

Luca's Inferno by Karima Sa'ad Usman Chapter 21

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Chapter 21

21 Can I Let Go?

Luca.

I wanted to take Emma to visit my parents, but I decided to spare her the drama and asked her to stay. My mother still blamed Emma for Roberto's death. She said I would have hung out with him if she wasn't in my house. She said I turned Roberto down to be with Emma, claiming she was a distraction and could lead me to my death. She did not even understand that I had almost died, and Emma saved my life. She didn't know that I was resting after recovering from the gunshots. I wouldn't have left my house regardless. But she was right about one thing. I prefer to spend my free time with Emma than my brother, and I do not regret it. That one decision saved my life. So if Emma was a distraction, then she was a damn good one.

My mother did not understand how grateful I was for turning Roberto down. I would have been killed along with him. Goddess knows who he pissed off because I doubted that had anything to do with the power struggle. Emma being in my house saved my life. I warned my mother to stop and threatened that I would cut off if she didn't leave Emma alone. I had had enough of her bad-mouthing the poor woman for nothing. After my contract with Emma is over, I will remain single. I do not want to keep Emma because I do not want her caught up in the mess that is my life. She would have been the perfect companion for me. She knew everything about me, and she understood. She wasn't difficult to be with or love. She was perfect, my soulmate. My world is a dangerous place for a gentle soul like Emma. I will be doing her a huge favour by setting her free even though my heart beats against it.

When I returned home and saw Aldo and Castelo with Emma, I was slightly jealous because she was wearing just my shirt and nothing more. I knew they must have caught her off guard. Still, I was jealous. I should be the only one to see her like that. I knew Aldo was lusting at her. I could see it in his eyes, and as I sat down with them, I was seething with anger. I linked Aldo to caution him, and he apologised. I heard Catalina insult Emma, and I intended to scold her for it after I attend to my guests. Still, Castelo had to blow it out of proportion. I knew I was in trouble when Emma stood to excuse herself. I was furious. She came down the stairs a few minutes later and walked past us. I called, but she did not answer and went out the front door. I was calm because I knew she wouldn't go off my land wearing my shirt and boxer. Knowing I had fucked up, I linked Catalina to join me downstairs. I saw her walk down smiling as if she had done nothing wrong. I motioned her to come and sit beside me. My friends were quiet; they knew I was angry. Catalina sat and smiled. "So the Omega slut left," she said, and I did not know when I raised my hand and slapped her. She held the spot with shock registered on her face. Tears began to stream down her cheeks.

"You speak about my wife like that again, and I will throw you out and cut you off. What gave you the nerve, Catalina? If you cannot respect Emma, then you should leave. Disrespecting her is as good as disrespecting me; I will not have that. Am I clear?" I

asked her, and she wiped away her tears and nodded.

“Leave my sight,” I told her coldly, and she shook and scrambled up the stairs. “Fuck, Luca, you must love this girl to slap your sister like that,” Aldo said, and I sighed. “It doesn’t matter how I feel. I am letting her go after a year,” I said, and Castelo began to

laugh.

“If you feel nothing, then let her go now. She does not have to be with you for a year. You don’t have to screw her for a year,” he said, and I frowned at him.

“She reeks of you,” he said, teasing me, and I looked away.

“She is not cut out for this life,” I confessed, and Aldo sighed.

“Do not let this life rob you of your heart’s desire, Luca. Emma is tougher than she looks, and she is brilliant too. We asked her where you were, and she did not give the information. She lied to us and claimed she did not know where you went. She can handle this if you let her.

“I do not want to put her through pain. Look at what happened to Roberto. If ..” I said, unable to finish my sentence, and Castelo cleared his throat as if he had something profound to say.

“About Roberto, we need to tell you something,” they said, and I was curious about what they had to say.

“We have proof to back everything we are about to tell you. We could not come to you without proof, so we avoided the whole ceremony. Now that we have proof, we can tell you. Whatever you choose to do with the information is all up to you,” Castelo said.

“Roberto was working with Diego Gallo,” Aldo said, and I exclaimed.

“Did you lose a phone a little over a month ago?” Castelo said, and I remembered my phone that went missing during the annoying matchmaking meeting with the Bianchis, and I nodded.

“Your brother took your phone. They got your itinerary from your calendar. You are a difficult man to track, and your house is impenetrable. Still, with your itinerary, they could easily know where you will be. He wanted Deigo to help him take you out so he could take over the family business. He would give Celio to Deigo in exchange because business is good there. They traced your activities through your itinerary and could get someone in your office when they knew you would be there because you hardly go to the office. That was how they were able to attack you in the office. It wasn’t successful, and Roberto was mad because Diego was supposed to place three moles instead of one in your company to ensure they were successful. Diego promised to correct it. Your brother was impatient and said he could not wait for another opening. He told Diego he would invite you to the club so they could finish you off there. Roberto later called Diego to inform him you weren’t coming, and their deal was off. Maybe he had another plan or a change of mind. We would never know, but his decision did not sit well with Deigo. He was already invested in it and had lost men in the process through the office shooting. Unfortunately for him, Deigo did not plan on letting Roberto live either. They thought Roberto was with you at the club and that you had caught on the trick, and Roberto might have confessed everything to you hence his sudden change of mind. That was why they sprayed Roberto and his friends blindly with silver bullets in front of the club that night. They thought you were with him, and he had told you the truth, Luca,” Aldo explained, and I was in shock. I remembered how persistent Roberto was about us

clubbing that night. I honestly thought it was odd. I was tempted to go, but Emma was incredible, and I wanted to enjoy every moment with her. She had literally saved my life, again. "How do you know all this?" I asked, and Castelo leaned forward.

"After we had that meeting and realised we were being framed, we started investigating the people around us and you. They were the only people that would be able to frame us successfully. When your brother got killed, we knew you would be too distraught to investigate properly. Instead of paying our condolence, we decided we would catch the culprit as a gift to you. One of the people that did the heist was sloppy, and someone in the club saw him. Our guy in the homicide department called us once the sketch artist was done, and we hunted the bastard down. We questioned him personally, and we were able to pick up the other four guys that worked on the job with him. They told us who contracted them. A Gallo henchman. We picked him up, and he told us everything. Deigo has gone into hiding since, and we are yet to catch him. We know you've been on a killing spree for weeks; we hope that now that you know who did this and why you, can have peace." Aldo said, and I was grateful to them. I knew they were not lying. I could see it. I was grateful. This news had just made my heart light and soul glad.

"I want all of them to die," I said, and Castelo nodded.

"We know your men are stretched thin because of the underground attacks. We will gladly lend a hand if you want," Aldo said, and I nodded. At this point, I did not want revenge. There was nothing to revenge. I just wanted peace of mind. With the Gallos wiped out, I would no longer have to watch my back.

"We will wipe the Gallos out." Aldo agreed, and I was grateful. How could Roberto be so stupid? Diego was a bloody small timer that thought he could hit big by taking Roberto and me out. What did he believe, that the other families would let him claim all my territories and power? He would have had a lot of people to contend with. The guy didn't think it through.

It wasn't long before we finished talking, when Emma walked in. I could feel she was in pain, and I understood why. Catalina had really embarrassed her. I was grateful for Aldo asking her to join us, but when she turned him down, I knew my work was cut out for me.

"It will be unwise to let her go, Luca. She has a hold on you," Castelo said and stood up. I wanted to see them off, so I glanced in Emma's direction, and she was going up the stairs.

"Go after your woman, Luca. Don't miss the moment. We will show ourselves out." Aldo said, and I went up the stairs. I did not know what I would tell Emma, but I needed her to be alright.

Hearing Emma pour out her heart got to me. The fact that she said she might have been better off being Tomas's mistress got me. She was wife material. If my life wasn't so dangerous, I would have kept her with me till death did us apart. I had grown fond of her within the few months we had been together. I did not know she was dealing with so much until she poured her heart out. When she told me what Catalina told her, I was mad. I was angry at myself for allowing Catalina that much liberty. I needed her to know she had nothing to worry about where I was concerned.

I kissed her to show my gratitude. My soul was grateful she came into my life. If not, I would have hung out with my brother with my guard down that night, and I would have been dead by now. "Emma, I am sorry I did not do enough to protect you, but please do

not talk about Tomas or going back to Celio again. I have reprimanded Catalina, and she will never trouble you again. Please let us get back to where we were before Roberto was killed.” I pleaded with her. I kissed her again, and this time she returned the kiss sweetly and moaned for me. Goddess help me. I knew I could not let her go when the time came.

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Chapter 22

22 I Need A Job.

Emma.

THREE MONTHS LATER (Six Months into the contract). I was glad I had that talk with Luca. After our little fight, things changed as he promised. Catalina was respectful and used few words. I ran the house as a wife should, and I slowly began to forget my place. Luca was always busy. From the way things were happening, it seemed like the person he was looking for was good at hiding. He was often frustrated when he came back up, and it was up to me to calm him down when no one else could. It was so bad that even Catalina usually came to plead with me to beg her brother on her behalf. It was as if I was the only one that could get through to him. It felt good, but I was worried also. When I finally leave, who would he lean on?

Luca returned home exhausted. There was spatters of blood on his shirt, and I did not ask him whose it was. I never bothered. It wasn’t my business, and it wasn’t my place. He looked a bit tense, and I did not know what the issue would be, so I thought of something that might relax him.

“Would you like to soak in the tub?” I asked him, and he looked at me and smiled. No matter how angry or sad Luca was, he always had a smile for me. I appreciated his thoughtfulness. I wanted to discuss some things with him, but I figured I needed him to relax before I could. “That would be great,” he said in his deep voice. I walked up to him and kissed him. He pulled me back to his chest when I tried to walk away and wanted to take me on the spot, but I shook my head playfully and told him he would have to wait. He growled impatiently, and I giggled. I went to put on the hot water and scented it. Once it was filled, I took off my clothes and got in. Then I linked him.

“I am waiting,” I said. He growled in response; I giggled, scooped some foam and blew it off my palms playfully. He entered utterly naked. He turned around and walked towards the mirror to brush his teeth. The muscles on his back flexed, almost making it seem like the dragon tattoo on his back was alive. The dragon was surrounded by the flame it produced. I had always wanted to ask him about it but never did. So I decided to try again.

“Luca, what’s with the dragon and flames on your back?” I asked, and he laughed. He rinsed his mouth and spat out the water and then stood straight to flex his muscles so I could get the full view. Instead of looking at the tattoo, my eyes were fixed on his tight, sexy, manly butt. My mind was in the gutters. “The dragon breathes fire. It can never burn him. Hell is fire, and I am the dragon that rules it,” he said, and I understood.

"We need to cool those flames in the tub and ignite a different kind of fire," I teased sexily, and he chuckled. He walked to me all man and hotness. Then got into the tub. He reached for me and pulled me close, making me sit between his legs. I felt his hardness and moaned in anticipation, knowing I would be getting all of it. He kissed my shoulder and then my neck

"Your scent is divine, Emma. It has a strong hold on me." He said, kissing the sensitive spot on my neck where my mate's mark should be. He sucked it, and I felt his teeth gracing it. He was growling, and my heart was pounding in my chest. If he sinks his teeth in, we would be bound together forever. There will be no need to count down days or know my place. We

would belong to each other. My inner wolf wanted it. I felt it. I moaned and arched my neck gently to encourage it. I wanted it; I wanted to be his. Luca held me tight, and I knew he was fighting himself. I wasn't making it easy because I made my neck so easily accessible. I wanted him to sink his teeth in and claim me as his. His growls became louder; he lifted me slightly and made me sit on his cock; I rode it. He pulled me close with my back against his chest and squeezed my breasts. "Fuck, Emma. This is heaven. You bring me sweet heaven," he said, and all I could do was moan in response because I loved the ride. Soon, I came, and he released me into me. He left me on him for a bit before allowing me to get up. "I want us to go on a vacation, Emma. What do you say?" He asked, and I turned to him smiling

"Really?" I asked like a little girl. Anything that would take me out of the house for a long time will be nice.

"Yes, that would be amazing," I said, and he pulled me to his chest and kissed my neck right where a mate's mark should be. Goddess, make him claim me.

"Luca," I said quietly, and he responded with a deep breath, still kissing and nibbling at my neck. Who could have thought we would end up being close and I would be the boss's woman even if it was for a limited time? Never in my wildest dreams did I think this would happen to me. Too bad I did not have what it takes to be with him for the rest of our lives.

"I don't like how I am couped up in this place. I need a job," I said, and he stopped what he was doing, so I turned to look at him. "I know I have six more months to go with you, but I would like to work during that period. I feel lazy. I am always at home doing nothing." I said, and she caressed my cheeks gently and smiled.

"You are doing a lot, Emma. Keeping me happy is a lot of work," he said, and I bowed.

"It isn't working for me, Luca. It is living," I said, and he stared deep into my eyes. What I had said had touched his heart. There was a tinge of sorrow in his eyes.

"Emma, I can't give you the life you deserve. I hope you are not in love with me?" He asked, and I knew I would have to lie because that ship sailed long ago. "I will stick to our contract no matter what, Luca. I have promised you I will not complicate things between us, and I will let go without a fight. I intend to keep that promise regardless." I said with pain in my heart, and he gently lifted my chin so we could maintain eye contact.

"Emma, regardless of what?" He asked, and I tried to look away. He held my chin in place.

"I just want to work, Luca, please," I asked, avoiding the question, and he looked at me

long and hard. He knew I was avoiding the question and was kind enough to let it rest. "Okay, I will set up a business for you. Something to help you pass your time, but I must warn you, I will have to stage men there, so you can be," he said, and I shook my head. "No, Luca. I want to work for you. Maybe as your secretary in the meantime. Besides, I will go far away when all this is over." I said, and his face faltered. "Where will you go to? I thought you would return to Celio to work in your family's supermarket?" He asked, and I shook my head.

"I will move far away from here, Luca. So I can start afresh. Maybe a different state or a different country. I know that would be better." I said to him, and he frowned and asked me why. I could not tell him it was because I did not want to run into him.

"My lifestyle is dangerous, Emma. I cannot let you into my business as anything," he said, and I held his hands. "Please, Luca. You can trust me. My life is in your hands. My entire family is indebted to you. I would rather die than betray you, please. You do not have to take me about. I can work on your documents. I am an accountant, you know, I can help you with your books, please. I promise I won't be a handful. I won't stalk you or be possessive around you. I won't question you," I pleaded, and he looked at me a bit and then reluctantly nodded.

"I will find something for you to do that will keep you in this house. I do not want you out there. Things are crazy, and people might target you to get to me," he said, and then I chuckled.

"They will be wasting their time trying to hurt you with me," I said, and his eyes faltered. He seemed about to say something and decided against it last minute. He cleared his throat and smiled.

"Since we are talking about safety and threats," he said with a fun voice. "I have something to tell you that you might not like." He said, and I braced myself.

"My father and mother are coming to stay," he said. Before I could voice my opinion, he lifted his hand, indicating he hadn't finished.

"They will not cross you. They made that promise before I agreed," he said, and I smiled. It was his house, and they were his parents. They will still be here after I am gone. I will have to bear it and enjoy the moment while it lasts.

We made love some more in the tub and carried our activities into our bedroom. Luca gave me a good time, and I let him. I had never been treated this good. I wondered how Luca could love and care for me so much without being in love with me. I appreciated his kindness and submitted to him in bed. He needed that as an Alpha and as a boss, and I gave that to him.

THREE WEEKS LATER.

Luca gave me the job I asked for, and within two weeks, I fished out several places where he was losing revenue. He was grateful for it. I was also abreast with the ongoing conflicts. He never asked for my advice, and I respected his privacy, never going into it. Luca did not deal in drugs like other Mafia bosses. He had legitimate business and dealt mostly in ammunition and weapons. I did not like his choice of business, but that got my family and me out of Marcelo's clutches and set my family up. I had to respect his hustle. He also had chains of department stores, car sales and service companies, Restaurants, and hotels, and he was into real estate. A true billionaire.

The Alessandros were nowhere until Luca took over. He took over the family business at twenty-two and rose quickly. I could see now why Luca took offence whenever his

parents tried to control him. He did not need them. Luca had so much money that what he spent on my family was peanuts. Still, I was grateful. I wondered how someone as wealthy as he was could be so humble. I had noticed some discrepancies in the books regarding his father, and I did not know if it was wise to discuss it with him. His father was paying money into three unknown accounts. They were large funds to me but would be unnoticeable to Luca. I was going to investigate thoroughly before I discussed it with Luca. As much as I did not want to create a problem in his family, if what his father was doing would hurt him, then I was going to tell him regardless of the consequences on me after.

Luca's folks finally moved in. Lacy, Luca's mother, was a snub and a handful. Since I ran the house, she was no longer allowed to control the staff how she used to. I determined everything, and it got to her. She hated that the staff and Luca's men had to crosscheck with me before carrying out her orders. I knew Luca's family hated me for it, but I had developed a thick skin where they were concerned. I often heard her warning her son about me, but it never worked. Based on her hatred, I was extra careful so she would not have anything to use against me where Luca was concerned. It was hard, but I tried anyway. We kept postponing our trip, but now we had a definite date, and Luca promised to stick with it. I looked forward to our trip. It would mean time away from everyone in that house.