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The Moretti's - A Different Family Dynamic

Chapter 69

Saturday Afternoon/Evening – East Side Manhattan Townhouse – 22 February 2003

Apollonia Moretti arrived at the East 84th Street townhouse she now owned instead of the man she used to call her father. The family purchased the five story Federal style townhouse in the early nineteenth century. Over the years, the family used all of their connections to keep the building off the federal, state, and city list of landmarks. She never visited the building before today. She gleaned from the information stored in the master bedroom safe that an elderly couple resided in the building rent free. The family also provided a stipend for their living expenses. John and Mary Gleason, both in their late seventies, was a childless couple that Mario Moretti took under his wing when he found them destitute and living on the streets of lower Manhattan. For the past thirty years, they took care of the townhouse and made sure nothing that occurred in the building was made public.

The phone call from Howard Cohen the attorney she contacted to take care of the arraignment of Ming Zheng did not come until early Saturday morning. He apologized profusely for not calling her sooner, but he explained that he had to use some of his own goodwill to get Ming released when he did. Bail was set at one million dollars and he couldn't get the judge to reduce the amount. Howard told Apollonia he used the private Moretti account to post the bail in full as he did not think she wanted him to use a bail bondsman. He confirmed to Apollonia that he had transported the client to the 84th Street townhouse and that John and Mary Gleason were taking care of her. Apollonia told him that this incident and trial were now his most important priority. Howard Cohen was not aware of the changes in the Moretti hierarchy, but the sound of Apollonia's voice was enough for him to accept what she asked of him.

Using a key she found in the master bedroom safe, Apollonia opened the heavy oak front door of the townhouse. John Gleason approached the front door when he heard it opening and was relieved to see Apollonia enter the building. This was only the second time he had an occasion to be in her presence. The first was her marriage to Colin. As he was when he saw her in her wedding dress, John Gleason was taken with her beauty. Standing in front of him was a woman he would be proud to call his daughter.

"Apollonia, how nice to see you," said John. "May I take your coat?"

Apollonia removed her shearling coat and handed it to the man she only met once before in her life. "Thank you..."

Smiling, he said, "John, Apollonia. John Gleason, my wife's name is Mary. May I inquire as to the health of your mother and father? It has been quite a while since I've had the pleasure of seeing them."

Now Apollonia was stuck. How was she going to tell what appeared to be a lovely man that his provider was no longer his provider and that the woman he was married to was dead. The pregnant pause was obvious to John, but he did not say anything to push the issue. Apollonia responded as best she could, "John, I have some bad news. Lucia passed away last Monday evening. Mario has taken it very hard and has relinquished the day-to-day operations of the family to me. Mary and you have nothing to worry about as I will continue the tacit agreement you have with Mario."

"Oh, my Apollonia, I'm so sorry to hear about your mother," said John. "She was a wonderful woman. Please pass our condolences to your father. I know why you are here. Ms. Zheng is upstairs in the guest room on the third floor. You can take the elevator up." John Gleason pointed to where the door to the elevator was located.

Apollonia rode the 1950's elevator up to the third floor congratulating herself for not exploding when the caretaker expressed what a wonderful woman her mother was. She thought to herself little did he know about her and her sick sexual appetite. The elevator let out into a hall that ran from the front to the back of the townhouse. There were four doors on either side of the hall. The door to the bathroom was plainly obvious and from the look of the others she figured that Ming must be in the room that was situated at the back of the building. She walked to the door, knocked lightly, and entered. Ming Zheng was sitting in a wing chair staring at the television but not really seeing or hearing it and looked towards the door when it opened.

Ming Zheng, all five foot eighty-five pounds of her rose from the chair and opened her arms to the woman she spent two years of her life with in a loving lesbian relationship. Apollonia did not hesitate when she saw the arms of her former lover open inviting her to come into their embrace. They hugged for a good five minutes before Apollonia looked down at Ming's face and kissed her passionately. Ming responded as she always did by taking her hands and grabbing hold of Apollonia's buttocks. If Apollonia hadn't broken the kiss, the two of them would have migrated to the bed where they would have enjoyed the fruits of their loins for the first time in several years. Each of them wanted it more than anything, but their sexual urgency for each other had to take a backseat to Ming's legal problems.

While still holding one another Apollonia guided Ming to the bed where they both sat and kissed once more. When they broke the kiss Apollonia asked, "What happened, Ming?"

That simple question was enough to open the floodgates as Ming began to cry. "My husband asked me to deliver a package for him. I didn't know it contained a kilo of pure heroin. He never told me he was involved in the drug trade. I swear, Apollonia. I never put two-and-two together."

Taking her into her arms, Apollonia held her and asked, "Does he know you've been busted?"

"No. I called you. I'm scared of what he'll do to me. I swear I never knew what he was doing other than working in his parent's wholesale specialty food business. I never would have taken the package. He's going to kill me. I just know he will. A kilo of pure heroin has to be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. Appy, I'm screwed!!!"

Frowning because she wasn't sure what the answer to the next question would be, "Does he abuse or beat you, Ming?"

"Yes, but he is smart enough to hit me where it doesn't show," cried Ming. "Please help me Apollonia, I fear for my children. I don't know what that son-of-a-bitch will do to them if he finds out I lost the package. Knowing him he'll care more about the heroin than about me being busted."

"I need your home address. How old are your children and what are their names?"

"I have twins. Two boys. They're six years old. Lian and Shen are their names. Please, please, I'm so scared, Apollonia. I live downtown above his parents business on Mott Street. 59B Mott Street to be exact."

Apollonia reached into her handbag, retrieved her cell phone, and called Viviano on his. She explained to him the situation and asked if he and his brother could pick up the twins without causing a commotion. Viviano having been involved in similar situations said he could and offered that it would be a good learning situation for Sonny.

Apollonia told him to tell her sister to watch over Mario and to take him to St. Joseph's Hospital to see Angelina. Apollonia told him the boy's names, where to find them, and the address to bring the children to. Sonny said to give him at least an hour to accomplish the pick-up of the children. After she broke the call, Apollonia realized that Viviano did not ask who, what, when, or why. He just accepted what she said and committed to getting it done. She had a good feeling inside about her sister's husband.

Smiling at Ming, Apollonia said, "Your boys will be here in about an hour. You have nothing to worry about because the men I sent to get them know what they're doing. They've done this many times before. Failure is not an option for them."

Ming leaned forward and kissed Apollonia. This time the women did not stop kissing until Apollonia laid back onto the bed and invited Ming to lay next to her. It didn't take long for them to remove their clothing and begin to make torrid love to one another. The only difference in their lovemaking was Apollonia's taking control of the situation. When they were lovers they both agreed to an equal partnership when it came to who was dominant during their heated sexual encounters. Ming sensed Apollonia's need to control their lovemaking and allowed Apollonia to push her head between the long thin legs which were spread invitingly open exposing the center of Apollonia's sexual being. Ming began to greedily lick and suck at her lover's bare and exposed pussy. She eased her hands under Apollonia's knees, pushed up, and opened more of her lover's crotch to her hungry lips, mouth, and tongue. Apollonia reached down and took hold of Ming's head, pressed her crotch up, wrapped her legs around the small woman's shoulders, and humped her soaking wet pussy against the woman's face.

Apollonia stifled a loud moan as she felt her Chinese lover push her thumb into her vaginal opening and her index and middle fingers into her anus. It didn't take much longer for Apollonia to crescendo, tighten her legs around Ming's shoulders, and release a river of vaginal fluid into Ming's mouth and onto her face. Ming greedily sucked and lapped at Apollonia's wetness remembering and reveling in the taste she hadn't willingly consumed in several years.

Thankfully the caretakers did not come up to the third floor unannounced. Apollonia forced Ming to bring her off two times before she returned the favor. After thirty-five minutes of hot and heavy sex, the two women relaxed on the bed with Ming pressed against Apollonia's body under Apollonia's left arm. Every so often, Ming would gently rub her right hand against Apollonia's clitoris and whisper how much she loved and missed her. The idea of taking Ming home to her house crossed her mind, but she knew it would be better to renew their relationship if they lived apart. Apollonia Moretti knew the moment she saw Ming she would want to be with her again.

Apollonia checked her watch and knew she'd have to break up the little lovemaking session because she believed Viviano and Sonny would arrive shortly with Ming's sons. Rolling to her side Apollonia looked down into the dark eyes of her lover, and said, "Ming, sweetheart, the time we just spent together reaffirmed what I thought I'd never have to admit to myself. I love you and I miss having you next to me. I know we can't move in together, but I want to spend more time with you, but alas we have to get dressed and make like we're just two long lost college friends. If you are willing, I don't want to lose you ever again."

Ming could see Apollonia's passion for her in Apollonia's eyes. She took her right hand placed it between her lover's legs, gently pressed the way Apollonia loved, and said, "There is something different about you, my love. I sensed it when you took control of our lovemaking. You, my sweet, want to be in control. I love you more than anything and I willingly cede myself to your control. I love you unconditionally, Apollonia. I am now and will forever be yours to do with as you please."

The two women kissed their tongues dancing between their mouths as Ming fingered Apollonia to another orgasm. Ten minutes after their last sexual tryst the two were dressed and headed downstairs to the main floor of the townhouse. Their timing couldn't have been better because as they exited the elevator the front door bell sounded. Apollonia held Ming back as Mr. Gleason went to the front door to see who was there. Mr. Gleason paused before he opened the door. He wanted to be sure the men and the two boys standing on the landing were supposed to be there.

Ever vigilant, Mr. Gleason asked, "How may I help you?"

Viviano understanding the man's need for security replied, "I'm here to see Ms. Apollonia Moretti. I believe there is a woman who desperately wants to hold her two sons. May I come in please?"

John Gleason pulled the door open and stepped aside. He watched as Viviano guided and allowed the two young Chinese boys to run into the townhouse. He watched as their mother knelt and took them into her arms. He smiled at Apollonia and without saying another word closed the door behind Viviano and Sonny as they entered the townhouse.

Ming Zheng held her children until Apollonia gently prodded her to stand and move into the kitchen which was located in the rear of the townhouse. Standing quietly waiting for whatever was asked of her was Mary Gleason. Apollonia saw there was only a small table in an area that was used by the Gleason's to eat their meals. Mrs. Gleason realized that Apollonia had never been to the townhouse and without saying anything guided the four adults and two children into the formal dining room. She smiled at Apollonia, "Please sit. What may I make for you?"

Taken by the soft sounding voice of the elderly woman, Apollonia, responded, "Mrs. Watson, you don't have to cook anything for us. We'll be happy with something from the local pizza parlor."

"Miss Moretti, I'm not going to take no for an answer. If I am reading the situation correctly, your friend and her children are going to be our guests for a few weeks or maybe longer. Mr. Gleason and I have served your family for just over thirty years. Again, I'll ask, are you hungry?"

Apollonia could see the look on Ming's son's faces and knew the boys hadn't eaten for some time. She knew Viviano and Sonny would never turn down a meal. She replied to the gray haired matron of the townhouse, "Please, Mrs. Gleason, it would be greatly appreciated if you would make something first for the boys and then for the adults."

Wearing a grin that could only be compared to the grin of the Cheshire cat in Alice in Wonderland, Mary Gleason took the two boys with her back to the kitchen where she would prepare something for them to eat. The adults knew that their turn to eat would come when the children were fed. The look of relief on Ming's face said it all.

"Viviano, any problems securing the boys?" asked Apollonia.

Looking first at Ming and then back to Apollonia, Viviano knew the only thing Apollonia would accept was the truth. He also sighed inside with relief that Sonny and he were not made to undress in front of the caretakers, Ming, and her children. "Only with your friend's husband..."

"Her name is Ming. Ming Zheng and from this moment in time, she is under the Moretti family protection. Mr. and Mrs. Gleason are not in a position to protect them. So..." was all Apollonia said before Viviano interjected, not rudely, but with knowledge of Apollonia's intended request.

"As soon as I can, I will make the necessary calls. People will be stationed on East 84th Street between the avenues. No one will be inside the townhouse. Everything here will look normal, well as normal as can be considering there will be two children leaving for school and arriving home every day. Mrs. Zheng and her sons will be watched over and protected. I will personally check on her every day. I will charge Sonny with the care of the children. He will take them to and from school making sure he does not take the same route. Apollonia, you have to trust my judgment."

"Ok, Viviano. My only problem is with the time the children are at school. Is there anything we can do to make sure Ming's husband does not kidnap them? I guess the answer to that question depends upon what you meant by a little problem," said Apollonia.

Sonny looked at his brother, at Apollonia, and then back to his brother. The questioning look was enough to tell Apollonia that something bad happened when they went to Mott Street to pick up Ming's children. Viviano looked at his younger brother and made a motion with his right hand to signal Sonny to keep quiet and let him do the talking.

"We didn't have a problem finding the building and the back entrance. When we got up to the second floor the hallway was dark because all the bulbs were broken. Someone had made the effort to break every bulb which spoke to their desire not to be seen. Sonny and I made our way to the apartment door. We found it ajar. The lock was broken. We pulled our pieces to be safe and entered. The place was a mess. Someone had tossed it looking for

what I presume was the package Mrs. Zheng failed to deliver when she was busted. Sonny found Mr. Zheng in the master bedroom. His throat was slit so deep it almost decapitated him.”

Ming Zheng screamed, “NOOOO!!!” Even though he beat her and treated her like shit, hearing he was dead reinforced the battered woman syndrome love she had for him. Apollonia moved to her and held her as Viviano continued.

“It looked like he’d been dead for at least twenty-four hours. I nodded to Sonny and we began a room-to-room search of the apartment looking for the boys. We found them locked in the linen closet in the hallway next to the bathroom. They were scared and hungry. Sonny was amazing as he spoke to the boys and got them to come to him. We exited the building making sure we hadn’t touched anything or exposed ourselves to being identified by Chinatown residents or the police. I’m guessing by sometime tomorrow the stink-of-death will permeate the building and someone will end up calling the police.”

Apollonia continued to hold Ming making it patently obvious to Viviano that there was something more than friendship between the two. “So, were looking for the assholes that tossed the apartment looking for the package not knowing that it is in the hands of the police. Think we can run a con on them?”

Viviano frowned, “A con, Apollonia?”

“Yes, Viviano, a con. Make them think we have the package. Get them to back off from hurting Ming and the children,” said Apollonia.

“I’m not sure, but are you asking if we can get a kilo of pure heroin?”

Smiling Apollonia replied, “Pure, smure... Two point two pounds of white powder. A small amount that tests one hundred percent pure to make them believe they have retrieved their heroin. We leave quietly and everything is ok, but if they make any stupid moves, we off them. Think you can handle it, Viviano?”

“Jesus Christ, Apollonia,” said Viviano. “You aren’t serious... Wait, I can see on your face you are. Mario would be the person to speak to about making it happen. I know he can put it together without causing it to blow up in our faces. I know what you’re thinkin’ Apollonia, but the truth is I can’t do it without him. Leave it to me and I promise on the pain of suffering your punishment, I will make it happen.”

Apollonia nodded her assent. “Ok, then I think it be best if you two leave and get this con underway. Sonny, I’ll see you at home. Viviano, make sure Raffaella doesn’t go overboard in preparation for Sunday’s activities.”

Viviano and Sonny bid farewell to the Gleasons and quietly departed the building. Apollonia and Ming arm-in-arm walked into the kitchen to see Ming’s sons sitting like two little gentlemen eating peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Mrs. Gleason smiled at the two women, winked, and nodded knowingly to them. Nothing needed to be said to confirm that Mrs. Gleason knew that Apollonia and Ming were lovers,

“Ladies, take the elevator to the fifth floor. The entire back of the floor is a solarium. I will make you something to eat and send it up to you. I will watch over the boys. Go, get acquainted again,” said Mrs. Gleason as she waved the women away from the kitchen.

Apollonia and Ming sat together in a love seat that was placed in such a fashion that they could look out to the skyline around the building, but have total privacy. For the first ten minutes, they sat staring into each other eyes, holding hands, and breathing in syncopation as their biological emotions began to tie to one another again. Neither of them needed to reaffirm their connection, but they both knew that their love was forever welded together again.

“I can’t count the times I closed my eyes to go to sleep and your face, your beauty, your loving eyes came into my mind. I don’t know if you had the same mental pictures invade your brain Ming, but I did and I had to pleasure myself to keep from losing you. Maybe I was wrong to end our relationship, but I know now that I don’t ever want to say good-bye to you.” Apollonia’s eyes were tear filled as she stared into the almond eyes of her lesbian lover.

"I have not spent a day where I didn't think of you, Apollonia, I too have spent time lying in bed or on the couch with my hand on my clitoris massaging myself to a climatic orgasm thinking about you. I thought I loved my husband, but I know that I never really did. My sons are my sole reason for living. Please don't take what I said wrong, Apollonia, but, they are all I have. They're my blood."

Apollonia reached for Ming's face, pushed her shoulder length hair back to reveal her ear, leaned in, and kissed it gently. "Would you have given up on your husband before you had children to come back to me?"

Ming moved her head away so she could look into Apollonia's eyes and said, "How can you ask me that? Would you have left your husband for me? We made a decision, Apollonia. A decision that was proper when we made it. Now, we have a chance to renew our love for one another, but, we also have additional commitments that take our time and energy."

Smiling and very much taken again with Ming, Apollonia answered, "I was wrong to ask you that. I apologize."

"No reason to apologize, Apollonia," said Ming. "May I ask how your parents are?"

Again, Apollonia had to face answering a question about her parents. She could blatantly lie to Ming or she could tell her the truth. She decided on the latter. "What I tell you is just between you and me. You have to promise me that nothing will ever pass through your lips to anyone about what I am about to tell you."

Wary, but understanding, Ming replied, "My love for you is my guide and what we discuss is just between us."

"Lucia is dead," said Apollonia. She saw the look on Ming's face and used her hand to calm her as she continued, "Last Monday evening, I murdered my mother. Two years ago I found out she was a brutal sexual deviant. Throughout my childhood, teenage years, and young adult years my mother had tried to do everything to make my life miserable. The final straw for me was when I uncovered pictures of my sick mother disemboweling young children for her deviant sexual pleasure."

"You're kidding, me..."

"No, Ming, I'm serious. I only wish it wasn't the truth," said Apollonia. "My father would not do what was necessary to maintain order in our family. Because of my attachment to you and my never ending love for you, I just confided things to you I never should have. I have taken over the reins of the Moretti family. I no longer acknowledge Mario as my father. As he said to me just yesterday, he has been relegated to the dung heap of the Moretti family."

Both women heard the whine of the elevator motor and two minutes later the door opened. John Gleason exited pushing a small hotel room service type cart. They eyed him as he pushed the cart to where they sat, uncovered two dinner plates covered in vegetables and small pieces of lobster in a cream sauce. A bottle of Zinfandel rested in a bucket of ice. After placing the covers to the plates on the shelf below the top of the cart, John Gleason nodded to the women and backed himself to the elevator door and exited the solarium. Apollonia was not prepared to be served a restaurant meal but as soon as the whine of the elevator motor sounded her stomach told her she needed to eat.

They continued their catch up conversation as they ate their unexpected gourmet meal. Ming asked, "Did you marry?"

"Yes, to a man I love dearly, but that is another story," replied Apollonia.

Eyes a twinkle, Ming said, "So, I'm all ears."

"I'm not comprehending how you can sit there so calm when my brother-in-law told you the father of your children was murdered," said Apollonia not putting together the thought that Ming felt the same way about her jovial mood since admitting to murdering her mother.

"I think you need to look in the mirror Apollonia. I'm not broken up about what happened to my husband because I was the brunt of his anger. I think you can relate. Tell me about your husband."

"He's is a sissy," said Apollonia. "He admitted to me that he prefers to jerk off wearing my panties rather than having sexual intercourse with me. He gets hard and bam shoots his wad even before he gets into me..."

"Oh my fuckin' God..." said Ming. "He's a fag?"

Apollonia laughed at her use of the derogatory term, "I wouldn't call him a fag. His orientation is more of a male wishing he was a female. Because he couldn't inseminate me, he had to make a choice. He could have accepted an annulment to legally end our marriage or sign a document that forced him into becoming a feminized sissy indentured to me for the rest of his life. He is a brilliant businessman, considerate, caring, but a loser when it comes to making love. The other man..."

Ming brightened up when Apollonia mentioned Sonny, but not by name. "You mean that big hunk with what had to be the biggest package I've ever seen."

Apollonia stopped to catch her breath because the look on her lover's face was worth everything in life. Although they loved each other dearly, they both knew inside they loved the feel of a hot hard cock sliding in and out of their bodies. "He's going to become my lover. His name is Sonny and he's the younger brother of my sister's husband, Viviano."

"Can you take that thing?" asked Ming.

"I don't know because the only person he's been fucking is my sissy," replied Apollonia. "Sunday afternoon, Colin is going to give me to Sonny. Do you know anything about the cuckold lifestyle?"

"Ah, no..."

"The definition of a cuckold is a man with an unfaithful wife. I'm not unfaithful. I just need a man who has the ability to make me pregnant. The Moretti family requires that a Moretti daughter become pregnant by her husband within the first twenty-four months of their marriage. Colin could not function as a man in respect to making me pregnant, therefore, Colin will give me to Sonny on Sunday in a very special wedding ceremony. Colin will still legally be my husband, but cede all aspects of our relationship to Sonny..."

"From our little tryst downstairs, Apollonia, have you taken a dominant role in your relationship with Colin?" Ming was interested in her answer.

"In all aspects of my life, Ming, I am in control. You can say that I'm no longer submissive to anyone. My position as leader of the Moretti family makes it imperative that I take and maintain control of every situation."

Finishing her second glass of wine, Ming placed the glass onto the cart, leaned in to Apollonia and whispered, "Although I admitted to accepting a bit of a submissive role in our relationship, does the need for you to be in control all the time include me?"

Apollonia leaned forward kissed Ming tasting the white wine on her lips and said, "I so want to be able to enjoy the feeling of servicing you under your control, but I have to deny myself because I cannot, no matter how private the situation, succumb to someone as a submissive. If the change in my life is not what you want, then just tell me. It will have no effect on what needs to be accomplished over the next few days to put to bed the nasty business that renewed our relationship."

Ming Zheng leaned back into the love seat exposing her clothing covered body to the woman she shared a bed with for two years, sighed, and said, 'Asian women are known for their submissive behavior. I unwillingly kowtowed to the man I married because he believed in the superiority of Chinese men. I'm not sad to see him go, but I did enjoy our unilateral play where either of us would take control. Apollonia, I don't know if I could accept a

subservient position in our relationship. Yet, I just felt my vagina secrete a bit of love juice when you told me that I would have to serve you."

"Let's take it slow. First thing is to make sure your bust goes away and then the second thing will be how far we take our relationship."

Apollonia's cell phone broke into the conversation at the perfect time just as if it was preplanned. Ming sat and listened to the one sided conversation.

"Howard, any news... That isn't good... What the fuck am I paying you for??? What do you mean don't talk to you like that??? You listen to me and you listen good Mario is no longer your key to success... I am... Therefore, you get on your knees and blow anyone you need to make Ms. Zheng's problem go away... I will not accept failure... If you ask nicely, I'll make a call or two, I do have some DA's and Judges in my pocket... Ah, that's more like it, Howard... Talk to your contact, but make sure the trial is scheduled for Judge Hillman to preside over... Good... Yes, I'm amenable... Great, have a nice day and I'll hear from you on Monday..."

Apollonia ended the call and put the phone back into her handbag. Ming Zheng could not keep her curiosity in check, "Don't do this to me Appy. Please, keep me up to date..."

Apollonia saw, took the opening, and playfully said, "Keep you up to date? Is that a request or what?"

Ming Zheng for the first time since renewing her relationship with Apollonia had apprehensions about where it was headed. Fear pervaded her voice, "Do I need to worry Apollonia? Are you going to use what happened against me? Please, don't fuck with me, Appy. I'm begging you... I'll pay you whatever I can when I can... Just don't be a bitch to me... I don't deserve the way you're treating me... I didn't do anything to hurt you, Appy... You know, I love you!!!"

"God, Ming..." said Apollonia realizing that her playfulness was interpreted the wrong way by Ming. For the first time since taking control of the Moretti family, Apollonia broke down and cried. Tears flowed down her face as her breathing became ragged. Her body shook as it relieved itself of a week's worth of stress. Apollonia used the linen napkin to wipe her face and when she regained control said, "I don't know why I did that... I, I, I so want to make you happy but I've turned into some demanding self-centered egotistical bitch... I treat my sister like she's a piece-of-dog-shit and she just comes back for more... Sonny, the man I want to impregnate me, is treated like a sissy not because he is one, but because I'm getting my jollies seeing him suffer having to engage in homosexual activities with my sissy husband... I killed my mother, Ming... I disowned my father... And just when I thought I was seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, you appear and without me trying to stop you, you tear my heart out..."

"Apollonia, all I did was call you because I knew you had the wherewithal to help me. I didn't mean to intrude into your life. I'm sorry if I've rekindled something that will ultimately end up hurting you. I only want what is best for you, sweetie," said Ming. She used all her abilities to stem the feelings of sadness and depression that were beginning to rise through her body. She knew that Apollonia had the ability to make her want to just forget about everything to be with her. Ming Zheng stood up, walked to the wall of windows, turned, and continued, "Help me with the bust and I promise you you'll never hear from or see me again. I'll walk out of your life and never return."

Apollonia cried out loud, "NO, NO, NO!!!!"

Ming returned to the love seat, purposefully sat on Apollonia's lap, kissed her face, and said, "I want you more than anything, Apollonia. I want what we had the two years we were together in college. I'm willing to take the submissive role ninety-five percent of the time, but I need to know that you'll allow me a bit of control when I feel the need."

"Yes, yes, yes..." moaned Apollonia as she pulled the slight Chinese girl into her body and kissed her. She pressed her body into Ming's telling her that she wanted her to be as close to her as humanly possible. "We can't start anything here, but you know I want to feel your sweet lips on my clit. God, I'm so torn between wanting to spend my life with you and wanting to maintain control of my family."

"You can do both, Apollonia. I know you can. Please, just tell me where I stand with the justice system."

"By this time next week, the bust will be nonexistent. As for the guys who murdered your husband, that will take a bit longer to resolve. Until then, you'll remain here under the Moretti family's protection."

Apollonia watched as tears flowed from Ming's eyes. She knew they were tears of joy. Tears that expressed her relief and tears that expressed her renewed love for the only woman she ever truly cared for and loved unconditionally. Apollonia and Ming remained on the love seat, arms around each other, breathing softly, maintaining their happiness at being together again, and without expressing it knowing they would not part again until one of them passes away.