Later that evening, the lights of the Las Vegas strip cover in the night sky. Malena travels into the multi lighted streets across to a large hotel Plaza in the backseat of a car. Malena is escorted out of her car; it drives off behind her as she takes a breath as she looks up at the Plaza, which was a tall as the Effiel tower. She enters the high gold entrance doors of the Plaza and struts down the lobby like a model walking down a catwalk. She takes the elevator to the top floor and heads to a door that has two men on each side guarding the door suited up like they were like bouncers.

“Is Joey in?” she says with an impatient look on her face.

“He is not seeing anyone right now,” says the left bouncer.

“Joey, its Malena!” she shouts out.

“Let her in boys.” Joey’s voice comes through on the speaker placed through the wall.

Malena enters the large room. There is artwork on the walls, there was an exaggerated piece of him as a muscular emperor in a coliseum, and he has two dragons grasped in each of his hands showing that he sees himself as a hero and a warrior, typical spoilt rich kid with a vivid imagination. He does work out and is a pretty boy but he is no hero and nothing like a warrior. The room does portray any self centred, indulged millionaire. His face turns to delight at the sight of Malena wearing a Shining Embellished Cocktail Dress by Shail that show off her slender legs that go all the way down to her five inch Bilenemacia high heels.

“Malena! How come you haven’t being returning my calls?”

“I have been busy you know, singing, auditions, sleeping with certain politians.” as she circles the room. “All in a days work to be a success in this world, isn’t that what you told me Joey?”

“That’s a little harsh Malena.” he gets up, walks towards her and gets a little touchy feely with her. “I don’t make you do it everyday.” As she turns to him face-to-face then puts her face down and exhales. Joey smiles and holds her head up, by placing his hand underneath her chin.

“Cheer up, you only need to run my new business venture and your scrounging days are over.”

“What are you talking about?”

“My new business venture with our friend Westwood, the lovely politian, your close companion.”

“What you need with him?”

“Well you little love affair has given me a lovely opportunity of a cash injection, you know so the wife doesn’t find out that he has been a very naughty boy.”

“Blackmail.”

“Dirty word that.” as he goes back to the desk and heads into the draw and takes out an A4 brown envelope that he places on the table by Malena.

“It would be nice to run my own business, what is it? A fashion boutique, a salon or is it one of your type of businesses?”

“To be honest Malena, those kinds of businesses you mention don’t give me the money I need, but you’re on the right tracks as it involves girls living up to a certain potential…”

“A club? No more like a brothel, you can forget it.” as she starts to leave.”

“You want to bet on that.” Joey says to stop Malena in her tracks playing with a deck of cards. “Come on Malena, I need the club at the front of this operation and you are perfect. I need that distraction and base so I can do my other sweet little business dealings.” He means his money laundering and drug dealings, I guarantee you it is only till I raise the capital.”

She holds the door looks up and slams it in front of her and turns to Joey and walks to the desk.

“Since daddy cut you off.”

“How about one hand of blackjack?” She sits next to the deck of cards on the table.

“You never fail to surprise, what are the terms?”

“I win I’m out, you finance me out of here.” “You win, I’m yours.”

“Mind, body and soul?”

“You have been desiring it for so long, here’s your opportunity for a night with me.”

“You on.” Joey grins.

Joey shuffles a deck of cards and places two cards down on the table in front of Malena to show her hand, he turns one over to reveal the nine of clubs. On his hand he has the nine of hearts. He reveals the ten of diamonds in which she sticks for a score of nineteen.

“Diamonds are a girl’s best friend.” as she sits locking her fingers together.

He turns the card to reveal the king of spades. “House always wins, for I am the king.”

Malena loses her smile and picks up the envelope and heads to the door.

“Why Westwood?”

“People in the higher nonchalant can open I lot of doors to mystical worlds these days, acquiring properties, licenses, planning permission. Anything you want to make it in this world, except money. Well until now.” “You want out, I’m fair, here is your get of jail free card. I propose this; you send this envelope to Westwood when you meet him next. Tell him to bring the money to the meet I have arranged for him. You run this club will be yours to own by name, do little dealings with it just to make appearances from time to time. You can have your life back in part and I will set you up financially and enjoy your life with our friend Carl.”

She looks at him knowing he was joking, as she knows Joey hates Carl. “Does Carl know about the details of the meet?” Joey inquires.

“Yeah, You not going to hurt him, are you?”

“Course not, me and him used to work together, just need to get over this little patch and resolve things like men.” Joey smiling.

She leaves carrying the envelope in her purse. She heads back down and heads towards the exit only to stop and gets distracted by the slot machines. She heads back down the corridor. Joey goes down to the bottom floor, moves towards the casino and stands at the entrance with his hands in his pockets. He does look at little concerned, as he needs deal far more than his vasard tells anyone. He has an air of confidence, which he uses for cover as he is like any rich powerful man has heat on him from the law and with his hefty lifestyle needs to be funded.

His father lives in Spain after leaving him the wealth from his retirement. Malena is an unstable asset for him who uses cards, slot machines and roulette tables as a solution to an itch that all gamblers have, but what she lacks in being vulnerable, she makes up in determination.