

The Joy of Revenge #Chapter 51 - Read The Joy of Revenge Chapter 51 Online

Chapter 51

CHAPTER 51 Late Night Meeting

Joy

I flinched at the sound of my alarm... I was unwilling to move, my mind still muddled from sleep, but I had to get up.

With a groan, I pushed the covers back and stumbled out of bed. I scratched the bird's nest on top of my head and rubbed the sleep from eyes, walking in a zigzag pattern to my bathroom to take a shower.

Last night, we had a late night meeting which lasted until the early hours of the morning.

Dressed in black tactical gear with a small black backpack on my shoulders, I waited after all the lights in all the homes around the cul-de-sac were off before slipping out through the basement exit of my house. Before leaving, I located the tiny CCTV camera that Noah had installed on my shed door. I placed a drop of black nail polish to obscure its vision and left my house to head into town.

Before I moved into town, Xavier showed me the path through the woods which led to the warehouse of his grocery store. Once there, I tapped the keycard he had given me and the door opened, allowing me to enter without any hassle..

I removed my black ski mask and walked to Xavier's secret office. A beep sounded and the door opened. I found Cristos, Sebastian and Xavier huddled around a long white table in front of a whiteboard where different photos and papers were pinned up.

I handed Cristos the antique desk clock I bought for the Sheriff. He took the clock and began to work his magic on Xavier's desk. "How was your date with Jack?" Cristos asked as he began to unscrew the clock.

“It was fun actually. He likes antiques,” | said, walking to the whiteboard and scanning through all the papers and photos on it. “Over dinner, he went through all the information. on that file you made like a checklist.”

“Did he try anything funny?” Xavier asked.

“Sadly no, he was the perfect gentleman,” | answered, looking at the blueprint of the Cohen mansion. “I kissed him on the cheek and he left my house wide-eyed and happy.”

Xavier scoffed. Sebastian slapped him on the arm with the back of his hand and gave him a

1/6

CHAPTER 51 Late Night Meeting

dirty look.

“Don't worry, Bo,” | said in a sing-song voice. | sterilized my mouth with mouthwash.”

“Kissing him on the cheek was a good call. Jack was acting like a lovesick puppy this morning looking for you,” Sebastian said. “Did he say anything about Abigail?”

“They suspect she fell asleep while driving,” | answered, turning my attention to the blueprint of the town hall. “You guys did hear Abigail is in a coma right?”

“Yes, Nicole informed me,” Sebastian replied. “Was anyone else at the hospital when you

visited?”

“Cris and Lisa. Cris asked me to drop by his office at ten to discuss that promo Bo suggested. | plan to spice it up and sponsor the Spring Formal as well.”

“Good idea. That will secure you an invite to the Spring Formal at New Salem High,” Sebastian said. “Your gown and your necessary accessories will be arriving with Bo's men.

When is their ETA, Bo?”

"Tomorrow afternoon. Right now they are at a truck stop getting some sleep," Xavier answered. "I spoke with the high school student body president the other day when she and her mom were shopping. It so happens the theme I suggested to her months ago has been approved. It seems everything is going as planned in that department."

"Has the coroner confirmed for Friday?" Sebastian asked.

"Yes, he did," Cristos said without lifting his head from the clock.

"Bo, have you found your entry point?" Sebastian asked.

"Yep, through the woods. After Chip hacks into their security system and blocks all cameras, Ill enter through the back and head to his office and the bedroom and clean the place out, making it look like a robbery," Xavier explained.

"I still need a theme for this Sa

while placing a tiny camera in the clock.

party at the pub. Any suggestions?" Cristos asked

"The Honey Bee Spring Parade still needs a Miss Honey Bee," Sebastian replied. "I heard from Nicole that Miss North Dakota will be attending an event in New York and won't be able to grace this year's parade. Accompany Virtue tomorrow and ask Cris if you can hold a small pageant. Sweeten the deal and say a percentage of the night's sales will go to their novel bin

2/6

CHAPTER 51 Late Night Meeting

campaign."

"A week's time to have girls join a pageant? That's not enough time, Cristos complained.

"Uhm, Chip, it won't be hard if you give out a live thousand dollar cash prize to the winner," I said. "Make it a simple event. A casual attire and evening gown portion should be enough."

“Casual attire and evening gown? That won't make the men come. I need the girls to wear a swimsuit if I'm going to shell out five grand,” Cristos said. I rolled my eyes. I couldn't believe Cristos was being cheap. “Do you, by any chance, have swimsuits coming in, Virtue?”

“No, but we can order them and have them flown in, right, Bo?” I asked Xavier.

“Yep. The bikinis will get here two days... tops,” he answered.

“Create a flyer, hand them out once Cris approves, then close the application process by Wednesday. We can order the swimsuits Wednesday evening and they'll arrive just in time for Saturday's event. For the meantime, have the girls give you a photo of themselves in their own swimsuits and make a poster using those pics to bring in the crowd,” I suggested. “Are you guys sure that whatever is going to happen is happening this Saturday?”

“Yes. Leo and Benny have confirmed that the bi-weekly drop is happening this Saturday. It can't be a coincidence,” Xavier said. “Lou has already discovered the meeting point at the other side of the lake. He found various tire imprints that lead to the lake's shallow area. Anyway, my men will be there waiting just in case. If it does happen Friday night, I've ordered them to kill everyone and take the merchandise. It will be s! oppy unlike what we

have

ve planned for Saturday, but it will still have the same result.”

“And what result is that?” I asked.

“It will flush out whoever is in charge of this town's illegal drug trade. We suspect it to be a woman, but we aren't entirely sure,” Sebastian answered, shuffling through the papers.

strewn in front of him.

“A woman?”

“I pinged on Theodore Cohen's location last night and was able to get some satellite images. From this morning,” Cristos said, clicking on his laptop and testing out the camera. “He met with a woman, but her face was hidden under a scarf and thick sunglasses. Two trucks filled with boxes were unloaded and

the boxes were placed in a structure near the cabin. I couldn't see the structure though. Too many trees." Satisfied the camera was working, Cristos began putting the clock back together again. 3/6

CHAPTER 51 Late Night Meeting

"We can't seem to find a laboratory at Hillcrest. We've gone through all the houses and the clubhouse, but nothing. Sebastian said, frustrated.

"What about the church?" Have you searched there?" Cristos said. "I saw people with black sling bags this morning, giving w ads of cash during offertory."

"You went to church?" I asked, surprised.

"With Dan," he answered. "These people were mostly parents with college kids."

"So they're laundering money through church. That's actually brilliant," Sebastian murmured. "College kids huh? I've noticed some community college kids at the bus station every Friday afternoon with black sling bags. It's possible they're dealers. Finally, we have gotten some clarity. I'll have some of my men tail these kids and see who they deal to."

"What about the diner? Many of them go there with the black sling bags in tow. Anything from the bug Virtue planted, Chip?" Xavier asked.

"Nothing. Just business as usual. I just don't have the time to plant a CCTV camera at the diner," Cristos said.

"Till do it," I said, volunteering. "Jack will be there for breakfast. Where do I need to put it?"

"In the plant box along the booth in front of the counter nearest to the office," Cristos mumbled while cleaning the clock up with a brush and wiping it with a piece of cloth.

"It'll be too obvious. They'll know you planted it if they find it, Virtue," Xavier said. "Wait until my men arrive with their deliveries. I'll have them have lunch there when it's busy. They'll find a way to plant the camera."

“All done,” Cristos announced, pointing the antique desk clock in my direction and clicking on his laptop. “Beautiful.” He swung his laptop for me to see and I saw myself smiling back.

“No need to see Jack at the diner. Go see him at work.”

“Don't forget about that bug, Virtue,” Xavier reminded me. “We need eyes and ears in that

Office.”

“How about you? Have you bugged Cris' office?” I asked.

“Tomorrow. I was planning to bug his whole house,” Xavier said.

“His office is at his house?” I asked. Shit. I didn't bother to look at Cris' card..

4/6

CHAPTER STLate Night Meeting

Temporary office. His office at town hall is under renovation.”

“He's going to be utterly disappointed when he sees Chip with you, Sebastian said, chuckling. He took out his phone and checked it. A puzzled expression suddenly formed on

“What is it, Dom?” I asked.

I put a tracker on Dan's car. After heading to Jack's neighborhood, he's now at Highland Oaks. He was there last night before we all met at the hospital. Chip, do you know who he's visiting there at this ungodly hour?”

“Honestly, I don't know.”

“Check if there are CCTV cameras in the area. If not, Bo and I will need to wait for him to visit again,” Sebastian said. “There's something about Dan. The spreadsheet, the late night meetings, the expensive clothing... he has 'made man' written all over himself. I want to know who he's seeing.”

“Have you placed a tracker on Noah's car?” Xavier asked.

“Not yet,” Sebastian answered. ‘I’ll do it at the pub on Saturday night. He’ll be there for sure.”

| helped Cristos make a flyer before heading home. Now, | had to meet him at Cris’.

Dressed in a camel colored pantsuit with a white silk blouse underneath and my hair in a ponytail, | drove to Cris’ house at Valley Ridge, a residential area which catered to the upper middle class just beside town.

As | glanced through the rearview mirror, | saw Cristos’ car right behind mine. | was just in

time.

Cristos stepped out wearing a light gray pinstriped suit. | whistled knowing how expensive it was. He laughed, handing me the folder he was carrying.

Cris’ secretary opened the door and stared admiringly at Cristos. She was a young brunette,

fresh out of college, and was wearing a tight black pencil skirt and a white fitted blouse with a deep neckline. She ushered us in, standing close to Cristos who gave her an annoyed look.

When we entered his office, Cris had his back towards us while speaking to someone on his phone. When he turned to greet us, | gasped.

5/6

CHAPTER ST Late Night Meeting

He had one beautiful...shiner.

Chapter Comments

Mia

Joy is going to kill Liam, period!

Luna-Mom

it's getting messy

VIEW ALL 3 COMMENTS

23

CHADE

POST COMMENT

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

Chapter 52

CHAPTER 82 Make a Statement

Joy

“It looks worse than it feels, | can assure you,” Cris said. Cristos and | looked at each other, doubtful, but deep inside, | was applauding whoever punched him. This a sshole deserved it.

“What happened, Cris? Did on e of the town’s folk punch you yesterday at church?” Cristos asked, pretending to be concerned. “Ah, no, Cris said, embarrassed. “I was bending down to pick something up near the door and suddenly the door swung open. The doorknob hit me right smack in the eye.

“Oooh, ouch,” Cristos said, making a face. “I hope the discoloration is gone by the time Saturday comes. I’m planning a huge event at the pub.”

“Oh yeah? | thought the pub will be undergoing renovations every weekend,” Cris replied, surprised.

“Well, Nicole mentioned Miss North Dakota won't be gracing this year’s Spring Parade as Miss Honey Bee for whatever reason and | thought it would be a great idea to host a small pageant in search of this year’s Miss Honey Bee, Cristos explained. Cris glanced at Cristos then at me, thinking it was a joke.

“Why do a pageant? There’s already someone seated next to you who is perfect to be Miss Honey Bee. I’ve met Miss North Dakota and Virtue is so

much prettier than her,” Cris said, trying to be charming. | smiled and shook my head, refusing to volunteer.

“That’s really sweet of you to say, Cris, but I’ve just moved into town. It should be someone who imbues the spirit of this town. You know, someone who walks, talks and breathes New Salem,” | argued, hoping it would be enough for him to reconsider.

“| don’t think the town’s folk would mind. You are beautiful, tall and young, perfect for Miss Honey Bee,” Cris reasoned. Cristos smiled and asked me for his folder. He took out a sheet of paper and placed it on Cris’ desk.

“If you agree, a percentage of the night’s sales will be donated to your party's campaign. | will also be awarding a grand prize of five thousand dollars to the lucky winner and the winner will be the new face for my pub,” Cristos explained. “Virtue here can join the pageant. if she wants, but | was hoping she would be one of the judges instead... including you and

Liam.

1/6

CHAPTER 82 Make a Statement

“That’s quite generous of you, Chip, and I’ll be honored to be a judge,” Cris said, looking at the sheet of paper and nodding his head. “I’ll approve this, but you also need approval from the mayor. I’ll message Liam and tell him that you’re coming to see him.” He picked up his

phone and sent Liam a short message.

“Thank you, Cris,” Chip squealed. “I’m so excited for Saturday!”

“By the way, Cris, | was hoping to sponsor this year’s Spring Formal. I’ll sponsor the dance and the students can buy everything from me... down to their corsages.” A big smile formed

on his face.

*| have such generous friends,” Cris said, opening a folder and pushing it towards my direction. “I need you to sign here.”

After signing the documents, he handed me a printed copy of the estimate costs for the Spring/Formal. It was going to be a masquerade themed party. I had a box of masks coming in real soon and one them was mine.

I'll be dropping by the local high school this afternoon after my meeting with Bo," Cris said. "I'll see you there, Virtue, so you can speak to the principal. Chip, you should come, so you can place a poster at the school. There are students who are already eighteen."

"Alright then," I said. "We'll see you later. Chip, let's go and see Liam."

"Yep, let's get going. I need to distribute flyers and pin up the posters by today," Cristos said, standing up and practically fleeing Cris' secretary.

"I'll give you copies of the documents after we've spoken to the principal," Cris said, putting his arm around my shoulders. His secretary coughed which made Cris immediately remove his arm. I glanced at her and saw the dirty look she gave him. Ah...He's f ucking her.

I waved goodbye and walked out to my car.

Time to see Liam.

Liam

"Jack, thanks for last night." I gestured for him to sit. He arrived at my office as promised.

2/6

CHAPTER 82 Make a Statement

"Liam, I didnt say those things for you. I said it for Virtue. She doesn't deserve to be entangled in all this mess, Jack said. He took out a zip lock bag from his pocket. "Here's yournovelbin

gun.

I took the plastic bag which had my gun inside of it and placed it inside a drawer before speaking. After last night, I've been thinking...what if we kill the boss?" Jack looked up at me.

and slowly nodded his head.

| was thinking the same. The sh it happening in Hillcrest is enough," Jack answered. | let out a huge sigh of relief. | had a feeling he and | were on the same page. "What about Dan and

camer

Cris though? Seems to me they have been doing stuff behind our backs. | know Cris is into that BDSM stuff. | just didn't know that after Joy, he'd continue on with his, uhm, aggressive tendencies. But what really bothers me the most is why Joan Summers? It can't be all- because of Old Man Eugene. Sure, he likes to shoot his mouth off, but he's harmless. Did anyone know you and Joan were close?"

"Abigail... maybe Nicole and Lisa. Why do you ask?"

He leaned forward and in a hushed tone said, "I heard the Sheriff talking to someone on thé

phone. He was really pis sed. | heard him say, "We had a deal. No abductions in New Salem. What the f uck happened to our agreement?" This was after Joan Summers' body was found. in the lake. You must have known they took her after all those nasty rumors about Joan

Summers came out."

"| did, but | wasn't expecting for them to make me clean up their mess. When | arrived there, Joan opened her eyes and saw me and my men. had to shut her up. Even if | saved her, she would never forgive me," | explained, remembering the accusing look in her eyes.

"They did that to make a statement. Their way of saying they have you by the balls," he said, leaning back in his chair. | sighed. He was right. So, what do you have planned?" Jack asked.

"I'll be going to see the boss Friday night and convince him we can't do anything stu pid. since elections are coming," | answered. "But if | can't convince him, I'll promise him I'll bring Virtue to him. Then, I'll have my men kill him at his safehouse in Bismarck."

"So you'll be using Virtue as bait," Jack said, nodding his head. "What do you need me to do?"

“Keep an eye on Dan and Cris, especially Dan. I want to know where he is at all times. If you

hear anything, let me know.”

“No problem. Well, I gotta go back to work. Call me if you need anything,” Jack said and left.

3/6

Mar

CHAPTER 82 Make a Statement

I checked my phone and saw a message from Cris. Virtue and Chip were on their way to see me. Using the intercom, I told Marla, my new secretary, to let them in.

“When Virtue Sullivan arrives, show her into my office, please.”

“Who, Sir?” Marla asked, a bewildered tone in her voice evident. Of course, everyone in this town knew every resident living here except for the very beautiful Virtue Sullivan.

“Virtue Sullivan. She’s the woman who bought the Old Taylor House,” I explained. I wasn’t expecting her to squeal with excitement.

“The really gorgeous woman who drives the Mercedes-Benz?!” She squeaked. “She’s coming here? Oh my gosh!”

“Woah there, Marla,” I said disgustedly. I fucking need a new secretary. “Remember what we discussed?”

“Secretary has the word ‘secret’ in it meaning everything that happens in this office stays here,” she reiterated. “I’m sorry, Mayor Cohen. I forgot.”

Suddenly I heard a knock through the intercom. Not wanting to be utterly humiliated by my secretary, I hurriedly walked out of my office as Chip and Virtue walked in. I looked at Chip from head to toe. He was surprising dapper today in his pinstriped Armani suit. He obviously

had excellent taste.

Virtue was equally stylish in her pantsuit, looking very sleek and chic for business. Her white high heel pumps accentuated her svelte body while her small white Louis Vuitton purse screamed she had money.

“Virtue... Chip.. right this way please,” | said before my secretary could open her mouth.

Virtue nodded her head and gave Marla a small smile before entering my office. The sound of her heels made that clickety clack sound which | had begun to love.

| quickly closed the doors behind them. | didn't want Marla to hover.

“How can | help you?” | sat behind my desk, ready for business.

“Liam, I'm planning to host a Miss Honey Bee pageant at the pub this Saturday. A percentage of the night's sales will be donated to your party's campaign as a thank you,” Chip said while placing a printed sheet of paper with all the details of the pageant. “I would also be honored if you can help judge the pageant.”

4/6

CHAPTER 82 Make a Statement

“What time will this be?” | had to be at the lake to oversee the delivery of the crates this

Saturday.

“Around nine or ten in the evening,” Chip answered. Delivery was at midnight. | could leave right after.

My stomach grumbled. | checked my watch and saw it was almost time for lunch.

“Okay. I'll approve this,” | said, signing the document. “But on one condition.”

“Sure, what is it?” Chip asked.

“Virtue has to have lunch with me.”

Virtue raised her eyebrows and inched closer to my desk. My gosh, she looked like a goddess. in the sunlight. “Sure, for Chip. Where do you want to have lunch?”

Joy

Liam checked his schedule and frowned, “Unfortunately, | have a meeting scheduled at one, so that means we can’t go far. How about Harold's?”

“Harold's is fine,” | answered.

“Don't | get an invite?” Cristos asked, pouting.

“Don't you have flyers to give out and posters to put up?” | answered his question with

another question..

Cristos rolled his eyes and sighed. “I hate it when you're right.”

Instead of using the bug Xavier gave me for the Sheriff's office, | put it under Liam’s desk.

Finally, we had ears.

| walked out of Liam’s office extremely pleased with myself.

5/6

CHAPTER ST KANKE S SESTERNTTO.

Chapter Comments.

Ary and her Trio are going to have some major fun on Saturday

VR 16MMORT

625

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

Chapter 53

CHAPTER 53 Two-faced Pete

Joy

Having lunch with me was Liam's chance to parade me around town. I saw the town's folk whisper behind our backs as we walked to Harold's.

Despite the whispers, Liam seemed to be in a good mood. We ate while talking about the grand opening of my store, the upcoming Spring Parade and the election. Not once did he mention Abigail... much to my dismay.

"Have you gone to visit Abigail since Saturday night?" I asked him casually.

"Unfortunately, no. Yesterday, my father arrived from our cabin in the woods near New Salem Park. Sunday has always been reserved for family," he answered after finishing his juice. "Have you?"

"Yes, I did... yesterday. Abigail is in a coma and the doctors can't say when she'll regain consciousness," I said. "Do you know what happened to her?"

"Jack said she must have fallen asleep while driving," Liam replied, acting as if Abigail was irrelevant. That didn't surprise me. Liam never cared for anyone, but himself. "So what will you be doing after lunch?" He asked, changing the topic.

"I'll be headed to my boutique to check on its progress, then I'll be meeting Cris at New Salem High," I answered. He nodded his head..

"I'm actually waiting for the student body president to come see me about the Spring Formal sponsorship," Liam muttered. "I guess they have the budget and don't need my help. Last year, the student body president came to see me at the beginning of the year. This year...

nothing."

There was a tinge of sadness and regret in his voice when he spoke of Joan Summers which puzzled me. If he orchestrated the whole thing t

should be a cockiness in his voice..

However, | wasn't imagining things... the sadness was also evident in his eyes.

| placed a hand on top of his to console him. He took advantage of the situation and quickly took my hand in his. The momentary empathy | shared with him dissolved as fast as it came.

When it's Liam, why bother?

"About that, I'll be sponsoring this year's Spring Formal. It's the least | could do knowing

115

Tue: Mar 26-

CHAPTER 53 Two-faced Pete

most of the students will be buying their essentials for the prom from me," | said. He raised my hand to his mouth and gave it a kiss. | had to fight the urge to pull my hand away.

"Beautiful, kind and generous... what can any man ask for? Liam murmured. He glanced at his watch and frowned, then waved at the waiter for the bill. "Time seems to fly when you're enjoying yourself. | need to get back to the office. How about if | call you later? Maybe we can have dinner together?"

"Sure, Liam. I'll be at the pub helping Chip organize the pageant. If you're too busy for dinner, you can drop by for a drink."

He smiled and caressed my cheek. "Now that sounds like a plan. At least | get to see you

before | head home."

After he paid for lunch, we walked back to town hall. | waved goodbye and quickly entered my car. Since Cristos had to put up posters and hand out flyers, there was one place | knew he'd go to...Bo's.novelbin

z storefront

And | was right. | found Cristos and Xavier inside, taping up posters on the big windows announcing the three day application for Miss Honey Bee as well as

a flock of young women outside, hovering in front of them. But the ladies weren't there for Miss Honey, Bee, they were watching the two handsome men through the store's windows.

I waved at the two men behind the group of eager girls. Xavier waved back and smiled, showing off his perfect teeth. Some of the girls squealed with delight while the rest giggled.

"Virtue, are you planning to join the contest?" A male voice said. I turned around and found Pete and Noah walking towards me. "Oh, hey guys! I'm actually helping Chip organize the whole thing. Have you guys had

lunch?" I asked.

"We grabbed a couple of cheeseburgers from the diner, Pete answered, yawning.

"Late night, Pete?" I asked curiously. Why was Pete McDowell up late on a Sunday night?

"Aaah, yeah. I h-had a d-design to do for a house at Hillcrest," he stuttered. He was lying. I wanted to interrogate him further, but I nodded my head instead.

"I see. A lot more people must be moving in. Good for business," I said, smiling. I saw him relax a little while Noah chuckled in amusement.

2/5

CHAPTER 53 Two-faced Pete

"Well, Pete here is giving Nicole a run for her money, Noah said, patting Pete on the

shoulder.

"I'm going to go and get a cup of coffee at Bo's, Pete suddenly said, turning red. I saw the angry glint in his eyes while he glanced at Noah, Why would he be angry at Noah? For laughing? "D-do you want to grab a coffee with me, Virtue? And maybe a pastry? I heard Bo's has a new bakery." The croissant I had yesterday at Dom's was from Bo's and it was good.

“Sure, Pete. Let’s see what they have. But I’m buying okay?” | turned my attention to Noah. “Hey, Noah, why don’t we grab a box of pastries for your crew?” | paused, remembering Mrs. Jensen. “And I’ll get a box for your mom. How is Mrs. Jensen today anyway?” Noah raised his brows at the unexpected question. Doesn’t anyone else ask about her?

“Today is a good day for her,” he answered. He put his hand on Pete’s shoulder. “Pete, why don’t you grab that box for the crew? | need to go back inside and supervise. | don’t want our men screwing up the tiles in the bathroom. And Virtue, anything would be nice for my Thank you.”

“Alrighty then,” | said, grabbing Pete’s arm. “Come on, Pete. | missed my cup of joe this

morning.”

mom.

After paying for our orders, Pete and | sat at a small table in front of Bo’s Cafe and Bakery. Pete recommended | try an éclair and so | did..

“So, Pete, have you lived in New Salem all your life? Like Noah and the rest of people here?”

I asked.

“Uhm, no. Originally from Austin, Texas. | moved here during high school,” he answered, “after my dad died.”

“I’m sorry to hear that,” | said. “It must have been very traumatic for you, dealing with loss. so very young.” He nodded his head while looking at a distance.

“H-he died of a h-heart attack while we were celebrating my quince... uhm, my right to passage for turning fifteen,” he quickly explained, lowering his eyes. There’s that stutter

again. He was lying.

“You’re hispanic,” | said, nodding my head appreciatively. “Nice. But McDowell is a British

surname... right?”

“Scottish,” he replied. “My mom, she reverted back to her maiden name when my father died.

good idea if my name was changed too.”

She thought

it was a

3/5

CHAPTER 53 Two-faced Pete

“I see, I said, nodding my head. I stared at his dark brown eyes and saw his heartache. I rubbed his arm to comfort him, hoping I could make him feel better.

My mind wandered, going back to those days in high school when I noticed him in the hallway. I remembered him talking to a girl with jet black hair and green eyes, a classmate of mine, named Sarah Hughes. The same Sarah Hughes who was running against Liam for

mayor.

I sighed, remembering the racist comments and slurs thrown his way against his ethnicity. He had dark wavy hair back then and a real bad case of acne. He was also thin, with his Adam’s apple protruding awkwardly from his neck.

“What about you, Virtue? I mean, are your parents still alive?” Pete asked, interrupting my thoughts.

“Very much. They live in Oregon near the border of Nevada. After graduating college, I got a job in Reno to be closer to them. Well, close enough to maintain my independence.”

North Dakota is far from Oregon. Will they be moving here to live with you?” Pete asked..

“Maybe. I do have the space,” I said. “I just want to settle in first.”

My phone suddenly chimed. It was Cris telling me to meet him at New Salem High at three. I sighed. I still needed a replacement bug for the one I stuck on Liam’s desk and to drop by the Sheriff’s station.

“Boyfriend?” Pete joked. There was an arrogance in his voice that | picked up... like | was a s kank. | eyed him warily.

“Cris Murdock actually”, | answered coldly. “I need to meet him at New Salem High. I’m sponsoring the Spring Formal and | need to write the school a check. But before | meet him, | have to talk to Bo about the booze | need for the grand opening of my boutique and house warming.

“Well, | need to go next door and get back to work,” Pete said bitterly, noticing my mood had changed. “Thanks for the coffee and the eclairs.”

“Can you give this box of croissants to Noah, please? For his mom. Thanks Pete,” | said, handing him the box. “I’ll stop by before | head to the school.” He nodded his head and left.

“He doesn’t look too happy,” Cristos muttered, sitting down in Pete’s empty chair while grabbing my cup of coffee and sipping it. He took my half eaten éclair, ate it all and drank.

4/5

CHAPTER 53 Two faced Pete

the rest of my coffee.

“How about a buy you a slice of gourmet pizza?” said, changing the subject. It wasn’t the time nor the place to talk about Two- faced Pete.

“No need,” Xavier said, handing Cristos and me a slice of tomato and basil on white cheese pizza before sitting with us with his own slice. He slipped a napkin in my hand with something hard in it. | smiled. It was another black case. | quickly placed it in my purse.

Cristos took a bite and moaned blissfully. | noticed Xavier was dressed in dark slacks and a light blue dress shirt.

“Meeting?”

“Yep, in thirty minutes,” he said before taking a bite of his pizza. “Cris’ house is near, so it’s no problem. By the way, your booze is en route and | owe you a drink at the pub. I’ll see your

tonight.” He winked.

, | did the impossible. | just hope we get information from Liam.

| also needed to know more about Pete.

Why lie about his father's death?

Chapter Comments.

Luna-Mom

| love the dynamics of Joy and her boys

Emy Duvey

So Pete is the Boss????

[VIEW ALL 2 COMMENTS >](#)

POST COMMENT

T

26

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

Chapter 54

CHAPTER 54 Theodore Cohen

Joy

Cristos and | agreed to meet at New Salem High School at three. While he and Xavier finished having a late lunch, | drove over to the New Salem Sheriff's Station to drop off my gift. | crossed my fingers, hoping Jack and Sheriff Combs were there. Luckily, | saw Jack's truck parked out front along with several other vehicles.

It was time for us to have eyes and ears in Sheriff Combs' office.

New Salem Sheriff's station was a small one story brick building. Like the town hall, this building was preserved for its history. The bell chimed as I opened the glass door. I found several officers walking to and fro with papers in their hands. It was quiet inside except for a few who were on their phones. I

knocked up to the counter with the antique clock cradled in one of my arms while I carried a paper bag with a box of eclairs. Behind the counter, a stout man in a uniform was busy writing in a ledger.

"Good afternoon, Sir, I greeted the man. He was probably in his thirties. He had dark hair, dark brown eyes and sported a well-trimmed dark moustache. He had thick dark hair covering his arms and fingers and wore a gold band which fitted snugly around his chubby ring finger.

He quickly looked up at me, clearly surprised to see me standing in front of him. "Uh, hello there, Miss! How can I help you? His manly voice was welcoming and warm.

I smiled at him. I'm Virtue Sullivan. I was hoping to see the Undersheriff, if he's not busy. I

don't want to be a bother."

"Oh no, you're certainly not a bother, Miss Sullivan. That's him right there," he said, pointing to a cubicle in the back where a head with black hair was hunched down. Yup, that's Jack

alright.

"Is it okay if I see him, Officer..."

"Cannon," he answered, smiling warmly at me. "It's no problem, Miss Sullivan. We don't get

too many visitors. It's nice to see a civilian drop by once in a while."

"That's kind of you to say. Thank you for all your help, Officer Cannon." I smiled at him.

I gratefully and walked towards Jack.

CHAPTER 54 Theodore Coben

My heels made a clicking sound on the old hardwood floor as I walked, making heads turn curiously in my direction. I smiled at Jack's colleagues before stopping right in front of him.

I coughed softly to grab his attention. He looked up and his eyes widened seeing me smiling

down at him.

"Hi, Undersheriff! I'm so sorry to bother you at work."

"Virtue!" He quickly stood up, banging his knee loudly on his desk. That must have hurt.

"Are you okay?" I looked at him with concern. If it did hurt, he hid it well.

"I'm fine." He dis

missed his clumsiness and chuckled to hide his embarrassment. "What brings you here?"

I showed him the clock. "I was hoping to give this to Sheriff Combs. Is he in?"

He pointed to the Sheriff's office which was near his desk. "Ah, yeah. He's in his office. How about I take you to see him?" "Yes, please," I said. He stepped out of his cubicle and placed a hand on the small of my back to lead me to Sheriff Combs.

He knocked on the door tentatively and waited.

"Come in!" Sheriff Combs suddenly yelled from the other side of the door.

Jack opened the door and ushered me inside. The Sheriff like the rest of the people inside the station were busy doing paperwork.

He looked up at me with a surprised look on his face. I guess no one expected to see me here. He coughed and gestured for me to come in. His kind brown eyes smiled at me as I

approached.

“Hi Sheriff Combs. I hope I’m not disturbing you,” I said as I walked to his desk.

“Not at all, Miss Sullivan,” he answered. “How can I help you?”

“I heard about your, uhm, unfortunate circumstances, so I decided to get you a gift. Jack and

I went antique shopping yesterday and he helped me pick out this clock for you,” I answered,

placing the clock and the paper bag on his desk. “And oh, I brought you a box of eco from

Bo’s new bakery that you can share with your men.”

2/5

CHAPTER 54 Theodore Cohen

“That’s awfully kind of you, Miss Sullivan, Sheriff Combs said, grinning. “Thank you for your gifts and thank you Jack for helping her pick this out for me. I like it.”

“You’re most welcome,” I said, grinning back at him. “Well, I don’t want to keep you from all the work New Salem’s finest does for this town.”

“You have to leave so soon?” Jack asked, frowning.

“I, uh, have to meet Cris and Chip at New Salem High,” I quickly replied.

“Oh? Why is that, Miss Sullivan?” Sheriff Combs asked.

“I’ll be sponsoring the Spring Formal this year as a promotion for the grand opening of my boutique. I sponsor the dance and the students can buy their gowns and tuxedos from me... or rent, if need be. It will be a good start for my business,” I explained. “I see,” Sheriff Combs said. “Someone so new in town is actively taking an initiative to participate and contribute to New Salem. You are someone the town needs. If you need anything, Miss Sullivan, you can come to me.”novelbin

“Thank you, Sheriff,” I replied, smiling at him. “Have a good day.”

“You too, Miss Sullivan,” Sheriff Combs replied as | exited his office.

“Do you need me to take you to the school, Virtue?” Jack offered. | raised my hand and rubbed his upper arm gently.

“No, it’s okay, Jack,” | answered. “You obviously Have a lot of work to do. Anyway, if ever you’re not busy, I’ll be at the pub later to help Chip with his pageant, so-”

“Pageant?!”

“Haven't you heard? Chip is hosting a “Miss Honey Bee” pageant this Saturday night. I’m helping him organize since it’s less than a week away.”

“Oh okay,” he said, smiling. “Then, | guess I'll see you later.”

“Later then.” | waved goodbye at him and all his colleagues as | walked out.

But before | could exit the building, | bumped into a tall man who had dark hair with wisps.

of white wearing a nice dark suit. | looked up and noticed Theodore Cohen staring back at

me.

3/5

CHAPTER 54 Theodore Cohen

| wonder why he’s here...

“I'm sorry, | hastily said and quickly moved to the side to let him enter. He cordially smiled. back at me, but the smile didn’t quite reach his gray eyes.

“That’s quite alright,” he said, standing up straight and fixing his dark blue tie. “You must be in a hurry, Miss...”

“Sullivan, Virtue Sullivan,” | answered. “I have a meeting at three that | can’t miss.”

“Virtue Sullivan... ah, yes. You're the one who bought the Old Taylor House. Where are my manners?” He chuckled, but just like his smile, his-laughter

didn't reach his cold eyes. "I'm Theodore Cohen, the former mayor. Of course, you know my son, the current mayor, Liam Cohen." He extended his hand for a handshake. I placed my hand in his and we shook hands briefly. His hands were smooth and cold, just like his eyes. "What brings you here at the

Sheriff's Station?"

"I came to drop off a gift for Sheriff Combs," I said. "I heard about the fire and thought it would be a nice gesture to get him a gift." "Yes, that was quite unfortunate. However, he now has a new house in Hillcrest. Then again, that was really considerate of you. Your gift now serves as both a sympathy and a housewarming gift," Theodore Cohen said.

He was so formal. Unlike Liam, he was cold, uninviting, and a snob. Those were the reasons! why I disliked him when I was a child. He may have acted friendly, but it was all a pretense to keep the people of this town in check. Every time my dad and I had to go see Theodore Cohen, I hid from him. Not even that bowl of lollipops resting atop of the Mayor's desk could coax me to come out from behind my dad.

I glanced at my watch. "You'll have to excuse me, Mr. Cohen. I'm running late for a meeting

at New Salem High."

"And why do you need to go there?" Theodore Cohen asked surprised.

"I have a meeting with Councilman Cris Murdock and the principal to present a check to the

student body president. I am sponsoring the Spring Formal as a promotion for the grand opening of my boutique which I hope will happen next week," I answered curtly. He always needed to get into everyone's business. Probably the reason why he kept Abigail as Liam's secretary. She was nosy.

"Trying to play an active role in the community... I like that," Theodore Cohen said to my

475

CHAPTER 54 Theodore Cohen

surprise. By the way, I saw posters of a pageant for Miss Honey Bee. Do tell Chip to keep the

pageant tasteful. I dislike anything grotesque in this town.”

Now that’s the Theodore Cohen I remember.

“Don’t worry, Mr. Cohen. Chip and I will make sure the pageant is respectful. We don’t want to leave an impression that we are grotesque individuals,” I assured him, my tone blunt. That remark earned me an irritating smirk from him.

4

My hand tightened around the handle of my purse. I wanted to smack that smug and conceited expression off his face.

“Of course, you will, Miss Sullivan. Good day.”

I gave him a small wave as I exited the Sheriff’s station. Just another day in Ashole Valley.

Anyway, whatever business he has with Sheriff Combs, we will know. While giving the Sheriff the antique clock, I placed a bug discreetly under his desk.

I drove out of the parking lot and headed to New Salem High. I scoffed, remembering what

Theodore Cohen said.

Grotesque, my ass.

If there was anything grotesque in this town, it was the Cohens.

They are monsters.

Chapter Comments.

Luna-Mom

two faced pete is right

POST

T COMMENT

Morgan

Pete is boss!

[VIEW ALL 2 COMMENTS](#)

23

5/5

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

Chapter 55

CHAPTER 55 Coroner's Office

Joy

| love Fridays...

| closed the book | was reading to Mrs. Jensen and watched the sunset.

With the various listening devices in each location, we were able to have an idea what the other group's plans were.

Theodore Cohen had visited the Sheriff to tell him his delivery would be arriving on

schedule at the diner. It was the one place Xavier had been keeping a close eye on, especially

their deliveries.

He noticed that every other Wednesday, several delivery trucks with a ketchup symbol on the box would arrive late at night coming from the general direction of New Salem Park. It was also the one night the Sheriff would patrol that specific area. cargo

“The only way I can find out what their cargo is if I head to Theodore Cohen's cabin in the woods before the delivery date,” Xavier said. “Chip, what is the location of the cabin?”

“It's about twenty miles away, located just outside the park, near the deep portion of the lake where people are prohibited to loiter,” Chip said. “But we're in luck. Leo and Benny just sent me a will be headed to the cabin to supervise the delivery. I've messaged

them that they should send me a photo of the contents of the boxes.”

We found out the boxes were filled with cold medicine, a key ingredient in cooking meth.

After handing the New Salem High principal a check for the Spring Formal last Monday, my week comprised mostly of helping Cristos with the ten lucky ladies he had picked out from all the aspirants who applied to join Miss Honey Bee. We quickly posted posters of the ten women in their swimsuits, informing the public that tickets were being sold for the event. Last night, the pub was packed with people purchasing tickets. When the pub closed, Miss. Honey Bee was sold out which had Cristos scurrying to hire more servers for tomorrow's

event.

I did see Jack and Liam during the week, mostly at the pub. But after one drink, both of them would leave together saying they were just checking up on me... whatever that meant. Sebastian informed me Jack and Liam have been meeting with Dan and Cris at Hillcrest.

Aside from the cough medicine delivery, we also heard Liam making an appointment to see

1/6

CHAPTER 55 Coroner's Office

someone tonight. We didn't know who he was supposed to meet, we only knew it was

urgent.

Since | noticed Noah had finished his porch, | decided to come by his house this afternoon. | gave Mrs. Jensen the blanket | had ordered for her and sat down with her on the porch to read a chapter of a novel | picked up from the bookstore. It was a romance novel where the heroine was an undercover cop who falls in love with the Mafia Boss.

Noah arrived as Carol was wheeling in his mother back into the house. The sun's rays were nearly gone and the lights on the lamp posts around the neighborhood had just turned on.

"Good evening, Noah," | said. "I just finished reading her a chapter. I'll probably come by next week. | have to head to the pub and see if the stage and the ramp holds-and if all the decorations for the stage have arrived."

"Thanks, Virtue," he said, grinning. He seemed to be in a good mood. "I'm sure my really happy that she's made a new friend. How about if | walk you home?"

mom is

"Sure." | turned around and walked down the steps. My long red and black boho skirt twirled as | moved. | was wearing a black spaghetti strap camisole top along with the skirt, so | felt the chill of the night breeze on my skin.

"So... big night tomorrow night. | have my money on number eight to win," Noah said,

chuckling.

"Ah, you already have a favorite. Will you be watching tomorrow night?" | asked.

"Unfortunately, | don't have a ticket," Noah said. "I went over to the pub this afternoon and

Patrick said tomorrow's event is sold out."

"Well, lucky for you, | have extra," | said, smiling at him.

"You do?" Noah asked. "I'll buy it off of you."

"Nah... what are neighbors for," | said, playfully slapping his arm. "Come on. It's in

my

v car.”

| took out two tickets from the glove compartment. “For you and a plus one. My way of

thanking you... now that my boutique is almost done.”

“| should be the one thanking you, Virtue,” he replied. “You helped with the porch, read to my mom and now you are giving me tickets. You're a really good friend.”

2/6

CHAPTER 55 Coroner's Office

We were standing face to face, underneath the dark sky, the wind billowing through our hair. | could feel his warm breath against my forehead as | looked up at him expectantly while he looked down at me with desire in his chocolate brown eyes.

This... the two of us standing face to face as if frozen in time had filled my dreams, day and night, during my junior year in high school. It was something | had prayed to God so earnestly for, something | had wished for with all my heart and soul as | stared up at the ceiling of my bedroom during those sleepless nights....

It was so breathtakingly poetic... if this had happened ten years ago. But now, all | can think of, as | looked at him, was his betrayal.

He took a step closer, covering my hand with his. He reached up and caressed my cheek, resting his callused hand along my jaw.

It took all of stop myself from flinching from his touch.

my energy +

“Actually, | think you should be Miss Honey Bee. You are just.... perfect,” he murmured.

He lowered his head while | stood still, anticipating his lips on mine.

“Good evening, Noah, an elderly man’s voice interrupted us. | turned my head to see Old Man Tucket rolling his trash bin to the entrance of the cul-de-sac.

He was smiling. He never smiled.

“Mr. Tucket, how are you this evening?” Noah said, lowering his hand.

“Just fantastic!” He exclaimed as he walked away. I’m going to give that guy a box of

croissants.novelbin

“| better get going,” | quickly said. “Chip won’t be too happy that I’m late. If you have time, drop by. If not, I’ll see you tomorrow.” | waved goodbye before entering the car. | left him standing on my driveway, his face a beet

red.

Blood red was a better color for him.

| exited the cul-de-sac, waving at Old Man Tucket, and drove towards town. Tonight, Xavier was going to the coroner’s.

3/6

CHAPTER 55 Coroner's Office

Xavier

Highland Oaks. The homes of the rich people of New Salem. It was an exclusive residential area which had several security guards patrolling the area twenty-four seven.

Each massive home was built on half an acre of land giving each home the privacy each homeowner deserved. It also meant | could break into the coroner’s house without alerting the neighbors, but his home security system was so sensitive, even something as small as a rat could trip the sensors, allowing the security lights around the whole house and yard to turn on, making anyone visible.

“Base, I’m in position. Housekeeper has left the house and no guards in sight. Disable the security system,” | whispered, lying face down on top of the tall wall which fenced Highland Oaks from the outside.

“Disabling now,” | heard Cristos say through my earpiece. “Estimated time...two minutes.

“Copy that,” | said, peering through my binoculars, scouting the area.

A black car suddenly stopped in front of the house opposite the coroner’s yard. | zoomed in and saw a man wearing a suit come out. He looked familiar. | zoomed in on the car and saw the W at the end of the emblem on the hood of the car. It was Liam. “Base, | spotted the mayor coming out of his car Who owns the house in front of the coroner’s?” | asked.

“Hold on,” Cristos said. | heard him clicking on his laptop for the Highland Oaks residential map. “Got it. McDowell. The home across the coroner’s is owned by Pete McDowell’s mother, Cynthia McDowell.”

“I’ll check what’s happening across the street once I’m done,” | said, placing my binoculars in

my bag.

“You will jeopardize your mission if you get caught,” Cristos said. “Stick to the plan. Security system is disabled. You have thirty minutes.”

| quickly rappelled down the wall and ran towards the back entrance of the house. Using my tools, | opened the back door and walked right in. After turning on my night vision, | quickly it was made my way through to the coroner’s office. | tried the doorknob and to my surprise,

unlocked.

mys

His office was practically just a room with a desk and three chairs. There were no shelves, no

4/6

CHAPTER 55 Coroner’s Office

books, no computer... not even pen and paper..

| was about to leave to head upstairs when

desk. It was a secret door.

| saw the indentations along the wall behind the

On the wall, there was a light switch with a black button underneath. | pushed the button and a portion of the wall swung open. Inside was the coroner's 'real' office. Filing cabinets surrounded the walls with each drawn

labeled with a letter of the alphabet. In the center of

the room was an antique desk where his laptop sat. | opened it and placed my Poison Tap plug into the USB port to unlock the laptop. After a minute, done.

| replaced the plug with a USB and copied all its files. Sebastian had told me that instead of making it look like a break-in, it would be better if it appeared as if nothing ever happened. After the fire | had caused at the Sheriff's, Sebastian didn't want people to get suspicious.

After deleting the log of my activity on the laptop, | closed it and turned my attention to the filing cabinets. | made a beeline for the letter S, knowing a coroner deals with investigating the cause of death.

| found many file folders with a Summers surname, two with the first initial J. | took both out and luckily found Joan Summers' autopsy reports, one with the original findings of the coroner and the other with his doctored findings. | took pictures of all the documents inside. her file folder. After putting the folders back, | noticed a file folder labeled D. Samuels.

What the f uck is this doing here?

| took out the file folder and found pictures of Sebastian at his store including all the false information about him.

| took pictures and put it back, then searched for Sullivan. There it was... a brand new file. folder and inside were several pictures of her. Obviously, we were being watched.

If he had files on each of us, he must have files on Joy Taylor.

| went to the drawer labeled with a T and found numerous file folders with a Taylor surname, but only one with the first initial J. This had to be it. My hands were trembling as | opened the folder.

| wanted to puke when | saw the pictures. | saw Joy's bludgeoned face, her jaws wired shut, her leg and arm in a cast, the bruising around her neck, the hematomas all over her body. | even saw photos of her vaginal and anal lacerations from her brutal rape.

5/6

CHAPTER SS Coroner's Office

| felt so angry. | wanted to cross the street and shoot Liam in the head!

"You only have ten minutes left. | heard Cristos say. | inhaled deeply to calm myself. | quickly took pictures of everything and placed the file folder back in its place.

| made sure everything looked untouched before | left. | clicked on the black button and the wall swung closed.

| hurriedly left the house, ran across the yard and climbed my way to the top of the fence. Before | rappelled down, | noticed Liam's car was already gone. | walked slowly into the forest to where my motorcycle was parked..

"Did you find anything?" Cristos asked.

"Yes," | choked.

"You found it. How bad was it?"

on asec. | think I'm going to be sick."

Chapter Comments.

Luna-Mom

Another excellent chapter

VIEW 1 COMMENT!

www

POST COMMENT

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

Chapter 56

CHAPTER 56 Negotiations.

Liam

“I know both of us can agree a Cohen seated in town hall will be profitable for all of us. If I were you, Capo Bas tone, find someone else to tickle your fancy. For the mean time, let us refrain from abducting women from this town, especially someone like Virtue Sullivan,” I

reasoned.

I was standing in front of Peter McDowell, the underboss of the West North Central States Organization, while he was seated on the black leather couch of his basement office with a young girl seated beside him fondling his cro tch. It was disgusting, but I needed to put up

with it.

“You just don’t understand the satisfaction I get when I’m able to tame a wild mare, Cohen. Virtue Sullivan has a mean streak about her. I saw it in her eyes when I mocked her. I definitely know she will be a tough one to crack and I want to be the one who those beautiful blue eyes of hers... fears,” Pete said, unzipping his fly and pushing the young girl’s head so she can suck his miniscule cock. “I’ll keep my urges at bay, but for a hefty price. If there is one thing that can give me an instant hard on, it’s money. After tomorrow night’s delivery, I want all the money in the crates hidden in your basement as well as half of the delivery tomorrow.”

“I’m sorry. Did you just say you want half of the money being delivered tomorrow? And how do you know I have crates in my basement?” I asked, surprised.

“To answer your first question, my percentage just went up to keep my carnal urges for Virtue Sullivan at bay. As for the crates in your basement, Dan is very meticulous when it comes to money. So? Do we have a deal?”

Pete extended his hand while the young girl's head was bobbing up and down. | quickly took

his hand and shook it.

"If you double-cross me, Cohen, | will make you watch while | rape Virtue Sullivan. Make sure you deliver my money on Sunday." Without another word, | nodded my head and

w ran unt

stairs. | waved at Cynthia McDowell and their goons before exiting the house and entering my car.

"Henry, to the pub," | said to my driver. | sighed, completely relieved and leaned back in my

seat.

1/6

CHAPTER 56 Negotiations

The meeting with Pete didn't go as expected, but | was satisfied with the results. | was able to sway the underboss from abducting Virtue, unfortunately it was going to cost me the money | was about to launder as campaign funding for my reelection. Well, not all of it. Dan was short on his calculations. | always had an extra shipment diverted to the cabin in the woods. Tomorrow was no different.

When | was introduced to Peter McDowell by my father, | was absolutely shocked to learn

that the scraw who was smiling sinisterly at me would be my future boss. His mother

hosted a 'Carnaval housewarming party at their new home and my father had no choice to attend with the explicit instructions to bring me with him.

"Why do | have to go with you, Dad?" | asked. | wanted to head over to Jack's and play video games in his musty basement bedroom.

go off

“Because I was told to bring you. Believe me, son... I would rather you stay here or with your friends, so you won't do anything to embarrass me in front of such important people, but my invitation has instructions for me to bring you. I guess it's because Capo Bastone has a son of her own and wants the both of you to become friends.”

“Capo Bastone? Who's that?” As a child, I never stuck my nose in my father's business, even though he was trying to groom me to become the next Mayor Cohen. Honestly, in my mind, I would become mayor, regardless.

voll

“Liam, do you ever listen to what I tell you?!” My father's voice had a disapproving tone. “I may be mayor in this town, but I answer to someone. Just like me, once you become mayor,

you

will answer to someone. That's how it has always been for us Cohens.”

During the party, I stood by as the adults spoke of their problem about a piece of land owned by George Taylor. It was actually a piece of prime property located near the lake and from what I heard, George Taylor was unwilling to sell.

“Aren't you friends with Joy Taylor? Pete McDowell asked while positioning himself beside me, holding two glasses filled with what looked like chocolate milk. He handed me a glass. and I took a sip, surprised the liquid had the bitter taste of alcohol. I coughed.

“What is this?!”

Bailey's liqueur,” Pete scoffed, his beady dark brown eyes filled with contempt. “You're friends with Joy Taylor right?” He asked again.

“Yeah. What is it to you?” I asked.

2/6

CHAPTER 56 Negotiations

“My mother wants their land and whatever my mother wants, she gets,” he answered

nonchalantly. “If you

truly care for Joy’s welfare, you’ll convince her father to sell or I will have to use drastic measures. And when I say ‘T, what I actually mean is ‘you.’”

“Excuse me? Are you trying to tell me I will need to kill Taviors?!” I scoffed at him. “I

know our families haven’t been on good terms, but where I’m from, Mexican, we don’t kill our own. We’d rather kick the immigrants out of our country.”

He laughed, looking at me like I was joke. “I’m sorry to have to tell you this, but this immigrant has your balls in his hands and is about to squeeze your nut sack until you scream mercy.” He finished his drink and whispered into my ear. His breath stank of alcohol. “Get the job done, Liam, or I’ll make sure you spend the rest of your high school days in shame and embarrassment. Whatever you’ve been doing to me is nothing compared to what I have planned for you.”

“We’re just in high school! You can’t expect me to do-”

“In the organization, your right of passage happens at fourteen. At fifteen, you are inducted into the family. I’ve been itching to kill you and your friends, but as a son of an underboss, my hands are tied. But mark my word, Liam, when I rise in rank, I will never make you forget your place in the organization, Pete said, placing a hand on my shoulder and squeezing it until it hurt. “Remember your nut sack and how I will love squeezing it when you don’t

obey.”

My father tried reasoning with George Taylor while Cynthia McDowell gave him an offer he couldn’t refuse. George Taylor politely declined, telling them the land was Joy’s, a gift he planned to give her after she graduated high school. Unfortunately, Capo Ba stone couldn’t

wait that long.

One day, at Jack’s musty basement bedroom, I was going to ask Cris, Jack and Dan what I could do to have the Taylors sell that particular property, but before I could ask, Dan told us of his proposal to get rid of the Taylors. I was utterly shocked that Pete had gotten to Dan.

Cris and Jack refused at first, but when Jack found out about his father's cancer and all the

expensive treatment his father needed, he agreed to Dan's one hundred and fifty thousand dollar offer to brutalize Joy Taylor. Cris eventually agreed and since we were all friends, I did

too.

While my father cleaned up the mess we left behind, he told me he was disappointed. He said putting a bullet into Joy Taylor's head was easier and less messier than what we had done. Whoever concocted the idea of raping and violently attacking her wanted to ensure we

3/6

CHARTERED MOUNTAIN

would never be able to escape the clutches the organization had on us.

I argued if we had killed her, we would have to kill her father, her mother and whomever else was in line to inherit the land. Now that the Taylors believed they were no longer safe in New Salem, they would sell, take the money and leave.

My father wasn't convinced at first, but when George Taylor knocked on Cynthia McDowell's door to sell, he finally saw it my way and patted me on the back, although he still believed we should have killed Joy Taylor when we had the chance so there would be no loose ends.

My car came to a sudden halt in front of the pub and jolted me back to the present.

I walked into the pub and found Jack drinking at our usual spot. I glanced around and noticed Virtue wasn't there.

"Where is she?" I asked while gesturing to Patrick, the bartender, for my usual including another beer for Jack.

in Chip's office rummaging through the boxes of decorations for tomorrow's event. How did your meeting go?" Jack asked.

“He said he’s not going to touch her,” | said. “If we continue bringing in cash, he’ll find other ways and other girls to satisfy his urges...elsewhere.”

“So he’s really into kidnapping women and turning them into s ex sla ves?” Jack whispered after the server placed our drinks on the table.

“| think he and Cris have been doing this together. Remember after we graduated college, right before Cris got married to Lisa, they both went to Europe for like four months? | think. that’s when the obsession started,” | answered.

“Well, if it's money he wants, then we need to keep an eye on the shipments. Since you'll be needed here tomorrow, I'll go to Hillcrest and make sure everything goes according to schedule,” Jack said. “You keep an eye on Virtue, since Cris will be here for Miss Honey Bee. Just keep th at f ucker away from her, that’s all | ask.”

“No problem,” | told Jack. “I need you to keep an eye on Dan at Hillcrest. If there’s someone here who wants to sabotage us, it’s Dan.”

“Dan wants to what?” We heard Nicole’s high pitched voice from behind. She was surveying the pub, her brow furrowed, looking for someone. “Dom said he'd be here.”

4/6

CHAPTER 56 Negotiations

| watched her as she gestured to Patrick for a drink. She was wearing a red cropped top with a matching red skirt paired with black stilettos while her pale blonde hair was down, the ends curled to frame her face. As | studied her, realized | didn’t see her all week. | do remember asking Dan about her last Wednesday He said she was out of town.

“| haven't seen you all week, Nicole. Where have you been?” | asked.

“At Hillcrest. Since Pete is busy with Virtue’s boutique and the pub’s renovations are on a standstill for tomorrow's event, | decided to take a job at Hillcrest.”

“That’s funny. | asked Dan where you were and he said you were out of town,” | muttered. She blushed.

“Yeah... | was with Noah. We went to Fargo for a night and came back home the next day. A client asked for a specific type of tile, so we went, Nicole explained.

Noaly and Nicole have been going out of town more regularly it seems. | remember last month they both went to Jamestown and the month before that, they went to Carson and stayed there for two days. She mentioned they were looking for an antique chandelier. Before this infatuation with Dom, she usually hung out with Noah or Dan. | actually thought Noah. and Nicole were a couple at one point. Apparently, | was wrong.

“Ah, there’s Dom now.” | looked up and saw Dom and Virtue walking out of Chip’s office, each carrying a box of decorations. Nicole hurriedly stood up, walked up to Dom before he could place his box down and clung to his arm.

Virtue placed her box on the edge of the stage and waved at us. We waved back. | was happy to see a smile on her face.

She was wearing a simple black top and a colorful long skirt paired with flat sandals. Her hair was up in a half ponytail and she had barely any make-up. Compared to Nicole, Virtue was stunning. I’m sure Dom saw that, but since Chip and her were good friends, he probably

saw Virtue as a cousin too.

| just needed to keep the cash flow steady for the time being. Maybe Jack and | could come to an understanding once I’ve secured my position for the next four years

Ultimately, | needed to kill that fat f uck who called himself an underboss without anyone knowing it was me. But first, | would have to create a private army.

With a small private army, | would gain hold of North Dakota and keep Virtue by my side.novelbin

5/6

CHAPTER 56 Negotiations

I'll have to tap into my inheritance and use some of that gold my great-great-grandfather

left me

Vritue was worth it.

Chapter Comments.

Luna-Mom

Oh wow that's great, got what they were looking for and more.

Anna Murray

Please more chapters

[VIEW ALL 2 COMMENTS](#)

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

Chapter 57

CHAPTER 57 Martini

Cristos

| waited patiently for Xavier to compose himself knowing he had done the same for me on many occasions. Among the three of us, Xavier enjoyed violence. He had a stomach for all the gore that came his way.

It wasn't like Xavier to experience any aversion when it came to certain things like assault... unless whatever happened to Joy was more than disturbing. It was horrifying.

Luckily, Joy and Sebastian didn't pay much attention as | assisted Xavier. They were both busy going through the boxes of decorations for tomorrow night's event. While she and Sebastian discussed her plans for the stage, Joy had this winsome smile on her face. | didn't want to upset her with news that Xavier had found the gruesome evidence of her assault at the coroner's house... not just yet..

“Sorry, Base, Xavier finally said, sounding much better. “I’m not usually like this. Maybe because it’s her. By the way, | noticed Liam’s car isn’t parked up front anymore. Whatever business he had with the McDowells, | guess it’s done.”

|

“We did overhear him saying he had a meeting with someone tonight,” | said, taking a look at my monitor of the CCTV footage from the pub. “That someone could be either one of the McDowells. Anyway, Jack just walked into the pub, so Liam may be on his way here or he may be heading to Hillcrest.”

“Well, just message me if he finds his way to the pub,” Xavier said. “I’ll head to Hillcrest to check.”

“Copy that.”

| briefly went to the bathroom to freshen up. When | came out, Sebastian and Joy were about to leave the office, each carrying a box of decorations.

“What’s your hurry?” | asked. | still had to hide my laptop and lock it in my safe.

“Liam and Nicole just walked in. | need to find out what Nicole did in Fargo yesterday, so | told her | was here,” Sebastian explained. | looked at him surprised.

“Noah told Patrick he was at Fargo yesterday when he came by the pub this afternoon to buy tickets,” | said. Was it a coincidence or not?

115

CHAPTER 57 Martini

“But Noah’s truck was parked in front of his house when | came home last night, Joy said, puzzled. “Let’s check the footage from the cul-de-sac. | didn’t notice if anything came through the cul-de-sac, except for-

“What is it?” Sebastian asked.

“Old Man Tucket who lives right across from me, Noah was about to kiss me a while ago, but the elderly man interrupted us. He definitely saw something,” Joy said. | opened the door and

ushered them out.

“I’ll check the footage while you guys entertain. I’ll see you at the bar,” | said. Joy and Sebastian nodded their heads and left the Office.

After messaging Xavier that Liam was at the pub, | checked the early morning CCTV recording of Joy’s neighborhood and found Nicole’s Volvo XC40 had stopped just before entering the cul-de-sac. | saw Noah exit her car and slowly walk towards his home. He suddenly stopped several feet away, turned around and gave Nicole a flying kiss.

They’re f ucking...

| zoomed in on Noah’s face as he walked home and found him smiling which only meant. Nicole reciprocated before making a U- turn and driving home.

| didn’t hear Noah mention anything through the bug Joy placed in his home. Most importantly, | didn’t even hear Liam mention any of it.

Did Liam know about this or was he clueless like the rest of us?

After placing my trusty laptop in my safe, | walked out of my office and went straight to the bar to help Patrick. Fortunately, tonight was a slow night. Everyone was getting ready for tomorrow’s events... inside and outside the pub.

| watched Joy joke around with Liam and Jack as | manned the bar. Every single time | heard Joy laugh, | had the urge to throw my Kiwi Chef knife either at Liam or Jack’s head.

After Xavier’s ‘violent’ reaction, | felt they had no right to any of Joy’s affection, even if it was

all an act:

“Base, all is quiet in Hillcrest. No one is here. Not even Dan or Cris. I’m returning to the warehouse,” | heard Xavier’s voice through the earpiece. | bent down to grab two martini glasses from the under bar.

2/5

CHAPTER 57 Martini

Copy. Over and out, | said while | proceeded to make a dirty vodka martini for me and Joy. This was the one benefit of acting like we were best friends... we could do things together

like a couple.

Yum, a vodka martini,” Nicole said as she and Sebastian sat in front of me. The rest of the drinking public were calling it a night and here was plagued with a ‘Marilyn Monroe’ sounding troll.

“Chip, two please,”

tian said.

| placed two napkins and gave them the two | had already made and garnished it with olives.

| watched as Nicole took an olive in her mouth and began chewing it like she was giving

head.

How entertaining...

| quickly made two more dirty martinis and gestured for Beth to hand one to Joy. Instead of savoring mine, | downed it, grateful for the salty sour taste of the brine. | quickly made a couple more glasses.

Tonight, before my event, | will drink. Joy or Sebastian could drive me home.

“Aw, you missed me, Dom?” | overheard Nicole say. “I had to go to Fargo for a client of mine.”

| scoffed at her.

“What was in Fargo?” | asked, demanding an answer.

“Tiles,” Nicole answered defiantly.

"You couldn't find a certain tile at Dom's, so you drove almost three hours away to buy it?" | asked, downing another vodka martini. Sebastian watched with interest as Nicole squirmed

in her stool.

"W-well, w-we needed it right away and deliveries at Dom's usually take a couple of days." At first she looked unsure, but since the lie made sense, she eventually looked more confident. "My client was willing to pay anyway."

"Who's your client?"

She paused for a moment. "S-sheriff Combs."

"Sheriff Combs who used to live in a rickety old house wanted a specific tile and was willing

3/5

CHAPTER 7 Marium

to pay yo ve van travel across the state to purjuse this specific tile. You know what? |

so

does make sense, | mumbled while looking like was thinking. | threw my hands up in the ait Anyways, why should | care?

W what do y you mean? Nicole asked, looking as if she wanted to dump the martini on my

head

Noah mentioned he went there when he came to the pub to buy tickets for tomorrow's event. Did you see him there?" asked, watching the blood drain from her face,

"Uhm, yeah, | did see Noah at Fargo," she admitted.

"It's a good enough alibi, Nicole," | said, gazing her. "Personally, | think you're cheating on Dom, but maybe I'm wrong." Nicole's face paled like she saw a ghost. | nailed her.

But before Nicole could answer, Sebastian said, "You are wrong, Chip. She isn't cheating on me. Nicole and I... we're just friends. Whatever she does during her free time is her business." Sebastian downed his martini and yawned. "I need to get some sleep. I have some deliveries coming in tomorrow." He threw some money on the bar top. "Good night, Nicole, Chip, make sure she gets home safely."

"That won't be necessary, Chip. I'll drive her home," Liam said with Jack and Joy behind him. "Nicole, your keys. I'll just have Henry follow us. It's late and I still have things to do

tomorrow."

Sebastian nodded his head and quickly left. I had a feeling he wanted to see Joy's file, but I just couldn't be reminded of what these bastards did to her. Not just yet....

"That's okay, Liam. I can drive myself," Nicole tried to back away, but Liam took a hold of

her arm.

"It wasn't a request, Nicole. Keys...now," Liam insisted. Nicole opened her red purse and dangled her car key in front of Liam. Liam snatched the car key from her hand and turned to

Joy.

"Virtue, I'll see you tomorrow, okay. Good night, Liam kissed her on the cheek.

"Why do you need to drive Nicole home?" Joy asked.

"There are certain things we have to discuss regarding her Fargo trip," Liam said..

4/5

CHAPTER 57 Martini

"Oh, okay. Well, good night then."

"Good night, Virtue," Jack said and kissed her on the other cheek.

My blood was boiling. | wanted to take the vodka bottle and hit their heads with it. | sighed. frustratedly, | had to keep my temper in check.

| noticed Nicole was staring at me. | guess she saw the fire in my eyes. To conceal my anger, | rolled my eyes at her. She scowled at me as Liam dragged her outside.

“Good night, guys! Drive safely.” Joy called out to them as they exited the pub.

Good riddance.

“What was that all about?” Joy whispered.

| shrugged my shoulders. “Noah.” | was about to down my third martini when Joy took the glass from me and placed it back on the bar top.

“How about we drink at my house tonight and set the stage up tomorrow?” Joy asked,

noticing | wanted to drink. “I’ll drink with you, but | don’t want to drive drunk. What do you

say? The pub is empty anyway.”

“Let’s.”

Chapter Comments

Luna-Mom

Interesting twists and plots in the making

Morgan

what we has done*

[VIEW ALL 2 COMMENTS >](#)

24

[< SHARE](#)

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

Chapter 58

CHAPTER 58 Expose

Liam

“Get in the car, | opened the passenger door of Nicol
from my father. For what... | was never told.

Volvo. The car was a birthday gift

“What did you do at Fargo?” | asked, once | maneuvered the car to Valley
Ridge. Nicole, Cris and Lisa lived in the same residential area.

“| bought tiles,” Nicole replied, annoyed. “I don’t know what the big deal is. Do
| have to tell you every time | go out of New Salem?”

“Yes, you do,” | answered.

“We aren’t a thing, right, Liam? You and I... we're just friends. So why do |
have to tell you everything | do? Even Dom just said whatever | do is my
business because we're just friends.”

“What the f uck are you talking about, Nicole?” | couldn’t believe she was
talking about relationship statuses when | meant business. | glanced at her
and noticed her lower lip was quivering ever so slightly. “You have to tell me
everything you do because you are under my payroll. Even this expensive car
was bought with Cohen money. So aside from the very specific tile you
needed for your client’s bathroom, what the f uck did you and Noah do in

Fargo?”

“Dan had me deliver twenty bricks of ice,” Nicole finally admitted. One brick or
a pound of meth was equivalent to three thousand five hundred dollars.
Twenty bricks equals seventy thousand dollars; money that wasn’t in the
books, if | didn’t know about it. “And last month?”

“Same, but Noah and I only passed through Jamestown. We actually went to Rapid City in South Dakota,” Nicole replied.

I nodded my head. During all these monthly trips, Nicole was smuggling meth.

“And for this Fargo trip, you guys were just passing through too, right?”

Yeah, we drove to Minnesota.”

“How much, Nicole?”

1/6

CHAPTER 58 Expose

“Uhm, you see” I cut her off.

“I'm not going to ask again. How much, Nicole?”

“Sixty percent since Noah and I take all the risks, Nicole said.

“I know why Noah needs money. His mother needs special care. Why do you need money,

Nicole?”

“My mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's last year and I told Dan I needed money,” Nicole said, sighing and looking out of her window. I heard the sadness in her voice. “I'm planning to put her in a home, Liam, and I want her to live the rest of her days in a nice private room

with the best care.”

“And if you get caught?” I asked her. “What happens to your mother then?”

“I won't get caught Liam,” Nicole replied, shrugging off the possibility. “You may think I'm an airhead and Noah a pushover, but we use fake identifies, hide the contraband in compartments in the backseat and the people we deliver to are known contacts of Dan.”

I stopped in front of her modern white painted brick house with black and gray painted trimming. It was a house Nicole bought for her mom once she began earning money. Nicole's father left town after her mother announced she was

pregnant. Ms. Davis worked hard as a town clerk under my father, never marrying. I understood why Nicole was risking so much to give her mother proper care.

I gave Nicole back her keys. "I overheard you tell Chip you met up with Noah at Fargo. Make sure you stick to that story, otherwise people will catch you in a lie. I'll see you tomorrow."

I quickly exited the car and entered mine. "Henry, home."

I have to talk to Dan. I'll ask him if the money they earn from the monthly trips is in the

ledgers.

If he answers no, I'll ask for a cut or I'll threaten to expose him. Pete won't like knowing one

of his soldiers is stealing from him.

Cristos

"Let's," I replied, winking at Joy. "Patrick, I'll be heading out. After you close up the pub, you

2/6

CHAPTER 581 xpose

can head on home. Tomorrow, I need you here around three in the afternoon. Can you make

It?

"Sure, Chip," Patrick replied. "I'll be bringing my younger brother to help with the drinks for

tomorrow's event."

"Alright then," I told Patrick, then I turned to Joy. "I'll just grab the things I need from my office and we can go."

“Sure, I'll wait for you outside.” Joy waved goodbye at Patrick and exited the pub.

I quickly took my leather satchel, placed my laptop in it and grabbed a cloth tote bag. After punching the security code and locking my office, I took a bottle of vodka, a bottle of vermouth, and a bottle of olives in brine from the under bar and placed it inside the tote bag. After signing the inventory for the stock I took, I exited the pub and found Joy already in her car waiting to leave.

I quickly entered my car and we drove to her place.

While I prepared the drinks in the kitchen, Joy went upstairs to change. I was placing some prosciutto on a plate to snack on when I heard her footsteps coming down the stairs. I quickly arranged everything on a tray, hoping it would appear romantic.

I almost dropped the tray when I saw her sashaying her way towards me.

She was wearing a white see-through babydoll off-shoulder bra with matching white thong. panties. I went hard.

“Uhm... What about our drinks?” I asked.

She took her martini glass and downed it. “We can drink before and after.”

I downed my martini and allowed her to drag me into her sound proof room... one place Joy could scream as much as she wanted.

Joy

I dragged Cristos into my soundproof room. The sofa bed was ready, inviting us to lie down and do whatever we wanted.

Once the door closed behind us, Cristos hurriedly pulled me against his body, closing the gap

3/6

between us. He groaned before slamming his lips against mine. It felt like electricity went

* 49:UU) through me. I feel the intensity in his kiss,

The kiss seemed to last forever. When Cristos finally lifted his head, we were both breathless,

gasping for air

It felt like time stood still as we just stood there, relishing the moment, enjoying being in each other's arms while we inhaled each other's exhaled breaths.

I quickly unbuttoned and unzipped his pants, inserting a hand into his briefs and wrapping my fingers around his hard cock. A groan quickly escaped from his luscious lips as his hips moved, grinding his cock against the smooth skin of my hand.

"That feels good," Cristos moaned, obviously enjoying the friction.

"I know what will feel even better," I murmured into his ear. I took his earlobe in between my teeth and began to nibble on it. He groaned again, his hips moving forward and backward as my grip tightened around the hard and rigid length of his penis. While he moved, I delighted at the pleasure I was giving him with just a simple touch.

However, I could feel that familiar ache between my thighs and the heat that came along with it. I needed my release and I needed it soon.

He claimed my lips once more, his tongue darting in and out of mine, licking, teasing and sucking. After leaving me breathless once again, full with overpowering desire, he pushed me onto the sofa bed. "You look so fucking hot in this little outfit you have on," Cristos said, quickly taking off all his clothes. "But all I want to see is your beautiful naked body and bury myself so deep inside your dripping wet pussy until you and I come!"

Against the lace of my white thong panties, he rubbed my pussy with his fingers. I spread my legs and squirmed, as his fingers went up and down along the seam of my pussy, making my panties wet.

"Mmmm, so wet," Cristos said, hooking the sides of my thong underwear with his hands, pulling my panties down my legs and tossing them on the floor.

He spread my swollen lips and quickly inserted a finger into my hot, wet, and sensitive pussy. My hips bucked as he pushed his finger deep inside me.

“Ooooh, | moan. “I want more...”

“| know you do, baby. Let me please you first.”

4/6

CHAPTER 58 Expose

His lips suddenly wrapped around an erect nipple protruding against the lace of my see through bra while his fingers worked their magic on my clit. In his rush, Cristos forcefully pulled down my bra, ripping the lace apart. | didn't care... | only cared for his mouth... sucking each nipple, turning them into sensitive twin peaks.

| could feel the heat building in between my leg from his fingers, wishing for that orgasmic end, but his fingers stopped playing. Instead, his hands grabbed a hold of my thighs, positioning my very eager pussy right at his mouth.

His tongue began to lick my clit, up and down, coaxing the little nub back to the brink of

ecstasy.

“Oh, fuck!” | growled, my hips writhing in pleasure. | was at the edge. It was right there. My fingers dug into his hair. “Oh yes, baby! I'm almost there.” He sucked and licked my clit as his fingers flicked inside of me...near that magical spot.

| screamed out as | came, the delight of my release coming in waves while Cristos continued to eat me. | tugged at his hair, trying to pull him up.

“| need to feel you inside of me,” | pleaded.

He entered me quickly, but he pulled out and thrust back inside me slowly, teasing me. | wrapped my legs around his back and moved upward, meeting his thrusts.

“Patience is a virtue,” he whispered. “We have all night.”

He continued making slow deliberate thrusts. It felt good, but | was impatient. “I need to

come...NOW!"

He kissed me while he picked up the pace.

"Whatever my queen wants, she gets..."

He began moving faster, slamming his co ck into my p ussy. | moved with him, clutching onto his shoulders while wrapping my legs around his waist.

"Im coming..." | heard him say.

| was too.

| felt his co ck swell and jerk, signaling his o rgasm which in turn made me come. My vaginal muscles clamped on his penis as he came inside me, the spasms of our release so incredibly

5/6

CHAPTER 58 Expose

glorious

Cristos fell on top of me, spent, gasping for air. It took him a while before he was able to

speak.

"I've missed you, Joy."

"I've missed you too, Cristos."

Chapter Comments.

Luna Mom

Fantastic twist and | love the guys.

Anna Murray

POST COMMENT

| know your probably busy, but please please give us more chapters instead of one a week plense A

[VIEW ALL 3 COMMENTS](#)

27

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

Chapter 59

CHAPTER 59 Regret

Sebastian

| left the pub in a huff not expecting Nicole to be in cahoots with Noah. As | sped towards Bo's and Dom's, | saw Noah's truck speeding towards me on the opposite lane.

Where the heck was he going?

| slowed down and peered into my rearview mirror after he drove past me, watching which direction he took at the th ree-way fork at the end of the road located just after the pub. He turned left heading towards the general direction of Highland Oaks.

| fought the urge to follow him. It would be too obvious if | did. I'll just have Cristos pull out the CCTV camera footage in that area and see who Noah was visiting at this time of night.

| hit my steering wheel in frustration... | really needed to put a tracker on Noah's truck.

| headed to Xavier's warehouse and waited for him, hoping he had found something of value at the coroner's home. | was so busy trying to distract Joy earlier at the pub, given there was a possibility Xavier may find something, that | didn't pay attention to Cristos.

| made myself a drink at the minibar and sat down on the couch, feeling angry at myself for thinking | had Nicole wrapped around my little finger.

The player got played. This was something | didn't expect.

Well, two can play that game. After dismissing her at the pub, Nicole will either act extra

sweet

et to gain my affection or she'll act like | never existed. Maybe she'll even move on to Xavier. If that happens, Xavier will just brush her off like he's done so many times before, leaving her to come back to me.

| had to hand it to Noah. He was a sneaky bastard. We have only heard him speak to someone of interest twice maybe thrice at his home, but he never mentioned any details nor did we hear anything significant from him when he spoke.

After my second shot of bourbon, | heard the familiar sound of the door opening.

gun peeking around

"What are you doing here?" | heard him ask and saw the silencer of his gun peep the corner. Xavier never took chances.

"| needed a free drink," | answered. He quickly holstered his weapon and walked in.

115

CHAPTER 59 Regret

"Anything else?"

"| found out Nicole went to Fargo with Noah or maybe met up with him there. Point is there's something going on between Nicole and Noah," | told him. He didn't look interested.

"What do you mean, Dom? Have they gone out of town before or was this the only time they

went together?” Xavier asked while he placed his backpack on his desk. “Because if they’ve been going out of town secretly, why would the both of them slip up now?”

| paused. Xavier had a point. Why would Noah slip up and tell Chip’s bartender he was at Fargo? He could have lied and kept everything a secret.

“Good question. I’m thinking he wanted all of us to find out,” | replied. “Liam didn’t look too happy at Nicole when he offered to drive her home earlier.”

“So she even kept the truth from Liam. Looks like Noah is stabbing Nicole in the back,” Xavier said, his eyes narrowing like he was trying to remember something. “Sam has noticed Nicole has been dropping by Noah’s office at Hillcrest more often.”

Sam was Xavier's capo and his second in command. If Xavier didn't have time to do the job, Sam would step in. Since we needed more of our men to do surveillance, last Tuesday, Sam arrived as one of the delivery men of Joy's cargo. After placing a camera in the diner, Xavier sent him out to do what he did best... find dirt.

“Of course she drops by his office often. They renovate houses together,” | reasoned. Xavier shrugged his shoulders, took out his camera and connected the camera to his laptop via a cable.

“Sure they do... after office hours,” Xavier scoffed. “I'd tell you to put a tracker on Nicole's car, but | already had Sam do it.” Xavier suddenly threw a smartphone at me. “I also had him put a tracker on Noah's truck. He's been shadowing them for the past couple of days.

| looked at the GPS tracker on the smartphone, completely surprised. | didn't know Xavier had taken the initiative. “You knew Noah went to Fargo?”

“Actually, he didn't take his truck,” Xavier answered. Joy did mention she saw his truck parked in his driveway. “Noah hitched a ride in one of those ketchup delivery trucks all the way to Bismark. That's where Nicole picked him up and they drove all the way to Minnesota after making a pit stop at Fargo for some tiles.”

“This information would have been nice if you had told us beforehand,” | reprimanded

Xavier.

2/5

CHAPTER 59 Regret

“Oops, Xavier said, chuckling and handing me a couple of pictures of a six-storey building that had a travel agency, a convenience store and a laundromat on the first floor. “Anyway, they spent the night together at some motel after driving out of that building.” Xavier pointed at the photo in my hand. “Sam said the entrance in the back is heavily guarded. By the way, Dom, Sam also said Nicole and Noah are f u c k i n g. Sam doesn’t have pictures, but he has a recording of Nicole screaming Noah’s name and | can tell you right now, it wasn’t out

of anger.

“Chip kind of hinted the same at the pub. He must have seen something in the CCTV footage at the cul-de-sac,” | said. | checked the tracker. “It says here he’s at Highland Oaks.”

“Liam was at the McDowell's when | broke into the coroner's house. It’s possible he’s there f u c k i n g Ms. McDowell.” Xavier smirked trying to keep himself from laughing. “Anyway, let’s wait for Sam’s report.”

“Speaking of the coroner’s, what did you find?” | asked.

regretful

“Everything... even files on you, Virtue Sullivan and Joy Taylor,” Xavier said, a tone

in his voice.

“You sound like you regret finding Joy’s files,” | uttered.

“After seeing the photos of her assault, Dom, | regret listening to Joy and not killing them. right away. That’s my only regret,” Xavier said, sighing. “It’s taking all my willpower not to. get intonovelbin

my car and shoot them where they sleep. I’m telling you, Dom, they don’t deserve to

live.”

“Let me see what you've found,” | said, putting my drink down on the coffee table. He clicked on his laptop and gestured at the screen.

| quickly scrolled through the photos of the aftermath of Joy's assault. | didn't want to see what they did to Joy because | knew | wouldn't be as forgiving as Xavier if 1

if | saw her brutalized body. What | wanted to see is if the coroner took extra steps a

as insurance.

And he did. In the file, he documented the whole investigation from the time Abigail Reynolds found her tied up on the bench press.

“Abigail was the one who found Joy, Bo,” | told him, utterly shocked. “It says here, Abigail Reynolds found Joy Taylor tied to the vertical bench press right before the Spring Formal was about to end. She was worried when Lisa Brent and Nicole Davis came back to the dance without her when she was absolutely sure she saw the three of them leave together, heading towards the boy's gym room. When she found Joy, she immediately called Noah Jensen and

3/5

CHAPTER 59 Regret

told him to take her home.”

“So it was Abigail who found her and not Noah, Xavier said, his voice filled with a newfound respect for Abigail. I'm going to pay off her bills, order some men to guard her and send a specialist to see if they can help her.”

“It also says here Cynthia McDowell called Theoflore Cohen who in turn called Sheriff Combs to clean up the mess. According to the four boys, they were offered one hundred and fifty thousand dollars to assault Joy Taylor so her father, George Taylor, would sell prime property located beside the lake. They left her, tied to the bench press, thinking that she would slowly die from her extensive injuries. According to Jackson Emery, he had only participated to earn a cut from the one hundred and fifty thousand dollars offered by Peter

McDowell through. Daniel Williams because his father was diagnosed with cancer.”

“Wait a sec... Peter McDowell ordered the hit on Joy? For a piece of prime property? Seriously? Xavier asked, his face contorted with rage. “So that fat, geeky, and shy persona is

all an act?!”

“Yep. He’s hiding in plain sight,” | said, scrolling down, still reading the lengthy document. “It says here, Peter McDowell’s father was a powerful underboss, the nephew of the Boss of the Angels of Darkness. He was shot dead in his backyard during his son’s ‘Quince

celebration in Austin, Texas.”

| heard Xavier mutter a curse under his breath.

Twas

My eyes left the screen of the laptop, stunned at this revelation. Pete McDowell’s father the underboss we tracked down after abducting the boss of the Angels of Darkness from his VIP room during the Super Bowl. The very same one Xavier killed for killing our men and sequestering our ship.

“WE did this to her, Dom! We did this to Joy! If we didn’t kill that so nofabitch, Joy wouldn’t have gotten hurt!” Xavier yelled, punching a wall. “I should just kill myself right now!”

| walked to his minibar and made him a drink to calm his nerves.

“Bo, then Joy wouldn’t have moved and we wouldn’t have met her,” | said, trying to rationalize the situation. “Yes, Joy didn’t deserve all of that, but she deserves us. Anyway, we

had no idea that b astard’s wife and child would move to New Salem.”

| watched Xavier closely as he took a sip of his bourbon. His eyes had a sadness in them. Whenever it was about Joy, this ruthless man always melted.

CHAPTER 59 Regret

“Ms. McDowell keeps asking me to go out with her, Xavier said, the sadness in his eyes

changing into rage. “It’s time | befriend her and become her new boy toy. Cynthia McDowell is now part of the list.”

Chapter Comments

Luna Mom

| love how Cristo pleases his Queen N

VIEW 1 COMMENT

POST COMMENT

27

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

Chapter 60

CHAPTER 60 Catfight

| woke up early, took a shower and got dressed, making sure | looked dashing, handsome and smelled just as good. | wore a tight light blue button down shirt and beige slacks. | slicked my hair back, trimmed my facial hair, and unbuttoned a few buttons of my shirt to show some chest. | spritzed some of my favorite cologne and put on my favorite black loafers before leaving my office and positioning myself near the large storefront windows of Bo’s for all the ladies to see. As | hovered around, | received several appreciative looks, smiles and stares. | smiled back and even waved at some of the passersby to their delight. Unfortunately, | was aiming for one woman and one woman alone.

Today was a Saturday, the day Cynthia McDowell does her grocery shopping. She and her close friends were notorious cougars, a group of women in their

fifties who prey on younger men. Honestly, Cynthia didn't look like she was ifty. She took care of herself and had a voluptuous and fit body which she showed off through the tight-fitting clothes she wore.

After standing near the windows for fifteen minutes, I saw her white Mercedes-Benz enter the parking area. After securing a parking space near the store, she came out wearing a tight tan colored faux leather miniskirt, a white long sleeved chiffon top and knee high boots. Her short auburn hair was styled neatly and her smooth cheeks glowed in the sunlight.

It was time for me to make her drool. I pretended to fix some of the merchandise while smiling at a few customers. I secretly glanced at her direction to check if she saw me.

And she did see me. I could tell by the look of determination in her eyes and the quickness

in her steps.

You have to find me first, Cynthia.

I quickly walked to the back where the discounted items were on display. Cynthia disliked passing through that section, but if she wanted me, she needed to come and get me.

"Good morning, Bo," a husky female voice suddenly said from behind me. I turned around and found one of Cynthia's friends standing beside her cart wearing a colorful maroon and gold kaftan top and light blue skinny jeans paired with black pumps. She was the ex-wife of the owner of the diner. These rich folks all liked to come in early

before the masses came.

115

nds Martin, Neek can i taip yra? I asked, giving her a warm smile. She smacked her lips like

I was a fuely piece of fried chicken

Bu sunetheart you don't need to be so formal. You can call me Norma, she said, touching

file showcasing her long red fingernails. Ever since I moved here, these women have been trying to seduce me. They obviously found my temperament alluring..... hoping to

tame my inner haid boy,

“Of course, Norma,” I said, flashing her another one of my charming smiles. “So, what can I do for you?”

Before she could answer me, a familiar voice screeched from across the aisle.

“Norma, I see you’re bargain hunting again, Cynthia McDowell scoffed, her light green eyes narrowing as Norma Martin rubbed my arm with her polished hand.

“You should try it some time, Cynthia, Norma countered, looking smug. “You never know

what you can find.” Norma abruptly turned her back on Cynthia and with a smile said, “Now, Bo, I need you to help me find some items on my list.”

While she rummaged through her purse, Cynthia sashayed towards us, slowly pushing her cart through the aisle.

“Does Jimmy know you’re here?” Cynthia asked, a malicious smile playing on her pink lips. I looked at Norma and saw her squirm uncomfortably.

James “Jimmy” Cole was Norma Martins young collegiate lover. He was just a few inches shorter than me with light brown hair, dark eyes, and freckles on his cheeks. He had a lean, muscular physique from participating in sports and had that boy next door’ kind of charm.. Although he appeared to act like Norma’s lap dog, he was street smart and milked her as much as he could. Jimmy drove a nice red Ford F-150 which was said to have been a gift

from Norma.

When I began manning the grocery store, I met Norma and Jimmy together during Norma’s regular weekly grocery routine and had made the mistake of assuming they were both mother and son. After the embarrassment I caused during our first encounter, I never saw them shop together ever again. Jimmy drops by during

the week with a list written in

Norma's handwriting while Norma continues to come every Saturday.

"So that's how it's

ng to be, huh, Cynthia? You can't play fair, so you bring Jimmy into the equation. You're just jealous that these boys prefer me while you can't even keep a boyfriend longer than a month!"

2/5

CHAPTER 60 Catfight

Catfight.

"If you can excuse me ladies, I'll give you a moment alone to-"

"You stay right here, H o, Norma commanded, holding on to my arm, so I would stay put. "Admit it, Cynthia! You're jealous because I'm prettier than you and give better head!"

"Ladies, please keep your voices down. There are children present-"novelbin

"That's right, Norma. Keep your voice down. You obviously have no shame," Cynthia sneered, leaving her cart and walking towards Norma. "You even want to do this in front of Bo. Remember who you're speaking to, Norma, or do I have to remind you of what I'm capable of

doing?" There was a dangerous tone in Cynthia's hushed voice.

"Is that a threat, Cynthia?" Norma asked while lifting her chin up defiantly. Cynthia closed the gap between them and placed her mouth near Norma's ear.

"No, Norma. I don't do threats. I make promises Cynthia whispered. "Today, you are part owner of the diner. Tomorrow, you can be part owner of rubble and ash. So, what is it gonna be? Diner or ash?"

I saw the fleeting look of alarm pass through Norma's eyes as she stared back at Cynthia's, then her eyes lowered in defeat. She quickly backed away from Cynthia, coughed then smiled apologetically.

“Cynthia, do excuse my momentary lapse of judgement,” she croaked while grabbing her cart. “Will | be seeing you later tonight at the pub?”

Before Cynthia answered Norma, her eyes turned to gaze at me, looking me up and down, her desire for me evident in the appreciative look she gave me.

“Bo, would you like to come with me? | have an extra ticket,” Cynthia said, her eyes expectant, hoping, wishing and fervently praying for me to agree to be her date.

| grinned at her.

“How about if | meet you there?” | asked.

Her light green eyes instantly lit up, her cheeks turned as red as her hair and the corners of her lips moved upwards. However, the expression on her face quickly turned to concern.

“But you might be meeting up with other people like Dom, Chip or that really beautiful

3/5

CHAPTER & Catfight

young lady when opening a store next to yours.

Ob Virtue, | said, rolling my eyes in disbelief. She’s Chips bestfriend, so she’s treated like family. Phis, she isn’t my type. | prefer amore, thm, mature woman.

| caressed her cheel and smiled, slowly licking my lips, my tongue darting out of my mouth. | was clearly flirting with her. Cynthia stared at me wide eyed, her lips slightly parted and her cheeks flushed. No doubt, her pu ssy was probably soaking wet.

So, how about | reserve a table for the both of us? I'll call Chip right now and book us a table, | suggested. | glanced at Norma who was watching the exchange between us with her mouth agape and her eyes green with envy.

“S-sure. W what t-time do you want to meet? Cynthia McDowell unexpectedly sounded like

a young girl who was insecure of herself. She was nervous.

| gazed down at her like there was no other woman | would rather be with. | just had to imagine she was Joy to make it look convincing.

“Let's meet at nine. It will give us time to enjoy each other's company before the pageant starts,” | said. She nodded her head enthusiastically.

“Promise me you'll be there at nine, Bo...”

“| promise, Cynthia,” | assured her, running my hand along the small of her back. “Now, let me assist you ladies so the both of you can get ready for tonight. | heard everyone who's anyone will be at the pub tonight.”

Norma and Cynthia quickly gave me their lists. | had them wait at the cafe, so | could personally tend to their grocery shopping. When | finished and ushered them to the cashier, the two of them had already made plans to get their hair and nails done.

| wheeled their groceries to their cars and placed the bags in their respective trunks. After | had finished with Cynthia's purchases, | placed a tracker on her car.

| waved goodbye and smiled smugly as they both drove off to the salon.

Tonight was going to be one hell of a night.

4/5

CHAPTER 60 Caifight

Chapter Comments.

Luna-Mom

Yesssss all the dots are connecting for the guys

Teresa Mccray

let the party begin can't wait for the fireworks

[VIEW ALL 2 COMMENTS](#)

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)

The content is on [Read the latest chapter there!](#)