

Solace Excerpt:

“I mean it, Solace. What’s going on? Who do you really work for?”

She opened her mouth then closed it, and those lips he coveted flattened into a line of determination barring words she seemed to be fighting to hold back.

“If you have to ask, I can’t tell you,” she finally said, her gaze searching his face as if she sought some grand truth, her expression almost one of pain. “I really do need to see everything.”

Tanner balled his hands into fists, trying to keep his cool. Accustomed to giving orders, blindly taking them went against the grain. It went against his

instincts. It went against his training. What if she were lying? The stuff she was about to see was beyond top secret. It was experimental, and in the wrong hands, it could bring down an entire country.

“Please,” she said.

Although unspoken, the words trust me seemed to fill the space between them.

“It truly is important,” she added.

Tanner stepped in front of her. She didn’t blink or flinch, but rather she calmly returned his malevolent glare, the one he’d perfected to scare his worst combat enemies. Her show of toughness turned him on. And friend or enemy, he wanted her—right here, right now.

He eased closer, his body pressing hers back against the wall. Recollections of being with her at the party and the stolen kisses on her balcony flooded his mind. “Are you remembering what we shared that night?” he asked.

In answer to his question, a hint of a smile curved those luscious lips.

“Business first,” she whispered, against his cheek. “I promise it will be worth the wait.”

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