

Immaculate Spirit

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"What are they doing here at this hour?" Linda asked, frowning.

"I don't know but like they said, it must be important to come here uninvited, especially considering our relationship. I'm pretty sure that whatever it is, they must have exhaust every others options before coming for help here." William mused out loud.

"So, are you going to let them in? If they are that desperate, turning them down now could enable you to gain more from them when they will inevitably come back." Linda advised.

"You are right as always love but I'm going to receive them nonetheless. My gut is telling me to let them in so that's what I'm going to do. Judith, let them inside my office please."

"Right away, Mister President." Judith nodded before closing the door.

"Do you want me to leave you alone?"

"No, since Victoria is here, you should stay." William said.

It was not long before Judith knock on the door again and opened it to let John and Victoria Livingston into the Oval Office. Walking to meet them, the two couples exchange some polite handshakes before William invite them to sit in the couch opposite to them. Even William could see that the couple was not looking great and the dark circles they both had under their eyes was showing that they did not slept much recently.

"So, you mention an urgent matter John, what are you here for?" William decide to cut through the BS, he wasn't in a mood to play games right now, especially since they needed to go to the Correspondents Dinner in an hour and he had two more meeting scheduled before that.

"I know there is no lost love between us William but I'm still glad that you receive us tonight, I was expecting you not to, to be honest. I know how busy you are, especially

right now with what happen in the last few days." John answers.

"Ok stop patting me in the back, this doesn't suit you at all and it starting to give me the creep, just tell me what you need John."

"Alright. Our two daughters have been kidnapped almost ten days ago while they were spring breaking in Cancun." He said, gravely.

Hearing that, William and Linda were taken aback and Victoria was looking like she was going to cry at any moment.

"Why wait until now to ask for help John? We have contingencies for this kind of problem, you know that."

"Yes, but I was not going to put the lives of my two daughters in the hand of the State Department. The kidnappers also said that if we were to involve law enforcement, they will kill them immediately. Instead, I choose to call a team of specialist in negotiation to handle it."

"How much they asked for them?" Linda asked, intervening in the conversation for the first time.

"Five millions in cash. I had no choice but to pay." John said, tilting his head down.

"We don't know for sure. They were supposed to make the exchange two days ago but something went wrong. They claimed the team of negotiator send with the money attack them and killed some of their mens. The entire team send with the money was found dead yesterday in Mexico but no sign of the money. They made contact last night and asked for fifty millions now. They claimed that if they don't received the money in three days at the location of their choice, they will send back our girls in pieces by the mail." Victoria starting to sob at the end. "William, we don't have fifty millions, already the five millions were very hard to come by, I don't know what to do. We need your help." He said, lamely.

"I hate to say this but are you sure they are still alive?" Linda asked.

"Yes, we ask for a proof of life and we talked to them briefly last night when they called. They sound terrified but they said they were not abused."

"You asked for help but what do you need? You should know by now that giving them the money is not a viable choice." William said.

"I want your team to get my two daughters back to us safely." He said with an intense look in his eyes.

William and Linda looked at each other with caution before turning back to him.

"What team?" William asked.

"Please, don't play coy with me. Last year, Robert Lyndon was kidnapped in Italy and after that detained in Saudi Arabia. The State Department couldn't do anything about it and everyone thought he was going to die and yet, a few days later, he got back to his family safely, the entire ring was destroyed and no information about who was involved could be found anywhere. Even the CIA investigate for month but find nothing more. Despite this, four days later you drop a huge stack of information to a security meeting concerning this exact ring and everyone they had ties with in the Middle East. I know that whatever you did, nothing follow the directives and I know none of our response team was used because I'm sitting in the intelligence committee, I would have known about it." Seeing the look that William was giving him, John quickly add something. "I'm not here to try to get you William, I'm just a father with no option left and so I come to you for help. If you were to bring them back to us, I would support you politicly, I just don't care anymore. We just want our babies back, I'm just asking you father to father. What will you do if it was your own childrens taken away."

"I would go to hell and back to saved them." William answers with no hesitation at all, Linda nodding along.

William did not have to look at his wife to know where she stand on this issue. In fact, she had moved to the couch near Victoria and was trying to calm her.

"Can you both stay in Washington tonight? I will get in touch with the person you need but I can't promise anything at this time, I hope you understand."

"We do, I will take everything you can give us right now. We are going to stay tonight in Washington waiting for your words but I can't stress enough that every minutes count at this point William."

"I know, tell Judith on your way back to scheduled a meeting with you for ten AM tomorrow, send also a file on everything that happened and everyone involved in the kidnapping case at this email address." William said, writing something on a piece of paper and giving it to him.

"Will do, thanks William, I can't express how I'm grateful of you for doing this for us." John said, getting to his feet and helping Victoria to rise.

It was only after the couple leaved the office that William and Linda look at each other with a grave expression.

"At least, we are going to see him tonight, no need to bring him here for a meeting. In fact, this Correspondent Dinner is the ideal occasion to meet him without gathering attention ." William said, trying to alleviate the mood.

"I'm not so sure. You know as well as I do that Nathaniel and the youngest daughter of the senator have a history and a bad one." Linda said.

"What? You really think that he could let her die as a payback?" William asked with a dumbstruck expression.

"I didn't say that but I talked to you about Nathaniel fear of betrayal before and this girl betrayed him. When she betrayed him, she became dead to him, I'm not sure that he will let her die but I'm not sure that he cares about her anymore either. I'm just saying that the possibility exist that he will simply don't care at all either way." Linda explain.

"I can't believe that, even if he had problems with the youngest some time ago, she's not the only one who is held captive right now. No, I believe he's going to do what need to be done like he always did in the past. Look at what happened the last few days, he destroyed an entire network of braconneers and put some of the most influential people in the US in jail just because they wanted to take back his new crossbreed and the cat that he likes."

"You're surely right honey, after all, he has one of the most complexed psyche I had never see. I miss my time when I was a profiler, I could just pass my days talking to him to try and take his mind apart. Sadly, my scheduled as the First Lady doesn't allow me that kind of liberty."

"Ah, we must all make sacrifice for our country. Why did you invite him to the dinner by the way?"

"I just wanted to see how he was going to interact with the politicians and the reporters in the room. After all, everywhere he goes, interesting things tend to follow so I thought I could have some fun too. Some of the person in the room tonight need a wake up call. There's also our daughter that want to see 'Mister MagicMen' and even our son can't stop talking about him. I don't know if it was a calculated move on his part to make an impression or that he just like kids but it seems he was successful. Anyway, we need to get ready or we are going to be late to the dinner." Linda said.

"You go ahead, I still have two more meetings to attend. You need more time than me to be ready anyway." He chuckles.

"Very funny." Linda said, tapping him playfully on the shoulder. "And the two

meetings you have are with me, I locked them to prevent us for being late for a change. Now, get up and go get ready." Linda order casually before exiting the Oval Office by the side door going to the residence.

"Yes Ma'am." William chuckles again before following her. Even after all these years of married life, she still managed to surprise him from time to time.