

CHAPTER ONE- MOM DEATH

Lilith POV

My light footstep barely heard on the floorboard of my house when I enter it right after school ended. A frown marring on my forehead when I heard silent greeting me even after I announce my present in the room, mom always replying even if she not in sight. Thankfully, my loud voice helps her to know when I'm home from school. Today is exception, it's strange when she didn't greet me back. I tried to cast away the uneasy feeling in my heart once again call for mom, only for me didn't get a reply from her. The feeling only increasing when I call for mom multiple times and moving around the house to search for her. I search the kitchen, the garden but still no sight of her in there. The uneasy feeling in me only increases more when I still couldn't find her anywhere in the room. I glance over the stair that led to the upper house where mostly bedroom there and quickly climb the stairs. Maybe she takes a nap or in the bathroom I thought moving my body to mom's room. I push open her bedroom door and relief wash over me when I see her lying on her bed, her back facing me. A bright smile instantly decorates my face, stepping close to her.

"Mom...". I shake her awake, but she didn't awake or even move for a bit. I frown, mom is a light sleeper a simple shake should wake her up already. I do it again and the result is still a same. Mom is not awake. Panic flooded my system when I suddenly realize her body feel cold and her body fell over the mattress from her position earlier with ease. My shaking finger slowly move toward her nose to feel her breath but receive nothing. No hot breath, her body cold and she does not awake. I started to wail shaking her body even more harsh, hoping for her to awake or even she suddenly yell it's a prank, but she just lay there motionlessly. In my state I suddenly remember to call the hospital and I hastily taking out my hand phone from my bag with a shaking finger. I sniff and dialing the line as I put the phone on my ear waiting for the call to receive. I glance over mom's still body only for me to cry even more.

"Hello...911 what your emergency". The reception greets my ear. I release a shaky breath trying to calm down my cries.

"Emm...hello... my mom is not waking up". I said crying again, all the struggle for me to stay calm gone waste. "what happened? Can you tell me?". The person asks me. I clamped my mouth.

"I..I.. dont know. I was back from school.when..when I call for my mom she didn't reply. I come to her bedroom and see that she asleep, but when I tried to wake her up,she..she didn't even awake." I cried more explaining the situation to the reception.

“Alright sweetheart calm down please... can you give me your address and we will come in 15 minutes?” The woman said again, and I gave her the address of our house. She hangs up our call and I slowly put the phone in the pocket of my jeans. I stare back at mom’s still body with a tear trail nonstop on my cheek. Exactly 15 minutes later the siren of siren can be heard approaching my house. No doubt it will attract the attention of my neighbours. They probably wondering my is a ambulance in my house. My footstep rapidly moves to the lower section of the house when the bell ring. I open the door and group of people from the hospital greet me. After I tell them where my mom is they quickly move to her bedroom upstairs with me following closely behind them. I stand on the bedroom door watching the man put his finger under mom’s nose earlier like me. I stunned when I see he just shake his head looking over his acquaintance before looking at me. No, this cant happened to me now.

“I’m sorry miss..your mom already gone.” The man tells me solemnly. I gape looking over mom’s body trying to deny that she’s no more. I frantically shook my head moving closer to her body.

“No... no she can’t be be...mom..mom..wake up please, this is not funny. Wake up please.” I shake her body again while crying hysterically hugging her body. “Mom wake up! You can’t leave me. Who will look after me, who will cook for me, who will scold me? No mama you can leave me alone.” My voice raising a bit weeping over her cold body in my embrace. I don’t care with the emergency team from the hospital who is staring at me crying. I hug her body tighter to me unwilling for her to leave me even when I know that she is no more. I just silently cried. I trash when they take her body from my embrace, wailing loudly when they put her body on the stretcher and cover it with a white cloth.

“Oh Lilith.. I’m so sorry sweetheart”. Mrs Jonas old body embrace me tightly silently crying with me watching they bring her body out from her room. I stay motionlessly in Mrs Jonas hug crying loudly. I didn’t even realize when did that old woman comes to our house. She probably feels weird seeing the ambulance in front of our house.

It was already fourth day of mom funeral. Her body was safely buried beside grandma grave just like she’s requested to me when the topic dead suddenly become the topic of our conversation of the day. Like any other children when they topic of dead suddenly come out of nowhere, I quickly dismiss it like how it suddenly burst in our conversation saying that she’s not leaving me anytime soon, while mom just smiling fondly at me and rubbing my head lovingly. But I never thought she will be leaving me so soon without saying anything to me. The hospital done an autopsy to her body saying that she

died from natural causes, no sickness, no ill. Nothing. When I heard about the news I frown, the why question flooded my mind. If she doesn't have any illness, why does she have to died, why does she have to leave me alone in this world. I still need her to guide me through the phase of my life. In this moment I have lost my sense and faith. Why do God have to take my mom's away from my life. I can accept if He take other things from me, but not my mom. I can't, I just can't. Since mom death four days ago I just spent my day in room, mourn for her. Crying non-stop day and night over her sudden death. I lose all my hope in my life, my strength to keep going, my light, my happiness. I just feel numb. Tears continue to prick the corner of my eyes when I remember all the memories we spent together during her life, looking over the photo and polaroid I hand on the wall inside my bedroom. We look happy in there. A big, bright smile decorate our expression without worries.

When grandma death, I'm not that sad because I still have mom with me. Of course, I feel sad, mom and I mourn over grandma's death together. The numb is there but not like the numb I feel after mom's death. I feel hollow, it feels like it just my body still intact on the earth, but I have lost my soul. I feel like walking corpse still living without purpose on the earth. My friends from school and neighbours comes to give their condolence on mom's death. I just stay on the living room and retreat to my room after the visitor went back. Mrs Jonas, my neighbor and grandma's best friend comes and stay with me in our house to accompany me along with her husky named Lucky. She sleeps in the guest room. The old lady is just a sweetheart. She's cook for me and comfort me when I cry. I really feel grateful with her present here with me, and I don't know if she not here with me. She's the only comfort and strength that I have now. Even in my disoriented body, I didn't forget to thank her for taking care of me while she just said that I was like a granddaughter she didn't have.

My thought snap short when a soft knock rang on my bedroom door. After I given the permission for the person to enter, Mrs Jonas head peep through the door with a soft smile on her lips. A force smile from me greets her back and I slowly wiped all the rest of my tear from my rosy cheek. I didn't miss the sympathy and sadness flash through her eyes when she is taking over my state. She steps further into my bedroom.

"Lily there is a woman in the living room saying that she is your social worker and she need to talk to you." Mrs Jonas inform me make me frown hard. A social worker? Oh! Right, I'm still underage so a social worker is a must for a six-teen year old like me, I'm still not in a legal age to take care and live alone on my own. She probably will send me to an orphanage, and I must wait until I'm eight-teen to be free from the clutch of orphanage and social worker. Oh no, I don't want to be sent to orphanage. I look up to Mrs Jonas with a teary eye when I realize what will happened to me. She in instant move to my side and engulf me in a warm hug that make the dam of tear broke right there.

“I don’t want to be sent to the orphanage.” I whimper in her embrace, hugging her tightly. I don’t want to leave my house where I grow up all my life in here. The house where I sit and live right now contain too much memory of grandma and mom.

“I know sweetheart ...I know... I won’t let them send you to the orphanage. You will stay here with me, okay sweetheart.” She mumbles to me rubbing my back and forth comfortingly. I just eagerly at her idea for me to stay here with her. I rather stay here and take care of Mrs Jonas than went to the orphanage. She’s broke our hug holding me at arm-length gazing at me lovingly and wipe the tear from my cheek that manage to stain my cheek.

“So... let get down and meet her and I will tell her that I will adopt you.” She grins widely at me and landing a soft kiss on my forehead. I sniff loudly, smiling widely at her for the first time for four day ago. For a moment I forgot about mom’s death when I think about living with Mrs Jonas. At least I am not alone anymore when she said she is willing to adopt me.

“But I need to fresh up first. I probably look like a homeless person right now.” I said that make her burst out laughing. No doubt that I look like a mess right now with a puffy red eye, eyes bag hanging heavily under my eyes and with a messy hair.

“Alright... I wait for you downstairs... take your time sweetheart.” She replies smiling softly before she move to my bedroom door and disappear from my sight after she close the door. With a heavy sigh left my mouth I stand up from the couch near my window and step inside my bathroom. Staring at the mirror inside my bathroom, my mouth quivering slowly when I see the person who is staring back at from the mirror. My brown eyes look glossy due to the tear that always present in my eyes since mom’s death, my cheek and nose look rosy, and my eyes look puffy as ever. Once again huffing loudly I avert my gaze from the mirror and continue to tidying my cloth and myself. I wash my face and brush my long brown hair away from my face. Some of them stick to my face due to the tears. I decided to leave my hair down and after feeling satisfied with how I look and quickly left the comfort of my bedroom and step down the stair to the living room. Both women who is sitting and talking in the living room turn to me when they sense my present in the living room. A woman late in her twenties, blue eyes and blonde hair smile waryly at me when I turn my gaze to her. Her eyes fill with sympathy when she took in my state while I just smile half-heartedly at her. I slowly take a seat beside Mrs Jonas with my body facing the woman.

“Hi. I am Clara, your social worker.” She introduces herself to me with her hand extend forward to me. Her voice soft and smooth that give me a little comfort.

“I’m Lilith.” My voice croak when I speak that me feel embarrassed, but I still shake her hand. She just smiles at me totally ignore my embarrassment.

“So...as you know I comes here to tell you about your living arrangement after your mom’s death and who will take care you or are you going to the orphanage.” She said slowly and carefully.

“I don’t want to go the orphanage, and I want to stay with Nana Jonas.” I say in panic looking at Clara with my quivering lips. I really don’t want to go there. I always heard about some of the owner of the orphanage sometime abuse the children under their care. I don’t want something like that to happen to me. Clara tilts her head with a frown.

“She’s your grandma?” She questions me. I shook my head. “She not my biological grandma, she’s my real grandma’s best friend.” I explain to her, and a realization expression come across her face when I say it to her. She purses her lips looking at the file in her lap for a moment.

“But Lilith...unfortunately when we are going some research for your family...and we found that you have a half-brother.” She said looking unsure and gauge at my expression. I gape at her, shock covering my face when I heard she said that I have half-brother. But mom never told me anything about other family member of in fact my half-brother. I look at her with my wide eyes.

“Are you sure?... my mom never told me about my other sibling or half-brother to me when she live.” I tell her bewildered. I never know that something like this is kept secret by moms from me. Why does she’s had to kept it from me when it is something so big like this. Like, hello it sibling matter.

“Yeah. we are sure about this. you have seven elder’s brother and a father.” She announced to me that make me and Mrs Jonas gasp loudly. Seven! SEVEN! I have seven brothers. The hell! Why do I have so many brothers? All my sadness inside of me turn to shock and disbelieve. Moms never got married and she’s never talk about my real father with me. So, I just thought that my real father already died or he never know about my existed or my real father is a scumbag that leave my mom’s when he’s know that my mom’s got pregnant. Who know what happened between them that make me never know about my father existence? After all it just a conclusion and imagination my mind creates.

“So. we already contact your guardian who is your father and he happily accept you. and you unfortunately have to move to New York for your new family”. She continues said to me.

“New York? Do I have to? Can I just stay here with Nana?” I ask her hopefully, in hope she will agree and just let me live here with Mrs. Jonas. Clara smiles sadly with a small shook of her head that crush all my hope to stay here with nana Jonas and live in the growing home.

“I am sorry sweetie. I can’t do that. if I allow that to happened, Mrs. Jonas and your guardian have to fight for adoption in the court.” She said to me sheepishly, probably feeling sorry for me. My shoulder slumped down in disappointment when I heard the word court. I don’t want Mrs. Jonas to be tired with the fight of adoption in court, I know it can be really exhausted. Plus, it wastes a lot of money to

pay for the lawyer. I don't know if my new family is rich or not. If they are, they will be easily to pay for the lawyer. I hold my sob from broke through by clamped my mouth tightly.

"I'm sorry sweetheart." Mrs. Jonas whisper softly with a cried evidence heard in her shaking voice. She hugs me sideway kissing my head. I just sob softly against her chest hugging her tightly. Clara just silently watching us, giving us time before she's said something next. After a few minutes, I finally calm down moving away from Mrs. Jonas hug as I wipe my tear away.

"I'm okay now." I tell Clara's silently giving her a chance to saying anything she have to say. "He also said that you have to pack up all the things that you need and by Tuesday next week you will go to New York and meet your new family, okay." Clara tells me the plan that my father already made and I just nod without opening my mouth.

"Emm..He also said he will pick you up himself from your home, is that good with you." She continues. I nod once again. I just hope that my new family will be good to me. I don't deal well with new people. I always take time to warm up to them.

"Here is my card..if you have anything to ask just call my number.. alright sweetheart?" She extends her card that contain her name and number. I take it from her and examine it for a second before staring back at her and nod.

"I should get going now. and Lilith I am sorry for your loss." She whispers the last word softly staring pitifully at me. I just force a smile, I can my eyes watered once again. Mrs. Jonas offer to accompany her to the front door but Clara decline saying that she can manage herself. My watered eyes gazing at mom's photo that was hanging on the wall in the living room. I can't help but feel hurt and betrayed by mom action to hide such a big secret from me. Whatever her decision was to hide the matter from me I'm sure that she has her own reason and I respect her for that.

CHAPTER TWO- NEW FAMILY

Lilith POV

Dark and gloom cloud covered the small town in Tuesday morning when I wake up from my sleep. I sweep my gaze around my room that soon won't be mine anymore. The tear pricks the corner of my eyes, and I don't bother to wipe it away when it fell to my cheek this time. This afternoon I will go to New York and stay with my new family. I don't know if I ever have the chance to come back here. It so sad for me to leave my childhood home that have so many sad and happy memories, but mostly happy memories. My room look spotless and clear because, mostly of my belonging already inside the box that I will bring to New York. I also pack some of mom's belonging that important and some of them I sent to storage room. It was a difficult decision to choose, which one I must bring and not to bring because I feel that all of it is important. In the end I must really think which one I should bring with me. Mom's also thankfully already put the house under my name before she died, and I don't have to be worried about selling the house and Mrs. Jonas promise to take care to the house in my behalf. I don't want to sell my childhood home.

My hesitation not only to leave my home but also to leave Mrs. Jonas alone. She just has Lucky, her husky to accompany her but I am sure that she will be lonely living alone. Mrs. Jonas just waving her hand dismiss my worry away saying that she will be fine here. I also tried to convince her to come with me to New York, but she declines my idea. Mrs. Jonas said she was happy for me because I have a family to take care of me.

I wash up and had my breakfast that was prepare by Mrs. Jonas which is chocolate pancake, bacon and egg. We just eat in silent just the clank of our cutlery fills the quiet kitchen. After I'm done, I help Mrs. Jonas to clean and wash the dishes.

"So, lily... Are you excited?" Mrs. Jonas ask me with a hint of glee in her tune. I glance briefly over Mrs. Jonas before shrugged carelessly.

"I don't know nana... I. I feel nervous I guess?" I said uncertain with my actual feeling in meeting my new family. The nervous is there but mostly it was covered by sadness to leave my house and this town. I don't really know what I feel right now, it all jumble mess inside my head. Sad, disappointed, nervous, excited it all there.

"That okay to feel nervous sweetheart... after all they are new people. It normal to feel nervous. but try to know your new family, okay?" She said softly rubbing my back staring at me. I silently gazing at her and nod while playing with my finger. My lip jutted out, feeling unsure if actually I can do it.

"You promise Lilith?" She asks me with a knowing smile. I roll my eyes playfully, smiling a bit.

“Lilith promise nana.” I said and she engulf me in her hug. We stay like that for a while before a heard a snuffle from her like she trying to hold her sob. “Oh! Lily... I will miss you.” She sobs.

“I will miss you too nana.” I mumble against her chest, crying.

After our little episode in the kitchen, she’s help me to tidy the house a bit. It’s not much to do since the house is always clean and tidy. Clara said to me that my father will pick me up in the afternoon but it’s not even afternoon when a black SUV comes and park by my house. Mrs. Jonas and I share a look of confuse but continue to watch from the window waiting for the person to come out. The nervousness swam and burst through my vein and body. Black and shiny shoes come to my view before the person revealed himself. The man is tall maybe six feet something, wearing an Armani suit with a Ray Ban shade covering his eyes. He looks around the neighborhood before a guy from the other side of the car walk toward the first man and said something to him. The second man wear a black hoodie and jean with shade covering his eyes same as the other one.

Who are these guys? From the way they dress I am sure that they are a rich people. After talking some more, they look to the front door of my house before stepping toward it. I gulp, feel a bit intimidating with their huge and tall body along with their serious face. My gaze follows their step until their body disappear from my sight.

“Do you know them Lily?” Nana ask me confusion written all over her face. I shook my head. Not long after the front doorbell ring saying that they already waiting in front of the door.

“Let’s go get it.” Nana whisper to me and the both of us rapidly move toward the house. Mrs. Jonas glance at me before opening the door.

“Hello gentlemen. how can I help you?” Nana greet them with a smile that make the both of them to remove their shade from their eyes. My eyes widen from shock seeing their handsome face. I didn’t expect that. The man who is wearing the suit smile a little at Nana. The other man standing tall beside him stay silent with cold and bored look on his face. It like he is unwilling to be standing here. Both of his hand stuffing inside his hoodie pocket.

“Is this Lilith Salvatore house?” His velvet and smooth voice greet my ears that make me frown when he said my name. Who is this man? I scan wearily over their body, searching for a weapon but thankfully found nothing that make sigh in relief. Who know that they might be criminal? Mrs. Jonas gazing at me, confusion marring her old face.

“Yes, this is her house. Who are you guys?” I decided to ask carefully watching their face. The Armani suit man sigh in relief before smiling that didn’t quite reach his eyes.

“I am Reynold Salvatore, and this is Fredrico Salvatore...we are your brothers.” He said that make my mouth fell open. I stare the both with a disbelieve on my face. Seriously, I have half-brothers this

handsome? Holy cricket. I think they can surpass celebrity with their handsomeness if not they are celebrity themselves. That's fine I will find out that later myself. But I don't think that I can handle a life full of paparazzi crowding everywhere I go just to ask me about my brothers. Oh! I pray that never happen to me.

"My...my brothers...but Clara said that fa..."

"Oh..dad, he have a important thing to do and he said he's sorry that he can't come and get you." Reynold said in his American accent so fast and in return I just nod. I feel weird hearing him speaking the American accent, maybe because I never truly hearing American people speaking to it in real life, I only heard them speaking to it in TV. Plus, I only surrounded by British people in this small town. Hah! Curse my boring life. (My life is boring but that fine because I have moms by my side.)

"Oh! How rude of us. come inside gentlemen, so we can talk inside." Nana interrupt inviting them to come inside. They quickly step inside the house, and we guide them to the living room. The house feels small with their massive figure inside it. Cue the short people.

"I will get you guys tea." Nana said before Reynold can decline, she already moves to the kitchen.

"Wow. She's fast." Reynold said widen his eyes for a bit. I laugh awkwardly. "Yeah..she is ." I said awkwardly before it is silent again. I look around the living room because of the awkwardness but I can feel their eyes watching me.

"So..how old are you." Reynold ask but before I could answer, Fredrico answer it for me that make me purse my lips looking down at my finger.

"Oh year. Six-teen." I only slowly nod, lowering my hand that automatically raise when I talk. But only when they ask about my age. I don't even know why I do that, it just straight away raise in the air. Ever heard about "Don't ever ask about girl age". I silently sitting there fiddling with my finger, looking on the carpet. That is always happened when I'm meet new people. Yeah, I am socially awkward. But I can feel, their burning gaze on me, watching my every movement that make me want to cower more on the corner of the living room. What are they trying to see?

"I never know that she's this beautiful." I heard Fredrico mumble under her breath not I can catch what he said. I look up to him, feeling my cheek burn. "Pardon?" I ask him sheepishly. Fredrico only roll his eyes, looking away from me while Reynold just laugh. He heard what his brother said.

"Rude" I sneer inside my head seeing Fredrico action toward my question. Excuse me for asking no need to be rude.

"Rico right... we didn't expect that our sister is beautiful." Reynold said making my cheek burn more intense from earlier. I smile politely.

“Well... thank you.” I reply shyly, smiling at him showing my dimple on my cheek. Mom always said that I have a beautiful smile that attract people to me. I’m sure my expression turn somber that make Reynold’s falter. We stay silent after that before Reynold’s open his mouth again this time make me sadder.

“Lilith. we are sorry for your lost.” He say quietly. I just nod, feeling my lip trembling and quickly wipe the tear away when it decided to betray me to not to cry in front of them. It still a sensitive matter to me when it’s only eight days after her funeral. The awkward tension soon replaces by Mrs. Jonas present in the living room with a tray. She smiles warmly at us putting it on the coffee table in the living room.

“Come on gentlemen... drink up.” She invites them. They politely take the mug from the tray and sip it quietly.

“Wow... this is the best tea I ever have.” Reynold comment on the tea that was prepare by Mrs. Jonas. Well, what a British people if they didn’t prepare tea for the guests.

“Oh...you flatter me Mr. Salvatore... it not that good, I think the restaurant serve better than me.” Mrs. Jonas waving her hand carelessly smiling shyly. “Please just call me Reynlod.. Mr Salvatore is my father.” Reynold smile fondly at the old woman.

“So, when is the flight?” Mrs. Jonas change the topic. My body stiff when I heard her question. I’m not ready to leave or specifically I don’t even want to leave.

“The flight is two hours left.” Reynold’s answer left me sadder. In two hours, I will leave my childhood home, in two hour I will soon meet my new family. I can’t always visit mom’s and grandma grave whenever I like. Mrs. Jonas spent the little time to talk to them, joking that she must know about who will take care of me and Reynold’s as polite as ever answer her question. While Fredrico sitting there bored as ever constantly playing with her phone. Without I realize, Reynold’s and Fredrico already helping me load my luggage and box that contain my personal belonging and moms to the car bonnet. I stand beside Mrs Jonas watching them while trying to hold my sob from escape my mouth. Mrs. Jonas turn to me her eyes already look glossy but she still smiling at me. Seeing her warm smile, making me lunge for her old body and I finally let out the cries that I trying to hold. Seeking a comfort in her for a last time before I go. I cried like the same way when moms were buried. It was loud, fill with emotion and I let it out freely for the last time in nana embrace. She’s also cry with me.

“I... I... don’t want to leave Nana...I- I want to stay here with you.” I say along with hiccup escape from. I literally clinging to her, fisting her flowery blouse in my hand tightly. I afraid that new family will not like me, mean to me.

“Oh..honey..you have to.” She said holding my red face with. Staring at me sadly before pecking my temple making me cried even more. I hug her again, didn’t want to let her go. “Sweetie. You must let go... I promise I will call you okay?” She whispers at me rubbing her hand up and down to calm me. But her gesture didn’t even calm me a bit. I didn’t even hear what she said to me, just willowing in my sadness that fill my heart in the moment. I startled when hand big and callous hand separate me from Mrs. Jonas body. I glance up in panic to the person that separate me from Nana.

“ No..no Nana...I don’t want to go.” I shout in panic, trying to reach for Nana but Reynold tighten his hold on my body by hugging my waist. I thrash my body around in Reynold’s arm, hoping that I can escape his grip but totally in vain when his strength in twice over my strength. Mrs. Jonas just watch me trashing while she cries silently.

“Nana...please... I don’t want to go... I want to stay with you.” I cried looking at her, but she just shook her head. “I’m sorry sweetheart. I can’t- I promise to call you every day. okay.” all she just said wiping her tear with her sleeve blouse. Reynold’s walk with me to the car when I just give up with the idea to stay along with my cries and hiccupping. I step inside the car willingly, accepting my fate when Reynold’s open the car door. Fredrico already sitting in the passenger seat. I see Reynold’s nod his head toward nana before he opens the car door of driver seat. My calm sob begins again when he drive away from my neighborhood. I left my childhood home. They just stay silent only listening to my cries.

“Re...Reynold...ca..can we go the cemetery first.” I request wiping my already puffy face. All I do this day is cried. The man glance and smile a little at me from the mirror inside the car before he nods.

“Sure. just show me the way.” All he said. I obligate by giving the direction to the cemetery. I quickly step out from the car when Reynold’s safely park the car on the curb of cemetery. I avert my gaze to Reynold’s who is stepping beside me.

“Let me accompany you.” He say quietly stuffing his hand on his pocket. I just nod at him before walking ahead of him, leading our way where mom’s and grandma’s grave is. My eyes turn misty when my vision see their graves and quicken my walk toward it. I kneel in front of their grave without care my jean will be dirty, that doesn’t matter to me. My tear trail freely down my cheek for the umpteenth time today. My eyes so puffy and its hurt so much.

“Mom. Grandma I will get going...I will meet my new family.” I sob blinking away the tear that blurring my vision. “I don’t know when I can visit you guys again.” I added wiping away my tear, my hand moves to pluck the weed that somehow manage to grow again even though I always visit them as much as I can this week and last week. Mom’s grave still looks new than grandma’s grave. I sob louder this time; I don’t know what I want to talk to them this time as I already pour all my heart every time, I went to visit them. I clamped shut my mouth trying to quieten down the cries that

become louder from second to second. I didn't even realize Reynold crunching beside me and engulf my small body to his broody figure. I unconsciously wrap my arm around his waist pouring my tear to his crisp white shirt. His warm body unexpectedly make me feel safe.

"Shh... it going to be fine." His voice calms me down a bit. I need the reassurance that everything will be fine even without my mom. "I promise that we will protect you." He added rubbing my back. Even though I just know him I feel the comfort that he offers that make feel safe and welcome. It feels like I already know him for a long time even we just meet a few hours. He continues to comfort me for a few minutes.

"We should get going Lilith or we going to miss our flight." He broke our hug smiling for a bit. I nod, feeling my cheek flaming when I see his suit slightly wet because of my tears.

"I'm sorry... I stain your suit." I apologies to him shyly wiping away the remain tear while he just laughs at me. "Don't worry about that." He smiles at me, and I force a smile that I know didn't reach my eyes. I glance over their grave trying to smile before turning to Reynold.

"Let's go." I whisper walking away from there with Reynold's hot on my back. We make our way quietly to the car. The drive to the airport took us for 20 minutes to arrive. Shock plastered on my face when I see that we will be flying on a private jet. 'Salvatore' was written in gold color on the jet clearly showing the owner the of the jet. No doubt that my father was a rich person. Whose rich person that didn't own a private jet. I gawk with my jaw on the ground when I enter inside of it. I instantly recognise the seat was made from a real leather. The exquisite interior of the jet makes my eyes widen more. I hesitate to even sit on the seat while Reynold just smiling at me and Fredrico literally ignoring me. He's not so welcoming person I can predict that by just meeting him for a few hours. With his constant ignoring with my presence, not talking to me anyone can see that. I stare at Fredrico who is busy shoving his ear pod in his ears and close his eyes. Probably going to sleep. Seeing that, I avert my stare from the teenager to the man who is talking to a man that is wearing a pilot uniform which confirm my curiosity that he is the one who will be flying the private jet. The man smiles a little at Reynold's before his lean muscle body disappear to the cockpit meanwhile Reynold look at me.

"You can take a nap if you want... it will be long flight." He said to me with small smile. I just absentmindedly nodded moving my stare to the window looking at the airplane which is a bit located a bit far from 'Salvatore' private jet. I see Reynold's taking out a MacBook from his laptop bag before he totally engrossed in it. Not long after a flight attendant who is beautiful blonde hair woman with fair skin approach us. On her lip playing a warm and welcome smile. She asks us politely to fasten our seat belt which I immediately obligate. Soon after she retreat to the back of the jet, the plane takeoff. A lump form in my throat holding back a sob that threatened to leave my mouth. The process makes my throat hurt but I don't to succumb to my sadness again. My heart squeeze painfully in my chest,

remembered all the good memories that I leave behind. To avoid myself from the sad thought I decided to take Reynold's advice to take a nap. Besides, I really need a to catch a sleep to all the sleep I miss this last eight day. I close my eyes and sleep takeover my body.

My eyes peeled open, and blurriness cover my sight. Rubbing my eyes with the heel of my palm to wash it away before it come back me. Sweeping my gaze around the place I then realize that I was in a plane. I see that Fredrico still asleep with his head titled to the head and his mouth open slightly. I smile a little seeing the sight. Reynold is still working on his MacBook rapidly typing totally focus on whatever he's working on. I clear my throat to catch his attention in which I succeeded. I really need to go to the toilet right now.

"Where is the toilet." I ask straight away. "Just go at the back." He answers me pointing to the back of the plane. I unfasten the seat belt after muttering a quiet thank you before standing up and walk to the back. I enter the toilet and quickly doing my business. Grimace a bit when I see my puffy face on mirror. I feel a bit better after the nap, my body feel more alive. Releasing a sigh, a sit on my previous seat earning a look from Reynold's. Fredrico finally awake from his sleep.

"30 minutes before we land." His smile widens. I guess he excited about the landing, finally back homes. I silently shudder, nervous circling my blood when I think every minute that I will meet my new family. I rub my clammy hand against the material of jean to wipe it out. Fredrico eyes me for a while. Probably know that I feel nervous, but he didn't say anything to just move his gaze away from me. The captain announced that we will be landing soon. The private jet land safely on the tarmac of JFK Airport. The sun already set long ago leaving a blackness night sky. We quickly unfasten our seat belt and I swiftly follow my brothers out of the jet. A frown marring my face when I see few bulky men wearing black attire standing near two SUV car. Their expression grim make when fasten my step to match with my brothers' long legs. Fredrico glance over at me a little smirking playing on his lip when he sees me walking beside him. Sweeping my stare over the man that was scattered around the car with confusion painted over my face. Why are there so many people here? They are probably their bodyguard. I just cast away my thought regarding the people thinking that it was for safety reason even though the question heavy on my mouth.

"Come." Fredrico said quietly beckon me to come inside the car first before he follows me. I settle down beside Fredrico. I body sank down on the leather seat looking small as ever sitting beside Fredrico. I glance at Fredrico leg's that take most of the space inside the car instantly make me press my leg together. Reynold turn to look at me from the shot gun with smile plastered on his lip.

"You good Lilith?" He asks in which I answer with a simple nod. The car moves after Reynold's instruct the driver to drive back home. I just sitting quietly while looking at the blurring scenery of the

city by looking over the window car. My eyes admiring the big and tall structure of the building that is scattered around the city. What can I say, it's a big city where all sort of business were conduct? Even the mafia. How do I know that mafia is exist now days? Easy. I watch the TV and plus people talk. But I'm not sure if the rumor is true or not. After all its just rumor. The SUV glided smoothly on the tar road soon was driven away from the busy road to a more like private route that was surround by tall tree from the left to right. There is no doubt that they stay at a private land consider that my new family were a wealthy people. The car slows down when it reaches a tall black gate with gold line here and there. I gauge, even the gate looks expensive. A man approaches the car make the driver lowering the window, the man nod. He looks toward his friend signaling him to open the gate. We drive past it and soon a mansion come to my view that make me gasp silently.

Holy hell gate.

I can't believe that I'm see a mansion right now. I only see it on the TV. Poor me only saw something expensive and exquisite in TV considering that I'm never going anywhere except that small town in Landon. The grass in the massive lawn was trimming to perfection and I dare to say that I can football there with ease by the massiveness of that lawn. There only pine tree surrounded the perimeter as it was a private land that of course belong to the Salvatore family. My breath hitch when the SUV rolled to stop in front of the large double door of the mansion. I slowly come out from the car following the man with my eyes busy expecting my surrounding. I was snap out of my daze when Reynold come and standing beside me. I look up at him only to see that he already staring at me with a wide smile played in his lip.

"Let's go." He pushes me softly toward the door and I quickly obligated. Fredrico, long rush step ahead of us with his hand stuff inside his hoodie pocket. I glance back behind my back to the car watching the driver and a few men loaded my luggage and belonging from the car. I blink slowly gazing at the interior inside the mansion with awe. I swear I can see my reflection on the marble flooring that looked pristine and clear from any dust. I'm sure that all of worker here work hard to make this mansion look homey and exquisite. Reynold deep chuckle fill the empty foyer making me instantly looking at him. I smile shyly at him with my cheek burning.

"Is everyone home?" I ask him. Reynold purse his lip a thoughtful expression hugs his handsome face.

"Nope... as you know dad and Lawrence are not here and everyone else is here". He said to me with his hand on my back guiding me through until we arrive at the living room. I gape once again, my eyes swept all over the place.

"So... do you like your new home?" Reynold say looking at me and I just give him a nod as an answer. "Good." He nods with a satisfied smile on his face.

“Come this way I show you your new room”. Reynold usher me to the staircase that no doubt led to the second floor or the mansion. We walked down passing a few rooms in our way to my new room and at the same time Reynold tell me whose room that we pass by until we finally stop at the end of the hallway.

“So...this is your room”. Reynold told me opening the door of the room at the same time. The room is in baby pink color, which is my favorite color, and the most important thing is that it is far bigger and more spacious than my older room in London and of course beautiful. Stepping inside the room which I no doubt the person who decorated this room must be looking for an idea and inspiration from Pinterest, I gawk around the room which is now my new room. I am really impressed with the design and decoration in the room because it perfectly fit with the taste of teenage girl like me.

“It’s beautiful”. I offer a smile to Reynold to show my appreciation with the effort whoever the person who is in charge to style this room. Reynold beam at me.

“I’m so glad you like it”. He spoke. After that he leave me to settle down in my new room before making a promise to come back to get me for dinner and finally meet with my new family member. That thought alone make me nervous, various of possibilities that my new family might not like me swirling inside my head. Not really want to entertain my thought I take a decision to arranging my cloth and stuff inside my new room. I also found out that this room has a walk-in closet that is so spacious that literally make my mouth wide open. The wall of the walk-in closet is baby pink same as the wall of my room with a few white colors here and there. The neat freak in me really take time to arrange the cloth and stuff and after I done, I straight away headed to the bathroom to clean myself. I don’t have a time to look around the place because I was in hurry.