

Las Vegas Love Story.

Written by

ROSE DEMICA

Rosedemica@gmail.com

+64211588223

INT. CROWDED CLUB. VEGAS. NIGHT

NERO GABRIEL WALSH, 'GABRIEL', a rich young man is with a group of friends, surrounded by scantily dressed women who are drinking, dancing and flirting.

AVA WOLFE, a young female model, is at the bar, nursing a strong drink.

Gabriel goes to try talk to Ava, she brushes him off.

INT. CROWDED CLUB. VEGAS. LATER IN THE SAME NIGHT

Ava is dancing alone with a drink in her hand. She catches Gabriel's eye as he goes to leave. He goes to dance with her. Reaching for her waist, he startles her and she spills her drink on him.

Gabriel raises his hand to order two more drinks. Ava shakes her head and tries to leave, but he motions to his shirt. Ava relents and starts dancing with him.

EXT. MALL STRIP. VEGAS STREET.

An intoxicated Ava and Gabriel stumble up the street arm in arm. They pass a closed magazine stand, where Gabriel's face is plastered on most with the headline 'Vegas' most eligible bachelor'. Ava doesn't seem to notice them. The pair stumble into a well lit jewellery store, MR TAYLOR approaches them and guides them to the jewellery cabinets.

INT. GABRIEL'S BEDROOM. EARLY-AFTERNOON

Ava and Gabriel are wrapped around each other in bed, they are wearing matching golden wedding bands. Ava is wearing Gabriel's shirt. Gabriel's chest is bare, aside from a feminine wedding band on a chain around his neck.

Ava wakes first, getting up and putting on pants, Gabriel wakes and watches her attempt to sneak out. She goes towards one of two doors.

GABRIEL
Door's the other way, if you're
trying to sneak out.

AVA
(nervously)
I was just-

GABRIEL
Staying for breakfast right? Or
looking for the shower?

AVA
This was nice and all, but I've got
to go. Have a good life.

She kisses him briefly, his hand wraps around her waist as
she goes to leave.

GABRIEL
You sure I can't convince you to
stay for breakfast? It'll make me
feel better, and I'm sure you're
hungry.

AVA
I'm sure Party Boy.

GABRIEL
Gabriel.

She leaves, and he starts his morning routine.

AVA
(Off screen)
GABRIEL!!!

INT. MANSION FOYER. CONTINUOUS

Ava is trying to leave, but LANCE, an aging and well
dressed butler is blocking the exit. He is holding a silver
tray with two cups of coffee.

AVA
Gabriel!

A shirtless Gabriel appears at the top of the stairs.

GABRIEL
What's up?

AVA

Tell me this is some kind of sick
joke?

GABRIEL

What?

AVA

He says we are married!

Ava motions to Lance.

LANCE

Indeed sir, you and the young ma'am
asked to be picked up from the
chapel last night. I was unable to
stop you, as you called after the
ceremony was done. You both have
the rings to prove it.

They look at the rings. ANTON, Gabriel's father, enters the
foyer through the front door, he looks up from his
newspaper to Gabriel, he does not see Ava.

ANTON

Nero, put a shirt on and meet me in
your office.

GABRIEL

This is my house father, I shall do
as I please.

AVA

Whatever, this is stupid. I have to
go.

Ava takes off her ring and puts it on Lances tray.

GABRIEL

Where should I send the annulment
papers?

Anton looks up to see Ava and Lance.

ANTON

You got married?

AVA

And he's about to be unmarried,
excuse me.

Ava tries to leave, but Anton grabs her arm.

ANTON

Nero?

Ava attempts to pull her arm free, wincing when Anton's hold tightens.

GABRIEL

My name is Gabriel, father, and this is nothing but a drunken mistake, it shall be rectified shortly.

ANTON

You fool! You make this marriage work or you are cut off! I've been telling you for months to get your act together. This is the final straw.

Ava looks to Gabriel, expecting him to argue. He does not.

AVA

No, I refuse.

Ava cries out as he shakes her, hand on her arm tightening.

ANTON

You should have thought of that before you got my son drunk and married him.

AVA

Let me go!

Ava is freaking out, unable to free herself.

ANTON

Six months, I'll make it worth your while.

AVA

No!

Anton gets angrier. Ava flinches away and starts curling in on herself, taking deep breaths to try and calm down.

AVA

I cannot stay married to your son. It was a mistake, I want nothing from either of you except to be left alone. Please release me.

Ava turns to Gabriel.

AVA

You can announce our annulment as a public notice in the paper. I will not be required, nor will there be a hearing if neither of us contest the annulment.

Ava turns back to Anton

AVA

You, father of the year, have no right to force us to stay married. Now release me or I'll have you arrested for assault.

ANTON

And where did you get your law degree?

AVA

Harvard.

Anton is shocked, releasing her arm and stepping away. Ava rubs her arm.

AVA

So I can assure you, under Nevada state laws, we are more than qualified for an annulment. Good day.

Gabriel smirks victoriously as Ava leaves.

ANTON

Shirt. Office. Now.

GABRIEL

Door. Out. Now.

ANTON

Don't you use that tone with me boy! I mean it, if you do not remain married to that woman for at least six months I will cut you off and reclaim everything I've ever brought you. You had better figure something out with that woman.

GABRIEL

That's not fair! I don't even know her name! And if she's right, then I have no legal right to keep her married to me. No judge is going to

uphold the marriage agreement.

ANTON

You should have thought that through before you got married. I'll take care of the judges, you take care of your newest screw up. Now, we have urgent business matters.

GABRIEL

Clearly I have bigger problems right now. Lance, show my father the door.

ANTON

Nero-

GABRIEL

Gabriel, father. My name is Gabriel, I'd appreciate it if you'd remember that.

Gabriel leaves, and Lance motions to the front door.

LANCE

I believe the young master requested you leave sir.

Anton leaves.

INT. GABRIEL'S OFFICE - DAY ZERO, CONTINUOUS

Gabriel has his phone open, a wedding certificate on the desk beside him, he still has no shirt, but now has a cup of coffee. The names on the wedding certificate are barely legible.

INT. GABRIEL'S OFFICE - DAY ONE

Gabriel walks into his office, a cup of coffee in hand. Sits down at his desk and opens a search engine. He types 'Nevada State Annulment laws'.

INT. GABRIEL'S OFFICE - DAY TWO

Gabriel is looking at his phone as he walked into the room, looking more tired and distraught. He sits at his desk and pulls out a piece of paper, starting to try and decipher the second name on his marriage certificate. He tries a few different options before settling on 'Ava Wolfe' circling it.

INT. GABRIEL'S OFFICE - DAY THREE

Gabriel starts making a list of people with the name Ava Wolfe, and calling the people on that list, getting more and more frustrated with each one he crosses off.

INT. GABRIEL'S OFFICE - DAY FOUR

More phone calls, office is becoming messy. Open abandoned phone books piled up. Pieces of paper scattered everywhere. Rubbish bin overflowing.

INT. GABRIEL'S OFFICE - DAY FIVE

Gabriel has his head in his hands, sitting at his desk. Clearly having given up. Lance walks into the room with a stack of Harvard Year books.

GABRIEL

This is pointless. I can barely read her name. What if I got it wrong? I know nothing about her!

LANCE

If I may sir, she did tell your father that she attended Harvard, and that she studied Law. Have you tried looking for women with that background?

INT. GABRIEL'S OFFICE - DAY SIX

Gabriel has a pile of Harvard Law Year books that he's going through, pages flicking randomly to try find the mystery girl. He stops on one page, focusing on a photo of an overweight young woman, with the same eye color, but different hair style and color. The names seem to match, however he disregards it.

INT. GABRIEL'S OFFICE - DAY SEVEN

Lance walks in with big heavy manila envelope, places it gently in front of Gabriel. Gabriel seems confused, opens it to find the annulment papers and a letter. 'Looks like you weren't planning to. Your wife.'

EXT. LAS VEGAS COURT HOUSE STEPS. NOON (TWO WEEKS LATER)

Gabriel and a team of his fathers best lawyers are

waiting outside the court house. Gabriel has two body guards with him, and is holding two takeaway coffee's.

Ava arrives via taxi, trying to disguise herself under an over sized hoodie. Gabriel spots her first, and moves to her side, offering her one of the two cups. Ava does not take it.

AVA

You appealed the annulment?!

GABRIEL

I had no choice, take the damn coffee.

AVA

I thought we had an agreement!

GABRIEL

If I carry on with this annulment I will loose everything. So whatever deal you thought we had, is off. I will fight this annulment with everything I have, and I have a hell of a lot more than you Princess so I suggest we make a new deal.

Ava recoils away from him with each angry word.

AVA

I said no Party boy.

GABRIEL

Then I guess we'll see what the Judge says.

Gabriel offers her the coffee once more, and she slowly reaches out to take it from him. Taking the lid off to observe the coffee on the inside. She sticks her little finger in, and stirs the foam on the top hesitantly.

GABRIEL

It's a Latte, if you don't like it I can have my guys get you something different.

AVA

No, no. This is fine. Thank you.

GABRIEL

Can I walk you in?

AVA

This kindness won't change my mind.

They walk in together.

INT. LAS VEGAS COURT HOUSE JUDGING ROOM, CONTINUOUS

JUDGE BETTY is an older, grandmotherly woman. Gabriel is seated amongst his team of lawyers, looking relaxed and confident. Ava is seated on the other side, alone, with nothing but her coffee.

JUDGE BETTY

I am to understand that you, Miss Wolfe, have declined to have a lawyer present?

AVA

Your honor, I am a lawyer. I see no need to pay someone to do what I can do myself.

JUDGE BETTY

Very well, continue.

AVA

Your honor, Mr Walsh and I were highly intoxicated when we were wed. To an extent where neither of us remembered marrying the other until a member of his household staff informed me as I tried to leave the next day. Mr Walsh verbally confirmed that he had no memory of the event either. At that time, we entered into a verbal agreement to get an annulment. His father tried to stop the agreement by threatening Mr Walsh. I refused and left. It's on these grounds that I believe that Mr Walsh, my supposed husband, is being blackmailed to tie me into a marriage that I neither want nor can commit to.

JUDGE BETTY

Thank you Miss Wolfe, Mr Walsh, what do you have to say in your defense.

One of Gabriel's multiple lawyers stand up.

LAWYER #1

Your Honor, My Client admits that he originally plan to annul his marriage to Mrs Walsh, however, upon given time to think through his decision, he has come to see the error in that agreement. He decided not to file for annulment - which according to Mrs Walsh's 'verbal agreement' he was to do. He tried to find and contact Mrs Walsh to talk through this without the courts involvement when the annulment papers arrived at his place of residence.

JUDGE BETTY

As yet, Mr Walsh has not provided evidence to deny the plausibility of an annulment.

LAWYER #2

Your honor. We have a witness that we'd like to bring before the court.

AVA

Objection! I was not informed of any witness.

JUDGE BETTY

Over ruled Miss Wolfe, Mr Walsh, call forward your witness.

LAWYER #2

May we present Mr Taylor the jewelery store cashier from the store Mr and Mrs Walsh purchased their wedding rings from.

The courtroom doors open, and yet another lawyer ushers in a nervous man. He stops however, when he realizes exactly who is standing before him.

MR TAYLOR

Mr and Mrs Walsh! Congratulations on the marriage! Was my work okay? I'm sorry it was a bit of a rush job. If you're suing me, please, at least let me first try to redeem myself.

AVA

What is he on about?

GABRIEL

You see Princess, we took the time to stop and not only purchase wedding rings, but also engrave them with the date and a word.

Ava glares at Gabriel, whose leaning back in his seat confidently, watching her around one of his lawyers.

MR TAYLOR

Yes, you were both so in love. You didn't mind waiting the extra time it took. I've never seen a couple so happy, and I've been selling rings since I was a kid. I've seen all sorts before.

AVA

We are not in love. I don't even know this man.

LAWYER #1

Your honor, my client would like to propose a trial marriage agreement. Where in Mrs Walsh would move in with him, and act like his wife for half a year. My client believes in the sanctity of marriage, and doesn't wish to help ruin it by annulling his marriage before he has tried to make it work. If, at the end of the six months, Mrs Walsh still desires an annulment, my Client will, reluctantly, sign the papers with no further protest.

The Judge Betty looks to Ava, waiting for her to protest the offer.

AVA

Your honor, as generous as my apparent husbands offer is. I cannot commit to any time period trial. I am leaving the country in a few days. I am not expected to return for a few years. Your honor, I want nothing more from this man than a signature stating we are no longer wed in the eyes of the law. I made a mistake, and I

understand that it bares
consequences, but please do not
make this man suffer along with me.
We were both too drunk to
consent, the marriage is null and
void under Nevada State Law.

JUDGE BETTY

Do not tell me what is valid in
this state. Is there any reason,
within the law, that you cannot
stay wed to this man.

Ava doesn't answer straight away, her hand dropping to her
arm and massaging the bicep subconsciously.

JUDGE BETTY

Miss Wolfe, are you wed to another?

AVA

No, your honor.

JUDGE BETTY

Is there any reason you cannot stay
with this man, other than your line
of work?

AVA

Yes your honor.

Everyone waits, watching her expectantly for her to reveal
the reason.

AVA

But nothing I would feel
comfortable divulging in a court of
law with witnesses, your honor.

No one says anything, Gabriel gets up and goes to try
comfort Ava, but she turns to glare at him. He ignores her
and wraps an arm around her, pulling her into his chest.

GABRIEL

What are you so scared of? I can
give you everything you want.

AVA

No, you can't. I just want the
annulment, then I'll go. Please
Gabriel. Whatever he's blackmailing
you with, it can't be worse than
what will happen if I stay. You
have to let me go. For both our

safety.

GABRIEL

I can't.

JUDGE BETTY

Mr and Mrs Walsh. A word in private.

The judge stands, walking into a side room, waiting by the door for the pair.

INT. PRIVATE COURTHOUSE SIDE ROOM. CONTINUOUS

The judge sighs heavily, going and sitting behind a desk, motioning to the two seats in front of her. They sit looking to the Judge Betty who is slumped back in her seat.

JUDGE BETTY

Gabriel, what are you being blackmailed with?

GABRIEL

I'm not-

JUDGE BETTY

Cut the crap, you're Anton Walsh's son. You have the best lawyers money can buy, in there fighting for a marriage you are only pretending to want for my sake.

GABRIEL

Everything, if I'm not still married to her in six months time he will take my entire life away from me. He wants me to learn from my mistake, start taking responsibility or whatever.

JUDGE BETTY

And you, Ava Wolfe, who are you running from?

AVA

Your honor-

JUDGE BETTY

I get it, but how do you even know if they're still chasing you. You can't stop living your life because you're scared.

AVA

I can't go to the police, but I can prove he's still looking for me. I don't know how much longer I have. I sent a false trail to France. He knows I always wanted to live there, and I've been doing modeling work there, making sure I'm in the public eye there so I can be safe here. I don't have much longer before he realizes. I need to set up another cover, move to another place. I can't go back, and I can't stay.

GABRIEL

I can protect you.

AVA

No, you can't. No one can.

JUDGE BETTY

Let me get this straight. Ava, you can't stay, and Gabriel, you can't let her have the annulment.

GABRIEL

Yes.

AVA

Yes your honor.

JUDGE BETTY

I will be honest. I have no idea what to do. Legally, there is nothing stopping Ava from getting the annulment. She's right, neither of you could consent, you were too intoxicated, regardless of the witness you managed to find.

GABRIEL

but?

JUDGE BETTY

but, I know your father. It won't just be the end of you. It'll be the end of me, or any Judge who grants you an annulment. Anton Walsh isn't just blackmailing Gabriel.

AVA

So what does that mean for the annulment?

The Judge Betty straightens up, looking between the duo.

JUDGE BETTY

It means, that your annulment request, Mrs Walsh, is denied. You, Mr Walsh, need to increase security around your house, her place of work, as well as hire bodyguards of her own. I'm sorry Ava, but I can't risk my family over this.

Ava starts to protest, but she is ignored.

JUDGE BETTY

Mr Walsh, if any harm befalls your wife in the next six months, I will come after you with the full extent of the law. Do not make me regret this decision.

Judge Betty stands, and Ava automatically does the same.

JUDGE BETTY

(Suggestively)

Make the most of the next six months Mrs Walsh. Your new father-in-law is a very powerful man.

The Judge Betty walks out of the room, and Ava flops back down into the seat with a groan.

GABRIEL

I am sorry.

He squeezes her shoulder gently before following after the Judge. Ava sighs, slowly getting up and doing the same.

INT. LAS VEGAS COURT HOUSE JUDGING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Everyone is settled back into their respective places.

JUDGE BETTY

I have reached my decision. I shall approve Mr Walsh's request for a marriage trial. He shall provide and care for Mrs Walsh like a wife, and in return she shall live with him. In order to insure this arrangement is suitable to both

parties, I shall also personally check up on you as and when I desire. If either of you steps out of the bounds of the agreement, the annulment will commence immediately - in Mr Walsh's case, or the time frame extended in Mrs Walsh's. I wish you both a very happy marriage.

The Judge Betty bangs her gravel, and leaves again swiftly. Every lawyer in the room stands while she makes her departure. Gabriel's lawyers are all congratulating themselves on a successful resolution, while Ava is trying very hard to maintain a straight face.

GABRIEL

Let's get you home wife.

Gabriel walks over to her once more, wrapping his arm around her waist and leading her out of the building. Ava leans her head against his shoulder.

AVA

I don't want anyone to get hurt because of me.

GABRIEL

We'll handle it okay? Everything will be fine. I promise.

INT. GABRIEL'S FOYER. LATE AFTERNOON

Gabriel and Ava walk through the front door, Gabriel is carrying a large black duffel bag, and Ava is clutching a very full over the shoulder satchel closely to her chest, we can see a overflowing file inside it.

LANCE

Mrs Walsh, welcome home. Sir called ahead and informed us of the court outcome. If you'll follow me, we've organized a room for you.

Ava flinches back towards Gabriel, but Lance ignores her. Stepping closer to take the duffel bag from Gabriel.

GABRIEL

You remember Lance? He's the head butler and in charge of all the household staff. If I'm not around you can ask him for anything.

LANCE
You alright Ma'am?

Ava steps away from Gabriel, looking between the two men.

AVA
Sorry, it's been a long day.

Lance is concerned about Ava, who looks terrified and out of place.

LANCE
Are the rest of Ma'am's bags in the car still sir? I shall have someone fetch them at once.

AVA
No need, this is everything I own.

Lance is shocked, slowly lifting the bag up and down, curious as to how she can own so little. Gabriel nudges him, and shakes his head. The Head butler nods once and doesn't question it further.

LANCE
Of course Ma'am.

GABRIEL
Let me show you around your new castle princess.

Gabriel rests a gentle hand on her shoulder to get her attention, and she flinches away automatically, shrinking in on herself.

LANCE
May I take your bag Ma'am?

AVA
No, Thank you.

Ava looks back to Gabriel.

AVA
What do you expect of me?

GABRIEL
Let's not do this now Ava. There is plenty of time for that.

AVA
Please. I'd rather do it all in one go than have it hanging over my

head.

GABRIEL
Let's go to my-our office.

INT. JOINT OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON.

Gabriel holds open the door for Ava, letting her walk into the room ahead of him. It's been totally rearranged to fit two desks.

GABRIEL
You don't have to use it, I can
have one of the bedroom's converted
into a separate office for you.
Just let me know what you want.

Ava doesn't answer, putting her laptop bag down on the empty desk, locking the thick file away in the top drawer of the empty desk and tucking the key into her pocket.

AVA
This is amazing. Thank you.

GABRIEL
You asked me what I wanted from
you.

Gabriel sighs, and Ava stiffens, focusing on one of the bookshelves, refusing to turn and face him.

GABRIEL
And truthfully. I want you to be
happy, well, as happy as you can be
given the circumstances. I know
neither of us want this. As a
Walsh, there will be a lot of Media
pressure to deal with, which I'm
sure you're used to as a Model. I
always dealt with it by pretending
to be a player living off his
fathers money. Which is what my
father wants to believe as well. I
need for us to provide a united
front in the eyes of the media.
Just for my fathers benefit.

Ava looks to Gabriel as he hangs in head in his hands.

GABRIEL
I know it's a lot to ask, and I'm
sorry. I never should have... this

is all my fault.

AVA

It takes two to get married
Gabriel. I am as much to blame as
you are.

Gabriel shakes his head.

GABRIEL

I got you drunk, I should have just
left you alone like you wanted. All
I want to do now is make this all
up to you. These six months, I am
at your beck and call. My money,
everything and anything you need,
just ask.

AVA

and all you want from me is to act
happily married in public?

GABRIEL

That's all I want. What are your
terms? What do you need from me?

AVA

Nothing.

GABRIEL

Surely that's not true?

AVA

Just, let me keep working, and
don't spend your fathers money on
me, or your own. I don't want that
kind of debt hanging over me.

GABRIEL

You're my wife, what's mine is
yours. I can't promise not to spend
money on you. I can promise,
however, that the money won't be my
fathers and that it will be spent
with no conditions attached. You
won't owe me a cent when this is
over.

Ava hesitates, thinking things through before nodding.

AVA

You have yourself a deal Mr Walsh.

GABRIEL

Thank you.

Gabriel takes a step towards her, but then stops. Turning to sit at his desk as Ava starts setting up her own.

INT. GABRIEL'S BEDROOM. MORNING

Gabriel is fast asleep on his stomach, head turned to the side. When Ava storms in, his bedroom door practically ripped off its hinges. Gabriel is startled awake by a magazine thrown at his face.

GABRIEL

What the fu- Ava?

AVA

What is that?!

Gabriel sits up, the duvet falls down to his lap, showing off his bare chest. He looks at the magazine that was thrown at him. On the front is the image of him smiling with a woman. He instantly knows its her, despite not being able to see her face. The magazine editor has drawn attention to the gold ring around his finger, the same hand holding a cup of take away coffee. The headline reading 'Las Vegas' most eligible bachelor married?' Gabriel flicks through the gossip magazine, reading the article that accompanies it.

GABRIEL

What bothers you about it?

Gabriel puts the magazine aside to give her his full attention. Ava looks very flustered, and starts trying to explain.

GABRIEL

Come here.

He pats the bed beside him, Ava shakes her head, and Gabriel doesn't push her further.

GABRIEL

You can't see your face, all they know is I met up with a beautiful mystery woman, and I was wearing a wedding ring. They were going to find out that I was married sooner or later. Please tell me what's upsetting you so I can fix it.

Ava sighs, crossing over to the bed and sitting on the edge of it. Her back facing him. Gabriel reaches for her, but then lets his hand drop before it touches her.

AVA

I'm just... it's just... I've spent so long avoiding the camera's, unless I was modeling. It's... He's going to find out.

GABRIEL

And we'll deal with that when it happens. He won't touch you.

Ava turns towards him.

AVA

Why won't you listen to me when I say you can't protect me?

Gabriel opens his mouth to say something.

AVA

Just forget it. I wouldn't expect a party boy like you to understand.

Ava leaves.

GABRIEL

Ava!

Gabriel throws off the duvets, following after her.

INT. GABRIEL'S HOUSE HALLWAY CONTINUOUS

She ignores him, until he reaches out and grabs her around the arm. She screams, and falls back against the wall, trying to avoid him. Gabriel backs up quickly, holding his hands out, trying to show his pure intentions. The household staff rush into the room, looking for a threat. They retreat again quickly at one hand motion from Gabriel. Ava doesn't notice them, curled in on herself.

GABRIEL

Ava, take deep breaths for me sweetheart.

Gabriel starts to lead by example. Kneeling down in front of her, his hands over his knees. Making sure to keep them flat and in her view. Ava looks up at him, mimicking his breaths.

GABRIEL
Hey Princess. I'm sorry for scaring
you.

Ava shakes her head, looking away from him.

AVA
I'm fine.

GABRIEL
Ava-

AVA
Sorry for disturbing you.

Ava pushes herself to her feet, walking away. This time,
Gabriel lets her go. Watching her from his spot on the
floor.

LANCE
Is everything okay sir?

GABRIEL
I- Perhaps- This was a bad idea.

LANCE
If I may, you just need to give her
time. She is already uncomfortable,
and given her history...

GABRIEL
You found it?

LANCE
Of course Sir. I would suggest
eating before looking through it,
otherwise I am afraid you'll lose
your appetite.

GABRIEL
In the office?

Gabriel gets up and starts walking away.

LANCE
Of course sir.

INT. OFFICE - 15 MINUTES LATER

Gabriel is sitting at his desk, the space directly ahead of
him empty apart from a huge manila folder with

'confidential' stamped on the front. The words printed upon it reading. A hospital name, 'Patient Wolfe-Ava.' (Social Security Number).

Off to the side is his dishes from breakfast. Gabriel leans back in his seat, looking around the empty office, before opening the file. He skips over the pages of words, until he reaches the pictures. They mimic the same photo in the Harvard law yearbook. She is overweight, her hair is a different color, and not styled. There are x-rays of broken bones, photos of her black and blue all over. Hooked up to what appears to be life support. He skips to the last page, it isn't a photo. It's a doctors hand written note in bold, 'Suspected Domestic Abuse.' scribbled along the bottom is one part word that Gabriel struggles to make out. 'L.E.O.'

Lance is standing behind him, arms folded in front of him. Not saying anything, but watching the pictures as they flip in front of him. Gabriel is progressively getting more and more angry, but Lance keeps an impressively straight face. Gabriel holds the form up behind him, Lance taking a step closer in order to read it.

LANCE

I believe it say's 'Leo' sir,
however, I cannot presume to
understand what that means.

GABRIEL

I want to know the name of the scum
that would dare to lay a hand on
her!

Gabriel stands, throwing the folder at the wall, Lance doesn't flinch.

GABRIEL

Hire her more bodyguards, five,
minimum, every moment of every day.
I want more security around the
house. No one else will harm her.
She is my wife, it is my duty to
protect her.

LANCE

Of course young master. Anything
else?

GABRIEL

No, thank you Lance.

Lance picks up all the scattered bits of paper, sliding them back into the folder and placing it on the desk beside

Gabriel. Lance walks to the door before pausing.

LANCE

Sir?

Gabriel looks at him.

LANCE

Your wife's wedding band sir. I
would assume you'd want to return
it to her?

Lance pulls a ring out of his pocket, handing it to Gabriel, before leaving the office. Gabriel runs his hands over the ring, looking at it carefully, before sliding it into his pocket and pulling his laptop towards him.

INT. GABRIEL'S OFFICE - LATE EVENING.

Gabriel looks up in shock when a knock sounds on the door. He looks stressed, a pen behind an ear, papers scattered everywhere.

AVA

Mr Walsh?

Gabriel slumps back when Ava steps into the room with a plate of food.

GABRIEL

Call me Gabriel, please. Mr Walsh
is my father.

Ava walks closer, bowing her head before offering him his food.

AVA

Sorry Gabriel, Lance said you
normally work through dinner. So I
thought I'd bring some up.

Gabriel looks at the time, before smiling at her.

GABRIEL

That's lovely, thank you Ava.

AVA

And I owe you an apology, I over
reacted earlier. I'm sorry.

Ava walks closer and puts the plate down, before standing just off to his left, forcing Gabriel to turn to keep

talking to her.

GABRIEL

You have no need to be sorry Ava.
I've given you no reason to trust
me, it's only natural. For what
it's worth, I'm sorry for startling
you. I will try my best not to do
it again.

Ava opens her mouth to say something, but then shuts it and
shakes her head.

AVA

Enjoy your meal Party Boy.

She turns to leave.

GABRIEL

Have you eaten?

Ava shakes her head.

GABRIEL

Then I'll join you.

Gabriel picks up his plate, and motions for her to lead
them way.

INT. DINING ROOM. CONTINUOUS

Lance is smiling as he sets another plate of food on the
table. Watching Gabriel pull out a chair for Ava before
sitting in the one directly opposite it.

The newly wed couple eat in silence, occasionally glancing
at each other.

GABRIEL

Ava, I have a business dinner with
my father tomorrow. Would you like
to accompany me?

Ava hesitates.

GABRIEL

You don't have to if you don't want
to. I'm not forcing you into
anything.

AVA

No, this was our deal. I will join

you.

GABRIEL

Thank you.

Gabriel reaches into his pocket, pulling out the gold ring he'd brought for her when he was too drunk to remember. He looks at it, glancing up at her, and sliding it back into his pocket when she didn't notice his actions.

AVA

May I ask a question?

Gabriel nods, taking another bite of food.

AVA

I noticed that you have another ring around your neck. Did you have another wife?

Gabriel's hand drops down to the chain around his neck, smiling sadly.

GABRIEL

No, it was my mothers. She passed away when I was young.

AVA

I'm sorry, I shouldn't have pried.

GABRIEL

No, it's fine. My father won't talk about her, it's nice to every once and a while.

AVA

Tell me about her?

GABRIEL

On one condition.

Ava tilts her head curiously.

GABRIEL

You wear a wedding band and an engagement ring for the next six months.

AVA

Do you still have it?

Gabriel silently holds out the band, watching her reach out for it.

GABRIEL
Allow me Princess.

Ava lets him slide the ring onto her left ring finger. Gabriel smiles, kissing her hand before letting her take it back.

GABRIEL
I have an engagement ring upstairs.
It was my mothers, but I think she
wouldn't mind letting you use it.

AVA
I couldn't possibly-

GABRIEL
I want you to. Lance?

Lance walks out of the room, returning with a closed red ring box.

GABRIEL
If you don't like it, I can buy you
another. Just tell me okay?

Gabriel takes the box off Lance, walking around the table and getting it down on one knee.

GABRIEL
Ava, will you be my wife?

Ava frowns, glancing between Gabriel and the closed box he was holding.

GABRIEL
For the next six months.

Ava takes the box out of his hand, opening it. Surprised too see an antique looking gold sapphire ring.

AVA
It's beautiful, but I can't wear
your mothers ring.

Gabriel stands, taking the ring out of the box and sliding it into her finger, smiling as he holds onto her hand.

GABRIEL
I can't think of a better place for
it.

LANCE
Sir, you have an urgent phone call

in the office.

Gabriel sighs, kissing Ava's hand again, before releasing it.

GABRIEL

Forgive me.

Gabriel leaves, Ava is still silent staring at the ring on her finger.

LANCE

The young master knows his father well Ma'am. His father is aware that Gabriel intended to use the ring for his bride. If it was not on your hand, then Mr Walsh would suspect something was afoot.

Ava seems to be put at ease by Lance's words, nodding before returning to her meal.

INT. GABRIEL BEDROOM - MID MORNING

Gabriel is sleeping when Ava storms in with another few magazines in hand. She is freaking out

AVA

GABRIEL!

AVA (CONT'D)

There is more! They found our wedding certificate!

GABRIEL

(sleepily)

Who found what now?

Ava throws the Magazines at him, and he looks down to see an image of her from a photoshoot, and one of him from a red carpet event side by side, with a smaller picture of their wedding certificate and a giant headline 'secret marriage'.

GABRIEL

Oh, I thought we'd have more time.

AVA

It's everywhere, he's going to find me, and then- I need to go.

Gabriel gets up, following her.

INT. AVA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ava is grabbing clothes and shoving them into her duffle bag.

GABRIEL

Ava-

She ignores him,

GABRIEL

Ava!

He moves her duffle bag and sits down where it was, forcing her to stop.

GABRIEL

(Softly)

You are safe, nothing will happen,
he can't get you here.

He puts her hands on his chest, taking deep breaths, she copies him.

AVA

Sorry

GABRIEL

It's okay, what happened?

AVA

Lance was trying to hide these from
me, but I found them and- I'm
terrified, you don't deserve what
he'll do to you.

Gabriel wraps his arms around her, pulling her into his chest as she cries.

GABRIEL

I will protect you, and not just
because I have to, because I want
to.

AVA

Can we go do something? I don't
want to be alone right now.

GABRIEL

Of course, we could stay here and
explore the gardens, or we could go
out somewhere. We have the business
dinner tonight, but we can do

anything else until then.

A pause while Ava thinks.

AVA

Can we explore the gardens? And I asked my agent to send me a dress for tonight, can someone accept it when it arrives?

GABRIEL

Of course princess, I'll tell Lance. If you're ready then I'll go get dressed and we can meet downstairs?

AVA

Oh, yeah.

Ava gets off of Gabriel's lap, he kisses her head before leaving.

INT. FOYER - 30 MINS LATER

Ava is sitting on the stairs reading one of the magazine articles. Gabriel enters from the top of the stairs, Lance from one of the side doors, (Kitchen) with a picnic basket.

GABRIEL

Ava?

Ava looks up, puts the magazine aside and stands.

AVA

I'm ready.

Gabriel hooks her arm through his as he reaches her, before walking to the base of the stairs.

LANCE

I packed you both a picnic lunch, well breakfast in sir's case. There is also some hot coffee in there.

GABRIEL

Thank you.

Gabriel leads Ava into the garden.

EXT. BACK GARDENS - CONTINUOUS

The Gardens is a huge area, most is covered in flowers, but there are some hedges and a number of pathways.

AVA

Wow

GABRIEL

I had it planted in honor of my mother, she loved flower gardens.

AVA

I always wanted one of my own, but I wasn't allowed, and now I don't stay anywhere long enough to bother.

GABRIEL

Well, if you want, these gardens can be all yours as long as you're here. Lance hired some gardeners to do the upkeep, but we can have them refer to you.

AVA

I'll think about it.

EXT. GARDENS - LATER (1PM-ISH?)

Ava and Gabriel are laughing and joking around with each other, much like they had at the club.

GABRIEL

I'm starving, are you ready for lunch?

AVA

How about over here?

Ava leads the way over to a grassy space surrounded by flowers.

GABRIEL

Looks perfect.

They unpack a blanket, and lay it out before pulling out all kinds of food.

AVA

So, about tonight?

GABRIEL

Yeah?

AVA

What should I expect? What will
your father expect of me? Of us?

GABRIEL

Good point, we should have a story
to tell the reporters too.

AVA

Reporters?!

GABRIEL

The business dinner is the opening
of a new restaurant, not one of my
dads, a rival company's.

AVA

I don't think I should-

Gabriel ignores her

GABRIEL

Father will expect us to be polite,
and answer a bunch of questions,
make Nero's look really good. As
for our sudden marriage, I think it
would be best if we pretend it was
real, that we did it on purpose.
That might make your ex back down.
So we can say we've been secretly
dating for a while, long distance,
seeing as you're based overseas. We
got married in a private ceremony
recently?

AVA

Maybe I should just stay here.

GABRIEL

You can't hide for the rest of your
life, please come with me. I'd
rather not be alone with my father.

AVA

It's too dangerous.

GABRIEL

You will have 5 bodyguards for just
you. I promise I am doing
everything in my power to keep you
safe. I know your scared.

Gabriel takes Ava's hands.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
But you can't keep hiding.

Ava takes a deep breath, before nodding.

AVA
Okay, I'll come with you.

GABRIEL
I won't let anything harm you.

They go back to eating.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
Father will want us to take notes,
so we can compare the new
restaurant to ours and react. But
that should be everything.

AVA
We should stay together, so the
lies we tell will be the same.

GABRIEL
I will do my best to never leave
your side.

Ava laughs

GABRIEL
Enough shop talk, you were telling
me about Paris?

EXT. GARDENS, AFTER LUNCH

Gabriel and Ava are walking hand in hand,

GABRIEL
I have one last spot to show you.

Gabriel pulls her off of the path, leading her into a
hidden area. Flowers and a bench are in a small clearing,
as well as a plaque in the flowers.

AVA
Wow

GABRIEL
This is where I come to remember my
mom. She would have loved this
spot.

Ava sits beside him.

AVA
It's so beautiful. The view is
amazing.

Gabriel is watching her.

GABRIEL
It is.

Ava turns to look at him. The pair lean in to kiss each other, but when they realize they turn away.

INT. OFFICE. MID-AFTERNOON

Gabriel and Lance are alone in his office.

GABRIEL
I'm worried about her.

LANCE
This is not what she wanted, and
considering her past I can
understand why she's scared.

GABRIEL
I'm just worried she might do
something drastic.

LANCE
I'll have the staff keep an eye
out, and make sure the security
staff are on alert.

GABRIEL
Thanks Lance, I have this bad
feeling.

INT. AVA'S BEDROOM, AFTERNOON

Ava is wearing a dressing gown and applying makeup, getting ready for the opening. Her hair is half done.

Knock on the door

LANCE (O.S.)
Ma'am? Judge Betty is here to
follow up.

AVA
Oh, uh, send her in?

LANCE (O.S.)
I'll go get her.

Ava looks nervous, trying to rush the other half of her hair. A knock on the door.

JUDGE BETTY (O.S.)
Mrs Walsh, is it alright if I come in.

AVA
Sure

Judge Betty enters, and closes the door behind her. She is dressed in casual clothing.

JUDGE BETTY
Sorry for intruding, I just wanted to check up on you and Mr Walsh. Make sure proper arrangements had been made to keep you safe.

AVA
Oh

JUDGE BETTY
How are you doing?

AVA
Gabriel's been looking after me.

JUDGE BETTY
Not quite what I meant dear.

Ava sighs, and goes back to doing her make-up.

AVA
I don't know, it's hard to tell. I get really worried when I see magazine pictures of me - especially the ones in the last few days. I'm terrified he'll come hunt me down, and I can't do anything about it. Just wait here.

JUDGE BETTY
You can't run forever Ava, you need to do something to stop this. Use the Walsh name, it will open a lot of doors for you.

AVA
I don't know-

JUDGE BETTY
Just think about it. I'll let you
get back to getting ready.

AVA
Thanks Judge.

Judge Betty leaves.

INT. OFFICE. CONTINUOUS

Gabriel and Lance are going over some last minute details,
Judge Betty enters.

GABRIEL
How is she?

JUDGE BETTY
She seems alright, struggling a
bit, but thats expected. Lance did
you get me the security assessment?

Lance hands over a thick folder, and Judge Betty looks over
it.

JUDGE BETTY
Well, you are both sticking to your
sides of the arrangement. I shall
go for a walk around and then leave
you be. Thank you for your time.

LANCE
If you will allow it, I shall
escort you where ever you wish to
go.

JUDGE BETTY
If Mr. Walsh no longer requires
your assistance?

GABRIEL
I have to go get ready, there is
nothing more than we can do before
tonight, enjoy your walk.

All three leave.

INT. LOBBY. EARLY EVENING

Gabriel is standing in the foyer, waiting for Lance to tie up the rich blue tie he had left undone.

GABRIEL

Ava!

LANCE

Patience sir, she is a model, and a female. She will be here when she is ready.

AVA

One minute! Patience Party Boy, you should know how long it takes.

Gabriel shuffles impatiently, checking his watch and adjusting his coat once more. He stops instantly when Ava appears on the balcony, staring as Ava looked at the knee length flowing Sapphire dress, hands twisting the ends as she avoided his gaze.

GABRIEL

You look stunning Ava.

Gabriel makes his way up the stairs, reaching for her. His hands rest on her waist, just below the white band that wrapped around the bust.

AVA

I am a model.

Ava shrugs off his complement. Gabriel shakes his head with a chuckle, catching her chin and making her look up at him.

GABRIEL

You look beautiful, gorgeous, stunning, absolutely breathtaking. Thank you for coming with me tonight.

Gabriel kisses her forehead.

LANCE

Excuse me Sir, Ma'am, the car has arrived. If you are ready to depart?

GABRIEL

If I may?

Gabriel offers her his arm with a playful bow, Ava smiles,

hooking her arm through his.

EXT. RED CARPET IN FRONT OF THE RESTAURANT - EARLY EVENING

A limo pulls up to a red carpet, the place is swarming with the restaurant industries top chefs and restaurant owners. Both celebrities and celebrity chefs posing for photo's and talking to both the fans and paparazzi that lined the path to the newest 'Angel's Court' Restaurant.

Anton is waiting by the limo with a scowl.

ANTON

What took you so long? It's bad
enough we have to show face here.

Gabriel ignores his father, turning back to offer Ava a hand. Camera's go crazy as she stepped out of the limo, wrapping her hand around his arm.

GABRIEL

Traffic father. Be kind.

AVA

So this is your biggest
competition?

ANTON

More like my biggest waste of time.
They'll fail within the year.

GABRIEL

That's what you said last year
father, and the year before that.
Yes sweetheart, this is my father's
biggest competition.

AVA

So why are we here? If it's the
competition shouldn't you be
avoiding it?

ANTON

No, foolish woman. We are spying on
them. It was their fault for
inviting us.

GABRIEL

Father! Treat me as you wish, but
do not insult my wife.

Gabriel leads Ava away before Anton can say anything else.

The pair ignore the continuing Camera Flashes, Ava stretches up to whisper in Gabriel's ear.

AVA
I don't like him.

Gabriel laughs at her admission, wrapping his arm around her waist.

GABRIEL
Me neither, but he's my father. I have to deal with him.

AVA
Touche.

Ava leans into Gabriel, smiling up at him as he does the same. Holding for a moment to allow photos before Gabriel keeps leading her further and further away from his father. Straight into the first interview. Ava stays quiet so Gabriel can answer any question.

AVA
Gabriel?

GABRIEL
Yes Princess?

Gabriel pulls his attention from the reporter as Ava calls for him. Seeing something he can't over his shoulder.

AVA
Your father wants you.

Ava motions to Anton, who is motioning for his son to join him in speaking to a different interviewer.

GABRIEL
So he does. Could you excuse me?

Gabriel kisses the top of Ava's head, before leaving her alone with the reporter. The reporter smiles, turning to the newest Walsh with more questions.

REPORTER 1:
Ava Wolfe? New up and coming Model?

AVA
Yes Ma'am,

REPORTER 1:
We were unaware you and Mr Walsh were an item.

- - - - -

Anton and Gabriel start arguing in the background. Gabriel walks away from his father, shrugging off the hand that closes around his arm. He walks towards Ava, but pauses to listen to her and calm down before he actually approaches her.

AVA

Gabriel and I wanted to keep our relationship under the radar for as long as possible. We both live such public lives, that we just wanted this to be for ourselves. Especially seeing as I'm based in Paris, and he's working with his father here.

REPORTER 1:

How long have you two been married?

GABRIEL

Nearly a month now. I couldn't keep her a secret any longer.

Gabriel wraps his arms around Ava's waist, dropping his head to her shoulder.

GABRIEL

Gossiping about me sweetheart?

AVA

Me? Never. What did your father want?

Ava folds her arms over Gabriel's, entwining their hands over her stomach as she teases him. Ava spots the camera man and stares for a moment. The man is TYRELL (Fit, Muscular man from Sierra Leone), in disguise, despite the long look, she doesn't recognize him.

GABRIEL

Nothing Important. Ready to move on?

REPORTER 1:

Thanks for your time Mr and Mrs Walsh. Congratulations on your marriage

GABRIEL

(In Unison)

Thank you

AVA

(In Unison)
Thank you

They continue down the red carpet, talking with other chefs, posing for photos, and answering questions, until they reach the end of the walkway.

INT. RESTAURANT LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Once inside Gabriel's arm drops from Ava's waist, and she pulls away from him. They are alone in the building, everyone else still outside talking, etc.

GABRIEL
You alright?

Ava nods, not replying aloud as she takes deep breaths.

GABRIEL
We can go, we are under no
obligation to stay if you aren't
feeling up to this.

AVA
I'm fine.

Ava straightens up, forcing a smile on her lips.

GABRIEL
Ava...

Ava closes the gap between them, resting her head on his shoulder.

AVA
Please. I want to keep my half of
our agreement.

Gabriel wraps his arms around her, kissing the top of her head before resting his head against hers.

GABRIEL
If it gets too much we'll leave.

AVA
I'm not- it's just-

GABRIEL
You were in an emotionally and
physically abusive relationship
Ava. I'm not blaming you, but I
would love to get my hands on the

idiot that thought it was okay to hurt you.

AVA
He didn't-

GABRIEL
(harshly)
Don't lie to me.

Ava flinches away slightly, whimpering.

GABRIEL
Crap, sorry I didn't mean-

AVA
It's fine. I'm fine. Can we go sit?
These heels are killing me.

Ava smiles up at him, but it doesn't mask her pain very well.

GABRIEL
Of course Princess.

Gabriel motions for the hostess, who has been waiting out of sight. Instantly the woman walks into the room.

HOSTESS
Right this way.

INT. RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

The restaurant is a large hall filled with various sized tables. Ranging from an intimate two person table to a large twelve top. The kitchen is open plan, with customers able to see into the kitchen. Waitstaff were standing against the wall near the kitchen, ready to help out when they were needed. Several hosts are also scattered throughout the room, ready for the big rush.

The hostess leads the duo to the table nearest the kitchen, it is set for 12 people. Gabriel stands behind the seat closest to the kitchen with a good view.

HOSTESS
Would you like to sit beside or
opposite your husband ma'am?

Ava looks to Gabriel, wondering what he would prefer.

GABRIEL

Up to you sweetheart.

AVA
Beside please.

Gabriel pulls out the seat beside him instantly, pushing it back in once she's seated. He takes his seat next to her, he puts his arm around her chair, careful not to touch her, and looks up to the waitress.

GABRIEL
Is everything in order?

HOSTESS
Of course sir. Everything is under control.

Ava glances between the pair curiously, but doesn't say anything.

GABRIEL
Excellent.

The Chief hostess smiles, and with a simple motion, calls everyone to attention.

HOSTESS
Let's make this the best opening ever!

The waitstaff cheer for a second, before composing themselves and spreading out across the restaurant. Noise fills the room as guests start filing in, hosts showing them to their seats. Anton is the first lead to their table, to the seat exactly opposite Gabriel, with his back to the kitchen.

ANTON
Notes on Everything, both of you.

Anton slaps down a note book glaring at both Gabriel and Ava. Neither has a chance to respond before celebrity guests are lead to the table. Gabriel smiles, squeezing Ava to him gently.

GABRIEL
You doing okay?

Ava nods, greeting those who greet her.

INT. GABRIEL'S BEDROOM. LATE MORNING

- - - - -

Gabriel rolls over, glancing at the time then looking at the door beneath his arm. Then back at the time.

GABRIEL

Lance!

Lance walks into the room with painkillers and a glass of water, but Gabriel just waves the offerings away.

GABRIEL

Where's my wife? She's normally stormed in here by now.

LANCE

I haven't seen her this morning, I presume she is merely sleeping late. Would you like me to check in on her?

GABRIEL

No, let her sleep.

Gabriel rolls over, reaching for his phone and starting to scroll through the media's coverage of last night.

LANCE

Might I remind you of your fathers impending arrival to discuss last night? He shall be here for lunch in little more than an hour.

GABRIEL

Give Ava another few minutes, then wake her. Father will probably want her input, and don't let him near my office.

LANCE

Of course Sir.

Lance leaves.

INT. GABRIEL'S FOYER. NOON-ISH

Everything seems to be in complete disarray as Anton lets himself into the house. Household staff are moving from room to room. Gabriel's frantic yelling can be heard in the background.

GABRIEL

-She'd do something desperate!

Anton reaches out to stop one of the household staff, but they avoid him expertly.

ANTON

NERO!!

Everything comes to a grinding halt. All eyes flickering to the top of the stairs where Gabriel appears.

GABRIEL

This is a really bad time father.

Anton raises an eyebrow at his son.

ANTON

So I see. Nevertheless, time is money and we have a meeting to attend to. Come, and bring that wife of yours.

Anton turns towards the dining room.

GABRIEL

My wife is missing. This is a bad time. Leave.

ANTON

Missing? You scared her off already?

Anton starts laughing at his son, who only gets more angry.

LANCE

Sir. A word?

Gabriel turns away, taking a deep breath once he was out of his fathers sight.

GABRIEL

Tell me you've found her?

LANCE

Yes sir. She's in Paris. Her agent said she flew out in the early hours of this morning. She has a three day photo shoot.

GABRIEL

Have her call me at her earliest convenience.

LANCE

of course sir. As for your father?

GABRIEL

I'll have his meeting. I'm curious.

Gabriel and Lance turn and walk in two different directions.

ANTON

So how much do you need to find
your wife and convince her to come
back?

GABRIEL

Nothing, she is at work. A member
of my staff neglected to pass on
the message from her. Our meeting?

Gabriel walks down the stairs and past his father.

GABRIEL

Everything is set up in the dining
room.

INT. DINING ROOM, CONTINUOUS

Anton follows his son, taking a seat at the table. Food is
piled off to one side, blank paper to another. Gabriel sets
his phone down where he can see it.

ANTON

So, Angel's Court did really well
last night.

Gabriel smiles, eyes straying to his phone.

GABRIEL

I am aware of that father. The
question is what are we going to do
to continue being the best?

ANTON

Let me finish! They stole our open
kitchen plan we were going to put
in down in Atlanta.

GABRIEL

Father, the open kitchen plan is
really common. They didn't steal
your idea-

ANTON

Shut up and listen to me boy!

EXT. PARIS, FRANCE. LATE SUNSET. (8PM ISH)

Ava is posing for a photo, the French landscape painted by the sunset behind her.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Beautiful Ava. Everyone take 10
while we reset.

Someone rushes towards Ava, wrapping a blanket around her shoulders as she lets the pose drop. A makeup artist follows, commencing a few touch ups. Ava's agent FRANCIS walks forward, holding out her phone. FRANCIS is an obviously Gay man.

FRANCIS

Ava honey, your husband wants you
to call him.

AVA

Gabriel? Is everything okay?

Ava takes the phone and starts dialing.

FRANCIS

You forgot to tell him you were
flying out. He panicked when no one
could find you.

AVA

Merci Francis.

Ava holds the phone to her ear, listening to it ring.

INT. DINING ROOM - 11-MIDDAY-ISH

Gabriel smiles when he sees his phone ringing. Ignoring his father to answer the call. Standing and walking away.

GABRIEL

Hey Princess

EXT. PARIS, FRANCE. CONTINUOUS

Ava smiles, looking down with a slight blush covering her cheeks.

AVA

Hey, I'm sorry for scaring you.

INT. KITCHEN. CONTINUOUS

Gabriel waves the staff out, shutting the door behind all of them.

GABRIEL
Scared? I was terrified. I thought
you'd run away, or that something
had happened to you.

EXT. PARIS, FRANCE. CONTINUOUS

AVA
I'm sorry, I meant to tell you.

INT. KITCHEN. CONTINUOUS

GABRIEL
You're alright though?

EXT. PARIS, FRANCE. CONTINUOUS

Ava looks at all the people around her. People she trusts.

AVA
Yeah. I'm alright. I have a good
team of people here.

INT. KITCHEN. CONTINUOUS

Gabriel leans back, letting out a sigh of relief.

GABRIEL
Alright. Call me if you need
anything, and let me know when you
land.

EXT. PARIS, FRANCE. CONTINUOUS

AVA
I'll have Francis send Lance the
details of all my up coming shoots.

INT. KITCHEN. CONTINUOUS

GABRIEL
Okay sweetheart. Let me know before

you leave as well. I don't care if
you have to wake me up in the
middle of the night.

EXT. PARIS, FRANCE. CONTINUOUS

AVA
Of course. I've got to go. See you
in a few days. No crazy parties
while I'm gone Party boy.

INT. KITCHEN. CONTINUOUS

GABRIEL
They wouldn't be any fun without
you Princess, stay safe.

Gabriel ends the call, looking up as the door opens.

GABRIEL
Lance?

LANCE
Sorry sir, I just wanted to check
that everything was alright?

GABRIEL
I spoke with Ava, she's safe and
happy. She's having her schedule
sent to you. Please insure it's
added to my calender as well as
yours.

LANCE
Of course sir.

Gabriel leaves to return to his father and the meeting.

INT. GABRIEL'S BEDROOM. EARLY MORNING.

Ava creeps into Gabriel's room, looking down at the
sleeping man. She leans forward, pressing a kiss to his
temple.

AVA
I'm home mon mari.

Gabriel stirs, wrapping an arm around her waist, and
pulling her down into the bed beside him. Ava squeals in
fright, startling Gabriel awake. He looks down to see Ava

- - - - -

curled in a ball, his arm still wrapped around her waist.

GABRIEL

Ava?

Ava's hand wraps around his bicep, holding it still when he tries to remove his arm. Gabriel lifts his head to rest on his hand, looking down at her. Ava slowly relaxes and starts stretching out. Gabriel waits until she looks settled to throw the spare blanket over her. His lips brushing against her temple.

GABRIEL

Welcome home.

Gabriel lays back down, and the pair drift off.

INT. GABRIEL'S BEDROOM. LATE MORNING

Lance opens the bedroom door a crack, smiling when he sees the couple tangled up and fast asleep. Ava opens her eyes to look at the head butler before snuggling back into Gabriel's hold.

AVA

Morning Lance.

LANCE

(whispered)

Morning Ma'am, can I get you anything?

Ava shakes her head. Closing her eyes once more. Lance smiles softly, shutting the door behind him and leaving them to sleep.

INT. GABRIEL'S BEDROOM, EARLY AFTERNOON.

Gabriel wakes and looks down at the woman in his arms. Ava is awake, seeming to read something on her phone.

GABRIEL

Ava?

AVA

Morning Gabriel. How did you sleep?

GABRIEL

When did you get back?

AVA

The early hours of this morning. I came in to let you know.

GABRIEL

Thank you.

Lance knocks on the door, before nudging it open and carrying in two hot drinks.

LANCE

Mr Walsh's personal assistant called, he'll be on his way over after his lunch meeting.

GABRIEL

Really? Again?

LANCE

He would like the young ma'am's opinion on the opening night of the newest Angel's Court restaurant. I'm afraid he is insistent.

Gabriel mutters something under his breath, sitting up and taking one of the two offered hot drinks. Ava accepts the other with a smile, and Lance leaves.

AVA

Why does your father call you Nero?

GABRIEL

Technically it's my name. My father wanted me to be called Nero, my mother preferred Gabriel. He claims he named his restaurants after me, but I doubt it. I'd rather have my mothers name than his.

AVA

Your mother and father did not get along?

Gabriel laughs.

GABRIEL

They had their good and bad days, they loved each other, immensely, but they were not good for each other. They stayed together though, until my mom died.

AVA

And Angel's Court? You own her?

GABRIEL

I knew you were clever. Yes, thats my chain of restaurants. There's currently 3, although I'm aiming for a full court, a whole 12.

AVA

And your dad has no idea?

GABRIEL

My father thinks I'm a stereotypical rich heir, wasting my life while spending his money. The truth is I haven't spent any of his money for the last three years. I let him think whatever he wants of me. Just until I'm ready to fully break away from him.

AVA

You aren't ready yet? Surely 3 restaurants is more than enough.

GABRIEL

I could, if I had to, but my father is a powerful and rich man. If I struck out on my own now, he could ruin me. He would ruin me. He's been trying to ruin Angel's court since it started competing with his own restaurants. The only reason he hasn't is because he can't figure out the governing body. I need more time if I am to truly be free of my father and his influence.

AVA

So you pretend to be a playboy, rich kid living off of your fathers money? We never needed to stay married at all? Except for your own gain?

GABRIEL

It's not like that.

She stands up and leaves.

GABRIEL

Ava, please.

Gabriel gets up and follows her.

INT. HALLWAY EARLY AFTERNOON.

Ava is still walking away, Gabriel goes to grab her arm, but stops himself.

GABRIEL

Yes okay fine. I could have stopped my father, and this marriage, is that what you wanted to hear? I chose not to, because I didn't want to loose everything I built to honor my mother. I decided that us being married for six months was a better option than me ruining years of hard work.

Ava keeps walking away from him.

GABRIEL

Ava please, talk to me.

AVA

I do not want to right now.

GABRIEL

Ava please, you need to talk to me.

AVA

I do not need to do anything more for you than I already am doing! You have put my life at risk because you dare not stand up to your father! Leave me alone.

Gabriel stops walking, and lets Ava walk off on her own.

INT. OFFICE. MID AFTERNOON

Gabriel is standing at his office window, watching Ava walking around in the garden outside. Lance enters.

LANCE

You need to go and talk to her.

GABRIEL

She told me to leave her alone, that she wants nothing to do with me right now.

LANCE

You thought she ran away once, you need to fix this. Protect her. This is part of being married, making up when things go bad.

GABRIEL

She's right, I could have stood up to father, it would be hard, but I could have done it.

LANCE

You had good reason Gabriel, you aren't ready, Angel's court isn't ready. She will understand that.

Gabriel sighs, looking back at her.

GABRIEL

I hope so.

EXT. GARDEN. CONTINUOUS

Ava is pacing in a large circle.

AVA

(Mumbling to herself)

I can't leave, the Judge said- but he lied- he could end all of this. I should just go, before he finds me- but I don't know if I want to keep running anymore.

Gabriel steps out the back door with a small jewelery box in his hand. He approaches Ava.

GABRIEL

Ava? Can we talk?

Ava pauses, watching him.

GABRIEL

I brought an apology present?

He offers her the box, she ignores it.

GABRIEL

You were right, I could have stood up to my father, stopped this whole thing before it started. I was too scared, there is too much that could still go wrong. It was wrong

of me, and I should have told you the truth. Please can you forgive me?

AVA

Why didn't you listen to me? I told you this was too dangerous.

GABRIEL

I was scared, I thought I could protect you from whoever it was you were scared of. I was too scared to lose everything I have.

AVA

I am all I have! He took everything! I was doing what I had to, to be safe, and stay alive!

GABRIEL

You have me, you always will have me. Ava I swear, I know I screwed up, and I will spend the rest of my life trying to make it right.

Gabriel approaches and takes her hands in his.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

I love having you here, and I want you to stay. I promise I'll always do my best to protect you. Anything you ask of me I will do it, but please stay.

AVA

I don't know-

GABRIEL

I can see myself falling in love with you.

Crickets chirp, Ava and Gabriel stare at each other.

GABRIEL

I'm sorry- I shouldn't have-

He drops her hand, and takes a few steps away, before turning back.

GABRIEL

No, No I'm not. If I'm being selfish, then I'll do it properly. I like you Ava, I want you to stay,

I want to build a life with you. I
want the life I see with you when I
imagine the future.

Gabriel pulls her in for a passionate kiss. Ava hesitates,
before starting to respond. Gabriel pulls away, placing the
box in her hand,

GABRIEL
I'll leave you to think about it.

Gabriel leaves. Ava stands stunned.

EXT. GARDEN. MID AFTERNOON (5 MINS LATER)

Ava is sitting where she had been standing, the box Gabriel
had given her open, and her staring at it. Inside is a
dainty sapphire necklace.

Lance enters through house back door.

LANCE
Ma'am?

No response.

LANCE
Ava?

He moves over and kneels in front of her.

AVA
How can he like me?

LANCE
You're an amazing young woman. He
can see that.

Ava is still staring at the necklace.

LANCE
Mr Walsh has arrived, are you
nearly ready?

Ava takes the necklace out of the box and puts it on, a
hand resting on it.

AVA
Yeah, I guess.

They leave.

INT. DINING ROOM. CONTINUOUS

Anton and Gabriel are sitting on either side of the dining table, silently looking over paperwork. In the back of the room is TYRELL, dressed as a bodyguard.

Ava freezes when she enters with Lance and sees him.

GABRIEL
Princess, this is Tyrell, former
FBI, he's one of the new bodyguards
appointed to you.

Gabriel gets up, escorting Ava to the table, pulling out a chair for her. Ava is still frozen, staring at Tyrell. Tyrell is smirking evilly while watching her.

AVA
(terrified)
I can't do this.

She leaves. Tyrell starts to follow, Gabriel stops him with a raised hand.

GABRIEL
If you'll excuse me. I need to
check on my wife.

ANTON
Hurry up, I have another meeting at
5!

EXT. GARDEN CONTINUOUS

Ava is curled up against the wall, hyperventilating. Gabriel leaves the house and spots her.

GABRIEL
Hey?

He kneels down in front of her.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
Want me to get rid of my father? I
did drop a bombshell on you.

Ava gasps out a sob, throwing herself into Gabriel's arms. He falls, but tucks his body around her.

AVA
(gasping)
Tyrell-

GABRIEL

Father found him, he came highly recommended, I was looking at his resume, did you want to see it?

Ava shakes her head, clutching on to him.

AVA

He-

Tyrell joins them. Ava tries to hide behind Gabriel.

TYRELL

Sorry to bother you Sir, I just wanted to check Ma'am was okay?

GABRIEL

It's been a big day, she just needs a minute.

TYRELL

Mr Walsh is requesting your presence. I can stay here with Ma'am.

AVA

NO!

Gabriel untangles himself from her, kissing her head.

GABRIEL

You'll be safe with Tyrell. Come in when you're ready.

Ava has a tight grip on Gabriel, but he breaks free of it, leaving.

TYRELL

Seems like I've finally caught you Ava.

Tyrell grabs her roughly, pulling her deeper into the garden.

INT. DINING ROOM, 15 MINUTES LATER

Anton is staring at the clock impatiently.

ANTON

It's been 15 minutes. Where is she?

Lance enters the room.

LANCE

Sir, Ma'am and Tyrell are no longer in the gardens. I tried to find them, but I can not.

ANTON

Maybe she ran off again.

GABRIEL

Did you check the spot?

LANCE

Of course sir. I have the staff searching the surveillance and house looking for them.

ANTON

You need to get control of your wife. This is the second time she's skipped this meeting.

GABRIEL

Father, she is her own woman, undergoing a lot of stresses of her own. She is not available at your every beck and call. I will try and get her to email you her thoughts. Now please leave.

ANTON

She has another 30 minutes. If she has not appeared, you will both come to me tomorrow, or else...

Gabriel gets up and follows Lance.

INT. SECURITY ROOM CONTINUOUS

Two uniformed men are watching a computer monitor, showing Tyrell pulling Ava away, Ava trying to fight back. Lance and Gabriel enter. They pause the screen on an image of Tyrell grabbing her by her hair and hauling her away.

GABRIEL

Anything?

UNIFORM 1

It seems Ma'am was taken by the newbie sir.

GABRIEL

WHAT?

LANCE

Show me.

They replay the footage. Gabriel leaving, Tyrell pulling Ava away. Lance simmers with barely contained anger. Gabriel is worried and guilty.

LANCE

Find them. Now.

Uniformed man 2 takes a radio and leaves the room.

GABRIEL

That must of been what she was
trying to tell me-

LANCE

We need to find her, then you can
feel guilty.

Uniform 2 re-enters.

UNIFORM 2

They were spotted moving towards
the guest house a while ago by one
of the patrols.

LANCE

All hands on deck.

Lance grabs a weapon from a locked case, Uniform 1 doing the same.

UNIFORM 2

I'll call the police, and co-
ordinate from here.

All three men leave.

INT. GUEST HOUSE BEDROOM. BACK IN TIME 10 MINUTES.

An unconscious, beaten and bleeding, Ava is laying, bound, upon the bed. Tyrell is barricading all the doors and windows, looking stressed. Ava stirs. She no longer has her wedding and engagement rings.

AVA

Gabriel?

TYRELL

Quiet!

Ava whimpers, but shuts up.

TYRELL

I was so excited to finally see you again. I had grand plans to bide my time before taking you back home, back to our perfect life. But then I saw you in *his* arms. You are *mine* Ava, understood?! *Mine!*

Tyrell spots her necklace, moving to pull it off of her neck and throwing it away. Ava tries to flinch further away, only to whimper again.

TYRELL

You will never leave my side again.

AVA

They'll be out looking for me.

Tyrell pulls a pistol out, placing it on the bed beside her.

TYRELL

I'm counting on it. Then I'll show that Gabriel that you are mine.

AVA

No, wait!

She looks panicked

TYRELL

You want to beg for his pathetic life?

AVA

No, I don't want you to waste your time. Gabriel and I - it's a fake marriage. In six months we'll be broken up, then I'll come back.

TYRELL

You think me a fool.

Tyrell slaps her, she starts crying.

TYRELL (CONT'D)

Like I would believe your lies.

AVA

It's the truth, his father is making us stay married for six

months, or he'll destroy both of us. I don't even like his son. He's rude, selfish and only thinks about himself! Tyrell, I love you, I have always loved you.

TYRELL

Then why did you leave? Run away from me? from us?

AVA

I didn't want to, but I had no choice, your- your boss, he said I was holding you back. That I had to leave or he would-

Ava chokes back a sob as she lies.

AVA

Please my love, give me these six months, then Mr Walsh will make me rich and we can be together. But you have to leave now. If they catch you-

Tyrell's fingers tap on the gun as he thinks.

TYRELL

One month, meet me at our favorite diner. We'll run away together, just you and me.

Tyrell pulls Ava up by her head, kissing her deeply, picking up the gun and leaving.

Ava waits until he is long gone, before curling up and crying.

INT. GUEST BEDROOM, 20 MINUTES LATER

Ava screams as the windows and door are busted in at the same time, A number of heavily armed men right behind. Ava starts scrambling back and away from everything as best as she can.

LANCE

Ma'am? Where is he?

AVA

He left, I tricked him.

Lance moves closer to untie her, she immediately starts

rubbing at her wrists and ankles.

GABRIEL (O.S.)
Is she alright?

LANCE
There is an ambulance on the way,
are you okay to see Gabriel?

Ava nods, wincing heavily and raising a hand to her head.

LANCE
She's okay, you can come in.

Gabriel rushes in to her side, careful not touch her. Ava throws herself into his arms, sobbing again. He hesitantly wraps his arms around her.

LANCE (CONT'D)
We'll search the perimeter. He
won't get away.

The guards all leave the room, two or three hanging around the edge of the room.

GABRIEL
Ava I am so sorry, I should have
let you finish telling me who he
was. I never should have left you
alone with him.

AVA
He's extremely persuasive, and came
with your father. I just- I was too
scared to say anything.

GABRIEL
I never want you to feel like you
can't tell me something. I will
always support you. You'll never
see him again, we've called the
police, and we're going to press
charges, Dad's lawyers are on the
way.

AVA
You can't... there is nothing the
police nor your fancy lawyers can
do.

GABRIEL
That's not true

AVA

He has diplomatic immunity, his
mother- you just can't.

Ava pulls herself out of his arms, trying her best to stand upright.

AVA

I have to go, I have a month to put
as much distance between myself and
him as possible. You need to hire
more protection for yourself, He'll
go after you when I don't make it
to our meet-up.

GABRIEL

You can't go-

AVA

I have to.

She spots her necklace on the floor, slowly bending to pick it up, before stumbling out the door.

EXT. OUTSIDE GUEST HOUSE, CONTINUOUS

Gabriel easily catches up to Ava, who is stumbling and squinting in an effort to avoid the bright sunshine. Ambulance staff and with a trolley bed are approaching, they speed up when they spot Ava

GABRIEL

What about what I said, about
trying to make an us. I need you
Ava.

AVA

And I need to run, it doesn't
matter what we want, or what we
hope for, not if we aren't alive
and safe to enjoy it.

Ava stops as the ambulance staff reach them. They quickly help her onto the bed, checking her over as they start back towards the house again.

GABRIEL

She was beaten and knocked
unconscious, probably has a head
injury, this is the most she's
spoken to me in a while.

AVA
(scolding)
Gabriel!

He steps into the space beside her, taking her hand.

GABRIEL
I'm going to stay with you, we are
going to the hospital to check you
over, and we will talk about this
later.

Ava starts to protest, but is cut off by the ambulance
staff.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM. DAY

Ava is asleep in a hospital bed, a number of bandages
wrapped around her, bruises have started to show. Gabriel's
hand is in hers, sitting on the chair beside her, leaning
forward so his heads on the bed. Still without her wedding
or engagement rings.

Lance enters with a police detective. JONES, Gabriel's
maternal Uncle, is a friendly, wise looking man.

GABRIEL
Have you found something?

LANCE
Not really, but everyone is
looking. I called Judge Betty.
She'll be around later to check up
on Ma'am.

DETECTIVE JONES
Has she awoken at all yet?

GABRIEL
The nurses woke her up to check her
vitals an hour or so ago, but she
just went straight back to sleep.

DETECTIVE JONES
Alright, I need to head back to the
station for a bit. Lance has my
number, I need a statement from her
as soon as she is able.

GABRIEL

- - -

I'll let you know, thanks Uncle Jones.

DETECTIVE JONES
Anything for my nephew, and his new wife.

Jones leaves.

GABRIEL
She wants to run again.

LANCE
Sir-

GABRIEL
I told her I liked her, that I wanted to build a life with her, and she wants to run.

LANCE
She's trying to protect you, and herself, this is the only way she knows how.

Gabriel looks up at Lance with tears in his eyes.

GABRIEL
I-

LANCE
I know sir. I know.

Ava stirs.

LANCE
I will leave you two alone. I'll be outside if you need me.

AVA
Gabriel?

GABRIEL
I'm here Princess.

Gabriel reaches out to caress her cheek, catching a tear that falls.

AVA
What happened?

GABRIEL
Tyrell did, I'm so sorry

sweetheart, he was hired as a new
bodyguard and-

Gabriel drops his head down to rest on the bed, Ava reaches
out a shaky hand to run through his hair.

GABRIEL

The nurses said the pain medication
may make you drowsy, and that you
might struggle to remember what
happened right away.

AVA

He got me in the head again then.
Did they do a CT?

GABRIEL

They did, they're worried.

AVA

Yeah, I was warned too many more
head injuries could cause some
severe problems. It's one of the
reasons I finally decided to run
away.

Ava sits up, wincing and raising a hand to her head.

AVA

Have you called Francis? I need to
be out of the country before he
comes back.

GABRIEL

Ava, do you remember what I said to
you, when we were in the garden
before dad arrived?

AVA

It doesn't matter, it can't matter,
it's not safe anymore.

A nurse comes in to check on Ava, Lance sticks his head in.

LANCE

I caught up to Detective Jones,
once the nurse is done he would
like to take Ma'am's statement,
privately. Ma'am, Judge Betty
wishes to know if you will be up to
a visit in a few hours?

AVA

Sure, but then I need to leave.

NURSE

Not until you're released from hospital, we need to keep you for a while, watch that head of yours.

Detective Jones arrives again, swapping places with Gabriel as the nurse leaves.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR, CONTINUOUS

GABRIEL

I thought the doctors said we could leave when she wakes?

LANCE

I convinced them that they need to keep her for a while, brought us some more time to come up with a plan. Ma'am deserves more than running from him for the rest of her life.

GABRIEL

Thank you.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM, NIGHT

Gabriel is asleep in the chair beside Ava. Judge Betty arrives, and sits on the chair on the other side of the bed.

JUDGE BETTY

Sorry it took me so long to get here,

AVA

Thanks for coming.

JUDGE BETTY

Of course, I can't believe- I should have let you go. I am sorry.

AVA

You and Gabriel bare so much guilt.

JUDGE BETTY

Because we all are to blame. As I promised, if you wish, I can charge Gabriel and his people-

AVA

No.

JUDGE BETTY

No?

AVA

They've been so kind and welcoming,
if you could sign the annulment it
would be nice, but I must go
regardless.

JUDGE BETTY

What if we find a way to charge
him?

AVA

The only way is to get his
diplomatic immunity waved, which
means either convincing his
government or his mother. But as
long as he still helps them, they
will not.

JUDGE BETTY

Can you give us a month? See if we
can find another way?

Ava shakes her head before wincing in pain.

AVA

I've already tried. I need to go.

Judge Betty smiles sadly, reaching out to squeeze her hand.

JUDGE BETTY

I'll organize the annulment.

AVA

Thanks Judge.

Judge Betty leaves, Ava reaches out to hold Gabriel's hand,
before going to sleep.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM, 2 DAYS LATER

Ava is wearing normal clothes, sitting on the bed beside a
duffel bag and reading a clipboard. On the other side of
the glass, in the corridor, we see Gabriel and a Doctor
arguing.

A defeated Gabriel enters.

GABRIEL
Nearly ready?

AVA
Nearly.

Ava signs the discharge papers, taking her copies and leaving the rest on the bed. Gabriel takes her bag, and offers her his hand.

GABRIEL
Are you sure I can't convince you to stay for a few more days? Just in case?

AVA
I have to go Gabriel, it's too dangerous.

GABRIEL
But what do you want to do? What do you want?

Gabriel wraps his one arm around her, the other tilting her head up, kissing her sweetly. She wraps her arms around his neck, kissing him back.

AVA
It doesn't matter what I want.

She pulls away,

GABRIEL
Just admit it, just once.

He doesn't let her go, watching her.

AVA
(Quietly)
I want to stay, try to make an us.

AVA (CONT'D)
But it doesn't matter, I have to go.

GABRIEL
Ava please, give me a chance to find a way. Just one month, if we still haven't figured something out then I'll buy you a ticket on every plane to every country.

He kisses her again softly,

GABRIEL
I'm not ready to give up on you, on
us.

Ava hugs him, hiding her face in his shirt. Gabriel holds
her tight to him.

AVA
Two weeks, then I go.

GABRIEL
Thank you.

INT. FOYER. DAY

There are more security staff around the house. Lance is
checking over a clipboard.

Ava and Gabriel enter.

LANCE
Sir, Ma'am. Welcome home.

AVA
Thanks Lance,

LANCE
I've organized for even more
security while you're here and he's
on the loose. They will be more
present around the house. His image
has also been circulated, he will
not come back here.

GABRIEL
Thanks Lance, did you want to do
anything specific Princess?

Gabriel passes Ava's bag to Lance,

AVA
Can you move my stuff to Gabriel's
room? I'd rather not be alone for
the next few nights.

Ava turns to Gabriel.

AVA

If thats okay with you?

GABRIEL
Of course it is. Lance?

LANCE
I shall see to it immediately.

AVA
Then we'll be in the office, there
is something I need to show you
Gabriel.

GABRIEL
Alright, Lance can you send some
coffee up.

Lance nods in agreement. Gabriel and Ava start to leave.

AVA
Wait, Lance?

LANCE
Yes Ma'am?

AVA
Any sign of my rings?

Lance shakes his head sadly.

LANCE
We are still looking, but nothing
yet.

INT. OFFICE. CONTINUOUS

Ava goes to her side of the office, Gabriel stops in the doorway and watches as takes a thick folder out of a locked drawer in her desk.

GABRIEL
Ava, are you sure?

Ava nods, motioning for him to sit at his desk. Gabriel does.

AVA
I'm sure, if you're going to try
fight Tyrell, then you need to
know.

Gabriel clears space on his desk, and Ava places down the

folder, taking a deep breath before opening it.

The folder is filled with a complete record of the abuse she suffered, with pictures and doctor reports, as well as hand written notes.

Gabriel pulls Ava into his lap, before looking through the pages.

At 1/4:

GABRIEL
Holy Crap Ava, How are you still
alive?

AVA
Keep reading.

Gabriel starts struggling to keep reading at about half way. Ava starts turning the pages for him.

AVA
It's in chronological order, I've
been bouncing back between that and
order of severity.

End of file:

GABRIEL
What was your plan? Why did you
collect all of this?

AVA
I was hoping to show his mother,
get her to refuse to allow him to
keep using her immunity status, so
he could be charged and tried.

GABRIEL
So why haven't you? What changed?

AVA
I realized she wouldn't. There was
an incident, and she should have
but-

Ava closes the folder, hugging it to her chest.

AVA
It was already a risk, and after
that, it was one I couldn't take.

Ava returns the file to its hiding place.

AVA
It's why I have to go.

AVA (CONT'D)
Why you have to let me go.

Gabriel walks over to her and silently opening his arms.
Ava nods, and he hugs her.

GABRIEL
I will find a way to free you of
him. I won't just let you go
without a fight.

A knock sounds at the door, Lance opens it and steps into
the room with a silver tray, coffee, and a thick envelope
addressed to Ava.

LANCE
Sorry to intrude, Ma'am you
received a letter, I thought I
should deliver it straight away.

Ava takes the envelope and her coffee,

AVA
I need to-

She motions out the door before leaving.

EXT. GARDEN 5 MINS LATER.

Ava leaves the house, glancing at the spot where Tyrell had
grabbed her, but walking past to a bench. She puts her hot
drink aside to open the envelope, peaking at the signed
annulment papers within.

INT. DINING ROOM, MORNING

A large number of lawyers, and Anton Walsh, are seated
around a large dining room table. Judge Betty arrives with
Lance, the pair ending a whispered conversation.

ANTON
Are they far off?

LANCE
Mere moments Mr Walsh.

Lance and Judge Betty take a seat at the table. Ava and Gabriel arrive, arm in arm.

ANTON
Miss Ava, I owe you an apology.

Anton stands, taking a step towards the pair, but stops as Ava tenses.

ANTON
I should never have brought that man to your house. You deserve safety. Everything in my power is at your disposal.

GABRIEL
Which is why we are all here. So we can figure out how to free Ava from her past.

Gabriel leads Ava to one of the remaining seats, and pulls it out for her.

AVA
Thank you, all of you, but I'm afraid this is a waste of your time, there is nothing that can be done.

GABRIEL
Let us try anyway, we might spot something.

INT. DINING ROOM, LATE EVENING

People, files, screens, and loose bits of note paper are spread through out the room. Lance is standing in front of a white board with a title, 'Get Ava Free' and 5 bullet points written on it.

1- Mrs Knox rescinds right for Tyrell to use her diplomatic immunity. (Ava's idea)

2- Convince Sierra Leone to waive Mrs Knox's, and therefore Tyrell's diplomatic immunity. (petition host country).

3- Get American Government to declare one, or both, persona-non-grata.

4- Prove Tyrell is no longer a member of his mothers household, (doesn't live there), therefore not allowed to use her diplomatic immunity.

5- Prove Tyrell is estranged/emancipated from Mrs Knox.

LAWYER #1

I think that's all we can find,
unless-

LAWYER #2

Nope, We've got nothing.

Lawyer two slams shut a huge dusty old law tome.

AVA

I told you, I already tried. His mother has already proven that she won't revoke his use of her immunity. Tyrell does live at his mothers residence, even if he's always traveling for work. It's ridiculously hard to prove anything.

ANTON

Then we talk to our government contacts about getting her declared persona-non-grata.

Ava's mouth opens and closes in disbelief.

JUDGE BETTY

There is a compelling case for misuse of diplomatic immunity, which could get them in enough trouble for either their government to recall them, or ours to expel them.

AVA

It's not possible, it's why I have to go-

GABRIEL

You promised me two weeks, and this sounds promising.

AVA

No-

GABRIEL

Come with me please.

Gabriel leads Ava out of the room.

INT. HALLWAY CONTINUOUS

AVA
What are you doing?

GABRIEL
I thought this conversation was
best had in private.

AVA
There is no conversation Gabriel.
You're all talking like you can
convince the government to kick the
Ambassador to Sierra Leone out of
the country because her fbi agent,
son was beating up his pathetic
little nobody of a girlfriend.

GABRIEL
Why do you doubt that we could?
Isn't it worth a try? A chance to
be free of Tyrell?

AVA
I can't let myself hope Gabriel,
not again, it never works, all that
has ever worked is running as far
and as fast as I can.

GABRIEL
You promised me two weeks.

AVA
To get something through the
government? Let me go, give me a
head start.

Gabriel takes her hands in his, pressing a kiss to her
forehead.

GABRIEL
We can do this. Trust in me.
Please.

Ava sighs, leaning in closer to Gabriel.

AVA
I'll try.

INT. OFFICE. NEXT DAY MORNING

Ava is sitting at her desk, reading something. Gabriel is on the phone with his father. He hangs up.

GABRIEL

Father has gotten in touch with all his government contacts bar two, they're all willing to help however they can. He would like us to write up a full letter with supporting evidence on why we think they should be declared persona-non-grata. Then once the lawyers look over it we can send it away.

AVA

Your dad has contacts in the Department of State?

GABRIEL

Not really, but his contacts have contacts. Politics is a small world, and if 7 or 8 people go to the state department with complaints, then they're more likely to listen. Judge Betty's got her own plan in motion too.

AVA

I-

GABRIEL

I know, you doubt us, but give us time.

AVA

I'm just scared.

Gabriel walks around to her and hugs her.

GABRIEL

I am too Princess, I am too.

INT. OFFICE, DAY TWO, LATE MORNING

- - - - -

Gabriel is scanning pictures from Ava's medical file and personal collection onto his laptop. At her desk, Ava is typing up hand written accounts of her abuse, as well as writing the letter.

Lance appears with a coffee tray, knocking at the open door.

GABRIEL
Thanks Lance.

Lance hands out the two drinks, hesitating before leaving.

LANCE
If I may make a suggestion sir?
Ma'am?

Both motion for him to go ahead.

LANCE
Perhaps it is worthwhile reaching
out to the ER doctors, and Ma'am's
former boss, add their accounts to
your evidence files.

GABRIEL
Why didn't I think of that, thanks
Lance.

LANCE
If sir and ma'am are too busy, I
would be willing to find those
people and reach out to them.

Ava and Gabriel share a look, before Gabriel starts jotting down names from his files onto a spare bit of paper to give to Lance.

AVA
Thank you so much Lance.

LANCE
My pleasure Ma'am. Sir please
remember your afternoon meeting is
due to arrive in an hour.

GABRIEL
I thought all my meetings were
canceled.

LANCE
All your non-essential ones, I'm
afraid this one couldn't be

postponed. It's the first lot of reports out of your newest restaurant.

AVA
It'll be fine Gabriel, once this is done there is nothing more we can do anyway.

GABRIEL
(hesitantly)
If you're sure.

EXT. GARDENS AFTERNOON

Ava is walking by herself through the gardens. When a sound from a nearby bush gets her attention, no person is visible.

TYRELL
(in the bush)
Psst.

Ava looks concerned, but moved closer to the bush. Tyrell moves some of the leaves so they can see each other. Ava tries to hide her fear.

TYRELL
I know we agreed one month, but I had a better idea.

AVA
I can't, if-

TYRELL
You are going to say you have a job coming up, in France again. I'll meet you there, and we can begin our new life.

AVA
What if they see you? Mr Walsh has hired even more body guards.

Ava looks around, hoping she can see one of the security team, no one is there.

TYRELL
I brought you this.

He pulls a ring out of his pocket and offers it to her. It's not at all her style. She hesitantly reaches in to

grab it, and Tyrell snatches up her other arm.

TYRELL

I will not wait a month for you
Ava. Tell your pretend husband.
Three days.

Tyrell slides the ring onto her empty ring finger, before releasing her and leaving.

At the door, Gabriel and a number of guards come racing out and towards them.

GABRIEL

Ava! Are you okay?!

Gabriel goes to grab her, but pauses, waiting for her to slowly turn and step into his arms. As soon as Ava does, he wraps her up in a hug. Ava is in shock.

GABRIEL

(panicked, rushed)

Did he hurt you? Our security was
breached, two guards are missing.
Was he here? Are you okay?

LANCE

Sir calm down, you are scaring the
young Ma'am.

AVA

I'm okay. He's changed his mind,
can't wait a month. I'm to tell you
I have a shoot in France, and meet
him there in three days.

Gabriel pauses, thinking.

GABRIEL

Then we had best be going. Lance,
can you book a flight for us, and
our five best men. Then hire extra
security to meet us there, maybe
even the local police if we have
that contact?

AVA

Wait what?

Ava pulls out of his arms, Gabriel lets her.

AVA

I will not go with him.

GABRIEL

And I'm not asking you too. I'm saying that you go, make him believe that you're obeying him. But I insisted on coming with you, and staying with you. It won't give him any chance to abduct you, while still maintaining the lie you told.

LANCE

Did he say where in France?

AVA

No, but I know where he meant.

LANCE

I'll organize everything right away.

INT. BEDROOM, A FEW HOURS LATER.

Gabriel and Ava are both packing their bags. Gabriel seems slightly excited, but he's trying to hide it. Ava is nervous and very reluctant.

GABRIEL

Ava-

He crosses over to her, taking her hands in his. He frowns when he spots the ring.

AVA

Tyrell brought it, it was the ring he gave me when I agreed to marry him.

GABRIEL

I'll take it off and get rid of it-

Ava's hand closes into a fist, stopping him from removing it.

AVA

He'll know somethings wrong if I take it off.

GABRIEL

Ava-

AVA

Please Gabriel, leave it alone.

Gabriel starts to complain, but decides against it, letting go of her hands.

GABRIEL
I'll go see how Lance is getting
on.

Gabriel leaves and Ava curls into a ball on the bed and starts crying.

INT. SHARED BEDROOM, A FEW MINUTES LATER

Ava has stopped crying, but she is still just laying on the bed, staring into the distance. Gabriel returns.

GABRIEL
Lance got us on a flight over
tonight. He also got hold of
Francis, he's trying to find you a
job or two while we're there.
Apparently there are a few people
who want interviews and photos now
we're married.

Ava makes a sound in agreement. Gabriel frowns.

GABRIEL
Ava?

He moves around to kneel in front of the bed.

GABRIEL
We don't have to do any of this if
you don't want to. I can cancel it
all and we can stay here if you
want?

Ava shakes her head.

GABRIEL
What do you want to do?

AVA
I want to find a place he'll never
find me, and hide there forever. I
want to be free.

GABRIEL
I'm doing everything I can, I
promise you.

AVA

(whispered)
I wish I never met him.

Gabriel offers her a hug, she accepts.

INT. PLANE, FIRST CLASS, THAT NIGHT

Gabriel and Ava are sitting side by side as the plane begins descent procedures. Gabriel looks very calm and relaxed, Ava is looking more and more nervous the closer they get.

GABRIEL
It'll be like a working holiday, he
won't get the chance to lay a hand
on you.

AVA
You don't know that.

Ava plays nervously with the ring that was forced upon her. Gabriel turns to face her, taking both her hands in his.

GABRIEL
I will free you from him Ava. I
swear it.

He kisses her hands, playing with the other ring for a moment.

GABRIEL
And I will find what he did with
your rings, your real rings.

Ava doesn't reply. Gabriel sighs, leaving one hand with hers and turning back to sit properly.

EXT. FRENCH COTTAGE, HOURS LATER

A limo pulls up outside a little French cottage, Gabriel gets out and turns to offer Ava a hand.

AVA
This is beautiful, are you sure
your friend won't mind?

GABRIEL
Not even a little bit, he often
lends out the cottage to people, I
have a place in Italy he loves, so
I do the same for him.

AVA

And Tyrell won't be able to trace us here?

GABRIEL

Lance put us in a hotel, a full security team surrounding it, a whole level booked out, and he hired people who resemble us to camp in it, move to the fake shoots that Francis set up. While we go to the real ones.

AVA

You should have told me.

GABRIEL

We have no idea how he's getting his intel, even I didn't know what Lance and Francis were up to.

AVA

I hope this works.

GABRIEL

It will, we will be safe here, while upholding his demands, and working to free you. A mini-honeymoon, seeing as we are newly married.

Ava shakes her head with a laugh.

AVA

I doubt it will be that easy Party Boy.

EXT. GABRIEL'S HOUSE THREE DAYS LATER

Ava and Gabriel are laughing, his arm over her shoulders, and hers around his waist as they walk up towards the house. Ava looks the most relaxed and happy we've seen her. Lance is waiting at the door with a wide smile, Judge Betty

at his side.

JUDGE BETTY
We did it!

LANCE
We got enough attention to have a meeting with people who have the ability to declare them personas-non-grata.

Ava's shoulders slump.

GABRIEL
That's good, that's really good.

AVA
It's a start.

JUDGE BETTY
Let's go talk in the garden Ava. I believe Lance has some work for Gabriel.

Judge Betty walks over and loops her arm through Ava's, leading her away.

GABRIEL
We just got back from holiday...

EXT. GARDEN, CONTINUOUS

The two women are walking with each other through the garden. There is a very high security presence.

JUDGE BETTY
So how was it?

AVA
It was awesome, it's been a long time since I've felt so- normal.

JUDGE BETTY
That's so good to hear.

AVA
But thats not why you pulled me aside?

JUDGE BETTY.
You didn't file the annulment papers, I was wondering why.

Ava pauses walking, looking around to see if they are alone.

AVA

I don't know if I want to. I've enjoyed my time with Gabriel. If it weren't for Tyrell, I'm not sure I would be ready to leave. Drunk me was onto something when she agreed to marry him.

JUDGE BETTY

Does he know you have them?

Ava shakes her head in answer.

JUDGE BETTY

There is a deadline to file by.

AVA

I know, I just, need to think about it.

Judge Betty offers a hug, and Ava accepts it.

JUDGE BETTY

You'll figure out what to do.

INT. SHARED OFFICE, AN HOUR LATER

Ava and Gabriel are sitting at their own desks, working on stuff.

AVA

Are you far from done?

GABRIEL

At least another hour or two, why?

Ava yawns,

AVA

I'm tired.

Gabriel looks up at her with a smile.

GABRIEL

You can go up to bed, I'm going to wrap this up, and then I'll join you.

AVA

I can wait-

Ava yawns again,

GABRIEL

You are very tired Ava, and I have three days worth of work to catch up on. I'll come to bed once I've read these reports.

Ava nods, walking over to kiss him softly,

AVA

Goodnight Gabriel.

INT. SHARED BEDROOM, CONTINUOUS

Ava is in the hallway, the bedroom is dark, there is a shadow (Tyrell) sitting in a seat, facing the door way, waiting with a gun.

Ava enters the room, going straight to the ensuite without turning on the light, we hear her brushing her teeth and getting ready for bed.

Ava comes back out and goes to the bed, turning on the bedside lamp. Tyrell moves, a hand going around her mouth to stop her scream as she sees him.

He waves a gun, taking his hand away from her mouth and motioning for her to keep quiet.

TYRELL

You lied to me.

AVA

Tyr-

TYRELL

Shhh, wouldn't want your precious husband to come storming in here. Not with how angry I am to find out you lied. I spoke with my former boss, he never threatened you, was furious you would imply he would.

AVA

I-

TYRELL

Shh, I would hate for you to get that pretty face hurt. I'm still

- - - - -

talking my dear. I looked it all up, your entire fake marriage to this fool. But it's not fake, you got married, you are still married. You love him. Never intended to run away with me. You just wanted to string me along, use me for your own gain.

Tyrell punches her in the stomach. Ava doubles over, clutching her stomach.

TYRELL

I thought I taught you better than that.

Tyrell turns, picking up the envelope with the annulment papers and shoving it at her.

TYRELL

I found these, sign them, write a note saying you've run away, make it believable.

He picks up a pen and throws it at her. It bounces off and lands on the floor, Ava reaches out with shaking hands to grab it.

She looks up to see a gun pointed at her head.

TYRELL

Hurry, we don't have long.

Ava signs the annulment papers, before starting to write a note on the back

I can't do it, he's going to find me. I have to put as much space as possible between me and him. I'm sorry. Thanks for trying.

AVA

That's it. It's done.

Tyrell grabs her arm, pulling her roughly to her feet. He takes the papers and puts them on the bed, grabbing two duffle bags.

TYRELL

Let's go, be quiet, or else no one is making it out alive.

Tyrell hands her one of the bags, poking his gun into her back, making her walk forwards. Ava complies with tears in

her eyes.

INT. JOINT BEDROOM, 1 HOUR LATER

The room is empty, Ava's bedside lamp is on, and the note is on the bed. Gabriel walks into the room.

GABRIEL

I'm so sorry it took so long, you
shouldn't have stayed up-

Gabriel looks to the bed, before frantically looking around the room.

GABRIEL

LANCE! SECURITY! EVERYONE NOW!

Footsteps sound from off screen, before a number of people burst into the bedroom.

GABRIEL

Ava's gone! Find her, Tyrell must
have broken in again. Get me Lance.
Now!

LANCE

I'm here. Tyrell can't have got in.

Lance, looking like he only just rolled out of bed, walks into the room.

LANCE

I replaced anyone I didn't trust
with my life while you and Ma'am
were away. Redid all the security
procedures, maybe the young ma'am
went for a walk?

Lance frowns walking over to the bed and picking up the note.

LANCE

Sir.

He doesn't read it, handing it over to Gabriel. Gabriel quickly scans the note, before opening the file to see the annulment papers.

GABRIEL

Get men after her, she can't have
gone far.

LANCE

Sir-

GABRIEL

She ran, couldn't trust me to save her. Judge Betty must have given her the papers today.

Lance takes the pages out of Gabriel's hands.

LANCE

This is dated the day she got out of hospital.

GABRIEL

So it was all planned? She's been playing me?

LANCE

I'll get Judge Betty, maybe she knows something.

Lance hands the papers back and leaves again, leaving Gabriel alone in the bedroom. Gabriel sits down on the bed, rereading the annulment. A few moments later he gets up, searching through her wardrobe and stuff. He moves to the bathroom to do the same.

INT. DINING ROOM 1 HOUR LATER.

Gabriel is pacing back and forth. Lance, now dressed, is sitting at the table with two radios, a phone, and a notepad. He is keeping track of all the information that was coming in from the guards.

GABRIEL

Where is she?

LANCE

Judge Betty promised to come at once, and if, IF, Ava has run, then I doubt we will find her. She has successfully run from Tyrell for years, only caught because your father, and you, refused to let her go.

Judge Betty, looking like she recently woke up, and barely had time to get dressed before racing over, arrives

JUDGE BETTY

Did you find her?!

GABRIEL

You granted her the annulment?!

JUDGE AVA

You saw it? Tell me everything.

Lance holds out the envelope, and Betty takes it, quickly reading it over.

JUDGE BETTY

I granted her the annulment the day she was attacked. Our agreement was if she got attacked, she got the annulment granted immediately. She asked for it at the hospital, I agreed.

GABRIEL

And you didn't tell me?

JUDGE BETTY

You knew the deal. Ava hadn't signed nor delivered it. I asked her why she hadn't, and she told me she was still considering it. She wanted to stay here, said that her drunken self had made a smart decision.

Betty hands the papers back.

JUDGE BETTY

If she ran, and I mean IF, then she tricked all of us.

GABRIEL

She packed up all her stuff, cleared out. She must have had a plan all along.

Gabriel paces back and forth again.

GABRIEL

Unless she was kidnapped, and Tyrell wanted to make it look like she ran away.

Gabriel keeps pacing.

JUDGE BETTY

If it was him, I'll help however I can.

LANCE

Surveillance shows that Ava packed her bags alone, wrote the note after signing the annulment papers, and walked off of her own accord. Then she's gone.

GABRIEL

Something is wrong.

LANCE

We will keep looking.

INT. DARK MOTEL ROOM. NEXT WEEK

Ava is staring out a window, paused while washing the dishes. Behind her is a well kept motel room, cleaner than it should be. A number of cleaning products are around. As well as a large number of surveillance cameras covering the whole room.

TYRELL

Honey! I'm home.

Tyrell enters, moving to kiss Ava on the cheek. She flinches away, but doesn't stop him.

TYRELL

I have news on your husband.

Tyrell throws a number of magazines on the bench beside her. All have various headlines of how the bachelor Gabriel Walsh was going crazy looking for his run-away bride. A large reward offered for any sighting of the woman who ran off with his heart.

TYRELL

I underestimated how much he cares for you, and perhaps, you for him?

AVA

I told you already. I won't again.

Ava cries out as Tyrell strikes her.

TYRELL

Do not talk to me like that.

AVA

You asked me a question.

He hits her again.

TYRELL

I taught you how to behave once. Do not let your feelings for him make you forget how to behave. Now pack, we leave again this evening.

Ava takes a moment, before getting up and stumbling over to the bed, packing the bags that sit on there.

AVA

Can I please have some ice?

TYRELL

You have been mostly good today.

Tyrell nods, before leaving the motel room. Ava quickly grabs a pen, and a motel note pad, she quickly scribbles something, shoving it under the fitted sheet. She turns her gaze directly to a camera.

Tyrell returns with the ice, wrapping it in a towel and gently pressing it to her wounds.

TYRELL

I wish you'd just behave. I hate hurting you. It hurts me too.

He runs a hand through her hair comfortingly. Ava starts to flinch away from Tyrell, before forcing herself to lean into him.

TYRELL

He'll stop looking soon, then we can go home. We can have that family you always wanted. Mother is so excited to see you again. She's been missing having you around.

Ava nods,

TYRELL

It will all be over soon.

INT. OFFICE, SAME DAY

.

Gabriel is in his office, sitting at his desk with his hands in his head. He is unkept, and looks like he has barely slept. Lance enters the room and Gabriel's head shoots up, only to drop back down with Lance's shake of his head.

GABRIEL

She can't have run, if she did
someone would have seen her.
Someone would know where she was.
Any news from any of our border
agents?

LANCE

Sir, if I had news, I would have
given it to you already.

Gabriel's head hit the desk.

GABRIEL

I just want her back, or at least
to know she is safe. That she
escaped Tyrell.

Anton walks into the room, carrying copies of the same magazines that Tyrell threw at Ava. Anton throws on Gabriel's desk in rage.

ANTON

This is foolishness! You did not
even want to remain married to this
woman! And now you are free of her
and you want her back!?

Gabriel barely looks up at them, one hand moving them out of his way.

ANTON CON

I told you to stay married to fix
your reputation! Our family
branding! Now look at you!

GABRIEL

What if she's dead?! Would you be
able to live with yourself?! I
couldn't!

Gabriel stands, angrily,

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

You saw what her ex did to her. I
can't- I need to know she's safe.

ANTON

And if I find you proof that she's alive? Something that proves she's okay?

GABRIEL

Then I will do anything and everything you ask of me.

LANCE

Gabriel! You can't-

GABRIEL

I will do anything for her.

Anton smiles and leaves the room.

LANCE

Your father will take advantage of you, you shouldn't have said that.

GABRIEL

I *need* to know she's safe. I will do anything.

LANCE

Even loose the court? Everything you've ever wanted?

Gabriel hesitates for a moment, before nodding.

GABRIEL

Anything.

Lance sighs,

LANCE

Then lets pray we find her first.

INT. GABRIEL'S ROOM, TWO DAYS LATER, EARLY EVENING

Gabriel is laying on the bed, hugging Ava's pillow to his chest and staring off into the distance. Lance enters, knocking softly on the door.

LANCE

Dinner sir.

GABRIEL

Ava?

LANCE

Nothing yet. Have faith sir.

GABRIEL
Why did she leave?

LANCE
Maybe she felt it was her only
option.

Lance walks over and sits on the bed beside him. His hand rests on Gabriel's shoulder.

LANCE
We may never know, you might just
have to accept that.

GABRIEL
I don't know if I can.

LANCE
You need to. Or you'll lose
everything you fought for,
everything you've dreamed of.

Gabriel sighs, letting go of the pillow.

GABRIEL
I'll have dinner in the office.

INT. GABRIEL'S OFFICE, TWO DAYS LATER, MIDDAY.

Judge Betty, Lance and Gabriel are all seated in the office.

GABRIEL
So that's it then. We lost.

JUDGE BETTY
Not necessarily.

GABRIEL
Our petition fails, unless we can
produce Ava to give a first hand
account. Ava's run off, or
kidnapped, or whatever, and we
still have no idea how it happened.
I refuse to believe that after our
trip she just left.

JUDGE BETTY
We aren't going to just give up.
Everyone we know is looking for

her, and thanks to your reward, so is everyone we don't know. Francis believes that as soon as she is settled she will call him.

LANCE

We will figure this out, and if she hears the news that they need her here to earn her freedom, she may come back.

GABRIEL

Have you figured out how Tyrell got in? How he knew to be here waiting for her. He was supposed to meeting her in France.

Lance and the Judge share a look, before Lance shakes his head sadly.

LANCE

I have our best people on it. If something happened, we will know soon.

GABRIEL

But not soon enough, we have a week to find her.

JUDGE BETTY

Have faith Gabriel, it's just a matter of time.

INT. HOUSE. A WEEK LATER

Ava is slumped forward over a couch fast asleep. A number of security camera's focused on her. Even more covering all the other space around the house, giving her no privacy. Tyrell enters the room, chuckling at Ava.

TYRELL

You've been working hard my dear.

He strokes her hair gently, sitting down next to her.

TYRELL

Your husband is starting to give up on his search. My people say that he's running out of hope. Part of me wants to call in a report. Or

have you call him and assure him
that you're fine. You got away and
are happy on an island somewhere,
safe.

He shifts her to rest on his shoulders, wrapping his arm
around her.

TYRELL

But thats too mean, yet not mean
enough. Part of me wants him to
know I won. That you picked me over
him. That you're mine.

He sighs, getting comfortable with her leaning on him.

EXT. GARDEN, GABRIEL'S HOUSE. SAME DAY

Gabriel is laying on the grass, staring at the sky. He is
still just as disheveled. Security guards are all around
him. Lance races out the door towards Gabriel.

LANCE

I have news!

Gabriel turns, looking with only a tiny glimmer of hope.

LANCE

She left a note! One that a cleaner
in a motel found. It had a number
on it, yours. She called.

Gabriel gets up, racing over to take the phone off of
Lance.

GABRIEL

What does it say?

CLEANER

It tells me to call this number and
say that 'I didn't run, he took me,
please help me party boy. Your
Sapphire Princess, A.'

GABRIEL

Anything else? At all?

CLEANER

No, I'm sorry. That was all. It was
hidden well, we only just found it.

LANCE

It's not much, but its a start, an answer to your question.

Gabriel passes him the phone back with a sad smile.

GABRIEL
But we still have no idea how he got her, and where they are.

LANCE
We will figure it out Gabriel, have faith.

GABRIEL
I hope she has faith we will find her, that she doesn't give up.

LANCE
She's strong Gabriel.

INT. HOUSE, NIGHT TIME.

Ava is cooking, Tyrell is sitting at the table watching her. He receives a phone call.

TYRELL
You have news?

Pause, (Gabriel knows she was taken. She somehow sent a note).

TYRELL
That's impossible.

(She didn't say how to find you both, just that she was taken by you).

TYRELL
Keep me in the loop.

Tyrell hangs up.

AVA
Are we moving again?

Tyrell stands, crossing over to Ava and grabbing her around the waist.

TYRELL
Not yet, but soon. That was one of my men, it seems that Gabriel received your message.

Ava stiffens,

TYRELL CON

He'd just given up hope. We were almost able to go home. How did you get him a message?

His hand comes up to rest on her neck.

AVA

I- I left a note. Asked a cleaner to call a number and pass on a message. I just wanted-

Tyrell's hold tightens around her as his anger grows.

TYRELL

You just wanted to leave me? I finally get you back and-

AVA

Yes. I want to leave you. Judging by the fact you needed a gun to get me to come with you, you know that. Just let me go.

TYRELL

No. You are mine. You will always be mine.

He squeezes her tightly, and she lets out a yelp of pain.

AVA

Please-

Ava starts to sob, Tyrell lets her go, looking down at her as she sinks to the ground and curls up.

TYRELL

Soon you will realize leaving is futile, and then it will all go back to how it was before. Everything will be perfect again.

INT. JUDGE BETTY'S COURTROOM CHAMBERS, MORNING.

Judge Betty, Gabriel, Anton and Lance are all seated in Judge Betty's office, staring at the phone.

GABRIEL

This is pointless,

Gabriel starts to get up.

ANTON
Patience my son, we have time.

GABRIEL
I should be out there looking-

ANTON
Looking where? All we have is a motel and a fake name. This will give us a starting point.

JUDGE BETTY
More than that, there is a high chance it could lead us straight to her. We just have to wait.

Gabriel throws his hands up, before leaving the room.

LANCE
Sir clearly needs a walk to calm his mind. I shall take his place should it be required.

JUDGE BETTY
He has been very worried about her, is he taking care of himself?

LANCE
He blames himself, and is trying to subconsciously punish himself.

Judge Betty looks directly at Anton as she speaks.

JUDGE BETTY
In a way, we all are to blame.

Anton rolls his eyes, getting up and walking to the door.

ANTON
I need to make a few calls, come get me if that phone rings.

INT. HALLWAY TO JUDGE BETTY'S OFFICE, AN HOUR LATER

Anton is standing outside the door, talking on the phone. He stops when Gabriel enters the corridor.

ANTON
We should talk.

He hangs up his call, motioning to the bench chair nearby.

ANTON

I heard a rumor, that Angel's Court is facing bankruptcy, the owner took every penny out of the business for some reason.

GABRIEL

Everything you wanted father, you must be pleased.

ANTON

I'm not. I wanted to beat Angel's Court fairly, I was enjoying the two businesses battling it out. I thought you were too.

Anton reaches out and puts a hand on his sons shoulder.

ANTON

So I'm going to bail you out. The money you put up as Ava's reward, I will pay it. You return every cent back to that business, and you fight for it.

Gabriel's jaw drops, and Anton chuckles.

ANTON

I've known for a while. That you haven't spent a cent of my money unless you had to. That you started up a rival company. But when I tried to encourage you to branch out... it didn't work. You never fought harder than when I told you I didn't think you could.

GABRIEL

So me and Ava?

ANTON

You needed her, anyone could see that. The way you looked at each other that morning, it was how your mother used to look at me. I didn't know her story, couldn't have known it, but I could tell just a few months together would change your life.

GABRIEL

And you couldn't just talk to me?

Anton smiles sadly, shaking his head.

ANTON

After your mother passed, I wasn't there for you like I should have been. I didn't know how to fix it. I thought it was too late.

GABRIEL

I don't want to do it without her.

Anton wraps his arm over Gabriel's shoulders, Gabriel starts quietly sobbing.

ANTON

And I'll do everything I can to make it so you don't have to.

Lance sticks his head out the door.

LANCE

We just got word.

ANTON

And?

Gabriel looks up, wiping tears from her eyes.

LANCE

We got it, the FBI have been given the case details, with orders to track down their agent and rescue Ava. Someone will ring us and a few other people when they have a location, and we can wait outside, with oversight. Depending on what happens, is if our request for persona-non-grata will be passed on to the final stage.

Gabriel sighs with relief

ANTON

It'll all be over soon.

INT. HOUSE, DAY

Ava is standing by the door, with a number of bags around her. Tyrell is frantically pulling down all the camera's and shoving them into a box.

TYRELL
You could help!

AVA
You said you'd beat me black and
blue if I even thought about
touching them.

TYRELL
That was before the FBI mobilized a
task force to find us.

AVA
(whispered)
Gabriel?

Tyrell shoves the last one into the box and slams the lid.

TYRELL
Lets go. Now!

He takes her arm, rushing her out of the house and into a
SUV. He forces her nto the back seat, before going back to
get everything else.

TYRELL
Who even is this damn guy,
certainly not a some playboy.

Tyrell slams the doors closed, racing off.

AVA
Where are we going? If the FBI is
looking for us-

TYRELL
We're going to mom's.

AVA
But-

TYRELL
SHUT UP!

Ava shuts up, curling herself into the far corner.

TYRELL
It'll all be okay once we get to
mom's.

EXT. ROAD OUTSIDE THE SIERRA LEONE EMBASSY, EVENING

Police and FBI cars line the entire area outside of the embassy gates, blocking the roads and stopping any traffic from going in or out.

Tyrell and Ava turn the corner, and Tyrell brings the car to a complete stop. All eyes turn to him, weapons pointed at the car.

AVA

Please don't, just let me go.

Tyrell looks around, trying to figure out what to do. A man with a megaphone steps forward.

FBI BOSS

Tyrell Knox. We know you are holding Mrs Ava Walsh against her will. Release her, and we will allow you safe passage.

AVA

Please-

Tyrell glances at the clear road behind him. The FBI man seems to sense he isn't going to let Ava go. Tyrell throws the car in reverse, speeding away. Ava screams in fright. Several officers race to their cars and start chasing them.

TYRELL

I will kill you before I let him have you.

Ava is crying, begging Tyrell to stop and let her out of the car. Tyrell drives faster, dodging other cars, squealing around corners and running lights in an effort to get away. The police stay hot on his heels.

A few units get around in front of Tyrell, blocking the road, and creating a traffic jam. Tyrell tries to go around it, but he loses control of the car, flipping it. The car rolls a few times, before stopping on its side.

Armored police cautiously approach with their guns out. Tyrell drags himself out of the car, stumbling forward with a few open cuts and wounds. Ava does not.

Ava is still strapped into the passengers seat, crumpled in on herself. She has cuts and scraps all up her body, and a heavily bleeding head wound that has knocked her unconscious.

AGENT 1

Hands up!

OFFICER 2

Get your hands up!

Tyrell puts his hands in the air, allowing the officers to come closer and handcuff him. Others move straight past him and to the car.

AGENT 1:

Tyrell you are under arrest for reckless driving, kidnapping, fleeing the police, and obstructing a court of law.

AGENT 2

We need an ambulance, and the fire service.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR.

Nurses, Doctors and EMT's are rushing Ava down a hallway, she has an oxygen mask on.

AMBULANCE WORKER 1

High speed car crash victim, history of domestic violence, and a number of severe trauma's to the head.

NURSE 1

Raspy breathing, rapid heart rate, no eye response. MRI is ready and waiting.

ER DOCTOR

Move fast, I want to know if she has internal bleeding.

They rush her off, and the doors close.

INT. PRIVATE HOSPITAL ROOM, ONE MONTH LATER, EVENING

Ava is laying on a bed, connected to a number of various machines. Gabriel is sitting beside her, looking normal again. He closes the lid of the laptop with a sigh, turning to take Ava's hand and press a kiss to it.

GABRIEL

Lance is taking Betty on their first date tonight. I made them both promise to take photos so you can see it when you wake up.

Ava's hand twitches in his, and he smiles.

GABRIEL

The doctors say you're making positive progress, they've stopped saying if and started saying when you wake up.

Ava groans, her eyes fluttering open. Gabriel doesn't notice.

GABRIEL

Father's working me to the bone, and then some, but at least he lets me work from here in the evenings.

AVA

(very quiet, voice sore)
Gabriel?

Gabriel looks up at her, eyes widening in shock.

GABRIEL

Ava! You- You're awake.

Gabriel reaches up and presses the emergency call button.

GABRIEL CON

How do you feel?

Ava shakes her head, trying to sit up. Gabriel helps her, before offering a glass of water with a straw.

AVA

What... ...happened?

GABRIEL

There was a crash, you hit your head really hard. You've been in a coma for a month.

AVA

Tyrell?

GABRIEL

He is facing charges, he is trying to argue diplomatic immunity, but his country is refusing to protect him. They say he doesn't count as a member of his mothers household. He will be going to prison for a long time.

Gabriel moves to press a kiss to her forehead, resting his head against hers.

AVA

I'm free?

GABRIEL

Yes sweetheart, you're free of him. I took out a restraining order in your name. He can never get you again.

Ava lets out a sigh, leaning backwards. Nurses rush into the room, separating them to check on Ava.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR, NEXT DAY, MORNING

Through the window, we can see that Ava is sitting on the side of her bed, a packed bag beside her as she listens to a doctor.

Gabriel is standing in the corridor waiting, as the doctor leaves, he enters her hospital room.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM, CONTINUOUS

Ava looks up and smiles softly.

AVA

You never did tell me the cost of all of this. Do we owe people favors or?

GABRIEL

Let me worry about that. You just need to worry about healing up.

Ava sighs, letting him take her bag and accepting the hand he offered her.

AVA
I deserve to know, its my fault.

GABRIEL
It's Tyrell's fault, not yours, and
the choices I made to get you back
were worth the price I'm paying
now.

AVA
Please tell me.

Gabriel wraps his arm around her waist, leading her out of
the hospital room.

GABRIEL
Nothing I wouldn't pay a thousand
times over.

AVA
Lance will tell me if you won't.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR, CONTINUOUS

Gabriel sighs, waving to some of the nurses and doctors as
they make their way out.

GABRIEL
Father knows I own Angel's Court.
He refused to let me go bankrupt
offering a reward to those who had
seen you. Not that I had to pay it,
seeing as no one called with actual
information.

AVA
Has he shut you down? Kicked you
out? You should not have.

Ava starts panicking.

GABRIEL
We're negotiating a deal, so we can
co-exist. He still wants me to
inherit his side of things, and
he's happy to let me do what I want
on the side, for the most part.

AVA
You said he was making you work
harder.

GABRIEL

Now he knows I wasn't who I pretended to be, I have a whole lot more responsibility. I think it surprised him when he found out I was successfully doing what he was, and slightly better.

AVA

Is that a good thing?

GABRIEL

I like it, he's finally treating me as an equal. But I think the full cost is yet to be decided. I wanted my own little lawyer back before I signed anything.

He nudges Ava, and she laughs.

AVA

Take me home, and I'll think about helping you out.

The pair walk out the glass hospital doors, where a limo pulls up. Gabriel reaches around Ava to open the door for her, leaving his arm around her waist. Ava smiles up at him, resting a hand on his cheek before stretching up to kiss him, he leans down to meet her. They Kiss.

FIN

Maybe have this as a post-credit scene? Or something like that.

EXT. GABRIEL'S GARDEN, A FEW DAYS LATER, SUNSET.

Ava and Gabriel are sitting in the secret spot, they have just finished a picnic dinner, and are now sitting with sparkling drinks and dessert.

AVA

Can I ask you something?

GABRIEL

Of course Princess.

Gabriel shifts all her attention to her.

AVA

Who do you think asked who to get married? You know, when we were

drunk.

Gabriel puzzles over it for a moment, before shrugging.

GABRIEL

One of us did, I think that's what matters most. Why?

AVA

I'm wondering who should ask next time. We did get our marriage annulled after all. Plus I wouldn't mind actually remembering my own wedding.

Gabriel gets up, taking Ava's hand in his own and pulling her to her feet.

AVA

Gabriel, what are you doing?

Gabriel drops down to one knee, pulling two rings out of his pocket. His mothers engagement ring, and her wedding band.

GABRIEL

We found them with Tyrell's stuff, spent ages trying to figure out how to give them back once you woke up. This seems like the perfect time.

AVA

Gabriel-

GABRIEL

Ava, my beautiful wife. I knew from the moment I laid eyes on you in that club that you were something special. I knew when I woke up to you trying to sneak out that I'd never forget you.

Ava rolls her eyes, pretending to look away.

GABRIEL

Ever since I met you, you have made my life so much more than it already was. You taught me how to fight for what I wanted, what I needed, most. Loosing you was one of the worst days of my life. I realized I can not imagine my life without you in it. That I don't

want to live a life without you.

Ava is tearing up,

GABRIEL

I love you so much. Will you make
me the happiest man alive, and
marry me? Again.

Ava nods, offering him her hand to slide the rings back
onto.

AVA

I love you too Gabriel, I can't
wait to be your wife.

Gabriel and Ava share a kiss.