



# My best friends little sister

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Category: Romance

**Description:** "Fuck Angelica I cant be with you! you're Mateo's little sister whatever this is between us, cant happen" nobody's ever seen me cry, nobody has ever seen me weak. I'm fucking Dante Santino head of the Italian mafia ive never been seen weak, at least not until she came along...

"Dante please! dont do this!" her sobs echo in the empty street, not even the sound of the pouring rain hitting the concrete beneath us can hide the sound of her cries and it breaks me.

"I just cant hurt Mateo like this" I look deep into her eyes as she pours her heart out in front of me, but I just cant do this to my best friend...

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Dante Santino, a 25 year old who's head of the biggest Italian mafia. your average cold, dark and handsome devil on the outside, but on the inside... the biggest teddy bear youll ever meet. only he didn't know that, not until Angelica Farnelli came into his life. he fell head over heels in love with her the only problem being? she's his best friends little sister.

Angelica Farinelli, an 18 year old girl who's life hasn't been easy. After 10 years of abuse from her parents she finally manages to escape and move in with her older brother Mateo. Little does she know shes about to fall in love with one of Italy's most dangerous criminals who also happens to be Mateo's best friend.

**Total Pages (Source): 75**

## Page 1

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

"Fuck Angelica I cant be with you! youre Mateo's little sister whatever this is between us, cant happen" nobody's ever seen me cry, nobody has ever seen me weak. I'm fucking Dante Santino head of the Italian mafia ive never been seen weak, at least not until she came along...

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"I just cant hurt Mateo like this" I look deep into her eyes as she pours her heart out in front of me, but I just cant do this to my best friend...

"But you can hurt me?..." her voice is barely above a whisper, slightly breaking from her sobs. Fuck I'm hurting the girl I'm madly in love with to avoid hurting my best friend and I just cant do it. I cant break her like this, I love her.

"CAZZO!" without a second thought I crash my lips onto hers, the slightly salty taste fills my mouth because of our tears but I dont care. I love this girl more than anything and I cant let her go, not even to save my friendship.

## Page 2

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I'm awoken to Mateo banging on my bedroom door, what the fuck does he want? I turn over to check the time "maledetto stronzo" (fucking asshole)

"What do you want to talk about Mateo i was sleeping" he gives me a guilty look and i raise my brow at him, he says nothing just looks at me with a pleading face "what? Say it"

I spit out my toothpaste and sigh, I'm not a mean guy i just dont want some stranger living in my house rent free, the thought of some random teenage girl staying here just makes me uncomfortable. Come on Dante grow up, it wont be that bad "fine, she can stay"

Fucking idiot clapping his hands like a small child "on one condition. if theres even the slightest issue, she needs to go"

I head downstairs to see Mateo at the kitchen island eating cereal "you know if you had waited I would have made breakfast" he looks up at me mid chew and laughs.

I grab a couple eggs and some bacon from the fridge and start making breakfast while Mateo watches "you know, my sisters going to love your cooking" I roll my eyes at him and continue making my breakfast

I remember the day I found him wandering the streets, he said he'd been sleeping under a bridge for almost a month and I just couldn't let him stay there any longer. It took him a long time to open up and tell me why he was living on the streets at barely  
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We talk a bit before my phone rings. Ivan, one of my right hand men (under Mateo that is) "Ivan, whats up"

7pm and I'm finally done for the day. As the boss I get to do what I want when I want, that is until theres paperwork involved that cant be avoided or given to someone else to do.

I head out the safehouse to my car and hear my phone going off, fucking Mateo. "Hey man"

I rummage around my pocket for my keys to open the front door, as I open the door I'm hit with a scent almost candy like and very fruity. Its strong but very pleasant and I look around trying to find where its coming from.

I walk towards the couch and i freeze in my tracks as i look down at whats laying on it, or should I say at WHO is laying on it. angel, and fucking hell is she an angel

Shes a young girl. Pale skin, thin but curvy body, slightly pink cheeks, long light brown curls and eyes that look like they belong to a puppy. Her nose is small and her lips are plump and a pale shade of pink. Fuck Dante stop looking at her lips

I clear my throat and she jumps quickly turning to look at me, her pale face going bright red and her bottom lip sucked in by her teeth.

She looks at me with her big dough eyes, theyre bright green with little specks of blue inside and they sparkle like shes a little kid seeing a unicorn, i see her eyes travelling down as if shes eyeing up my body and I take the opportunity to look at her closer.

Her features are perfect and her body, goddamn her body. Calm yourself Dante

I gulp and shift slightly as I feel the heat in my pants, fuck "I uh I was just about to

make dinner you hungry?"

She snaps her attention back to my face and smirks "wow handsome and can cook?" her face goes red and she turns her attention to the side of me

"Oh sorry, here" she says shifting her legs up to her chest allowing me to sit down. She looks at me with an awkward smile as her face goes red. I sit down and grab her legs putting them back in position but this time on top of me and smile, she doesn't stop me but gives me a little smile

## Page 3

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

Its 5am, I walk out of my room ready to head to the gym and I'm stopped in my tracks as I see her, angelica stood in front of me wearing nothing but a tight tank top and a pair of purple lace panties. Holy fucking shit, breathe Dante, breathe. I clear my throat and turn my attention to the floor

I shoot Mateo a text before heading out so he doesnt get the wrong idea about her being in my bed

Once I let Mateo know shes okay I head to the gym for a few hours

I come home to see angelica sat on the couch watching tv, she looks better now. I put my keys on the counter and walk towards the couch but she doesnt look at me. I walk behind her putting my hand on her shoulder and leaning my head down to her ear.

I get up off the couch and head into the kitchen to prepare lunch, I feel her gaze on me as I walk behind the counter and then suddenly she stands and walks to the kitchen island

i grab the pasta tray from the cupboard and present it in front of her, she looks in shock at the selection and i chuckle "pick whatever shape you want" she grabs each bag looking at the shapes carefully before deciding on one "the thick strip one please"

I grab a few bundles and place them in the boiling water, as I turn to grab the salt angelica stops me "wait no, I'm allergic to salt water" again another shock, this time causing me to freeze mouth agape "youre allergic to salt water?"

Like, the ocean?" she nods and it confirms my shock even more

We talk for about 20 minutes before I finish cooking, I plate up some pasta for angelica making sure to add extra and she smiles, her smile could fucking kill me.

She wonders over to the couch with her plate and slumps down and I follow, I grab her legs and put them on my lap again before I start to eat

We sit for awhile eating and watching tv and I notice the couch is set up like a bed "why did you sleep down here last night" I turn my attention to her and she looks at me with a sad smile. "I was afraid" its a slight whisper but it makes my heart break

We sit there for the rest of the day, talking and watching tv.

She convinced me to watch a show called 2 broke girls, she said it was her favourite and I expected some girly teen flick but actually it was really funny.

Randomly angelica turns to me and squishes her eyebrows together as if shes studying me "angelica why are you looking at me like that"

## Page 4

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

"Hey man, have you seen angel today? Is she okay?" Mateo asks as he walks in the door

"Shes alright, said it was just a nightmare. Shes eaten and we spent the day watching tv, nothing seemed out of the ordinary" I see his eyes widen as he mutters under his breath

"Did she tell you what it was about" I shake my head

"Nope she said that if you haven't told me you must not want me to know anything" I furrow my brow at him and he sighs moving towards the couch

"Its not that I dont want you to know its just not my information to share, its angels" this is all so weird, theres like a big secret thats being passed around me and I'm not in the loop. Mateo sighs

"I guess you should know, you found her last night so youll need to know what to do in case it happens again" I raise my eyebrow at him, again? That might happen again?

"You know about my dad right?" yea that jerk abused them, cheated on his mom and then just left "yes I do" he shakes his head

"Theres more to it than what I told you, a lot more actually" i move to the couch and sit down next to mateo, I dont push I just wait for him to talk

"He abused angel, pretty badly" I tense, my whole body stiffens at his words "abused...how?" he lets out a shaky breath before saying

"Sexually" I'm stunned, my mouth wide open in shock as i look at him. What the fuck did he just say?

"I-" I cant get the words out, I dont know what to say. My body is flooded with anger at the thought of angel being abused like that. So many things are running through my head and I just cant think straight, I'm snapped out of it when I hear Mateo speak next

"She was 8 when it started, my mom she knew, she never tried to protect angel from him she just let it happen" anger consumes me and I see red, I have to calm down I need to breathe

"When I was 16 I came home from school early and I...I heard it" he shakes his head and brings his hands to his face

"She was only 10 and I could hear her screaming and crying for someone to help her, she thought she was alone in the house and that nobody would stop him" hes angry now I can feel it, I feel the pain in his words as he talks and the more he says the more anger I feel

"I tried to protect her, I tried to stop him but he beat me. The next thing I know I'm being kicked out the house all my stuff thrown from my bedroom window and I see angels little face just staring at me through the living room window, I still see the pain in her eyes" Jesus Christ

"I did everything I could to get her out of there, it took me years but when she turned 16 my mom caught my dad cheating and my dad just took off, fucking pussy" he looks at me and I stare back still in complete shock

"My mom kicked her out. They got into a fight and she beat angel, she started slut shaming her and saying horrible, disgusting things about how she deserved what dad did to her. Thats why she has to stay here, I cant let her go back there but I cant let

her live on the streets" the thought of angels own mother telling her shes a slut and saying she deserved what happened enrages me. if I ever see either of her so called parents, I'm putting a fucking bullet in their heads

"Jesus I-" again speechless "so, she gets nightmares? About it?" is all I can muster

"Yea, it varies. Sometimes she screams and cries in her sleep and no matter how much you try you cant wake her. Sometimes she wakes up and just goes distant like shes not in her body" ah yes, that I witnessed

"Yea, thats what she was like last night. It was fucking scary it was like she was a ghost" I shudder at the image of angelica standing there last night.

"Ive been trying to find him for years, to give him what he deserves for what he did to angel, I will rip him apart limb by limb" I see the anger flood his eyes and his body goes tense

"We have all the resources why didn't you tell me? We could have found him by now I would have helped" this is the mafia after all, he has everything at his exposure to find that son of a bitch why hasn't he used it?

"As much as I appreciate you saying that, there are much more important business things we have to focus on. I will find him and I will torture him until he takes his last breath but we cant just drop everything to do that" as much as i want to argue hes right, hes not a threat to angel right now and thats what matters

"Does she know? About what we do" his head shoots up and he shakes his head "god no, I dont want my littler sister involved in this dangerous life. Shes suffered enough as it is I cant bring her into this, her safety is the most important thing to me" I nod understandingly, shes so pure and innocent, this isn't the life she needs.

"Angelica slept on the couch last night" he looks up at me and i see the confusion on his face "I told her I made up her bedroom. Why is she sleeping on the couch?" I sigh

"She told me she was afraid, but she doesnt know why" he looks just as confused as I am. "Ill talk to her" I nod at him before thinking for a second "let me take her shopping. She needs clothes and stuff anyway, ill let her pick out some room decor to make her room more welcoming"

I can see his eyebrow raise in confusion before smiling at me "is she growing on you? I told you she was the sweetest girl and youd both get along" she was the sweetest girl. The purest, kindest, sweetest girl I had ever met. We both stand from the couch and exchange goodnights before heading to bed, I stop just before the stairs and turn to Mateo

"Shes welcome to stay here as long as she needs. if what she needs is permanent, then i will welcome her with open arms. I quite enjoy her company" I smile at Mateo before turning back to the stairs leaving him staring at me shocked. I dont think he expected me to say she could stay permanently, and honestly I didn't expect it either.

## Page 5

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I wake up to the sun in my face, the fucking sun. angelica must have opened my curtains and i forgot to close them. I grab my phone to check the time, 8:30. I get up and shower before throwing on some sweatpants and no shirt. I dont think either of them will mind, its getting really hot out.

I head downstairs and I hear light chatter, they must be awake already.

"Youre both up early" I say entering the kitchen.

"Good morning Dante" They both look at me with a smile "what?"

You both look suspicious" angels face grows red and she looks down at her hands, Mateo looks at me with a big smile on his face and a devious look in his eyes "pancakes? "

I smile at her childlike nature "anything you want bellissima" (beautiful) Mateo raises his eyebrow at the nickname but allows it, shit maybe I shouldn't have said that in front of him.

I grab some ingredients out the cupboard before grabbing 2 bags of chocolate chips and start mixing things together.

We talk for a little while the pancakes cook and then I sit beside them to eat

After we finish eating angel heads upstairs and I turn to the sink to do the dishes. "What are you doing" I hear Mateo behind me, he sounds confused with slight anger in his voice. "The dishes?" I turn to him and raise my eyebrow, whats his problem?

Before he can respond angel comes back down the stairs.

Fuck shes gorgeous. Shes wearing a short white dress covered in little purple flowers with a cropped purple cardigan, her long brown curls loose down her back and over her shoulder, her face bare so you can see her natural rosy pink cheeks. "I'm ready"

I smile before grabbing my keys "lets go bellissima" I dont even bother to look at Mateo before I'm out the door with angelica. "Wow is this your car?" she says referring to my matte black Rolls-Royce "yep, isn't it a beauty?"

I walk around with angel to the passenger side before bending to open the door for her, I see her blush as she thanks me and gets inside.

I close the door before hopping in the drivers seat.

"I have a list...of stuff I need. I promise i wont spend more than I need to, i just need some clothes and a toothbrush and some sham-" i cant help but laugh "sweetheart I'm paying.

You can buy whatever you want theres no limit"

I turn to look at the list shes holding and theres only about 6 things on it "no Dante i dont want to spend your money, I just need essentials and thats it" she looks down at her list and smiles, pleased with her 6 items that she wants.

I shake my head and grab the list from her hands before placing it in the glove compartment

The rest of the car ride is silent, not an awkward silence it was natural and comforting. I pull up at the mall and get out the car, walking around to help angel out the car too. "Thank you"

We walk around for a couple of hours grabbing anything angel needs, most of the time spent with me trying to buy things for angel that she refused.

Shes a very stubborn woman but I like that shes not a gold digger, women I sleep with normally want to be showered in expensive gifts but angel?

She would be happy if you gave her a an old book and thats what I like about her.

Once we get home I unload the car with the very few bags of stuff.

we are greeted by Mateo who's sat on the couch watching the office and I head to the kitchen to start on dinner.

"how was shopping? What did you get" Mateo is leaning over the edge of the couch looking at angel as she rummages through her bags

I spend about 20 minutes cooking a spicy chicken curry while Mateo and angel talked about shopping. I enjoyed watching them talk, it was nice to see Mateo happy like this. I plate up the curry and they both rush to the island to sit

We spend time talking, having fun until my phone rings. Dimitri. "Che cazzo vuoi Dimitri? è tardi" (what the fuck do you want Dimitri? Its late)

## Page 6

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I jump off the couch and head to the kitchen to buzz in the pizza delivery guy. "Whats that" I see angelica peek up from beside the couch "its the security intercom, the guards stop anyone at the front gate and we buzz them in" I walk past her on the couch and pat her head

She watches my every move as I open the door for the pizza.

I tip the guy and walk to the kitchen counter to place the boxes down "how many slices do you guys want" I grab 3 paper plates from the cabinet and pick up some slices for each of us "gimme 3.

No wait 4, actually no 3. No fuck it I want 5" Mateo says and I chuckle "fatass, angelica how many do you want?

" she looks up at me and smiles but I cant help but feel its a sad smile "I'm actually not really hungry" Mateo stands to collect his plate and gives me a slightly concerned look "angel you havent touched any of your snacks you have to eat something" I put 2 slices on my plate and 1 on angelicas before walking over and sitting back in my spot, i grab angels legs and lay them over my lap before placing her plate in her lap.

She looks at me and looks down at her pizza but doesnt touch it.

She focuses her attention back on the tv and I take a bite of my pizza watching her, she doesnt touch her slice.

I lean to her ear and whisper "I can take off the pepperoni if you dont like it"she turns to me with a small smile and shakes her head "no its okay I like pepperoni" I lean

back into the couch and watch the movie.

A couple minutes pass and shes still not touched her slice and I'm finished with mine, she looks at my plate and nudges hers towards me "here, take mine" I frown at her and refuse, why wont she eat it?

"I can make you something else sweetheart" I whisper in her ear loud enough that only she can hear it, yet again I'm met with a no thank you

Once the movie is over I check my phone 9:15pm "Mateo, we gotta go" he groans in his spot and i stand, grabbing his arm and pulling him up "angelica we gotta go work for a few hours are you gunna be okay here alone?

" I know we have security but I'm a little worried about leaving her here tonight, its not the same as being alone during the day

Once we arrive at the safehouse I give everyone a final rundown of the plan, we may get ambushed so we need to be fully prepared and ready to fight. Not a single person is to let their guard down. Once everyone is fully geared and armed we head out to the dock to collect our shipment

I walk to the man holding his clipboard, not looking up at me.

"Evening Daniel, everything ready early huh?

" he seems shocked by my presence and I raise a brow in confusion "Mr Santino, no your shipment comes in next Thursday?

I have it written down here" fuck I knew it.

Before I could respond I hear a gunshot and Daniel is suddenly flopped on the floor

surrounded by a puddle of blood

I feel the bile rise in my throat, angel.

..fuck "what the fuck are you talking about" if he so much as touches a hair on her head I'll slit his fucking throat.

"I've noticed you've got a bella ragazza with you now.

One of my men saw you at the mall with a small beautiful woman" (pretty girl)I'm consumed with anger but I have to bite my tongue.

I can feel Mateo tense beside me, his breathing harsh but he stays in his stance. "I want her. How much?"

I'm so close to pulling the fucking trigger but I cant, his men are surrounding us guns at our heads. We wont make it out of here alive. "Shes not for sale" I'm trying to remain calm, trying to retain my anger and reason with him but its hard when I want to rip his fucking throat open.

Mateo is in a panic knowing we are surrounded, theres no way out of this alive. I hear vanni let out a sick laugh as he walks towards us "I expected that reaction, I knew you wouldn't give her up willingly. So I just had to arrange for it to be done, unwillingly."

I hear him start to retreat and I'm flooded with pure panic, I turn to Mateo who has the same panicked expression as me. We are both thinking the same thing, angel. At home, alone. FUCK

I bolt to one of the vans we arrived in jumping in the drivers seat, Mateo following suit in the passenger seat. As we drive I see him constantly trying to dial angelica but no response. About 8 missed calls before we made it to the house.

3 of our security, on the floor. A puddle of blood surrounding each of them. Shit. before I can think of anything I'm running into the house guns blazing, literally. The sight before me is gut wrenching but I'm unable to look away

Angelica stood in the kitchen, a large knife in her hand and blood covering her clothes and face.

She stands there still, not a single bit of movement.

I slowly make my way towards her with my gun still at hand and look down.

A man lays on the kitchen floor, a handgun beside him.

The first thing I notice is the stab wound, right in the face.

I look closer to see multiple stab wounds on his chest, one in his leg and one in the middle of his hand.

I try to contain myself and turn to angel, still frozen in place with the bloody knife in her hand.

I place my gun on the counter and walk slowly towards angel

## Page 7

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

After about an hour angelica comes out the bathroom, her skin pale and her face red and puffy from her tears. I jump from the bed and rush over to her to hug her and she sobs lightly into my chest "I-I killed him" her voice breaks as she talks.

I cup her cheek in my hand and wipe her tears away "next thing I know, he-he attacked me.

He had a gun a-and was holding it to my head.

He said I had to go with him and I-" she sobs loudly and I sit up next to her pulling her into me.

"I stabbed his hand and he started to hit me so I stabbed his leg.

He fell on the floor but he tried to drag me down with him and I-I slipped and stabbed him.

..in the face" I cringe at the memory, ive seen a lot of gruesome shit.

Fuck ive done a lot of gruesome shit but that, that was somewhere at the top of the list.

Angel is sat at the foot of my bed, Mateo is pacing around in front of her while I'm stood to the side just watching.

"Angel, fuck I didn't want you to know about this.

I didn't want to risk your safety but now its too late.

He knows about you" I can see the anger on Mateo's face as he walks back and forth

## Page 8

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

last night was fucking rough. I barely slept, when I did it was once for not even an hour.

I dreamt about angelica but not in the way id hoped for.

Unconscious on the floor, a puddle of blood seeping from her skull, Giovanni stood hovering over her with a gun in his hand.

Then the scene changes, I'm in the kitchen watching as angel gets attacked then suddenly shes on top of him, repeatedly stabbing him and then she stands, dusting off her clothes and turning to face me.

The look on her face was terrifying even for me, she held a sick grin as her face was splattered in blood, the sparkle in her eyes gone and replaced with nothing but evil.

This wasn't angelica, the angel I knew was full of life, beautiful, carefree, innocent, she would never hurt a fly.

The angel stood in front of me had eyes full of darkness, like she would kill anyone that crossed her, the kind of girl every mafia boss dreams of, everyone but me.

I woke up heart racing out of my chest and my breathing rapid, I cant let angel turn into that, into a monster, into me. ..

After spending all night tossing and turning worrying about angelica it was finally time to get up.

I head downstairs to the kitchen and it was clean, almost like there wasn't a dead body on the floor a a few hours ago.

I grab some ingredients to make pancakes, I know angelica will be a little off today so maybe pancakes can help ease her mind especially with extra chocolate chips.

I start combining everything into the bowl and mix as I hear footsteps coming down, theyre too heavy footed to be angel "morning man, Jesus you look like shit" fucking Mateo

I stop mixing, it feels like time stops around me, like the air is suddenly thick with tension.

Into our world? Coming into our world? He isn't seriously thinking of introducing his little sister into this shit is he?

He cant be serious, hes not. I let out a deep chuckle before continuing to mix the batter "whats so funny"

I look past Mateo and I see angel standing behind him, still in my clothes.

Her face is so pale and her eyes are red from crying "good morning angelica, I made you pancakes" I give her a soft smile trying to break the tension and I'm met with a beautiful big smile, her little dimples showing in her cheeks.

I plate up some pancakes and slide it towards her as she sits down beside Mateo, his eyes still firmly fixated on me for a few more seconds before turning to angel

One I'm done showering I throw on a loose fitted white shirt and some kaki coloured pants, different from my usual dress clothes but its shopping and id like to be comfortable.

I head downstairs and I'm stopped in my tracks when I see angel, shes dressed in a tight cream coloured top with a matching little skirt, a thin light purple cardigan, some ugly ass brown shoes with white socks but somehow she makes them look cute.

Her long brown curls tied into a messy side braid and a big cream coloured tote bag slumped over her shoulder.

I dont know how she manages to look so breath taking in such a simple outfit, her beautiful pale skin and light brown hair always compliment her clothes so well and I love how she always manages to slip a little bit of purple in there.

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*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

The car ride was great with angel, we talked and laughed and she even made me sing along with her to her favourite band, who knew such a sweet delicate girl would be so into rock music?

We talked about a lot, mostly about angelica going back to school, she took a little while off after everything went down with her mom because she thought she'd end up homeless but now that she's living with us shes going back.

We pull up to the market and I once again open the door for her "we'll start this end at the fruit and veg, as we go down theres things like food stalls, some second hand item tents and then a couple plant stalls.

Dont leave my side or you'll get lost" she nods in response and heads to the first stall

We explore the market for about 2 hours, the heat increasing but every so often a slight breeze appears cooling us down.

Watching angelica here warmed my heart, like she was in her natural element, we bought fruit, vegetables, eggs, some amazing fresh bread and cheese and even stopped by a deli stall to pick up some fresh meat.

I watched as angel gawked over the flowers, smelling every single type and talking with the small elderly woman behind the stall.

I cant help but stare at her as she enjoys every little thing, her beautiful dimpled smile, her laugh, her fair skin in the sunlight.

I saw the way men were looking at her and it enraged me, every glance, every smirk, every whisper made about her made my blood boil but when I looked at her, everything calmed, like there was nothing in the world but her

I notice her looking at a specific bundle of flowers before leaning down and smelling them, the way her eyes lit up when she saw them made my heart melt.

She looked at them for awhile before moving to another stall full of plants, I follow behind her but keep my attention locked on the flowers, I need to get them.

I watch her wonder a little more down the table and talk to the woman behind it, when I feel shes distracted enough I go back to the flower stall

I pull away from her and clear my throat as I feel my pants starting to get tight "lets head back, I need to start on dinner soon" I grab her hand in mine and head back to the car, her hand is so soft and so small compared to mine, I'm slightly scared ill crush it.

Angel doesnt take her eyes off her flowers, a smile still firmly imprinted onto her lips.

I'm glad shes happy, I could see just how much she loved them.

"You know, youre the first person to ever give me flowers" that one sentence made my heart skip a beat.

The first person to give her flowers, her first

I was her first

## Page 10

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I'm in the kitchen with angel making dinner, angel is sat on the edge of the counter watching me make pizza dough while eating all the tomatoes.

"Sweetheart save some tomatoes for the sauce" she slowly pushes the box towards me as if to stop herself eating more and I laugh "I'm sorry theyre just so good" I grab a small handful and place them in front of her before closing the lid and moving it across the counter

The look on her face was clear shock, as if she wasn't expecting that from me, clearly not realising the dangers of the life I live "what about your mother? What is she like" I can feel the pain in my chest as I recall my childhood

## Page 11

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

4am, and I cant sleep. I keep replaying it in my mind, the way she looked at me, the way her body gave in to my touch, the way we almost kissed...almost. I sigh before getting up, I need some water.

The second I leave my room I hear muffled noises coming from the guest room, as I get closer they become more clear.

Crying and then suddenly...she screams. I bolt to my room grabbing my gun off the dresser and head straight for the guest room before pushing the door open.

Nobody's here but angel, i walk towards her sleeping body, her face is puffy and red and theres tears streaming down her face, shes pale and looks slightly sweaty, but her eyes aren't open.

Shes shifting around while talking in her sleep and I can feel her panic, shit is she having a nightmare? I rush to the side of her bed and kneel down next to her. I shake her shoulder lightly "angelica?" she doesnt wake up "angel wake up, its just a dream" still nothing.

I touch her face lightly and her breathing increases, what the fuck.

I recoil my touch and she starts breathing rapidly "no please, please dont touch me.

Please I'm sorry" my heart breaks at her panicked words and I touch her face again trying to wake her "wake up bellissima, youre safe" (beautiful)

Her face softens as she sees me and she breaks down into gut wrenching sobs, I pull

her into my arms as I stroke her hair "shh its okay, youre safe.

"He cant hurt you anymore" her body trembles in my arms as her sobs increase, my heart slowly breaking with each cry.

"Ive got you, I wont let anyone hurt you" I stay there for awhile with her in my arms as she cries into my bare chest, I continue stroking her hair and whispering reassurance into her ear, she needs to know shes safe.

Once I can feel her calm down i pull back slightly and cup her cheek in my hand, "Are you okay?

" I whisper softly as i stroke her face, she gives me a small smile and nods "I'm okay, thank you" I smile back at her before kissing her head and standing up.

"Go back to sleep sweetheart, if you need me you know where I am okay?

" she nods before I stand up and go to walk away.

Before i can even take 2 steps i feel her grab my hand and I stop

I hesitate for a second before caving and getting under the covers with her, she cuddles up to me and I wrap my arm tightly around her securing her body to mine.

"Thank you" its a faint whisper against my chest but I heard it, I grab a strand of her curls and twirl it around in my fingers lightly

I dont do feelings. feelings are what make strong men weak and I cant be seen weak, not with what I do, and she cant be seen as my weakness because the second anyone realises I would do anything for her, they'll use that against me.

I rest my chin on her head as I feel myself start to doze off, her smell calming my senses and then darkness consumes me.

I dream of her, of angel, thinking about what life with her by my side would look like.

I would cherish her, worship the ground she walks on, I would die just to protect her.

I dream of happiness, a world where I can come home from the roughness of my life and be greeted by the loving warmth of her until suddenly shes taken from me.

her small fragile body falling to the floor with a thud, blood pooling around her chest. I collapse to my knees beside her and pull her into my arms, her body going limp in my hold as I sob uncontrollably.

I watch as the life slowly drains from her face right in front of me, I watch as she takes her last breath before her eyes darken and her soul leaves.

no more sparkle, no more light, just...void.

I jolt awake sweaty and breathing heavy, I look down to see angel still wrapped tightly in my arms, sleeping peacefully. shes okay, she's alive, shes safe in my arms.

Am I that heartless that I dont want to let her go? even though her life will be in danger?

## Page 12

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I put down the bowl of batter and watch as she starts to go distant, her skin goes almost white and her eyes swell with tears. I notice her hands trembling and I move away from the counter "angelica, its okay" I slowly move towards her and she moves back again.

Mateo gives me a worried look of confusion as he tries to calm her "angel, whats wrong" I hear the worry in his voice but she doesnt respond. I see her legs wobble and I know whats about to happen.

Her knees give out and before she can hit the floor I grab her in my arms and pull her into my chest, tears stream down her face and her body shakes uncontrollably.

Her breathing is harsh and rapid "easy angel, breathe.

Look at me, take a deep breath" I lift her chin to my face to make her look at me and take a deep breath, angel does the same.

I stroke her cheeks with my hands wiping the tears away "better?" she nods at me and smiles, I smile back "thank you" I help her on her feet and hold her waist to stop her from toppling over

I head back towards the counter and continue making the pancakes "they'll be done by the time you get back, ill make sure to add extra chocolate chips" she smiles at me before heading upstairs. Mateo turns to me and gives me a look that I cant make out "what?"

"Mateo I swear to you nothing is going on. No relationship, no sex, nothing" he

cringes at the mention of sex and shakes his head at me "maybe not but you love her, I can see it"

My heart flutters as I think about angel, do I love her?

I dont know ive never experienced love before.

We aren't even in a relationship, we haven't even kissed, how could I possibly love her that fast?

I go to speak and Mateo cuts me off "I know you haven't loved anyone before and neither have I, but I know you feel something for her.

The way you look at her-" he shakes his head and looks at the floor "you look at her like shes a princess, no a queen.

Like shes the most amazing thing to ever exist" I feel my cheeks burn as I crack a smile, she is the most amazing thing to exist

## Page 13

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

The weekend went by, I tried to avoid angelica as much as possible.

As much as it hurt to do, it had to be done, for the sake of my friendship because I know I cant control myself around her.

All I want to do is kiss her, hug her, buy her flowers, call her mine but I cant and it hurts so much.

She comes downstairs for breakfast and dinner and we exchange a hello but once thats over we go our separate ways doing our own thing, until tonight.

Its Sunday night and Mateo insisted on watching movies in the living room, I tried to protest telling him I had work to do but he wouldn't back down, now here I am sat beside angelica with her legs draped over my lap.

2 movies watched and Mateo still wasn't done, the pizza just arrived and it was just getting started.

"So angel looking forward to going back to school tomorrow?"

" Mateo says taking a huge bite of his pizza.

I look over at angel who's looking down at her hands playing with her fingers "um yea I guess" I frown, she still wont touch her pizza, just like last time

Another movie finishes and angelica still hasn't touched her pizza or any of the snacks, not a single bite of anything.

Mateo puts on a new movie but this time its a horror movie, I notice angel tense as he puts it on but doesnt object.

A few minutes into the movie and I can tell shes getting scared, we've already seen 2 murders so far and they were pretty gruesome, I dont know why Mateo thought putting this on was a good idea, especially after the incident the other night.

Another gruesome kill and I notice angel jump, I put my arm out towards her signalling for her to come closer to me and she does.

She leans against my chest with a blanket to her face and I wrap my arm around her stroking her hair, she doesnt look away from the tv but I know shes scared, I can feel her trembling in my arms. "Are you okay" I whisper softly in her ear trying not to make Mateo notice our position.

She doesnt say anything, just looks at me with a small smile before turning back to the tv.

I take the opportunity to make a move and try and get her to eat something, I pick up a slice of pizza and bring it to my mouth taking a bite before moving it down to angel and offering her a bite.

She looks at it unsure and looks up at me with sad eyes, I try and ease her with a smile but she shakes her head.

She finishes the slice and I offer her another but she doesnt take it, I feel her body tense and she tries to stand "I need the bathroom" I grab her arm lightly as she stands from the couch, stopping her from leaving "dont do it" I know exactly what shes about to do, I'm not fucking stupid.

I pull her back down this time into my lap and she doesnt object, instead she lays her

head against my chest and slowly drifts off.

The movie finishes and Mateo turns to us instantly giving me a glare at our position, I roll my eyes at him before standing from the couch with angel still in my arms "she was scared man, horror movie? Really?" He doesn't respond just rolls his eyes and walks up to his room, fucking child.

I grab a bottle of water from the fridge and carry angelica up to her bedroom.

I gently set her down on the bed and place the bottle on her side table, I stand there looking at her wondering if i should leave her in her clothes or change her into something more comfy. Will she hate me if i change her?

I stroke her face lightly trying to see if shes even slightly awake and she stirs against me and opens her eyes, "sorry sweetheart I didn't mean to wake you" she smiles at me and closes her eyes again leaning into my and thats on her cheek "come here bellissima, lets get you out of these clothes" (beautiful) I walk to her closet and pull out a tank top and a pair of matching shorts, this should be fine I think.

I walk back over to the bed and pull her up gently "ill close my eyes okay?"

" she gives me the slightest nod and I close my eyes and i remove her shirt, careful not to touch her too much.

I do the same for her pants and dress her in the tank top and shorts before lowering her back down onto the bed gently "thank you" her barely audible whisper brings a smile to my face, she was awake.

I kiss her forehead and leave her room, heading down the hall to mine.

I flop on the bed face first, I need to punch something, anything.

I sit up looking around for something to hit, I cant hit the wall I dont want to wake angelica, I give in and turn to my pillow and just start punching.

It doesnt help, at all, I need to go to the gym first thing tomorrow but right now this is all I have.

when I finish releasing my anger I lay back down on the bed just thinking, thinking about angel, thinking about the next work mission, thinking about betraying Mateo.

I cant break his trust like that but fuck I cant ignore angel anymore, its only been 3 days yet I'm going insane being away from her.

I dont think I can suppress my feelings anymore and honestly. ..

I dont think I want to

## Page 14

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

6am. Ive been at the gym for almost 4 hours now, punching anything I can, letting out my anger and frustration.

My fists are bruising and bloody, shit maybe thats enough for today, I pack up my stuff and head back out to my car "fuck I'm going to be late" I have to pick up angelica for school and I lost track of time, she cant be late the first day back.

When I get home I quickly rummage around for my keys to open the door and I'm greeted with a wide awake Mateo and angelica.

Her outfit catches my attention, shes wearing a pair of slightly baggy grey jeans and a white lacey top complete with a small fuzzy purple cardigan, her long light brown curls let loose hanging down her back with a few pieces over her shoulder, she looks beautiful.

She catches me staring at her and smiles, shit dont stare you creep.

"I'm the boss princess, I can show up whenever I want or not at all if I choose to.

Driving you to school is no disturbance and ill be doing it everyday for you" I can feel her smile, I can sense it without even looking at her and I smile back not once taking my eyes off the road.

"I was thinking, when I pick you up later, would you like to go for ice cream?

" her face lights up and the little sparkle in her eyes grows bigger

I step out the car and notice the gawking eyes eyeing my every move, something I'm very used to, people can tell I'm bad news just by looking at me.

I walk around to angelica's side and open the door for her, holding my hand out to her and then walk to the trunk to grab her bag.

"You have my number right? If you need anything call me and I will come right here" she nods at me and I can see she's uncomfortable with the eyes on us.

I lean down to her cheek and whisper in her ear "stay safe, if anyone gives you any trouble let me know" she nods yet again and blushes at our closeness, I grab her waist and pull her closer into me before kissing her forehead "have a good day princess" she walks out of the parking lot stopping before the entrance and waving me off, I'm slightly worried about her but she'll be okay I know it

Nosey ass Ivan as always "his father, hand me the file" it's a little thicker than I expected and when I open it I'm greeted by his face, the ugly bastard "why did you want a file on Mateo's father?"

"Does he know about this?" I flick through the pages reading every word intently "no he doesn't and he isn't to know just yet."

"This bastard abused him and angelica and I want to make him pay for it" a certain page catches my eye, a mugshot.

I skim the first few lines, arrested for multiple accounts of child sexual assault, abuse, child neglect, charges were dropped with no explanation as to why? What the fuck.

I flip the page and it's fucking blank. That's it? That's all they managed to get on him? No location, no last seen, no previous card transactions. It's like he vanished off the face of the earth. I'm snapped out of my thought by my phone, angelica

I turn down the street and see angel walking fast away from the school, I immediately stop the car in the middle of the street and jump out, rushing towards her.

She jumps at my touch but instantly relaxes into my arms when she sees me "shh I got you, what happened sweetheart" she shakes her head into my chest as she continues to cry "please just can we go, please" I take her hand and pull her towards the car, helping her inside

## Page 15

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

Its been 2 days since angelica went back to school.

Jordan Price, that name has been playing around in my head since she said it, he will get whats coming to him and ill be the one to do it.

I kept angel off school until the situation is dealt with, I cant risk him showing up and trying something like that again.

We spent the 2 days just spending some time together, watching her favourite show, cooking.

Currently we are in the kitchen and angels teaching me how to bake, apparently baking and cooking dont exactly go hand in hand.

We finished up and put the brownies in the oven, they dont look too bad but then again angel did most of the work "so when can we eat them? I'm starving" she laughs, her fucking laugh, it makes my knees weak everytime "I'm hungry too, what are you making for dinner?"

"Angelica I need to quickly head to the safehouse to drop off some paperwork about the next shipment, but I dont want you here alone" she looks up at me with confusion before realising what I mean and throws her shoes on. We head to the car and get in before driving to the safehouse.

She doesnt push it away, she doesnt even tense she just allows it.

"Angelica dont ask questions you dont want to know the answer to" I know if I tell

her whats going to happen she will regret asking, I cant let her know any details about what we do.

"Youre going to kill him, aren't you?

" I tense and squeeze her thigh lightly unsure of how to respond.

I cant say yes but if i say no she will know I'm lying.

I dont have time to think of a response before we pull up outside the safe house.

I unclip my seatbelt and turn to face her but I dont remove my hand from her thigh  
"please dont ask questions angel.

I'm trying to keep you safe, the more you know the more danger youre in so just please listen to me" she doesnt respond, she just looks at me and gives me a small nod

I reach up to cup her cheek in my hand, lightly stroking her face, one again she doesnt push me away.

This is wrong I know its wrong, but why does it feel so right?

Being this close to her, touching her skin, it feels so natural and yet I know it shouldn't happen "why do you care so much about me?

Did Mateo tell you to keep me safe?" how do I tell her that I'm crazy about her?

That I dont even glance at other women because theyre not her?

That I can picture spending the rest of my life with her?

Even if I could find the words I know I shouldn't say them

I lift her face back up to look at me "you're special angelica.

There's something about you that draws me to you.

You're not just any girl, you're not just Mateo's sister.

I feel something for you that I've never felt before" my voice fails me as I talk, going below a whisper but I know she heard it.

If I share my feelings maybe it will make things easier, make it easier to stay friends and for me to just ignore them.

We head inside walking with my hand on her waist pulling her into me, I don't want her interacting with anyone here thinking they're not dangerous.

Just because they work for me doesn't mean they wouldn't try get her into her pants, they see a pretty girl and they're all over her the only difference being, those girls let them.

"I need to head downstairs. I'm going to leave you here until I'm back alright?

Do not move, do not talk to anyone, do not leave with anyone even if they tell you they're with me do you understand? "

She nods before sitting at the table and pulling out her phone "that guy there?

That's Sullivan. He is the only person you are to trust okay?

If he tells you that you need to leave immediately you listen" I point to Sully who's

stood by the entrance and give him a small signal to watch angel, hes a big built guy, mid 40s, I know angel will be safe with him he practically raised me when my father died.

She nods again and smiles before turning her attention to her phone.

As I'm heading downstairs I'm dragged into my office, fucking Mateo, of course.

"What the fuck is she doing here? Why would you bring her here Dante?

Are you trying to get her killed?" hes getting too comfortable shouting at me like that, he may be my best friend but I'm his fucking boss and he needs to remember that

## Page 16

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

We arrive home with our pizza, freshly baked brownies sat on the counter, I made sure to leave one of my security on oven watch.

cant have my house going up in flames over some brownies now can I?

"Go sit down love, ill grab you a plate" angelica sits on the couch preparing the movie and I grab some paper plates and the tray of brownies before heading to sit with her.

I pull her into me and drape her legs over my lap "what movie did you pick?

" I hand her a plate with a slice of pizza on it.

"The notebook, is that okay?" she looks unsure and I'm confused by her expression "of course, ive never seen it whats it about?

" she looks up at me biting her lip, fucking hell that does stuff to me.

"Dont do that" I put my finger on her lip and she releases it

We are about halfway through the movie as Mateo walks in, this wont end well.

The way we are sat together, watching a romance movie, eating brownies we baked together, Mateo has every right to be mad at the situation and I brace myself for the fight.

"Hey guys what you watching?" I'm hit with a wave of confusion, why is he so relaxed?

Why is he not screaming at me right now with a gun to my head?

Mateo sits between me and angel in the car separating us and we drive to the club, awkward silence filling the uber.

Once we arrive I hurry to get out and help angelica out too, I pull her into my chest and lean down to her ear "stick with me okay?"

" she nods and we move towards the entrance.

The music is loud and its dark, nothing but flashing LEDs for light, people are everywhere dancing and talking and we push through the crowd to the bar.

I watch as she eyes the bottles before settling on one, "she'll have a strawberry vodka and a water" we get our drinks and I look over at Mateo whose already got a girl hanging off his arm, classic Mateo.

I notice angelica getting uncomfortable and i place my hand on her thigh to ease her "Dante!

Dante come over here! Dimitri needs to talk to us" I hear Mateo shouting at me over the music, Dimitri? What does he want?

I sit down at our seats keeping my eyes firmly locked onto her just watching, she looks amazing in that dress and her face lights up as she dances. She looks happy. I turn to face Mateo as hes bugging for my attention and we talk before I turn my attention back to angel.

I tense as I see a man walking towards her grabbing her waist, I see the panic in her face as he touches her but she carries on dancing.

Anger consumes me and I tell myself to stay calm, she's not your girl Dante leave her be.

I turn my attention back to Mateo and try and ignore the burning anger I feel.

After a few minutes I turn my attention back to the dance floor only to see Angelica gone, "where's Angel?"

"His eyes go wide as he looks past me at the dance floor "she was right there a second ago.

"Ask her friend" I jump from my seat and walk towards the girl Angel was dancing with

## Page 17

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

Its the next day, angelica slept in my bed last night, I know Mateo was against it but she was clinging to me like a baby sloth and I couldn't get her off me. She was completely out of it, unable to walk or talk and her whole body was limp,

I wake up to her still beside me curled up at the edge of the bed with her knees to her chest, she looks like shes shivering?

I touch her skin lightly and shes ice cold and slightly sticky, I touch her forehead and its red hot, fuck she has a fever.

Shes still sleeping so I dont bother to wake her, I throw on a tshirt and go downstairs to grab some medical stuff.

I come face to face with a pissed off Mateo sat at the kitchen island, his eyes meet mine and I can feel them burning into my skull "morning Mateo" I try and break the tension by talking first as I walk around him to the fridge, grabbing 3 cold bottles of water.

"Dante" I know hes mad but I cant deal with that right now

I head over to the cupboard and rummage around looking for anything to help angel.

I grab some painkillers, pills to help with nausea, an empty ice pack and a bucket in case she needs to throw up.

"Whats all that for?" I grab some ice from the freezer and fill up the ice pack before turning my attention to Mateo "its for angelica, shes got a fever.

Can you call Stefan and ask him to come by? " Stefan is our private doctor.

when you do what we do you cant exactly go to the hospital without getting asked a thousand questions so we have a couple private doctors to deal with injuries and counselling for my men and their families.

"Is she alright? Is it the drug? Is she breathing?

" I roll my eyes at his stupid question "of course shes fucking breathing.

Do you think id be down here so relaxed if she wasn't?"

He doesnt say anything so I make my way upstairs with my supplies.

I walk into my room to find angelica gone, before I can panic I hear noises from the bathroom and knock on the door "angelica?

Are you in there?" it sounds like shes throwing up, I open the door and kneel down beside her pulling her hair back "n-no Dante dont watch this" I dont move, I continue sitting beside her holding her hair out of her face and stroking her back

When shes finished getting it out of her system I pick her up and carry her back into bed "you have a fever sweetheart.

Stay in bed I got you some stuff to help" I place the ice pack on her forehead and hand her 4 pills, 2 nausea and 2 pain killers "here take these, and drink these.

I want all 3 gone by the end of the day" I say handing her all 3 of the water bottles, she nods and swallows the pills and lays back down on the bed

I go back downstairs and to my surprise I see Ivan, leaning against the wall talking to

Mateo "Ivan?"

"What are you doing here?" they both look at me and I see Ivan smirk "ive been called to keep an eye on you" what does he mean by that?

I raise my eyebrow looking over to Mateo who's stood there with his arms crossed "I need to go to the safehouse but I dont trust you two alone so I called Ivan.

Hes here to watch you and make sure theres no funny business" I can feel myself getting angry, he gave me a chaperone?

I roll my eyes and head over to the couch to watch some tv, "really?"

"So why am I here?" I can hear the smugness in his voice, hes enjoying every second of this "I dont know either my friend, youre welcome to leave" he comes round to the couch and sits down beside me shaking his head "no can do boss, I'm here to watch you and I always do my job" I dont respond and put on a tv show hoping to drown him out

About 40 minutes pass before either of us speak again "so this girl, you like her dont you?"

"I dont say anything i just nod in response.

"Is this the girl you killed that Jordan kid for?"

"I feel the bile in my throat at his name, hes dead Dante let it go, "yes he tried to assault her at school" he nods understandingly and goes quiet for a few seconds

Before I can respond I see a small figure by the stares, shit angelica, did she hear all of that?

"Angelica what are you doing out of bed?

" i rush from the couch to angel who's wobbling around as she stands, almost like she could pass out at any second.

I guide her to the couch and sit her down in the middle between me and Ivan "Ivan this is angelica, angelica this is Ivan my childhood friend"

## Page 18

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

After my long cold shower I get out and throw on some sweatpants and I cant help but think about angelica.

What is she playing at? At first I thought it was an accident but she looked at me like she knew exactly what she was doing and I cant help but think maybe she wants me too.

No theres no way she does, I'm misreading it.

I sigh and run my hand through my wet curls, I need a fucking drink.

I make my way downstairs to the liquor cabinet and search for a bottle of whisky, rummaging around until I find a brand new bottle.

I crack it open and pour myself a glass before downing it in one go, fuck thats good shit.

As I'm pouring another I hear faint footsteps behind me and before I can turn around I feel small gentle arms wrap around my bare chest making me jump.

I pull her into my chest hugging her and gently stroke her hair as she holds me, she doesnt cry she just holds me tight and buries her face into my chest "do you want to talk about it?

" she shakes her head and breaks away from my hold.

"What are you doing drinking in the middle of the night?

" I let go of her fully and turn back to the counter to grab my drink

Without a second thought I lean down to her face so I'm inches away, she doesn't move or pull away from me she just watches, eyes firmly locked on mine before they slowly move to my lips, she wants this too.

Before I can stop myself from going further my lips are pressed against hers, her soft lips touching mine makes my heart flutter.

The kiss is delicate and soft with a hint of passion.

Her hand grabs my arm that's leaning against the counter and I bring my other arm to her waist deepening the kiss slightly.

We stay like that for a little while before breaking apart, looking at each other with our faces inches apart, I smile down at her and she smiles back "I'm sorry, I just couldn't hold back any longer.

You do things to me angelica, things I don't quite understand" I say honestly, she does something to me that I've never experienced before yet I want to experience it more.  
..with her

## Page 19

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

Its been a few weeks since I kissed angelica, things have been pretty stressful.

Angel started her online classes so shes home 24/7, I was uneasy about leaving her here alone so I decided to work as much as I could from home.

Her fever cleared up after about a weak, it was hard seeing her so week and vulnerable and not being able to comfort her the way I wanted.

Works been rough, had a few shipments come in that we had to deal with and 2 more attacks on our men's private estates with no new information as to why and what Giovanni's plans are.

I know Giovanni well. I know he wants angelica and I know that he wont stop until he gets his hands on her but I refuse to let that happen.

Mateo has been watching angel and I like a hawk, uneasy about us being alone, coming home from work early to make sure nothing is going on, constantly asking Ivan to watch over us when hes working.

Nothing more has happened between angel and i since that kiss, we talk and we hang out together but thats it, neither of us really know what comes next and the topic has been avoided like the plague.

I'm currently in the kitchen cooking dinner, enchiladas one of angelicas favourites when i hear her come in and sit on a bar stool, I dont turn around and she doesnt say anything probably thinking I dont know shes there, I smirk as I continue cooking waiting for her to speak but she doesnt.

I can feel her gaze on me for a solid 5 minutes before I turn around to face her, a big grin on my face as I watch her blush out of embarrassment "you done staring? "

Her face goes red and she looks down at her hands making me laugh "i-i I'm sorry i was just watching you cook" I lower the heat on the stove and lean against the kitchen counter looking at her "how are you today bellissima?

School going okay? I haven't seen you much recently" (beautiful) she looks up at me with a small smile and nods "its going good, I'm sorry i have a big test coming up so I'm trying to study as much as I can for it"

I'm shocked at first, my body going rigid not realising whats happening but then i relax, easing into the kiss and placing my hand on her waist to stop her falling off the bar stool.

I feel her hand on my chest before it slowly moves down to my lap and i grab it quickly before it can touch my crotch "angel.

.." I say warningly trying to tell her not to do this

She breaks away from the kiss fast, her face a bright shade of red and her eyes filled with hurt "i-i I'm sorry I didn't mean to I-" the panic in her voice evident.

I stroke her face and place my other hand in hers resting on her lap "hey, its okay.

Talk to me" tears fall from her eyes and i wipe them away with her thumb "i-i didn't mean to I'm sorry, I dont know why I did that" shes embarrassed and it hurts me, I didn't push her away because i dont want her, i pushed her away because I need to be sure of what she wants

We sit on the couch eating and watching a movie.

I'm laying lengthways on the couch with angelica laying between my legs, my arms wrapped around her waist and my chin resting on her head.

i look down at angel every now and then to see her not touching her food, i thought at first it was too hot so i left it but by now it should be cool enough to eat.

I move my hand to her thigh and squeeze lightly "eat sweetheart"

She looks down at her untouched plate and shakes her head softly, turning her attention back to the movie. I grab her fork and scoop a small amount onto it before bringing it to her lips but she doesnt open "c'mon angel you need to eat" she shakes her head again "I'm not hungry"

## Page 20

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

Its 4:40pm and ive spent all day making sure this date goes perfectly, this is angelicas first date and I want it to be a moment she remembers forever.

I finish up my phone call with Ivan and I hear angel walking down the stairs, "ciao bella" (hello beautiful) I walk over to her and pull her into my arms by her waist, "hi" she doesnt sound okay.

Her voice is faint and her face looks flushed "you feeling okay sweetheart? "

I bring my hand to her forehead to check her temperature but it seems normal, why does she look so unwell?

"You look flushed, are you okay?" she nods at me taking a deep shaky breath.

"Im fine im just...nervous I guess" I pull her to the kitchen counter and lift her up so shes sat on top of it with me between her legs "dont be nervous, its going to be great I promise you" I kiss her temple and she smiles giving me a little nod.

She gently pulls the bow loose and opens the lid of the box to reveal a white lace dress, she picks it up inspecting every little lace detail, every stitch and cut out shape, I can see tears forming in her eyes and it makes me smile because I know theyre happy tears "Dante I- this dress.

.." I remove the box from her lap and place it on the counter beside her "I know girls tend to wear little red or black dresses for dates, but I dont know.

..you look gorgeous in white so I thought you might like this dress instead"

10 minutes later angelica comes back down and the air is knocked out of my lungs  
"fuck angelica.

.." its barely audible but I know she heard it because a soft pink colour floods her cheeks.

Her small frame fills the dress perfectly and it hangs snugly around her waist, the length is shorter than I expected and I can see her shifting trying to pull it down "I'm sorry amore, I didn't think it would be so short"(love)

I walk towards her and wrap my arms around her waist until I reach the back of her dress, my hands gliding down gently to the hem and pulling it down slightly, I feel my hand brush her ass and I panic but she doesnt tense like I thought she would.

"Are you uncomfortable?" i dont want her to be uncomfortable going out like this, honestly I'm uncomfortable with it and I'm not even the one in the fucking dress "no I'm okay" her smile is honest but shy and it makes me smile back "you look beautiful"

I grab her hand in mine and pull her out the door and head to my car, leaning down and opening the passenger side door for her.

Once i get in the car I pull out a small box from the glove compartment "here, I got you this too" she takes the small box from my hands, confusion written all over her face.

I watch as she opens it and she lets out a small choke when she sees whats inside  
"Dante, no this-this is too much"

Inside is a necklace, a thin white chain necklace with a beautiful heart pendant made of a real purple diamond "i got it made especially for you.

That gem right there? Its a real purple diamond" her eyes go wide and her mouth drops open at the word diamond "th-this is a real diamond?

I'm holding a real diamond? Dante this is too much!

! I'm holding a tiny jewel thats worth more than my life!

" i smile, even though shes mad i cant help but smile and that just makes her more mad

Once we arrive I park a little bit away so I dont ruin the surprise, i help angel out the car and cover her eyes with my hand while using my free hand to guide her forward "where are we going Dante?

" I can sense her slight fear but I also know she trusts me enough to let me do this "youll see princess" we walk closer and closer to our destination and I stop "I can hear. ..water?"

I remove my hand from her eyes and move it down to her waist "the beach?

" she turns around, looking at the set up i made around us.

A beach blanket with plates, cutlery, candles and homecooked food, all of her favourite meals.

"Dante...you did all of this for me?

" I can see the tears in her eyes as she smiles at me, her face a rosy pink colour and her eyes filled with pure bliss.

"Of course my love, come sit" I grab her hand and guide her down onto the blanket

We sit for awhile after we finish eating, laying on the blanket with angelica between my legs, holding her close and listening to the sound of the waves, "I wish I could go in the water.

..ive never been to the beach before" hearing her so sad makes my heart ache.

"What happens if you do go in?" I know shes allergic to salt water, it makes her skin burn, ive seen it when she cries.

It leaves red itchy burns on her face that breaks my heart because theres nothing I can do about it, i dont know what it would look like if she touched that quantity of water

## Page 21

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

Its been almost 2 weeks since my date with angelica.

I still think about it and how amazing and natural it felt being with her, how perfectly her hand fits in mine, how our lips feel like theyre made to connect like a jigsaw puzzle, how our laughs together sound like a rhythmic song, its like we were made for each other.

Everytime I think about her and being with her, happy, it all comes crashing down on me with the thought of Mateo.

I dont know if I can keep doing this, the guilt is eating me alive. I'm the head of the Italian mafia, i kill people in horrible gruesome ways and show no remorse, feel no guilt, yet this? This whole situation is weighing me down heavily with guilt and its a horrible feeling.

I pace around my office with a glass of whisky in my hand, almost the entire bottle gone and yet I can still feel.

I can still feel everything, the weight of everything on top of me, no amount of alcohol will make it go away I know that, the only thing that could make it go away is. ..to end things with angelica.

The thought of that fills me with anger, I can feel my blood boil at the thought of not touching her or kissing her or being the reason she smiles and laughs.

Seeing her in my house every single day and acting like everything's okay and back to normal when all I really want to do is pull her close to me and kiss her.

I down my last glass of whisky, the strong bitter taste burning my throat for the last time today.

Maybe its for the best that I end things with angelica before it can turn into something more.

not just because of Mateo but because the life I live is too dangerous.

I become her boyfriend and then what? She gets a target on her back or a bounty on her head?

And it wouldn't happen once, if she even survives it the first time it will happen again and again, I cant put her through that, I cant put her fucking life in danger because of my own selfish feelings.

After a few minutes I relax a little and look down at my hand, still throbbing in pain.

blood pours from a big gash in my palm, its pretty deep but not enough to need stitches.

I go to my cabinet and grab one of the many first aid kits we use to treat gun wounds and pull out a bandage, wrapping it around my hand as tight as I can. I need to see angelica.

I head to my car ignoring Ivan's questions about the banging and the blood on my hand, and drive home as fast as possible.

The rain pours aggressively and I can barely see the road in front of me but I push on, trying to avoid getting into an accident.

I pull up to the house and freeze at the door, am I really about to do this?

Lose the girl I'm head over heels for? Lose the girl I..I love?

Before I can turn back and forget all of this the door swings open, angelica, fuck.

Shes peeking around the door with a kitchen knife in her hand clearly scared but when she sees me she relaxes instantly "Oh my god Dante you scared me!

" I dont say anything, I cant find the words to say anything "Dante?

" she places the knife down on the table beside the door and walks towards me and I instinctively back away "Dante whats wrong?

" the worry in her eyes breaks me, I dont think I can do this.

She tries to reach for my arm but I back away once again, her eyes fill with hurt as she looks at me and i can see shes confused.

I try to walk away but she grabs my arm making me turn around.

The sight of her breaks me more than anything, shes in shorts and a tshirt in the pouring rain, clearly freezing and wet, tears falling from her eyes making her face red and puffy and its all my fault "angelica go back inside" I try to push her back towards the door but she doesnt budge, she just shakes her head violently at me "no.

No! I'm not going anywhere Dante. Why are you doing this! "

Her skin is cold as ice, covered in goose bumps and she shivers intensely but still refuses to move.

I dont respond to her, I just try and guide her back inside but she pushes me away causing me to stumble back slightly "d-did I do something?

Are you mad at me?..." her whispered voice shatters my heart completely and all I want to do is pull her close to me and hold her "angel.

..no...you didn't do anything wrong sweetheart I just-" I can feel the tears finally spilling from my eyes ignoring my attempts to hold them back. I cant keep it together any longer.

She doesnt. I lift her chin up so shes looking at me and i give her a small smile, but I dont get one back.

Her eyes are full of tears and hurt, the sparkle thats normally in them is gone "angelica.

..i didn't mean a single word I said. I saw things were going well for us and i-i panicked and decided to fuck it up. I'm so so sorry"

Angel stands in front of me in nothing but her underwear and I feel a lump forming in the throat, "angel.

.." before I can say anything else she starts unbuttoning my shirt and slowly slides it off me "angel stop" she stops dead in her tracks, her hands hovering over me and a sad expression on her face "I'm sorry I-I-"I cup her face in my hands and kiss her forehead "youre not ready for that angel.

I dont want you to feel rushed okay?"

## Page 22

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I pick her up and she wraps her legs around my waist. I carry her into my room and drop her on the bed, not caring that we are soaking wet and cold.

"I'm not going to touch you like that.

..but I want to do something for you" I lean down to her ear, softly grazing it with my lips "I want to make you feel good baby, can I do that?

" she nods slightly almost hesitant but then replaces it with a more confident nod, but its not enough "I need words baby"

I lean back down to kiss her while I move one hand behind her back, unclasping her bra and removing it.

I break the kiss and sit up slightly, taking her in fully.

Her small frame laying under me like this makes my dick throb in my pants, almost making it uncomfortable, but I wont remove them.

I trail my hand down from her face to her breasts, cupping one gently before trailing down to her very prominent ribs.

I grow concerned at her tiny figure but this isn't the moment to mention it

I lean back down to kiss her and move my hand down closer to her heat, she lets out a small gasp as I place my hand on top "tell me to stop and I will stop okay?

" she nods again but instantly realises what I want "okay" I slowly start to move my fingers between her folds lightly rubbing in circles.

She lets out a small breathy moan at my touch.

I continue moving in light circles as I move towards her clit, she moans loudly and bites down on her lip making me smirk "you like that baby?

" she nods eagerly and I pick up the pace slightly and her back arches as a response "D-Dante.

.." she moans softly and I lean down to kiss her.

Her hand grips my arm, the one holding me up as I hover over her, and her nails dig in slightly.

I can feel her walls getting tighter and I know shes getting closer so i slow down "n-no what are you-" I stop my movements and lower down to the end of the bed with a grin on my face.

I push her legs apart and I can see the slight panic in angels eyes

I continue licking her occasionally sucking her clit and flicking it with my tongue before bringing my hand back and inserting my finger into her once again "oh my.

..fuck" I cant help but grin at her moans, like music to my ears.

She grips my hair tighter as I continue my rhythm on her pussy, licking faster and pumping my finger in and out.

I start to feel her body tremble and I know shes close.

## Page 23

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

Its been 2 days since my night with angelica.

Things have been pretty good aside from the whole 'not telling Mateo' factor.

I know the longer we wait the worse its going to be but this isn't just my decision, its angels too.

We are currently sat on the couch watching angels favourite show.

Shes sat on my lap, her legs draped over me and her head resting on my chest watching the show.

My phone lights up with a message from Ivan but the thing that catches my attention is the time, 7pm "shit I need to start on dinner Mateo will be here any second" I swiftly lift angel off my lap, placing her back on the couch in my spot and head over to the kitchen. "What do you want my love?"

Its angelicas birthday today. Ive spent all week trying to make every single thing perfect.

This is her first birthday celebration and I want her to know she matters and that celebrating her life matters.

Shes special and she deserves to be treated like a princess.

Mateo left about an hour ago to make sure everything at the ballroom was perfect and security were placed at every possible entry point.

I head into angelicas room to find her sleeping peacefully.

Shes wearing a tank top and shorts set, her long curls are sprawled across the bed and her mouth is slightly open.

I place the gift boxes I was carrying down on the bed beside her and lean down next to the bed, softly kissing her face "wake up sweetheart" I whisper as I place a soft kiss on her temple. She stirs but her eyes dont open.

She removes the lids from box of the smaller boxes and gasps as she looks inside.

Inside one is a diamond encrusted headband and in the other, a diamond encrusted bracelet with a small butterfly charm.

"Do you like them?" tears run down her face as she holds up each item.

"Baby dont cry, youll burn your face on your birthday" I say wiping her tears away with my thumb.

"Dante...i-i I love them. Thank you so much" before I can respond her arms wrap around my neck tightly, pulling me close to her "youre welcome princess"

Once I'm done getting ready I head downstairs to wait for angel.

"Angelica we need to go soon!" I call up the stairs to her, we have 20 minutes to arrive on time and shes still not ready yet.

Just as I say that I hear her come down the stairs instantly taking my breath away, "holy shit.

.." I notice her struggling slightly in her heels so I grab her hand to help her down the

stairs.

"You look fucking amazing baby. So beautiful"

The ballroom is full of people. Everyone's dressed up just for angelica.

The ballroom is fully decked out with birthday decorations, balloons, streamers, lights.

"What do you think baby?" I grab her waist guiding her through the crowd of people, occasionally stopping to thank people for the birthday wishes.

"Its so beautiful Dante, I love it"

We linger around for almost 2 hours, dancing, talking, drinking.

I love seeing angel so happy and carefree, forgetting her worries and just living her life like shes supposed to.

I see Mateo walking towards us but he does not look happy.

I brace myself for an argument but instead he grabs my arm and pulls me away from angelica "we have a fucking situation.

We need to evacuate everyone. Now!"

I run straight towards her avoiding the gunfire and pull her towards me, ducking and taking cover behind a table.

I scan her body for any sign of injury but shes clear "angel listen to me, we need to leave, now" she doesnt respond, shes in shock.

I shake her trying to snap her out of it but she doesn't move "fuck!

" I scoop her into my arms, carrying her with one and covering her head with the other.

I don't bother getting my gun out and shooting, my priority is getting Angelica out of here alive.

I run through the crowd of people and bodies, stopping by Mateo on the way through "get everyone out of here now!

I've got Angel, and for the love of fucking God don't get shot Mateo!

" I run out to my car, placing Angel in the passenger seat and driving as fast as I can.

I see multiple cars tailing us as I drive, shit.

I can't go home I'm fucking screwed. "Angel, baby listen to me you need to get down okay? "

No movement. She sits there silent, motionless, clearly in shock.

Gunshots start to fire around us snapping her out of it and she looks at me, panic clear on her face "Dante, what's happening?

" she's scared and honestly so am I.

I knew Giovanni wasn't going to give up Angel that easily but I did not expect this.

A shot fires once again, this time piercing the back window causing it to shatter "FUCK!

Angel get down!" I grab my gun from the glove compartment and fire out the window behind us.

I keep shooting out the window occasionally while speeding down the highway, trying to figure out what the fuck to do.

My gun clicks as I shoot, fuck out of ammo.

I toss it to the floor and grab my other gun from my waistband turning back out the window.

One of the cars pulls up to the passenger side of the car, shooting through the window smashing it.

Glass covers angelica and she sobs loudly, her body trembling.

"Dante...are we going to die?"

"Boss. I want you to follow my car"

"Boss you need to follow my car. I'm driving to the nearest closed off street, I have men in the car we can out number them"

Another bullet flies through the car smashing yet another window . I instinctively move my hand to angels back trying to shield her head from the bullets "sully I have angel in the car, if she so much as gets grazed by a bullet I swear to fucking god"

"Keep her in the car, head down and out of sight. If they dont know shes there they wont look for her"

I stroke angels hair trying desperately to soothe her but I know it wont work.

Shes terrified. I continue following sully's car as it heads down an alley.

He slams on the breaks making me jolt forward slamming mine on too.

Suddenly everyone's jumping out the car, guns going off and bodies dropping to the floor "angel stay down!

" I shout before loading up my gun and getting out the car.

Body after body dropping like flies until suddenly, quiet.

Its over. I breathe a sigh of relief as I take in the sight.

Giovanni was smart, sending his men after us but unfortunately he got outsmarted.

Sully walks over to me checking me for wounds but I panic remembering angel is still in the car.

I bolt towards it and see her still curled up with her hands on her head.

I open her door and rub small circles on her back "Shh its okay baby.

Youre safe now" she jumps up and hugs me, sobbing uncontrollably into my chest. I hug her back, pulling her into me tight.

"Youre safe my love, I promise" I notice the cuts on her back, I assume from the glass shattering over her.

I need to clean those before they get infected. "Lets go home"

She tries to pull back and look around but I stop her, holding her head in place with

my hands.

She cant see this, shes already seen too much today.

"Keep your eyes closed baby, you dont want to see this" she nods and turns around with her eyes shut.

I move my hand up to cover her eyes to make sure she cant see anything and walk to sully's car, setting her in the back seat before climbing in next to her.

Angelica almost fucking died tonight, all because of a rat. When I find out who the fuck this rat is,

theyre going to wish they never crossed me.

## Page 24

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

We pull up at the house, Security covering the estate blocking every possible entry point.

There must be around 20-30 guards just here alone.

sully has clearly taken every precaution possible to ensure angelicas safety.

"Boss. The house has been inspected inside and out, 3 times over and its clear.

We checked for people, weapons and bombs, any kind of wiring and found nothing so as of right now, your home is safe"

I get out the car and walk towards angels side.

Shes sleeping. I slowly lift her out of the car, carrying her in my arms towards the house and up to my bedroom.

Shes injured, blood covers her dress from the wounds on her back.

Theyre worse than I first thought. I place her on the bed sitting up and she stirs, "baby you need to wake up, youre hurt" all I get is a small hum in response and her eyes stay shut.

I sit beside her and slowly unzip her dress to reveal her back.

Scars cover her small frame from where she was abused and it breaks me.

Ive seen her body before. ive seen every inch of her, every scar and mark left from them but seeing it up close and so clearly fills me with pure anger.

Circle raised scars from where she was burned with cigarettes.

Large raised scars from being cut, some of them jagged.

The thing that catches my attention next is 2 words on her lower back, not written words, scarred words.

I run my finger along the scar, outlining the word 'slut' and slowly move it over to the word 'worthless'

the jagged, uneven lettering making me wonder what the fuck was used to cause these?

Angel doesnt move or say anything as I gently touch each mark.

I know shes awake, she flinches and tenses as I place my finger on each one, but she lets me.

I snap back to reality and remove her dress fully, tossing it to the side before getting up and heading towards the door "stay here.

Dont fall asleep. I'll be back in a second" she nods and I head downstairs to grab the first aid kit from the kitchen and swiftly heading back to my room.

I sit back beside her and open the box, grabbing anything i might need.

I softly dab the cotton pad on her back and she hisses, squeezing my hand hard but I dont care.

I keep gently patting her back with the pad before slowly wiping it along the area.

She squeezes my hand so hard her knuckles turn white, her fingernails dig into my skin but I don't stop her.

"I'm sorry baby, I'm almost done" I grab the gauze pads and medical tape and apply them over the wounds, making sure nothing sticks to them or causes irritation to her skin.

"All done sweetheart" She releases her grip on my hand but doesn't let it go, holding it more gently this time.

I cup her chin in my hand, forcing her head to turn to look at me.

Her eyes are empty, and she doesn't smile.

"I'm so sorry..." tears fall from her eyes before she finally cracks, breaking out into small sobs.

"Shhh I've got you" I pull her into my lap cradling her like a baby, stroking her hair trying to soothe her as she sobs into my chest, "You're safe"

The words slipped out unexpectedly. I tense, realising what I just said.

Angel slowly lifts her head off my chest, her big green eyes looking up at me with pure shock.

I don't look at her, I don't dare to. The embarrassment taking over me as I shamefully look down at the floor.

"Y-you love me?" her voice. It doesn't sound shameful, or disgusted like I expected.

It sounds...surprised and soft but also slightly sad, Like she never thought anyone could love her.

"I-I didn't mean to say it out loud. .."

Her voice is soft and quiet, but loud enough to snap me from my own thoughts.

My negative thoughts leaving the second I see her eyes, full of honesty and love.

She loves me. I cant hide the smile on my face as I lean down to kiss her, she doesn't hesitate to kiss me back while wrapping her arms around my neck.

"I love you so much angelica" I say against her lips.

i pull away slightly, planting a soft kiss on her temple.

"Why dont we make this official hm?" angel looks at me, confused, with her eyebrow raised slightly.

I slide her off my lap and onto the bed before kneeling down in front of her, placing my hands on her knees.

"Angelica Farinelli. Would you do me the honours of being my beautiful girlfriend? "

I chuckle softly and she smiles like shes pleased with herself, like all she wanted was for me to laugh.

"Get some sleep principessa. I still have 2 more gifts for you tomorrow" (princess) she nods softly and slowly starts to drift off in my arms. I hold her for a little while longer before I feel my eyes start to close, slipping away into darkness.

I'm in cold dark room. Its quiet. Too quiet.

I walk forward into a small ray of light, after 2 steps it opens to reveal the ballroom.

People fill the room, happy and carefree, a soft chatter filling the air.

I turn around and suddenly everything changes.

The happy people that were once standing and talking, now piled up on the floor unconscious and covered in blood.

I frantically look around and I see her.

Angelica. Shes standing in the middle of the room, surrounded by bodies and smoke.

I hear guns going off from every direction and I start running towards her, the ballroom seemingly getting larger and larger with every step.

As soon as I feel like I'm getting closer she turns to me, tears running down her face and a soft whisper escaping her lips, "Dante"

Before I can react, a gun goes off from the side.

The world around me stills and the air feels thick and heavy.

I cant breathe. I watch as the bullet slides through her skull, exiting the other side.

She goes limp, eyes wide and knees buckling beneath her before she collapses to the floor.

"ANGELICA!!" before I have time to reach her lifeless body, its gone.

The ballroom now replaced with nothing but darkness.

I still hear the gunshot, I can still see the moment the bullet hits her—taking her life.

I fall to my knees, my body shaking uncontrollably as loud sobs escape my lips.

I can see her lifeless body laying on the floor in front of me.

A bullet hole through the side of her head. Shes gone "...angel..."

I jolt awake. My body hot and sweaty and my breathing heavy.

What the fuck. I try to steady my breathing as I look around me, trying to assess the room.

is this real? Relief floods over me when I see angelicas beautiful face resting on my chest, sleeping soundly.

I bring my hand to the side of her head, softly brushing her hair away and inspecting it. No bullet hole.

I pull her body closer to my chest, so shes almost laying on top of me. I hear her let out a small squeak before snuggling up closer to my chest. I bury my head in her hair and sigh, shes okay, shes here in my arms. Shes safe.

"It was just a dream..." I whisper to myself before drifting back to sleep.

## Page 25

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

My eyes go wide as realisation hits me. Angelica, in my bed, in nothing but her underwear and me in nothing but a pair of loose pants.

Angelica's awake, covering herself with the blanket.

She's frozen, shocked, staring straight at a very angry Mateo.

"Mateo it's not what it looks like" I jump out of the bed but I'm immediately pushed by Mateo, stumbling slightly "allora che cazzo è?"

!" (what the fuck is it then)

Before I can respond and explain Mateo's out the door, stomping downstairs. "H-hes mad...what do we do?" angel's voice breaks the tension left in the room. I grab her hand and look into her eyes "we tell him"

I don't wait for her to say anything, I just walk out my room and head downstairs. Mateo is pacing the living room and there's a hole in the wall, probably from punching it. "Mateo nothing happened. We were just sleeping"

He scoffs and turns to look at me, a cold expression covering his face "oh really? Just sleeping? I told you not to fucking touch her Dante! You lied to me! You told me nothing was going on!" I hear soft footsteps coming down the stairs and I signal to angel to stay there.

Angelica grabs my arms, stopping me from sending anymore blows and pulling me out of my anger.

"I told you to watch your fucking mouth Mateo.

Thats still your fucking sister and my girlfriend, you do not get to talk about her like that" I'm trying to keep my cool, trying not to beat the shit out of him. Not in front of angel.

His fist comes at my face, punching me and sending me back. I can feel the blood pouring from my lip down my chin but I ignore it. I go for another blow but I'm stopped by angel "stop! Please!"

Shes stood between us with her hands in the air, tears streaming down her face.

I instantly stop my fist when I notice its inches away from her.

I almost fucking hit her... "Angel get the fuck out of the way!"

" shes trembling, still firmly stood between is trying to avoid a fight breakout.

I fall to my knees beside her and look up at Mateo. He shows no concern, no guilt, nothing but pure anger "get out"

He doesnt move or say anything. He stays firmly in place and it pisses me the fuck off. I stand swiftly, getting close so I'm inches away from his face "get the fuck out of my house Mateo"

He scoffs, walking over to the kitchen island and grabbing his jacket and keys. "You can come back when you chill the fuck out and learn some respect"just as hes about to leave he turns to us, looking directly at angelica with a cold expression on his face.

I turn back to angel and kneel beside her once again. Her light sobs filling the silence as she clutches her side. I pull her away from the coffee table and cup her face in my

hand "where are you hurt baby? Your side?" she gives me a small nod

I lead angel to the kitchen counter and grab the first aid kit, "jump" she jumps onto the counter, whimpering in pain, breaking my heart.

"This is what? The third time you've needed this kit?

" I try to lighten the mood, try to distract her from the pain.

It works slightly as a small smile creeps onto her lips. "Theres that smile"

I patch her up making sure its fully clean and protected and then just stand there, watching her. "Mateo is really mad at us"

## Page 26

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

Its been 2 weeks since Mateo found out about my relationship with angelica. I haven't seen her since. She locked herself away in her room and refuses to come out or speak to anyone. Its been really hard, ive been trying to get her to let me in so I can comfort her but she wont.

This has been my daily routine for the past 2 weeks. I knock on her door, begging her to say something so I know shes still alive, then I leave a plate of food for her by the door that she doesnt touch.

I sit there for a little while not saying anything as I hear her crying on the other side of the door. I know she needs comfort right now but shes scared to let me in. if me being behind the door is comforting her then i will sit here forever if she needs me too.

Suddenly, I hear a thud and a small yelp following it. "Angel?! Open the door!" no response. Panic consumes me as I bang on the door begging her to open it, but she doesnt.

My heart aches at the sight in front of me. angelica laying on the floor barely conscious. Shes awake but her eyes are slowly closing. Shes scarily thin and very pale, theres large black circles around her eyes and her face is red and puffy.

I kneel beside her and pull her into my lap not knowing what the fuck is going on. The second I touch her bare skin I feel just how cold she is. I instinctively bring my hand to her forehead, burning hot. Shes got a fucking fever and didn't think to tell me.

I notice her eyes starting to close fully and I grab my phone from my pocket, dialling

Stefan's number "dont close your eyes baby, stay with me"

I dont bother responding, quickly hanging up the call and scooping angel up into my arms heading straight for my car. I try and keep an eye on her breathing as she sits slumped in the passenger seat, its slowing down but its there. "Keep breathing baby, please"

Before I know it ive arrived at the estate, grabbing angelica from the car and bolting to the east wing where the hospital is. I immediately spot Stefan by the front desk talking to Ivan. He looks at me, stopping his conversation before rushing and taking angel from my arms.

He puts her on one of the mobile beds before pushing her out of the waiting room, leaving me standing there helpless with Ivan.

"What the hell happened?" I dont respond because honestly I dont know how to respond.

I dont know what happened. Shes had a fever before but it didn't cause her to collapse unconscious like that.

An hour passes and I see Stefan coming towards me holding a clipboard.

I jump from my seat rushing over to him "is she okay?"

" I say before he even gets a chance to breathe.

He nods and I feel a huge wave of relief flow through me.

"Shes alright its just the flu but there is something else id like to discuss with you"

Once the food arrives I unwrap one of the burgers for angel and bring it close to her so she can grab it easily.

She hesitates but takes the burger in her small hands, its almost the size of her head.

"I'm not going to make you eat all of it baby.

If you do thats amazing, but I just want you to eat at least some of it.

Anything is better than nothing" she nods hesitantly and takes a small bite. Thank fucking god

We sit and talk while we eat. I mostly sit there watching angel eat because I finished pretty fast. She only ate less than half of her burger and a few fries but thats more than shes eaten in 2 weeks so I cant complain. "Its getting late sweetheart. You need rest"

About 20 minutes pass but shes still not asleep, not even slightly. Her eyes are wide open and she stares at the wall while laying her head on my chest. "Baby you need to sleep"

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

Angelica came home yesterday. Her fever has improved a lot but shes still very weak and tired. Getting her to eat has been a struggle. She wont eat any meal besides dinner and even then she will eat less than half of it and claim shes 'full'

We are currently sat on the couch. Angel is sat on my lap with her legs draped over mine and her head resting on my chest. A thick blanket is wrapped around angel trying desperately to keep her warm, shes still so fucking cold its concerning.

The movie we were watching finishes so I check the time. 10pm. "Come on bellissima, time for bed" (beautiful) she shakes her head, keeping it resting on my chest. "I'm not tired" she says while a yawn comes out making me chuckle. "Sure youre not baby, come on"

I stand off the couch with angel cradled in my arms as I carry her upstairs to my room, gently laying her on the bed.

I lay beside her on top of the covers after tucking her in making sure shes warm.

"Sleep princess" I plant a kiss on her temple and rest against the headboard, waiting for her to fall asleep so I can head to the safehouse.

Angel gasps at my confession, her head shooting up from my chest in shock. "Remember when I said them dying wasn't an accident? When he found out my parents wanted to send him away...he set our house on fire with them inside" angel sits up on the bed beside me and grabs my hand in hers

A couple minutes pass and angels still awake in my arms. I know shes thinking but I

dont know what shes thinking about. Before I can question why shes still awake she speaks. "I-I cant have kids..." I'm taken off guard the second the words leave her lips.

## Page 28

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I wake up to feel a weight on top of me.

It's not heavy but it's enough for me to realise somethings laying on me.

Angelica. She's laying on my chest, her hands resting under her head.

She looks so peaceful, I can't wake her.

I decide to try sneak downstairs without waking her up, she's finally sleeping and I refuse to.

I carefully roll over while gripping her to my chest, gently moving her onto the bed. She stirs slightly and I freeze, trying not to wake her with my movement. When she doesn't wake up I slide off the bed and cover her up with the blanket before making my way downstairs.

I head to the kitchen and rummage around in the cabinets for ingredients to make breakfast. Chocolate chip pancakes, angelica's favourite.

I spend about 20 minutes making the pancakes and plating them up when I hear angelica quietly walking down the stairs.

She's wearing my dress shirt that looks 4 sizes too big for her. Fucking hell shes hot.

I turn off the heat and walk towards angel, planting a kiss on her forehead before softly kissing her lips. "Good morning princess. How did you sleep" she sits on the barstool by the kitchen island and smiles when she sees the plate of pancakes. "Good.

I feel better today"

We finish up breakfast. angel ate all of her strawberries and almost all of her pancakes and honestly I couldn't be more proud.

I place the dishes in the sink as a reminder to wash up later tonight and head back to my seat.

I have some time with Angel before sully gets here. "Dont you need to leave now?"

I can feel myself getting more angry, angelica notices and tries to free her arm from my hand but I tighten my grip slightly.

"Why now? Why didn't you talk to me?"

I could have helped you" I can see the fear in her eyes and I notice my grip on her wrist is a little too tight so I release her and drag my hand through my hair.

She hesitates slightly but pulls her sleeve up again and placing her wrist in my hand.

I slowly remove the bandage to reveal 6 straight lines across her wrist. They Are raised and purple, clearly starting to scar.

One in particular catches my eye, the one on the bottom.

It looks worse than the rest, deeper. I run my finger across it and angel hisses under her breath.

"Does it hurt?" she nods and I remove my finger.

I jump from my chair and head over to the door, grabbing my gun from the little table

beside it just in case it's not him.

His gaze travels to angelica who's currently hiding behind the kitchen island awkwardly. I look at her with confusion before realising, she's not wearing pants. "Fuck, sully turn around for a second" sully doesnt ask questions and turns around to face the door.

Angel comes out from behind the counter and I walk over to her giving her a quick kiss before telling her to go put pants on. "Good morning sully, and please call me angel" she says before heading upstairs.

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I stand there arms crossed face to face with Mateo. If looks could kill, I would be dead right now. "Finally! Took you long enough Mateo" Ivan stands from my chair and walks around us, closing the door and leaning against it. He has a devilish grin on his face, what the fuck is he up to?

I appreciate Ivan looking out for angel.

He would never admit it but I know he sees her as a little sister that needs protecting.

"Angel is just as much to blame here as he is.

I dont want to talk to either of them, now if you excuse me" Mateo tries to push past Ivan but he doesnt budge, shoving Mateo back into place.

Mateo glares at me and drags out the chair from in front of my desk, sitting on it. "Fine. Lets talk. Why the fuck are you fucking my little sister of all people?" he slams his fists down on the desk and I lean forward, trying to show him who the fuck his boss is.

"I'm not 'fucking' your little sister. I already told you I love angelica" he scoffs and throws his hands in the air. "Bullshit. Youre using her just like all your other whores"

I can feel myself getting angry but I need to remind myself to calm down, hes not worth fighting. "Look Mateo. I'm sorry for breaking your trust, I really truly am. However I am not sorry for falling in love with angel, I would do it ten times over. I love her"

Hes glaring at me, arms crossed but I can see the guilt in his eyes. "I never meant to hurt her...I was so angry at you both and she wouldn't get out of the fucking way. I didn't mean to push her" his voice is low, almost sad. I can see the guilt is eating him alive.

His arms drop to his sides as he looks at the floor.

I know he feels bad and I dont want to make him feel worse, but he needs to understand the pain he caused angelica.

"She didn't deserve how you treated her.

The things you said, the things you did, she didn't deserve that.

Be mad at me all you want. Punch me, kick me, fucking shoot me for all I care but dont take your anger out on angel"

We sit for a couple minutes in a comfortable silence before Ivan speaks. "Sooo that went well, but I did expect to see some form of blood and was kind of looking forward to it" hes got that devilish grin on his face again and I chuckle.

I let go and turn to Mateo "come on, you still have someone else to talk to" he hesitates before standing from his chair with a shy nod. I know hes nervous about talking to angel and im nervous too, about how she will react.

We head to my car and drive home. Mateo spends the whole ride playing with his zipper and tapping his foot. We pull up to the front gate and then into the driveway. "You ready?"

She doesnt respond. I can see that shes scared, almost distrusting of him. He hurt her and now she cant trust that he wont do it again. Mateo walks inside, walking towards

angel and she backs up once more, pressing herself against the wall.

Its been about 30 minutes. I haven't heard shouting or anything being thrown or punched and honestly I dont know whats more worrying, the silence or them arguing? Just as I'm about to go downstairs to check on them, angelica walks through the door.

Her face is red and puffy and tears fill her eyes. She walks over to me on the bed and curls beside me. I dont hesitate to wrap my arm around her, pulling her close to me. "how did it go sweetheart?" I dont know if her reaction means it went well or not.

## Page 30

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

Its been a week since Mateo moved back in. things have been going pretty well. Its slightly awkward at times, like if I kiss or touch angelica even slightly he gets pissed off but other than that theres been no major issues.

Angels been doing well. Eating is still a struggle but at least shes eating, and her sleeping is a lot better.

thanksgiving is right around the corner and neither of us really have family to spend it with so ive been thinking of a way to make this a good experience for angel, since its her first thanksgiving.

We are sat in my bed watching a movie. Angel is sat in my lap with her head resting on my chest, my arm wrapped around her shoulders keeping her close to me. We sit in a comfortable silence watching the movie until I feel angelica shift in my lap, causing a slight pain to shoot through my groin.

I grab her hips to keep her still and she smiles up at me. What the fuck is she doing?

I feel her soft breathe on my neck, slowly trailing up to my ear. "I-I think I'm ready"

I'm taken off guard, my grip on her hips loosening and she takes the opportunity to straddle my waist. Her arms wrap around my neck and her faces inches apart. "Angel, are you really ready for that?" she nods and brings her lips to my neck, kissing softly.

I stay still, my hands resting on my knees. I'm cautious about touching her, I dont know if this is what she really wants. "Sweetheart whats going on? Talk to me"

I'm concerned that somethings going through her mind, something negative I bet. I dont want her to feel rushed, like she has to do this or has to live up to my expectations.

She doesnt respond. Her lips slowly working their way up my neck to my ear once more and she takes it between her teeth. "I want you" she breathes into my ear softly, "fuck me"

I grab her in my arms and roughly flip us over so I'm on top of her. Her small frame lays on the bed below me and I tower over her, using my elbows to prop me up. "Is this really what you want?" she nods again.

I pull away, looking into her eyes for any sign of doubt. When I dont see any I bring my other arm to her face to cup it in my hands, kissing her again.

I trail my hand thats on her waist under her shirt, slowly lifting it up as I run my hand along her side. I lift it off and move my hand down to her shorts, doing the same thing and slowly removing them.

I lean back, taking in her body. Shes breathtakingly beautiful. The way her body curves inwards at the waist, her wide hips, her soft as fuck thighs. God what I would do to have them wrapped around my head. "Didn't anyone tell you its impolite to stare?" I smirk at her comment.

She looks up at me with her big dough eyes and a little smile on her face. I can see the blush creeping across her cheeks. "Sorry princess, youre just so fucking perfect" her face goes a deeper shade of red and I laugh, shes so cute.

I move my hand to her bra, cupping her breast in my hand. "Can I take this off baby?"

I drag my lips down her stomach, placing soft kisses and little bites until I reach her

panties. I loop my finger around the band and tug slightly. "Can I take these off?" she nods and I bite the inside of her thigh gently, signalling that I need words.

My finger circles her clit lightly, barely creating friction but enough to make angels breathing hitch. I press down a little to increase the friction and she moans. "You like that baby?" she nods and I pick up the pace, rubbing her clit. "F-fuck" she moans.

I slip my finger inside her and she gasps, clearly shocked by my action. I move it in and out at a steady pace while continuing to rub her clit. I watch her as she grips the sheets and moans, quickly moving her hand to her mouth to block out the noise.

I replace my finger on her clit with my tongue and flick it slowly. "Ohh, fuck" her hand moves from the bedsheets to my hair, gripping it tightly like shes holding on for dear life.

I increase my movements, pumping my finger in and out while flicking her clit with my tongue. "D-Dante...please" she tugs on my hair and grips my arm with her other hand but I dont stop my torture.

Her legs start to tremble and her grip on my arm tightens, "let go baby, cum for me" as soon as I say that she comes undone on my tongue. Her body shaking and quivering from pleasure as she rides out her high. I continue my movements until shes done and slowly remove my fingers.

I give her a minute to breathe while I remove my clothes, leaving my boxers on.

I can see the honesty in her eyes. Not a single bit of doubt. "Say the word and I'll stop. I mean it" she nods and I start to remove my boxers.

Her eyes go wide as my dick springs free, panic evident on her face. "I-is that going to fit?" I laugh, leaning down to kiss her lips softly. "I'll make it fit baby"

I reach over to my nightstand to grab a condom, leaning back over to angel when she stops me. Her small hand grips my arm and I look at her, confused. "Y-you dont need that...remember?"

I line myself up with her entrance, gripping her waist in my hands and leaning down to her. "This might still hurt sweetheart and I'm sorry" she lets out a shaky breath and nods slowly. I hesitate for a second before pushing into her gently, trying to do a little at a time.

She hisses under her breath, gripping the sheets tightly with her hands. "I'm sorry sweetheart. It will get better I promise" I let her adjust for a second and she nods, giving me the go ahead to enter fully.

I can see the pain on her face. Its scrunched up. her hand grabs my arm, digging her nails in deeply. "Y-youre too big. I-I cant" I stay still, not daring to move yet.

She smiles at me and nods. I pull out almost all the way and push back in again, deeper this time.

She winces. I do that again, and again, slowly until I can see her relax.

"I-its better now" I pick up the pace slightly, keeping it steady.

"Fuck" I groan, gripping her hips in my hands.

Angel clenches around my dick making me release a low groan. "Fuck angel dont do that or youll make me cum too fast" she doesnt listen, clenching around me yet again. Her legs start to shake again and her breathing picks up. Shes close. I can feel it.

I can feel myself getting close. My breathing picks up and my motions slowing down ever so slightly.

"Cum with me angel" with that she cums. Her body wracked with pleasure as she comes undone under me.

"oh fuck, good girl..." I cum, my seed spilling inside her. Fuck maybe I should have pulled out.

I pull out and lay beside her as we both come down from our high.

"That was...amazing" I laugh and turn to her.

Her eyes are slowly closing as she drifts off.

"No sweetheart, dont sleep yet. Let me clean you up" I walk to the bathroom and start running the bath before walking back to my room to change the sheets.

I pick angel up in my arms, her body slowly going limp as she falls asleep. "resta sveglia principessa" (stay awake princess)

I place her in the bath and stop the water half way. Its not as full as id like it to be but I dont want to risk her drowning while shes almost asleep. I kneel next to her as I clean her carefully, desperately trying not to wake her. She needs sleep but she needs this too.

Once I'm done I wrap her up tightly in a towel and carry her to bed.

I grab a tshirt and a pair of boxers from my closet and change her.

She stirs slightly but doesnt wake up. I'm unsure how to do her hair so I leave it to air dry.

That may be very wrong but I dont know how to take care of curly hair on girls,

theres a lot more of it than whats on my head thats for sure.

I need angelica to teach me how to take care of her hair so that I can do it when she needs me to, but right now this will have to do.

I tuck her into bed and crawl under the covers with her, pulling her tightly into my chest. I kiss her head and slowly start drawing patters on her arm, more to soothe myself than her. Just as I start to doze off I hear angels soft voice beside me

## Page 31

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I wake up to find the space beside me empty. Angelica isn't here. By the looks of it shes been gone for awhile because her side of the bed is ice cold. I roll over, panicked, as I reach for my phone to check the time. 3:17am. What the fuck?

I immediately wake up, jumping from the bed and throwing on a tshirt.

I run downstairs trying to think of what room she may be in.

the kitchen is first on my list as I run down, nope shes not here.

I move my gaze to the living room, not there either.

I run down the hall to the library, praying I find her curled up on the couch with a book on her lap, but its empty.

I run through every room in this goddamn house looking for her but theres no sign.

Every room is empty and cold like nobody has entered them in a long time.

My final resort is the garden, maybe she needed some air.

I get outside and I'm met with the crisp air, instantly shuddering as it whips at my skin. I dont see her out here either.

I'm panicked, frantic, trying to figure out where the fuck she is. My mind wanders to the thought of Giovanni. Did he take her? No. theres no way. This place would be a blood bath if he had managed to get inside and take angel.

I bolt upstairs to Mateo's room, banging on the door. After way too long of me trying to get his attention he finally opens it. Hes dishevelled, his hair a mess and his eyes barely open. "What the fuck is wrong with you Dante?" his voice is croaky and tired but I dont care.

I dont think for a second longer before heading downstairs and grabbing my car keys, Mateo following behind.

"Stay here. She might come back" he hesitates but nods.

I run out to my car and get in not bothering to put on my seat belt.

I drive out the front gates and hit the street, slowly driving trying to spot her.

I drive up and down 3 streets, panic growing stronger every second, when suddenly I see her. In the middle of the fucking road. Shes slow, clearly disoriented, stumbling over her feet every few seconds. I stop the car immediately and jump out, running over to her.

I stop in my tracks when I turn her around to face me.

No. shes not awake. Her eyes are closed, her mouth open slightly.

Shes sleeping. What the fuck? This reminds me of when I found her that one time during a nightmare.

She was cold, distant, asleep. It was like she wasn't alive but her body was still living.

I dont wake her, I just scoop her up into my arms and carry her to my car, placing her into the passenger seat. Her body is freezing. Her face is flushed and her nose is a light shade of red. I cover her with my jacket trying to give her any sense of warmth

before driving home.

We pull up at the house and I pick angel up in my arms, carrying her inside.

Mateo is pacing around the kitchen biting at his fingers.

His attention immediately looking up at us as we walk through the door.

"Oh my god. Is she okay?" he runs over, checking angel in my arms for I'm assuming wounds.

"Did she fall asleep?" I shake my head

I lay her down on the bed making sure shes fully covered to keep her warm before laying in beside her.

I pull her into my chest tightly, her cold skin sending shivers up my body but I dont care.

I rub her arm trying to warm her but also to soothe myself.

Still trying to make my panic pass, thinking about what could have happened to her.

Giovanni isn't the only threat. Anything could have happened to her. Some guys see a clearly vulnerable girl who's fucking out of it? God knows what they'd do to her. I shudder at the thought and try my best to drift to sleep.

I'm woken up to the light shining straight into my fucking eyes. Its blinding. I roll over to cover my eyes when I feel a warm weight on me. Angelica. Shes still here. Shes safe. I smile, pulling her into me. Shes still sleeping.

I stay like that for a few minutes as I wake up, keeping her close to me, taking in her scent before getting up and heading downstairs.

As I walk down I hear a loud clatter in the kitchen making me jump.

If I wasn't close enough to the kitchen to see who it was, they'd be fucking dead by now.

"Mateo! What the fuck are you doing? "

Theres a guilty look on his face as hes surrounded by pots and pans. "I just wanted coffee"

I sigh and walk over as I watch him pick up the pans, putting them back into the cabinet. "How's angel?" he asks as I walk to the fridge. "Still sleeping. I wasn't sure if I should have woken her last night"

We talk while I cook and then I hear light footsteps coming down the stairs. We both look towards her as she walks down. "Good morning angelica"

After breakfast Mateo heads to the safehouse to finish paperwork about the next shipment. I stay home to keep angelica company. I'm putting away the freshly cleaned dishes while angelica sits on the kitchen counter, holding a bowl of strawberries.

I walk over to her, positioning myself between her legs and placing my hands beside her on the counter. "Are you okay?" I ask softly. She nods and smiles.

## Page 32

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

Im sat in my home office making arrangements for the next shipment. A lot of preparation needs to be done for this one because its a large order and theres plenty of people in our world that are dying to get their hands on a shipment like this.

Angelica is on the floor of my office, laying on her stomach surrounded by books and her laptop. I look up from my work every now and then to watch her. Shes deep into her studying and has barely said 3 words since coming in here.

I peer down at the books, trying to figure out what subject shes studying, only to find house plans and furniture. Everything carefully labelled and organised. Images printed out and stuck on pages with other images, creating a whole room layout.

Mateo talked about this long before I met angelica.

She was deprived of any kind of education for a long time.

Mateo is the reason shes even able to speak.

He told me she hadnt said a word until she was around 7, and it was barely understandable.

Mateo is the one that made his parents send her to school, the one that helped her with her homework when she was struggling, the one that spent hours at a time trying to teach her how to read and how to write.

I know shes a smart girl, she just lets her past drag her down too much.

Interior design? She applied for a course about interior design and didn't tell me?  
"Why didn't you tell me that was something you were interested in?"

About an hour passes and i finish up the last of the preparation.

Angelica is now sat on the chair in front of my desk, her laptop on her lap and her headphones on clearly watching some show.

I watch her in awe as she giggles every few seconds, her eyes lighting up with pure happiness.

This is what i want. My girl happy, carefree, that sparkle in her eyes every second of every day. It will happen, I'll make sure of it.

I remember her birthday. The last 2 gifts I was supposed to give her. I still havent had the chance, every time i feel like i can something goes wrong that stops me. Its been weeks.

I lightly tap the desk in front of her to get her attention. She removes her headset and places it on the table, closing her laptop and doing the same. "Angelica. Your birthday. I told you I had 2 gifts that I needed to give you and I never got the chance. Would you like them today?"

She furrows her brows, "Dante what you gave me was already way too much" I shake my head standing from my desk and putting my hand out to her.

She takes it and I pull her from the seat so shes standing in front of me.

"I would give you the world if I could mia cara" (my darling)

She blushes at my words and I pull her out of my office to the living room.

We walk to the couch and i grab her shoulders, pushing her down so shes sat.

"I need to make a call. I had to have someone look after them until I could give them to you.

Stay right there" she nods and grabs the tv remote.

I had out the front door and pull my phone out, dialling his number. It rings once, then twice, then suddenly he picks up. "Boss, to what do I owe the pleasure?"

"No please? No thank you? I look after your shit for weeks and I dont even get respect. I'm hurt Dante" I roll my eyes knowing hes joking. Annoying little shit.

"Already on my way as we speak. I'll be there in 15" and then he hangs up. I head back inside to see angel still sitting on the couch, her knees meeting her chest as her arms wrap around them.

I walk over to her and wrap my arm around her chest, kissing her hair. "You scared me" she says, pausing her show. "Sorry baby. Ivan will be here soon. I want to take you out somewhere, after I give you your gifts, so go get changed"

She turns around on the couch so shes facing me "out? Where are we going? What do I wear?"

10 minutes pass and i hear a knock at the door. I walk towards it, grabbing my gun for safe measure. I'm sure its Ivan, if it wasn't I would have been alerted by security but I'm not taking any chances.

I open the door and I'm greeted by a smiling Ivan holding a gift box. "Hey man" I say moving aside so he can come in. he hands me the box and removes his jacket.

angelica's outfit

Before I can scold Ivan, the box on the counter starts to move. All of our eyes immediately looking at it "Dante what is that? Why is it moving?"

I gently grab the box off the counter and hold it out to angelica. "Go on, open it" she hesitates slightly, looking down at the holes in the box. Shes confused, looking at me questioningly before grabbing the bow and tugging it.

She lifts off the lid and gasps, dropping it to the floor and stepping back with her hand slapped across her mouth.

A head pops out the box, looking around at all of us.

Inside, is a beautiful white cat with a light purple ribbon tied loosely around its neck.

"D-Dante is that...is that a cat?" shes shocked, her words coming out in stutters.

She shakes her head violently and I raise my eyebrow in confusion. "Angelica, hes yours. The paperwork was filled out, he was paid for. Hes your cat" I set him down on the floor and he slowly walks to angel, unsure at first but then gently rubbing his side along her legs.

She crouches down putting her knees in her arms and pets him, "hey there little guy" he flops over allowing her to pet his stomach. "He doesnt have a name yet. I wanted you to name him"

She scoops him up and stands with him in her arms. "Hmmm how about...." she trails off, picking him up and holding him in front of her face "carbuncle"

Ivan snorts, breaking out into a fit of laughter. I try my best to compose myself and

not do the same but a small laugh escapes my lips. She looks at me and Ivan with sadness in her eyes "you dont like it?" she pouts

Angels face suddenly turns to a look of panic, "wait wait we dont have any stuff. We cant take care of him. I have no food or toys or-" I grab her shoulders to calm her down.

I take jasper from her arms and hand him to Ivan. I cover her eyes with my hand and guide her outside the house. "What is going on?"

I dont answer, continuing to walk forward and stopping at her gift. "I need you to not be mad at me okay?" I say before removing my hand from her eyes to reveal her gift.

In front of us is a beautiful light purple vintage convertible. Angelicas eyes go wide and her face is flushed. "Dante is that a car?"

I smirk, walking closer to her and cupping her face in my hands "oh I did" I say before kissing her. She doesnt kiss back right away, still in shock, but eventually eases into the kiss. We break away but I keep my forehead pressed against hers.

I grab her hand and pull her around to the front of the car. Her eyes widen as she sees the side of the bonnet. Engraved on the side in silver cursive letters is her name. Angelica. "You had this done for me?" I nod with a smile on my face.

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

Angelica and I shop around for hours, grabbing everything she found cute for the cat. 100 bags of cat treats, a million toys, way too many cat beds, even fucking outfits, but its what she wanted and my baby gets what she wants.

After stuffing my car to the brim with our bags we sit back in the car, both sighing from the relief of being out of the mall. "Ice cream?" I ask, turning to face angelica with a smile on my face. She beams up at me with an enthusiastic nod and I start driving.

I realise its getting quite late and neither of us have had dinner. I make a harsh turn and slowly pull up to our destination. "McDonalds? This isn't ice cream" angel asks with a pout.

Once the food arrives we sit in the parking lot, eating and talking before being consumed by a comfortable silence. Angelicas voice breaks the silence after while. "Dante?" I hum in response, taking a large bite of my burger.

I know she cant have kids, shes explained it all to me. I cant believe I just asked her I'm so fucking stupid. "I-I'm sorry angel, I dont know why I asked when I know that you-"

She cuts me off before I can finish, "no, I dont. Even if I could have kids I wouldn't" I furrow my brows in confusion. Most women dream of having kids, being a mother, having a family and the perfect life like that. Why didn't angel? "how come?"

I dont speak, I dont try and tell her she will change her mind or that shes young because honestly? I dont agree with that shit either. Shes made up her mind and she

should be supported not shamed. "It'll be just you and me against the world then darling"

Her head snaps up at my words. She looks shocked and confused, I see almost disbelief? in her eyes. "Y-you thought of a future with me?" I'm slightly hurt by her question, as if my love for her wasn't enough to show I want her and only her.

We finish eating and start to drive to the ice cream parlour when I suddenly hear light snores coming from beside me. I turn my head to see angelica completely passed out. Even when asleep shes beautiful. I dont bother driving for ice cream, ill take angel another time right now she needs rest.

Once we arrive home I scoop angelica into my arms and carry her to the front door, stopping by Sullivan on the way asking him to bring in the bags. I give Ivan a light greeting, brushing past and heading upstairs. I want to get angel to bed as soon as possible so she doesnt wake up.

I walk to my room and gently set her on the bed. She stirs slightly but doesnt wake up. I grab a tshirt and some boxes from my closet and walk back to the bed. Should I change her? I mean I have seen her naked before so it isn't that big of a deal right?

I hesitate eventually deciding to change her. She cant sleep in this outfit. I pull her arms up so shes in a sitting position and begin to remove her clothes, replacing them with mine. She stirs a few times but stays asleep. This girl sure is a heavy sleeper, That slightly worries me.

When shes changed and tucked away in bed I head back downstairs, quickly making sure shes fully asleep before leaving.

I find Ivan and Mateo sat on the couch chatting with jasper sitting between them. "Oh hey Mateo, I didn't realise you were home" I say walking to the kitchen and grabbing

a bottle of water from the fridge.

"You keep fucking buying her shit! A dress? A necklace? A bracelet? And now a fucking cat AND a car?! What the fuck is wrong with you?" he stands from the couch shouting at me.

He doesnt respond, continuing to glare at me like he wanted me dead. I dont get what his deal is. "Yes I buy her stuff, because she fucking deserves it. Id buy her the world if I could Mateo. I love her so yes, I will spoil her" I say, crossing my arms

## Page 34

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

Today is the day. The day of our big shipment.

Its currently 9pm and I'm waiting for Sullivan to arrive to stay with angelica.

After her almost fucking dying and stabbing someone in the face last time, i think she needs some extra security.

Considering how big this shipment is I would not be surprised if anyone tried anything here or at the dock.

I stand behind the kitchen counter, prepping dinner for angelica.

I look over to her in the living room. Shes laying across the large couch quietly reading a book.

Her glasses sliding down her nose every now and then causing her to push them back up.

Reminder to get those fitted better for her

The doorbell rings and I walk over to it swiftly grabbing my gun. I open the door to see Sullivan, holding a small bouquet of flowers. White tulips to be exact. "Sully. Come in" I gesture for him to enter and step aside. He walks in with a polite nod and kicks off his shoes.

Angel peeks up from the couch, instantly smiling as she sees sully. "Sully!" she jumps from the couch, rushing over to him and pulling him into a bone crushing hug. They

see each other almost daily but its mostly small interactions, general greetings.

I grab my jacket and my gun and head towards the door, stopping by angel swiftly on the way out. "I love you. Ill be home soon" I say, planting a kiss on the top of her head before leaving.

Once I arrive at the safehouse, I walk inside, being greeted by my men who are preparing their gear. I notice Ivan and Mateo standing by the bar area and I stride over to them, only to be stopped in my tracks by a figure in front of me.

Stephanie. A casual hook up that I made one too many times.

She was a frequent call when i needed a release.

Shes standing in front of me, her body barely covered in a latex jumpsuit with multiple large cut outs.

I internally cringe at the sight of her.

She is aware this could get messy right? Its not a strip club.

I roll my eyes and walk to the bar before she can say another word.

Mateo looks at me, still pissed like he wants to blow my brains out.

"What was that about?" Ivan says putting his phone in his back pocket.

"Someone clearly didn't get the message about angelica, thats for sure" I roll my eyes again as he laughs.

Everything was going smoothly, too smoothly. We had no issues with offloading the

container into our vans when I really expected something to go wrong. Just as we finished up and everything was going great the air fills with gunshots. Bodies flop to the floor almost instantly. Shit

I stick beside Ivan and Mateo, taking cover behind a container. "Do we know who this is?" I say as I jump out shooting a few rounds and ducking behind it again. "Giovanni" Ivan say as he hands me ammo to reload. Giovanni, fucking great.

I fall to my knees holding my arm, inspecting the wound. Its just a graze thank god. "You good?" I nod and stand up again, reloading my gun.

A few minutes pass and the shooting dies down, quickly coming to a complete stop. "Boys. We meet again" I hear his sick fucking voice behind us. Its almost like hes teasing us, like this is all a game to him.

We all turn slowly to come face to face with Giovanni. Men surround him holding their guns steady, pointed at our heads. We do the same, not one of us daring to lower their gun.

He wants angelica. Thats what hes wanted this whole time and I refuse, for obvious reasons. Not only is she fucking mine but even if she wasn't I would not let him take her. I know what he would do to her. The torture he would put her through for years until he kills her or she does it herself.

Hes right. I am the reason for angel being in danger. Being with me makes her a target. I would do anything to protect her, I would fucking die for her, but maybe that causes more trouble than its worth.

If I let my guard down, if I worry constantly about the bigger things to protect her from, she may just slip out from under me by something much smaller. I wont let that happen...I cant

He turns on his heel and walks away, his men trailing behind him. I let out the breath that I didn't even know I was holding and turn to Ivan and Mateo. Both of them frozen in place, pissed as hell, but Mateo catches my attention more.

His eye is twitching, his jaw is locked shut and his nostrils flaring up. His grip on his gun still firm, pointing it to where vanni was standing. "Mateo" I say trying to snap him out of it but he doesn't.

I grip his shoulders and shake him, snapping him out of his trance "Mateo!!" he lowers his gun and shakes his head quickly.

I say nothing and begin to walk towards one of the vans, both Ivan and Mateo doing the same.

I drive in silence. Nothing but my thoughts, and not very good ones.

Maybe...just maybe angelica would be safer if we weren't together.

She wouldn't be a target, at least not as big of a target.

She could get her own place, live her life happy and carefree.

She wouldn't have to worry about getting hurt or killed.

Fuck I wouldn't have to worry about her being hurt or killed.

I would know she was safe in her home, untouchable to anyone from my world.

Before I know it I'm at the safehouse, pulling into the loading bay. I don't bother to help unload. I'm the fucking boss, they're the ones being paid to do that. I walk to my office and slump down into the chair, my head in my hands.

Ivan and Mateo walk into the room, shutting and locking the door behind them. "Dante what the fuck is going on? You were silent the entire ride" I dont look up at them. I cant.

Both of them look at me in shock, looking at each other and then looking back to me "wait what? Why?"

They stay quiet, almost like they know I'm right. They know this is the right thing to do and that just makes it feel so much worse. I stand from my desk and walk towards the door, unlocking it and pushing past them both. They dont stop me.

I make my way to my car and drive back home, spending the whole time thinking about angelica and her reaction.

I cant tell her the real reason I'm doing this.

She cant know the details of the situation, ever.

This needs to be genuine for it to work, for it to keep her safe.

Thats what I'm doing. Keeping her safe. So why does it hurt so fucking bad.

I pull up to the house and park. I dont get out immediately. I just sit there staring at the house, knowing exactly whats about to go down. I dont think I can bare seeing her cry. I wont be able to handle not being able to hold her close to me.

I sigh and exit the car, walking up to the front door. A shaky breath leaves my lips as I open the door, fully expecting to be greeted by angelica, but all I see is sully and the cat sat on the couch. "Boss. Welcome back"

## Page 35

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I walk in my bedroom to find angelica, perched on the end of the bed in an elegant lace lingerie dress. I feel like ive been kicked in the lungs. I cant breathe. God shes fucking gorgeous. "Angel I-" I'm speechless. Never did I imagine id find angelica like this.

The kiss is passionate and slightly rougher than our usual kisses. Like we are both hungry for each other. I swipe my tongue across her lips asking for entrance. Her lips part slightly and I dip my tongue inside. "Fuck angel"

Before I know it she breaks away from the kiss and pulls back leaving me confused. "I-I want to do something"

Im confused, giving her a questioning look. Before i can say anything she slips off the edge of the bed and gets on her knees in front of me. Oh shit

I grab her hand to stop her before it goes too far. "Baby, dont"

So why am I not stopping her? Why do I want this? Her hands move down again until my jeans are down to my ankles. Her hands move back up to my boxers and I can feel my breathing come to a halt. Stop her Dante. Dont do this. This will make everything worse.

But I dont. I let her drag down my boxers, letting my dick spring free. She looks up at me with her big green eyes. Fucking hell. The sight of her right now, on her knees, my dick inches from her face, her innocent little eyes looking at me with pure lust. I cant control myself.

Just one more time dante. Touch her one more time. Claim her. Love her. Explore every inch of her just one more time before this ends. Like a goodbye.

I know this is so wrong, that i still have to break things off with angel, but right now all i want to do is fuck that innocence out of her.

Her hand wraps around my dick. Its so small in comparison. I groan as she starts to move slowly, pumping up and down. "God..."

She pumps a little faster and i grip her hair by accident, instantly letting go. She stops her movement and grabs my hand, returning it to her hair. I dont say anything but give her a small smile which she returns.

Instead of pumping again with her hand she moves her head closer, her lips barely touching the tip. "Baby you dont have to" I say trying to tell her I dont expect her to do that. I dont think shes ready.

She ignores my warning and opens her mouth slightly taking in the tip. The warm wet feeling of her mouth makes my dick harder and I tug at her hair "holy fuck..."

Her head moves forward again taking more of my dick in her mouth.

She tries taking in the rest and gags slightly.

I panic a little and pull her head back but she pushes it forward again.

"Baby...fuck, can you take it?" I groan when I feel her take me deeper in her mouth.

She gags again but doesnt pull back. The tip of my dick touching the back of her throat making me moan.

I keep my hand in her hair as she sucks, slowly picking up the pace.

"You feel so good baby girl, taking me so well" she moans causing vibrations to shoot up my dick.

I can feel myself getting closer as she gets faster.

Her movements are sloppy and fast, taking my entire dick down her throat making her gag slightly.

Who would have thought the best head I ever had was from someone so fucking innocent?

I swiftly lift her off the floor and toss her on the bed, climbing on top of her. She squirms beneath me. Good she looks so fucking hot.

Without a second thought I pull the night dress over her head. She lays under me, completely naked. "So fucking beautiful"

I pull off my shirt and hover above her naked. "Please. Fuck me Dante" she begs. I never thought id see the day where angelica begged for my dick.

I move my hand down to her core, slipping my finger between her folds. I groan when I feel just how wet she is "So fucking wet for me, desperate for me to fuck you" she nods, biting her lip again.

I tease her slightly with the tip of my dick and she whimpers. "Please"

I slam into her and she gasps, gripping onto the sheets. "Fuck. Look at you taking me so well baby. So fucking deep" I thrust into her all the way and pull out, repeating that a few times. "God...youre so tight"

I grip onto her hips tightly as I thrust into her, slowly speeding up after a little while. "F-fuck, Dante...you're so big" she's a moaning mess, pressing her head into the pillow to suppress any loud noises she makes.

My hand moves up to her head, wrapping around a chunk of her curls and pulling her head back slightly. "Arch your back for me angel" and she does as told. Her back bends slightly and I pull her head back again with her hair.

With every thrust I reminded that I shouldn't be doing this. Reminded that after we are finished I will just break her heart, and break mine too. I know this is wrong, really fucking wrong, but I need this. I needed to be close to her just one last time.

I feel her clenching around my dick as I pound into her faster, she's close. "You want to cum baby girl? Cum on my dick?" I speed up and can feel myself getting sloppy. I'm close too.

I continue my thrusts as we both ride out our high and then slow down before coming to a complete stop.

We both lay there as we catch our breath. What the fuck have I done? This was a mistake, a big fucking mistake. Why did I listen to my fucking dick?!

This is going to hurt her more than ever. She's going to feel so fucking worthless and used and it's all my fault. What did I do?

I turn to angel, ready to suggest a nice warm bath, but she's already asleep. Do I wake her up? Do I give her a bath while she's sleeping? She needs after care especially after a rough fuck like that, but I don't want to wake her.

Instead, I lay with her, pulling her tightly to my chest. How can I let her go? I love her so much, more than anything in the world, and I'm just supposed to act like I don't?

I feel a tear slide down my face as i hold her in my arms, smelling her hair just one last time to remember her scent. She needs to go, live her life, forget about me and this world. I need her safe and if I have to be in pain for the sake of protecting her then I will.

I kiss her head softly and whisper into her hair...

## Page 36

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I wake up to angelica laying on top of me. We're skin to skin. Her face is resting on my chest, her mouth slightly parted. This is the last time I'll wake up like this, holding her in my arms as she sleeps, hearing her soft snores. My heart aches at the thought of what I need to do today.

I groan and roll out of bed being careful not to wake angel.

I head downstairs and I'm greeted by Mateo sat at the kitchen island, tapping his foot and checking his watch like a mad man.

"Fucking finally, I thought you were ending things with angel last night!

" he shouts. I shush him and slap him on the shoulder.

Hes right. I fucked up, big time. "Did you take advantage of her? Did you do this because you couldn't help but get your dick wet? Did you even care about how she would feel?" I'm disgusted by his accusation. How dare he suggest I would take advantage of angelica?

Mateo looks at me giving me a 'you know what to do' glare and I sigh. Before I know it he's out the door and angelica makes her way downstairs. Way to abandon me Mateo.

I cut her off before she can finish "no, no last night was great, amazing even. We need to talk...about us"

I sigh, trying so hard to take everything back and hug her.

"No I did. Being with you was wrong, last night was wrong, everything about this is wrong and it needs to end" disgust. Disgust is what I feel with each word.

Not a single thing is true and it hurts me.

I need to be serious and intense with this.

She needs to believe it, its the only way I can keep her safe.

If she hates me, then she wont be in danger.

She shakes her head violently as tears fall from her eyes. "Y-you dont. You love me. You told me you love me" her words sound desperate, like shes trying to make herself belief its still true. It is true baby, I love you so much

I suck in a breath preparing myself for what I'm about to say. I'm sorry angel, please forgive me for my words.

I dont respond. I watch as she slowly removes her necklace, the one that I bought for her, followed by her bracelet. Her shaky hand reaches out to me with the jewellery in her palm. I move my hand up and she places both pieces inside, avoiding contact.

She steps back once more and looks at me. Her face is red and puffy, tears streaming down her cheeks. Her eyes are dark, almost black, and seem emotionless. I broke her

'I hate you'

'I hate you'

'I hate you'

Her words play in my head non stop. The image of her face flashing every time.

I cant hold it anymore. I run to the downstairs bathroom, dropping in front of the toilet.

I throw up. I throw up until I have nothing left in me to come up.

I feel sick to my stomach. The things I said. The pain I caused her. Its too much.

When I finish throwing my guts up I sit on the bathroom floor, letting my emotions take over. I stay there for almost an hour just sobbing. Trying to remind myself that this is for the best. Youre protecting her Dante. She will be safe now. Giovanni cant hurt her.

I should be happy that shes safe now.

So why do I not feel happy?

## Page 37

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I'm at the safehouse, moping around at the bar. I don't know how I got here. The last thing I remember is throwing my guts up in the bathroom and the next thing I know I'm here, drinking away all my problems.

I keep getting shady looks from my men. Nobody has ever seen me like this. I'm weak, pathetic, broken. I'm the head of the Italian mafia and yet here I am, drinking because of a girl.

But she's not just a girl to me.

I glare at them, reminding them I'm still their fucking boss. I could blow their fucking brains out right now and they need to get their heads in their thick skulls.

I finish my drink, downing the glass in one swift motion, when suddenly I'm ripped off the chair and thrown into the wall. Who the fuck thinks they can treat their boss like this?

Mateo

I don't stop him. I deserve every blow. Every kick, every punch, every hateful word, I deserve it all.

After a few more blows to the face Ivan pulls Mateo off me. I almost fall to the ground, losing my balance and stumbling harshly into the wall. "I fucked up okay? I know. After what I did last night and what I said today, I wouldn't be surprised if an angel wants me fucking dead"

I sigh, running my hand through my hair as I remember what I said to angelica. "I said some...bullshit I didn't mean. I just needed her to believe it"

Mateo steps back and turns about to walk away but I stop him, grabbing his shoulder. "Wait"

He doesnt turn around but he stops, letting me talk. "I love her Mateo, I really fucking do. I'm trying to keep her safe and this is the only way I know how to do that" I sigh, taking a deep shaky breath.

I cant be the reason for that. I wont be the reason. I wont let her get to that stage again.

Mateo's shoulders relax, like he understands my concern. "You need to make sure she eats, make sure she sleeps. Dont let her lock herself away again. I know I broke her but you need to be there to take care of her and pick up the pieces because I cant be"

He doesnt respond, just nods slightly and walks away. Leaving me and Ivan behind. "You really fucked up"

I wake up, feeling like I got kicked in the head by a kangaroo. Memories of yesterday quickly flooding back. "Fuck"

I roll out of bed and make my way downstairs. Ivan's house is so different to mine. Slightly smaller and all of the rooms are in completely different spots to what I'm used to.

I head back upstairs and throw on my shirt from last night. I smell like whisky and vomit but I dont bother showering. I dont care enough to.

I make my way back downstairs to see Ivan standing impatiently by the door. "Bout

fucking time, lets go"

We arrive at my house. I take a deep breath before entering and slowly make my way inside.

I see Mateo sitting on the couch with jasper laying on his lap.

No angelica. I kind of hoped I would see her with Mateo.

Maybe watching movies and eating ice cream.

A healthier way to cope than to shut everyone out.

I walk over to the couch and sit on the arm rest. "how is she?" I ask, trying to show him I genuinely care.

When I look over I can feel my heart break even more.

I walk over to the counter to get a better look.

On it lays her birthday dress neatly folded, the dress I got her for our date folded on top of it.

Next to it is her new car keys, her diamond headband and the debit card I gave her.

I trace my finger along each item. She doesnt want them.

I got them for her. She wants nothing to do with me.

A box catches my eye. A purple sparkly box. The one I gave her gift in. I gently lift off the lid and look inside. The air being knocked out of my lungs. I hold back a sob

as I view the contents.

Inside is what looks like trash to anyone else.

Random bits of garbage thrown in a box. But to me, these are memories.

The wrapping of the flowers I got her that day at the market.

The purple bow that was around jaspers neck.

Dried pressed flowers also from the bouquet I got her.

The fucking McDonalds burger wrapper from when we discussed kids.

When I told her I wanted to spend my life with her

She kept all these things, safe in a little box. A box of our memories. I pull out her necklace and bracelet from my pants pocket and gently place them in the box. Closing the lid and taking a deep breath.

I compose myself and turn back to Ivan and Mateo, who have been deep in conversation this whole time.

"You need to look after her. Please.

Not just making sure she eats and sleeps but also.

..dont let her hurt herself. Not because of me.

I couldn't live with myself" he sighs, clearly defeated.

## Page 38

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

Its been almost 3 weeks since I broke up with angelica. After a week of searching I found her a place. It was perfect for her. A cosy style apartment. On the outside it looked like any old modern apartment, but on the inside, it was perfect.

I viewed it beforehand and had some work done to it just to make sure it was exactly how angel would want it.

I know she has a passion for interior design so I got Mateo to snap some pictures of her work so I could create her dream place.

I didn't want to strip the fun away from her though, I wanted her to be able to decorate exactly how she wants.

Shes been living there for about a week now.

Mateo has been checking in every day, making sure shes okay but he doesnt get much of a response.

She barely eats, will go days without sleeping until her body finally gives up, she even refuses to drink anything.

It hurts knowing shes in so much pain, but I know it will pass. She just needs time.

Things have eased up slightly. We haven't had any encounters with Giovanni lately which is good, that means angelica is safe. I know he is planning something and I'm prepared for it thats why angelica had to leave. Nobody knows her location but me, Mateo, Ivan and sully.

I sit at my desk thinking about thanksgiving. Its right around the corner and I have no plans. I wanted to make it special for angelica, since its her first, but now? Now I have nothing. No family, no angel, nothing.

I'm snapped from my thoughts by a knock at the door. "Come in!" I shout loud enough so they can hear me.

Carter enters the room holding his laptop and a file. Carter is our go to guy. If we need something found, he finds it. If we need something destroyed, he destroys it. Ive had him working on finding the rat for the past month. "Boss, I have a lead" he says

Ivan follows in after, looking back over his shoulder to carter. "He got new info?"

Nobody double crosses Dante Santino and lives to tell the tale. Nobody

We pull up to the location carter gave us. Its an old playground thats been chained up and clearly not been in use for years.

Ivan taps his shoulder and he jumps slightly. "Hey man, you good?" Mateo's face is pale, like hes just seen a ghost. His gaze goes back out the window and me and Ivan follow. Hes looking at an old house, one that looks like it could collapse at any moment.

Before I even realise what I'm doing, I find myself walking towards it with my gun in hand. Ivan shouts at me from behind but I dont turn around. I dont stop walking. Suddenly theyre both running after me. "Youre fucking insane Dante! What are you doing?"

I dont respond. I kick the door open, instantly recoiling at the sight. Its disgusting.

Theres an old brown couch in the living room thats filthy and falling apart.

Blood covers every possible surface, clearly old and never been cleaned.

Shards of glass are scattered all over the floor along with broken beer bottles and empty beer cans.

The smell hits you the second you open the door. It reeks of death and alcohol.

As I walk further in I see a woman laying on the couch.

Shes an old thin woman. Her body is skeletal but her skin is wrinkly and saggy.

Clearly a drug addict. I make my way towards her and I see used needles scattered around her.

Mateo comes up close behind and he stills at the sight.

His shaky hands trail across her arm to her wrist, checking for a pulse.

Ivan speaks up for the first time since we walked in "Is that your mom?"

" Mateo nods. I recall Mateo telling me about his mom.

How she knew angelica was being hurt by her father.

How she would beat both angelica and Mateo.

How she would deprive her of basic things like food and water.

She was just as bad as angelicas father.

I clench my fits tightly at my thoughts. Disgusted that shes still alive after what she

did. As if reading my thoughts Mateo speaks up. "Kill her. She deserves it" I look at Ivan in shock and he returns my expression. "If you dont, I will" Mateo says sternly.

I hesitate, looking at him for some kind of confirmation. This is his mother and I dont want him to regret this. When he makes no move to stop me, I raise my gun, pointing it straight between her eyes as she lay there almost lifeless.

BANG

I walk away, leaving the body there. I'll call to have that cleaned later.

"Why are we here Dante?" Mateo asks.

I can see hes uncomfortable and I dont blame him.

"I want to find anything about where your father is.

Just because hes not a threat to angelica right now doesnt mean I dont want him to suffer at my hands. You can go stay in the car"

At the bottom we are greeted by a large empty room. Its dark and cold. Not a single window or beam of light. I scan the room and the sight makes me feel physically sick.

A crusty old mattress lays on the floor with no bedding on it whatsoever. Beside it lay a bundle of chains and rope covered in what I assume to be blood. On the wall I see 2 belts hung crookedly. One thin and one thick. "Jesus fucking Christ..." Ivan says, breaking the silence.

Mateo says nothing. He stands there frozen, taking it all in as if now that hes older he can really see how bad it was. I turn slightly to look behind me and notice a door. "Whats that room?" I say pointing towards it.

Without thinking I pull my gun out and shoot at the lock. "Fuck Dante!" Ivan shouts. I push the door open and I'm instantly stopped in my tracks, regretting what I've just witnessed.

Inside is a security system complete with 4 monitors. There's 3 boxes full of what looks to be video tapes and pictures. Ivan walks towards the keyboard and taps away as I walk to the boxes.

Hundreds of tapes lay in front of me with God knows what on them and it makes my stomach churn. I grab the bundle of pictures and turn them over to look at them. The second I see the top one it feels like the air has been knocked out of my lungs. "No..." I whisper.

Mateo comes up behind me and takes the bundle from my hands, flicking through each picture angrily. "This is fucking disgusting"

I rip it from his hands and look at it. These pictures are of Angelica. All of them, and they're disgustingly graphic. In most of them she's tiny, not even a teenager. Ivan grabs a tape from one of the boxes and puts it into the player. "Ivan what are you doing? Don't touch that"

Before he can respond the video starts, making us all stiffen at the sight. Angelica lays chained to the wall as she sits on the filthy mattress. She's clearly no older than 10 in this video. Her clothes are torn to pieces and barely hanging onto her frail body.

She's crying, trying to pull herself free from the chains but it doesn't work. Suddenly he walks into frame, removing his belt. I shoot my head towards Mateo, prying my eyes away from the screen. He's frozen in place, pure shock on his face as he watches in horror.

As soon as Angel starts screaming I snap my head around to Ivan. "Turn it off!"

Hes frantic, touching every button, pulling out every possible cord, but it doesnt stop. I can hear everything. Angelicas sobs, her screams, the sound of skin, his disgusting words. I feel like I'm going to be sick.

BANG

BANG BANG

BANG

BANG BANG BANG BANG

The sound of gunshots makes me jump out of my skin. I quickly look around to see who fired when I see Mateo standing there, gun firmly in hand. The video has stopped. Multiple bullet holes cover the screens and the video tape player. A painful silence consumes us.

Mateo storms out the room without a word, leaving me and Ivan behind to collect ourselves. "That was..." Ivan trails off, awkwardly scratching the back of his neck. "Burn them"

Hes right. I know angelica isn't okay. Shes broken. Yet somehow shes still her. Even when everything is complete darkness she finds the light. She is the light.

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

Its been a few days since everything went down at Mateo's old house. The fucking rat never turned up that day so we have had men scoping out the spot since. He will be back, and when he does I'll be ready.

Tonight is the night of our thanksgiving party.

Something that we do every year before thanksgiving for our men to show our appreciation, after all these men are here to put their life on the line for me of all people.

I respect them, every single one of them.

They know the risks of working for me and yet here they are.

I finish up getting ready, putting on a pair of black dress pants and a black shirt. Keeping it simple. I fix up my hair a little, trying my best to make my shaggy curls look somewhat tamed. I dont know how angelica manages with her curls. They always look so perfect.

The thought of seeing angelica tonight makes me nervous.

I'm terrified to see her, to look at her knowing shes not mine anymore.

I hope she comes. Mateo said he would force her if he had to, just to get her out her fucking room.

I shake away my thoughts, trying not to freak the fuck out before the night has even

started and head to my car.

Once I arrive at the company ballroom I walk inside, greeting people as I enter.

Since the last time we used this ballroom ive had security increased.

We lost a lot of men that day, and a lot of innocent people, I refuse to let that happen again.

Especially not after seeing angelica standing in the middle of that gunfire, bullets grazing her as if she was invisible to them. I shudder at the thought.

I walk towards the bar only to be jumped by Ivan. He grabs my shoulder roughly startling me. "Hey man!" he shouts a little too loud.

Angelica

God she looks fucking gorgeous. Shes wearing a beautiful black dress that comes just below her ass.

Its a cute dress with a ruffle skirt and a tightly fitted corset middle that hugs her body.

ive never seen her in black before. I love seeing her in white because she looks so cute and innocent, but black? she looks like a fucking goddess.

Mateo grabs angels hand when he spots us and begins to walk over. As they get closer I start to take in more of angelicas appearance. The sight of her breaks me. Shes tried to dress up, tried to hide the fact shes breaking, but I can see it.

Shes thin. Too thin. Not quiet skeletal but getting pretty fucking close and thats enough to make me worry. Her face is pale and theres big dark circles under her eyes.

And then...theres her eyes. Fuck they break my heart.

She looks at me and I look deep into her eyes. Ones that were once big and a beautiful shade of emerald green, with a little brown speck in one of them, are now dark. Theyre a dark depressing shade of green, the brown speck barely visible. Theyre distant, emotionless, empty. I broke her.

I talk with Mateo and Ivan for a little while, angelica stands beside us not once saying a word. I check over every now and then to give her a comforting smile but I never get one back.

He points towards the bathroom. "Down that hallway, 3rd door on the right. Do you want me to come with you?" she shakes her head and gives him a small smile. "No I'm okay" and then she walks off, stumbling slightly in her heels.

Fuck. I know exactly what shes been doing.

A couple minutes pass and angelica still hasn't come back from the bathroom.

I start to grow worried. What if something happened to her?

What if shes having a fucking panic attack?

I need to find her "I'm going to go find angel.

Shes taking too long" Mateo nods and carries on talking to Ivan.

I make my way through the crowd and down the hallway where the bathrooms are, searching around for angelica. No sign of her. I frantically pull out my phone and begin to dial for sully when suddenly I hear a voice.

"You're not the bosses little slut anymore, so basically youre free to use"

I can feel my blood boil at his words, and then I hear it. Angelicas soft voice. Crying, begging him to stop.

"P-please! Stop! Please dont touch me"

I bolt towards the voices and see them. Angelica is pressed against the wall, her hands tightly held above her head. One of my men stood in front of her as he holds her forcefully against the wall. One hand holding her hands above her and the other I notice is under her dress as she squirms.

Without a second thought I lunge towards them, ripping him off her and throwing him to the ground. I land punch after punch to his face as I sit on top of his chest.

My surroundings are going blurry and all I can see is red. Angelica cries behind me, desperately trying to pull me off him but I dont stop my fists from colliding with his face.

Suddenly I'm being pulled off him by a pair of hands.

I try and break free, try and jump at him again, but I'm held back.

"Boss. Boss! DANTE! ENOUGH" Ivan's voice snaps me out of it as he shouts my name.

I instantly calm, but my breathing stays heavy as I look at the man laying on the floor.

Blood surrounds his face and he lays unconscious but clearly still fucking alive. Not for long.

I rip myself from Ivan's grasp and land a kick to the mans stomach, before turning around to face angelica. Her face is red and puffy as tears stream down her cheeks, I notice the blood on her lip and a huge red mark on the side of her face. He fucking hit her

I grab her wrist harshly and pull her away from the crowd of people that gathered around us, ignoring Mateo and Ivan shouting my name. Angel doesnt object. Quite frankly I think shes too afraid too. I pull her out the back door and into the parking lot behind the building.

The crisp air instantly hitting our faces with a sharp but pleasant sting. I turn to face angelica, cupping her face lightly in my hands and running my thumb across her bloody lip. "Are you okay bellissima?" (beautiful)

She nods but I dont believe it. I pull her body into mine and wrap my arms around her waist tightly. My hand stroking the back of her head as she cries into my chest. "Shh ive got you. Youre okay" I whisper into her hair.

We stay like that for awhile as angel calms down. Her body eventually stops trembling and her cries turn to soft sniffles. I pull away slightly to look at her face, rubbing my thumb along her cheek to wipe her tears. "God ive missed you" I whisper, more to myself than anything.

I missed holding her like this. I missed being the one to comfort her. I missed her smile, her laugh, her eyes. I missed her.

Tears fall from her eyes but she still doesnt speak.

I drop to my knees in front of her, wrapping my arms around her legs.

"Please say something sweetheart. Punch me, kick me, fucking shoot me, do anything

but stay silent" her hand comes to my hair gently and I feel a rush of relief at the feeling.

## Page 40

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

We stay outside for awhile just watching the sunset.

I was hesitant to go back inside with angelica so soon because I knew she needed time to calm down.

We sit on the floor of the parking lot leaned up against my car.

Angel is sat between my legs wrapped up in my suit jacket and my arms tightly around her. This is peace.

I hear soft footsteps coming from beside us causing me to turn my head. Its Ivan. He gives me a small nod and leans up against the car. "Boss. Mateo left. He's taking him to the warehouse" I nod in response. Angelica looks up at me and then to Ivan. "Are you going to kill him?"

Neither of us respond and angelica sighs, taking our silence as an answer. Nobody touches my girl and gets away with it. She knows that.

She nods and opens her mouth to say something before closing it again "what is it?" I ask.

She wore it for me

She looks down at her dress and smiles. "You should wear black more often, especially with me. When you wear white you're my princess, but when you wear black? You're my queen"

I plant a kiss on her forehead and lean against her. "Some day, I'll make you my official queen. Slap a big ring on your finger and have you by my side always. Sounds like a dream" she hums in response and I can feel her drifting slightly.

I carry angel into the apartment and stop instantly when I see it. The inside is beautiful. It looks so elegant and cosy. Exactly what I expected. Its a large place, a penthouse just like she deserves.

I make my way up the stairs and look for her bedroom.

Theres only a couple rooms so it wasn't hard to find.

When I walk in I find the most beautiful bedroom, one fit for a princess.

The walls are white with 1 singular light purple wall.

Theres a large queen bed in the centre covered in multiple blankets and pillows.

Above the bed is a sheer canopy like curtain covered in fairy lights.

I smile to myself at the sight knowing it looks exactly how I thought it would. It radiates angelicas personality so much.

I softly place her on the bed, removing multiple pillows so she can sleep more comfortably. She stirs slightly, her eyelids fluttering open. "Sorry sweetheart. I didn't mean to wake you"

She smiles and her eyes close again. I walk to her closet and grab the first tshirt I can find and walk back over to the bed to unzip her dress. Once I remove it I take in her body. Not in a creepy way while shes sleeping, but in a worried way.

Shes so thin. The sight of her reminds me of when we first met.

When I saw her fragile body sitting on my couch.

The kind of body you get after years of abuse and malnourishment.

It pains me knowing I'm the reason for this.

Knowing that she was so heart broken she couldn't even take care of herself.

I snap out of my thoughts and gently lift her off the bed to slip on the tshirt. Its huge on her. Then I realise...

its one of mine.

She kept it. She kept my tshirt even after everything. Even after returning everything I gave her she still held onto this tshirt. It makes me happy knowing out of everything she could have kept as a memory, every gift I got for her, she chose this.

As I lay her back on the bed I notice her arms. New scars.

I trail my finger lightly over them.

Theyre healed thank god so theyre not too recent, but it hurts me so much that she did that again.

I left her. I broke her. She thought hurting herself was the only thing she could turn to and that breaks my heart.

I lean down to her wrist and plant a soft kiss on it, doing the same to the other before pulling the covers over her body. "Goodnight mia cara" (my darling) I say before

getting off the bed.

I feel angel hand grab mine and I stop "please stay with me" she says quietly, barely a whisper. "I will be back my angel. I just need to deal with something first"

She pouts, "Are you going to kill him?" I sigh. I cant lie to her like that. I nod slightly and lean down to plant a kiss on her forehead "he will be dealt with, thats all you need to know"

She doesnt push me for more information, just accepts my response. He will die but he will suffer first. Suffer for touching my fucking girl. "Sleep sweetheart, I wont be long" she hums and I can already tell shes asleep again. Good, she needs it.

I leave the room and head down to my car, ready to drive to the warehouse.

I have an asshole to deal with

## Page 41

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I arrive at the warehouse, ready to kill a bastard.

A bastard that touched my girl.

Im greeted by Ivan who's stood outside of the basement. He nods his head in respect "boss"

Dimo is tied to a wooden chair in the middle of the room. His face is badly beaten and hes barely conscious. I get Deja vu as I remember that Jordan kid that touched angel at school. I need to get her a fucking body guard.

He screams in pain as the bullet pierces through his shoulder. "What would have happened if I wasn't there to stop you huh? You would have raped her? Right there in the bathroom?" he shakes his head frantically as he cries. Pathetic.

I watch him tremble in fear as I hold the gun towards his dick, ready to fucking blow it off. "Please dont do this"

BANG

The bullet goes straight through his forehead. His head hangs forward as blood pours out. I dust off my shirt and switch the safety back on, putting it into my waistband. "Dispose of him" I gesture to Mateo and he nods.

I walk out the basement. Time to go home to my princess.

Once I arrive at angelicas apartment, I head back upstairs to her bedroom ready to fall

asleep. As I go to open the door I hear light sobs coming from inside. Panic rushes through me and I throw the door open, hand firmly on my gun.

Angelica is curled up in her bed, her knees pressed tightly to her chest. Her face is red and puffy and tears fall from her eyes.

"D-Dante?" a look of relief covers her face and she jumps up from the bed, running towards me and pulling me into a tight hug.

"Baby what happened? Are you okay?"

I scan her body for any sign of injuries but I see nothing, not even a drop of blood.

"I-I had a nightmare and I thought something happened to you and I got scared.

I tried to call you but you didn't answer and I didn't know what to do and I thought you died.

Dante I was so scared" she rambles, hiccupping every few words as she sobs.

## Page 42

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I'm in the kitchen of my house with angelica.

Shes sitting on the counter watching me cook, kicking her legs like a small child making me smile.

Ive been slowly trying to get angel to eat properly.

I spoke to Stefan about it and he told me not to be forceful, that she needed to be monitored but not treated like shes in a prison.

Its been casual. Like we will sit and watch movies together and order pizza, she will eat and then I wont let her leave. I know shes caught on to the fact I know but she doesnt fight me on it which is good. She wants to get better.

Jasper jumps up onto the counter with angelica and I groan at the thought of cat hair getting in our food, "jasper down! What have I told you about that?" he doesnt listen. He walks over to angel and cuddles up into her lap, giving me a side eye like he knows I wont scold her. Fucking cat.

I finish up cooking and begin to plate up our food, making sure to leave some for Mateo. "It smells so good. I missed your cooking" I smile. this is the first time ive cooked for angelica since we got back together and it melts my heart to know she missed it.

I grab her hand and guide her over to the couch. I sit down and pull angel in between my lap, setting her plate on my leg and mine on the arm rest. We sit there watching a movie as we eat.

After awhile I notice angelica's barely touched her food.

I try not to push too much but it hurts me to watch her suffer like this.

I watch as she picks at her food with her fork for a few minutes before grabbing the plate and gently moving angel from between my legs.

Shes now sat beside me, facing me with a look of confusion.

Thats not what I want. I dont want her to eat for me, I want her to eat for herself. Shes trying to please me and thats not what I want from her. "Angel no. I want you to talk to me. Tell me why youre struggling. Let me help you"

She sighs, looking back down at her hands and starts picking at her skin. Something she started doing recently that I fucking hate. I grab her hands to stop her and just hold them. "I thought...maybe if I lost weight, youd like me..."

My heart just shattered. Completely crumbling at her words. "Baby...what?"

"You mean nothing to me"

The words ring in my head over and over as I try to understand her reasoning. "Sweetheart...no. No dont say that. You mean everything to me. Youre fucking beautiful. Youre better than any of those women, you dont even compare" I try and plead with her as she sobs softly in her hands.

I stand awkwardly in the room filled by many men.

All eyes are on me like my skin is freaking purple.

Teo grabs my hand and leads me over to the bar area, setting me on a stool.

"Stay here okay? If you need me I'll be in my office.

Sully is over there, hes going to watch you so youre safe I promise" I nod slowly, still cautious of the fact I'm surrounded by dangerous men.

Almost 2 hours pass and Mateo still isn't done. Its been pretty relaxing here. Aside from the random looks I get from some of the guys and the occasional smile and thumbs up from sully, nothing has really happened.

That was until...a girl walked up to me.

She was beautiful. Her body was thin and curvy.

She had full boobs and a big ass but her waist was slender, like she was wearing a corset.

She had long blonde hair in big thick bouncy curls that draped over her shoulders.

Her face was covered in makeup that looks perfectly done, with bright red lipstick on her plump lips.

She looked perfect. Like a barbie doll. Every feature was perfectly shaped and proportionate. I couldn't help but feel a twang of jealousy as I looked her up and down.

She was wearing a small white skirt that barely covered her ass but showed off her perfectly thin and smooth legs. It was paired with a thin spaghetti strap top that was cut along the cleavage allowing her boobs to spill out slightly.

Shes the kind of girl that any man would want. The kind of girl that would take pride in that fact too. She looks so confident, like she knows shes beautiful.

She looks me up and down once more and scoffs "didn't even bother to upgrade I see" I feel tears spring to my eyes but I try my best to hold them back. "We uh we aren't together anymore so, you can have him back" I try and say confidently but my voice breaks slightly.

She laughs, "as if I need your permission to have him back. He will come running to me now that hes tired of you. I'm not surprised, youre not exactly his type" she stares at my stomach with a smirk on her face.

I instinctively cover myself with my arms, trying to make myself appear smaller. Dont cry angel.

Sully looks at me with a smile that instantly drops as he sees me. He starts to walk over but I stop him, holding my hand up and shaking my head. He looks concerned but I dont want to talk about it right now. I give him a smile and a thumbs up to show him I'm okay and then turn back to my laptop

I clench my fists tightly as angelica explains what happened.

Oh Stephanie. You made a bad choice.

By the time angel is done talking shes broken out into sobs. Her face is red and swollen and tears stream down her face uncontrollably. I suppress my anger and sigh, pulling her into my lap letting her sob into my chest.

I pull back, cupping her face. "She was trying to get in your head sweetheart. She tried to get me to sleep with her a few days before that and I refused. I guess she decided to take her frustration out on you and make you feel like shit" she sniffles again and nods.

Her lips connect with mine and I instantly respond, savouring her taste. She deepens

the kiss, shifting in my lap and I groan. "Fuck baby" she shifts once more and turns so she's straddling my waist. I can feel her heat through her shorts touching my groin making my dick harder.

I thrust my hips slightly forward, my dick touching her heat making her moan. "You feel that baby? You feel how hard you make me?" she grinds her hips down onto my dick more and nods. Fucking hell this is so hot.

I grip her waist tightly and guide her as she grinds against me.

Her head flops back as she moans and I take the opportunity to attack her neck with my lips.

Placing kisses up until I reach that sweet spot and bite down softly.

"Ohh shit" she groans as I suck on her neck, branding her as mine.

I would rip her clothes off right now and bend her over this couch, but I can't. Mateo could walk in any second and that would be a lot harder to hide than us fully clothed grinding on the couch.

I move her hips making her increase her speed and she moans, "please...I want more" her voice is weak and breathy making my pants tighten. "Patience baby. Not yet" her light whimpers fill the room and I almost fucking cum on the spot.

That sound. Her perfect little fucking whimpers that are just for my ears. I slip my hand in her shorts, pushing her panties aside and touching her core. "God you're so wet" she whimpers as I rub her clit softly.

She nods frantically and pushes herself further onto my dick. I'm about to fucking burst in my pants, they're so restricting. "P-please" I slip in a second finger causing

her to gasp. I pump faster inside of her while using my other hand to move her hips faster.

I groan at the sensation, "fuck baby" she's a whimpering mess in front of me. Her head is leaning back, her legs trembling at my touch. My dick throbs in my pants and I know I'm close. Do I really want to cum in my jeans?

Angel moans loudly as her body collapses on my chest. Her hands grip my shirt and her legs shake violently.

That's enough of an answer for me.

I lean down to her ear and bite down softly as I pump my finger inside her faster.

"Cum for me" not even a second later she comes undone, me quickly following.

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I look down at angelica who's looking up at me with her big green eyes full of lust. I know exactly what she wants. She fake yawns and cuddles up to my chest. "You tired sweetheart?" she nods and I can feel a smirk creeping on my lips.

I stand from the couch with angel in my arms, her face buried in my chest. "Come on lets get you to bed" I say goodnight to Mateo and make my way upstairs to my bedroom.

She leans up to kiss me and I kiss back instantly deepening it making her moan into my mouth. I pull back slightly and make my way to her neck, trailing soft kisses down it until I stop to suck on her skin marking her as mine. "You want me to fuck you baby?"

I trail my hand down her body and slip it under her shirt touching her soft skin. "You know, you really turned me on earlier. I like you taking control like that" I move my hand down to her shorts, hovering over them but not touching her.

She hesitates, clearly unsure on what to do but I don't push. Within seconds she's straddling me, her small frame weightless sitting on top of me. She grabs the hem of my shirt and pulls it over my head, doing the same to her own.

She leans down to kiss me as she pulls off her shorts, leaving her in just a bra and panties. I can feel my dick growing in my pants when I feel her heat through her underwear. She moves down slowly, wrapping her fingers around the waistband of my pants and tugging them down.

I lay there watching her in awe. Watching as she takes complete control. She starts to

move, grinding against my dick. Both of us still in our underwear but I can feel every inch of her. I can feel just how wet she is. "Fuck..." I groan, gripping her hips.

She stops grinding and moves down, pulling my boxers with her allowing my dick to spring free. The relief rushing through me when its no longer crammed in my boxers.

Her hand grabs my dick and begins to pump up and down slowly, "Fucking hell" I grip the sheets at the feeling.

Its so slow its like torture but my god it feels good.

I feel the warm wet sensation of her mouth on my dick.

Her beautiful green eyes look up at me with pure innocence as she sucks. Shes an amazing fucking sight.

I grab her hair gently, trying to control myself and not fuck her pretty little face. "Just like that princess...fuck" she bobs her head up and down faster. I can feel myself getting closer but I dont want to cum yet. "Angel, fuck. If you dont stop I'll cum" she doesnt listen.

She sucks faster and I can see a devilish grin appear on her face. Shes knows what shes doing. "Fuck, baby" I'm a moaning mess as she sucks my dick. Ive never had head so good in my life.

Just as I'm about to cum she stops and pulls away making me groan loudly.

My eyes go wide and I lean forward to look at her.

Shes got a big grin on her face, like shes proud of herself.

"You little-" before I can finish what I'm saying angels straddling me again.

Her face inches away from mine and her lips grazing my nose.

Before I can respond shes removing her bra and panties, straddling my dick completely bare in front of me.

All of my frustration leaving at the sight of her naked body.

"Have I told you how beautiful you are?

" I grab one of her boobs, cupping it in my hand gently. "A few times yea"

I laugh and cup her other boob, lightly playing with her nipple. "Well, youre fucking beautiful" she moans as I softly pinch at her nipples. I want them between my teeth.

I rub her clit in circles before slipping a finger inside her.

I watch as she throws her head back and grips my arm "are you wishing this was my dick instead baby?

" I say as I pump in and out of her fast, not bothering to tease her.

"Y-yes, please" her grip on my arm tightens and I can feel her nails dig in slightly.

I add a second finger, pumping at the same fast pace "ah...oh god" her legs start to tremble and I speed up. I can feel her walls clench around my fingers and I pull out instantly. "No..."

She nods and begins to move slowly. "Oh fuck..." I groan. This position...I'm so fucking deep. Angels legs tremble as she struggles, clearly too overwhelmed by my

size. "Y-youre so deep...ah"

After a few times I let go of her waist and let her carry on her rhythm.

God it feels so good like this. "Faster baby" I just lay there, watching her take every inch of me.

Her skin slightly sweaty and glowing, her mouth is parted allowing her moans to escape.

Her boobs bouncing with every thrust. "Youre so perfect"

## Page 44

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I lay in bed with angelica. Shes laying on my chest as usual, like its her favourite spot. Shes like my own personal koala bear.

I hold her tightly to my chest and stroke her hair softly just thinking about everything. Life with angelica, Giovanni, where angels father is. "What are you thinking about?"

Angels voice makes me jump, my heart racing like never before.

"Jesus fuck angel, I thought you were asleep you almost gave me a heart attack!"

" she adjusts slightly so her head is propped up by her hands as she looks at me.

"I'm sorry. You seemed lost in thought and I wanted to know why"

I sigh, wrapping my arms around her tighter. "Just...I'm so selfish" I say as I remove my gaze from hers and fix it back on the ceiling. "Selfish? How are you selfish?"

She wants me. She knows how dangerous this life is and yet she still wants me.

After a few minutes I remember something. "Sweetheart?" I whisper trying to avoid waking her if shes asleep. She hums in response and I know shes awake, or at least slightly awake.

I lean my arm down under my bed and pull out angelicas stuffed animal. Cleaned thoroughly and a little purple bow wrapped around its neck. Her eyes go wide as she looks at it in shock. I can see tears forming, threatening to spill out. "It-is that..."

She needs to know.

The memory of that video fills my head. I try to shake it away but it doesn't budge. Think of anything else Dante. Think of food. Think of cars. Think of anything but that.

We don't say anything more. I hold Angel as her sobs die down, light sniffles still slipping out before she slowly drifts to sleep. Her hands not once letting go of her stuffed animal and I smile. Clearly it was some kind of security to her and she missed it.

I start to feel myself doze off after awhile, slipping into an unpleasant darkness as I remember that video.

I wake to the sun beaming into my eyes and I groan. As I roll over I notice the bed is cold and empty. Angelica is gone. Panic rushes through me and I jump from the bed, throwing on the first pair of sweats I could find and dashing downstairs.

My panic is eased at the sight of Angel sitting at the kitchen island with Mateo.

I let out a big sigh of relief and they both turn to look at me.

That's when I notice Angelica's stuffed animal propped up in front of her on the counter.

"Morning man" Mateo greets me as I walk into the kitchen.

Angel grabs the bunny from Mateo's hand and hugs it tightly like a vulnerable child that thinks someone's going to take it away any second. "W-what did you do with the videos?" she says quietly as if worried about the answer. "Did you keep them?"

I dont like how quiet she is. Shes been so quiet since the day I met her and I understand why, but it worries me because I know theres so many things swimming around in her mind.

Thoughts that are consuming her that she wont talk to me about.

I dont want her to be a bratty bitchy girl that talks back but I just wish she would be a little more open and carefree.

Angel and Mateo sit and talk for a few minutes while I make breakfast. Me occasionally jumping into the conversation too. Once I'm done cooking I plate some up for us all, making sure to add extra for angelica.

## Page 45

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I arrive at the warehouse with angelica ready for her first training session with Ivan.

We walk inside hand in hand and I can tell angel is nervous.

Not just from training but from everything.

Shes not a girl that likes the attention and being with the boss of the Italian mafia definitely gathers its fair share.

"I-is Stephanie going to be here?"

I grip her hand tighter as I guide her downstairs to the gym. "No sweetheart. Shes been taken to one of the cells for me to deal with later so dont worry about her" she doesnt question me anymore, just accepts my answer and nods.

We make our way downstairs to the gym. I can feel angelica tense in my hold at the sight of the many men in here, clearly uncomfortable. I grab her waist and pull her in front of me as I walk us through the room of men.

I take her into one of the private boxing rooms only to be met with Ivan who's punching the shit out of one of the bags.

He turns upon hearing us enter, a big grin plastered on his face.

"Ah theres the capo, and little angelica.

How are you gorgeous?" he pulls of his gloves and strides over to us.

## 1 HOUR LATER

My door bursts open making me jolt from my desk, instinctively grabbing my gun from my waistband. I relax when I'm met with Ivan in front of me. "God Ivan you scared the shit out of me. What ever happened to knocking?" I sit back in my desk and look up at him.

Hes sweaty and looks slightly frantic. A guilty look in his eyes makes me slightly worried, then I realise...hes alone. "Ivan where's angelica?" he drags a hand through his hair and sighs. "Shes fine, shes still downstairs" he sounds out of breath and I notice his bloody knuckles.

I stand from my desk at the same time as Ivan and we walk back downstairs to the gym. I find angel curled up on the floor by one of the benches. Her knees pressed to her chest and her fingernails picking at her skin.

I walk over and kneel beside her, placing my hand over hers to stop her picking.

"Hey sweetheart. You okay?" she smiles and nods, wrapping her arms around my neck.

"I'm going to train you instead baby, Ivan has some work to do" I wave Ivan off and he nods, leaving me and angel alone.

Angels eyes widen when I mention I want her to fight me. "Fight you? Like I have to hit you? But what if I hurt you?" I cant help but laugh, instantly trying to compose myself when I see her pout.

I notice her eyebrow raise in confusion, "a safe word? What does that mean?"

Stop it Dante. This isn't sex. She doesnt need a safe word. She will be fine. Yet I dont

want to risk it. Not with angel. If I hurt her in any way I will never forgive myself

## 2 HOURS LATER

A couple of hours pass of me teaching angel how to fight. She didn't have to use her safe word thankfully but there were a few times I almost lost control. Her touch on my face was enough to snap me out of it. I have to admit shes a lot stronger than she looks.

On the outside she looks like a small vulnerable girl who looks like she could snap in two if you were too rough with her, but after fighting with her I realised shes got a lot of potential.

She needs to eat more, get more body fat on her because shes too skinny, but once she does that she would be a great fighter.

We are back at home and I'm ready to shower. I'm sweaty and sticky and I hate the feeling. I pull angel upstairs to the bathroom. Shes so tired bless her, she can barely stand. "Come on princess, you need to shower" she mumbles slightly but doesnt object.

I remove her shirt and pants so shes left in nothing but her underwear and I do the same. My hands rake up her body, admiring her. I could see this girl naked 100 times and I would never get enough. Shes perfect.

I slowly remove her bra and panties before removing my boxers. We both stand there naked just looking at each other. If angel wasn't so exhausted I would take her right here, fuck her up against the shower wall, but I cant. I wont. Not like this.

I help her into the shower and hold her body against mine as the hot water hits our skin. She melts into my body as I stroke her hair, "dont fall asleep yet sweetheart.

Soon, but not yet" she mumbles against my chest and I pull back, grabbing her body wash and foaming up a loofah.

I gently scrub her skin, making sure to get every spot.

She murmurs at my touch as she sways. I try my best to hold her up, trying to keep her awake.

I wash myself with the loofah and grab angels shampoo.

I begin massaging it into her scalp and she moans, "that feel good sweetheart?

" she nods and I keep rubbing her scalp a little longer before rinsing out the soap.

I grab her conditioner and apply it to the ends of her hair, something she told me to do because apparently applying it to the roots is bad.

Once I'm done washing angel I wrap her into a towel scoop her into my arms, carrying her to the bedroom. I dont bother washing my own hair, it can survive another day unwashed.

Shes barely awake as I place her on the bed, her head instantly squishing into the pillow.

"Just a little longer baby, let me get you dressed" I walk to my closet and grab one of my t-shirts and a pair of boxers, she should be comfortable in these.

I walk back over to the bed and begin to change her.

Once I'm done her body goes limp in my arms, telling me shes fallen asleep. I kiss her forehead and pull the covers over her body. I laugh at her sleepiness. Its only the

late afternoon but shes so exhausted from training she needs the rest. "Sleep well my darling"

I turn off the light and slowly close the door, heading back downstairs to keep myself busy until she wakes up.

## Page 46

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I sit in my home office for about an hour, studying every piece of information I have on Angelica's father when I hear a light knock on my door. "Come in!" I shout to the person on the other side.

To my surprise Angelica walks in. Her gaze fixed on the floor and her fingers fiddling with her stuffed animal that's in her hands as she stands there awkwardly.

I close the file and lean back in my chair watching her.

"Hey baby, why are you awake?" I pat my thigh and motion for her to come sit on my lap.

She walks over hesitantly and stands beside me awkwardly so I pull her down into my lap. "I had a nightmare and when I woke up you were gone" she cuddles up to my chest and relaxes at my touch as I lightly twirl her hair around my finger.

"Boss. We found the rat, cell 4. Get here as soon as possible"

Angelica stirs in my arms and I kiss her forehead. "I'm sorry sweetheart, I need to go. I'll call Sully in to keep you company" she nods against my chest.

I carry her to the living room and set her up on the couch with some pillows and blankets. "Try and get some sleep princess, I'll be back soon" she smiles up at me and leans in, giving me a soft kiss. "I love you" she whispers against my lips.

Once I arrive at the warehouse I make my way downstairs to cell 4. I'm met with the delightful sound of pleading mixed with punching. My kind of music. I grab my gun

from my waistband and make my way inside, instantly freezing in my tracks.

He looks up from the floor. His face bloody and beaten and a few teeth missing. He gives me a small smile, almost like he feels guilty. "Boss...I'm sorry"

Dimitri is an old friend of mine. I haven't known him as long as I've known Ivan, but the 3 of us met when we were young and became an unstoppable trio. He may not be as highly ranked to me as Ivan but he was one of my good friends. Someone I trusted. Someone I treated like a brother.

He screams in pain but still refuses to speak, so I do it again, and again, and again until finally after 5 teeth he gives in. "fine FINE! I will talk!" I step back and watch as he spits out blood, his teeth laying on the floor beside him.

I turn to Ivan, signalling for him to take note of the address before turning back to Dimitri.

"What did he need you for? What was your job?"

"he hesitates but quickly realises who's in control here.

"He needed a man on the inside. He wanted me to take you down from the inside out" hes holding back, not telling the full truth.

I grab my gun and aim it at his other knee before shooting.

I aim my gun at his temple "you fucked up big time Dimitri. I treated you like a brother and this is how you repay me? Nobody double crosses Dante Santino and gets away with it" and then...

BANG

Hes dead.

I turn to Ivan, dusting off my dress shirt. "I want everyone to be ready. We are raiding Giovanni's safehouse...tonight" he nods before leaving the room. I need to let sully know ill be back a lot later than I planned.

I smile at his message knowing angel feels exactly the same about him. Always asking when she can see sully again. Asking if he would do things with her like take her to the movies, bake with her, do things with her that a dad should do. I'm glad they have a bond like that.

I decide to text angel and let her know ill be home late as well.

## Page 47

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

We arrive at Giovanni's main house. Treford Avenue.

This is the place. As my men begin to unload from the vans I turn to Ivan and Mateo.

"Ivan I want you and squad 3 to stay put.

Stay out of sight and be on the lookout.

Your job is to be ready for if something goes wrong. Do you understand?"

He nods, "Yes capo"

I turn to Mateo who's loading up guns and handing them out. "You stick with me. We go to the main room. I want to take on Giovanni personally" he hands me a semi auto with a strap of ammo and a bullet proof vest.

Ivan and Mateo shout a final brief for my men as I set up ear pieces for Mateo and I. "Ivan this will be your way of knowing when to send in, got it? If something sounds wrong its time to charge" he nods, putting on his own ear piece.

I start to move in with Mateo, taking down the final couple of guards in the way as we make it to the entrance. 2 guards stand by the door with heavy machine guns. A tablet plastered into the wall. "Fuck. Identification. We need their IDs"

A sick grin creeps onto Mateo's face as he pulls out his pocket knife. "Leave that to me" and within a second hes gone. I watch as he moves like a ghost up to the door, stopping just behind one of the guards.

With no hesitation he moves his knife up to the guards throat, slicing it neatly and muffling his screams. Before the second guard can even realise whats happening Mateo does the same to him.

I walk up to the door as Mateo bends down to grab the key card from one of the guards pockets. "You had way too much fun with that" I say as he swipes it across the screen. "I know" he replies, the sick grin still plastered on his face.

We make our way inside, shooting down any of Giovanni's men that we see. "This feels easy, too easy. Somethings not right" Mateo says. Something does feel weird about this.

Before we know it we are in the main room. Its empty and dark, not a single sign of Giovanni or anyone for that matter. I can feel a weird feeling in my gut. "Youre right. I dont trust this, lets get out of here"

Just as we are about to turn around the lights flash on and vanni's men emerge around us, guns in hand. "Well well well..." that voice.

Giovanni

Vanni chuckles like a fucking maniac, eyes pitch black and full of nothing but pure evil. "Well then, I guess I better get ready to be skinned. brING HER IN!" no....

no no no.

I look at Mateo, panicked and he returns it. Before I can even question anything, a man walks into the room and behind him...angelica.

Shes beaten and bloody. Her clothes are torn and barely hanging onto her body. Her face red and puffy clearly from her tears. Theres rope tied tightly around her wrists,

so tight her hands are almost purple. She doesn't look at me, or Mateo. Her eyes fixated on the floor as she stumbles in the room.

He signals to the man and suddenly Angel is pushed to the floor, crying out as her knees land with a hard thud. The man stands behind her with a gun firmly pressed against the back of her head. I freeze.

The man jams the gun into the back of Angel's head and she yelps, making me drop my gun instantly. Mateo still doesn't move. "Do you want her dead Mateo? Your precious little sister? Drop it!" the man once again pushes the gun into Angel's head and Mateo drops his gun to the floor.

## Page 48

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I stand there in shock, turning to Mateo who looks like hes just seen a ghost. I look at angelica and the fear on her face is enough to replace my shock with pure anger. I look back up at their father, a disgusting grin plastered on his face.

He runs his hand up the front of her body.

I watch as angel squirms under him trying desperately to get out of his hold.

"The deal was that in order to pay off his debts, he would give me this pretty little thing to do with as I please.

Marriage or just to use as a little toy" he says as he grazes his face up her neck.

Deep breaths Dante. Deep breaths. Stay calm. Dont kill him yet

Enzo laughs menacingly as he grabs angelica. "Maybe we could give them a little show hm? Like old times?" he says into her ear. She cringes and a sob breaks out as she shakes her head frantically.

Theres still videos, probably many copies. Every single one of them will be erased and i will make sure of it.

Mateo shoots, gunning down Giovanni by shooting him in the leg. I grab my gun and instinctively lunge towards angelica who's sat in terror on the floor.

I guide angel through the building, checking every possible corner. We make it almost to the exit when suddenly a figure appears in front of us. Enzo

Gun firmly pointed at us, blood pours out of his shoulder indicating he was shot. Hes breathing heavy, his hand slightly shaky. "Its over Enzo. Drop your fucking gun" he doesnt budge.

BANG

I expect to feel something. Anything, but I dont. I feel nothing at all. Is this what death feels like? No pain?

BANG

Another gunshot? Theres an ear piercing scream that follows it. I'm not dead? I open my eyes and take in my surroundings. Enzo is rolling around on the floor with a gunshot wound to the leg.

I see Ivan and Mateo beside me, trying to get my attention but its muffled. I cant hear anything. I feel frozen in place. Mateo collapses to the floor, breaking out into gut wrenching sobs and I look down.

...no

Everything hits me at once. I snap back to reality and suddenly, I'm falling to my knees. "ANGEL!" I scream, pulling her limp bloodied body into my lap. "No no no no, angel? Angel?!" I shake her violently, trying to wake her but she doesnt.

Then I see it. a hole the size of a golf ball in her chest. Blood pouring out of it like a fountain.

I rip my shirt in half, wrapping it tightly around her chest trying desperately to keep the blood loss to a minimum.

"You're going to be okay baby. You're going to be fine.

Just stay with me" I chant over and over.

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

Its been 2 hours. 2 hours since they took angelica. 2 hours of pacing up and down the waiting room. 2 agonising fucking hours of not knowing if shes alive or not. Please be alive

I haven't spoken to Ivan or Mateo since we got here. I dont know what to say. My brain is a mess of shit. Giovanni having angelica. Enzo and Giovanni knowing each other. Angelica being sold to vanni. Angelicas lifeless body in my arms. Its all been too much.

I slump in the chair besides Mateo. He hasn't spoken either. He hasn't moved from his seat in 2 hours. Ivan left a little while ago to give some orders to the rest of the men. I watch as he returns, tucking his phone into his back pocket.

I dont waste another second, I head straight to his room.

To my surprise hes sat up in bed, remote in hand, watching the tv.

He turns to me as I walk in and a guilty smile appears on his face.

"Boss" he greets. I dont hold back.

I rush towards him and pull him into a tight hug, taking him by surprise.

I may be a ruthless mafia man, but sully is like a father to me. Always has been even when my father was alive. He was basically a second father and really stepped up for me when I lost my parents. "I'm so fucking glad youre alive" he pats my back, giving me a low chuckle.

Shes a small fragile girl. A single bullet could kill her. She isn't built like us, she doesnt have muscle or body fat that can slow down a bullet. "I hope youre right" is all I can say.

I stay in his room for a little while, just thinking while sully watches tv. Suddenly Ivan comes bursting into the room. "Dante, shes okay. Shes alive" he pants. I jump from my seat in shock. Shes okay. Shes alive.

My heart shatters as I walk in the room. Angelicas fragile body lays on a giant hospital bed. Tubes coming out of her in different places. Shes wearing an oxygen mask?

She looks so broken. She doesnt look like the angel I know. Her skin is almost transparent, her bright blue veins so prominent through her skin. Theres big black circles under her eyes, one of which is forming a large purple bruise. Theres multiple scrapes and bruises along her body.

I grab the chart from the end of her bed and skim read it. 2 broken ribs, bullet wound causing a lung puncture, a broken wrist and a fractured skull. They'll fucking pay for this.

I pull up a chair and sit beside her. I hesitate to grab her hand, scared I might break her, but give in. I grip her small cold hand in mine, stroking the back of it gently with my thumb. "I'm here sweetheart. I'm not going anywhere" I whisper.

I watch the rise and fall of her chest to make sure shes breathing. "I need you to wake up baby, please. I cant stand seeing you like this. Please come back to me" I plead softly, hoping she will hear me and listen. Nothing.

## Page 50

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

Its been 3 days since angelica was shot. She still hasn't woken up. Stefan said her body needs time to recover and that she will wake up when shes ready but I dont know. What if shes never ready? What if she never wakes up?

Stop thinking that shit Dante

I haven't left angels side once. Mateo has been back and forth from the house, looking after jasper but constantly checking on angel.

I know hes struggling, not just with angel being shot but with everything.

Seeing his father after everything he did to him, after everything he did to angel.

He watched that video and I know it fucked him up he just doesnt want to admit it.

He hands me a cup of hot coffee, the warm feeling on my hands relaxing me slightly. "Thanks" he drags a seat up next to me and sits down, taking a sip of his own coffee. "Any updates?"

I shake my head with a sigh, "nothing" he gives me a sad smile, his eyes full of worry. "She'll be okay. Shes a fighter"

I stand from my chair and place a soft kiss on angels forehead, "I'll be back soon bellissima" (beautiful) I whisper before leaving the room.

The second I step out the door it feels like a huge weight starts crushing me and I feel like I'm suffocating.

I cant leave her, I cant. She needs me

Breathe Dante. She will be okay. Ivan is with her. Just go take a shower and come back

I take a few deep breaths and head to my car. Just an hour. It wont take me long, an hour is all I need. The drive to my house goes by fast and I rush inside. I see Mateo and jasper sitting on the couch together.

I take the fastest shower of my life, not taking a second longer than necessary. I quickly change into a loose fitted black shirt and a pair of black dress pants. I dont bother trying to tame my hair, I dont have time for that.

As I'm about to leave my room I spot angelicas stuffed animal sitting on the bed. I dont think twice before grabbing it and heading back downstairs, waving a quick goodbye to Mateo and hopping back in my car.

I arrive back at our private hospital and run back inside, trying to catch my breath as I approach the door. I check my watch, 47 minutes. Nice.

As I walk in, I'm greeted by frantic doctors shouting at each other as they rush to a room. Angelicas room.

No no no no

My legs instantly start moving as I speed down the hall to angels room. Theres at least 6 doctors in there including Stefan. I feel like I cant breathe, like someone is sat on my chest stopping my air flow as I watch the scene in front of me.

Theyre desperately trying to perform CPR as the machine flat lines. What the fuck is going on?

I turn to see a frantic looking Ivan, pacing back and forth with tears streaming down his face. "What the fuck happened? What did you do?!" I shout at him, like that will make this all go away.

I break down. I cant keep it together anymore. My knees buckle and I fall to the floor, tears pouring from my eyes. I cant breathe properly. I cant hear anything around me. My vision is blurred and everything is muffled as I look around, trying to blink away my tears.

Whats happening to me? Why cant I breathe? I see Ivan drop beside me, trying to shake me back to reality but it doesnt work. Is this what a panic attack feels like? Is that what angel goes through all the time?

Its so...scary. It feels like I'm dying slowly. Like the life is draining from me and I cant stop it. My eyes start to feel heavy and I cant keep them open anymore. I slip into an unsettling darkness that I cant get out of.

It feels like an eternity passes before I wake up. I'm laying out on the hospital floor. Ivan and Stefan hovering over me with a worried look on their faces. "Dante, can you hear me?" Ivan says. I can understand him now. Hes not muffled or blurry.

Stefan hands me a cup of water and I take it, drinking the entire thing in one go.

"how do you feel boss?" I groan as I grab my pounding head.

"My head hurts and I feel dizzy..." then I remember.

I remember why I had a panic attack in the first place.

Suddenly the pain disappears and all I can feel is panic, fear, worry.

She fucking died. Her heart fucking stopped when I was gone for not even an hour. I left her and her heart stopped...

I sit in my chair and clutch onto the stuffed animal like it will bring me some kind of security. "I'm here baby. I told you I wouldn't be long. I'm right here" I whisper as I grab her hand in mine.

I squeeze her hand gently hoping to get some reaction out of her. I wait a few seconds and sigh in defeat when I feel nothing.

Then....

There it is

Another light squeeze.

Before I even have time to react I hear it.

## Page 51

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

Their eyes go wide and a huge grin creeps onto Ivan's face. Stefan walks into angel's room, me and Ivan both following behind. "Ah angelica, good to see you awake. How are you feeling?" I sit in the chair beside angel as Stefan talks to her.

She nods and rests her head back on the pillow. "I suggest you eat something to get your strength up. You'll be very weak right now"

He injects what I assume to be a painkiller into angelica's IV and leaves the room.

Angel looks up at Ivan with an expression that I can't quite read before turning to me.

"Dante, can I talk to Ivan?" I'm confused, but I don't question it.

"Sure baby" I say as I kiss her forehead and stand outside.

What could she want to talk to Ivan about that she'd ask me to leave the room?

After a few minutes Ivan comes out, tears streaming down his face.

"What happened?" I ask. He smiles and wipes away the tears on his cheek.

"Earlier when I said I just talked to angel and the machine freaked out, I was kind of just pouring my heart out and apparently she heard everything"

I walk back into angelica's room. She's laying facing towards me, cuddling her stuffed animal in her arms. She looks so vulnerable. I just want to hold her close to me and keep her safe. "Hey princess, how are you feeling?" I sit back in my chair and she

smiles.

Her eyes go wide, skin turning pale in shock. "H-hes not dead?" I shake my head.  
"Can I see him?"

I shake my head again. "I'll ask him to come see you later when he gets discharged, but I dont want you moving" she nods with a small smile and slowly closes her eyes.

She could have died right there. She could have died in my arms. My nightmares almost came true. I try to shake away the thought of that happening.

## Page 52

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I arrive back at the hospital with 2 buckets of fried chicken and a whole tray of strawberries, some of which are suspiciously missing. I had a hard time trying to keep Ivan from eating everything before we got back.

I head to angelicas room to find her and Mateo sitting on the bed watching the tv, to my surprise Sullivan is sitting in the chair beside the bed also watching the screen intently.

As Ivan and I walk in they all turn, angels face lighting up the second she sees me, or maybe its the food, I dont know.

I turn to sully who's watching us from his chair, a pleased look on his face. He gives me a small nod which I return, "sully. How are you doing?"

He stands from his chair and smooths out his clothes, "I better get going. Goodnight everyone" he says with a friendly smile. I see angels face drop slightly like shes disappointed hes leaving.

Sully looks hesitant to join us but eventually gives in and sits back in his chair.

Mateo and Ivan try and pick a movie while sully and angel talk.

I sit there, content. I'm surrounded by the people I love.

Yes, the situation may not be great what with angel and sully both being shot and almost killed but aside from that, this feels perfect.

Once Mateo and Ivan settle on a movie everyone starts to dig in. angel seems nervous at first, I assume because its fast food which she isn't very comfortable eating, but after a little while she eases and takes her first bite.

I watch her more than I watch the actual movie, I dont even know what they put on because I wasn't interested.

Watching angel like this was a perfect enough movie for me.

The way she watched the screen with pure joy, the way she ate like she had no issue with food at all, the way she talked to the others about the movie like us spending this time with them was a regular thing. Maybe it should be.

I just observe everyone every now and then.

The way Mateo and Ivan sit together and argue like twin brothers about something in the movie.

The way they both care and tend to angelica like shes their precious little sister.

If she shifts slightly and winces, both of them have their eyes on her making sure shes okay before turning back.

And then theres Sullivan. A man that ive known my whole life, that I know is just as ruthless when it comes to what we do as my father was.

Yet here he is, looking like an ordinary man.

He looks happy as he watches the movie, occasionally joining Mateo and Ivan's little disagreements or turning to talk to angel.

Sully's been through a lot besides being in the mafia.

His wife wasn't able to have kids. They tried for years and had multiple miscarriages.

Eventually they decided to adopt their first child when suddenly his wife fell very sick with stage 4 brain cancer and died only a few months after her diagnosis.

That was a few years ago. I had never seen him so broken. He was destroyed, a shell of a man yet here he is, happy. The first time in a very long time that ive seen him genuinely happy.

And then theres me. A broken boy that grew into a hard ruthless man, in charge of the biggest Italian mafia in the world at the age of 14 after losing his parents.

Never in my life did I ever think id be so.

..happy. I spent so long feeling angry and lost without my parents.

Not knowing how to live or function properly, at least not for this life.

I miss my parents every day, even more so since I met angelica.

That pain of knowing they would never get to meet her sits in my chest constantly, but this?

This is my family right here. My beautiful girl.

My 2 best friends who are basically my brothers.

The man who practically helped raise me and really stepped up when I needed someone even though he didn't have to.

All of them together in one room, talking, laughing, enjoying time together.

I cant imagine my life without them anymore. A future without angelica by my side? A future without my best friends in the whole world here to keep me on my toes but also keep me grounded? A future without the only father figure I have left? I couldn't bare that life.

The old me would have laughed at myself for my thoughts and feelings. He would have told me i was whipped beyond belief. That I was pathetic and weak, but angelica changed me. This new me that shes helped create is sat here feeling these feelings and is perfectly okay with them.

I dont fucking care how weak or pathetic I sound. I dont fucking care how whipped people think I am. If loving my girl more than anything in the world means I'm whipped, then yea. I'm fucking whipped.

I slip out of my dazed thoughts and look at angelica. She looks so tired but doesnt make an effort to tell anyone. The movie looks as if its coming to an end soon so I dont say anything either, letting them finish it.

I move slightly and sit on the edge of the bed.

Angel looks at me confused but then realises what I'm trying to do and shifts to the side so I can lay out on the bed.

I pull her gently into my lap, trying not to hurt her or irritate her wounds.

She cuddles up to me burying her face in my chest as I wrap my arms tightly around her.

I watch the end of the movie, softly stroking her bare arm with my thumb. Shes fast

asleep by the time its over but I dont wake her.

The guys notice angels sleeping body in my arms and whisper goodbyes before leaving.

I dont move, scared I may wake her. Instead I decide to grab the blanket and pull it over us both, making sure angelica is fully covered so she doesnt freeze to death.

God knows that girl has no control over her body temperature.

I just stay there for a little while, holding her tightly in my arms like someone could rip her away from me at any moment.

I smell her hair trying to remind myself that I'm not dreaming and that shes here, alive and safe in my arms. Her hair smells so faintly of her shampoo but I can still smell it. It smells like my angel.

After some time I can feel myself drifting off. I fight it to begin with, desperate to stay awake and just hold angel close to me forever, but at some point during that battle I feel the darkness take over and I fall asleep with angelica still in my arms. Just like she should be.

This is my home

## Page 53

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

### 2 DAYS LATER

Angelica got discharged today. Stefan cleared her for leaving and told me she needs plenty of rest and should ideally stay in bed for at least a week while she heals.

Minimal movement, 3 meals a day with snacks in between, at least 3 full bottles of water a day and she needs an inhaler now because her lungs are much weaker.

I nodded as he spoke, drinking in every little note and rule that should be followed to ensure angel recovers fully.

Stefan wheels angelica out to my car in a wheelchair that made her put up a big fight to use.

She refused to get in the chair and I had to force her in it myself.

I finish setting up the car for her, making sure her seat is comfortable and that the temperature is nice and warm.

"Hey sweetheart, you ready to go?"

She shoots me a glare, crossing her arms over her chest with a pout making me chuckle. "You little baby. The chair was to avoid you hurting yourself by walking, dont be so stubborn" Stefan laughs behind her which causes angel to glare at him too. "Its humiliating"

I turn to Stefan who's standing there with a little medical bag.

"Here, 5 inhalers. I suggest you put them in places that can be accessed in case of emergency.

Either hand them out to Mateo, Ivan and sully or just spread them throughout your house.

Just make sure that there is at least 1 full one at all times before you order in more" he says and I nod taking the bag from him.

I pull him into a loose hug which seems to shock him slightly, "I'm serious, thank you.

Expect a pretty decent pay increase starting tomorrow for all you've done" I pull away to see him wide eyed.

"Thats really not-" I cut him off before he can finish. "Dont argue, just accept it"

I watch him open his mouth again but quickly deciding to close it and nod. "Oh one more thing. Id like angelica to get some help, is there anyone you can recommend for her?"

He thinks for a moment, "I know a large number of therapists. I can spread the word and see if anyone would be willing to treat her. Are you thinking a female therapist?"

The car ride was quiet but comfortable. Neither of us said much, we just sat there content with each others company.

I pull up outside the house and exit the car, making my way to angels side and gently lifting her out the seat.

"Hey I can walk you know, my legs work" she protests but I dont put her down.

Angel giggles at my offended tone and agrees before I carry her upstairs to my room.

"Welcome to the room you'll be spending the next week in.

I hope you enjoy your stay, because I sure as hell will" I say as I place her on the bed.

"You're lucky your bed is comfy enough that I can't complain about this arrangement"

She spreads out on the bed like a starfish and I crawl on top of her but keep my body hovering so I don't crush her to death, "I love seeing you in my bed, but I would much rather it be without clothes on"

Angel and I both jump at the sound, whipping our heads around to the door. I see Ivan leaning against the door frame with a smug look on his face and Mateo stood beside him sending me a look like he's about to rip my head off. Fuck

I clear my throat as I stand off the bed, like a teenager that just got caught by his mom.

"While I'm sure Mateo will be thrilled to hear everything you want to do to his little sister, we have business to attend to.

Sully is downstairs waiting" Mateo snaps his head to Ivan, shooting him a deadly look mid sentence.

She nods but looks up at me with her big green eyes full of innocence. Fake fucking innocent eyes, god.

I stand from the bed again and pull the covers over her. "Good. Get some rest, sully will be downstairs. You have his number and your phone is right here" I say as I place her phone on the nightstand within reaching distance.

Her eyes are wide and she's sat up slightly, "where's bunny?"

"I let out a small sigh of relief I didn't even realise I was holding and walk towards her bag of stuff, pulling out her stuffed animal.

I hand it to her and she hugs it tightly, settling back into her position and closing her eyes. "Thank you" she whispers.

I leave her, closing the door softly behind me and heading downstairs. I see Sully, Ivan and Mateo in the living room talking and Jasper in Sully's arms. "Sully" I say with a nod. I can feel Mateo's eyes burning into me and I can feel an argument about to happen.

## Page 54

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I sigh, fully understanding what he means.

"I get it. I have the same issue. Obviously i dont view her as a child all the time, that would be weird, but sometimes.

..sometimes she does things that are just so pure and childlike and all i can see is her little face from those pictures" i take a deep shaky breath as the images flood through my mind.

We head downstairs to the cells and stop when we reach cell 2. "Whats their condition looking like?" i ask.

I see Giovanni chained up to the wall and my god is he a mess.

Theres blood splattered all over the room and he is covered in it too.

His teeth are scattered everywhere, he has many large open wounds that are clearly infected.

I feel slightly sick at the sight of him, mainly because its pretty gruesome.

Yet, i feel no remorse. No empathy, no sympathy.

I feel nothing but burning rage towards him.

His expression turns to anger and he spits blood at my face. "Bastard! Let me go!" he shouts, i cant help but laugh.

I kick him in the face yet again and he groans loudly.

"You knew what he did to her. You fucking saw the videos and you watched them, over and over again.

You may not have touched her but you are just as bad as he is" i hit him hard around the face with the wrench, hearing his jaw crack loudly on impact.

I was blinded by anger that i didn't even realise i was hitting him too much, or at least too much to keep him alive. By the time i was done his head was almost crushed in, but he was alive. "Had enough yet?" i say through gritted teeth.

I tuck my gun in my waistband and turn to Ivan and Mateo. "Leave him to bleed out. Let him die slowly and painfully" they both nod and exit the room, locking it behind us.

Hes right. We torture and kill people that wrong us, or people we want information out of. Doing it to someone thats hurt you so deeply like that makes it so much more intense.

Ivan and Mateo follow without saying a word. The whole car ride is silent, the tension getting stronger once we drive Ivan home. I still dont say anything, i dont even look in Mateo's direction.

We pull up at the house and i jump out the car refusing to make any kind of eye contact with Mateo. As i walk in the house i see sully on the couch with jasper. "Boss. Welcome home" he greets me, pausing the tv and standing from the couch.

We exchange goodbyes and he says goodbye to Mateo before leaving. I dont say anything more, refusing to look at Mateo.

I head upstairs to my room, slowly opening the door trying not to wake angelica. Panic rushes through me when i realise the bed is empty. "Angelica?" i say as i walk to the bathroom, knocking on the door softly.

Once she calms down, her sobs being replaced by sniffles, i stand with her in my arms and carry her to my bed. As i gently lay her down she winces, her eyes scrunching up tight. "Are you in pain bellissima?"(beautiful) she nods.

She hesitates for a second and goes to speak but instantly winces again as she clutches her side, "uh l-like maybe a 7?

Or an 8" i grab the pills and the bottle of water from her nightstand.

"Here, these are strong. They'll help" she takes them from me instantly and swallows them, gulping down a large chunk of water.

I sigh and get in the bed beside her, gently pulling her close to me trying not to hurt her. "Sleep mia cara" (my darling) i whisper into her hair as she hums.

Soon enough shes fast asleep in my arms. All i can think about while shes peacefully sleeping is Mateo's words. Would it really help angel if she saw Enzo one last time? To let her feelings out?

I dont want her in danger. He will be tied and probably barely able to move. We will also be there with her but i cant shake the 'what if' feeling. What if something does go wrong and angel gets hurt? Or worse

Not to mention the fact he is in such a state. I almost threw up at the sight of Giovanni and i do this shit daily. Theres no way i would let angelica see that. I cant.

But maybe Mateo's right...maybe she needs this. Maybe this could be her first step

into getting better, letting go of the old and starting new.

I dont know what to do....

## Page 55

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I lean against the wall as Ivan deals with business, taking a long drag of my cigarette i scan the area. Theres an old playground beside me, clearly rundown and barely in use. The place is completely empty and a creaking sound fills the air from the swing slowly swaying in the wind.

I thought it was empty. I didn't see any sign of anyone, not until i saw a bundle of light brown curls sitting curled up on the floor.

I look back towards the building Ivan is in and then towards the girl again.

She looked sad? I couldn't see her face all i could see was her body laying on the ground, her arms hugging her knees to her chest.

I panic a little, wondering if shes even alive. Thats just what i needed. To see the body of a little girl in the middle of an abandoned playground.

Sighing, i toss my cigarette to the floor and step on it to put it out.

I make my way to the gate looking behind me to make sure Ivan was still inside.

I walk into the playground and slowly make my way towards her.

She doesnt move, doesnt look up at me, not until my foot crunches a little piece of wood.

Suddenly her head shoots up, eyes wide with fear. She backs away from me as her body trembles but seems to relax after a second.

I study her. Shes a little girl, no older than maybe 10?

She has long light brown curly hair, so long like its never been cut before.

As i study her closer i grow concerned. Her clothes are torn and covered in blood.

Her arms are bruised, specifically around the wrists.

Her face is swollen on one side and her eye looks like its forming a shiner.

Her hair looks matted badly and her skin is dirty. She looks tiny too, like she hasn't eaten in weeks. I cant help but stare as she sits on the floor with her eyes scrunched shut like shes preparing for something.

I slowly sit beside her, far enough so i dont scare her but close enough that she can hear me talk. "Are you okay?" is all i can bring myself to ask. I dont know how to comfort people, especially kids. Why am i even here? I dont care about this kid.

But yet seeing her sat here, in an abandoned playground, at night in the freezing cold makes me care. She doesnt respond to my question. She just stares straight at me like shes waiting for me to do something.

I sigh and bring my hand to my hair but as soon as i raise it she flinches and cowers back, moving herself further away from me. I instantly lower my hand back to my lap. "I'm not going to hurt you" i whisper, desperately trying to calm her down.

She just nods slightly but doesnt look convinced. "Whats your name?" again she doesnt respond. I dont know what to do. I cant just get up and walk away. Its clear she needs help.

I reach into my pocket and pull out something I remembered i had, something Ivan

gave me in the car ride over here. A Twinkie. Her eyes widen as i pull it out my pocket and i place it down in front of me, softly nudging it towards her.

"You look hungry. Take it" she hesitates, keeping her arms firmly locked around her bruised knees. I nudge it closer to her and bring my knees up so I'm sat in a similar position.

After a little bit she seems to realise I'm not going to take it away from her and picks it up, unwrapping it and taking a small bite. "T-thank you"

Her voice is a low whisper but it was enough for me to hear it. She does talk. I just nod in response and try and give her a small smile, something i haven't done for years.

"Were you crying?" i ask referring to when she was laying on the floor curled up. She nods and takes another bite of the Twinkie. "Why?"

I dont know why I'm asking so much. I dont even know why I'm sat here but i feel like i need to be. Like i need to help her. You dont know her Dante, shes not your problem. Just get up and walk away.

But i dont. I stay sat next to her saying nothing. She doesnt answer my question and i look over to see her slowly eating her Twinkie, like shes savouring it. I scan her body again. She looks so beaten and thin its heart breaking. "My name is Dan" i say not looking at her.

"Whats your name?" i look at her this time and she stops eating. She shrugs and looks down at the floor. She doesnt know her name?

"how old are you?" she shrugs again. I dont know if she just doesnt want to talk to me because I'm a stranger, or if she really doesnt know. I just nod and look back ahead of

me. "Well, I'm 16"

We sit in silence for a few more minutes as i wait for Ivan to come back out, also wondering what on earth i do with this girl. I dont think i can just leave her here. She doesnt know her name? Does she even have a family? Or a home? Has she been living in this playground?

I scan her once more, taking in all of her features and storing them in my brain just in case i need to go to the police.

Her body trembles as she finishes the last of her Twinkie.

She looks so cold. I dont think before my actions and suddenly I'm pulling my jacket off and wrapping it around her to keep her warm.

She looks shocked but gives me a sad smile in return. We sit in silence for a few more minutes. Come on Ivan, how long does it fucking take to get our money, kill the guy and then leave?

I turn my attention back to the girl who's name i still dont know. She looks a little more relaxed, just sitting there peacefully with her knees to her chest.

"Did somebody hurt you?" i ask without thinking. Instantly, shes tense again. Her eyes go wide and her body goes rigid in place. She looks fucking terrified. Before i can say anything else i hear a mans voice from across the street.

"WHERE THE FUCK ARE YOU? YOU LITTLE BITCH!"

The girls head whips around at the mans shouting and within a second shes on her feet, swaying slightly. I stand too and grab her to hold her still so she doesnt topple over.

"I-i need to go" she says hurriedly as she takes off my jacket. "Wait hold on! Let me help you" i can feel the panic deep in my chest knowing shes leaving to go in that house. The house where the man was shouting.

She shakes her head violently as tears stream down her face. "You cant help me" she whispers and then suddenly shes gone, running across the street and into the house. Before i can run after her, or look inside the house to see whats going on, Ivan comes out with a sack.

He looks at me confused, probably wondering why the fuck I'm in a playground.

"Yo Dante! You good? Lets go" he shouts as he walks towards my car, stopping at the passenger side.

"Uh, yea. Yea sure lets go" and i walk over to him before getting in the drivers seat and leaving the playground.

Leaving the little girl behind and forgetting all about her.

I jolt awake. My body covered in sweat and my brain fuzzy. Holy shit what the fuck just happened?

I feel dazed and confused. Like someone just hit me over the head with a mallet like those fucking cartoons. I look down beside me and see angelica fast asleep cuddled up to the side of my chest.

Good thing she wasn't sleeping on top of me like she normally does. I probably would have flung her off the bed from jumping awake like that.

I grab my phone from my nightstand and check the time. 6:47. God, thats earlier than id have liked to wake up today. Groaning, i roll out of bed trying carefully to not

wake angel.

I head downstairs to see Mateo making fresh coffee.

Thank god. I'm still mad at his suggestion last night but right now, i really need to talk to him.

"Morning Mateo" i say as i walk over to the coffee pot.

He looks at me shocked, like he expected me to ignore him like i did yesterday.

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I walk angel to the couch and gently set her down, grabbing a few pillows and a blanket for her. "I remember that day. I didn't know it was you Dante..." she whispers. He big green eyes piercing my brown ones, holding deep emotion.

She turns to look at Mateo who's sat in shock. Clearly overwhelmed and confused by the information hes hearing. "That was when i found out what he was doing to you, wasn't it?" she nods again and looks down at her hands.

She wanted to die? She was hoping she'd fucking freeze to death so she could escape him? "You wanted to die angel?" Mateo asks exactly what i was thinking. Angel nods and a sob escapes her lips. "Come here..." i pull her into me as she cries against my chest.

I shake away my thoughts and sigh, stroking her hair softly. "That doesnt change the fact i was a coward angel. I could have protected you in that moment and i didn't. I had a gun, i could have ended his fucking life and i chose to walk away and leave you"

She shakes her head and pulls away from my chest, "maybe thats true, but where would we be now?

I would have been sent away to live with a foster family.

I wouldn't have seen Mateo again. You and Mateo wouldn't be friends and that means that we would have never met Dante" damn this fucking girl

I cant help but chuckle through my tears and she smiles, "god angel, thats a bit

morbid. You're telling me it was a good thing that your father hurt you because if he hadn't, we wouldn't have met?" she nods with her smile still plastered on her face.

Her cheeks go a light shade of pink and she nods hesitantly, "good. You're finally starting to understand just how beautiful you are"

## Page 57

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I spend almost 2 hours going from store to store grabbing things for the 'slumber party' angelica planned. Mateo came home just as i was leaving so i didn't have to worry about leaving angel alone.

I grab all the things from her list and any additional things i thought she might need, and also just some things i got for her just because.

Facemasks? Check

DVD's? Check

Snacks? Check

Dinner? Check

I grabbed some extra throw blankets and pillows so we had enough.

Being a guy with a male roommate, you dont often find the need to have blankets and pillows in the living room.

Mateo and i would either be alone or go out, not sit in the living room together and watch tv.

Since angelicas been with us ive needed to get a lot of things that i never would have gotten before.

Things like cotton pads, straws, blankets, etc. they may seem like basic household

items to most people but to me these are what id call 'exotic girl things'

I dont mind though, not at all. I'd get angel whatever she wanted if she asked, which she very rarely does.

I like that about her. Its not like shes 'not like other girls' shes just more down to earth.

More understanding about things. She isn't a taker, shes a giver and i dont think that will ever change.

I head back home with angelicas essentials in hand. Two of those essentials being fried chicken and strawberries. Shes a strange girl, I'll give her that but as long as shes eating i dont care what it is.

As i walk in the house i see Ivan and Mateo in the kitchen talking and angel spread out across the couch with jasper.

"Oh my god is that chicken?!" Ivan shouts the second i enter through the door.

He runs over and grabs one of the buckets from my hands.

"Oh yea thanks Ivan, i dont need help carrying these bags at all" i groan in response.

The second i say that angelica tries to stand most likely to help me. "Sit" i say sternly and she instantly backs down like a puppy that just got told off. Mateo comes over and grabs some bags off me and takes them to the kitchen.

he grabs a piece of chicken and i notice the bucket is half empty "Guys stop eating the food before we even start! Sully isn't here yet"

Right on cue the doorbell rings. I grab my gun and head to the door, opening it to reveal Sullivan holding a bouquet of flowers and 2 pizzas. "Sully, come in" i see angels head shoot up as i mention sullys name and she tries to stand again.

Sully laughs and moves over to the couch standing behind angel. He places a kiss on the top of her head and hands her the bouquet of flowers. "Its for your own good. Here, these are for you"

After a while we all get settled in our comfortable but actually uncomfortable sleeping spots.

Ivan is laying out on the end of the couch, Sullivan is on the floor and Mateo is curled up in the arm chair.

Angel and i are laying spread out on most of the large couch.

Shes on top of me laying on my chest like usual and my fingers are in her hair playing with her curls.

I watch as angel opens hers and takes it out the package. "Ew! Why the fuck is it slimy?!" i shout repulsed by the thing. I see Ivan, Mateo and sully opening theirs with no issue to the gooey thing inside but me? I'm disturbed.

I feel the cold wet sensation on my face and gag instantly. "God no get it off. Its disgusting" she smooths her hands over my face to flatten it while laughing. "Its okay after a minute you wont even remember its there"

Ivan puts in one of the DVDs and hits play while i sit for the next 30 minutes in pure sensory torture.

After 30 minutes I immediately rip that thing off and toss it to the side.

"That was the worst fucking thing ive ever experienced.

Angelica i love you but dont ever make me do that again" she giggles and nods her head.

After a couple hours we start to get tired.

Angelica passed out a long time ago and has been sound asleep this whole time laying on my chest with her stuffed animal.

I stare at her for a minute taking her in.

shes breath-taking even asleep. I look up to see Ivan also staring at her and i raise an eyebrow, "sorry" he mumbles.

I just smile in response and give him a polite nod. I know he means no harm but he cant stay hung up on angel. He will never be happy if he cant get over her and i cant bare the thought of that.

I look around. Mateo is passed out hung over the arm chair with jasper sat on his chest. sully is laying comfortably on the floor which is surprising since, well its the floor. Ivan is laying on the end of the couch not asleep just staring at the ceiling and angel is fast asleep on my chest.

I slowly drift to sleep wondering what life will be like in the future with angelica. I think about angelicas apartment that she hasn't been too in awhile and think about what it would be like to live there. If i moved out and moved in with angel.

I think about marriage. Spending the rest of my life with angelica as my wife. Would she say yes? I hope so. I hope she wants to spend her life with me as much as i want to spend my life with her.

I know i want to spend the rest of my life with angel in my arms. We can travel the world just the two of us and then maybe, maybe in the distant future we can adopt a child. I smile to myself thinking about life with angelica.

maybe its time. Maybe i should ask her if she wants to spend the rest of her life with me. The worst she can say is no right?

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

### 3 DAYS LATER

Its been 3 days since our little slumber party. Angelica has been doing pretty good, recovering at a steady pace. She's been more mobile the past day and is experiencing pain a lot less now which is good. I hate seeing her in pain.

Today is the day we finally kill Enzo. i have been waiting to do this for so long, even before everything went down. I have been counting down the days until i could watch him take his last breath at my hands and its finally here.

He looks worse than Giovanni did, much worse. Hes wearing no clothes and i can see just how mutilated he is and i love it. I know that sounds sick to say but the sight in front of me makes me happy knowing this is what he deserves.

He has multiple large wounds all over his body that are gross and infected. Teeth scattered everywhere. Body beaten and bruised and his face so swollen you can barely recognise him. I made sure that his dick was kept in tact so i could deal with that. I want him to watch me cut it off.

I grab the large rusty wrench from the table, the same one i used to beat Giovanni. "Do you know why youre here Enzo?" i ask walking around him as he cowers on the floor.

By the time I'm done listing, his dick is like mush in his lap. Hes breathing heavily and shouts in pain as he tries to move. "M-ma...Mateo was never s-supposed to get hurt"

Thats all he says. Out of every fucking thing i listed, thats what he focused on. "What the fuck do you mean i was never supposed to get hurt?" Mateo shouts from behind me.

Mateo shakes his head as tears spring to his eyes. "No. No you could have done something. You could have given her up for adoption or done anything else but you didn't. You kept her just to abuse her like all of this was her fault"

I grab my gun from my waistband and hand it to him.

He clicks off the safety and aims it right at Enzo's dick before shooting.

"I wanted angel to be here for this.

I wanted her to be the one that ended your life so she could finally get the justice she deserves, but after hearing all of this?

I'm glad she isn't here" he shoots him in the chest next and hands me the gun again.

After a minute or two he stops breathing. I kick him hard in the stomach looking for any kind of reaction but i get none. Hes dead. Hes finally gone.

We all leave the room not saying a thing until we make it outside to the car. The air feeling fresh and cold compared to the air of that cell.

He shakes his head and wipes his tears once more. "how old was she?"

He nods slowly and sighs "did he cause it?"

i nod and he sighs once again. "Come on. Its over now, lets go home" i say trying to be somewhat comforting. Probably failing miserably

The car ride back is quiet but comfortable. None of us really had anything to say but the air felt...lighter? I pull up outside my house with both Ivan and Mateo hoping angelica might be up for a movie night.

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

Before anyone can say anything else the front door opens. I see Stefan walking out with his large medical bag and Sullivan coming out behind him. My head shoots up as i see Stefan. What the fuck is he doing here?

Theyre talking about something and as i look closer i see sully's face is slightly red and puffy. Has he been crying? A wave of panic shoots through me and I'm immediately jumping out the car with Ivan and Mateo following.

Stefan and sully looked shocked to see us running towards them. "Whats going on? Where's angelica? Is she okay?" they both look at each other and then back to me. I can feel my hands shaking. We had no appointment with Stefan, i wasn't informed of anything so whats going on?

You may think its stupid that a grown mafia man like sully would be crying like this, but he sees angelica like his daughter. Just think, if you saw your daughter practically dying in front of you because she couldn't breathe youd cry too.

I pat his back and we exchange goodbyes before he heads to his car. "Well thats definitely a change of conversation" Ivan says with a chuckle as we head in the house.

I see angelica laying on the couch wrapped up in a blanket with jasper sitting on top of her chest. I instantly pick the cat up and remove him from her chest, slightly worried he might affect her breathing.

Her face is very pale and her skin is cold but shes definitely breathing, yet i still feel worry. I crouch down in front of her and push the hair off her face. She stirs slightly

and her eyes open a little. "Hi" she says with a weak smile.

I plant a kiss to her forehead and pull the blanket up to her shoulders to keep her warm. "Sleep here for a little while longer okay? I'll take you to bed later" she hums softly and drifts back to sleep.

I head to the kitchen where Ivan and Mateo are stood watching us and Jasper is sitting on the counter. "Get that fucking cat off my counters" I whisper yell and Ivan laughs and grabs the cat in his arms. "Don't listen to Mr grumpy pants Jasp, you can sit wherever you want"

I roll my eyes and grab a bottle of water from the fridge. "We should celebrate" Ivan says and I turn to him mid drink raising my eyebrow. "Celebrate what exactly?"

## Page 60

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

Its currently 7pm the next day and I'm waiting for angelica to get dressed ready to go to my club. "God she takes fucking forever. She doesnt even do her makeup, what could possibly take her so long?" Mateo groans beside me getting impatient.

I chuckle, "its her hair. Its a very long process and shes got a lot of it" he groans again louder and Ivan laughs, smacking his arm.

I walk up to angel and wrap my arms around her waist, "ignore him sweetheart. You look gorgeous" i kiss her forehead and she blushes. "Thank you Dante" she says shifting slightly trying to pull her dress down.

I move my hands to her ass and pull the back of it down "are you uncomfortable?" she gives me a smile and shakes her head. "Good" i say grabbing her hand and walking towards the door.

I quickly stop and spin around so I'm facing her "Oh wait, before we go i need to talk to you" her eyebrow raises slightly but she doesnt say anything.

"I need to go out of town for the weekend for some business.

I leave tonight but Mateo is going to stay here with you and sully can come over every day okay?

I will only be 2 days" i can see the sadness in her eyes at my words.

Once we arrive at the club and are greeted at the entrance by Sullivan. "Boss" he nods respectfully. "Sully. You finish in 40 minutes right? Come and find us when youre

done" he nods again and we walk into the crowded club.

I feel angel tense beside me and grips my hand tighter. I move her in front of me and hold her hips as i guide her through the people to the VIP room. "Youre safe baby, dont panic" i whisper into her hair as we walk.

Mateo and Ivan walk into the VIP room first but Ivan backtracks and turns to me, "uhh boss. Theres strippers" i groan and grip angel tighter to me. "Okay lets just get this shit over with"

I turn to angel quickly before i walk in, "if you get uncomfortable just say the word and we leave okay?" she smiles and gives me a light nod.

I'm about to lose my mind but stop when i see sully walk into the room. Perfect. He looks at me with a smile that instantly turns into a confused expression. I nod my head slightly towards Lorenzo with pure anger in my eyes and he seems to get the message.

I abruptly stand and before i know it I'm dragging him off the couch and onto the floor punching him in the face. "Thats my fucking girlfriend youre talking about. Shes not a whore and shes not a piece of fucking meat"

I punch him a few more times before i stand up and smooth out my now wrinkled shirt. He rolls over and spits out blood. "She sure dresses like a fucking whore" he spits out and suddenly Mateo is throwing punches.

He smiles, "angelica. Beautiful name" we exchange a quick 'bro hug' and say our goodbyes. Once we leave i take a deep breathe at the release of tension. "What do we do about that? Isn't that how the whole Giovanni issue started? Him wanting angel?" Ivan says breaking the silence.

I walk up behind her and wrap my arms around her shoulders, bringing her into my chest. "You okay baby?" i whisper into her ear and she nods with a smile. "What are you guys talking about?"

She pulls away from the hug and leans up to my lips, hovering over them. I groan and pull her closer to stop her teasing and crash my lips onto hers. "Dont fucking tease me or ill have to punish you" i whisper against her lips so only she can hear. She whimpers in response. Good.

I groan and pull away from angel. Why do they always have to be here? "If youre done mauling my baby sister, you should get going" i roll my eyes at Mateo's comment and pull angel in for another quick kiss. "Now I'm done" i smirk as i see angels cheeks go red.

## Page 61

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I lean against my car taking a bite of my burger while on the phone to angelica. Ivan is sitting in the car eating his 3rd fucking burger and all of my fries.

"But i dont want to hang up yet"

"I dont want to sleep yet. I want to talk to you" she groans into the pillow. Its still muffled but i can make out what she said this time.

"What do you mean by that?"

"Okay I'm in bed now"

"Okay"

"i love you too"

her voice is very faint and i can tell shes already falling asleep. I hang up and sit back in the car. "Soo she's gonna regret it is she?" Ivan says turning to me with a big smirk plastered on his face. "The car isn't exactly sound proof"

I slap his burger out of his hands onto the floor and start the car "jackass" i mumble and he laughs, taking a bite of his now contaminated burger.

### THE NEXT DAY

I wake up early to make a breakfast and coffee trip. One thing i know about Ivan is that you cannot talk to him before he gets his morning cup. He will have your head on

display in his room.

I walk into the hotel with the essentials in hand to see Ivan pacing around the kitchen. "Oh thank god" he says grabbing a cup from my hands and taking a huge gulp. "Right, but youre not addicted at all are you?" i say with a laugh as i place the food on the table.

## 7 HOURS LATER

We have been shopping all day. My feet are burning and my legs ache and Ivan hasn't stopped complaining in 2 hours.

We make it back to the hotel, barely, and i flop down on the couch. "Never. Again" i say into the pillow. Ivan laughs and i hear him removing his shoes letting out a groan at the relief. "You still didn't pick a ring, we will have to go back again"

I sigh and decide to reply to Mateo and sully first knowing ill probably spend the next few hours talking to angel and would forget.

I get a similar message from sully.

I frown reading the messages and open up angelicas contact. "Holy shit" i whisper as i open her message. Ivan looks up at me with a questioning look and i clear my throat quickly trying to compose myself.

Her message is an image. Shes in a skimpy black lingerie set laying on the bed. The angle is from over her shoulder showcasing her beautiful plump ass on full display.

I stare at the picture as i wait for a response. My dick growing harder with each passing second when i hear a ding.

Yet another image. This one is the same angle but her chest is against the bed and her ass is fully up in the air. Keep it in your pants Dante

The picture is of angelica stood in front of the mirror fully showcasing her body in that black lingerie. my god is she beautiful. It hugs her body in all the right places.

I dont respond. Instead i click her contact and wait impatiently while the phone rings.

"Oh hey Dante. I didn't exp-" i cut her off before she can finish her little innocent act.

"I have no idea what you mean"

"Oh yea? Whats that?"

"I dont know. I just eat better when youre here"

"I know..."

"Lasagne"

"Hmm okay that sounds like a good deal"

### MATURE CONTENT

### THE NEXT DAY

I finally picked out a ring. Its perfect. I'm just praying angelica will like it. I know she will but theres that little bit of doubt in the back of my mind that maybe she wont. That maybe she'd prefer gold or regular diamond. Stop doubting yourself Dante

Its currently 8pm and we've been driving home for 2 hours now. We are almost home and i cant wait to see angel. 2 days doesnt sound like a long time until youre actually apart, then it feels like torture.

Once we arrive home i grab some bags from the trunk and head inside. I'm greeted by sully and Mateo sitting on the couch with jasper watching tv. "Hey guys! Ooo what'd you get?" Mateo says the second we walk in.

He jumps from the couch and tries to grab one of the bags to look inside, "ah ah ah, hands off. Theyre Christmas presents" i drop the bags to the floor and scan the room. No angelica.

We walk into my room and i sit on the edge of the bed pulling angel into my lap so shes straddling me. "We can talk about therapy later. Right now, i want to touch you" i whisper as i lean closer. Our faces are inches apart, our lips grazing each other.

Suddenly she leans closer, smashing her lips against mine. The kiss is hungry and passionate showing just how much we both needed this.

I run my hand up the back of her shirt and stop when i feel lace.

I pull away from the kiss and give her a questioning look.

"Take off your shirt" she blushes slightly as she grabs the hem of her tshirt which is actually one of mine.

In one pull it comes cleanly off to reveal a dark red lace bra.

I swiftly flip us over so angel is against the bed and I'm hovering above her. "Let me guess. You're wearing matching little panties?" i drag my hand down her stomach, stopping at the band of her shorts. "Maybe..."

I pull down her shorts and my suspicion is correct. She's wearing a matching pair of dark red lace panties. "Such a naughty girl" i lean back on my knees and take in her body.

Fucking hell she's gorgeous. The dark red colour of the lingerie pairs so well with her pale skin. The set hugs every little curve of her body and is open and bare in all the right places. "Fucking beautiful" i mumble as i grab her lips with mine again.

I lightly caress her heat through her panties and to my surprise she's already wet. "Wet already baby? So fucking needy aren't you?"

I flip her over so she's laying on her stomach. "Face down ass up" she does as told, pressing her chest and face to the bed and leaving her ass in the air. I place a hard slap on her right ass cheek and then rub it slightly to soothe it "good girl"

I pull off my own shirt followed by my pants, leaving me just in my boxers.

I trail my hands up and down her back feeling her soft as fuck skin moving moving

my hands up to her plump ass.

"This ass" slap "is fucking mine" she whimpers at my touch and bites down on the pillow.

I unclasp her bra too and throw both pieces on the floor leaving her exposed in front of me. "My perfect girl" i mumble against her ass cheek as i bite it softly making her gasp. "Please Dante"

I drag my finger between her folds and she moans at the sensation. Music to my fucking ears. "So wet for me baby" i can feel my dick throbbing in my boxers due to the lack of space so i pull them off, feeling instant relief.

I lean down so my face is inches away from her heat and trail light kisses up her inner thigh. "Dante...dont tease" shes breathless already and ive barely touched her. I chuckle against her thigh and move further up until I'm touching her core.

I flick her clit with my tongue once and she lets out a loud moan. "Shh baby. You have to be quiet remember?" she nods and bites down on the pillow again. I flick her clit again and pull it gently between my lips making her legs quiver.

She moves her hips as i continue to lick past her folds so i grip them to hold her still. "F-fuck" she breathes and i speed up my pace with my tongue. "God you taste so fucking sweet" i mumble into her.

I push a finger inside her as i continue my torture with my tongue "ah..fuck" her legs tremble as i work my magic, shes barely able to keep herself up. "Are you close baby?" she nods frantically against the pillow as she lets out breathy moans.

I insert a second finger into her and pump in and out faster. She grips the covers so hard her knuckles turn white and i cant help but smirk. "D-Dante...oh god please"

I lift her body back of the bed and place in her in position again.

Face down ass up just how i wanted to see her.

Her legs tremble and almost give out as i push her head down onto the bed.

"Dont pass out on me sweetheart. I'm not done yet" i chuckle as i watch her struggle to come down from her high.

I slowly move the tip of my dick up and down between her folds as she whimpers. Without wasting another second i push deep inside of her causing her back to arch up as she screams into the pillow. "Shhh shh relax baby" i soothe her as i start to move slowly, letting her adjust properly.

Her arms give out from under her causing the front half of her body to fall further onto the bed. I grab a handful of her hair and pull her head back flush against my chest, quickly moving my hand from her hair to her neck to keep her in place.

Her legs begin to shake again and i can tell shes close but i dont plan on stopping just yet.

"You gonna cum for me baby?" she nods her head desperately as she looks into my eyes.

I watch her from above as her eyes roll into the back of her head.

"Cum babygirl" within a second she comes undone on my dick.

Her body jolting forward and her hands coming up to my hand thats around her neck, digging her nails into it. Her legs shake violently and then give out causing her to crash down on the bed.

Shes a panting mess as she lays on the bed completely motionless. I lean down to her ear and graze it softly with my teeth "you can give me one more cant you baby?" i flip her over so shes on her back this time, hopefully saving her the ache of holding herself up.

I lean down to her lips and take the bottom one between my teeth, "one more?" she nods weakly but I'm not convinced. "I need words baby. Can you handle it?"

Her eyes start to close and i lightly tap her face. "Stay with me angel. Dont pass out" she gives me a weak nod and opens her eyes again just enough for me to be confident shes not unconscious. "Good girl"

I move one hand from her hip to her clit and rub in slow circles. "Ah...i-i cant" she cries out and i rub her clit faster. "I-its too much" shes a moaning mess under me, panting and whimpering at my touch.

She shakes her head violently as a loud moan escapes her lips. She quickly covers her mouth with her hand to suppress anymore moans as i thrust into her faster. "Fuck baby" i groan as i feel myself near release.

Her legs are like jello under me and i can feel that shes close. "Cum with me angel" she nods and i feel her clenching around me as my movement becomes sloppy. "Dante" she cries out as she cums for the third time tonight. "Oh fuck" i groan as i empty inside her.

I stay still for a moment as i come down before pulling out. When i look down at angel shes fully unconscious and her breathing is heavy. I panic a little when i realise she passed out during her orgasm and rummage around my night stand drawer for her inhaler.

## Page 63

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I wake up to the familiar feeling of angelica's soft skin. She's laying beside me, her head on my chest and one leg stretched out over mine. 2 days i spent waking up alone. That's too long.

I've spent weeks at a time waking up without angelica but that was back when i had no other choice. The last 2 days were painful knowing i left her intentionally. It'll be worth it Dante

I lightly play with one of her curls between my fingers and she stirs. "I'm sorry sweetheart i didn't mean to wake you" i whisper against her head.

She looks up at me with a smile and pecks my cheek. "how are you feeling? You passed out last night, i was worried"

I lean forward trying to kiss her lips again but this time she pinches my lips together with her fingers. "Let me brush my teeth first, then you can kiss me" i sigh knowing I'm defeated and let her stand from the bed.

There's 2 giant handprints starting to bruise on her hips. I run my finger along one of them and she hisses at my touch. I look up at her with pure disbelief when i notice her neck. Again with a red handprint neatly imprinted onto her skin that's starting to bruise.

I push away her hands and step backwards until I'm sitting on the edge of the bed. Angel picks up my shirt from last night and slips it on so she's not naked anymore. "God angel why didn't you tell me i was being too rough?" i bury my head in my hands, unable to look directly at her.

I hear her kneel down in front of me and she places her hands on my knees, "because you weren't. I liked it Dante and I'd want you to do it again. You didn't hurt me on purpose, its just what happens when we do things like that" i shake my head in my hands, still not looking up at her.

I sigh as i look into her eyes. Those big green eyes full of nothing but love and honesty.

I move my gaze down to her neck and internally cringe at the sight.

"Okay...but promise me angel that you will warn me next time alright?

Even if you dont want me to stop i just need you to tell me so i know" she smiles and nods, "i promise"

I kiss her forehead and smile, "go brush your teeth and shower. Its almost afternoon, sully and Ivan will be here soon to set up Christmas decorations" her eyes go wide and theres that beautiful little sparkle inside them that shows shes happy.

I leave angel alone to shower and get dressed as i head downstairs. I see Mateo standing by the coffee maker pouring himself a cup. "Morning Mateo" i say with a smile as i grab a cup and pour myself some coffee.

I roll my eyes "Ivan dont make me take your key away" he pouts and jumps up onto the counter and jasper appears next to him. "Jasper! How's my little buddy?" he coos the cat like a little baby.

I turn to sully who's stood by the door awkwardly. "Sullivan. You've entered this house enough times now to know you can relax. Hang up your coat, drop your stuff by the door and chill" he gives me a sheepish smile and nods his head.

I sigh and nod, "Jesus Dante, what the fuck is wrong with you?" he rushes over to angel and stands in front of her as if protecting her from me. "Whats wrong with Dante?" Mateo says as he comes into the room carrying a box.

He throws the box down on the couch the second he sees angelica. "Holy fucking shit Dante what did you do?!" he grabs angel and starts inspecting her neck, then her wrists and turns to me with a look of disgust.

I stare at angel not knowing what the fuck to say next and she looks back at me slightly panicked. Sully comes into the room carrying a box but says nothing, probably feeling the tension in the room.

Mateo grimaces and Ivan lets out what i assume to be a sigh of relief. Sully clears his throat and we all just stand there awkwardly. "Well then" Ivan says with a light chuckle trying to break the silence.

After awhile everyone starts decorating. Christmas music is playing, everyone talking or in Ivan and Mateo's case, fighting over where things look best. I'm standing in the kitchen with angelica who's sat on the counter with me between her legs.

### 3 WEEKS LATER

Its currently Christmas eve. We've spent the last 3 weeks preparing for Christmas, well mostly. Ive spent the last 3 weeks obsessing over every little detail about my proposal. It took me a week just to come up with the perfect way to do it. One that will be exactly what angelica wants.

I settled on taking her to the beach, the one we went to on our first date. Ive arranged for there to be flowers, candles, a picnic, everything that could make the night perfect.

Tonight is the night i propose to the love of my life. I'm actually going to do it. I'm still in pure shock at the fact this is my life now. That the Dante from 10 years ago would be here where i am right now. I just cant believe it.

I watch from the kitchen as Ivan, Mateo and angel sit scattered in the living room watching Christmas movies. They've been doing this every day for the past week and will sit there for hours watching as many Christmas movies as possible.

Since angel's never seen many movies she doesnt really get to pick which upsets me, but i dont think she really minds. Its actually refreshing and comforting to see angelica do things shes never done before.

I see the way her eyes light up when she watches the movies for the first time. Each one is different and she pays attention to every detail. Most people are unbothered because they've probably seen a movie like 'the Grinch' a hundred times, but angelica hasn't.

So watching her be so invested in a movie you already know everything about is heart warming.

I lean against the counter just watching her, completely ignoring Ivan and Mateo that are sitting around her. My focus is fully on angel. I just think about the future, about what i could do for angelica to see that look on her face constantly.

Theres so much shes never done, so much shes never seen and i plan to change that. All the new food she can try, the countries she can go to, the animals she can see. I would do anything in my power to see that look of pure bliss on her face.

I feel a presence appear beside me and i know its sully.

He leans against the counter with his arms crossed just watching me with a smirk on his face.

"God if only your father could see you now.

Little Dante Santino, madly in love with a girl.

I think he'd have a heart attack" i chuckle at his words.

I do wish my parents could see me now. I had loving parents, they treated me like their pride and joy but that didn't change the fact i was very closed off.

What with being abused by Giovanni my whole childhood, my little brother dying and being the heir to an entire mafia, i think its safe to assume i wasn't a very friendly or happy kid.

I know they'd be shocked to see how ive grown, how much angel has changed me and shaped me into a better man.

There cant be just void, there has to be something after.

The sad thing is nobody will ever know what because once you die, youre dead.

I personally like to think that everyone's afterlife is exactly how they imagine it.

Whatever your beliefs may be, i believe that it happens, that there is no right or wrong.

I like the thought of them all being together, probably living the dream they always wanted. A little cottage house somewhere in Italy with no fears, no danger, just pure happiness and love.

Thats what i want with angelica. I've thought about moving out, getting a house together somewhere.

Its not that i dont love living here, i do, but we cant stay here forever.

I mean Mateo will probably find someone, no matter how much he denies it, so its best if we part ways and move out.

Unfortunately we will still see him probably every day.

3 HOURS LATER

I sit on the couch with angelica in my lap as she cries over the 6th movie tonight. Ivan looks at me and i give him a slight nod signalling that its time. "Okay thats enough, i dont think angel can cry anymore" he says with a chuckle.

I pull angels face away from my chest and wipe her tears away. "Lets go for a walk hm? Get some fresh air" she snuffles and nods before standing from my lap. I guide

her out the door, quickly grabbing my keys and jacket before heading to my car.

I place my hand on angel's thigh and give it a light squeeze, keeping it there for the whole ride. She says nothing but i can tell shes afraid from her breathing and the fact shes tense as fuck. "Relax. Youre safe" i say as i pull up to our destination.

I get out to car and walk to angel's side, helping her out the car and guiding her to the steps. "Where are we? I hear...water?" i chuckle as i slowly walk her towards the spot. "Dante, please whats going on?"

I remove the blindfold once we come to a stop.

Her eyes flutter slightly as she adjusts to the light.

"The beach?" she says confused.

We are currently standing fairly close to the water facing towards it.

What she doesnt realise is that when she turns around, I'll ask her a question that will change both our lives.

On the ground lays a picnic blanket set up for a little picnic date. Theres bright red rose petals surrounding it as well as multiple lit candles. On the floor in front of it written in rose petals are the words 'marry me?'

I stand to the side slightly as i watch angelicas reaction. Her face goes pale and her mouth and eyes both open wide in shock. "D-Dante?" when she turns to look at me I'm already on one knee, ring in hand.

I watch as the tears pour from her eyes like a fucking river as she sniffles. I reach up to her face and slowly wipe away her tears.

By the time I'm done talking I'm a wreck. Tears stain my cheeks as they fail to stop falling, my breathing heavy and my knee aching as it holds up my weight. Angel wipes her face with the sleeve of my jacket shes wearing and gives me the biggest grin ive ever seen.

I smile too "i knew you would. I spent a long time picking the perfect ring, i just knew it had to be purple. Its amethyst" she studies the ring for a minute while i sit on the blanket and pull her down into my lap.

We sit there for almost 2 hours as we watch the sun set. Angel is drifting off in my arms, wrapped in my jacket as i hold her tightly to my chest and i just watch as the waves crash in front of us. This is how i want to spend the rest of my life. Alone with angel. This is peace.

## Page 65

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

Before i even have time to open my fucking eyes, Ivan bursts through my door with a huge grin on his face and a very pissed off Mateo trailing behind. "Angelicaaaa! Its christmasss!" Ivan sings as he walks towards my bed.

I feel angel stir against my chest, clearly trying to sleep. "What the fuck are you two doing? Let her sleep" i scowl at them. Mateo stands by the door frame with his arms crossed rolling his eyes while Ivan plops down onto the bed.

I lightly kiss her forehead and run my hand up and down her back as she slowly starts to wake up. "merry Christmas" i whisper against her hair when i see her eyes start to flutter open. "merry Christmas Dante" she returns with a tired smile.

I dont even get to protest before she jumps off the bed and runs to the bathroom, probably knowing id pin her down to kiss her and then get way too distracted for the next 2 hours. The usual morning routine

Knowing angelica is probably going to shower while in the bathroom i decide to grab our clothes for the day. Angelica isn't aware of our family tradition. Something that Ivan and i have been doing our whole lives with our families, that we continued doing with sully and Mateo.

Now, that includes angelica.

I head to angelicas old room to shower and i come back i find she is still in the bathroom. Something i noted very early on about angelica is she doesnt put a lot of effort into her appearance. She is gorgeous in every single way but she doesnt try to be.

That being said, something she does put a lot of effort into is her hair.

Even when she shut herself away in her room for weeks, her hair was the thing that stayed perfectly cared for.

She neglected herself in every possible way, didn't eat or sleep, but her hair was clearly something she took care of regardless.

I dont know what the reason for that is, i dont know if there even is a reason for it but ive never questioned it.

When i say she puts a lot of effort into her hair i mean she will spend hours on it. Not only is it extremely curly, but theres also a lot of it. It reaches down to her ass and thats with curls and even i know that the curls would make her hair shorter than if it were straight.

Honestly i dont know how she does it. Shes never cut it in her life and still refuses to even get a small amount cut off. That amount of hair cant be comfortable.

As i grab the folded set of clothes i hear the bathroom door open and angelica comes out in a small towel. I can feel my dick instantly react at the sight and i internally scold myself for being as horny as a teenager.

I walk over to her as she walks out and pull her into me by her hips.

The feeling of her soft skin under my rough hands will always send a signal to my pants.

"Mm how about we just, stay in bed for awhile?

Maybe the next hour...or two" i say as i take in her body, knowing that with one tug

that towel would come right off.

I lean down to her neck and softly trail my nose up to her ear, placing a kiss just below it making her shudder at my touch.

"Not even if it means getting fucked senseless" a light gasp leaves her lips and i hold back a chuckle.

"So innocent" i whisper against the skin of her neck.

Her brows furrow slightly and i turn to the bed to reveal the two matching piles of clothes. "I dont understand" she says as she picks up a black tshirt.

Ivan

Ivan with a big smirk on his face shamelessly looking her up and down and Mateo looking at me mostly in anger. "Moretti" i scold and Ivan instantly turns his attention to me. "Eyes off" his face flushes and he nods, moving his gaze to the floor.

I hum in response as i lean forward and place a kiss between her shoulder blades. I trail my lips down her back, planting gentle kisses all the way down to the waistband of her pants. I bring my hand up to her ass and squeeze it slightly. "Dante" she says in warning but i dont listen.

I pull down the waistband of her pants ever so slightly to reveal a pair of matching lace white panties. Just as i thought. I groan, pulling her pants back up properly and spinning her around to face me.

"Hurry up and get your asses down here!"

Fucking Ivan.

We all sit around the living room talking and opening gifts for about an hour. Christmas music playing in the background and the smell of turkey filling the air.

Ivan slowly removes the lid of the box "oh my god you didn't" he says in pure disbelief. "You fucking didn't" his voice cracks slightly and i notice the shaking of his hands.

Inside the box is the most beautiful chocolate brown coloured cat I've ever seen. A British shorthair cat, Ivan's favourite breed.

I smirk at angel. I told her he would react like this and she didn't believe me. The cat is very relaxed, similar to jasper. He doesn't fuss, isn't very anxious and loves people so i can see the instant relaxation when Ivan hugs him.

Within a second the cat is placed on the floor and Ivan is lunging across from the spot he sat in and pulling angelica into his lap for a tight hug. "Thank you" he whispers against her hair as he holds her bone crushingly tight.

That was until we got jasper. He lived with Ivan for a little while after the whole birthday incident and i had never seen him so relaxed and happy.

I knew then that i was going to get him a cat because i knew he wouldn't. When angelica asked what Ivan wanted as a gift it was a no brainer to tell her.

Yes i did give away probably the best gift someone could ever get Ivan but honestly? This was better. Not only does this bring angelica and Ivan's relationship closer but i know he knows it was my idea, that i was the one who told angel he wanted one, so it does us both some good.

She couldn't just take the credit could she? She had to throw me into the ring.

Ivan turns to me with a smile as he wipes away his tears "thank you" he whispers. "So what do you wanna name him? He doesnt have one yet" i say trying to stop the tears that seem to be coming from everyone, even sully.

I cant help but notice sully sat on the couch as he watches them. To anyone it would seem like he was listening to them, but to me i can tell hes deep in thought. I notice the wrapped gift beside him thats hidden enough that nobody else can see it.

I tap his knee and he instantly shoots his head up to look at me. "Go on" i say with a smile knowing exactly what hes thinking, what hes planning to do.

He clears his throat and the conversation dies down, all eyes on him. "I uh. I have a gift, for you angelica" he hands the wrapped item to angel and she looks up at him, taking it slowly from his hands.

## Page 66

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

We all sit in a very intense silence just watching angelica. Ivan and Mateo both look like their eyes are about to pop out of their heads, sully looks like he's about to crumble to pieces and angel looks like she's about to make a break for it.

I rest my hand firmly on her thigh just to try and ground her and avoid her freaking out and running.

Within a second of his words angel is off my lap and jumping into sully's embracing him in a tight hug. He seems taken back at first but relaxes into the hug. "Yes please" angel whispers against his chest.

They're both crying now and neither one of them pull back from the hug. I look over at Mateo and Ivan and i notice the tears in their eyes making me chuckle. Ivan kicks me in the knee and glares at me "you cant laugh, youre crying too!"

We all sit around the living room with blankets and pillows scattered around watching a Christmas movie and eating dinner. "So angel, how's your first Christmas dinner?" Ivan says.

I lean down to her ear once i notice the guys attention is back on the movie and lightly graze it with my teeth. "Naughty girls get punished angelica" i whisper into her ear and she gasps softly.

The movie ended and the guys were all groaning on the floor like they'd just been shot and angel was cuddled up against my chest.

I'm honestly shocked that Ivan isn't 500 pounds. That guy can eat non stop and is still

built as fuck. He doesn't have as much muscle as Mateo and I but he is incredibly toned.

I lightly rock Angelica back and forth in my arms as I stroke her back, something I've noticed she likes. I like it too, it's relaxing.

She stares at me blankly for a second as if processing my words and then suddenly she smiles. I don't think she even realised she was eating normally.

I look down at her plate and over half of it is gone which may not seem like a lot, but I know the only reason she stopped was because she was full and couldn't eat anymore. I would much rather she only eats half because she's full than because she doesn't want to eat too much.

Everyone turns to look at me and Angelica's eyes fill with sadness. "No Angelica. I refuse"

I glare at him. Partially in anger but mostly in shock that he would consider allowing his sister to be part of the mafia. He knows how dangerous this shit is.

I know she's upset at my words, and that I won't let her train with us but this is for her own safety.

This world is ruthless. Our rivals are ruthless.

There are trafficking rings out there that would take Angel the second they saw her and she wouldn't be able to stop them. I refuse to let that happen.

I don't instantly shut down his suggestion. If I'm being honest, I actually like it.

I would love for Angel to fight with us. When I trained her that one time I knew she

had potential and was a lot stronger than she seems. I know with enough training she would be an amazing fighter and she would always be with us so we could protect her.

She looks up at me with pleading eyes and i sigh. "Okay. I will consider it but thats not a yes, so dont get your hopes up" she squeals and hugs me tightly "thank you"

Its now 8pm and the day is coming to an end. We've all been sitting around talking and watching tv for the last few hours. "how was your first Christmas angel?" Mateo asks as angel sits in my lap, lightly dozing off.

Her eyes widen and she shifts slightly before shaking her head "good girl, now just follow my lead okay?" i whisper.

I notice Ivan watching me as i walk angel towards the door. As i turn around he gives me a knowing smirk and nods. "Bye guys! Have fun on your drive" he shouts sarcastically.

Mateo looks at him confused and quickly turns to me once he realises the intent behind Ivan's words. I chuckle and grab angels hand and walk outside. "Oh trust me, we will"

I laugh as i drive past him, flipping him off as i go and angelica giggles while waving at him. "That was fun" she says with a smile. "Where are we really going?"

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

The car ride feels like its taking an eternity. The tension is high but not the bad kind, no. sexual tension, the best kind.

Dante's hand slowly glides its way up my thigh as he drives, not once taking his eyes off the road. He looks so...composed. So unfazed. Meanwhile I'm sat here desperate for some kind of release from this slow torture.

He's barely touched me and I'm already needy as fuck.

I scan the road as we drive, trying to make out our location and see just how far away we are from my apartment. As i start to pick up on where we are we suddenly swerve down an unknown street to me.

I turn to Dante confused and he just smirks at me, keeping his eyes firmly on the road and his hand still planted on my thigh.

Before i can argue with him i suddenly feel his hand move further up my thigh and under my shorts. Shorts that Dante specifically asked me to change into because they would be 'more comfortable to wear while we watch movies'

I'm now starting to doubt that claim as his hand slips effortlessly under the hem and lightly grazing my panties. I cant help but blush as i realise that I'm wet just from his light touches on my thigh.

Dante however, seems more than pleased by this as a devilish grin appears on his face. "Well would you look at that. So fucking needy baby" i turn my face at his words and try to clamp my thighs together in shame but his hand stops me.

I feel the heat burning on my face even more as i look out the window. Dante chuckles lowly and one of his fingers suddenly start moving in circles over my soaked panties. "So wet for me and ive barely touched you"

I whimper at his touch when i feel him slip his finger under my panties and push them aside, allowing his finger to slide between my folds. I look over to see him still firmly focused on the road as if his hand isn't on my pussy right now.

Without warning he slips a finger inside of me and a small gasp escapes my lips before i can suppress it. I grip onto his arm thats leaned against my chest giving him the perfect angle to access my core.

He pumps his finger in and out slowly, like almost torture level slow. "P-please" i whimper before i can stop myself.

He doesnt speed up. Instead, he adds a second finger and i grip his arm tighter

He pumps his fingers faster as his thumb makes its way to my clit to rub light circles, "ah..."

I bite my lip, trying to suppress any sounds that might escape but its no use as he starts pumping even faster.

I move my grip down to his wrist trying to hold his hand in place desperately but he doesnt stop. I dont want him to stop

I shake my head aggressively as i slam it back against the headrest. A loud moan leaving my lips at the overwhelming pleasure. I cant hold it. I'm so close. I need to hold it. You can do it angel.

I open my eyes that i didn't even realise were squeezed tightly shut as i breathed

heavily. I see my apartment building coming into view and i feel relief wash over me at the sight.

We slowly pull up outside and Dante quickly removes his seatbelt and leans across the console to get a better angle. He grips my body down to the seat with one hand while his other speeds up his motions inside of me even more.

My legs start to shake and i tighten my grip on his wrist but he doesnt pull it away. "Cum for me baby" he whispers against my ear and its enough for me to come undone on his hand. My body jolting as waves of pleasure crash over me.

His fingers dont stop moving until i start to come down and relax in the seat. I watch as he removes his hand from my core and brings it up to his lips, sucking on his fingers. "So fucking sweet" he mumbles with his fingers in his mouth.

I'm breathing heavy and my eyes sting from my tears. Dante seems to notice my struggling and pulls out an inhaler from the glove compartment. "Here sweetheart. Breathe" he says as he brings the inhaler to my lips, pumping it twice and allowing me to finally get air.

He moves one hand to my hip and the other to the back of my head tangling it in my curls. "Mm as much as I'd love to fuck you in my car, i would much rather do it in bed. Rain check?" he mumbles against my lips and i laugh. "Rain check" i nod with a smile.

He grabs my hand and guides me into the building. The elevator ride was silent and agonisingly long as we made our way to my penthouse apartment. Why couldn't i be on the first floor?

The second Dante opens my door I'm pushed up against it as it slams shut behind me. He runs his hand up my neck until it reaches the nape and guides my mouth to his.

The kiss started softly but that lasted all of 2 seconds before it became rough and passionate with Dante's tongue demanding entrance.

I relax in his hold and let him take charge of the kiss. My body weakening for him as he battles my tongue with his.

He lightly taps on my ass and i jump, knowing exactly what he wants me to do. He quickly moves his forearms under my ass and i wrap my legs around his waist tightly.

His arms are quick to move once i secure myself between him and the door and suddenly theyre beside my head, his palms resting flat on the door behind me.

I shift slightly against him and i feel my core brush against the bulge in his pants making him groan. The second they touch I'm being pulled off the wall and carried upstairs. His grip on me firm and secure as he walks effortlessly with me like i weigh nothing.

He surprisingly walks into the guest bedroom instead of my own but i dont question it. Maybe he forgot where my room is and just walked into the first one he saw.

Once he walks inside I'm being pushed up against the wall again and his hands move roughly along my body. He makes light work of my shirt, pulling it off in one smooth motion before doing the same to his own.

I will never get tired of seeing this man.

My man. His body is fucking godlike, like he was sculpted by a Greek god—or well Italian god.

His muscles complimented by his tattoos that paint his skin like hes a walking canvas.

My favourite one being the long snake tattoo that runs up and around his forearm.

I'm snapped out of my daze when I'm placed back on the floor, his hands on my hips to steady me as i sway slightly.

My shorts are pulled off fast, followed by his sweatpants and then his boxers. I watch as his dick springs free from the fabric, already hard and dripping with precum. He notices me staring—probably drooling over his dick and smirks.

I've seen him naked like a hundred times. He's been inside of me too many times to count, yet everytime i see him I'm speechless. How that thing fits inside of me i have no idea

my panties are torn off, literally torn off my body and discarded on the floor and my bra follows.

We both stand there, naked, taking in each others bodies as if it's the first time we've seen them.

"I will never get over how fucking beautiful you are angelica" he whispers as his eyes trail up and down my body.

I lean up to his lips and lightly graze them with mine but not kissing. "I like when you're rough" i whisper against his lips and i watch him shiver slightly.

He picks me up by my ass and pushes me against the wall but doesn't allow me to wrap my legs around his waist. I whimper, slightly scared he will drop me but his grip remains firm. His hand slowly makes its way down to my core and i feel his fingers drag a long line between my folds.

He pulls out almost all the way and slams back into me hard again. He repeats this

multiple times, each one draining any sense i had left more than the last. "F-fuck" i moan as he pounds into me slow and hard.

My legs move with each hard thrust like theyre made of jelly and i cant even move them to wrap around his waist to keep me steady. "H-holy shit. Ah..." i whimper as his movements start to get faster.

My hands move to his chest in an attempt to push him away but failing, but I'm kind of glad about it since i dont want him to stop. I dont want to push him away.

He leans his head down to my ear and grazes it softly with his teeth before trailing his teeth down my neck, no doubt leaving a long line-like hickey.

I feel my eyes starting to close and my head feels heavy as it bobs around. Dante's hand comes up to my neck and presses it against the wall firmly, squeezing tightly but not enough to cut off my air flow.

The shock instantly makes my eyes widen and he scowls. "Eyes on me. I want to see you come undone on my cock" he growls as he thrusts into me harder.

The grip he has on my neck will no doubt bruise and i know i will get scolded for that tomorrow but i dont care. I like when he's rough with me like this. I trust him with my life and i know that he would never hurt me badly. A few bruises are nothing.

I feel my legs start to tremble and i whimper knowing I'm close to the edge. "Fuck baby...your little whimpers are the hottest fucking thing ive ever heard" he groans against my neck and i whimper again.

Something ive noticed during sex is that i rarely moan. I do, but its not often. I tend to whimper and squeak and sometimes i cry but Dante doesnt seem to mind that at all.

He chuckles as his eyes turn slightly dark, "all fucked out already huh? Is that all you can give me?" he teases with a smirk.

I cum instantly on his dick. My body shaking uncontrollably like never before and my breathing heavy. He continues his thrusts for a little bit before slowly coming to a stop. My body feels numb and weak as he sets me down on the floor.

I almost fall over completely the second my feet touch the ground but he grips my waist to hold me steady. My body doesn't stop shaking and i feel like I'm floating in space, like I'm not in my body.

I nod weakly in response, my body still feeling like it's failing me. "You think you can handle one more?" my eyes widen slightly at his words. One more orgasm? One more? Could i do one more?

I nod again but he doesn't seem satisfied. "I need words sweetheart" he says firmly. "Y-yes" i say breathlessly. He picks me up again but this time, carries me over to the bed and lays me down gently.

He lines himself up at my entrance again and without a second to brace myself he pushes in fully. I wince at the feeling knowing I'm already sore but i say nothing. "I'm sorry" he whispers against my ear before placing a kiss on my cheek.

He pulls out and slams back into me, again and again until he starts fucking me, fast. He doesn't increase his speed gradually, he doesn't start slow and hard. He starts pounding into me with no mercy and I'm a mess under him.

One hand comes up to my neck and grabs it once again, keeping my head firmly pinned against the bed. I use both my hands to hold onto his wrist for support as my body jolts with each thrust.

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*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I panicked slightly when i saw angelica's eyes starting to drift shut. I felt her whole body shake in my arms and then almost instantly went limp just as it started. "Fuck" i curse as i pull out, not even bothering to savour my release.

Angel was more important.

I lightly pat her cheek trying to wake her up but her head is so limp it just moves with each tap. I jump off the bed and grab my boxers, swiftly putting them on so I'm not walking around butt naked.

What the fuck do i do?

This isn't the first time she's passed out from sex, i should have been ready for it but i was too caught up in the moment. Last time i was able to keep her somewhat coherent while i cleaned her but this time, shes fully out.

I didn't catch her drifting in time to stop it.

I head to her old bedroom to look for some clothes but theres nothing. Most of her stuff was moved back in with me. The apartment was kept because she worked really hard on doing it up and i couldn't bring myself to get rid of it, but all of her items are gone.

I head back to the guest room and go to the bathroom to get a damp washcloth. I hate doing this shit while shes unconscious because it just feels wrong but i have to. I need to clean her.

I walk over to her limp body on the bed and softly clean her up, trying to be gentle because i know shes sore. To my surprise she doesnt react at all. Not a stir or a wince to show me shes even slightly awake.

I didn't plan on staying here. I dont want to stay here. I told the guys we were going for a drive and although i know they know i was lying, I'd rather not spend the night here while theyre at home. It is Christmas after all.

I decide to get dressed and pick up angels clothes ready to dress her—excluding her underwear because uh...that didn't quite stay intact.

Once I'm done changing i grab angels inhaler from my jacket pocket. I always keep one on me. Always.

I hear soft murmurs coming from the bed and she shifts slightly. I quickly make my way over and sit beside angel, putting her head in my lap and twirling her hair around my finger.

Her eyes start to open slowly, very slowly like they weigh a ton, until theyre almost fully open. Her big beautiful green eyes on full display. "Hi" she says roughly, her voice clearly failing her. "Hi sweetheart"

I stroke her hair away from her face and grab her inhaler before propping her head up further in my lap. I hold up the inhaler asking her the silent question of does she need it. She nods slightly and sits up. "Breathe in"

I pump twice and she takes a breath but its very shaky. I pump another one and this time when she breathes its a lot smoother. "Thank you" she whispers and lays her head against my chest.

I lift her chin from my chest, a little rougher than i intended, and notice the red

handprint forming there too. "Fuck, you were supposed to tell me if i was hurting you" i push her away slightly to look over her body.

Theres marks forming everywhere. Her thighs have handprints on the side from where i held her against the wall, her waist has handprints from my grip, her neck and wrists have prints too. "I told you to warn me. I even gave you a fucking colour guide"

I try to push her off fully and stand from the bed but she doesnt let me. Her soft hands come up to my face and cup my cheeks. "You didn't hurt me Dante. I keep telling you this"

i scoff, "Yea well these bruises say otherwise"

And she swore

Angelica never swears outside of sex

I smirk and roll her over so shes laying under me. "Watch that fucking tone with me little lady or I'll spank your pretty ass raw" i watch as she shivers at my words and i cant help but be pleased at the reaction.

I freeze instantly

The clothes dropped to the bed

I literally groan at her words and lean down to kiss her, pulling her roughly into my lips by her neck. "God that sounds so fucking perfect" i moan against her lips and she smiles. "Youre fucking perfect"

She pulls away before I'm ready and pushes on my chest to keep me away. "Oh no.

no, i cant. I'm too sore"

I groan again and give up. "Fine, but only because you passed out and I'm very concerned" i scowl and she giggles. "Come here"

I pull her to the edge of the bed and grab her clothes. "I can get dressed myself" she protests. "I know. Arms up" she rolls her eyes but obeys, raising her arms so i can slip on her shirt followed by her shorts.

I can imagine angelica with a little more meat on her bones. Shes gorgeous now, her perfect little body with her wide hips and thin waist but if she gained some weight...god i cant even describe how much I'd love that.

I place her in the passenger side of the car before running over to the drivers side. "Okay sweetheart, now you can rest" she mumbles something before drifting off almost instantly. God shes exhausted.

And bruised

Really fucking bruised

Mateo is going to kill me.

We pull up outside the house but i dont bother waking angel. Shes too exhausted and she will just fall asleep again when i take her upstairs so why wake her?

As i walk inside i see Ivan and sully sitting on the couch with the cats and Mateo walking out of the kitchen. Shit

Hes in perfect view of angelicas bruising skin.

I walk into my room and gently lay angel on the bed. She instantly relaxes into it and shoves her face into the pillow. I strip off my clothes, leaving on my boxers, and climb into bed beside her.

The second i get in she rolls over and clings to me like a baby sloth. Her face pressed against my chest, her leg draped over my hips and her hand resting under her cheek as she snores lightly.

I pull the covers over us and adjust our position so one hand is holding her waist close to me and the other is tangled in her hair, lightly stroking her head. I look down at her face as she sleeps peacefully.

Her mouth is parted ever so slightly, her face is flushed pink that stands out on her pale skin, her little nose is ever so slightly pink too like shes got a cold. "You are so beautiful" i whisper. Planting a soft kiss on her forehead.

Sleeping comes so naturally to me now because i have her in my arms. I actually look forward to sleeping because i know i get to hold her close to me, and dream about her in all kinds of ways.

Working is something i dont do as often. Sure im still the boss, im still in charge of everything and i still do work but not as much as i used to. I used to overwork, giving myself extra paperwork or things that didnt need to be done until weeks later just so i had something to do.

Now i savour my free time by spending it with angelica. I give any jobs i dont need to do to my men so i can free up more time for her. If i could i would give her all my time, my undivided attention 24/7 but unfortunately i can't.

She keeps me sane. Shes ignited that tiny little spark i had left that i was desperately holding onto. She managed to pull it back from that deep black hole and help it grow

2 sizes.

She is my light

My whole world

My angel

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

### 2 MONTHS LATER

Ivan, Mateo and i sit at the bar of our safehouse just talking and drinking, a celebration if you will for a successful mission we pulled tonight.

Ivan orders another round of beers. We may be celebrating but only light drinking since none of us want to get drunk around my men. What would they think if the don and his underbosses were pissed out of their mind?

Mateo kicks Ivan hard in his shin at his words and i chuckle "I'm not sure. I mean its her first valentines day so obviously i want it to be special but I'm thinking I'll just ask her what she wants to do instead of planning a big date" he hums in response.

Before he can say anything else he's cut off by my phone ringing. Angelica. "Speak of the devil" he says with a smirk as he downs the last of his beer.

"D-Dante, i-i- theres something wrong and i-" she sounds frantic and out of breath. The panic clear in her voice. I know Ivan and Mateo heard it because their beers are instantly placed down on the table and their full attention on me.

"I-i-i dont know, i lost him. T-theres something Dante i have to do something. I cant-" her breathing is so heavy, like shes being suffocated.

Its clear to me now that shes having a panic attack and isn't with sully. I dont know where she is or whats going on and she cant communicate with me properly to tell me.

He doesn't ask questions, just opens my laptop and starts typing. I have trackers all over. In Angel's car key, her car, her phone, even the necklace I got her. It's not just Angel I track, Mateo and Ivan too.

Even me and Sully have trackers on our phones. I don't play when it comes to the safety of people I love, they're all aware they're tracked and don't care. They know the importance of it.

I pull the phone from my ear to see the call has been ended. "Fuck!" I throw my phone to the ground instantly and the screen shatters. Not enough that it's unusable but enough for it to piss me off more.

My phone rings in my hand and I answer it without even looking, hoping it's Angelica.

"Yes capo"

I grab my gun and make sure it's fully loaded, Mateo doing the same to his and Ivan's since he's driving. "Dante what the fuck is going on?" Mateo shouts.

After what feels like too long Ivan pulls up outside an ice cream parlour that Sully is pacing up and down by. I tuck my gun in the waistband of my pants and jump out the car. "Location is this way" Ivan shouts as he starts sprinting down the street, all of us following close behind.

It's about a 5 minute walk down the street until we come to a stop. Right where it says Angelica is. "I don't see her, what the fuck?" There's no sign of Angel or her phone in this spot. No necklace, nothing that shows she was here.

Suddenly I hear a scream followed by a gunshot in the house we are stood outside of.

All 4 of us exchange a look of terror before grabbing our guns and barging into the

house. I instantly tense as i scan the room.

A filthy house covered in grime, broken glass, stains of what i assume are blood and alcohol and the smell is disgusting. It brings back a lot of memories of angelicas childhood home. "There" Ivan says pointing towards the corner of the living room.

I didn't notice it at first because it was blocked by the couch from where i was stood, but as i get closer i see angelica curled up in the corner and a little boy in her arms. Both of them are beaten and bloody and in hysterics and i notice a man on the floor, a gunshot wound in his stomach as he struggles to breathe.

I look around at the scene in front of me. The man on the floor slowly dying, the gun laying beside angel, Ivan comforting the little boy that looks just as beaten and scared as angelica.

I go to pull her into my chest, resting my hand on the back of her head but thats when i feel something wet. Blood

When i look theres blood pouring from the back of her head. "Oh shit" i say in pure panic at the sight. Without wasting a second i scoop her up in my arms and turn to head out the door. "Bring the kid. We need to see Stefan. Now"

None of them question me and the kid doesnt fight about coming with us. He looks terrified but also, relieved?

As we go to leave Ivan pushes the boy slightly ahead so hes out the house first, before turning back and shooting the man on the floor in the head.

I carry angel to my car and get in the back seat, clutching her to me. "you're okay baby. youre going to be fine" I pull off my shirt and use it to apply pressure to her head wound, trying to stop the bleeding.

Angel is still in panic. Her eyes darting everywhere like she has no idea where she is or whats happening.

Suddenly her eyes start to close and panic sets in me. "No no, dont close your eyes on me baby. Stay with me" she doesnt listen. Her eyes continue to close and her body starts to go limp in my arms.

The second we pull up outside the warehouse i jump out the car and run inside the hospital wing. "Doc! Stefan! Hurry!" I'm frantic, angelica's limp body in my arms covered in blood.

He doesnt say anything more before taking her away and leaving me helpless in the waiting room. Ivan, sully and Mateo walk inside with the little boy and i turn towards them. I scan over the boy who's cowering behind sully's leg.

Hes very small, height and weight. hes wearing a pair of shorts and a ripped tank top thats covered in blood splatters. His skin is very pale and bruises cover his arms and legs. He reminds me of when i saw angelica in that playground all those years ago and my heart breaks.

I crouch down in front of the little boy and give him the best smile i can considering the situation. "Hey kid. Whats your name?"

He doesnt respond, shrinking himself behind sully. "I can promise you, youre safe. We aren't going to hurt you okay?" he doesnt say anything. I sigh and offer out my arms for a hug, "come here"

He hesitates for a moment but i dont lower my arms. He slowly edges out from behind sully's leg and walks closer to me until hes stood between my arms. I immediately pull him into my chest and just hold him as he begins to cry.

Sully comes over with a cup of water and i take it before offering it to the little boy. He downs it all the second it touches his lips and holds the cup out as if asking for more. Sully leaves to go fill it and comes back with two this time.

He nods, keeping his eyes firmly on the floor. "She helped you and i know her, so that means I'm not going to hurt you okay? I want to help you too, will you let me do that?" he hesitates before nodding slowly.

His voice is a shaky whisper and he cant pronounce his 'th' sounds properly but i understood. "Thats a nice name. How old are you Theo?" he brings his tiny hand up to his face and puts down fingers, clearly trying to figure out the right amount.

Eventually he holds up four fingers.

Four.

Hes fucking four years old. A child. A toddler

He nods again.

He looks up at me again with tears in his eyes. His lip wobbles as his mouth opens like he wants to say something but cant get the words out. "What is it buddy?"

An hour passes by as we all sit in the waiting room. Theo has been sat on my lap the whole time playing games on my phone. He wanted to sleep but until Stefan was able to check him over, i couldn't let him.

Suddenly Stefan comes out holding a clipboard. I move Theo to sully's lap and rush over to him, "is she okay?" i ask, fearing for the answer.

Her skin is pale and bruising and her head is wrapped in bandages. "Shes asleep

because i gave her some strong pain medication. Should wake up in a couple hours"  
Stefan says as if reading my thoughts.

I sit Theo on the second bed and stand beside him as Stefan grabs some medical gear.  
I notice Theo tense at the sight of the tray as Stefan walks closer. "Relax buddy. Hes  
not going to hurt you" he nods slowly but doesnt seem to relax.

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*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

Once Stefan finished checking over Theo he gave him some kid safe pain medication that will make him a little drowsy.

He gives me a slightly worried look and i furrow my brows "what?"

I walk out into the waiting room to see Mateo, Ivan and sully sitting around talking with slightly worried looks on their faces. "Is he alright?" Ivan asks as he sees me walking with an unconscious Theo

Mateo goes to respond and i notice sully looking at me quite shocked but i stand before i can be questioned and lectured. "I dont want to discuss this right now. I'm going to see angelica, stay with him" they both look at each other and then back at me giving me a small nod.

I walk to angelicas room but stop at the door when i get an unsettling feeling. Somethings wrong.

I slowly push open the door, keeping my hand firmly on my gun thats tucked into my waistband. When i walk in i feel relief when i see nobody but angel.

Shes standing by the window, her back towards me just looking outside. "Youre awake? You shouldn't be standing sweetheart" i go to walk to her when she suddenly spins around making me freeze firmly in place.

Her body is trembling in pure fear, her eyes are bloodshot and her cheeks stained with tears that continue to fall. I then notice the glint of the silver object in her hand.

A scalpel

Instant panic rushes through me when I realise what is happening. The knife firmly in her shaky hands. "Angel..." i say softly as I start to walk towards her.

I'm in pure panic not knowing what to do. I cant leave to get help and she wont let me near her. I have a gun, i could try and shoot the knife from her hand but i cant risk accidentally shooting her.

What the fuck do i do? Think Dante, think

I watch her arm move slightly to reposition the scalpel and i panic.

I slowly move forward a little more and she doesnt stop me. "I need you to breathe for me okay? Take a deep breath" she inhales sharply as her body continues to shake. She releases the breath but it comes out as nothing but a sob.

He nods as if understanding what i need him to do. "Youre safe. I promise you" i inch closer yet again, slowly but surely making my way towards her. "Please dont hurt me daddy, I'm sorry..." she whispers.

Moving in sync we both jump towards angel. Ivan grabs her arm, the one with the knife pressed against it and pulls it away while i grab her other arm and rip the scalpel from her hand, tossing it to the floor.

Angel is still trashing and fighting in my arms but i dont stop holding her against my chest, holding her head in my hands and stroking her hair.

"Shh, ive got you. I'm here" i whisper through my tears as i try desperately to soothe her.

"I'm not going to hurt you sweetheart. Never. You're safe"

Not even a minute later Ivan comes running in with Stefan who drops beside me and pulls out a large needle "what is that?" i say in panic as angel continues to fight me.

"I'm going to sedate her"

I hold her close to my chest as i slowly rock her back and forth, mainly trying to calm myself down at this point.

Of course that would be triggering.

The worst part is i don't think she even knew what she was doing.

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*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I leave angelicas room knowing she is fully unconscious and wont be awake for hours. Yet theres still that doubt, that worry in the back of my mind that i shouldn't leave her alone.

Shes safe Dante. She wont wake up. She cant hurt herself

I try to remind myself that nothing will happen if i just leave for a couple minutes but I'm scared. I dont think i can do that again. Just seeing her like that, completely out of touch with reality and so fucking close to ending her life. God it broke me.

He will set aside his own feelings to help anyone else in need.

I realised that probably too late in our friendship.

Around 17. Ever since then ive made it known to him that he doesnt have to hide his feelings around me just for my sake.

Sometimes its nice to just feel together you know?

Cry together, punch shit together, drink away our feelings together.

Thats what friends do.

I read through the digital file.

Name: Theodore James Brooks

Age: 4 years old

Parents: Dominic William Brooks, Anastasia Mai Brooks (deceased)

His mother died during childbirth and his father resented the fact Theo was still alive but his wife wasn't.

He started drinking and doing drugs. Spending their money on substances instead of basic needs for Theo

Started beating Theo before he even turned one.

Theres multiple hospital records recording injuries Theo had from 9 months old to recent. Some without reasons and others with stupid reasoning like 'fell down the stairs' or 'fell off a swing'

He was enrolled in school but attended no more than 8 classes in his life.

Hospital photos of his bruised body. X-rays of internal damages and broken bones. All of this was recorded and not once were police or child services involved?

I shake my head trying to shake away their words. Theyre wrong. Theyre wrong about everything. I look up at sully and he gives me a blank expression "sully?" i plead for an answer. Anything, i just need his advice.

He sighs and looks at both Ivan and Mateo.

"While theyre both right...you also have to view it from Theo's perspective.

This little boy has only ever known abuse.

He then gets taken away and told that hes now safe, but then you just hand him over to someone else?

Somebody new he has to learn to trust? And then theres the risk they'll be worse than his father.

This isn't an easy choice to make and its one both you and angelica will have to discuss and make together"

I look at Theo in that chair and imagine what it would be like to be him. He would stay with us for probably weeks if not a few months until hes healthy, by then he will have learned to trust us and then all of that is shattered because we have to give him up.

The thought of him going to a family that is worse than his father makes me feel sick. Imagining a life like angelica had for this tiny little boy. I cant do it. I cant let it happen.

Ive been sat beside angel all night. I haven't slept, i haven't eaten, i haven't left my seat not even for the bathroom.

Mateo and sully left with Theo to get him set up at home but Ivan has stayed, occasionally going back and forth to give me updates on Theo and give Mateo updates on angelica.

I dont turn when i hear the door open because i know its Stefan. Hes come in every few hours just to monitor angel and make sure shes still okay. Head injuries are very serious especially when they lead to concussions.

I immediately shake my head "no. Last time i was told to 'go freshen up' while angelica was in the hospital, her heart fucking stopped"

The thing i notice the most is that she said Dante. She said my name. Shes talking to me because she knows I'm here. Not her father

I notice the panic instantly on her face, her eyes wide and her arms trying desperately to break free. "N-no, no why? Why cant i move?"

Tears fill her eyes at the memory and she tries to stand from the bed. "Hey, hey. Easy. he's okay" i push her back down on the bed and keep my hand firmly on her stomach, holding her down.

I look at Stefan and then back to angel. "I came in here and you were completely spaced out and just, not thinking straight. You thought i was your father and kept begging me not to hurt you" she looks shocked and its obvious now that she was 100% out of it.

She nods slowly as he talks, taking in all the information and trying to process it.

"I'm going to get you a prescription for antipsychotics.

I wanted to prescribe them to you a few months ago but I decided to hold off based on the progress you had been making with therapy, however this was a very serious incident.

I think it would be beneficial to start taking them now"

She doesnt protest like i expected her to. She says nothing and just nods her head accepting the decision. Stefan looks at me a little confused because this is unlike angel but i just give him a small smile.

He leaves the room, leaving me and angel alone.

She stares at me blankly for what feels like 5 minutes but was probably only a couple seconds before nodding slowly. "d-do you think...we should take him in?"

I freeze

I didn't expect those words from her, at least not so soon.

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*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

We talked for a couple of hours about what to do and ultimately decided to take care of Theo until he was healthy and then we let him decide. He may only be four years old but he deserves the choice. He might not want to live with us and we will respect that.

Stefan is currently in here tending to angelicas head wound. He needs to monitor her closely because head injuries are dangerous. Hes worried about her and honestly so am i after what i witnessed last night. The thought of her having some kind of brain injury is fucking terrifying.

I cant handle her being in so much pain. It hurts me.

I look up at Stefan with pleading eyes just begging him to do something to help her and he sighs. "I can give you a small dose. Much smaller than what i gave you yesterday. It should help with the pain enough that you can sleep"

He injects her IV with the pain meds and after a little bit i notice angel relax substantially. "Thank you" she whispers as her eyes drift shut.

As soon as her eyes are shut, they open again. "Could you...could you tie me down? Please" she asks looking at Stefan and then at me.

She shakes her head and a tear slips down her cheek. "No. No, you should go home and take care of Theo"

angel looks like shes about to burst into tears, happy tears i hope. "You dont have to do that Stefan, really. I'll be fine alone if you tie me down"

He shakes his head "I'll stay with you. I don't want to tie you down, you don't need me to do that" she looks like she's about to protest but quickly holds back when she sees him glare at her.

We exchange goodbyes and I head to my car, ready to go home and leaving Angelica behind. She's safe Dante. Stefan is with her. You don't need to worry.

Once I arrive home I head inside and kick off my shoes, ready to climb into bed and sleep for eternity.

I notice Ivan on the couch and Mateo standing in the kitchen, but Theo and Sully are nowhere to be found. "What are you doing here?" Mateo asks once he notices me standing by the door.

I walk down the hall to the bathroom and find Sully sit on the floor leaning against the wall. He looks exhausted and doesn't seem to notice me as I walk towards him. Sully is amazing at his job. He has the reflexes and senses of a cat, so the fact he doesn't notice me just shows how tired he is.

I slide down the wall and sit on the floor. I hear his little sniffles from inside and I knock softly. "Theo? It's me Dante" I say, trying to sound as unthreatening as possible. "You remember me don't you? My wife is the girl who helped you"

We sit in quiet for a couple minutes but I make sure he knows I'm still out here. I don't want him to feel alone.

And then it's quiet again. He doesn't ask anymore questions or make any sounds for about 5 minutes when suddenly I hear a click. The door is unlocked.

Theo slowly walks out, still in the same clothes as before and still bruised and dirty. "Daddy didn't like me" he whispers and I can see the tears staining his cheeks. I pull

him by his arm into my lap and just sit there, holding him.

I pull back to look at his little face. "Your daddy loved you very much, but he was really sad and angry and he took that out on you. That wasn't fair" i wipe away his tears and hold his face in my hands. My hands look huge compared to his tiny head.

Suddenly he starts sobbing uncontrollably and clings to my neck. I'm frozen at first, not knowing if this is a good reaction or bad but quickly relax into the hug when i hear his voice. "Family" he whispers against my neck.

After waiting for Theo to calm down i decided to shower and change him. Obviously i have no clothes for a 4 year old kid i just met so i gave him one of my t-shirts that swamped him completely.

I carried him upstairs to angelicas old bedroom and put him to bed. He was out like a light, clearly exhausted.

They sit for a while, talking about living arrangements and i just listen quietly. The house that i bought is about 20 minutes away so if they all live here, it would be amazing. My whole family would be close together.

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I walk into Angelica's room with Theo's hand in mine. He seems quite nervous and very cautious of his surroundings but he really wanted to come with me

I see angelica still asleep in bed and Stefan packing up his things. "Good morning boss. Hi there Theo" he says with a smile

I walk over to the chair beside Angel's bed and lightly place my hand on her cheek. "Angel..." I whisper and she stirs slightly. "It's time to wake up"

Her eyes flutter open slowly and I smile "hey my baby. Did you sleep well?" she nods weakly and smiles. "How's your head? Are you in pain?"

She shakes her head and yawns. "I brought you some breakfast. Here, let me raise your bed" i say as i place the bag of food in her lap and use the remote to raise the back of her bed

He looks much better today. I had sully go pick up some basic things for him like clothes to wear for today, shoes, a kids toothbrush. Stuff like that.

I lift him up and set him on the bed since he's too small to get up by himself. "Are you okay Theo?" she asks again and he looks up at her with teary eyes

I open the bag of food and grab the containers. Freshly made pancakes with syrup and a container of strawberries just how angelica likes it

She frowns. "Does he know about what happened that night?" I nod and she frowns harder. "I had to tell him baby. Hes not mad at you, you know that right? He's just

worried"

God he's cute

Angel scowls at me but doesn't argue, probably because she knows I'm right.

I see Theo run over to the bed with a worried look on his face. "She's alright buddy. Calm down" I say as I place a hand on his shoulder. I pull out Angelica's inhaler from my jacket and hold it up

I walk into the waiting room to see the guys all sat around talking. Mateo notices me first and stands up. "how is she? Is she okay? Is her head alright?" he blurts out question after question.

I miss my parents and my little brother every day. Nobody could ever replace them, but this family? My new family? They are the next best thing. They're unique and crazy and i fucking love them all. They're perfect

Mateo comes out of Angel's room with a red and puffy face like he's been crying. "You alright man?" I ask and he nods. "Yea everything's good" he says with a smile.

## Page 74

*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

I stand in the doorway of the kitchen just watching my goddess wife baking with our boys. Yes, boys. As in plural.

Theo is almost 10 years old now. We officially adopted him just 6 months after Angelica found him and he was so excited. After 3 months of living with us he started calling angel 'mom' and about 8 months later he started calling me 'dad'

I'm not mad about him taking so long to see me as his father.

I knew he needed to learn to trust me and know that I would never hurt him.

Honestly when we first took him in, I never expected he would call either of us mom and dad but here we are.

6 years later and he sees us as his real parents just like we see him as our real son

About a year after Theo started living with us we realised he was quite lonely since he is the only kid we know. He does go to school but he's not very social. He's a very anxious boy and likes to stay home and spend time with us

We made the decision to adopt another child and lucky for us there was a situation which ended with us adopting a 14 month old baby. One of my men sadly took his own life after his wife passed away, leaving his 1 year old son without any family

Instantly we took him in and raised him as our own

Grayson Silas Santino

Angelica actually surprised me with his middle name. She refused to tell me the name she picked until we signed the adoption papers and when I found out, I cried.

Grayson and Theo get along great. When we brought Gray home Theo instantly got attached and now they're best friends. We did think the age difference might be a problem but they didn't seem to care at all

I watch as Angelica stands in between the boys. 7 year old Grayson on one side and 9 year old Theo on the other. The kitchen is a mess. Ingredients and dirty dishes scattered everywhere and they're all covered head to toe in flour, but they're having fun

Suddenly, the cat jumps onto the counter and sits on the bag of flour—covering them in even more of it.

The boys love Jasper. I've debated on getting them another cat, maybe even a dog. I know Angelica would love another pet of some kind and it would be nice for jasper to have another furry friend besides Ivan's cat coco

Once Angel puts the baked goods in the oven I decide to walk over. I wrap my arms around her waist and bury my face in her neck making her jump. "ciao bella" (hello beautiful)

I hum against her neck and trail my kisses up to her jaw. "Who else will be there?" I ask. She pants softly as i bite down on her neck, "um Mateo, I-Ivan, sully, Caitlin and Valerie" she mumbles

Caitlin is Ivan's girlfriend of 2 years.

She's a lovely girl. She's 27 with long blonde hair and blue eyes.

They actually met in a bookstore. Ivan managed to tear down an entire shelf display of books and Caitlin happened to be the owner.

He had to pay her the money for repairs and they ended up staying friends

Obviously that turned into more

Valerie on the other hand is a girl who's worked for me for about 8 or so years now. She's Angelica's best friend. They actually met through training. I had Val keep an eye on her during training sessions for the women who work for me and I guess they hit it off

Val is great. She's 28 with dark skin and long black braids that often change into a completely different hair style. She changes it up all the time and it's fascinating to me how many different hair styles she can appear in

She's an amazing fighter and an amazing seductress when it comes to work. She can play any role. If I need her on front lines, she's the best fighter on the team. If i need her on a mission, she is the best at seducing old rich men and getting information out of them

I never have to worry about her on missions because A. i know she can handle herself, and B. she's a lesbian and would never be caught dead falling for a man's bullshit

That's also why I allow Angelica to go out alone with just Val and no protection. Valerie is her protection. She wouldn't even let a bee harm Angel

I hum once again against Angel's neck and she whimpers softly. "W-what are you doing today?" she asks and I pull away. I brush a loose curl out of her face and cup her cheek

Roman now works for me. About 4 years ago I signed a deal with Lorenzo to share a shipment like he wanted. The deal was that in exchange for his half of the shipment, he had to let Roman go with no strings attached. Eventually he agreed and now Roman works for me and is now one of our close friends

She squeals happily. "Yay! I haven't seen Maya in so long!"

Suddenly the boys come running in. "Momma, are the cupcakes ready yet?" Grayson asks. "Not yet honey. Go get ready for training and I'll pack some up for you to take with your lunch okay?" she says sweetly and he nods and runs out the kitchen

She blushes and lightly punches my arm. "Dante we are in the kitchen" she whispers and I shrug. "Then I'll carry you to the bedroom baby. Either way i want you moaning my name before i have to leave"

I lean down and place my lips against hers before she can argue with me. She melts into the kiss and I smirk at how easily she folded just at my touch. "Bedroom?" i mumble against her lips and she nods

I swiftly lift her off the counter and carry her upstairs to our room, knowing the boys are probably in the game room in the basement and won't hear us.

As I walk into our room I throw angel onto the bed and she bounces slightly. I crawl on top of her with a smirk and trail kisses up her neck as my hands roam freely on her body

Her perfect fucking body

Angel's eating has improved so much. There are still some issues here and there but she is doing amazing and is so healthy now. Still a little too skinny for my liking but thats just due to metabolism, but she actually has some meat on her bones now and i

fucking love it

Her plump little thighs that are so mushy and biteable have become my new obsession—after her perfect round ass of course

I pull off her clothes and lean back just taking in the sight of her laying beneath me

The angel wings I got on my chest for her. My little angel

Angel sobbed when I showed her. I got it done before our wedding and revealed it that night. I couldn't tell if she was angry or happy at first but the sex that followed after gave me the answer

Her finger travels down to my forearm and traces over the tattoo's i got for Theo and Grayson. Their names circling around a stem of roses. Roses for Angelica's middle name

I smile as she slowly traces each letter as if it's her first time seeing them. It's not. Shes seen them a million times since i had them done but each time she gives the same satisfied look as she inspects evey detail

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*Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 3:04 am*

Thank you so much for reading my book.

This was my first published book on Wattpad and the first book ive written since I was 11 years old. I used to write a lot back then and I wrote 2 full books that I never did anything with.

I am currently 19 years old (at the time of writing this) and I feel as though my writing has improved the last 8 years but could still use some work.

This book was my test. I had an idea and I decided to turn it into a book. I wasn't following any rules or focusing much on making it 100% perfect and I feel like that's where I went wrong

I feel like the plot for this book is good but theres a lot of errors in terms of grammar/punctuation

I feel like theres also a lot of gaps in the plot and things I thought of writing but didn't because I felt like the book was getting too long.

I definitely have more ideas for this book (from before the 6 year time skip) and I will be writing them down somewhere just in case I want to make a published version of this book

But for now, maybe I will upload them as bonus chapters whenever I finish writing them

I am writing a new book! It is called 'The power of trust' and will be released here on

Wattpad

Charlotte Rose Meadows. An autistic 19 year old girl that enjoys spending time alone. She likes to keep to herself doing things she loves such as reading, painting, journaling and anything creative.

One day her party girl best friend encourages Charlotte to step out of her comfort zone and go to the club with her, giving Charlotte a fake ID to be allowed in

However that fake ID holds a dark and mysterious secret that will change her life forever

Xavier Moretti. A 28 year old Mafia don that hates everyone and everything.

Getting on Xavier's bad side is an invitation for death and is something you do not want to do.

He has spent 14 years searching for the man who killed his parents, or should I say the girl who killed his parents

Eliza Rose DeRussi pulled the trigger that caused the death of Xavier's parents and he intends to get revenge

So what happens when little Eliza Rose walks into Xavier's club after 14 years of him trying to find her?

"You know Eliza, you have such a pretty little face. It would be such a shame to see it scarred, wouldn't it?" he says as he drags the bloody knife along my cheek.

Wait...

Eliza?

He thinks my name is Eliza?

'What are the chances you happen to just walk into my club on a random Saturday night?'

His club...

MY FAKE ID!

"E-Eliza?" i mumble and he tilts his head slightly

"My name...i-its charlotte"