

The Four Aces

By : **Artemis Lykaios Nightshade**

This is America; land of the free, home of the brave. In four major cities around the country, a criminal organization flourished in its dealings. The Four Aces, as they were known, is probably the biggest multi-generational gathering of gangsters and criminals in the land. They had a finger in almost every business which had to pay them a regular sum of money since the inception of the Aces and the business new alliance. In return, not the protection that the lowlife scum promised where a rival gang would happily lay waste to the business and the protection would be none the wiser; instead, the Aces provided protection like soldiers to guard their investments and their interests. Because, you see, loyalty means everything to them. With the police cracking down on crime lately, they are stepping up their game. They need all the help they can get for one great heist that would earn them their crown. *** The Duke of Diamonds (Atlantic City) The Baron of Spades (New York) The Lord of Hearts (Miami) The Bishop of Clubs (Boston)



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The Four Aces : Chapter 1

Blackjack clung to the back swoop of the truck as it sped furiously down the highway, narrowly avoiding collision by miracles much less than inches. He turned and pressed his back flat against the truck's cargo door, his eyes falling upon the huge armada of police cars racing towards them.

"Smokey on our tail!" He shouted, banging the side of the truck to get the driver's attention and telling him to speed up.

Blackjack waited while the police started to close the distance. He wasn't worried, even though the Duke of Diamonds and his daughter were leading the convoy. They'd be able to make it out of this, most of the time they did

He pulled his handgun from the holster underneath his coat and kept it steady in his hand. He weighed it to check if it had any rounds in it and once satisfied, he pulled back the hammer to load a round into the chamber. His free hand was in the air, directing the rear patrol car to come closer.

It was a new Mercedes, courtesy of the Four Aces but since it was new, it hadn't been lined with bulletproof metal or glass and wasn't so much prepared for a battle with the cops. For now, it was able to out-drive any cop car. Against armed officers though, it wouldn't stand a chance.

He couldn't see the driver but for all he knew, they were good enough to pull up to the rear of a truck that was over four times its size and fifty times its weight. The car came close enough for Blackjack to simply step onto the bonnet and crouch down once shots were being fired from their rear. He could even hear the roaring sound of chopper joining in on the chase. He leaned over and opened the door to the passenger side and he jumped onto it, using the metal to protect himself from the gunfire.

He looked at the driver who was shouting something at him but his words stopped as bullets flew through the rear windscreen pelted the driver through the car seat. The car was out of control and all that was left for him to do was jump off the car. As he landed and rolled between cars, the Merc crashed into several cars before it collided with the railing on the side of the highway, Blackjack was pretty sure the dead driver flew through the windscreen and into the sea below.

He had no choice but to take out his other handgun and fire at the cops while he waited for another car, more suited for a warzone, to pull up beside him.

As Blackjack wanted it happened. An all-black dodge charger with a knight from chess on the hood and trunk speed in his direction. The driver was known by all as the black knight.

Her car had armor on it and not only that the driver had two guns installed on the sides and in the car which was a manual on the shifter that she uses to shift it into gears was a button on it for the guns.

She had noticed that the black mercy was gone but she also noticed that a guy had jumped out of it and needed help otherwise jail time was in store for him. So she spun the car around fast and made her way to him in hopes to stop the police cars from getting to him. She let her guns fly shooting at them and if that did not work she was going to ram them if they got too close as she made her way over to Blackjack.

Dark Knight pulled out her cellphone while driving her car and called Blackjack.

The Four Aces

"Blackjack, I'm coming to get you." She called waiting for a reply as she made another turn. She ducked when she heard a machine gun; she pulled out her gun and began shooting as well.

Her reply finally came, "Good, just keep driving".

Dark Knight hung up and continued to drive in amazing speed while shooting at any cop, FBI, SWAT, or any enemy of the sort.

Meanwhile, The Shadow Rider of the Lord of Hearts decided to take his ride on a motorcycle. He had two Honda cars after him on either side; with a gun in on hand and the other one the handle of the motorcycle, he began shooting at them on the head whenever they come out of the window to shoot.

The Shadow Rider was known for riding in the shadows of the daylight, he shifted his motorcycle and drove into the shadows thus becoming invisible to the enemies. Soon they started to randomly shoot in hopes they would kill him. They missed every time and one by one they were assassinated until the driver and the one who rode shot-gun were left.

The ones on the shot-gun seats rolled their windows down and began shooting at him but to no avail, he kept on shooting brick walls and windows.

"Did you get him?" The driver asked making a turn to the left.

The shooter ducked back in and replied, breathing heavily, "negative. He's still alive".

Blackjack could feel the heat from the bullets as they whizzed past. He ran in the opposite direction of the truck and the police cars, seeing a familiar car with mounted machine-guns blazing its firepower at the cops while weaving towards him.

He ducked behind an abandoned taxi after the driver decided to run once the shootout started. He lifted his slightly to locate the cops who dismounted their car and fired at them with his guns. He managed to hit both, one went down but the other was barely affected. He broke from cover and kept firing at the cops while the Charger made its way to him.

As the bullets flew by her car and some even pellet her car she knew this was getting serious. She pulled out a stick of gum and popped it in her mouth and said, "time to get serious and let the fun begin".

She then tossed on some sun glasses and cocked a crooked smile and put the car into third gear and picked up speed. She was now shooting some cop cars out of the way and even ramming some others as she made her way fast thou the horde right to Blackjack.

It took longer than he felt comfortable with because the cops were overwhelming him and closing in on his position. He was forced to crouch in the small gap between two taxis, still under fire when the Black Knight halted right by him.

He stood and walked towards the car but instead of going for the passenger seat, he reached inside the car's glove compartment and pulled out the SMG that was lying there. He climbed onto the roof of the car, hoping she didn't mind.

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He banged on the roof of the car while he shouted under the sound of gunfire, "Let's go! We need to catch up!" He loaded the gun and held onto the body of the car while she drove.

Dark Knight gave a cocky grin he could not see and said "as you wish ". She spun the car around to facing where she needed to go to head back to the rest of the convoy and sped forward. She noticed some of the face of the cops as it dawned on them who owned the black car with a chess knight on top. She shot cars out of her way and even hit some cop cars out of their way as well. She hoped Blackjack could hang on while she did her crazy driving.

The Shadow Rider had enough and blew at least three cop cars with an explosive disk bomb. He activated the bomb and threw it; it landed on one thus exploding three.

He noticed Blackjack and a very familiar car which was owned by none other than Dark Knight herself. He followed them on his motorcycle in the shadows of the broad daylight.

Shadow Rider had to pick up the pace in order to catch up, from afar he notice a few cops waiting for them where they were heading, he flopped his cellphone and called Blackjack, to warn him.

"Blackjack, there are cops at the end of our road blocking us." He warned hoping they got the message.

Shadow Rider waited for a reply as he jumped a railing and over several shipping carts. He managed to stick the landing and drive off without falling; four more cars came in from behind and began shooting. There were no shadows in the area so he'll have to drive faster.

Of course, the car had seemingly nothing on its hood for him to hold on to. Nevertheless, he managed to stay on the roof without falling onto the road. As the drove past police cars that she hadn't already blasted through, he laid down several rounds at the driver so they could not follow them. The driver's death was the least worrying thing on Blackjack's mind at this moment.

The most worrying was that there was an important public figure leading the convoy who they had to get to before the cops. He looked towards another vehicle who was riding behind them, another familiar face on their motorcycle. The Shadow Rider. His phone began to ring and it was none other than the Black Shadow himself.

He listened to the warning and nodded before sending his reply.

"Shadow! We need you to punch a hole through the cars so we can follow you through to the convoy!" He shouted at him through his phone, regaining his balance on the car and hanging up.

He banged on the roof some more, urging her to speed up. Dark Knight caught the message with a grin and a nod and speed up.

Through the other line of the phone, Shadow Rider ducked down as a bullet nearly took his head off, he eliminated the shooter before turning his head back on the road.

"That I can do sir!" He said as he punched a hole with his gun through the cars so they could follow without any more trouble than what they are already in.

The Four Aces

Black Knight saw the bike speed up and go in front of her and knew what he was doing. When she heard the bang on her roof to speed up she did just that. She picked up the speed pretty fast by shifting into fourth gear. She was not going one hundred miles per hour and hoped that whoever got in her way would not send Blackjack off her roof.

She kept the speed up following the shadow rider and she thought when the three of them go together nothing could stop them from getting to the convey. She knew she had to protect the duke and his daughter with her life.

Blackjack remembered Shadow's warning and came up with an idea. He moved closer to Shadow so that he could hear him clearer.

"I need you to get onto the other side of the road and circle around the barricade. Do what you have to make a hole through them!" He shouted at him.

Blackjack leaned over and climbed through the open passenger window of the Charger and sat in the passenger seat.

"Drop me off just before the barricade ahead and then U-turn back. Go for a hundred yards and then go up the other side of the road to the Duke and cover the truck. I'll ride with Shadow." He explained, putting the SMG back into the glove compartment and taking out his dual Berettas again.

"So they send all they have do they," she hit a button on her car and reloaded her machine guns on the side and rolled down her windows. "Then I guess it's time to send this car into death mode and show the world what dark knight means ". She rolled up her window and pushed another button and the trunk popped open and two more guns popped out.

She was loaded now with four guns and on top of that if she had to she will send out the rocket launcher but that was the last resort. The rocket launcher came out of the roof of the car behind Blackjack if she was going to use she would have to tell him to get inside of the car but till then the guns would have to do. Just then Blackjack was in her car and she knew what she could do. She nodded her head and said, "You got it".

She did as she was told sped up to just before all the horde of cops pulled the car into a fast stop and said "alright lets show the world what happens when the mess with us time to get out for me to play mean". She pressed the button and a rocket launcher was now on top of her car.

Blackjack got out of the car and grinned once he saw the mighty rocket launchers unfold out of the roof. He started firing at the cops, trying to keep the cops from damaging the Charger too much and buying Shadow some time to get around the barricade. He waited for the Knight to blow a hole in the cops, knowing the power of the awesome RPG's.

As she looked right at Blackjack as he got out of the car and gave him one of her famous crooked grins before she sets one off. She then hit the button and watched as one missile flew out of the gun and hit right in the middle of the barricade.

She watched as one car went up in flames and noticed that two and three more went up in flames. The damage was done lives was lost but all she did was reload the thing and waited for the right time to fire it off.

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She wanted to make sure she was not going to hit Shadow Rider. She did her u turn right after that rocket and was now in front of the truck with the duke and daughter.

Now was his chance to go around the barricade, he had a sharp turn and pushed hard to build up more speed soon after he pushed the breaks in front of Blackjack.

"Need a ride?" He asked, with a grin. Blackjack smiled at Shadow's wit, while taking a seat behind him.

"Don't mind if I do." He said, reloading his guns after almost emptying them. "Pull up next to the convoy so we follow it home." He told him, putting the guns back in his holster.

He sat comfortably and for the first time since the whole battle started, Blackjack took a deep breath and relaxed. The police had pulled back their forces after their devastating losses and even the chopper gave up and went back. He smiled, knowing that he'd have to buy Shadow and the Knight drinks after this for saving his skin.

Shadow nodded and started up the motorcycle again. He headed towards the convoy and pulled up beside it so they could follow.

Knight saw the cops leave and sighed, "Just when the fun starts you all run away with your tails between your legs". She put the rocket launcher back into her car so that the roof was complete.

The back seat was no more cause of the rocket launchers so the charger became a two seated. She even pulled in the guns from back but left the ones on the side in case more trouble came along. She picked up speed as the convey kept on going.

She was no longer in the lead but beside the head truck, she did not want people thinking she was in charge for he knew damn well the duke was.

The convoy eventually reached its destination which happened to be the Duke's home in preparation for a gathering he was planning in a week. But before any of that, Blackjack still had to buy the Knight and the Shadow a drink.

He waited until the rest arrived to give them out their drinks and pay the bills as well.

"Another long fun day." He said to himself as he watched the bartenders tend to other customers while listening to other people's conversations.

Soon Dark Knight came and sat next to him while they wait for Shadow Rider who was parking his motorcycle in the shadows away from the other vehicles.

They visited the bar frequently after almost every mission they do, it was a tradition to them all.

Once Shadow Rider arrived, Blackjack knew it was time, "so what'll be?" He started, leaning back on the counter. "The least I can do for your services today."

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Shadow scanned through the beverages seeking which he would like to drink. He found the one to his liking and asked for Irish Ale. Blackjack nodded and asked a free handed bartender for an Irish Ale.

Dark Knight did the same as well and scanned through the drinks. The bartender, after giving Shadow and Blackjack their drinks waiting patiently for Knight to call out her request.

"A screw driver". She loved them fruit drinks and this one had vodka in it. It was also made with orange juice.

Blackjack nodded towards her and also towards the tender who immediately went on to making the Screw Driver for Knight. As soon as it was done, he slid it over to her and she caught it with one hand.

Taking a whiff of the Screw Driver, she exhaled at the smell of the drink. "Smells so divine."

Blackjack's opinion of drinking was the same as everything else; take it while you have it. He didn't mind the occasional high from narcotics but he preferred to keep his mind clear. He held his glass out to them while he made a small toast to their efforts.

"To the Four Aces." He said, smiling.

The rest raised their glasses and repeated the toast before taking sips of the drinks they ordered.

Dark Knight was the first to finish her drink, she heard the door open and turned around, a smile formed on her lips as she watched who entered the building. A familiar face stepped in.

"Well well Death star is in the house" she said with a smile as the girl made her way over to them.

Death star was a pretty sight all that blonde hair in curls bouncing around her head. She had sparkly blue eyes that scanned the three of them with a smile. She also had lusher red lips that curved into a nasty smile. She wore a black leather body suit that hugged her body nicely with black leather boots.

She got to the bar and said, "well you three were great as always wish the duke would have let me joined like I wanted but he said I needed to stay in the truck in case I was needed to kill of cops that would have jumped onto the bus and besides I had a mission to do after that ". She got herself a drink and then turned to the three adding, "I was sent to kill a private detective that was working undercover".

"Let's its good seeing you again Death Star." Blackjack said calling out the tender to give Star's request. Soon afterwards, Death Bringer came along. He was at another table but once he looked up he noticed the four and walked up to them with a broad smile through his baby face figure.

"As I live and breathe. Death Star, Blackjack, Shadow Rider, Dark Knight; what a pleasant surprise." He said taking a seat beside Star as he sent in his third request of Scots.

Dark knight looked over at Death bringer and said with a smile, "well good thing you're on our side otherwise death would visit once again and yes this is a pleasant surprise."

Death star looked over at him with a smile and said, "Well hello there as well." She went back to her drink then turned to him and added, "How have you been death bringer?"

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Death Bringer smiled again and replied to Star's question, "just swell Star, I had a few run downs with the SWAT team but I also managed to steal their weapons while they were either dead or while we were fighting in close range."

Bringer took out a bag loaded with various guns from the SWAT team and placed them spread out onto the table for all to see.

Dark knight looked at the guns with a smile but then went back to her drink. She was not much into guns right now more into the drinks but she also had a car loaded down with them. She soon stood up and said, "If you all do not mind I shall hit the ladies room". She stood up and walked by the men's room to get there and she thought she heard fighting but then moved on to into the ladies' room.

Death star leaned real close to all those guns and said, "Nice ". She picked one or two up and played with it before putting it back. "Today was a good day after all I saw the duke smile and say so and that is a rear thing let me tell you".

Blackjack smiled and couldn't help but laugh at the gathering of trained killers and criminals.

"Looks like we'll all be getting drunk together then." He chuckled, chugging down his glass of whiskey before ordering the whole bottle. But then, a familiar feeling came over him. An experience he recognized very well.

"Now, if you'll excuse me, ladies and gentlemen, I gotta take a leak." He said, sliding off the bar stool and lumbering his way to the bathroom.

While taking his leak, Blackjack heard someone stepping out of one of the cubicles behind him and before he knew it, a piano wire was around his rope as the assassin tried to choke him.

He kicked off the wall, pushing him and his assailant into the opposite wall where he got the chance to turn and attack the assassin but another came from the side, took his waist in their arms and threw him to the floor.

He was entirely at the disadvantage but he could still put up a fight against these idiots. He blocked the blows from the assassin while he bore over him before he grabbed his fist and thudded his head against the assassin's.

It disorientated him and allowed Blackjack to push him off but the other was on him, trying to subdue him for the kill. But Blackjack was tougher; he stopped his first punch and gave him a right cross at the jaw.

He got up and tried to find a weapon but then both started simultaneously attacking him and it was too hard for him to fend off all their punches and kicks. He ended up being pushed into a cubicle where the lid to the toilet seat broke off.

Blackjack managed to knock out the one standing in front of him by kicking him hard enough so that he flew back and hit the sink. He picked up the lid to the toilet seat and swung it right at the other one's face and he wouldn't be able to remain conscious after that hit.

Blackjack inspected himself in the mirror and saw the cuts and blood all over his face and neck. He splashed cold water onto his face, washing away the crimson off. He stared at himself in the mirror for a bit before he decided to send whoever tried to kill him a message.

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He punched the glass and naturally, it broke into several pieces. He took a shard out that he could hold in his hand and crouched in front of the assassin who had his head bashed in by a toilet seat. He grabbed his head and started cutting across the man's neck, letting the blood seep onto the floor.

He did the same to the other after whom he dropped the shard of glass and covered his fingers in his blood. He wrote on the mirror a few words, "better luck next time". He cleaned his hands of the blood and then walked outside and back to the bar stool like nothing was amiss.

"That went well." He said, grinning like he did as he washed his hands and walking out of the restroom.

Admiring the guns, Shadow shook his head in amusement. "Gotta hand it to you Death Bringer, you sure have a way with stealth."

Death Bringer couldn't help but flush at all the comments he was receiving, "ah it was nothing".

Blackjack came out of the restroom as Star did as well, "somebody got on your bad side i see hate to be them". She sat down beside him and sipped on her drink again". She then looked around her at the gathering of people highly wanted by the cops and thought to herself the cops used to run the place but now they kind of do.

She looked back at Blackjack and said, "Too bad I did not get to see the fight I bet it would have been fun to watch you whip their asses". She then sighed and said, "Wish the duke and his daughter was here after all Death star is getting kinda board drinking is fun but so is killing".

She was getting restless but that was until Knight brought the girl anther drink and knew if she got her wasted she won't be to edgy to kill something instead maybe she could have some fun with her .

One thing was known the two girls were best friends and they sometimes had slumber parties but they were not pillow fights that where nice blood was drawn for they kept each other fit and ready for battle.

"Believe me; you wouldn't have wanted to be there." He said, recalling the time when he started cutting their throats with the shard from the mirror and then writing a message in their blood as if it was paint.

He can horrify even himself sometimes but the most it did was make him laugh. Blackjack always did manage to do worse things than that. He would have to request an audience with the Four Aces in the morning, letting them know of an imminent attack. They'd probably take it more lightly then he was doing but at least they'd consider going defensive.

"I have work to do in the morning but I'm free for the night until then." He smiled, taking down the bottle of whiskey.

Star smiled and said "free huh this girl can think of a few things that would be fun of course one will need to take some drinks to go no fun getting this death star wasted without friends"

Knight walked up to the girl and grabbed her bottle from her hand and said, "you know you could always take me home Star I get wasted with you ". This caused Star to laugh and said, "I know but I wanted to know what Blackjack thought or maybe death bringer or shadow racer". This caused a laugh to come out of Knight.

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Meanwhile, Aileen was in the bar wearing a hooded jacket as a disguise. She drank one bottle of beer before asking for water. She was spying on the four but she made it look like as if she were reading a menu.

She got up from her seat and sat next to Star, ordering a second round hoping her voice would be unrecognizable.

Blackjack took another swig of what remained of his bottle but as he put it down, some part of his memory began ticking upon hearing a voice. Somehow, he recalled that voice from somewhere and it emanated from behind Star. He slid off of his stool and looked behind Star to see a hooded figure.

Typical, he thought why would anyone wear a hood and hide their face in a place where people want to be seen. He walked towards the person and did what he thought was right according to his foggy brain and jacked up nerves. He grabbed the back of the hood and pulled it down to reveal a face he hoped would not venture to these parts.

"You can't be here, princess." Blackjack spoke to her as he waited for a reply from the Duke's daughter.

The Four Aces : Chapter 2

Aileen, the dutchess of Diamonds, daughter of the duke lifted her head up when her hood was removed thus blowing her cover. She turned to face a concern and angry Blackjack.

She gave out a sigh of frustration, her cover was not completely blown but still, anybody at the bar could recognize her now

"I got bored. Do you know what the hell it is like to keep pretty much locked up and hidden nearly 24/7 while you guys are all out having fun." She whispered, her tone clearly angry as she looked on his face.

Blackjack gave a long sigh and ran his fingers through his hair. "It's not exactly a picnic either princess. This is the only place where we, including enemies of your father can get together under one roof without blowing each other up," He knew she didn't completely mean it; sneaking out and trying to get some adventure in her life. It's in everyone's genes, to go out on an adventure.

Aileen stood up from her stool and looked directly into his eyes, for a split second she's gotten herself lost in them.

She knew well that even though he wasn't the most striking man on earth she cared about him as well as the others but him more than the rest. She has even seen what he was capable of and she made him an idol in her eyes.

"Fine, give me a few minutes." She whispered walking towards the restroom to make sure her disguise is intact.

As Blackjack waited, Star and Bringer came over and stood on either side of him.

"Was that her?" Star asked leaning against the bar table. Black gave a solid nod as both she and Bringer sighed. "She knows she is not suppose to be here. Has anyone ever even told her yet?"

When no one replied, Star gave them all a cold stare. "Don't look at me! I was told to keep my lips sealed." Bringer said in defense.

Blackjack said the same, his tone sounded as if he were far away.

Aileen emerged from the restroom with new contacts, green colored. Blackjack mentally shook his head; he thought she was gorgeous without a disguise and should wear her true face other than a fake.

Wait, what was he thinking? He shouldn't compliment his boss's daughter like that. He would get in loads of trouble, worse, killed. So he mentally shook his head out of the trance he was in.

"Let's go," He said taking Aileen's hand in his as they walk out. They made a brief stop at Shadow who was talking to an enemy. "Rider, I'll be borrowing your bike, I'll have it return without a scratch."

"You better." Rider said coldly. If anything, ANYTHING happened to his bike, he will go crazy mad.

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Blackjack nodded and he along with the dutchess head outside towards Rider's bike which was amongst the shadow away from the rest.

"You sit in front." He said, getting her to sit so that her legs were dangling off the right hand side of the bike. He sat behind her, twisting his arm around her slender body to slot the key into the ignition.

"I'm not getting fresh with you here. If anyone comes after us, I have to make sure that you're safe, regardless of what happens to me." He explained, putting the bike into gear and driving off.

Blackjack knew that this way, if they tried shooting at them, he'd stop the bullets from hitting Elena and severely injure him in the process but unlike her, he didn't matter.

He looked over his shoulder to see two 4x4 heading their way. Turning his head back to the horizon, he made a turn to the right.

"What's happening?" Aileen asked not looking behind.

"There are two 4x4s'. There is also a gun in my left jean pocket, take it out," He explained then hesitated for a split second. "I hope you know how to shoot." Even if she didn't, he knew that if they started shooting, his body would be the one who will make contact with the bullets. The duke would have his head if anything happened to his little girl.

Aileen grabbed the gun and cocked it. "I'll do my very best not to shoot you."

Blackjack smiled, "we'll see and not quite yet princess, wait". The two continued to drive with the 4x4 right on their tail.

Knight decided she had enough to drink and felt queasy. Her head was spinning and her stomach ached like no other. When she tried to get up, she felt herself sway from side to side and eventually knock over a few glasses.

Bringer was the first to notice of Knight's drunkenness and decided to help her stand and walk for a bit.

"Easy there Stacey, perhaps I should drive when we go to leave in a few." He said, setting her down on a nearby chair.

Stacey aka Dark Knight, shooed his help away and glared up at him. "I am fine thank you. I will drive, it is my job"! Soon all eyes were all on her and she felt herself turn red. "I sounded like a child didn't I?"

The three nodded their heads while the others at the bar muttered yes. Stacey lead out a long sigh before asking the bartender for water. After he gave a glass to her, she gulped it a couple of times.

"I can still drive. Please? I'm not one hundred percent drunk." She begged, hoping it would work.

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But still, Bringer shook his head, "no Stacey, Star is more sober than you are, more in control. She'll drive." He explained, giving Star the cue to go start the car.

Star got the message and nodded before tugging on Rider's sleeve to follow. Once the other two were alone, it was time for a small couple like brawl.

"But why Samuel?! You know how much I love driving!" Stacey said, her tone sounding childish.

Samuel aka Death Bringer ran his finger through his hair and sighed; his name wasn't in fact Samuel but Adrian but his first name sounded tough, dark and he had a babyface so he settled in for his middle name which doesn't sound nearly as dark.

"My word is final Stacey, you will drive again when you're less drunk or when we need to make a run for it." Samuel said, stretching out his hand for her to take.

With a final huff, Stacey gave in and took her hand in his and followed him towards Star's car. The rest, his and her's will be transported by other Aces.

Blackjack had a constant urge to look at her and he even stole a glance to look at her eyes, imagining what they looked like before she put the contacts on. He then wished his attention hadn't diverted from the road because he could see the two 4x4s coming up behind them now closer than they were before.

"Shit," He hissed, speeding up. "Princess, get ready and don't shoot until they do." He said, a hint of urgency and a tiny slither of fear in his voice.

Aileen nodded at the news and cocked the gun once again. Now was her chance to prove herself that even a royal can become an Ace.

Blackjack waited for them to take the first shot so she could start shooting. It took a few minutes of chasing them when a person on one of the 4x4s' window was rolled down and started shooting at them.

"When you're ready, princess." He said, ducking his head every time a shot was fired at them. "Aim for the driver."

The dutchess nodded, "right, after I get rid of him first". She aimed for the shooter, acting as if she wasn't very good. It took her several shots before he was down and the other fired. Soon afterwards, he was dead and the two drivers remained, their guns cocked and loaded.

Once Elena shot at the passenger and killed him after a few shots, Blackjack tried to speed up further but the bike's engine was already screaming and the 4x4s were hardly hindered by the speed at all. It seemed that it was armoured but whoever it belonged to, they hadn't considered the windows.

"Good job," He said, quickly moving along the road with as much speed as the bike could go. Ahead, they were running out of road to drive along and she'd have to kill him fast before he needed to slow down so he can make the turn. "Now, kill the driver, because that would be very helpful because we might just hit a brick wall." He said, his foot nearing the brake pedals.

The 4x4 seemed to go out of control once the driver was dead and eventually, it careered off the road and went crashing into a building. Once the danger was averted, Blackjack took the chance to slow down and turn right at the T-junction.

"You've been holding out on me," He laughed, heading to the road that would take them out of the town.

"Where did you learn to shoot like that?"

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Aileen giggled and shrugged innocently, "I've been observing you guys and took private lessons as well...but you didn't hear it from me"! She knew that if her father found out she was taking private shooting lessons, he would have her hind.

"Of course not, I heard it from the Duke's 'other' daughter," He said, smiling. Blackjack came to realize that something about where they were going and there was a precaution they could take, if Aileen told him to. "Those guys aren't the type who give up easy. So my suggestion is that we take shelter in a safe house. But we can still go to your father's house if you say so. You are kind of my boss."

Aileen couldn't help but laugh at his comment but then a frown settled in, "Safe house only, my father's home was attacked a few moments ago when I arrived at the bar. I tried tracking my father to see if I can tell where he is, I got nothing. I don't know where he is". It was true, the empire of The Ace of Diamonds were under attack causing her and her father to evacuate separately.

Blackjack couldn't help but feel sorry for her, he made a mental promise to himself that he would help her find her father. "Alright. I need to get word to the other Aces. I think it's safe to say that we're at war right now." He spoke, forcing the bike to speed up. "Don't worry, we'll find him. You can't hide a crime lord like the Duke without turning a few heads." He gave her a reassuring smile, unable to look at her for longer than a moment or two.

The duchess nodded knowing it was very much true. She felt the urge to hug him, thank him but she knew this wasn't the time nor place to do so. Not even in the future.

Sarah/Death Star went out and got in the driver's seat and looked out the front shield window and thought, 'okay, I got to get us all home well, maybe we all can go to the same spot after all she had a lot to think about and she did not want to be alone'. She watched as the other came and got into her car. She put some gum in her mouth and said, "okay Sarah this time no driving crazy";.

Stacey/Dark Knight got into the passenger side of the car with a smile and said, "I brought the booze if all want to have some fun later tonight if not all the same to me". She put the alcohol down on the floor board so that no cops would see it.

Along the road, away from the bar, Samuel/Death Bringer gently tapped on Sarah's/Death Star's shoulder, to grab her full attention. A red light beamed and she pushed on the breaks.

Looking over her shoulder, her facial expression questioned and her lips turned to speak, "Yes Sam?"

"If we can, can we go by a nearby bank? I have some money I need to pick up." Samuel/Death Bringer said, leaning back against the seat again.

Xavier/Shadow Rider shook his head in annoyance while rubbing his temples as if he had a massive headache, "aren't you rich enough already Samuel"?

Death Bringer/Samuel shrug his shoulders in reply. "Hey, one cannot be too rich". 'One cannot be too rich' was his motto he uses when robbing a bank of various kinds.

The lights beamed green and the cars ahead of them took off. Sarah/Death Star looked at him through her mirror on the windshield and said, "alright then but make it snappy I'm not sure what go on Blackjack's nerves tonight but he seemed quick to whisk away Aileen and pull that hood off so we got to be on our guard okay". She then looked over at Stacey/Dark Knight and said, "hey, hand me a stick of gum got to chew a piece while

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Idrive."

Stacey/Dark Knight picked up a piece of gum and handed it over to Sarah/Death Star. Sarah/Death Star took the gum and put it into her mouth and pulling out but going the speed limit she headed out to the bank. She then saw head lights of a car as it drove by her nerves all shot but so far so good.

They rode for a while longer in silence so Aileen could think by herself. Blackjack made his way towards the safe house in this part of town and was glad to find it vacant. He stopped the bike and dismounted, putting his hands on Aileen's waist, he lifted her off of the bike and onto her feet. It was at that point that he noticed the bullet holes along the body of the bike.

"Xavier isn't going to like that one bit." He said to himself.

He dismissed the thought for later and went to the door of the safe house. It had a keypad on the side and the only way to unlock it was to obviously type in the code. He took out his phone and searched for the code according to the location of the safe house and then tapped the keys. He waited for a few seconds and then held the front door open for Aileen to enter into the house before him.

Aileen tried to ignore the tingle she felt when Blackjack helped her out of the bike. She shook her head at the bullet marks and scratches on the bike and thought the same thing he said. When the door to the safehouse opened, she thanked him and entered.

She preceded him into the house and he followed, locking the door behind him. He then began flipping on lights and closing the curtains so no one could see that they were inside. He put his other gun on a nearby coffee table and took out his phone from his pocket, looking through the contacts. At the moment, he didn't really need to contact anyone, just stay alive long enough until morning.

Aileen looked around the house, admiring it then headed towards the kitchen. She was hungry, hasn't eaten since breakfast. Rumaging through the fridge, she asked if he wanted anything to eat or drink.

Blackjack dropped his phone onto the table and put his gun in the front end of his jeans. He looked up when she called from the kitchen.

"Oh, don't worry about me princess, you eat." He said, walking towards the kitchen. "Like I said, it doesn't matter what happens to me." He leaned against the door frame and watched her.

Aileen nodded her head as she took out whatever was leftover. She took a bit but left a little uneaten in front of him. "Uh, are you kind of the leader of the small gang you're involved in with the rest or is one of the others the leader?"

Blackjack watched her eat her fill, reassuring to himself that she was getting what she needed. Honestly, his own health was the least of his worries.

"I work with anyone who I know and trust who were also present at the bar. But my loyalty lies with the Four Aces, including your father." He explained to her, crossing his arms over his chest.

She nodded in understanding then bowed her head and dared ask the question she was told not to ask by her father and a few of his most trusted men. "How much am I worth?" She had always wanted to know how much she is worth if captured, she asked her father and one of his men but neither of them told her, but they

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refused.

Blackjack paused upon hearing her question and understood why her father hadn't told her. But she'd eventually have to find out, Blackjack suddenly didn't want to be the person to tell her. But since she asked him and since she was in charge of him, he'd have to give her answer.

"With you..." He hesitated before answering so he could form his sentences right. "With you, they could trade the whole empire belonging to your father. Just for you, they could have everything he has and there's no guarantee they'd let you go back to him either."

Her eyes started to widen at the answer given to her. She now knew why her father and his men refused to give her the answer she asked for many years. Now she regretted ever asking Blackjack and wished she never asked but kept silent until if such a time happened.

She stopped eating and Blackjack took that as a bad sign.

"He doesn't care about what's easier for him. He only cares about you and he'll do anything to make you safe. And that means so will I." He said, still standing by the door. "So please, princess, eat."

Aileen could only nod, she knew her father would do anything to protect her but she still felt that if she changed her identity and looks and go far away even he would be safe as well. Slowly she started to eat while scheming a scheme.

"And please stop calling me 'princess' call me Aileen".

Blackjack had to do what she said and so he made a mental note to not call her princess anymore. He continued to watch her while she ate and not just to make sure she was eating but to make sure she was fine health-wise. He still cared despite being a trigger-happy grunt.

Sarah had the car going the normal speed and soon got to where they needed to go and pulled over and said to him, "alright we are here Samuel." She gripped the wheel again, she could not fight this feeling that something big was going to come down and its going to put all them into a fight for their very lives. She finally calmed down when Stacey gave her one of her looks and patted a top of one of the bottles of booze.

With a smirk Samuel got out of the car and into the bank. Inside, he strolled along like any customer. With his soft babyface figure no one would suspect he was a criminal, An Ace. "How may I help you sir?" A banker asked when Samuel was in the front of the line.

"Oh I need every single ounce of your money" after that was said he shot the banker which caused a commotion. Men and women screamed in terror as they ran for their lives and the police force came trying to shoot him down.

Samuel always kept a smoke bomb for cases like this. He took it out and pulled out the wire with his teeth before throwing it on the ground. It exploded and smoke filled the air giving him time to collect as much money as he could. When he came back and into the car he said, "you may wanna go and step on it".

Sarah looked back at him and said with a smirk, "you just put me in my element ". She put her foot on the pedal and sped away. She managed to outrun a few police cars and the ones that managed to keep up she pushed them out of the way with her car. She was going all over the place getting them to safety but at the

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same time losing the cops. Stacey grabbed the booze and craddled it close to her saying, "got to keep these babies safe".

Aileen decided that once she was safely returned with her father, she would create a fake passport, dye her hair wear, different colored contacts and wear different clothing and set off, far from the states. It was a long shot but she had to try. As soon as she was finished eating, she threw the paperplate away.

"So what are you to tell Xavier about his bike?" She asked, picturing how he would act when he found out his bike was damaged.

He smiled at the thought of seeing his face when he notices the damage to his bike. It would be both scary and priceless. Bring out your camera folks.

"I'll get him a new one." Blackjack said, turning around to walk towards what appeared to be a bedroom.

He fluffed the pillows and folded the sheets so that it was ready when she wanted to sleep. When she does, he'd have to stay awake to keep watch for a few more hours before he got some sleep.

She followed Blackjack towards the bedroom and watches him get it ready. Her eyes scaled up and down his broad figure, she had that urge to just run up in his arms but again, not the time and place. "You should rest for a bit, I don't need any".

He turned once he was done and looked at her while she spoke to him.

"I'm fine, thanks." He smiled, looking at the floor. "So yeah, this is as fun as it gets around here." He said, walking to the door to the bedroom and checked the locking mechanism on it.

Satisfied, he removed his gun from his jeans and checked that safety was on otherwise he's risk shooting his balls off. "You're not going to get rid of that stuff?" He asked, pointing to her wig and contacts.

Aileen reached up and touched her wig. She blushed because she had forgotten all about it. "Oh, yeah thanks for reminding me." She took off the wig in one quick motion and carefully removed the contacts.

Blackjack watched her remove the wig and set of contacts. He confessed in his mind that she looked a lot better without her disguise. He definitely couldn't get enough of her eyes, her eyes were pure golden, not hazel, not yellow but as gold as gold coins. Again, he probably wouldn't be allowed to say it out loud.

"It's getting late, are you sure you don't want to sleep yet?" He asked her, inquisitively. "It can get pretty boring around here."

Aileen looked up at him after she fluffed her hair out a bit. "Oh no I'm fine, I'll find ways to entertain myself". She gave him a reassuring smile.

"Alright." He spoke, slightly whispering. He strolled to the bed and sat down, holding his face in his hands. He tried to wipe his face with his dry fingers, hoping they'd help.

Aileen eyed Black one more time before closing the door so he could have a little privacy and headed towards the living area to go over her plan one last time. She whispered to herself, "where are you dad"?

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Blackjack lifted his head to see Aileen close the door to the bedroom. He guessed that she thought he needed some time to himself and he wasn't sure whether she was wrong. Just to be certain, he went to the bathroom to splash water onto his face and after drying his skin with a towel, he walked back outside to see she was still there. He walked behind her, putting his hand on her shoulder comfortingly.

"Are you alright, Aileen?" He asked her, his tone concerned.

Aileen looked up and quickly wiped her tear and looked up at him. "Do you dad is alright?" She couldn't let him know she was crying let alone the plan she was planning for the safety of her father.

He could see the worry in her eyes, he had to feel sorry for the girl. He put his hand on her cheek, looking at her with a smile.

"There's no reason he wouldn't be." He said, pulling her into a hug. Blackjack let her rest her head against his chest, he gently stroked her hair in a comforting manner.

When he pulled her into a hug, she could feel herself blush and rested her head on his chest. She could his heart beat.

Blackjack moved his hand from her hair and started lightly running his thumb across her smooth cheek. He was pretty sure she could hear his heart beating, so she knew he was capable of being human at least when she needed him to be.

She could feel herself blush even more at his touch but managed to keep her lips to herself. She knew of his personality and one would think of him different but she knew him well. Aileen lifted her head up to look at Blackjack who wiped a tear that threatened to fall.

"John?" She asked, using Blackjack's real name this time.

After what seemed a very long time, Blackjack's attention perked up when he had heard her call him by his real name and he didn't even mind that she did. He forgotten that he hated it and for now, he accepted it. He looked down at her, her eyes drawing him in.

"Yes?" He muttered, feeling himself lean in closer to her. He waited for patiently for her to reply and since she was the duke's daughter, he had to wait, even if it was hours.

Aileen hesitated for a moment then she couldn't hold it any longer. She stepped in closer to him and leaned into kissed him.

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CONTAINS SEXUAL SCENES. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED

For one moment, John was losing himself in her eyes. Then he truly drifted away when their lips touched. He held her neck in his hands as he kissed her and there was no way he could disconnect his passion from the kiss.

As Aileen felt him kiss back, she could feel his hand moving to the back of her neck and rest there. She wanted to stay like this forever but knew it wasn't possible so she decided to enjoy the moment while it last.

This was all he ever could need from her. A kiss. A taste of her lips. Here he was, locking lips with the daughter of his boss who was now missing. Could it have been mistimed? Did John even care anymore what was going on around them? All he seemed to focus on was the kiss. His hands now moved down her back, resting at her waist where he wrapped his arms around her and held her body to his.

The dutchess felt herself being moved closer to him as they kissed. She was kissing one of her father's clients and she knew it but didn't care. She wrapped her arms around his neck and deepened the kiss.

The kiss deepened and John's tongue emerged through his lips and entered her mouth in search for her tongue. He found that he was walking slightly forward and she was going back. Eventually, they'd reach something but at this moment, he only thought of her.

The touch of his silk smooth tongue tingled her own and a slight moan escaped as she was walking back when he walked forward.

He felt her moan against his lips and it only made John deepen the kiss further with his tongue in her mouth. They kept walking until they reached the coffee table, hearing her hit the edge. He put his hands on her hips and lifted her onto the table, their lips still kissing. John then pulled his lips away but only for a little bit while he removed his shirt from his body. He didn't care that she could see the scars over his body, he leaned in again and continued to kiss her, his hands on to holding her thighs.

Aileen took the opportunity when he removed his lips to breathe before kissing back. She did notice the scars on his chest but didn't matter to her it meant that he was strong as any true man. Her hands snaked down to his chest and rested there, she also felt his hands on her thighs and couldn't help but feel them tingle.

John's hands now ran up her legs to her waist and then he found her stomach, lifting her top just enough to put his hands over her stomach and felt her skin. Her smooth, flawless skin contrasted to his rough, solid skin. His hands rested on the small of her back, taking hold of her waist in both of his hands.

The dutchess moaned a bit when she felt his hand run up her thigh and onto her stomach for a bit. She removed herself from the kiss and lifted her shirt up leaving her bra on then she went back and kissed him again.

He continued to kiss, her now nudity meant his hands traversed up her back over her bra. While they kissed, John put his hands on her breasts and gave them a light squeeze.

She felt John's hands lightly squeeze her breasts. She thought this day would have never come and another moan escaped her lips.

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Her moans urged John to continue and his own groans were leaving his lips. He took her legs in his hands and coiled them around his waist while he carried her into the bedroom. He laid her down with him over her, still caressing her lips and his hands now on her waist.

Death Bringer/Samuel had now sent them all on a wild goose chase. Police cars were coming right on their tail and when one or more were down, another follows.

"If you hadn't caused a commotion at the bank NONE of this would have happened!" Shadow Rider/Xavier shouted out, taking out his gun and unbuckled himself out of the seatbelt.

Dark Knight/Stacey, no longer drunk, pressed the sun-roof button and stood up after she unbuckled herself, gun cocked and ready. Shadow Rider/Xavier did the same thing as well but he rolled down the side window and leaned out.

When one police car on his side started shooting, Shadow Rider/Xavier ducked back and began shooting until he died, all that was left was the driver. Soon he was eliminated and the car flipped and exploded three others.

"I for one am glad Death Bringer/Samuel caused the commotion. This is fun!" Dark Knight/Stacey shouted, eliminating two police cars with her machine gun.

Death Star/Sarah pressed a button in her car while driving and the headlights flipped and out popped two machine guns. Pressing another button, the machine guns on the headlights started to fire bullets.

She pulled a lever and spikes appeared on all four wheels. One police car drove on Shadow Rider/Xavier's side and jerked his car once causing the vehicle to knock out Rider back in the car.

With him blacked out, that gave him and his partner the opportunity to shoot but little did they know that when Death Star jerked her car, the spikes flattened the tire causing them to spin around and eventually explode when they came in contact with another.

Death Bringer/Samuel let out a heaving sigh of exhaustion. "I hope Blackjack and Aileen are in a better situation than we are". Soon, he got out of the car from the window and climbed on top of the car.

He waited for just the right moment before jumping onto a SWAT car where about fourteen SWATs sat, ready to fire. Death Bringer/Samuel fired the first shot and killed one soon the rest heard the gun shot and fired a bigger hole on the roof to kill Death Bringer/Samuel.

He ducked down low and fired in the hole. Half of the SWATs came out and up on the roof, both the SWATs and Death Bringer/Samuel were bulletless so they settled in for a hand-to-hand and knife combat.

With his hands still at her waist and him still on top of her, Aileen lightly traced the scars on his torso. Though he was considered a grunt to many, he was a hero to her and the other Aces.

John kissed where his lips could reach, her lips, down her neck, over her collarbone. His hand ventured down into her trousers and slipped between her legs. He began rubbing her gently, feeling the moisture built on his fingers. Their lips separated but his forehead rested against the side of her head while his fingers entered inside of her.

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Aileen felt her body tense and heat up at his soft touch. Her lips parted slightly as a moan escapes her lips. Never, in her entire life would be able to feel this way. She was twenty-one but her caretaker was always onto her about how her body was a temple and how it should be treated by the right man.

If she saw John, Blackjack; she would go ballistic.

Aileen's groans added to the hardness growing in his jeans. He removed his hand from her trousers but only to undo the buttons and slide them down her legs. Her underwear followed and his fingers reentered her but continued with increased force.

She felt a slight cool breeze when her pants and underwear were removed down to her legs. When he reentered his fingers inside of her she felt him increase the force thus making her body scream.

John's other hand took her wrist gently and led it to straight to the bulge forming in his jeans. He unzipped his jeans and slid his boxers down, putting her hand on his cock so that she could stroke it while he fingered her.

Feeling his cock, Aileen got the message of what he wanted and began stroking what he pulled out from his pants and boxers. She began to stroke him harder and faster. With her thumb, she brushed the tip of the head.

Now he was moaning and groaning like she was, the other's hand touching each other. He stopped rubbing her and finally took off his jeans and boxers, letting her see his whole cock. He laid down and pulled her on top of him, kissing up her neck to her jawline and caressing her weak spots.

Soon she was on top of John which caused her for a second to let go of his cock. She began to stroke it again and brushed the head with her thumb while moaning as he kissed her neck and caressed her weak spots.

His hands found her breasts again and he returned to her lips, his tongue slithering into her mouth of its own accord. He pinched her nipples as well as squeezing her breasts, enjoying the feel of her tits in his hands.

He soon let go of her breasts and removed his fingers. He rolled on the bed so he was on top of her. John lined his cock up with her pussy before he thrust it into her. He started thrusting relatively slowly, trying to get his full length inside her. His groans could be heard when he kissed her once again.

Aileen felt the length of his cock enter her and his thrusts. She reached up to his hair and tugged on it.

Her fingers tangled into his hair and his tongue was entwining with hers while his hips thrust upwards and banged their hips together. He never expected to eventually sleep with the Duke's daughter but he could not resist her. His lips didn't want to let go of hers either, they were just too delicious.

She felt her hips bang with his as he thrusts upwards. She continued to kiss him not wanting withdraw. She was in bed, having sex with her father's client and one of the most dangerous men.

He had to release her lips, still clinging onto her bottom lip just so he could speak. "Aileen...I'm cum...cuming." He mumbled, feeling the semen start to flow down his cock.

Aileen felt his semen flow inside of her. Her body was on fire and felt herself cum as well. She felt her semen leaked out of her vagina and thighs. She was pretty sure he could feel her cum on his cock.

John's semen was inside of her before she finished speaking and his thrusts slowed to a halt, coming back to rest on the bed. He was sweaty, exhausted and hot. She'd probably been the most fun he'd had with anyone ever since he abandoned the boundaries of school.

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"You're so beautiful." He admitted, looking into her golden eyes, mesmerised.

Aileen felt herself blush as she thanked him and told he was handsome. The two kissed together until they could not kiss any longer.

Death Bringer/Samuel managed to kill four and severely wound three, soon afterwards, Shadow Rider/Xavier woke up from his knock out, and grabbed two guns. One for him and one for his fellow Ace.

"Need a gun?" He asked, throwing Death Bringer/Samuel a gun who smiled and caught it with one hand. Soon, Shadow Rider/Xavier jumped on the roof of the SWAT truck and helped Death Bringer/Bringer kill the remaining SWATs.

The two men fell flat on their stomachs when the driver tried to shake them off. Bringer went sliding down but caught himself by grabbing on. He yelled for Rider to help him up. Crawling towards him, Rider extended his hand out to reach.

Stacey/Dark Knight saw the two men from the window and drove towards them as fast as her car could take. "Guys! Jump!" She shouted out once she was right beside them. The two nodded at each other and Death Bringer/Samuel let go and leaped while Shadow Rider/Xavier stood up steadily and jumped as well.

"Thanks Stacey." Shadow Rider/Xavier said, cocking his gun as well as Death Bringer/Samuel and together they eliminated the driver. Once the driver was killed, the car swirled around and flipped over a few times until it exploded when it came in contact with another SWAT car.

The two men got in once they hit a red light. Breathing heavily, Rider/Xavier, Bringer/Samuel, and Knight/Stacey all filled their guns with fresh bullets before the light hit green.

"That was a rush." Samuel/Death Bringer said receiving a bunch of nods and agreements from the rest as Stacey made a turn to a motel.

Blackjack and Aileen were cuddled together on the bed and thought about the lust affair the two had together. Blackjack snaked his hand down to the base of her bottom and relaxed them there.

"You know, your father and the other Aces will kill me for doing this." Blackjack said, watching the dutchess's face glow and her eyes brighten.

Aileen nodded in agreement; she knew very well they would kill him for sleeping with her but she will not allow it. They would have to face a full wrath of a dutchess if they dare try and execute him.

"I won't let them kill you John." She stated, resting her head on his chest.

He laced the locks of her hair around his fingers, running his hand down the long length of her hair and looked down at her. "You'd do that for some grunt?" He asked.

Aileen smiled and nodded "I've always had a crush on you ever since you joined the Four Aces. Probably didn't recongize or knew me as the duke's daughter because I was in disguise. So yes, I would."

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He never had someone care this much about him before. She was willing to stop the Four Aces from killing him for sleeping with her. That showed how much he meant to her.

"You know that I'd do anything to keep you safe, regardless of what happens to me." He whispered into her ear while rubbing his hands up and down her thigh and kissed her collar bone as well.

She felt herself moan as John caressed her thigh and kissed her collar bone. "I know it's kind of your job as well but I still won't let anything happen to you either." And it was true, she would sell herself to any enemy if anything happened to him. Aileen gave him a hug while still snuggled against his chest, giving him comfort and warmth.

Her hug comforted him when he thought of when the Aces found about their affair. What price that he'd have to pay.

"I will follow you to the ends of the Earth." He said, his head falling into a pillow. His drowsiness took control and his eyes began to close.

Aileen smiled against his chest and replied the same thing. She loved him and she showed him how much she loved him through both body and heart. Soon, she drifted off to sleep in John's arms, recoiling in her dreams, what they have done.

Stacey/Dark Knight drove them all to a nearby hotel place. She parked the car in an open parking space. The others got out and headed inside the hotel room. Samuel/Samuel couldn't help but watch how Death Star/Sarah's hip swayed as she walked towards the front desk.

He mentally shook his head out of the trance and lifted his head up. Over at a corner, a couple were fighting over who gets to pay the bill. The argument reminded him so much like him and Xavier/Shadow Rider or sometimes even Stacey/Dark Knight and Xavier/Shadow Rider themselves.

Stacey/Dark Knight and Sarah/Death Star returned to the two men with two different keys, one for the women and one for the men. "Let's go". Sarah/Death Star said, taking the lead towards their room.

The four walked together in the same hallway until they reached their rooms and departed. Stacey/Dark Knight stacked up her beer in the small fridge while Sarah/Death Star went straight towards the bathroom to take a shower. After her shower, Sarah/Death Star came out with a towel wrapped around her moist body. She faced the large mirror in the bathroom and began drying her wet hair.

"I wonder if the boys want to have a drink with us?" Stacey/Dark Knight asked, taking a chug on one of the drinks. Still facing the mirror, Sarah/Death Star nodded. "Sure, why not? Invite them in".

Stacey/Death Star nodded vigorously with a smile as she practically skipped towards the men's room they were staying in. Stopping, the woman knocked on the door. She could hear the shower running and the TV on.

The sound of the water soon died down and Stacey/Dark Knight knocked on the door a couple of times once again. She waited patiently for an answer. She heard the handle of the door turn. The door opened and revealing a wet Xavier/Shadow Rider.

He was wearing nothing but the towel wrapped around his waist to cover his private parts. Even seeing him like this made her flush and her heart stop. She, at first, did not realize he asked her a question until he

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snapped his fingers in front of her face.

"Stacey, I asked if you needed anything." Xavier/Shadow Rider asked again, grabbing a nearby towel to dry his hair. By that time, Samuel/Death Bringer showed up without a shirt as well but with his black jeans still on and his hands in his pockets, thumbs sticking out and inside the loop-hole of his waist-band.

Stacey/Dark Knight shook her head mentally and out of the trance. "Oh yes, well um. Sarah and I wanted to know if you two would like to come over for drinks". She waited for the two boys to answer while listening to the TV.

"Sure, we'll be out in a few." Xavier/Shadow Rider said as the three said a quick see you later.

By the time the two men came in the room where the women were staying, the two were in near drunk. Sarah/Death Star stumbled towards the two men with two full bottles in each of her hand.

"Welcome to the drink off!" She said in a drunk mood. "Take your drinks and drink off!"

Seeing her drunk made Samuel/Death Bringer shake his head. He was practically the most mature but even he had wit. He opened his bottle and took a drink. Xavier/Shadow Rider opened his as well but before he could take his drink, Stacey/Dark Knight pulled him to a chair and she sat on his lap. She would never do this if she wasn't as drunk as she was.

Soon enough the two guys became as drunk as the two gals and together, they drank and drank and drank until they fell into a deep sleep on the hard carpet floor.

Chapter 4

Blackjack woke up by the sound of his phone vibrating. He had a wonderful dream when he was in a deep sleep, in his dreams, he recoiled the time of lust he and Aileen had. The only thing he thought of was her, the night they had, and how the Aces will kill him for doing this but he remembered the vow she made.

"I won't let them kill you. Not now, not ever."

The man looked down at the still sleeping Aileen. He couldn't help but smile, she looked so cute, so innocent. She was his blooming flower in the world of blood and grey. The sound of the buzzing noise drew his attention and was forced to leave her sleeping on the bed while he picked up his boxers and jeans, slipping them on and making his way into the living room.

He grabbed his phone which seemed to have received a text message and reading it, he returned to the bedroom. He took a seat on the edge of the bed, waiting for Elena to wake so that he could talk to her about her father.

Aileen no longer felt John's chest but continued to sleep for a minute longer before waking up. She saw him on the edge of the bed and something told her something was wrong. "Is something the matter?" She crawled on the bed, closer to him, not ashamed of her nakedness.

Blackjack heard her ask him if there was anything wrong, he looked over his shoulder and marveled at her beauty before he replied what was basically mentioned on the text. "They found your father." He stated.

"Don't worry, he's fine. But he's been asking for you."

The duchess heart skipped a beat at the news of her father being found and alive, safe and sound. She placed her hand on her heart and sighed, "oh thank god he is alright. What did he want?"

Blackjack turned his body and attention fully to face her and lifted both legs onto the bed. "He's throwing a party at your home. He wants you be ready." He looked down at his phone before he put it into his pocket again.

Aileen looked at John oddly then shrugged her shoulders. "Alright then." She got out of bed and stretched out before heading into the bathroom to bathe and get dressed.

Stacey/Dark Knight was the first to awaken from her drunk sleep. She rubbed her temple as a headache the size of her home city formed. She vowed to herself she would never drink if it's not a formal party or a job well done.

She looked over at the others were asleep, she couldn't help but wince at the position Xavier/Shadow Rider was in. By his position, it looked like he could break his neck if he fell. Walking over quietly towards him, she carefully placed his head on the pillow before walking towards the bathroom to shower.

The sound of the water rushing woke them all up plus the sun shining brightly into their closed eyes.

Xavier/Shadow Rider woke up groaning in pain as Samuel/Death Bringer helped a staggering Sarah/Death Star out of the other bed. By the time the three regained their balance, Stacey/Dark Knight came out of the showers.

"Whose next?" She asked, grabbing her clothes to get dressed. But before she let the towel down, she shoved the two men out of the room and into their's. "Your room, get dressed in there".

Samuel/Death Bringer shook his head with a grin as he unlocked the door and opened it. The two raced into the bathroom and Shadow Rider/Xavier won. He took a quick shower and came out with a towel wrapped around his waist.

"Your turn slow poke." He teased Samuel/Death Bringer who rolled his eyes in a mock annoyance and stepped inside to wash up.

The Four Aces

After the four got dressed, they grabbed their bags and headed downstairs for a quick breakfast. After paying for their meal, the four sat on a small round table for four and ate their breakfast of oranges, eggs, bacon, waffles, and pancakes. For their drinks, they had either water or milk.

While eating, Stacey/Dark Knight's phone went off, it was Blackjack, he had sent them a text message about the party being thrown by The Duke of Diamonds. The woman swallowed her food and opened the message and read it to the others.

"There is a party for all honourable guests known by the Duke of Diamonds. As usual, the Four Aces will be on site as security. That means everyone will be needing to dress appropriately and act accordingly. Stacey will be patrolling the exterior of the Duke's manor with the ground team to make sure guests are given entrance on site. Xavier will be communicating with her from the roof. He will be in charge of a team of snipers around the highest points of the manor as well as the surrounding area such as the clock tower. Blackjack, Stacey and Samson will be present inside the party itself, monitoring movements indoors."

After Stacey/Dark Knight read the text, the two finished up their meals and went back upstairs and into their rooms to change into a more formal wear. This was going to be the first time in a long while that Sarah/Death Star had seen The Duke in person.

While Aileen was getting dressed, Blackjack searched through his bag for a tux, formal enough for the party but also roomy enough for him to fight in case someone decides to crash the place.

He made sure his guns were well cleaned and filled with fresh bullets before placing them in his gun cases attached to his dress pants. He walked over to the mirror to do his tie and fix his hair to look good.

By the time he finished his tie, Aileen came out wearing a royal blue dress and a necklace in the shape of a diamond while the rest of the jewel were plain round diamonds, a symbol of her group, The Ace of Diamonds. Blackjack admired her phasic and thought she never looked more beautiful. Not one disguise, she looked like a true dutchess of Diamonds but he couldn't help but chuckle, she was as graceful as a ganger but she didn't seem to mind nor her father, as long as they had a good time, their dancing isn't all that.

"Let us depart" Blackjack said, extending his hand out for the dutchess to take. He saw her turn red as she took her hand in his. He had to smile.

He lead the two to Xavier/Shadow Rider's bike and let Aileen get in the front then him in the back. He reached over her sides and started the engine. When they took off, Blackjack let go of one handle and wrapped it around Aileen's waist so she wouldn't fall off.

Aileen placed one hand on the now empty handle bar to help steer the bike and the other, over Blackjack's hand that was around her wasit.

Having her touch his hand made him relax and smile. He wanted to turn this bike around, forget about the party, and give her the time of day like they did that one night but he was summoned by the duke himself, Aileen's father. No one dares to refuse the duke.

Stacey/Dark Knight paced back and forced at the enterence way of the party going on inside. She wanted go inside but damn the duke for making her remain outside.

Xavier/Shadow Rider was at his post, up on the roof, with a blue tooth in his ear and a pair of binoculars around his neck, he was able to observe all vehicles that come by. He placed the eye gear up his face to see the duke's car come by surrounded by the best soldiers, riders, and assassins of The Ace of Diamonds.

"Duke has finally arrived," Xavier/Shadow Rider spoke into the blue tooth given to him and the others for all of them to communicate one another. When he heard a roaring sound not long after, he smirked. "And they have arrived as well."

When Blackjack and Aileen made it, Xavier/Shadow Rider frowned and grimaced at the sight of his bike that had been scratched, Blackjack was going to have to pay for that, then his life.

Blackjack extended his hand out for Aileen then lead them both inside. Once he had reassured that she was safe, he let go of her hand and walked to his post. Aileen frowned when he left her but quickly smiled when she saw her father.

The Four Aces

The assassin of the King of Aces stopped when he received a call from Shadow Rider/Xavier. He knew what was to come.

"You owe me a clean bike," Shadow Rider/Xavier said from the other side. Blackjack only chuckled in response making Shadow Rider/Xavier scowl. "I'm serious Blackjack."

"Don't worry about it Shadow, I'll get your bike cleaned and as good as new." He hung up and wandered around. He saw Aileen with her father, and the two, Death Star/Sarah and Death Bringer/Samuel together. He rolled his eyes and wondered when Bringer/Samuel was going to make a move in Star/Sarah. Everyone in all four Aces knew the two liked each other very much. It was no wonder why the duke assigned them two together.

The party so far was going according to the duke's plan and smoothly. With the Four Aces at their post, nothing could get in or out without having them knowing.

While the duke was talking to Blackjack, an explosion came in place, interrupting their conversation. Chaos ran over the guests as they fled to their cars. The rest got out their guns and surrounded the duke, his daughter was missing within the crowd.

"Protect the duke! I'll find his daughter!" Blackjack shouted out through the riot. His heart racing to find Aileen as fast as he could.

He finally found her in the restroom protected by a couple men. "Go help the duke, I got her, go now"! He shouted making his way to Aileen. He took her hand and they ran out to the other exit.

When he made it to the door, he pulled her in front of her and told her Death Star/Sarah was waiting for her. Aileen nodded and ran right to Death Star/Sarah's side. She turned to see Blackjack go back in to protect her father.

Smoke was rising everywhere, the heat of the fire was making him and the rest sweat even more than they were. Blackjack ran down the stairs until he gotten into a certain point then jumped over, landing on his feet, his knees bent slightly.

He heard gun shots coming in and took out his guns, cocked and ready. He soon saw Death Bringer/Samuel shooting down a FBI and an armed policeman at the same time.

The two saw each other and ran by each other's side to see to the duke. They both heard a gun shot, one the rang more supreme than the others they had heard.

Soon the police forces and the rest all ran out for the roof was about to collapse. Everyone of the Aces ran out as well except for a huge amount.

"The duke is dead! The duke is dead!!!" Someone cried out in agony and dispare. Blackjack's heart stopped and everything slowed. The duke has been shot, the duke's dead. How was he going to tell Aileen?

He thought he heard Death Bringer/Samuel call to him but his mind was too far, he finally snapped out when his comrade jerked his body. Blackjack blinked a few times and saw that the duke was gone.

"Let's go! Come on!" Death Bringer/Samuel shouted out through the explosion and the battle, taking Blackjack's hand as the building, on fire, started to collapse on them. They made it out but now they had lost Shadow Rider/Xavier in all the rumble.

Shadow Rider/Xavier, along with the remaining snipers alive, all ran over the fallen stones of the the roof, avoiding each hole, trying to get to the nearest helicopter flying near and over them or a vehicle.

Shadow Rider/Xavier motioned and shouted for each men to jump off to the vehicle or jump high to the helicopter when it was time. Soon he recognized Dark Knight/Stacey's car coming in towards him, he ran as fast as he could until he came to the end of his road and jumped on the roof.

He got in and noticed from behind him the rest of the crew were coming in as well. It was a long and hard drive but they finally made it out.

Aileen was asleep in the hotel room they all settled in and Blackjack gathered the rest into his room to tell them the news about the duke.

The Four Aces

"I have news and it's not a very pretty one either," He ran his fingers over his hair and sighed a heavy sigh.
"The duke has been murdered."
"What are you going to tell the dutchess?" Stacey/Dark Knight asked in a whispering tone so not to wake her up. Blackjack looked over at the closed door and shook his head ashamed, he had no clue.

Chapter 5

Aileen woke up the next morning sunrise with the sun hitting lightly on her face. Moaning and shifting slightly, she fluttered her eyes open like a butterfly's wings. She could vividly remember the chaos happening just yesterday. She hoped everyone was alright and none she held dearly closer than the rest were dead.

Walking down towards the bathroom, Aileen began to wash up her face clean. She looked up at the mirror and she saw Blackjack coming in with a tray for food for breakfast. She was thankful she was dressed but at the same time not.

"We are ready to depart when you are milady." Blackjack stated, being a gentleman and looking over at the clock above her.

The Duchess nodded and watched as he turns to leave, "excellent, I shall be back in a bit. John"? She notice Blackjack stopping in his tracks and turned his head to face her.

"Yes ma'am?"

Aileen took a deep breathe, "where is my father? Is he alright"? Hesitation filled his veins. He has no clue as to how to tell her of her father's passing, murder. There was no telling what she would say or do.

"Why don't you eat, finish, then head out. We will talk then." He replied, closing the door behind him.

Blackjack sighed in relief and ran his fingers through his hair. He had more time, just a tad bit but, enough to get his story straight and simple. He worried about what would happen to her once he told her the truth about her father's death.

Would it be a great sorrow for the rest of her life? Would he go ballistic? Would she blame him for not protecting him?

No, he could not dare to think the last part but it seemed all the more reasonable. Though he was not of The Duke of Diamonds, his duty was to protect him and his family no matter the cost and he had failed.

From the corner of his eyes, he saw Sarah/Death Star approaching him, her blonde natural curly hair swaying back and forth within the wind as it blew.

"So, have any plans on how you're going to tell her?" She asked, taking a cig out for him and herself. After she gave one to Blackjack, he lit his and puffed out a good amount of smoke up in the cold air. He was beginning to relax but was not enough to keep him wondering about what Aileen would do.

"I think I do. I am just worrying how she'll react." He stated, inhaling and exhaling the smoke again. Sarah did the same with her's then leaned back against the wall. Her mind wondering off the same as his. She decided to change the subject.

"You love her," She blurted out, taking him aback for a split second. She chuckled a bit before it turned into a giggle. "It isn't hard to figure out, don't worry. Your secret is safe with me along with who else knows."

The Four Aces

Blackjack nodded, not bothering to be taken aback when she told him she knew he loved Aileen. He watched her go inside for warmth against the cold weather. Was she ever going to admit to Death Bringer? Samuel?

Stacey and Xavier were inside the hotel's eating area, both having coffee and a muffin. Stacey stared at the image of her partner.

He was buff but not too buff. Ripped with muscles and his hair split perfectly, the ends like sharp, black thorns. His chistled lips ready to be greeted by her own. But by god she hated him. Or did she?

As much of a dare devil, "Shadow Rider" he is, he always finds a way to get himself into the brink of death and then escaping it at the last minute. She feared for him and every time, she wanted nothing but to smack him, punch him for his foolishness.

"Are you going to eat that?" Xavier asked, snapping her out of her trance. Stacey looked down at her untouched muffin then nodded shyly. She mentally hit herself. Punished herself. She was never shy. Shyness of another form of weakness.

"Oh, yeah, I am." Stacey murmured, taking a bite out of her blueberry muffin as she watched him lean back and take a sip of his coffee, watching the waitress go by, winking right at him, he winked back.

Jealously reign through her veins as she chewed and chewed, taking slow, demonic bites.

Death Bringer/Samuel was just finishing packing up the bags when he heard the door open. The small creak alerted his ears as well as footsteps. He thought it might have been Blackjack but the steps sounded more lighter than a man's.

From the corner of his eyes, he saw a curly blonde haired girl coming in towards him, Sarah. She came right next to him and placed two baggage on the bed then swung the third from over her shoulder and placed it on top of the two.

Sarah/Death Star turned her attention to Death Bringer/Samuel who was looking at her, staring at her, like some kind of predator, examining, stalking his prey up close. She blinked a few times in wonder before she snapped him out of his trance.

"Sam? Samuel? Are you doing alright?" She asked, worry in her tone of voice.

Samuel snapped out of his trance and went back to the luggage and snapped them all securely before lifting two of them in each hand and stalked out, not answering her question, her worry.

Xavier/Shadow Rider seated himself on his scratched up motorcycle with Stacey/Dark Knight behind him. He handed her his helmet leaving him without.

"Are you insane Shadow? The road we're about to head for is more than hectic but insane. At the full speed we'll be going you're going to die."

The Four Aces

The young rider rolled his eyes receiving a hard smack on the back of his head by her as he started the engine up, the break pulled up to the side, his foot planted on the ground to keep his bike steady as the rest of the Four Aces joined in before they all hit the road.

Stacey/Dark Knight held on tight around his waist, nearly cutting off his breathing system. His groan alerted her she was holding too tight. She loosen her grip and he took off at full speed when Blackjack drove off at the lead.

The car ride was silent, too silent. Blackjack stopped at a red stop light and turned on his turn signal, waiting both patiently and impatiently for the light to turn on.

Sarah/Death Star was whispering to Samuel/Death Bringer who was chuckling at her comment then looked up at Blackjack whose impression was of curiosity and sternness. The light turned green and Blackjack made a right turn.

Aileen started to grow impatient. Blackjack had promised her that after they ate, he would tell her what happened to her father at the peak of the chaos. Had he forgotten to tell her by accident? Was there too much on his mind? Or was it he just didn't want to tell, so he forgot to tell her on purpose. All those questions reign through through her mind. She rubbed her temple with a few of her fingers, a headache was coming.

"Princess, are you alright?" Blackjack asked, noticing the stressed look on her face from the corner of his eyes.

"I am fine Blackjack. Tell me, have you forgotten your word by accident or on purpose?" Aileen asked, turning her head to look at him. She noticed his grip on the stirring wheel tightened, his knuckles becoming white, the color on his face drained. She had never seen him like this at all.

Death Star/Sarah and Death Bringer/Samuel both had the same impression and sunk lower on their seats, not wanting to be involved between the two.

Blackjack sighed and started to speed up a bit, something he did when he wanted someone to change the subject. Aileen took notice of this, she straightened up and demanded, "as the daughter of The Duke of Diamond. I demand you to tell me what happened to my father or so help me I will summon the Force".

Blackjack pulled to the side and died the engine. He turned to face Aileen with a concern look on his face. He looked into the eyes of his secret lover and knew she was not going to like the news at all.

"Are you sure my princess?" He asked, she crossed her arms and nodded, demanding also, he stop calling her "princess". He nodded and sighed heavily. He looked up at his comrades and they nodded, their seatbelts unbuckled and their doors unlocked incase Aileen decided to do something drastic when she recieved the news.

"Very well. Aileen. I have no comfort words to say about this so I will tell you straigh forward as it would be best. Your father...was murdered."

Aileen's world stopped, fell apart.

The Four Aces

This must be a joke! This has to be a joke. Her father? Murdered? Sure he need to be protected but he could take care of himself and surely there had been people, allies surrounding him. Why hadn't known protected him from the bullet who struck him down?

Aileen got out of the car and began pacing around, the loud sounds of cars driving by deafen her ears as well as tears of disbelief and rage. She took no notice when Blackjack got out of the driver's side and towards her.

When he walked up to her, she stopped her pacing and punched him square in the nose sending him backwards a few steps. Blackjack held his bleeding nose and cursed, luckily it wasn't broken.

"How could you? How could you let my father be murdered?! John! I trusted you to protect him and now he's gone because of you!" She yelled at him, tears flooding in her eyes.

Aileen started to sob at the thought of her father being murdered, soon her grief turned to pure rage as she looked up at Blackjack, tears burning her eyes as she glared hard at him. She stomped pass him, hitting his shoulder on purpose, as she made her way back to the car. She got back in and crossed her arms, not wanting any comfort from anyone.

Blackjack/John watched as she scold him, blamed him, the thought he feared the most. She now hates him, he had never felt the feeling of heart break, he didn't want it, never wished it. With a deep heaving sigh, he made his way back to the car and drove off again.

Xavier/Shadow Rider and Stacey/Dark Knight arrived at the destination in just a nick of time. It was a hide out that only they knew about. Aileen would be their newcomer to the hideout addition.

Xavier/Shadow Rider parked his bike once Stacey/Dark Knight got up and gave back his helmet, as he parked the young blonde haired rider/assassin fixed her messy hair before turning her heel and walked up the stairs.

She turned on the lights and inhaled the fresh air of the house. It had everything. A kitchen, bedrooms, safe rooms, safew for money and guns, phones everywhere, a large TV, a den, etc...

The kitchen was full with food, some from around the world, their safe was loaded with extra money and guns as well as memories each wanted to hold dear and in individual smaller safes, there were secrets. She looked her head over her shoulder to see if Xavier/Shadow Rider was coming her way.

She heard the TV come on and knew he liked to sleep while the TV was on, no one knew why but they all have nothing against that now, they were all used to it.

Stacey/Dark Knight turned the dial of her safe to unlock the code and opened it. She looked for a note and pen to write on. She knelt back down on the ground facing her safe and wrote on the note.

Shadow Rider.

Chapter 6

The rest arrived soon after. All miserable about the death of the Duke of Diamonds. Aileen went straight up the stairs when Samuel/Death Bringer lead her in. They heard the loud slamming sound of the door, it woke Xavier/Shadow Rider up.

He got up at bullet speed and turned his attention to Samuel/Death Bringer who shook his head in sadness. He knew, in the other's eyes, that Aileen has finally heard of the news. He felt sorry for her.

Death Star/Sarah went over and stood beside Dark Knight/Stacey who had her mouth stuffed with a sandwich, her stomach becoming satisfied from being famished. All were speechless and concerned about the duchess.

"Just give her some time to chill Blackjack, I am sure once she calms, she'll let you explain what happened to her father and why. I'm sure she'll understand, it wasn't your fault of her father's passing." Death Star/Sarah said placing a comfort hand on his shoulder.

Blackjack nodded as if he were agreeing with her but he knew well that Aileen's father was everything to her. He took care of her alone after her mother passed, though he suffered deep sorrow, his dark feelings meant nothing, little Aileen needed to be surrounded by safety and happiness. Blackjack had failed that from the moment the Duke was murdered.

Tears poured down from her eyes, burning, as she shook with sobs of her now dead father. The Duke of Diamond, was dead.

Now, whose to take over? She was still unfit, she did not need to be married but she's still inexperienced of being a leader, a ruler. Her father talked of no other relatives so she had none to take over.

No brothers, no sisters older, just her and her alone. Without an heir to the Diamonds. All would be lost.

Her cell began to ring at an unexpected time. It rang four more times before she decided to answer with precaution. She placed the cellphone up to her ear and quietly said her hello.

"Oh Aileen, thank god your alive!" She did not recognize the voice but she knew the tone was of a man. He had a deep voice, deeper than her father's. "Listen Aileen I do not have time but since now your father is dead, all will be after you."

Before she could ask who was coming after her, why, and who he was, the man hung up leaving her in deep question.

Blackjack downed himself with as many alcohol as his body can handle without going into drunk insanity. When he was about to take his fifteenth shot, Shadow Rider/Xavier took the glass away and shook his head, drinking it himself.

"Blackjack, drowing yourself in various of beers will not change the situation we are in now. Now with her father gone, Aileen is now left alone in this wild goose chase. First they were after him, now it's her, she has now become the replacement target." Shadow Rider/Xavier said in a matter-of-fact way.

The Four Aces

The scruffy assassin looked up at his comrade and nodded sincerely. He was right, his comrade, he can't just sit there in sorrow and expect nothing will happen no, things will happen, and it will be to the young woman.

Blackjack rose from the chair and brushed his coat, straightening it before he walked towards Aileen's room. To apologize.

She needed to protect herself. No longer will she rely on the Four Aces, the friends, comrades she once knew and loved now felt betrayed, dishonored, and hated especially the man she once loved.

Who could she love a man who had let her father be killed? They had betrayed their loyalty to them both. They were meant to protect her and her father, now that the Duke of Diamonds was gone, long gone, Aileen was left alone, completely and utterly, alone.

Though some were of different Aces, they all pledged their lives to protect all, the Lord of Hearts, The Bishop of Clubs, The Baron of Spades, and her father, The Duke of Diamonds but, her father now lies cold dead on the ground and his spirits up high.

The fault was their's, they all had broken their vow. Aileen made a vow herself out of frustration, anger, despair. Run. Never look back. Never rely on the Four Aces ever again.

When she finished her packing, she took off from the window, down a tree so close to where her window was and ran. Ran far, ran fast, ran hard. Never looking back, never wanting to look forward.

Blackjack went up to her room and knocked on the door and waited for a response. When he didn't receive one, he knocked again, and again, and again. After what seemed hours to him, he jiggled the door and found it locked shut.

He attempted to open the door when it wouldn't budge, he had no choice but to kick it down himself. It took several tries before he finally got the door to collide with the carpet ground. What he found on the other side of the door was not what he had expected.

Aileen was gone.

"AILEEN!!!" He shouted in both anger and frantic, alarming the rest of the Four Aces.

"Damn it all to hell! Where is she?!" Blackjack shouted in fury, angry at himself for letting her go without protection. He was a fool, a damn fool for doing so and now, he has to pay the consequences.

The rest of the Aces got up from their spots and followed Blackjack out the door. None could stop his determination, his rage, his fury.

"Dammit Blackjack, slow down!" Death Bringer/Samuel shouted, taking everyone aback including himself. Death Bringer/Samuel had always been the quiet one, Shadow Rider/Xavier or Dark Knight/Stacey were the only ones who had the guts to yell out to Blackjack.

The Four Aces

Blackjack stopped in front of Shadow Rider's bike before he sighed. He slipped his hands deep inside of his pockets before he turned to face the Aces, his impression like none they and seen in years.

"I know Samuel, but the fault is mine, I must go after her or who knows what will happen to her. With the Duke now gone, all will be after her and then the rest. They had after the Duke and his daughter for years because they had the equipments most need for the rest of the Aces. Aileen shouldn't be the one to suffer the consequences for her father, nor it was her father's fault for the mess we've always been in." Blackjack stated, his tone determined.

All of his comrades nodded and let Blackjack go. Shadow Rider threw his keys to the bike towards him and the helmet as well. They all took a step back to make room for him before he turned the bike on and rode out to find her.

Aileen had just hung up her conversation on one of the payphones in the airport. She looked left then right before she picked up her bags and walked towards her number and sat down on one of the many seats. Her ticket was in her hand and she waited patiently for the flight number to be called as she watched people getting on and off of different other planes.

She hoped to god above that Blackjack would not come after her and if he did which she knew he would, was in his instincts, she highly hoped he wouldn't make it in time to drag her back to the house.

Aileen continued to watch the people come and go, not bothering to worry about being captured or not, none of that meant anything to her anymore. All that mattered was her father, she wanted him back but she knew that was too good to be true.

She wanted to be away. Away from the state her father had been murdered, away from the Aces, away from adventure, away from him. She sighed heavily and leaned back in her seat as a flight number before her's was called.

Blackjack pressed hard on the bike and with all his might, went full force speed passing every car who was in his way. He passed some police cars and gave them a wild car chase to try and catch him. He had no time for thrills. He managed to lose two out of four, the rest were on his tail.

"I don't have time for this." He muttered to himself, reaching in his backpocket for his gun, he glanced over his shoulder for a second to verify the tires before he turned his head back to the main road and began to shoot the tires until all were flat.

He hoped to god Aileen hadn't left before he managed to arrive in time before she leaves for good. He had wondered though. Had the Duke planned all of this? Did he actually planned his own death? No, he mustn't have. He couldn't...would he?

All these questions, frustration, and determination all ran rapidly in his mind, he nearly collided with a cement truck if he had not made a sharp turn and held on tight, he would have become a statue, then what good would he be to Aileen? To all of the Four Aces.

The Four Aces

First was the Lord of Hearts, the eldest being at the age of forty-one, then came in the Baron of Spades at the age of thirty-seven. The Duke of Diamonds, her father, at the age of thirty-one and stopped when he breathed his last. The last was the Bishop of Clubs, age twenty-eight. No one knew how old the King of Aces was, some suspect he was older than the Lord of Hearts, others say he was as young as the Bishop of Spades.

Aileen sighed and sank in lower into her seat then straightened when she felt herself falling onto the ground. Sooner before she fixed herself on the chair, her flight number was called. She let the others pass before her and sighed before she followed the crowd towards the airplane.

She gave the lady her ticket to scan. When the lady was gone, she smiled and wished her a wonderful flight. Aileen, again, let the others pass before her as she looked around, she was going to miss Atlantic City, but she knew she must.

Aileen turned to her heel and walked inside the plane and waited for the flight to descend. Her mind was blank, without protection, what was she to do? She would have to permanently change her whole look. Was she ready?

As buff, dark, and mysterious as Shadow Rider/Xavier was, he was one hell of a demon in the kitchens. The three other Aces who have remain behind all seated around the table with beers either on their hands or the table as they waited and drank for him to be done with the food.

"Xav, we're starving over here!" Dark Knight/Stacey complained, trying her best to ignore the painful feeling of her stomach, begging for even one bite.

Shadow Rider/Xavier couldn't help but roll his eyes as he placed the cold servings on the table then went back to get the main dish in the oven. When he arrived, he was wearing no ovenmit, nor did he have pot-holders to protect him from the burning heat.

Sweat already appeared on his brow and his hands were red, if he didn't put the dish down, he was, for sure, going to have blisters.

"Are you nuts Xav?!" Dark Knight/Stacey yelled out as he placed the dish in the center of the table then looked into her eyes, her impression was of disappointment and worry. Her hands were on her hips, he couldn't help but admire those hips and waist. To have them all beneath him, for him alone to touch and her hands alone to touch him.

He shook the fantasy out of his mind and grinned a teasing grin. "Don't worry about it Stace, it's good training. Why do you think I bathe in only iced water"? He could tell she was about to protest but she huffed and seated herself back down, no longer hungry.

He was too late. He arrived at the airport since he had that gut feeling she would fly to runaway. When he asked about a young woman about Aileen, the man behind the counter knew who Blackjack was talking about but was upset to tell him, he was too late.

Blackjack couldn't believe it, didn't want to believe it. He wanted to strangle the man for possibly lying, for making a huge joke just to scare him but when the man gave him proof, he knew, it was too good to be true.

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She really was gone.

And it was all his fault...

Blackjack made his way back to the bike, his hands in his pockets. He wasn't the same. He exctually obeyed the traffic lights and got himself a ticket in which he paid right away before the police could leave. What had she done to him?

He had to stop for gas on his way back to the house. He phoned Death Bringer/Samuel saying he was going to be late. He told Death Bringer/Samuel he had failed the task, Aileen was gone.

From the other line, Death Bringer/Samuel told them all about Blackjack's news and that Aileen was gone. Atlantic City, The Diamond City, was now doomed. Doomed to all whose loyalty remained to the deceased Duke of Diamond.

Aileen had gallen asleep during the flight and once it was over she had to be woken up by the flight attendant. Aileen smiled shyly and got out of the plane with her bags and looked around. She was lost.

She began to follow the signs telling her where the exit was. No such luck. No matter what she kept on getting herself lost even with the signs, pictures, as her guide, she's still completely and utterly, lost.

"You lost. Duchess of Diamonds?" A man's voice appeared from behind Aileen, startling her. She took a deep breathe and turned around to reveal a black haired man and ice blue electric eyes. The white skin man wore a stripped tux with a blue silk tie, dress pants to match the tux and a white clean ironed shirt to cover his torso.

Aileen couldn't help but gasp in surprise. She was now standing right there, right here in front of him. It had been so many years since she had seen him but yet she was but a child of merely six when she first met him then thirteen when she last saw him. Finally, after so many long years, she was now face to face with...

The Lord of Hearts.

The Lord of Hearts was like her father, one of the most mysterious men but King of Aces was extra mysterious, no one knew where he dwelled, his looks, or his name. All they knew was he was the KING of all the Aces around the States.

Aileen followed the Lord towards his black limo which parked not too far from them. He let her go in first before he went in himself. Once he got in and settled, he told the driver to drive to his house.

"Aileen, may I ask what are you doing here and not with your bodyguard and father?" The Lord of Heart asked, taking out some wine for them both. Aileen refused the wine with a gesture. He shrugged and drank his glass, waiting for her to answer his question.

"My father is dead and Blackjack means no more to me," She said as tears threatened to fall from her eyes. It took her all not to let them fall down her cheeks, she could feel her eyes burning from doing so. From the corner of her eye she saw the Lord of Hearts nod in symphony. Aileen turned her head to face him. "What is

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you name my lord?"

The Lord of Hearts chuckled and set the two glasses down and closed the cupboard beneath him where the champagne and other wines were before he turned his attention to Aileen with a broad smile.

"Mathieu. My name is Mathieu."

Chapter 7

All was silent in the hidden house. None of the Aces were talking or even looking at each other. Blackjack had now lost the will to eat or sleep. All he could think about was Aileen and her sweet voice, incredible feature, how she acted when she was angry, he had to admit, she looked like an angry kitten. He clenched his heart as if he were having a massive heart attack, he missed her. He wanted her back in his life, his heart but he knew she would never forgive him.

Blackjack sighed and ventured up to his personal room and locked himself in. None of the Aces could get him out, no matter what they do or say, total silence was on the otherside. Death Star/Sarah sighed in failure and walked back down the stairs followed by Death Bringer/Samuel.

Dark Knight/Stacey was still banging and kicking on the door, shouting out vile words to get Blackjack mad but he has fallen in deaf ears, he wanted to speak to no one, hear no one, see no one. Shadow Rider/Xavier finally pulled her away from the door and carried her all the way down like a sack of potatoes.

"I do hope to god he will recover soon. I have not seen Blackjack like this at all. This is not like him." Death Star/Stacey said in a sorrowful, worrisome tone as she made herself some hot tea to cool her mind and senses down.

The rest of the Aces nodded in agreement. Their only hope of recovering Blackjack from his dark stage was Aileen herself. Safe and sound.

Matthieu lead Aileen inside of his house. It was nothing like her father's. While his was white, bright and filled with large windows. The Lord of Heart's house looked more like a night club and in more than one room were cars, trucks, motorcycles, all sorts of transportation device.

"Oh wow, you provide all of these?" Aileen asked, mesmerized by all the vehicles that were presented right in front of her. It was no wonder Shadow Rider loved being in the same state as the Lord. Shadow Heart...Xavier. She missed his mysteriousness, she had often wonder if he was ever going to ask Dark Knight out. She missed her too. She shook her head mentally and continued the tour.

"Actually my dear Duchess, we created them. To be well developed filled with weapons fit for each, defense system for all of all kinds, and all are stylish I must add with a pinch of pride plus more." Matthieu said, taking his coat off and placing it on a neon blue coat rag and untied his tie but left it lose around his neck.

When Aileen turned around, his shirt was completely open. She couldn't help but notice his chest. He had some chest hair but all in all, he was broad and with eight packs of abs to go with it. He must've work out as lot in his days and now.

She must have been admiring too much, too long for he chuckled, making her jump in surprise. Aileen turned away, feeling herself turn red, heat building up from embarrassment. She then felt the Lord of Hearts' hand her shoulder, Aileen looked up at him and a smile formed on his thin lips.

"Come, I'll show you where you would retire whenever you may well please." He said, leading them both up the stairs and towards the room where Aileen would sleep.

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Shadow Rider/Xavier didn't want to set Dark Knight/Stacey down. He loved the feel of her curves underneath his hands. It felt...right. As if her body was made for his hands and hope to god, his lips. But, she's a stubborn, feisty, head-strong woman, there was no way Dark Knight/Stacey would feel the same about it. He sighed then put her down, not taking anymore of her constant ranting.

When she was finally put down, she straightened her wrinkled clothes then looked at him with a heating, cold glare before she ventured to the kitchen for some beer to down herself in.

She leaned against the counter next to the sink, her beer in her hand at her hip. She regretted ranting to Shadow Rider/Xavier to be put down, she actually liked being held even if it was being carried like a sack of potatoes. It took her all to restrain herself from wanting so much as to kiss him. Dark Knight/Stacey sighed as she drank more and more beer until she felt drunk.

Blackjack kept looking up at the ceiling above him. His arms where either on his chest or under his head. Blackjack sighed heavily as slowly he made his way out of the bed and right to the bathroom. He needed a shower, the feel of cold water hitting against his skin would sooth him.

He sighed as he continued to let the water hit him everywhere from the top of his head to the tip of his feet. He was still a wreck, what good of a leader would he be if he continued to be in this stage?

After he stepped out of the showers, Blackjack grabbed a near by towel, and as he dried himself, he heard a knock, sending him out of his gloomy trance. He wrapped the towel around his waist, protecting his private part below. His wet hair dripped from his scalp and down his shoulders and chest.

He opened the door to reveal Death Bringer/Samuel at the other side of the room. A relieved smile settled in his mind. Blackjack was mighty glad it was Death Bringer and not any of the women down below stairs. Blackjack waited for his partner to speak his piece but soon grew tired of standing where he was and went over to the drawers and closet for some clothes.

"Need something Sam?" He asked, not looking over his shoulder to gaze at his friend, his partner in crimes. Death Bringer shrugged before he walked over to the bed and sat himself down on it.

"We're all worried about you Blackjack. You have not eaten or presented yourself ever since Aileen disappeared from our eyes," Death Bringer/Samuel said as he averted his eyes for Blackjack to put on some pants. Once Blackjack dressed he sat beside his friend. "Come, we're suppose to go to the Duke's house, to honor his passing, maybe Aileen will be there."

But in fact, Aileen wasn't there, she was still resigning with the Lord of Hearts who invited her to the funeral. She knew Blackjack would be there and the other Aces, she couldn't trust herself to see them again, not now, not after what happened, what she had done.

"I shall be back in the evening of tomorrow, if ever you need any, my men are on speed dial, just type the numbers two-two-five-three," Matthieu said as he fixed his tie but did a poor job at his hair. Aileen rolled her eyes with a lazy grin and got up from her seat to fix his hair to make it look presentable. He smiled down at her. "Thank you duchess, you know, I should hire you to do my hair instead of myself."

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Aileen knew that was a joke, it made her smile but not laugh. Matthieu could see the shadow in her eyes and embraced her in his arms. He held onto her until he left her arms wrap around him. He never had a daughter like the Duke did and though they had been together for just a day and a half, already he felt she was his own.

"You better go unless you want your plane to leave without you." Aileen teased, letting go of the embrace, her eyes forming tears. The Lord of Hearts gently wiped the tears with his thumb and nodded before he summoned his men to get everything onto the plane.

"I'll see you later Aileen." He said before he followed two of his other men towards the plane and off to Aileen's home, to pay their respects for the fallen Duke.

The Lord of Hearts, The Bishop of Spades, The Barron of Clubs, and even The King of Aces was there himself but was wearing a mask, hiding his facial identity. The King of Aces himself spoke for all during the funeral of the fallen Duke.

The women were crying, children begging their mothers and fathers to leave, trying to be brave as their fathers but did a poor job, and the men, all hurt and angered. All agreed they will find whoever did this and bring him down. no mercy will be shown.

"We shall remember the Duke, Crispin, as a friend, father, protector, but above all. The Duke of Diamonds." The King of Aces finished before he stepped down from the stage, everyone clapped as soon as both his feet were on the ground.

Outside, a few men on either side of the brown casket, where the duke laid to rest, carefully lowered it to the ground before the rest with shovels started to bury it. Once it was fully covered in dirt, they placed a padding of grass and a tombstone on the front end.

"Here lies Crispin. Friend, father, Duke of Diamonds". All paid their respects until they all decided to leave. Blackjack, Death Bringer/Samuel, Dark Knight/Stacey, Shadow Rider/Xavier, and Death Star/Sarah all stayed moments later. Remembering everything that has happened with and for the Duke.

Aileen gave herself a personal tour upstairs of the Lord's house. She had no clue as to why he had so many rooms but soon discovered by a maid that he treats them as if they were guests. He feeds them, clothes them, pays them, and even gives them their own bedroom of their disire except for, of course, the Lord's.

"I can show you the avalible rooms we have left for you to spend your nights in." The maid who was explaining to the duchess of Diamonds about the many rooms, offered. Aileen smiled and nodded as she followed the maid to the free bedrooms but Aileen stopped.

"Oh on second thought, I had just remembered the Lord telling me as well as showing me where my room was." She said, stopping in her tracks. The maid turned and curtsied, stating her apology as she went back to work.

Night was soon falling upon Maimi and Aileen felt herself growing tire after a butler announced to come and eat. It was revealed at the dinner table that Matthieu had a son named Vincent. He was only eight, a small child and already at such young of age, he knew what his life was.

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She could not bear to think how a young boy such as he be so used and comprehend all the danger, hurt, and chaos that goes around him. She glanced at him as he took a bit of their dinner before he chugged it down with a glass of ice water.

"I'm going to retire, I shall see you in the morning then." Aileen said as Vincent ran to give her a firm hug before he let the butler lift him up to go to his room for the night. Aileen hugged the boy back before he bounced over to his butler and fell asleep in his arms. She smiled before she turned her heels and up the stairs.

Blackjack stayed up the night his eyes glued blankly at the moving TV. A show was on, it started to remind him of Aileen so he turned it to Ghost Rider but paid very little attention to the action, suspense, and romance. A lot was still going on in his mind.

He sighed and got up from the couch to fetch himself a can of beer to drink. He looked inside the fridge before he grabbed the beer he wanted. He closed the door of the fridge and open the beer, he let the savoring bitter taste of the beer go through his tongue and down his throat as he made his way back to the couch.

While his eyes were yet again glued to the TV, the action from Ghost Rider showing, Blackjack drank his beer again thinking about how to get Aileen back safe and sound but more importantly, back in his life. He needed her, wanted her. He craved for her beauty, worshipped her love. But he ruined that because he openly let the Duke get killed.

It was his fault and he knew it.

A/N: Sorry this chapter this short. It needed to be cause where I stopped is perfect. I promise to make the next chapters long and edited for your viewing pleasure. Enjoy The Four Aces

Chapter 8

The morning sun risen and gently shined it's rays on Aileen's face but it wasn't the sunlight nor the sounds of birds, cars, people, and animals that woke her, nor is it the sweet aroma of breakfast and Vincent playing happily with a few friends. No, what woke her was the arrival of The Lord of Hearts. He has come home.

Aileen got out of her bed and went into her private bathroom to wash up and dress. The clothes available to her were clothes that Dark Knight/Stacey would wear. Oh how she missed Dark Knight/Stacey's fiery attitude even just by looking at her, Aileen knew the female Ace had a thing for Shadow Rider/Xavier. The thought made her grin.

"Aileen, come down and join breakfast with me and my son's friends." Matthieu said after she had gotten dressed in time before he opened the door. She nodded and followed him down to be greeted by a jumping Vincent and his friends Colter and Kolton, twin brothers.

After the boys took their seat, the rest took their seats servants included after they served the food on the table. As they ate in silence for a mere moment, Aileen dared to ask the Lord of Hearts her question/statement.

"Teach me how to be an Ace."

Blackjack knew better not to just sit around and wait for some miracle, he knew he had to take action but the more he tried to get up, the more his body controlled his mind and the next thing, he was back down on the couch. He had been up all night thinking about her and how he was going to bring her back.

"Oh good you're up." Dark Knight/Stacey spat, her bitched up tone irritating Blackjack as he made himself get up from the couch and followed his partner towards the kitchen for breakfast.

The rest of the Aces soon came down after the sizzle sound of bacon made contact with the hot buttered pan. Shadow Rider/Xavier was still not a morning person but he tries. As long as you don't speak to him for a good one hour, he'll be alright and not try and kill you senseless.

All ate in silence after the meal was done and placed down on the table. The silence continued until Blackjack spoke, breaking the near eternal silence.

"I'm going to find Aileen. Feel free to come into the search." He told everyone of his partners before he got up to pack for the journey to look for Aileen. Death Bringer/Samuel was the first to get up from the table. He placed a hand on Blackjack, stopping him.

"Where do you propose she is?" He asked, his eyes telling his partner, "count me in".

"No, I refuse. I won't train you to become an Ace even if you are The Duke of Diamond's daughter no, I won't." The Lord of Hearts protested, walking away from Aileen who kept begging and begging.

The duchess almost gave up until she asked how she was going to take her father's place with an iron fist. She already had a good gentle heart but when there comes a day, how was she going to defend herself.

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Mattieu thought for a moment, leaning against the wall of the living room. The suspense was making Aileen nervous. She bit her bottom lip and played with the strands of her honey brown hair, something her mother did when she was nervous. Aileen of course, never knew her mother but was told stories.

After a while, Mattieu caved in and nodded in agreement that he'll train Aileen into becoming an Ace. When she heard that he agreed, she ran in to hug him. Taken aback, he awkwardly hugged her back before he pulled her off him.

"But don't think I will go easy on your training. Becoming an Ace is harsh, so little injuries like a twisted ankle will be ignored and not cared. You will have to learn how to endure even a mere scratch." He explained, seriousness in his eyes.

Aileen looked up at the Lord of Hearts and nodded with a smile, seriousness too, in her eyes. The two saluted and she followed him below stairs to the training ground.

Good-bye duchess Aileen, daughter of the Duke of Diamonds. Hello Aileen, Ace of Diamonds.

"What do you mean she's not in Atlantic City?" A man asked, speaking through the phone. He waited impatiently for a reply. When he had gotten his answer, he was none too happy about it. Anger started to fill his system. "You find you right now or I will send my men to hunt. you. down."

The man pressed the button on the land-line phone, hanging up before the other man on the other side could protest. Leaning back on his chair, he spun until he was facing the window behind him. He got up to open the blinds, both Chicago and Atlantic City were falling and so was the company.

He knew that if he didn't find her soon both states will collapse. Without someone to take the place of the former Duke, all their weapons will have to be moved to New York and damn it all, The Baron of Spades has got a lot in his hands. Being in charge of all the spy gears, New York won't be able to take over the company of Atlantic City.

Atlantic City bestowed all the weapons all the Aces needed, New York developed the spy gears, Miami had the transportations, airplanes, cars, and motorcycles, Boston had their ocean developments. What did Chicago have? Nuclear. Though they all had different companies and developments, all were Crime Lords.

The man closed the blinds of his window before he stepped out of the office. On his way out of the building, he placed his sunglasses on and his coat. The wind blew gently, hitting softly on his face as he made his way to his car. Just before he unlocked the door, someone called out to him.

"Again, remember, ignore the pain Aileen." The Lord of Hearts called out as he instructed Aileen what to do. The first lesson they're going his martial arts, blocking, dodging, and the hitting.

Aileen could feel the sweat starting to form in her brow as she continued to fight her opponent the best she could. It was soon discovered that fists weren't her best use. Instead, her best use was her feet. She was fast and that was good, also she had good flexibility.

When she finally defeated her opponent with a good strong round house kick and a clockwise ground kick to make him fall behind and hit his head on the padded ground below. She stood up straight, feeling proud of

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herself. Her opponent was still down but he soon woke up and got up to congratulate her on a job well done.

The Lord of Hearts stepped inside the training ground, clapping his hands in amusement. "Very good, we can both establish that your feet is stronger and faster than your fist which is good."

"Then I'll leave the fists to the men." She teased, laughing a bit as she followed him out of the room and into another, to further on her training.

Blackjack and the rest of the Aces all seated themselves on various seats as they waited for their flight number to be called, someone stood in front of Blackjack. His arms were crossed over his shoulder as he beared down at the Ace with a scowl.

"Can I help you?" Blackjack asked, not looking up to acknowledge the man standing before him and the rest. The man stayed silent until he unfolded his folding arms to remove his glasses. He had the same bright eyes as the Duke's which turns dark when angered or depressed.

"I am Darius, son of the Duke of Diamonds and I want to know. What have you done to my little sister?" Darius asked/commanded. His tone was firm, his eyes filled with seriousness.

"Now hold up. Are you telling me The former Duke had a son?" Dark Knight/Stacey asked, standing up from her seat as she went in to take a closer look at Darius. The young man stood in his place completely still as a statue before he nodded as his response.

Before she could further on her question and protest, their flight number has been called. Darius followed them closely behind, his arms still crossed over his broad-like chest. Blackjack felt uneasy about the new man. He had never seen nor heard of this Darius. How was he suppose to trust him, believe him?

Just as they stepped inside the plane, Blackjack jerked Darius back. He held the man's front shirt in a tight grip, he leaned in closer to whisper in Darius' ear. "If you try anything and I mean anything. I will not hesitate to put an end to you". At the mild mercy of Blackjack, Darius pried his hands off him and fixed his wrinkled shirt before he went to take his seat.

Blackjack did not go after him but instead took his seat next to Shadow Rider/Xavier who was on the phone talking to the Lord of Hearts. When the flight attendance lady asked for all devices to be turned off and put away, Shadow Rider/Xavier did so. He turned his head to the side to face his partner.

"I know where Aileen is."

"What? What do you mean we might have to take over the company of the Diamonds? Yes...yes I know New York is a big city but we've got a lot in our hands. Yes, yes I understand sir yes. What? No, no. Look, why don't you ask The Bishop of Spades? Yes, yes you do that. Please. Thank you." The Baron of Spades hung up after speaking to the man on the otherline.

He knew as the man who lived in Chicago. The man was at the Duke's funeral but didn't seem to be an Ace but of someone higher, even more higher than all of them combined. The Baron had his wonders that maybe, just

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maybe, that man was him.

"Baron, it was him, wasn't it?" A young red haired man asked just as the Baron of Spades was about to sit himself down on the chair behind him. The Baron straighten himself up before he cleared himself and nodded.

"It was and Ark, how many times do I have to tell you? Call me Ivan. I am, after all, your younger twin," Ivan/Baron of Spades said placing a hand on his twin's shoulder. Ark smiled and placed his own hand on his brother's shoulder as well. The two smiled at each other before closing in on a brotherly hug. "Now, what is it my big brother?"

Ark removed his himself and his hand from his older twin before he took a large deep breathe. "It's the Lord of Hearts," he started as he watched his brother poured drinks for them both. When he took his glass, he took a sip before he continued. "He has Aileen under his wing."

"She's in Miami? With the Lord of Hearts? Oh thank god. At least we know she's safe." Blackjack sighed in relief as he leaned back on his flight seat. Shadow Rider/Xavier nodded in response before he called the flight attendance lady for a beer to drink.

When she returned, she flirtatiously winked at Shadow Rider/Xavier before she went about her business. From the corner of Dark Knight/Stacey's eye, she sneered coldy at her as she took a sip of diet coke. Death Star/Sarah had grounded her from drinking any more alcohol until they found Aileen and return back home.

"Yes she is safe in his arms but...listen Blackjack. If we just go right in, Aileen would think otherwise. I mean, she's safe, she doesn't need a rescue. Besides, does she even want to come back with us? After what we did?" Shadow Rider/Xavier asked before he leaned back and closed his eyes.

His question stuck in his mind. Perhaps Shadow Rider/Xavier was right, dead right. Aileen might not even want to return to Atlantic City with them. Not after what they did, what he did. Blackjack sighed and ran his fingers through his hair before he looked out the window.

Matthieu/The Lord of Hearts held up his right hand to stop Aileen's training. Both were breathing heavily as they stopped and shook hands with each other. The woman who was fighting against Aileen smiled as she shook the duchess' hand before she left.

"Wonderful Aileen, you learn fast," Matthieu/The Lord of Hearts complimented with a broad smile. Aileen had to admit, he was quite a handsome man to look at, his son will most likely to inherit his mighty good looks but nothing compared to the looks Blackjack had.

Dangerous and bolding with scars yet he had hidden kind eyes and heart which she had unlocked that night they shared together at the cottage before it happened. "Now, I believe that is enough training for now. Let us break for a while."

Aileen couldn't agree more as she followed him out of the training area and up the stairs to reunite with the sunlight and the cheerful noises of Vincent and his friends. Her lips curled up to a bright smile as Vincent ran up towards her and dragged her into the small circle to play.

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As the small group placed, The Lord of Hearts received a call from his old student, Shadow Rider/Xavier. He had told the young man Aileen was safe. He rolled his eyes as he pressed "call" but before he could say about Aileen Shadow Rider/Xavier said something different.

"I need my bike fixed".

"Yes, no you can thank Blackjack for that," Shadow Rider/Xavier chuckled as the Blackjack himself who was sitting beside Shadow Rider/Xavier shot him a look but Shadow Rider ignored his comrade/leader and continued to talk to The Lord of Hearts. "Yes, yes we still are. You what? She? Really? Huh. That fast. Well alright then. I shall tell them."

After he hung up and turned his phone off when the attendance flight lady announced they will be landing and all electronic advices must be off. He turned to Blackjack now paying full attention to him.

"He's teaching Aileen the ways of the Aces," He muttered lowly so only Blackjack could hear. His comrade's eyes widen as he jerked his head to face him, disbelief in his dark eyes. "I don't believe it either Blackjack if the Lord of Hearts said so then it's true. Aileen would most likely change her look completely."

No! Aileen shouldn't change her looks completely. She just can't! She's so beautiful the way she is now. Oh god please don't make me have to search hard, especially if and when she's right at my feet. Please no." Blackkack thought as he ran his fingers through his dark hair after he placed the seatbelt back on him. He rubbed his fingers against his face and knew, he needed a shave.

Once the plane has landed completely and came to a total stop. The Four Aces and Darius along with everybody else who was boarded on the plane all load off, with luggages they had bought on the plane rolled down on the floor or hung over their shoulders as they made their way inside the airport building to retrieve the rest of their luggage.

When the Four Aces and Darius retrieved their luggage from the moving cycle. They all head outside to enjoy the fresh air and admiration of Miami.

"Welcome to Miami my friends." Shadow Rider/Xavier said with a smile before he whistled using two of his fingers to call a taxi.

Chapter 9

Miami was peaceful and new to their eyes but it felt like home to Shadow Rider/Xavier who was directing the taxi-driver where to go. As Blackjack laid back at his side of the seat, he perked his elbow on the window sill of the cab and looked out the window, his chin resting on his knuckles.

Sarah/Death Star frowned and carefully placed a gentle hand on Blackjack's shoulder. He didn't turn around but he could feel her eyes on his assuring to him that things will be alright and that Aileen was safe. He believed her to some degree but still remained in the very position he was currently in.

Sarah/Death let out a heaving sigh and squeezed his shoulder gently until he faced her, eyes boring down on her own as she spoke to him, "she's safe Blackjack, we will find her. There is no doubt in my mind that she'll join the officers, she despises them as much as we".

Blackjack only nodded.

Aileen looked at the various hair colors and designs laid out for her by The Lord of Heart's maids. Every one of his men stated that she'll have to change her looks in order to be an Ace she didn't understand at first but then she did after a few moments later. She was still the heir but could she dye her hair?

No.

The Duchess of Diamonds removed the hair dyes and make up from her bed and placed them all in the trash nearby. She looked down in disgust, how dare they try and change her completely. She was indeed the master of disguise and she can fly with the wind while wearing a wig and it'll never come off.

A knock came and Aileen scrambled to get the door. Running unlady-like she did not care. Her private tutor, Madam Garcia of Diamonds had tried so hard to turn her into a lady just like the late Duchess of Diamonds but to of no avail, she was just like her father.

Mischievous, daring, cunning, and a fool but also bold, daring, a great speaker, and a great friend and family member to all Aces around. Crispin, the former and most beloved Duke of Diamonds was not only a great duke and fellow Ace but he was a friend, father, and brother to all. He did not care if he acted like a fool in front of everyone when Aileen was but a small girl.

Aileen remembered the time she was wearing a small dress with her mother's pearls and shoes, she would stumble every time she would walk in which she was switched to one of her own shoes. Her father, Crispin would always play with her and so did his men.

Everyone loved her.

The most memorable time she had with her father as a child was when it was storming and her father and his men were discussing buisness when they all heard little Aileen crying out loud when a loud clash of thunder hit. Everyone ran upstairs to see the little duchess cowering under the bed with her doll and a blanket.

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"Dear sweet little girl, what's wrong?" Crispin asked laying down on his stomach and faced his scared, timid daughter who was shaking. He carefully removed her from under the bed and held her in his strong warm arms.

Aileen snuggled against her father's warmth and protectiveness all in a while, holding onto her doll and sucking her thumb. After she relax just a tad, she looked up at her dad.

"D-daddy, th-thunder. I-I'm sc-scared..." Aileen sobbed then screamed out loud in fear when another clash of lightning fell from the sky. She buried her head within her dad as if she's trying to hide herself inside of him. She felt the vibration of his chuckle and she looked up at him.

"Oh sweetheart, there's nothing to fear about thunder," The Duke of Diamonds said, setting aside the meeting to comfort his daughter. The men all sat around and watched in awe as the Duke turned from a serious man to that of a comforting father. "My sweet daughter, just think of it as a thousand drums beating down."

Aileen wiped away a tear that fell onto her plushed red cheek. She smiled up at her dad as he began to tell her the tale about thunder and that there was a girl just like her who commanded the army of thunder. Soon enough, Aileen snuggled back at her father's chest and drifted off to sleep.

Safe and warm.

Tears fell down from Aileen's broken eyes as she despartly began to wipe them off but more tears came down like a never ending rain in a storm of darkness. When she heard the news of her mother's death, it was her father that stated, "never forget the best memories of your life with the people you love".

She had been very close to her dad, she was your typical "daddy's little princess" but now that he's murdered, gone, the happy memories, the best memory she had cherished into her mind and heart with that of her father, she could not help but bring down tears of sorrow and loneliness.

But she wasn't alone.

No, she'll never be alone.

Blackjack and the rest of the Aces all got out of the taxi after they had arrived at The Lord of Heart's building. This building was known for providing all needs of transportation. Xavier/Shadow Rider bid the driver farewell after paying him a good amount of payment.

"So, this is it. The house of The Lord of Hearts." Stacey/Dark Knight said as they all stood in a horizontal line and admired the tall glass building before they all walked in a straight line with Xavier/Shadow Rider in the front and Blackjack in the rear.

Xavier/Shadow Rider stopped at the door and rang the doorbell and waited patiently. A pair of stormy grey eyes looked into his own greyish/blue eyes. The stormy grey eyes soon widen and the the slot was closed quickly. Xavier/Shadow Rider smirked, he could clearly hear the scoff coming from Stacy/Dark Knight.

The door soon opened widely and a broad smile of a man with smokey dark brown hair embraced Xavier/Shadow Rider with a hug filled with brotherly affection. The rest of the Aces had their eyebrows

The Four Aces

raised in confusion as the two laughed and made up for lost time.

"Everyone, this is my dearest friend, Yorick," Xavier/Shadow Rider said as he introduced his friend to the rest of his comrades. Blackjack was the first to notice something was odd about Yorick. "Oh yes, Yorick is a blind fella but great with the nun-chucks."

Soon enough, the Lord of Hearts himself came out from the inside and smiled a great friendly smile. "Hello, and welcome to my humble abod."

Everyone sat around, each had a glass of wine in his or her hand. Yorick stood next to and behind the dark brown leather chair seat The Lord of Hearts was. His hands folded together in his front, his walking stick which turns into a nun-chuck between his fingers.

"So, tell me once more why you are here? All the way in Miami?" Matthieu/The Lord of Hearts asked, taking another small sip of the sparkling wine that was poured into his glass not too long ago. The moment they sat, the wines were poured into each glass minus Yorick's who doesn't drink.

Blackjack finished his wine and set the glass down, of the the seving men offered another severing but Blackjack raised his hand up, declining the offer.

"We have told you, we are here to see that Aileen is safe and well. She is here isn't she?" Blackjack asked, holding onto the last bit of hope he had left in him. If Aileen wasn't here then he'll have to go to the next state and he's not the one to go any wild goosechases.

The Lord of Hearts/Matthieu smiled and set his glass down, "as a matter of fact she is here".

But he was wrong, Aileen wasn't in fact here, she had left the building-house not too long ago and was on her way to one of the many coffee shops of Miami. She had found a strange liking to coffee even though she hated the bitterness at first when she tried it long ago.

Now, here she is, sitting amongst the crowd, none recongizing her from her black wig, green eyes, and black and green with gold jewels attire. No longer was she the Duchess of Diamonds but someone else. Black Diamond.

No longer will she need protection, she can fend for herself, no longer would she have to run from any danger, she'll stand and fight along with the rest of the Aces. As Black Diamond, she was fierce, bold, dependant, swift, cunning, and above all an Ace. Black Diamond will avenge the death of her father with or without the Four Aces' help.

"Would you like some more?" A waitress asked, holding the same coffee that was in Aileen/Black Diamond's cup. Aileen/Black Diamond looked down at her cup which was half way to the bottom then back up at the waitress and smiled.

"No thanks, I'm good." Aileen/Black Diamond said in her best British accent. The waitress smiled brightly and left to the next table to offer more refills.

The Four Aces

Atlantic City was at a near total chaos without their Duke and their missing Duchess. Without either or, they have no leader, no rightful heir to the Throne of Diamonds and since Crispin, late king of Diamonds was deceased, their only remaining hope was Aileen, daughter of the Duke of Diamonds.

"Salvtore! Salvtore!" A Diamond Ace cried out, running towards Salvtore, Crispin's most trusted friend and former bodyguard. Salvtore turned his attention to the man running towards him. He began to walk towards him as well. Once the two came in, the two saluted in respect of each other.

"Speak." Salvtore said, hoping it was good news but in his guts there was a queasy feeling that it maybe bad news. The man let the Diamond Ace catch his breathe before speaking his news.

"Well, as I was saying." The man started, going through the news detail by detail. Salvtore listened and only nodded his head, symbolizing to the man he was still listening.

Blackjack paced back and forth as they waited for one of the serving men to go in search for Aileen. When he came back, he made a suggestion to have one of the maids search out as she could be bathing and for him to see a woman naked would scar both him and her eyes.

Blackjack smiled a ghost of a smile when the male servant said that for he had already seen Aileen naked and her body was like as if a great suture had perfectly formed it.

When the maid returned, a worried impression settled in, also with that impression was guilt. She walked over to Mattheiu and whispered into his ear. After hearing the news given to him, he shot up, his eyes widen.

"Aileen. She's gone."

Blackjack clenched his hand into a tight fist and punched the wall nearest to him. He was mad, mad at himself. This was all his fault. He was to blame. Now it will be even harder to find Aileen. His anger soon turn into a deep concern, worry, and fear.

"Let's go." Death Bringer/Samuel said as he swung his coat over himself, letting his arms go through the sleeves. He popped the collars up and began to walk towards one of The Lord of Heart's many cars but before they could even take a step outside, Mattheiu's cell rang.

The Lord of Hearts flipped open his cellphone and answered. Everyone crowded around, hoping they could hear what the man on the other side was saying. All they could hear was The Lord of Heart mumbling either "mhm" or "oh" the rest seemed a blur, like a status on a radio or on TV.

When Mattheiu was finished, he closed his phone and returned it back into his pocket. He didn't look at Blackjack and his three Aces nor did he look at his own Aces, the Ace of Hearts. Silence soon fell upon all of them and what seemed like forever, Stacey/Dark Knight has had enough and yelled out to him.

"Well who was that? What did he want?"

The Lord of Hearts sighed, "that was The King of Aces," everybody gasped, all but Blackjack, his eyes widened, he had not heard from The King of Aces, not since the Duke's funeral and that was a few days ago. A long harsh few days ago. The Lord of Hearts nodded then added, "he told me that...War is being declared."

The Four Aces

The Bishop of Clubs started to test out the new weapons invented by a few of his Clubs men. The Ace of Clubs were known for making weapons for the Aces to use. As he made sure the equipment was working properly, a knock came.

"Come in." Alastair, the Bishop of Clubs said, not looking up to acknowledge who it was. He heard the door open and foot steps walk inside of his office.

"Hello Alastair." He recongized that voice. The Bishop of Clubs dropped the gear. His eyes widen and his jaws dropped as if he were seeing a ghost, he quickly stood up and saluted to the man in front of him as a sign of respect. The man saluted back to him with the same loyal respect.

"My king, what are you doing here?" Alastair wondered as he began to walk away from behind the desk and right in front of the man himself. The King of Aces.

"I had just recieved news from our good friend, the cops," The king said, pausing. Just like in those movies where it created great suspense. "War is being declared."

Ivan, The Baron of Spades, had not seen his brother for what felt like a millenium to him. His brother, twin brother, Ark, had ran away from home some time ago in his youth of being only seventeen. It has been nineteen full years since he had any contact with his brother.

Being the Ace where all the spy equipments were held. Every Ace of Spades in New York were surprised that Ark was the only Ace in the entire department and world to out-hide and out-run The Baron of Spade's most high tech spy gear.

As he worked on one of the gears to send to his friend, The Lord of Hearts, the phone rang. Ivan stopped and rolled his chair over to see who was calling. He stared at the ID before picking up after the second ring.

"Hello?" He asked, tapping his fingers on the desk like a person playing the piano starting with his pinky and going all the way to the pointer. He kept that rhythm as he listened to what the man on the other line was saying.

Once Ivan hung up, his eyes widen a bit and he sighed heavily. Leaning back on his chair, he rested his elbows on the arms of the chair, his fingers connected to each other. No sooner than later, an Ace of Spades came in.

"I heard the phone ring. Who was it?" She asked, closing the door behind her and waiting patiently for an answer. Ivan, the Baron of Spades, sat up straight and looked directly at the woman before him. She was a dark red haired woman, wearing a black attire. Combat boots and a chain on her left hip.

"That was The Bishop of Clubs," The Baron of Spades started then took a deep breathe. "War is being declared."

Chapter 10

"We're under attack!" An Ace of Clubs shouted, warning to all of the other men as a blast of explosion deafen all ears, making a handfull of their men fly back, hitting the ground hard. Blast it all. The enemy team are mad! The King had called every leader, minus the Duke, and asked them if they had any part of the enemies uprising in this coming war.

"What is this madness about?" A man asked, rushing in to help one of his fellow Aces get up on his feet. It was clear that the man had glass stuck near his ankle and it was sprained badly.

Alastair, The Bishop of Clubs shook his head as he made his way down the halls and towards the room where the first exploison was held. He scowled at the damage of his HQ and cursed under his breathe noticing that a few of his faithful men had died from the combat, trying to shoot down on the enemy.

The Bishop of Clubs sighed heavily and brushed his brown/gold hair back with his fingers in frustration and exhaustion of the whole mess he knew not only he, but every other Ace were getting involved in. None of them had done nothing to anger the enemy ship. Someone, in either of the 5 Ace Region, has betrayed them.

Betrayed them coldly.

Ivan, The Baron of Spades had recieved a call not too long ago from The King of Aces asking him if he or any of his Aces had anything to do with the nonsense of it all. Like all the rest, Ivan shook his head and answered to The King, no. The Baron of Spades sighed and hung up before collapsing on a near by leather chair. There was no doubt about it, Ivan will now have to interrigate every men and women in his area whether he, or they liked it or not.

The Baron of Spades ran his fingers through his dark hair before getting up from the chair he sat on and looked through the window and onto the horizon with a sigh. He then took off to start the interigation, starting with the Aces inside this building. This, was going to be indeed a long day.

When Aileen heard about the upcoming war from the enemy force, Aileen knew that the start of this whole mess coming to them was all her fault. If she had just taken her place as Duchess of Diamonds instead of running from her duties, then this would have never happened. She's such a coward.

No.

Her father, the once Duke of Diamonds, had told her over and over that running was sometimes the best descison to make and not once was she or ever will be a coward. The duchess took a deep breathe and yanked the black haired wig from her head but left the contacts in. She stood straight and tall and began to walk.

It was time for her to stop hiding behind The Aces, stop living in her sorrow, anger, and grief, and step up to her duty as The Duchess of Diamonds. She was next in line, the only one next in line; and without a leader for The Aces of Diamonds, The City of where they dwelled would cease to exist.

"Let's go this." She told herself, taking off her colored contact and made her way to one of The Lord of Hearts' cars and drove off to Atlantic City. The land city of The Diamonds.

The Four Aces

Blackjack and his fellow comrades all followed Mattieu, The Lord of Diamonds to one of his helicopters, his personal one to be exact. He let no one drive this particular helicopter except he himself and his son Vincent. Vincent, The Lord's son, was taken along with 20 Aces as his bodyguards, to a safe place where the enemy force could not track them down and find them.

The Lord of Hearts opened the door and gestured them to all crowd in. Once they were in, Death Bringer/Samuel felt Death Star/Sarah's legs against his due to the lesser space they have with another Ace of Hearts seating beside Death Bringer/Samuel's leftside. Blackjack was seated in the front along with Mattieu/The Lord of Hearts who seated in the pilot's seat.

Stacey/Dark Knight and Xavier were too crowded in the seat they sat on across from the other two Aces and one Ace of Hearts. An Ace of Hearts was seated besides Stacey/Dark Knight's right side. All were given headphones to block out the loud noise and to communicate each other.

As soon as they were all settled in, Mattieu started up the engine and the helicopter lifted up. An Ace down below, holding two blinking light orange sticks, waved back and forth, guiding Mattieu out of the tunnel they were in.

"Do you think Aileen is safe?" Sarah/Death Star asked holding onto Death Bringer/Samuel's hand tightly as if her whole life depended on it. She had always hated flying, she much rather be on the ground. She could tell Death Bringer/Samuel was thinking the same about flying for she could feel the vibration on her legs from him shaking.

Xavier/Shadow Rider shrugged, "I don't know, but I sure hope so. Where ever she is, I am sure she is safe". He did his best to assure to his fellow Aces even though he too was nearly losing hope now that a war was raging on. He looked at Blackjack who did not say a word since and kept looking at the horizon.

Atlantic City/The City of Diamonds was at near crumbles due to the full force of the enemy force. They knew that without a Duke or Duchess, all was at a lost even if they are weapons-masters. Cries and shouts as well as exploisions and fights rages on and on on both sides. Women and girls no matter the age or if they were married or not, were being taken away. Men were falling on both sides. Chaos was everywhere.

"Sir! What shall we do? Diamonds is falling!" A male Ace of Diamonds asked/shouted out as another bomb exploded one of the high buildings. glass and bricks shattered all over, smoke and fire rising up ever so fast that not even the fire-department could put it out.

The Ace of Diamonds shook his head with worry and complete and utter lost, "I don't know." he sighed and placed a comforting hand on his friend's shoulder and looked at him with grief. His friend were what do to and ran off as fast as he can to do it, dodging as much bullets, flying glass, and explosions he could.

It was time for Atlantic City/The City of Diamonds to surrender.

"Wait, guys, look down there," Stacey/Dark Knight shouted pointing down at the City of Diamonds. A white flag was being waved by an Ace of Diamonds. That made her heart drop. For a few moments, none could say a word. Not once had The Aces of Diamonds surrendered and here they are. The man waving the white flag,

The Four Aces

and all of the Aces with weapons dropped them then knelt down with their hands up. "I...I can't believe this..."

"This is what happens when there is no leader to lead them." The Ace of Hearts explained looking down at the pitiful, sorrowful sight as the enemy force lead all of the surrendered Aces of Diamonds into several separate S.W.A.T trucks after cuffing them with a special brand of handcuffs that sends electrical currents through your system if you dare to try and free yourself.

"We've got to help them," Xavier/Shadow Rider stated but Mattieu along with Blackjack both shook their heads. That made Xavier/Shadow Rider upset. "And why the hell not?"

Before Blackjack could explain, his cellphone rang. "Hello?"

"John, it's me, Aileen. Where are you?" The sweet voice of Aileen asked, her voice rining through his ear like a sweet melody. Blackjack was lost for words.

It was when Aileen finally made it to the enterance way of The City of Diamonds did she make a sharp turn, the sharpest turn she had ever made and drove off as quickly as possible. Her fellow Aces of Diamonds had surrendered and were being taken away by the enemy force to either be tortured, imprisoned, or turned into slaves.

A tear for her Aces of Diamonds fell from her eyes and down her cheeks, she quickly wiped them off with the back of her had while she continued to drive. She looked for a cellphone and knew immediately who to call but did she want to call him again? Afterall, he did not protect her father but then again, there was nothing he could do so it was not entirely his fault.

Aileen sighed and began to speed dial Blackjack. She waited and waited hearing the phone ring a couple of time before she finally heard a smooth strong voice she recongized so well. A smile form on her lips, it had been so long since she heard his voice. She missed that.

"John, it's me, Aileen, where are you? I was about to go into The City of Aces but when I saw the enemy force taking away my Aces of Diamonds, I made a sharp turn and fled." I explained, knowing he would understand that I along would not be able to take them even if I am an Ace now.

I waited for a reply as I hit the breaks once a red-light hit. I may be the daughter of a Crime Lord and a Crime Lady herself but I was NOT ready to get involve in an accident or even be the cause of it. We may be criminals in the enemy and society's eyes but we are not stupid.

"We just flew above Atlantic City and we are heading towards Chicago. Where are you now?" Blackjack asked. I could hear the sound of the helicopter being run. It sounded faint from where I was, on the phone, but you could still tell it was a helicopter.

I replied back to his question, making a turn at a corner, from behind me, I overhear the sound of two motorcycles and sirens. Looking up at my front mirror, I scowled, they had seen me approaching Atlantic City/The City of Diamonds, they had!

"I'll call you back, I'm about to go all Speed Demon Jack-o." I closed the phone ending our conversation and hit the gas petal as hard as I can speeding up my car. No sooner than later, the two guys on motorcycles and

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the one police-car began to speed up as well. I smirked and pressed a button and AK-47 silver guns appeared through the back tires and began firing.

Blackjack cursed under his breathe not wanting Aileen to disconnect but she did. He closed his phone and placed it back in his pocket and sighed. Silence filled the air amongst them except for the sound of the helicopter.

"She was at The City of Diamonds but she saw what was happening and turned around as fast as she could. She's most likely on her way to Boston, The City of Clubs." Blackjack explained, hoping his calculation on where Aileen might be heading to was correct.

Mattieu/The Lord of Hearts nodded and carefully made the helicopter turn to the side. The Aces held on as the helicopter tipped over a bit before going back in straight.

"Let us hope you are right." The Lord of Hearts stated making the helicopter descend downwards. Their arrival to Boston/City of Clubs has finally come.

Alastair ruled Boston/The City of Clubs as The Bishop of Clubs. He, and his fellow Aces of Clubs were incharged of the finances. Without the money in other Aces' banks and pockets and in checked, there would no way to make the weapons, gather up the spy gears, or develop the transportations needed for the other Three Aces.

The Bishop of Clubs knew that the Four Aces, two Ace of Hearts, and The Lord of Hearts Mattieu himself were coming to his City. Alastair/The Bishop of Clubs could not wait to see his old friend and pupil, Samuel/Death Bringer again.

All of the Aces of Bishops had that soft face, making it hard for some of the enemies to hurt them whether they are male or female. Samuel/Death Bringer was one of their best, with his baby-face, no Ace would be able to say "no" not even The King of Aces wouldn't be able to say "no" to their soft-like faces.

Alastair/The Bishop of Clubs left a strong wind blow and dust hitting his face and body. The Bishop smiled widely as he ran towards the copter. Once the engine died down and the dust cleared, he dropped his arm in which he used to shield his face with and walked the rest of the way, four Ace of Bishops behind him.

"Welcome. Welcome my friends, to Boston. The City of Bishop."

We all sat around in the living room which had leather brown couches and chairs, a coffee table right in the center of all the couches and chairs. A flat screen TV up high above the fireplace the tile either navy or royale blue. The whole room was nothing like Mattieu/Lord of Heart's place nor Crispin/Duke of Diamond's for both looked hardcore, this, was more home-like, comfortable, and not as loud.

An Ace of Bishops offered wine to each of the Aces. Alastair/The Bishop of Clubs took a sip of his wine, not taking his eyes off his old friend and pupil. Everyone knew that Alastair was in fact gay. It wasn't hard to miss.

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"So, what brings you here my old friend?" Alastair/The Bishop of Clubs asked, setting his glass down on the tray one of the Aces of Clubs was holding and leaned in closer, his elbows and arms resting on his knees.

After taking a couple more sips, Mattieu/The Lord of Hearts leaned over and set the glass on the coffee table then leaned back. He sighed and brushed his hair back with his fingers before turning to Alastair/The Bishop of Club's full attention.

"Well..." but before he could continue on, the door flew open revealing a tiresome Aileen. Blackjack immediately jumped off from his seat and ran towards Aileen hugging her to near death. Taken aback, Aileen nearly cried but kept her tears in and hugged him back with the same depth.

"Aileen, you made it," Blackjack said, pulling away from the hug reluctantly to look at her face which he missed so much. The thing he loved most about her flawless figure was her eyes. He had never gotten tired of the golden hazel eyes which tends to shine. "What took you so long? Are you hurt?"

Aileen shook her head, "No, but, I do have, terrible news..."

Everyone waited for the Duchess of Diamonds to reply with both patience and impatience boiling up inside. At this final moment, tears began to stream down her eyes, making her look fragile in front of the Two Ace Leaders and the Aces. Blackjack frowned and gently wiped the tears away.

Aileen smiled sadly and turned her head towards Mattieu/The Lord of Hearts and sighed heavily before making her way towards him. A frown settled upon her face and her eyes filled with regret, disappointment, and determination for another thing. She closed her eyes and took a deep breathe before finishing what she had started not too long ago.

"Lord of Hearts, Mattieu," Aileen started up again. Mattieu/The Lord of Hearts nodded in response, telling her that he was well listening to what she was going to say. The Duchess of Diamonds paused for what seemed like hours before talking again. "I came across your son, Vincent, the Aces that you had required for him have all been killed. They were on their way to the safe place. My Lord, your son, Vincent, has been captured...."

Chapter 11

Mattieu/The Lord of Heart's eyes widen in both fear and in anger. He jumped off from his seat and yelled, pulling his hair with his fingers and pacing back and forth at a fast pacing speed. Making him dizzy with a head, he had to sit back down.

His worst nightmare had come, he knew there were other Aces needed to be protected and provided with but his son, his only son, his protection came before all others including The King of Aces himself. The Lord of Hearts buried his face in his hands and sobbed.

Aileen now felt back and wished she had not said anything but, she knew she had to, it would have been far worse if she didn't tell. Vincent, his son, would have been sold off for ransom or worse...dead....

"I'm so sorry...there was nothing I could have done..." Aileen quietly saidn feeling the strong arm of Blackjack wrapping around her waist, pulling her closer to him. The duchess felt the warmth and firmness against Blackjack, she did not dare to move, it had been so long since they had touched. Too long, sighing, The Lord of Hearts/Mattieu got up from his spot and looked at Aileen.

"Now is not important," He started. How could he say that about his son? His own flesh and blood? That boiled in Blackjack's mind, in his mind, his fist clenched into a tight fist, he wanted to punch the Lord for his sudden ignorance that his own son wasn't important. "As son as he is well hidden and never spotted by the enemy, then he is safe, what's important is that they never capture the Duchess of Diamonds".

Of course, everything was about her and nobody else mattered. Well of course all else matters, why should she be an exception? She's not The King of Ace's daughter but The Duke of Diamond's daughter; yes, her father's company is by far the most important, developing the provided weapons needed for the other Aces but still, why her? Why not Vincent? The Lord of Heart's son? He's a child, and she's a fully grown woman.

Then it struck her, if she were captured, then The City of Diamonds would fall and will have to work for the enemy with no way out of the imprisonment and any man who takes her hand in marriage, and bed, not only will he have The City of Diamonds but also the Dukedom and soon, an heir. No, that could not happen, it mustn't.

"You are absolutely right. I know Vincent will be safe where-ever he may be. He is a quick and cunning young man but still, my Lord, be worried for him. He is but a child and he cannot protect himself, he has not yet been fully and properly trained." Shadow Rider/Xavier explained, placing a comforting hand on the Lord's shoulder who nodded in agreement.

Alastair/The Bishop of Clubs stood up from his seat and handed his drink back to the servant who stood behind him. Sending the him on his way, The Bishop walked over to the Aces with a smile.

"You can count me and my men to help you."

He was scared, he didn't want to be but he was. Vincent, being the only son of The Lord of Hearts/Mattieu and ten years young, knew about the dangers the Aces goes through and could only imagine how they would feel when they first lay eyes on the enemy and shoot them down. Vincent was seeing it all, he's right in the

The Four Aces

center of an up-coming dangerous war and he's afraid.

Shaking with fear, Vincent looked left and right to spot any signs of the enemy coming back before he took off to another hiding place. The Aces his father bought for him to protect were all dead, shot by the enemy. Never, has he ever, seen so much blood, so, so much.

"Did you hear," A man, the enemy of Vincent's father and the other Aces asked another, a comrade. Stopping in his track quickly and hiding in the bushes so they could not see him, Vincent easedropped to watch the conversation playing out to him like a TV. Taking out his cellphone his father gave last year as a birthday gift, the young boy pressed the record button and carefully stuck it out of the bush mid-way to capture everything. "That the girl, the Duke's daughter Aileen cannot become the rightful heir to the Throne of Diamonds unless she marries?"

"No," The man replied just as surprised as the man was when he first heard of the news. Then he paused his work and thought for a moment before turning back to his comrade. "Are you thinking what I am thinking?"

The enemy nodded, flashing a toothy grin. Vincent made a face and nearly gagged at the sight of the man's horrible crooked yellow teeth, quickly covering his mouth with his free hand, he continued to record.

"Exactly, anyone could be an Ace except that one man, he's too much a rebel, on both sides, no, our boss would be perfect, that way The Dukedom will be his, he will have a hot smoking wife to sleep with night after night and all Aces of Diamonds at his feet, serving him 24/7 for the rest of their lives." The enemy said with a chuckle, Vincent could only imagine how his breathe smelled. Horrible.

Backing the cellphone carefully, he pressed the stop button and slid it inside his pocket then waited for the men to leave their post so he can make a run for the safe-house and tell his dad and the other Aces what he had discovered.

"What do you mean he's NOT in the safe-house?! I thought he was." The Lord of Hearts/Mattieu yelled out in fury that his son was in the middle of the danger and not safe inside the safe-house. As the other Aces tried to calm him of his sudden concern and rage, Aileen couldn't agree more about The Lord.

He cares for his son and his safety, the stress naturally comes at times like these, she witnessed it with her father, The Duke of Diamonds/Crispin even per-swaying him that everyone mattered, not just one person or a group but all.

Chaos scattered through the atmosphere as men and women ran for their lives with their children as the Aces of Diamonds head onto the battlefield to fight off the enemy coming towards them. The battle between The Aces of Diamonds and the enemy has been going on since young Aileen could remember.

Being a tender age of fifteen, she was already taking up responsibilities of being more than just a lady, but of politics, who to rule when her father steps down or dies, and many other things needed when she becomes The Duchess of Diamonds. She was already taught that every Diamonds were important. No matter the age, rank, or race they were, everyone mattered.

"Come on milady, we need to hide you, you are not safe. You matter the most above all others." A maid cried out through the explosion. As Aileen started to follow her, she stopped but when her father noticed he agreed with the maid. This infuriated Aileen and she shook the maid's hand off of her and stomped to her father.

The Four Aces

"Father, all Diamonds matter remember? No matter the age, rank or race, everyone mattered. If I were not the daughter of The Duke, you, would you still save me? Or leave me to run from the burning fires of our enemy?"

For a moment, The Duke of Diamonds/Crispin, her father, was stunned by the words he was hearing from his own daughter's lips. She was right, absolutely right. Nodding his head, he summoned several more men to gather up as many loaded weapons they can get to give to the men who didn't have any.

"You are right my daughter."

Sitting at his desk, an Ace of Spades was a natural at the computer being on their more times than anyone. Hacking into many accounts, there was no account, no computer or device that was safe from him and being from The City of Spades were spying was their natural thing, he was gotten the advantage.

"You really got to teach me how to do that," Stacey/Dark Knight complimented, amazed at The Ace of Spades work. The young man smiled brightly before pressing the "ENTER" button revealing the safe-house in which Vincent was suppose to be located in. Turning to the side, he gave the The Lord of Hearts/Mattieu a sad impression and shook his head. "I'm sorry my lord but I do not see your son yet, he has not yet come to the house."

Pacing back and forth, The Lord of Hearts/Mattieu worried for his son. After hearing what Aileen had to say about what happened and how she only mattered struck her. She managed to get him to his heart and with a solid nod, he sent his Aces to go to The City of Spades to help with the enemy down in The City of Diamonds then focused on the safety of his son.

"Wait, I see something," The Ace of Clubs said, grabbing everyone's attention as he clicked on the mouse and pressed a few buttons. "The door, someone's opening the door."

Entering inside the safe-house Vincent looked around and up and down. He had been to the safe-house only once, but that was when he was 3 and he doesn't remember much of it. Looking back up, he noticed a camera with a red dot. It must be on. It must be the Ace of Spades only they can get into cameras way before anyone enters a room.

Taking the cellphone from his pocket, he raised it up high above his head before hooking it up to the laptop. He hoped his father and the other Aces who were with him gets the message.

"This is insane," Shadow Rider/Xavier cursed under his breathe, stepping away from the laptop in frustration at the conversation Vincent had recorded moments ago. "This shouldn't be allowed anymore, this is bullshit!"

Aileen shook her head, the enemy was right, even though she has been taught first-hand how to rule, be the Duchess of Diamonds, she was a woman, but, a long time ago, there was the Queen of England and she ruled without a husband so why should she? Cause it's tradition and the law.

She has been dreading the day she would grow up, more danger, more responsibilities, and more fear. Fear that she would let her people down and the other Aces, fear that her failure would bring destruction to the world.

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Though she was now an Ace and trained, Aileen still had the fear.

"No, this should not happen and it won't. Aileen is the Duke's daughter, she'll decide who to rule beside or if she wants someone to rule beside with. No council should tell her yes or no or right from wrong. She is not a child but a lady, a Duchess, an Ace." Blackjack stated, receiving nods of agreement.

The Duchess turned her head to face the scruffy man known as Blackjack aka John. She fell in love with him not only because of his looks but of his personality. Look-wise, if she were like other women, she would have shunned him, walk pass him as if he were nothing but an imp but the scars on his body shows that he is not afraid of endangerment and putting his life on the line to protect anyone and everyone he can. His personality, she did not care for his cold nature but rather the nature of a protective and kind man when he is at private with his comrades or her. That, was the man she so long fell for.

"Aileen! Aileen! Where is she? Search her!" Crispin/The Duke of Diamonds shouted as several Ace of Diamonds scattered out to search for The Duke's daughter.

Today was Blackjack's first day on the job as a bodyguard for The Duke's daughter, the moment he called him to come down to Atlantic City, The City of Diamonds, Blackjack's heart and mind soared with excitement, he felt like a kid again in a store full of candy and toys.

In her disguise, Aileen crept inside of the building and tiptoed inside the building and towards the stair-way, Blackjack was the first one to spot her and grab her. Aileen nearly screamed in surprise but the man placed a hand over her mouth to cover it.

"Where is the duchess?" He asked coldly, his dark eyes piercing Aileen's hazel/golden one's. Transfixed, the duchess could not help but be drawn to his eyes. They held darkness with a very rare, slight twinkle. "I said, where is the duchess?"

Sighing, Aileen stood up straight and tall, her chin held up high and her eyes facing directly at Blackjack's. Taking her wig and her colored contacts off, she fixed herself before presenting herself to Blackjack.

"I am Duchess Aileen of Diamonds. Daughter of Crispin, The Duke of Diamonds."

"Aileen. Aileen," Blackjack called out summoning Aileen out from her trance. Blinking her eyes, she looked up at the man who was looking down at her with concern. "It's time to go, everyone is waiting for you."

Blackjack took her hand in his and lead her out the door where everyone was waiting for her. Two cars were parked behind them. The Lord of Hearts and Bishop of Clubs both stood tall with hands behind their backs, Stacey/Dark Knight was leaning against one of the car like Xavier/Shadow Rider who also had a cigar between his teeth. Sarah/Death Star and Samuel/Death Bringer were standing next to the group of Ace of Spades and two of The Lord's Ace of Hearts.

"About time, I was wondering what had took you so long." Alastair/Clubs of Spades said, turning around to open the door for his friends.

"Forgive me Mr, I was out of it," Aileen apologized getting inside the car with the help of Blackjack who went in after her. Once all were seated in this car, Blackjack, The Bishop of Clubs, Aileen, two Ace of Clubs,

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and Death Bringer/Samuel, Alastair/Bishop of Clubs started the engine and drove off down the road. "Bishop, where are we going?"

Alastair/The Bishop of Clubs glanced at the duchess through the head-view mirror before he stared back at the road.

"The Baron of Spades has already arrived at Chicago, he and his Aces await for our arrival well," The Bishop of Clubs explained, making a right-turn. "We are meeting with him, The King of Aces himself."

The King of Aces, whose name no one knew, now paced back and forth after hearing the news of The City of Diamonds/Atlantic City from The Baron of Spades/Ivan who had arrived with several of his men, The Ace of Spades.

"How can this be so?" The King started, not stopping to catch a breath. "How can The City of Diamonds fall so hard so fast?"

The Baron of Spades/Ivan shook his head in disbelief. He too knew that The City of Diamonds was one of the most powerful crime-lord companies in the world, providing the weapons needed for the other Aces, now, at the mercy of the enemy, they can surely destroy the other Aces.

With all their hands up and down on their knees, The Ace of Diamonds waited for their ultimate demise. Their wives, sisters, and children have been taken and sent all over, this was the most humiliating thing that has ever happened and it was all because Duchess of Diamonds had ran away. But, none could blame her, the death of her father and the sudden blast nerved her.

"How are we gonna get out of here?" One of the Ace of Diamonds asked in a hoarse whisper. The Ace beside shook his head, not speaking one word as the overseer walked passed them, glancing coldly down at the Aces.

"I don't know my friend, I'm not even sure we'll even make it out alive. They have ALL of our weapons and more," The Ace sighed his eyes filled with worry. "We'll be dead before help arrives."

A few of the Ace of Diamonds who overheard the conversation between the two all nodded in agreement. This was their fate, and they were ready to face it with as much dignity as they have left inside of them.

"We there yet?" Stacey/Dark Knight asked looking out the window with impatience filling up inside of her. Shadow Rider/Xavier rolled his eyes in both annoyance and amusement. "Well?"

The Ace of Clubs driving rolled his eyes as he made a turn, following The Bishop of Club's car. "We're nearly there Miss Knight". Stacey/Dark Knight nodded in approval tapping her hand to the beat of the music playing through the car's radio system. It took her a while for her to notice a slight moan coming from Shadow Rider/Xavier; taken aback, she looked down where her hand was and blushed hard.

"Um, sorry," She mumbled, taking her hand off of him. Shadow Rider/Xavier nodded, accepting her apology still blushing. "No, really, sorry."

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"Don't apologize again Dark." Shadow Rider/Xavier mumbled.

The City of Diamonds was suppose to be her's to rule, her's to take care for and it's people, and she has failed everything. She was a coward she knew that, no one had to tell her. Now, she had to make things right, but, would anyone take her back? Make her the offical Duchess of Diamonds? There was doubt in her guts, her father would have never ran from such responsiblities and his people, they all depended on him, admired him, feared him. With her, they would all hate her.

No, she couldn't think about that, no. She most return with her head held high and gun at the ready. If the people or even the media refuse the new and improved Aileen, Duchess of Diamonds then it was their fault, with the training Aileen had recieved, no more will she hide or run, she will stand and fight with the other Aces.

"We are nearly there everybody," Bishop of Clubs/Alastair said making a turn to the left then glanced up at the head-veiw mirror to make sure the other car was following. "We should be about...HOLY! We're under attack!"

Taking off their seatbelts, the Aces and Aileen rolled their windows and cocked their guns.

"Let shit begin." Blackjack said cocking his second gun, getting himself ready for the fun.

Chapter 12

"Is...is that an Ace of Diamonds?" Sarah/Death Star asked. Breathing heavily as she round-house kicked a disarmed enemy to the head. When he fell to the ground, she turned her attention to the Ace of Diamonds, her hair flowing in the wind. Had the Ace betrayed his people, his city to join the enemy or was he forced?

Walking towards the Ace of Diamonds, she then noticed his hands were shaking, shaking from reluctance. He was forced to kill, side with the enemy. Making a sharp turn, the man aimed his gun at Sarah/Death Star but was unable to shoot her down. Looking into her eyes, the Ace of Diamonds sobbed, apologizing for what he had done before turning the gun on himself.

"No!" Sarah/Death Star cried but it was all for naught. Too late she was, the Ace of Diamonds fell to the ground from a single shot of the gun's bullet. Looking down at the Ace with wide eyes, she knew the City of Diamonds, Atlantic City, was even more corrupt than before. The City of Diamonds needed a leader, The Aces of Diamonds needed a savior, they needed Aileen.

Here she was, in the mist of her first actual fight, not running, but fighting and her people, her father's people, the Ace of Diamonds, were fighting against her and the Aces, siding with the enemy. How could they? How could they betray their loyalty? Was it really her fault? Did her cowardliness lead to this? This had to be a joke.

Aileen's eyes watered knowing this was her fault, had she not run, had she only acknowledged her father's death and become the next ruler of City of Diamonds/Atlantic City, none of this corruption would have happened. Everything was her fault but, she was not yet ready to raise the white flag of surrender. Her father once had doubts from his people and a few actually shunned him, without parties, backup, or anything else, he proved to them that his City, their city, will never raise the white flag, never ever.

Blinking her tears away, Aileen loaded her gun and began to shoot the enemy, along the way, she would stop at an Ace or more at a time and look at them directly in the eye, and with the firm, determined look, they too know, surrendering is never an option and they joined back to the side of Aces.

"Thank you, Aileen, the white flag will never rise on your's and your father's city. Never ever." A man of the Ace of Diamonds said as he loaded his gun, preparing to help fight off against the enemy. Aileen smiled and gave a firm nod before going back into the battlefield.

Mattieu/The Lord of Hearts searched the mess for Alastair/The Bishop of Clubs. Alastair was like a little brother to Mattieu, he cared about him more than any of Aces combined. The Bishop of Clubs was the only person who knew exactly what The Lord of Hearts went through cause he experienced it himself.

The sound of a man groaning made Mattieu/The Lord of Heart's ears perk up, he knew that sound anywhere. Running towards a man pile of four, he shoved them all to the street ground with all his might to see Alastair/The Bishop of Clubs at the very bottom.

"Oh Matt, what a pleasant surprise. This looks awkward to you huh?" Alastair/The Bishop of Clubs said, his tone of voice squeaky and awkward. Laughing, The Lord of Hearts got his friend out of the pile and on his feet brushing the dirt and small rocks off of his shirt, pants, and hair.

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"It looked like you were having one deathly orgy." Mattieu/The Lord of Hearts teased earning a slight pout from his fellow friend who then laughed in agreement.

Blackjack caught up to Aileen who was talking to a crowd of Ace of Diamonds, a ghost of a smile curled on his lips as he watched the duchess preach to her people. His arms crossed over his chest as he leaned against the brick wall and watched and listened to her talk, answering questions, arguing with excilence and great conculsion. She will become a great leader, her father had raised her well. How proud would he be if he were to see her now.

Looking up from the crowd, Aileen's eyes met with Blackjack's, as she stared at him, she could feel her body heat up and her cheeks grow red furiously. The man she loved since the beginning of time was just a few walks from where she stood. Oh how she wanted to show her people that she need no high powered man to help her rule, if they will not accept Blackjack then so be it, she will rule alone.

"She is quite the preacher huh?" Xavier/Shadow Rider said, standing next to his companion who still had his eyes on Aileen, like a hawk in mating season. "You know Blackjack, as soon as everyone finds out about your relationship with Aileen not only will they banish you or even kill you but Aileen will be stripped of her title or force to marry a man who has power but she will never love and vise versa."

As much as it pained for Blackjack to hear those things, Xavier/Shadow Rider was right. He cannot risk Aileen's life in public or private cause nothing remains private for long but, he was willing to give his all for her until the end of time. Blackjack once denied the power and eternal of love until Aileen arrived and convinced him love overpowers all things including the blackest heart. She shattered him, got him down on his knees, she got him out of his comfort zone, he loved her for that and her people did too.

"What do you mean the Aces of Diamonds are not surrendering?!" A man shouted on the phone, his soul filling up with rage. "Well make them surrender! Do everything and anything you can, we cannot let The City of Diamonds rise to full power again! DO IT!"

Slamming the phone down, the man sat on his leathered chair and closed his eyes sighing. Rubbing his temples, a headache started to form as the man breathed heavily. There was no way he could allow this to happen, he had thought with the death of Crispin/Duke of Diamonds the most beloved, determined, and firm man of all Aces would corrupt the City of Diamonds which it did and even got the Aces of Diamonds to side with him but there was one important thing he had forgotten about....

Aileen.

Aileen, the daughter of the Duke, Duchess of Diamonds, was the most important ingrediant, if he had killed her, The City of Diamonds/Atlantic City, who sore they would never raised the white flag and kneel down would have. He had made a terrible mistake. Not only Aileen was just as beloved as her father and is next in line but she is very well protected by personal Aces, her people, and all of the other Aces. There had to be someone or something that is very close to the girl, and with that someone at the mercy of his feet, he can get her to give up her throne.

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Locking her arms around Blackjack's Aileen looked up into the eyes of the man she loved and smiled, capturing his attention as he looked down, admiring her facial figure with a broad smile. Aileen knew his smiles were rare and it took someone very close to his heart to make him smile just like that.

"That was quite the speak princess." Blackjack complimented taking note of the slight blush appearing on the duchess's cheeks as she shyly tilted her head to the ground. She was never the one to speak out in public, this has certainly been an ice breaker for her.

"Oh, I'm not even sure if I could build up the courage to do it again Blackjack." Aileen replied with a slight giggle.

Blackjack shook his head and tilted the duchess's chin up gently with his fingers to make her look into his eyes deeply, "I know you Aileen, you have your father's courage and heart, you can do it again, never say you "can't" cause can't, there is no such word. There is only "I can" or "I won't".

How his words always manage to hit her to the core was beyond her but she knew Blackjack's always right and is never wrong. "I can't" was never an option for anything cause there was nothing in the world that was impossible, everything was either possible or nearly, when you can't find your way through one situation, use a different route and kill two birds with one stone.

"Aileen! Blackjack!" Stacey/Dark Knight yelled out, running towards them. Her alarming voice, broke the two Aces out of their trance and the two separated just in time. "Aileen Blackjack, it's Shadow Rider, I can't find him."

Bounded hand and foot with a gag wrapped around his mouth, Xavier/Shadower Rider had no clue as to where he was. Blindfolded to cover his vision, he used his sense of hearing and his feet as he heard laughter, smelled smoke, and the sound of cards being shuffled.

"Who would have thought we would catch an Ace and right under their very noses." One of the men said, taking out the cigar from his mouth to exhale the smoke.

"Aye, I agree. He certainly was a hard knock to handle, hard head 'e has." The other said, his arms crossed over his chest as he cocked his head to the side, watching over Xavier/Shadow Rider as commanded by their leader.

None of them have never seen who their leader was, they have only heard his voice and know very little about him, the most accomplished they knew of their leader's command and doing was the assassination of Crispin, The Duke of Diamonds; now, they wait for his command to assassinate Aileen, the Duchess of Diamonds, daughter of the Duke.

Xavier/Shadow Rider wanted to glare coldly at the men who bound him and beat the living shit out of them both then walk out with their decapitated heads in his hand like warning flags, but the more he tried to untie himself, the tighter the knots, an intense throbbing pain on his wrist caused him to stop. he was for sure that if he tried any future, he would bleed to death.

"Oh good, you finally stopped struggling, now, we can get this business started." A man said, most likely smiling. Xavier/Shadow Rider's head was straight on, he had learned to recognize the voices of the followers and this was most definitely not a follow but perhaps a leader, their leader.

The Four Aces

While pacing back and forth in the living room of Alastair/Bishop of Clubs room, Matthieu/Lord of Hearts, called upon another Ace Leader, Ivan, The Baron of Spades. Where he lived, New York, they were notorious for their fasion, Broadway, and above all, their spy gear, perfect for hunting down Xavier/Shadow Rider without being seen or heard.

"There, we're almost done now all you have to do is press Control F5." Ivan/Baron of Spades explained through the other line. Everyone watched as Mattieu/Lord of Hearts nodded his approval but then spoke it remembering that there was no way his friend could have been his gesture.

"Thank you, that will be all," As soon as he said that, the two hung up and Mattieu/Lord of Hearts turned his attention towards the rest of the group who were waiting for the instrutions. "Alright, we wait for another few minutes then we click on Control F5."

The wait for the Ace of Spades to do their work took longer than they have imagined, something was up. Pacing around, Blackjack tapped his fingers against his thigh thinking of all possible things of what could have happen but all he could come up with were gruesome but none that he had ever experienced. Blackjack stopped in his track when he felt a firm yet gentle hand covering his own rough, strong one.

"It will be okay, the Baron of Spades will inform us soon if anything is a-mist." Aileen said, placing a reassuring and comforting hand inside the man she loves own. Blackjack curled his fingers until the two hand entertwine, he looked at her and smiled softly before nodding in agreement.

Dark Knight/Stacey was growing impatient, spinning around on the chair she sat one last night, she threw her arms up and exclaimed, "how much longer?!"

BLEEP!

"It's them," Matthieu/Lord of Hearts said as everybody raced to the computer screen where an e-mail popped up on the screen typed in and sent by Ivan/Baron of Spades himself. Mouthing the letter, Mattieu/Lord of Hearts nodded his head in approval before doing exactly as the letter had said, all of a sudden, the inside of a luke-warm light room appeared with only one bright spot light directed underneath Shadow Rider/Xavier.

"Rider!" Dark Knight/Stacey exclaimed obviously worried and anxious. The other Aces and the leaders all stopped and turned their heads towards Dark Knight/Stacey who looked back at them with a cold stance. Alastair/Bishop of Spades shook his head in amusement before looking back onto the screen where Shadow Rider/Xavier was being tortured into giving out vulnerable information to seize control over all ACES.

Aileen covered her ears and buried her face into Blackjack's chest proving Shadow Rider/Xavier's agonizing pain too much for her to bear, Death Star/Sara was the same as well and held onto Death Bringer/Sam's hand but out of everyone in the room, no one has it as bad as Dark Knight/Stacey does.

Another punch was thrown at Shadow Rider/Xavier's face dislocating his nose making it bleed. The Ace of Hearts coughed up blood and spat it onto one of the SWAT team who growled viciously and held up his gun at the center of the Ace of Heart's face. A daring smile formed on Shadow Rider/Xavier's bloody mouth as he mouthed, "do it".

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Hearing the clicking sound of the gun was no threat but a friend to him, he closed his eyes and whispered one name and one name only, "Stacey" but the sound never went off and the bullet never flew, instead a man commanded the SWAT person to lower his weapon.

"Well, well, well," The man said in amusement. "Shadow Rider of The Ace of Hearts. The second man to form, the notorious, *The Four Aces*. How lucky are we to have you here with us today."

Shadow Rider/Xavier gave a knowing glare at the man who ordered the abduction of him but they all well know that it was the Duchess who they wanted to kidnap or better yet, Blackjack, the leader and most dangerous of them all but oh, they wouldn't torture or kill Blackjack, oh no, they would destroy him until he's long forgotten.

"Whatever or whoever it is you want, I will never give in. I will die in excruciating pain before I betray my brothers and sisters." The Ace of Hearts snarled receiving laughter from the men surrounding him and their leader. The leader did nothing but cross his arms and scowl a deep scowl.

"Wise words for a foolish man. What we do is justice, what you do brings our world down into the abyss," The leader said receiving murmurs of agreement but a scoff from The Ace of Hearts who spit on his shoes. Glaring coldly at Shadow Rider/Xavier, he snapped his fingers and ordered the torture to commence.

As the Aces kept watching and wincing, Blackjack shook his head in disgust and slammed his fist onto the desk and lead out a roaring curse unlike ever before. This surprised Aileen but nervously and admirably, she liked, no, loved this side of him. Protective and menacing of his fellow brothers and sisters Aces.

"Dammit all to hell! Where could we be?!" Blackjack exclaimed/growled. Everybody shook their heads until another *bleep* was heard, an email from Ivan/Baron of Clubs was sent once again. Quick as a flash, Alastair/Baron of Spades opened up the email.

Shadow's underground. I repeat, Shadow is underground. There are about one than 10,000 of men with him. There might be a live execution as well.

Mattieu/Lord of Hearts read and re-read the email before clicking everything off and straightening up his back, "pack your gear everyone, we're going underground."

Blinded and with his hands bound behind his back, Shadow Rider/Xavier was lead out to the shooting range to be "executed" but the Ace of Hearts was read to die, he was not afraid, the only thing he was afraid of was if this had been Stacey instead of him.

"Now, since we are a few steps away from your fate, I suggest you start talking instead of spitting. Tell me EVERYTHING about The Aces, their secrets, their prize possessions, their weakness," The leader whispered threatenly but all he got was silence. "Suit yourself. Strap him in boys, we've got our first Four Aces execution."

As the men cheered and roughly dragged Shadow Rider/Xavier into the room where a leather chair was placed at the far end in the center of the room. Brown leather straps were connected to the body, head, arms, and legs of the chair to keep him secured and there were towels to clean the blood.

The Four Aces

Shadow Rider/Xavier lead out a soft sigh and whisper so none but him could hear.

"I'm sorry..."

Chapter 13

The drive where the location of The Ace of Hearts was a long drive, it drove everyone, especially Blackjack and Dark Knight/Stacey crazy. Tapping her nails onto the car, she looked onto the horizon with great impatience and nervousness, the feeling she has for Shadow Rider/Xavier has progressed from time to time since the first time she saw him, but in the beginning, she despised him and his big head.

This was Stacey's first day of meeting with The Duke of Diamonds, Crispin, and she was anxious to see what the man is. She had heard many stories about him but as she was growing up, she had learned to never believe in other people's tales but experience the tale herself. As she continued to walk down the drive-way towards the grand house with diamonds all around, resembling the City of Diamonds, it sparkled in the sunlight making it radiant and full of various colors.

Walking up the stairs and taking a few steps on the porch and through to the door, Stacey placed her luggage down on either side of her but before she could raise her hand to knock on the door, a maid showed up and opened the door.

"Ah, you must be the new arrival, Miss Stacey of Ace of Spades correct?" The maid asked/stated. Stacey stood in front of the woman gapping like a fish. She could not believe it, was the man stalking her? Or was he really expecting her that much? "Well, anyways, I will get your luggages and you can go wait in the living room, just down the hall. His grace will be down in just a bit."

Turning her head from left to right, she examined the inside of the home and found it intriguing with so many sparkles from the sunlight and colors, inside the living room where a young man with black hair sat. His right leg was over lapping his right lap, his left arm was rested on the head of the cushion and his right arm on the arm of the chair. When Stacey saw him, she was sure she was looking at the model of the statue in the middle of the hallway.

The man's head was turned to the side, not seeming to notice her, she did not mind but yet again, she had a wondering what color his eyes were. Were they brown? Green? Hazel? Blue? Or Heterchromica? As the mysterious man's head turned towards her attention, she gasped quietly. She did not expect the man's eyes to be...silver.

"You must be a playboy girl. You're far too sexy to be an Ace." The man said with a charming/wicked smile.

At first Stacey was in a trance that he was opening his mouth, speaking to her, but as his words re-played in her mind, she shook herself out of the trance and glared coldly at the man, her hands planted on her hips.

How. Dare. He...

"What...What...H-How dare you think that?!" Stacey said as rage and coldness filled up inside her. Shadow Rider/Xavier only chuckled in response as he got up and extended his hand out for a shake, his broad smile making her both weak in the knees and irked

"Hi, I'm Shadow Rider," He said receiving a scoff from her. Shadow Rider, what kind of a name is that? Stacey sighed heavily and shook the man's hand ignoring the sparks she felt when she did so. "Of Ace of Hearts."

The Four Aces

Stacey's eyes widen and so did her mouth. He's an Ace!

The first moment Death Bringer/Sam saw Shadow Rider/Xavier was a bet, a bet that nearly involved getting him killed by an Ace of Clubs but rescued, after being betrayed, by Shadow Rider/Xavier, his childhood classmate from highschool, just before Shadow Rider/Xavier ran away from home to pursue his dreams of being an Ace.

Samuel was going by the name Adrian as it was his real name and he had no authority to change his name. He despised it so much that whoever spoke his first name, he would punch their nose then rob them of their wallets, he was sent to juive for numerous accounts of theft and into mental institutions for counts of violence and quick temperness. Doctors and therapists have both proclaim Samuel to be "safe" to return to school.

On his way to his locker, he was greeted his a crowd of screaming girls; quickly, Sam backed away to the side to let the girls run by without being trampled on. He turned his head towards the attention of the where the girls were heading to and sighed heavily.

Xavier...

Sam and Xavier were rivals and everyone knew it. Also competing against each other and Xavier always winning every single battle and every single heart well, almost all hearts. There was indeed Sarah, the very girl Sam had a crush on but she was in a different school, a school run by policemen or ex-policemen and he was glad she and Xavier never met.

"Well, well if it isn't Sam. What shall we bet on this time?" Xavier asked in a cocky manner, making everyone around him laugh. Forming his hand into a fist, Sam snarled and glared hard at the floor thinking of a bet, perhaps, just perhaps, this might be the one bet he could win at...

"I bet you can't steal 100,000 dollars from the Captiol City of Boston!" Sam shouted out not realizing what he was betting on.

Everybody stopped and turned their heads toward Samuel stunned and in disbelief, even Xavier was stunned but that face was soon replaced with a grin, extending his arm out, his grin widen into a smile.

"You're on."

Venturing into the Captiol City of Boston, The City of Clubs, Samuel was haivng second thoughts about making a bet. What if this turns out all wrong? What if he puts them both in dire danger? What will be the consequences? What if, he kills them both?

Sweat began to pour from his brows and his throat clumped all together. As he gulped, Xavier heard and turned his head, "having second thoughts? You backing out now? You know what happens". Soon, Sam had forgotten all his worries and thoughts, he knew well what would happen if one of them lost of forfeits, he snarled and looked out the window.

Samuel had never been to The City of Clubs, only seen heard of it. He had expected it to be full of various clubs like of Las Vegas and it was, clubs for all ages and all sexes. It amazed both him and Xavier who was gapping like a fish in awe.

The Four Aces

'Well, I hope I don't get us killed' Sam thought to himself as the car came into a parking stop and the two young boys got out to start the bet.

Stealing 100,000 dollars from The Captiol City of The City of Clubs was going to be easy for Sam as theft was his specialty as for Xavier, he would have a harder time and never win the bet but all of that was about the change when an alarm got set off accidentally by him. Shaking out of his thoughts, Sam waited for the men to be done with their conversation before gliding down from the ceiling and landing in front of the safe.

"Alright, I will see you later then." One of the Aces said patting the other on the back before the two head out in opposite directions. Making sure that the ropes were secured, Sam waited for five more minutes before descending to the ground. Landing on his feet quietly, Sam threw pens across the floor and air to check for lasers, none and not even an alarm.

Being very cautious about his surroundings and where he steps, Sam made his way to the vault where he had to punch in the code at the right side. 'This shouldn't be too hard' Sam thought to himself as he began to punch in what he thought was the code, the alarm went off and no sooner than later, he was surrounded by Ace of Clubs.

Shit.

Cornered and no where to run, Sam raised both of his arms up over his head, a slight panic attack seized his mine and heart as he felt his whole body shake with fear. He couldn't make out what the leader was saying but he did sure sound mad the next thing he heard, he didn't want to, the sound of guns being cocked and loaded.

Sam closed his eyes tight, not wanting to see the guns being pointed directly him but before any of the bullets went off, he was soon dragged away from his spot. He opened his eyes to see Xavier was the one who rescued him. Both Sam and Xavier looked at each other and ran for their lives as the men open fire.

"You didn't have to rescue me. I brought us into this mess, I must pay the consequences." Sam said as the two dodge the bullets and use whatever was in front of them to use a baracades.

"To be fair, I forfeit the bet, the moment I saw you nearly get killed, I knew I couldn't let an innocent young man die." Xavier said.

Sam looked at Xavier sadly but held his hand and ran with him towards home.

The first moment both Blackjack and Aileen saw Shadow Rider/Xavier was he tried to be the leader of The Four Aces but Blackjack knew he was the alpha dog and until he learned what loyalty meant, The Ace of Hearts was only an omega.

"You think, that just because you are an Ace of Hearts does not mean you have authority over all. The King of Aces assigned me, ME to be your leader. Do you dare defy the King of Aces?!" Blackjack shouted, getting into Shadow Rider/Xavier's face.

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Shadow Rider/Xavier, who seemed unnerved by Blackjack's response, scoffed and smirked at him. He knew he was treading on thin ice and one more smart reaction could get him in trouble but who can blame him? They asked for it and for all he knew, he should be the leader, he knew more than Blackjack did so why was he made the leader and not him? The question ran through his mind until he couldn't stand to be in the same room as Blackjack.

Venturing through the hallway, he stopped into the kitchen and grabbed himself a beer bottle, leaning against the counter, he took a few gulps before setting the bottle down and meeting eye to eye with The Duchess who had her hair up filled with jewels and wearing a dress that could fill up a whole room.

The Duchess sighed and tried to sit down but her dress prevented her from doing so. Shadow Rider/Xavier watched her and tried his best not to laugh as it would be very disrespectful. She finally sighed in frustration then turned her attention towards him.

"You know, The King of Ace didn't chose Blackjack to be the leader just because he has been an Ace longer but he knows who to boost people's self-esteem, make someone feel as if they belong. When was the last time you call someone "worthy"?" Aileen asked before stalking off.

She had a good point, looking back, he only cared about his own reputation, making others seem worthless, not for him or society, Blackjack fit the scale, though he was young, he was a father-figure to all, he couldn't argue with that. Shadow Rider/Xavier drank more of his beer, not noticing that Blackjack had been listening this whole time.

"How much longer?!" Dark Knight/Stacey shouted as she looked onto the traffic, blocking their view and destination.

The driver sighed and leaned back, obviously in the same state as Dark Knight/Stacey was but everyone knew that the only person able to calm her or even win in an argument was Shadow Rider/Xavier himself, not even Blackjack who was the leader can calm her and her stubbornness, what the Ace of Heart saw in her was beyond anybody.

Aileen looked onto the horizon to see the cars moving ever so slowly, as each time passes, her nervous system grows. Will Shadow Rider/Xavier be alright? Will they make it in time to save him? Or will it be too late? All these questions ran through her mind, making her dizzy, Blackjack noticed and tried his best to calm her when he was panicing as well.

"Oh Johnny, will he be okay?" The Duchess whispered, saying Blackjack's real name as she sobbed quietly. The leader of The Four Aces only shrugged as he gave her a comforting hug.

After being strapped in the chair and secured, Shadow Rider/Xavier tried his best to set himself free but the more he struggled, the tighter the straps became and soon enough, he gave up. They unblind-folded him wanting him to witness the men who was going to execute him but there was more, cameras were all around, this was being broadcast.

"One last chance my friend. Surrender yourself and your loyalty to me, give out every detail we need, and we will set you free unscathed." The leader said, now taunting him more than promising.

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Shadow Rider/Xavier glared coldly at the man before spitting at this face. Wiping the spit off of his cheek, the man slapped the Ace with all his might before giving the order to execute. The Ace of Hearts inhaled and exhaled his remaining last breaths as he looked at the guns pointed directly at him, cameras were on and rolling, and other SWAT members surrounded the building outside so no one can save him.

"Ready!" The Sergeant shouted as the men cocked and loaded their guns. "Aim!" Shadow Rider/Xavier closed his eyes for a brief moment as flashbacks of his friends, family, and his life danced before his eyes.

The first time he met Matthieu, The Lord of Hearts, he and his father were having one of their daily arguments, usually it'll go away by the time his father's hang-over comes to a stop but this time, he was not drunk and neither was Xavier.

"You are a lazy punk!" His father shouted/scold.

Xavier scowled and shouted back, "easy for you to say! You do nothing but sit your arse down and drink! That's all you do! You treated mum like a slave and never ONCE did you thank her! You never even showed up at her funeral or in the hospital when she needed YOU!"

As the two went on, the old man has had enough. He raised his fist and contacted his son's nose, dislocating it and making it bleed. No remorse was shown in the father's eyes, just pure hatred and dissatisfaction.

"Get out!" Was all he shouted and Xavier left without another word.

Xavier wandered around the streets of Miami for what seemed like forever, trying to find a place to stay. He wished he and his family have never moved, he could have roomed with Sam if this happened. He was worried for his friend, people hate him because of him but what could he do? Nothing.

Sliding down a brick wall, Xavier brought his knees up to his chest and lowered his head down, sobbing, he didn't even notice the man and his comrades looking down at him with sympathy, he was in too much of a wreck to do so.

"Are you okay?" The man asked, making Xavier jolt up, taken aback. Xavier examined the man and noticed he was reading an Ace of Hearts ring. The man smiled at him when he noticed he was looking at his ring. "Hello, my name is Matthieu, Ace of Hearts, The Lord of Hearts."

Xavier's eyes widen as he admired the Lord. He wasn't just any Ace, he was not a Ace but The Ace. He ruled the crime field of Hearts, he was one of five Aces. Xavier scrambled to stand up to show his respect to the Ace. The Ace of Hearts chuckled and extended his hand out.

"Come." He smiled a friendly smile as he waited for Xavier to take his hand. Without hesitation, Xavier placed his own hand on top of the Ace's and walked along with The Ace of Hearts with his men following behind.

When Shadow Rider/Xavier opened his eyes, he gave a daring smile, the same smile he gave to all his fellow Aces when he first met them and winked at them all, he was ready to meet his fate. The leader scowled and

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shook his head in disappointment but Shadow Rider/Xavier was unphased by it all.

"FIRE!"

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"FIRE!" The leader shouted as his men start to open fire. Shadow Rider/Xavier closed his eyes not wanting to watch Death fly right towards him. He heard the bullets but never felt them, he never felt cold, or the white flashes people claim you would get when you are one minute away from taking your last breath.

The Ace of Hearts finally dared to open his eyes and when he did the men who had once surrounded him in full health and guns at the ready were now surrounding him in a pool of their own blood. Looking all over the floor, he then looked up to see several men walk towards him. They were wearing black and gold bandanas around their lower faces with sunglasses covering their eyes. Shadow Rider/Xavier could not make out who they were but he knew they weren't of "The Law".

The leader of the mysterious saviors walked up towards Shadow Rider/Xavier and whistled in command to untie him. As two men did so, The Ace of Hearts examined the man. He was wearing exactly what they were wearing but different, he was wearing a suit, he had a large gold ring on his left finger, and his sunglasses seem a bit bigger than his men. As he continued to examine the man, he looked at his bandana which held a symbol, but not just any symbol, a crown with all four aces surrounding it. This could only mean one thing...

After the men untied him and helped him up, Shadow Rider/Xavier cleared his throat, his eyes awestricken, finally realizing who the man was, who his savior was.

"The King."

As soon as the Four Aces, The Lord of Hearts, Bishop of Clubs, and their Ace brotherhood all made it to their destination and ran down the corridors guns fully loaded, they made a quick discovery that the SWAT member team were all dead, the aroma of death filled up the air and no matter where you stepped there was blood everyone but most important, Shadow Rider/Xavier was gone.

"Was he taken again?!" Dark Knight/Stacey yelled/asked as she kicked a SWAT's head as hard as she could.

Mathieu/The Lord of Hearts shook his head in response, "no, not taken, rescued. By whom I don't know..." Everybody looked at The Lord with both confusion and relief. They were glad their friend was safe from death but then again, who was the gang that rescued him?

"We must find Shadow at once; he could be in more danger than he was." Aileen stated, not wanting to imagine any horrible circumstances Shadow Rider/Xavier could be in any longer. Blackjack nodded his head in agreement as he followed Aileen out the underground floor who was leading the way.

"So, why don't you take off the masks?" Shadow Rider/Xavier asked as he raised his wine glass for another spot of whiskey. As the room fell into silence and only the sound of the drink being poured into the glass was heard, every Ace of Kings looked at him as if he was going to take away the most valuable thing they all possess.

The King sighed and shook his head, smiling slyly. He meet his gaze at The Ace of Hearts with a more serious tone than before, "if you knew our history, you should know well we never take off our masks for anything or anyone," The Ace of Kings all murmured and nodded their agreements. "I shall have one of my

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men call upon the other Four Aces to come and get you."

As The Ace of Hearts watched as The King gave demand to one of his men to call his brothers, sisters, and his boss, he took a sip of his whiskey and leaned back against his long chair. His wounds were bandaged and cleaned; he was feeling better by the minute.

The King looked back at The Ace of Hearts and asked if he wanted something to eat to tie him over until supper was ready. Shadow Rider/Xavier shook his head in response as The King nodded then commanded everyone in the room to leave so he could have his peace.

Searching once more for Shadow Rider/Xavier, Dark Knight/Stacey was becoming so fidget that it took Blackjack, Death Bringer/Sam, and two Aces of Bishops to restrain the female Ace so Death Star/Sarah could subdue her by hitting the pressure point, knocking her out.

"There, Death, would you carry Knight and lay her down, be sure you don't bump her head." Blackjack said as Death Bringer/Sam nodded picking his fellow Ace up with no effort. As Blackjack watched his brother Ace place her in the car, the unmistakable noise of a cellphone went off.

The Bishop of Clubs/Alastair took out his phone to see if it was his as well as everyone else did. Bringing the phone up to his ear, Matthieu/The Lord of Hears, answered to the call, walking away from the crowd of people and towards the car.

"Yes? Yes?oh. OH! Yes, yes of course, thank you, we'll be there at once," The Lord said to the man on the otherside. After he closed his phone, he whispered a "thank you" then turned to everyone else. "It was one of The Ace of Kings. Rider's with them."

As Shadow Rider/Xavier sat across from The King, blowing on his soup to cool it down, he began to wonder about the man's appearance. He knew he had seen those eyes, hair, and lips before but he didn't know where and from whom. The thought kept him so very busy, he nearly forgot about his supper.

"Are you okay Shadow? Something the matter?" One of the King of Aces asked, his face full of concern. The Ace of Hearts looked down to see he made little to no progress in eating his soup. "Does it taste bad? Are you sick? Is there something else I can get for you?"

Shadow Rider/Xavier snapped out from his trance and ate more of the soup, the Aces sighed in relief and ate some more of the supper but The King saw right through him, the young man was still worrying. He's worried still about his Four Aces but he knew they will come for him, the Code for the Aces is always- "Never leave your brothers behind".

Looking back up at the Ace of Kings, he shook his head with a smile. "No thank you, I was just merely thinking about my brothers and sisters. The Four Aces."

The King overheard what Shadow Rider/Xavier had just told one of his men and slightly nodded in agreement, raising his glass to his lips and tipped it.

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"What do you mean you forgot to fill up the gas tank?!" The Bishop of Clubs/Alastair exclaimed, practically throwing his arms up in the air. The Lord of Hearts/Mattieu chuckled nervously but couldn't help but thought just how cute The Bishop looked now. In truth, no matter how he looked, The Lord had always believed Alastair was cute no, beautiful.

"Do not fret little chicken." The Lord of Hearts/Mattieu said, using the nickname he had once called The Bishop of Clubs/Alastair when they were young boys.

The Bishop's eyes widen, "CHICKEN?! How dare you call me by that name! We were nothing but kids and yet you kept that cursed name?! It was only one time!"

The rest of the Aces' eyes widen in confusion and anxiousness, they wanted the silly argument to move on but they knew they needed to find their fellow Ace. Leaning forwards, Aileen tapped the shoulder of The Lord grasping his full attention.

"Yes Duchess?" He asked.

"I'm sorry to have ruin this childhood arugment moment, but we have an Ace to meet with." The Duchess of Diamonds reminded them. The Two lead Aces looked at each other and nodded thier heads in agreement. Separating themselves from each other, Aileen leaned back against her seat as did The Bishop of Clubs/Alastair while The Lord of Hearts/Mattieu placed both hands ten and two.

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