you severally, anything that goes wrong, let me know!” I lost control of my emotions and I found myself yelling at Sarah.

“I’m sorry alright! I really had it under control; I just didn’t want to ruin your weekend with Lucian. This is the first time you’re actually happy since your divorce! I’m your friend, Daisy, you need to start acknowledging my efforts! Not everyone is trying to deceive you, not everyone’s Luke!” Sarah yelled back at me.

I had never seen Sarah that angry before. I guess I just pushed her too far.

“And I didn’t let Luke in. I’m very aware of your history with him and the vows you made, I would never defy that. Luke didn’t get close to Aurora, I wouldn’t let that.” Sarah said as she sobbed.

“B-but Aurora said he did. So, if he didn’t come in, how did she meet him?” I said.

“Maybe we should ask her, because the moment I saw Luke at the door, I texted you first.” Sarah said.

I rushed back to Aurora’s room to ask her again, to prove Sarah wrong but she wasn’t there.

“Aurora! Aurora baby!” I screamed at the top of my voice as I searched the whole house but she was nowhere to be found.

She was just in the room, where had she gone off to?!

Suddenly, I received a text from Luke.

“I tried to seek your permission; I guess it’s too late now. I’ll return her when she’s fixed.”

I froze as those words interpreted themselves in my head. I dialed his number but it wasn’t going through. I suddenly couldn’t breathe; I fell to the ground as I gasped for breath.

“Daisy! Daisy!” I heard my name faintly as I struggled to stop myself from drowning into the

darkness that enveloped me.