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The Moretti's - A Different Family Dynamic

Chapter 126

Thursday Late Afternoon / Evening – Colin's Room – Hospital for Special Services - 6 March 2003

The ride from Columbus Place to the Hospital for Special Surgery was not eventful considering the only traffic problem was a small fender bender on the upper level of the 59th Street Bridge. Nathan Childress did not engage his new employer in conversation on any subject. All he did was guide the black Lincoln Town Car through the rush hour traffic towards her destination. Upon exiting the 59th Street Bridge, Nathan drove up 1st Avenue to 70th Street, made a right turn, and headed directly to the front of the hospital. It was there the two spoke for the first time since they'd left Columbus Place.

"Miss Moretti," Nathan said, "I think it would be better if you allowed me to park the vehicle and accompany you into the hospital. Two blocks north is a small garage that I have special parking privileges and it wouldn't be a problem to leave the vehicle there."

"I don't think that is necessary Nathan," replied Apollonia.

"Ma'am," he continued unfazed by her response, "if you'll take notice, there are several areas around the hospital that would give someone looking to rob or hurt you an opportunity to cause you bodily harm. I believe you hired me to more than drive you around from place-to-place."

Apollonia looked around where the car was stopped and did not see what Nathan said he saw in and around the surrounding buildings. She did like his commitment to her safety, although she knew he did not know anything concerning her abilities to defend herself. The silence built between them. Apollonia was taken when Nathan did not put the vehicle in park, get out, and open the door for her. Instead she sat a bit dumbfounded as he drove to York Avenue made a typical circumnavigation of a New York city block and drove north on 1st Avenue to 72nd Street. He pulled up to a pair of oversized garage doors, honked his horn, and a few moments later the right door rose giving the vehicle access to a well-appointed, clean, and nicely hidden garage. A small Indian man nodded to Nathan and pointed to a parking spot in the back away from any other vehicle.

Apollonia sat quietly seething at Nathan's disregard for her order to let her exit the vehicle in front of the hospital. She waited for him to open the door and once she was standing she said, "What the fuck, Nathan? I told you to let me out in front of the hospital. Who the fuck do you think you are?"

Nathan was not fazed by her outburst and use of crude four letter curse words. He looked down at the diminutive woman, smiled from ear-to-ear, and said, "Curse all you want, Miss Moretti. Throw temper tantrums. Stomp your feet. Flail your arms. But remember, you hired me to drive for you and with that come my multitude of skills and abilities to protect and defend you. I may not know all about you and your family, but I signed on and I will make sure you are safe."

"Jesus fuckin' Christ," growled Apollonia. She did not make an effort to show her new hire how capable she was when it came to defending herself. Instead, she pointed to the now closed door and said, "Where do we exit. I need to get to the hospital."

Nathan nodded. He gently put his ham hock hand on her shoulder and guided her to a door that was hidden not behind a piece of useless furniture or false wall, but inconspicuously built to be missed by the eye of a person who did not know where it was placed. Two minutes later, Apollonia and Nathan were walking south on York Avenue towards 70th Street and the Hospital for Special Services. The sight of a seven foot two-and-a-half inch Nubian walking side-by-side with a slender dark haired Italian beauty was not lost on Apollonia. She smiled inwardly as she gazed upon the faces of those New Yorkers whose visage changed when they passed the two walking side-by-side on the sidewalk. The March chill was enough to push the two to arrive at their destination in as short a period of time as humanly possible.

Once inside the building, Apollonia made her way to the information center to determine how to get to the maxillofacial surgery wing. Without saying a word to Nathan, she made a beeline to the designated elevator bank, pressed the up button, and waited for the cab to arrive to take her to the ninth floor. Nathan Childress stood behind and to her right as the cab ascended to the suite. He followed her down the hall to the intersecting hall where Colin's room was situated along with several others. Apollonia Moretti passed the nurse's station and stopped just before the entrance to her sissy husband's room. She closed her eyes, took a deep breath, exhaled, and stepped up to glass door. Before she could do anything, the pneumatically controlled door slid open, and everyone turned to see who was entering.

The sight of a big black man standing behind Apollonia was enough to take the wind out of everyone's sails. Joshua Goldsmith and his colleague stood like deer frozen in the headlights of an oncoming eighteen wheeler. Viviano Rossi opened his eyes in wonder not knowing who or why the big nigger was standing behind his sister-in-law. It took a moment, but he was first to gain control.

"Apollonia," he said as he stepped up to hug his sister-in-law. She allowed him to take her into his arms and press her to his body for a moment. He leaned down and placed a kiss on each cheek and sighed inside knowing that if they were anyplace else, he'd be on his knees kissing her feet or her uncovered ass. Viviano released his hold, turned towards Joshua and the other man standing next to him, and said, "I would like you to meet Dr. William Morgenstern, the head of the Maxillofacial Department here at the hospital."

Apollonia stepped forward, offered her hand which was taken and released, and said, "Nice to meet you Dr. Morgenstern."

"Likewise," was his reply. He made no effort to add anything to the beginning of their conversation, but he did as all men do; his eyes scanned from Apollonia's shoes to her face not once but three times.

Apollonia ignored his obvious scan of her physical being. She heard Nathan rustle in the background and made what she hoped was a simple hand motion telling him to relax that everything was under control. Everyone, except Nathan, saw she was doing everything possible not to look at her husband. His face was no longer swathed in towels and ice packs. Colin's eyes were swollen shut. His lips were a deep black and blue in color. Around his face was a nasal cannula providing pure oxygen to aid his breathing. The room was silent except for the beep of the heart monitor.

Finally, Apollonia broke the silence, "Dr. Morgenstern, your diagnosis and prognosis please."

Joshua started to speak, but was stopped by his colleague. "I'm not sure how to address you, ma'am. But, will Apollonia be acceptable?"

Apollonia or Miss Moretti," she replied.

"Your husband has suffered a reoccurrence of facial trauma that is much worse than the previous injuries. The complication is the short period of time between the incidents. Healing of the previous surgical work was not complete. With Dr. Goldsmith's help, we contacted the other surgeon and have received via the Internet all of Colin's medical history concerning his last surgery. Based upon the first set of x-rays and the MRI scan taken today, the corrective surgery will, most certainly, put his face back together. Although, he will be quite fragile and will have to take care not to have his face slapped or punched again – ever."

Apollonia finally looked over to where her sissy husband lay not moving a bone or muscle in his body. She did not approach him, but, she asked the doctor, "How long before you can perform the surgery?"

"I'm confident we can do it tomorrow," he replied.

"Tomorrow?" said Apollonia. "I thought you had to wait for the swelling to completely subside."

"Actually, it is better to perform the surgery with a small amount of swelling already present," Dr. Morgenstern replied. "Surgery always entails some postoperative swelling, so as long as the major amount of edema has begun to recede, we can operate. My question Miss Moretti, is there anything you'd like to do to change his appearance?"

Apollonia frowned, stared at him, and said, "Why would I want to do that?"

Dr. Morgenstern shuffled his feet in preparation to asking a rather personal and impertinent question. "You'll excuse my bluntness, Miss Moretti. I have done a complete examination of your husband. It does not take a rocket scientist to see that he is not your typical male of the species. He is hairless except for his naturally coiffed long hair. He has small breasts and his skin is quite soft. I can discern from his physical being he is a feminized man. I have no quarrel with his lifestyle, your lifestyle, or any person's lifestyle as long as it does not impact detrimentally on their physical and emotional wellbeing. All I am doing is offering you the opportunity to make changes to his face that will accentuate his femininity. Is that something you want to consider?"

Viviano quickly stepped over to his sister-in-law which made Nathan move like a cheetah to where Apollonia stood unknowing about what was occurring behind her. Before he knew what happened to him, Viviano Rossi was two inches off the ground. Nathan Childress' left hand was wrapped around the rear of Viviano's neck and with just one arm the large black man had lifted him off the ground.

"What the fuck!!!" growled Viviano. The hand that lifted him off the ground was not applying a great amount of pressure; therefore, there was no sharp pain in his neck.

Apollonia turned to her new employee and said in a rather matter-of-fact voice considering the situation, "Nathan, release him immediately. Put him down. He is my brother-in-law and he is someone who is very, very important to me."

If a black man could blush, Nathan did just that as he said, "Sorry, Miss Moretti. I didn't expect him to move the way he did." Nathan let Viviano down, released his hold, and stepped back.

Viviano's eyes were piercing as he looked from Apollonia to Nathan. He caught his breath and growled, "Who the fuck is that?"

"Meet Nathan Childress," said Apollonia. "I hired him to be my full time driver. He also brings some very interesting military training along with his seven foot two-and-a-half inch frame." Apollonia turned to Nathan, "Apologize."

"Please accept my apology sir," he said knowing if he didn't he'd be unemployed.

"Now, where were we," said Apollonia as she turned back to the two doctors who had imperceptibly moved backwards towards the wall at the head of Colin's bed. "Yes, now I remember – the surgery. No, Dr. Morgenstern, I do not want you to soften and feminize his face. I like him just the way he is and I know he does too."

Dr. Morgenstern nodded his head and said, "I believe then we'll fix the orbits of his eyes, his crushed left cheek bone, and reset his jawbone. When I'm done Miss Moretti you'll never know what happened to him. The only caveat is the one I stated earlier. His face will be quite fragile and will not tolerate any form of physical abuse. Do you understand what I am saying to you?"

"Yes," she said, "I do. I want to thank you for staying late tonight. I'm sure Joshua has told you all you need to know about the Moretti family. What time are you preparing to perform the surgery tomorrow?"

"He'll be my only surgery," replied the maxillofacial surgeon. "I'll start at nine in the morning and if all goes as I expect, I should be done by four in the afternoon." He saw the look on Apollonia's face, "It is a very delicate and time consuming surgery. He will be in the best hands in the medical field. I promise you. You'll excuse me, but I have to get going. It was a pleasure meeting you and I know I'll see you again tomorrow."

Dr. Morgenstern offered his hand and when Apollonia took it, he held it a bit longer and tighter than he did the first time. Without saying a word to his colleague, he let himself out of the room. Serendipity or just plain old bad luck happened when Dr. Morgenstern departed the room. As the door began to automatically close, it stopped, reopened, and a young lady entered the room. Apollonia noticed she was not on staff and wondered why she would be entering her husband's room like she knew someone. Viviano turned, saw Felicia Dwyer standing just inside the door, and knew he had an imminent problem that needed to be solved immediately.

"Miss Dwyer," he said, "I see you've found me. How nice to see you again. Why don't we step outside a moment?"

The ever wary Apollonia was on top of the situation. Her intuition told her that Viviano was looking to have a relationship outside his marriage with the tall, waifish, young girl. She coughed making it known to Viviano that she wanted an introduction. When Viv looked at his sister-in-law he saw the darkness in her eyes and knew he'd lost any chance of not having to introduce the lass to Apollonia. Joshua Goldsmith and Nathan Childress stood as if they were audience members, attending a play, and watching the interaction between three actors where the hospital room was the stage. Colin Cathcart wanted only to feel his wife's hand in his and her lips on his forehead.

Viviano motioned for Felicia to come closer to him and Apollonia. He positioned her next to him and opposite his sister-in-law, "Apollonia, allow me to introduce you to Ms. Felicia Dwyer. She is a nursing student here at the hospital. We met earlier this afternoon as she departed Joshua's office and I was on my way there." He paused and decided to cut the story of their meeting to the nubs, "Later we bumped into each other again in the lobby. I inquired if she wouldn't mind having a bite to eat with me as I did not know what time you were going to arrive."

The look on her brother-in-law's face confirmed her intuition. Apollonia allowed the darkness to leave her beautiful turquoise eyes. She smiled broadly showing her perfect teeth and said, "Nice to meet you Felicia."

Felicia remained calm, "Nice to make your acquaintance, Ms. Apollonia."

"No Ms. Dwyer," said Apollonia, "Ms. Moretti. My name is Apollonia Moretti and you've entered the room of my rather ill husband."

Felicia looked to Viviano for some help, but nothing was forthcoming. She knew she had put herself into an untenable position by just entering the hospital room of someone she did not know from Adam. "Please excuse me," she said as she licked her lips. "Please accept my apology. Rather than making a bad situation worse, I'll just let myself out and make my way home."

"Answer one question for me, Felicia," said Apollonia. "Were you here under the assumption that you'd have a bite to eat with Viviano?"

Felicia Dwyer looked down at the floor for a moment before she stared directly into Apollonia's turquoise eyes, and said, "Yes. He also knows that I have no intention of beginning a relationship with a married man. I'm not that kind of girl."

Trying to make a joke, Apollonia said, "Oh, you're a virgin."

Without missing a beat, Felicia replied, "Yes. I am nineteen and a virgin Miss Moretti."

Apollonia broke her gaze with the young lass to find her brother-in-law shaking his head in a negative motion. "Interesting if I do say so myself. Why don't we just table dinner until I'm done here and the three of us can find someplace close by to sit and enjoy a meal. Would that be satisfactory Miss Dwyer?"

"Um," she stumbled.

Viviano found his voice, "Listen Appy, why don't you spend some time with Colin. I'll take Ms. Dwyer down to the waiting room where we'll wait for you. Then we can decide about finding a place to eat depending upon how you feel. Agreed?"

Felicia Dwyer made her decision for them. "Thanks, but I'll pass." She offered her hand to Apollonia, "I'm sorry for intruding. I'll let myself out so you can be with your husband."

Apollonia held the teenager's hand and felt a bolt of electricity course throughout her body. Her touch was enough to make Apollonia think about taking her virginity. In a matter of days, she had met two teenagers that made her so horny because each of them was a virgin. To make matters worse, Felicia Dwyer lived in the city which meant she could have easy access to her charms. All she had to do was get her into a position where she had no other choice but to comply. Apollonia made a quick decision. She reached into her handbag, retrieved a business card, and handed it to the young girl.

"That is my business card," she said. "Call me when you have a moment to chat. I would like the opportunity to get to know you. I can see you may be a perfect model for me to paint or sculpt. I think you'd enjoy spending some time at my place on the island."

Felicia Dwyer took the card, read it, and blushed all in the same moment of time. "Thank you Miss Moretti."

Apollonia, Viviano, Joshua, and Nathan watched the tall, waifish lass depart the room. When the door shut, Apollonia turned to Viviano and wagged a finger at him. Nothing was said, but both of them knew that the other understood the implication of what had just occurred. What neither of the were aware of was Joshua's controlled seething as he looked upon the young girl and fought his desire to kick her legs out from under her, rip off her clothing, force himself upon her, and choke her to death.

Apollonia approached the bed where Colin lay. For the first time since arriving, she had a good look at the injuries to his face. She leaned against the side of the bed to support herself; otherwise, she would have collapsed onto the floor. Viviano looked towards Nathan, glared at him, and then without a moment's hesitation made a move to be next to his sister-in-law. He put his arm around her shoulders and helped support her in her time of need.

Joshua Goldsmith walked around to the other side of the bed. He used his stethoscope to listen to Colin's heart and lungs. Satisfied, he looked over to Apollonia and said, "He'll be just fine Apollonia. You made the correct decision moving him here. His surgery and convalescence will go a lot better with full time medical and nursing staff attending to his needs. I will personally make sure he receives the best of the best when it comes to his care."

Apollonia looked up from Colin's face. She stared at the wall across from her and said in a nasty voice, "Out!!! I want everyone out of the room, now!!!"

Surprised at her outburst, Joshua and Viviano made for the door. Nathan Childress stood like a statue not making a move to depart the hospital room. Viviano Rossi turned and said, "Nathan, I suggest you do as she says or

your big black ass will be sailing through the window and down to 70th Street before you can react. Trust me she's got more moves than you ever learned."

Nathan Childress saw the look on Viviano's face and knew he wasn't kidding. Before he moved, he looked over to where his new employer stood leaning against the hospital bed where her husband lay recovering from a God awful beating. Nathan sized up Apollonia Moretti again and decided to believe what her brother-in-law just stated about her abilities. He quietly made his way to the door and exited the room. The three men walked to the nurse's station where they found three chairs to sit and wait for Apollonia.

Apollonia Moretti leaned forward and placed her lips on Colin's forehead. She held them there as she searched for and found his right hand. Colin tried, but failed to open his eyes. His hand clutched at Apollonia's. Their fingers intertwined. Both felt a surge of electricity course through their bodies as their love for each other solidified their crazy relationship. Apollonia held her lips on Colin's head for a good ten minutes before she pulled up and moved so she could lie next to him. Colin felt her weight on the bed and with strength from somewhere deep inside he moved to his left enough to give her the room she needed. She released his hand for a moment so her left hand could replace her right. Apollonia raised the blanket, coursed her right hand to her husband's bare stomach, and rested it there. She felt Colin squeeze her hand in response to her movements and questions if she had any for him.

"I'm so sorry, Colin," she softly cried, "I'm at fault for this beating. I take full responsibility. I never should have allowed Sonny into our lives."

Colin felt the tears on Apollonia's face begin to wet the soft cotton of his hospital gown. He tried but failed to say something to her so he could calm her nerves and relate how he did not fault her for what happened to him. All he could do was lie there and try to tell her everything was going to be all right by squeezing her hand. Colin felt the touch and warmth of her hand on his abdomen. Considering his fragile state, his response was immediate and something that neither of them expected. His penis grew hard as he remembered the times they would lie together and she would gently rub his taut abdomen sending waves of pleasure to his crotch.

Apollonia did not think about what consequences she could or would face when she slid her head under the blanket, found Colin's erection, and took it into her mouth. His cock had not entered her mouth since he accepted his cuckolding and feminization. She immediately remembered the size of the head, the width of the shaft, and the length of his manhood. It saddened her that he could not be a true alpha male, because his size was more than enough to make and keep her sexually satisfied and emotionally happy. Apollonia did not care she was dressed in a business suit and she moved her body to make her act of fellatio easier. Colin opened his legs giving the love-of-his-life access to his balls and anus. With her mouth sliding up and down his hardening shaft, Apollonia used the saliva pooled at the base to lubricate her middle finger which she unceremoniously inserted into her husband's sissy pussy. She knew he was enjoying himself by the noise he made when she entered his body, the tenseness of his muscles, and the active pressure of his anus on her finger.

What neither of them thought about or considered was the lines attached to Colin's body that monitored his heart rate, breathing, pulse rate, and blood oxygen levels. The double conundrum was the level of technology being used by the hospital as all the data was wirelessly transmitted to the nurse's station down the hall. As Colin's heart rate and pulse rate rose the lines and numbers being displayed were also increasing. Thankfully, Joshua constantly eyed the twenty-four inch liquid crystal display that read Colin's heart rate monitor. He noticed the rise and before the nurse reacted, he rose from his chair, pointed to himself, and made his way to Colin's room. Dr. Goldsmith had to keep from bursting out in laughter as he watched the cotton blanket rise and fall with Apollonia's motion. Inside his head, he thought how nice it was for Colin to be lying in a hospital bed, face all busted and bruised, while his wife felt bad enough for him to suck his cock. Rather than disturb their pleasure, he returned to the nurse's station smiling, sat down, and said loud enough for everyone to hear, "Let's just leave well enough alone."

Apollonia could feel Colin's cock shaft and head begin to thicken in preparation for his impending orgasm. If this was a different time and place, Apollonia would have taken the base of his cock into her left hand, squeezed it, and stopped the onrushing flow of semen up the urethra thus killing his orgasm. Tonight was a different story. She pressed her head down and took her husband's cock into her throat. She relaxed and allowed her tonsils and adenoids to caress the corona as it passed. Colin's hands clinched and he gurgled a moan as he felt his wife's mouth do what he loved to do himself to another man. It was no surprise to Apollonia when she felt his sissy pussy begin to spasm around her finger signaling the onset of his orgasm. His cock shaft and head grew thicker and not giving into her desire to frustrate him, she left his cock embedded in her throat as he spewed several ropes of sissy milk directly into her stomach.

Six-and-a-half minutes later, Apollonia returned to her husband's side and whispered, "No matter what comes between us Colin, I will always love you. My promise to you is that you will never suffer as you have suffered at the hands of Sonny Rossi. My only true regret is your inability to be an alpha-male." She felt him tense and then relax his muscles. She saw him trying to say something, but stopped him by gently putting her lips to his. She moved back to the side of his head, kissed his ear, and said, "I love you so much, Colin Cathcart."

The only response that Colin could give was to take her hand and squeeze it for a moment. Inside he wanted to tell her that he loved her and what happened to him was not her fault. Colin tried to speak, but the wires holding his jaw in place would not allow him to utter a word because he was trying to open his mouth enunciate his words. Not being one to give-up, Colin continued to gurgle and growl until one word was formed. He uttered, "Appy".

Apollonia rose to look at her husband's beaten face and holding back her tears said, "I love you Colin. Don't hurt yourself trying to speak. I'm going to spend the night right by your side."

He moved his head in the negative.

"You want me to go home?" she asked.

This time he moved his head in the positive.

"I don't understand why you wouldn't want me to be with you," she moaned. Apollonia Moretti began to sob and hold her tear stained face close to her husband's neck. She felt Colin try to move so he could embrace her, but the wires and IV's tube precluded him from doing so. "You need to know that I alone am responsible for your condition. Please don't push me away."

Somewhere deep inside Colin he found the strength to put a few sentences together through his wired together teeth, "I love you, too. Unconditionally. Please go home so I can rest."

Apollonia rose from the bed, took Colin's right hand into hers, and said, "I'll be back first thing in the morning. I want to kiss you before you go into surgery. I love you Colin Cathcart." She saw him nod in agreement, so, she leaned forward and kissed his forehead. One last time she said, "I love you so much", before she released his hand and made her way out of his room.

Viviano, Joshua, Nathan, and the duty nurses watched Apollonia walk the short distance from Colin's room to the nurse's station. Joshua noticed that for someone who just lay in a bed sucking a cock; her clothes were still perfectly pressed as if she just put them on and her makeup was impeccable. The three men stood as she approached. The duty nurse made it obvious to Apollonia that she was not thrilled with her presence and immediately departed for Colin's room.

"Everything ok?" asked Viviano.

"Yes, just peachy," she replied. "He signaled me that he wanted me to go home and return in the morning before his surgery. I'm famished. Let's get something to eat."

Viviano wanted more than anything to return home to his family. Joshua Goldsmith thought it would be best if he went home where he could pine over the teenaged beauty he would love to have sexual relations with before he took her life. He also felt a pang of guilt that he had not spoken to his children since the events that took his wife's life. Nathan Childress wondered if he made a mistake accepting her offer of employment, but it did not stop him from his paranoia about someone coming up behind him and putting two .22 caliber bullets in the back of his head. The three men each wanted a different outcome and neither of them wanted to express their desire to forego dinner with Apollonia.

Their faces were not curtains hiding their emotions. Apollonia could see in each of their eyes something more than an acceptance of going to dinner. She knew each of them wanted to say something to her that would cancel their going out to a meal. Instead of forcing the issue she said, "You know what? I'm beat and I have to return here early tomorrow morning. Why don't we just call it a night? Joshua, do you have a means to get home?"

Joshua perked up, "Yes, Apollonia. I can call a car service. But, if you have a moment, I'd like to talk to you in private."

Apollonia nodded, stepped down the hall, and watched Joshua approach her. When they were far enough away, he said, "Is there any news? I heard something from Howard Cohen, but, I've been on pins and needles."

Apollonia Moretti looked into her brother-in-law's eyes and saw he was lying. The asshole was trying to get over on her and she was not going to tolerate his lame attempt. She reacted as she always did when confronted with unmitigated bullshit. Joshua didn't catch the darkness in Apollonia's eyes. Before he could react, she pushed him against the wall, and grabbed hold of his balls through his pants. She squeezed hard enough to bring tears to his eyes. Joshua Goldsmith felt the soft tissue of his testicles begin to crumble under the pressure of Apollonia's right hand. When she did not stop he used all his willpower to keep from screaming because of the increasing pain. Instead he begged, "Please, no more!!! Please!!!"

Nathan Childress saw what was happening and made it impossible for the duty nurse to leave her station. He glared at her which was more than enough to get her to return to her seat. Viviano smiled to himself happy that Apollonia was giving the asshole what he more than deserved. He only wished Felicia Dwyer was here to witness the fall of the man she wanted to be her mentor. The two men looked at each other. Viviano nodded knowingly, pointed to where Apollonia and Joshua stood, and mouthed, "I told you she was more than capable." Nathan responded by opening his eyes wide, grimacing, and nodding his head in the affirmative.

Joshua eyes were bugging out of his head. He saw through his tears Apollonia's face nearing his right ear. He heard her through the fog of pain, "Listen you little Jewish twerp. You have lied to me for the last time. I know what Howard told you. Your life is mine. The balls I hold in my hand don't belong to you anymore. You continue to make life difficult for me and I'll feed you to the wolves in prison. I hold the keys. You're facing a murder charge in Manhattan. If I decided to fuck you, I call the Westchester District Attorney and I drop a dime on the untimely death of Elizabeth. Are you hearing me, Joshua?"

Joshua Goldsmith did not have the strength to answer his sister-in-law. The pain emanating from between his legs was more than he could tolerate. Fear took control of his body. His muscles tensed. His face grew red as he tried to keep from screaming out in pain. Apollonia could see him fighting and unceremoniously released her hold on his crotch. The moment she pulled her hand back to her side, Joshua Goldsmith's hands went to cover his aching balls. He slid down the wall, fell onto his side, and curled up into the fetal position. The only sounds coming from his mouth were unintelligible nonsense and moaning. Thankfully he hadn't pissed or shit himself.

Apollonia knelt down and said, "Remember who owns you Joshua. I have the ability to take your children from you. Elizabeth's parents do not have the economic power or wherewithal to fight me. You already know and have seen what I'm capable of. Think about Sarah and Jason. Think about how they'd suffer at my hands. Make a

decision Joshua.” Apollonia paused for a moment realizing that she just enunciated something akin to her mother’s sexual deviance and insanity. Her entire being was on fire as she espoused the use of Joshua’s children to make him bend to her will. She felt more than a small amount of vaginal fluid exit the folds of her vagina. Apollonia Moretti shivered. When she regained control of her body she said in a quiet and controlled, but angry voice, “DON’T EVER FUCK WITH ME, JOSHUA. THE NEXT TIME WILL BE YOUR LAST. I PROMISE YOU.”

She did not wait for an answer. Apollonia Moretti stood up, walked towards and past where Viviano and Nathan stood to the hall that led to the bank of elevators that would take her to the lobby. Both men paused for a moment, looked to where Dr. Joshua Goldsmith lay clutching his crotch, thought better of going to his aid, turned, and followed Apollonia out of the Maxillofacial Surgery Suite. Once in the cab of the elevator, Apollonia said one word, “Home.”

Nathan did not say a word when they exited the elevator. He left Apollonia and Viviano in the lobby of the hospital. Twelve minutes later he returned with the Lincoln Town Car and like a well-trained chauffeur opened the rear passenger door. After Apollonia and Viviano were settled in the rear seat, he closed the door, took his position behind the steering wheel, and begun the drive to Columbus Place. The only words uttered to Nathan were when they arrived in front of Apollonia’s house. He was told the time he was to arrive to take Apollonia back to the hospital in the morning.