Logan doesn't really think it's a big deal.

Sure, having sex with your boss who may or may not be old enough to be your dad might not be the most normal thing in the world, but it's not like they're not both consenting adults and doing something wrong or that Logan doesn't know what he's getting into.

Because he does, and James's touches are soft and kind— never too hard, unlike all the other people Logan has been with— and he whispers such sweet words into his ears, even when Logan is being unreasonable and it makes him feel warm and loved and everything that he craves.

James makes him feel wanted.

Logan knows that people who don't know him or James personally may think it's weird, but he doesn't care. He'll be the first to tell people that he was the one who even started this whole relationship. That he was the one who took the initiative and told James that he wanted him.

So, it wasn't like James was some creepy old man who forced Logan into it either.

He was given the power in their relationship and he was the one who laid out the rules and the pace of how fast he wanted to take things, and James has always tried his best to follow them. He stopped when Logan told him to, and he waited until he was ready. Hell, James had waited months— months! — for a stupid 18 year old Logan to finally stop being scared after James confessed to him. And when Logan finally told James he had felt the same, James had kissed him so softly that it made him want to cry.

Because James had been the literal strategy director for Mercedes and Logan was just some young kid who could only dream of ever touching a F1 car and was stuck driving in Formula Renault and James believed in his potential— even if James had rejected him from the Mercedes junior academy, because Logan knows James still had his best interest in mind.

So really, it was strange that James would even want Logan. And it makes Logan feel so much more special, because James had chosen him out of all the other drivers.

And Logan has never been the first pick.

Not by his parents, not by his country, and certainly not when driving.

James has helped him so much over the years besides the whole sex thing, that sometimes, he honestly forgets about their whole arrangement. And sure, maybe James isn't exactly giving him an exactly easy time in the media recently, but James has always been a private man, so that's all that really matters in Logan's mind.

What they're doing is normal, has been for years.

And he has everything handled.

So, he doesn't understand why Oscar is being such a dick about it.

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It slips out during a paddle match between the two of them— because of course Oscar would be the first person to know — in the middle of a hot September in his Florida.

They're only together in Fort Lauderdale because it's winter break which means everyone in the paddock is scattered across the globe enjoying their time away until the season starts up again and he manages to guilt trip Oscar into coming over to the States for a week. He's still riding on a high of having his contract renewed and the soft kisses James had peppered across his body after. His cheeks burn slightly at the memory.

Luckily, it's hot– far hotter than it should be in September, but Florida's always been like that, beaming sun shining against burnt skin and the sound of waves crashing against the shore—which gave his pink cheeks an excuse, but that didn't help with his legs feeling like they were about to give way onto the floor. Even then though, Logan didn't mind much, not when he was finally able to bask in Oscar's familiar presence after what felt like years of not.

Sure, they were talking more than in the middle of the year, but their relationship is a far cry from how it was during their Prema days, where they would practically spend every second of the day with each other. So, it was safe to say that Logan was excited.

And it had been going great, their banter was flowing well and he was just finally getting a few breathy laughs out of Oscar until he just had to ruin it.

Logan and James have always been quiet about what they have going on— even if Logan didn't care about what others thought, James has said since the beginning that it'll only cause trouble if people knew— and he hadn't even meant to tell Oscar. It had just slipped out, because Logans never been good at keeping secrets when he's excited, and even then Logan had thought that at the very least Oscar would be semi understanding of their relationship, even if it wasn't the most conventional one.

"Logan— that's like, not normal." Oscar says. His brown eyes wide in worry, his pupils dilated. It's far different from his usual monotone expression and it makes Logan's skin tingle slightly in discomfort. "Are—" Oscar lets out a curt, disbelieving laugh, "You're joking, right?"

Logan's brain seems to run through a dozen different things he can say— of a dozen different excuses, but he doesn't think he can exactly back track on his earlier words. And if Oscar is really his friend, then he would understand and be supportive of what he and James have going on.

"No." He replies, bringing his cold water bottle back up to his lips and trying to seem normal.

Like he isn't freaking out.

"But it's totally fine, Osc." He continues, forcing on a small smile and knocking an elbow into Oscars side to try and pull a laugh out of the Aussie to relive the thick tension now floating between the two of them.

"We, uh, both enjoy it." he decides to tact on, as Oscar stays resolutely quiet, staring into Logan as if he were crazy.

Which he isn't.

Because like he said, everything was fine.

"Logan," Oscar pauses, taking a deep breath in, "he's your boss." Oscar frowns, bending down to set his own water bottle on the floor.

It feels condensing; Oscar saying that as if Logan doesn't know the connotations of what he's doing with James. As if he doesn't realize that James is his boss.

"Can we just move on." He snaps, his cheeks feeling hot in shame as he turns away from Oscar's stare and walks back over to the small court.

Logan doesn't know why he's embarrassed. In any other situation, Logan doesn't think he'd care that much. But it's Oscar, and for some reason, he has always cared about what Oscar thinks of him.

Maybe it's because he was the only kid who talked to Logan back when he had just arrived in Switzerland, with a bad haircut and strong American mannerisms not carefully hidden yet. Or maybe it's simply just because he cares about what the Aussie thinks of him.

Logan doesn't know, but the heat doesn't seem to settle down as he feels Oscar's eyes trail across his body until he finally makes it to his spot.

His body feels tense as he lines himself up to the service line, his hands twisting the small plastic paddle and trying to find the right grip. Glancing up, to the empty court, his cheeks start to burn hotter.

"C'mon Oscar. Get on the court." He urges, gesturing wildly to Oscar's side of the court. "It's really not that big of a deal."

Oscar stays resolutely still, crossing his arms one over the other. "It is one Logan. We need to report this—"

Logan feels like he's burning under the grueling wrath of the sun. "Can you just leave it alone?" He snaps, turning to Oscar's shocked face. "I already told you I know what I'm doing."

"Well clearly you don't, because if you did you wouldn't be in a sexual relationship with your boss, Logan. What the fuck are you even doing?"

The words cut through Logan like a rush of turbulent waves as he throws his paddle down onto the court with a loud bang— which in any other situation Logan would be embarrassed about making, especially while *Oscar* was watching— and he doesn't exactly know what he was planning on doing before he's taking three long strides to where Oscar was standing.

"Fuck you." he spits, hoisting his bag up and throwing it across his shoulder and walking out of the court— pointedly ignoring Oscar's cries from behind him.

It's like every ounce of adrenaline and fake bravo he had built up when confronting Oscar—Oscar, of all people!— dissipates as soon as he leaves Oscar behind in their court. Everything in his body feels more sensitive with every step he takes, hurting as he rushes past the other courts—some empty, and some, concerningly full.

He knows he should probably be more concerned about if someone had overheard what had just happened, but all he can think about is getting into his car and forgetting about this fucked situation.

He doesn't regret what he did, putting Oscar in his place.

It's Logan's life, and he isn't some stupid American who needs some sort of guidance constantly. He'll deal with one of the PR girls' lectures any day of the week, because who was Oscar to be telling Logan that what he's doing isn't right?

He scoffs slightly as he finally makes it to the entrance of the building, tugging at the handle before jumping in surprise as someone taps on his shoulder.

Turning, he's expecting to see maybe an excited fan or maybe even another driver who had somehow made their way to Florida of all places. Instead, he's met with a confused looking Kim who's carrying a large McLaren branded duffle, and he's suddenly reminded of their trainers also being there.

"Logan?" Kim places a hand around Logan's arm, keeping him in place and as much as he would like to throw his hand off, he knows that Kim hasn't done anything wrong besides being the trainer of an utter asshole (he doesn't really mean that). "Where are you going? I thought we still had the court rented out for another hour?"

Logan nods, turning back to the door to try and leave again when Kim continues, "Where's Oscar?" Kim's head twists around as if Oscar would suddenly pop out around the corner—which Logan hopes he doesn't considering the fact that he's not sure if he could look at him right now.

He gives Kim a forced smile, pulling his lips upwards, "I'm just leaving early. Oscar should still be in the courts, he'll probably be up for another round."

He shoves Kim slightly back as he gets his shoulder out of the older man's grasp, sliding his body in between the door and headings straight to his small car.

He'll have to remember to text Elias that he won't be there when he comes back.

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Logan moans loudly, his hands desperately grasping for purchase on the dirty, cum ridden sheets as James thrusts into him, each snap of his hip feeling sharp and deep inside Logan. The cold AC blasts across his naked body as he shivers— both from waves of pleasure and the prickle of coldness biting his skin.

Everything is seeming to fade away as the loud ringing noise grows louder, his body clenching in pure pleasure that runs down to his toes. He knows he's about to cum, the building heat deep inside his stomach growing as if it's about to explode over when he lets out a sharp yelp. His eyes fly as James tugs firmly back on his hair, making his head burn in pain at the pressure of the pull on his scalp.

It hurts, and it seems to make any pleasure in his body run cold, bringing him back to the small hotel room that they're staying in.

"You like that, huh? You like that little bitch?" James spits, and Logan's face scrunches in displeasure at the words. "Oh, don't make that face at me Logan." James tuts, stopping his movement completely in order to force Logan to turn around and show his tear ridden face. "Say you like it Logan, say you like it for me." He coerces sweetly.

Logan shakes his head meekly, his entire body trembling underneath him.

James has been getting rougher with him recently, which Logan doesn't necessarily always enjoy, but he knows he has to start getting used to it. He knows he's getting older— he's no

longer the freshly 18 year old Logan that James had first gotten with, and he can't expect to get that same treatment.

But, he can't help but wish he was sometimes.

That he still had those same doe eyed expressions and the scrawny body that he had long since grown out of since getting into F1, because James seemed to like that version of Logan better (even if Logan liked the current him better). Of course the man had never explicitly said that, but Logan can tell.

"Don't be a brat Logan." James grunts, landing a hard slap to Logan's left cheek, "Be a good boy."

It stings in pain and Logan's face scrunches in pain as it aches, his body fighting with his mind for a moment before finally nodding his head, James' stare burning into his naked back. "I like it." He shakily moans out.

James grins approvingly, "Good boy, Logan." he whispers, patting his cheek before pulling back.

Logan squeezes his eyes shut, bright yellow spots filling his vision as he desperately tries to focus on the soft kisses James is pressing onto his back instead of the blooming pain on his cheek.

He just hopes it won't be visible tomorrow when they're doing media; he's in enough shit already.

"Can you try being a little softer next time?" Logan asks quietly, voice meek and small because he's always felt like he could only show his soft side around James. How he didn't have to act tough, because James just *knew* him.

His eyes trail James' naked figure, broad shoulders and pale skin, making its way to the small bed. It creaks under James' weight, the man now sitting on the bed.

He's not usually one to question what James wants. Not when James is already so kind to him, but he can't help but want James to be just a bit more gentle this time, especially after the unpromising free practice sessions he's had. James has been trying to reassure him that it will take time, but Logan can't help but feel on edge even if James has told him that what he says to the media isn't what's really going to happen.

James lets out a soft sigh, wiping the warm towel against Logan's torso, cleaning off the dried cum and sweat. "Was that too much for you?"

Logan shakes his head quickly in what feels like fear, "No- no! It's good. It's just I don't know about the whole hair pulling thing." He says, lifting his head up to meet James' loving gaze.

It's warm and passionate.

"I just thought you would like it too Logan." James says his tone clearly showing his displeasure. Logan feels slightly sick.

He didn't want to ruin the mood, especially not when James is in such a good mood due to Alex's FP1 and FP2 results— James keeps telling him his time "to shine" will come soon, but Logan can't help but be a little bit frustrated as they keep pushing back his updates.

"Forget about it." Logan whispers, leaning in closer to James' warm hand resting on his cheek.

James grins, "You're perfect." He praises, leaning his head down to meet Logan's slightly pursed lips. Logan moans in pleasure as James runs his hands softly along his hair. "I like it when you do that more." Logan says quietly as they pull apart.

James lets out a soft laugh, "What did I do to deserve you?" He mutters, landing one last bruising kiss upon Logan's lips before grabbing the dirty rag and heading towards the bathroom.

"What did I do to deserve you." Alex parrots back, his face light in amusement as he stares at Logan. "What type of teenage love are you having Logan?" His teammate laughed, staring at Logan from above his phone screen.

Logan's cheeks fill with embarrassment, quickly moving his gaze to his feet as he realizes what he just said out loud. He wonders what Alex would think if he told him that it was James, their boss who said that to him.

"It's nothing." He says quietly, avoiding the older man's piercing gaze.

Sometimes he feels like Alex can smell when Logan is hiding something. Like a shark when they smell a drop of blood in the vast waters of the ocean, or a bloodhound sniffing out a fox in a forest with thousands of trees.

"It's nothing," Alex mocks, laughing at Logan again before pushing himself up from his spot on the couch and waking over to where Logan was standing. He pats Logan's shoulder, "Just know I'm here if you need any advice. Or well, Lilly is here. I don't know how good my advice would be." Logan smiles at the mention of Lilly, Alex's girlfriend who had surprisingly taken him under her wing during a game of golf. "I don't think I'll need any advice."

Alex laughs, "You're in deep mate." He says, slapping Logan's shoulder one more time before walking towards the door yelling out a loud 'cheers' as he slams the door shut.

Later that day, it's decided that Alex would run his car for the rest of the weekend.

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Logan's head is pounding as he stares over the packed club below, each person packed closely together like one of those cans of sardines Elias would force him to eat because it's apparently "good for his body" and Logan can practically imagine the heat down on the dance floor. It would maybe be a good idea, the goosebumps littering his bare arm being a pretty noticeable effect of the blasting AC all clubs seem to have, but his head just throbs at the thought of being around that many people at the moment.

He's glad he doesn't have to be down there.

The colorful flashing lights burn against his tired eyes as he stares, and he can't help but wish that James didn't have to leave early to meet with his wife.

Logan knows that may be being unreasonable, but they were supposed to be eating dinner together tonight, and now since their plans fell through, Alex had taken it upon himself to drag him to some random post race party. He thinks it would maybe be more fun if he actually had something to celebrate, but Logan knows a P17 isn't much to run home about.

"You are not talking to Oscar, are you?" An accented voice suddenly says, sliding up against Logan's side in the empty booth and pushing a small drink in front of him.

Logan turns disgruntledly, wishing that the man dressed in a wrinkled light blue linen button up could have picked anywhere else to sit— especially since the entire VIP table was empty of any people since Logan had arrived.

"Carlos," He addresses the Spanish man, desperately trying to hold back the groan building up inside him. Carlos lets out a slight hum, "I need you to tell me what's up with you and Oscar." Carlos says plainly, his eyelashes fluttering slowly in fake innocence.

"I don't think it's any of your business man." Logan mutters, picking up the colorful drink Carlos had placed in front of him as Carlos drops his act, sighing disappointedly. "We have literally never talked before Carlos, and what makes you think we're fighting?" Logan questions.

Carlos lets out another disappointed sigh, "Look, Logan." He wraps an arm around Logan's shoulders, it's warm and heavy and Logan doesn't know if he wants to pull the man closer or throw his arm off.

"I know we don't talk much, but I have eyes, cabrón." He bluntly states, pushing Logan's head down to where the two McLaren drivers were having a seemingly heated discussion. "And I don't care about Oscar, but he's been hogging Lando and we are supposed to be playing beer pong with Daniel and Max, so I need you two to figure your shit out." Carlos explains, rolling his eyes slightly.

He suddenly regrets not taking a photo. He thinks if he took a picture of Carlos rolling his eyes he could have gone viral or something. 'Sassy Carlos' or whatever the fans say; James doesn't like him using social media much. James thinks he should leave it to his PR manager, so he doesn't get to see most of the fan interactions.

"We just got into an argument." Logan finally relents to Carlos, sliding a cold hand down his face in embarrassment.

"About?"

Logan hesitates, "Uhm, about James."

Carlos's eyebrows shoot up, "James?" He questions, leaning in closer. "What about James?" the tilt of his voice curious, *predatory*.

"Just some stuff."

Carlos's eyes narrow like a predator sneaking up on its prey, his slightly chapped lips pressed tightly together, "Some stuff, huh."

"Some stuff." Logan repeats, trying his best not to fidget under Carlos's inspecting gaze.

"Next year's contract?" Carlos pushes.

Logan lets out a short laugh, "Yeah, no." James had been more evasive about contract talk recently, and even he knows that neither he nor Carlos are stupid enough to not know what James is telling to the Media. "It's more personal."

It's also just generally a good idea not to talk about that kind of thing to a recently unemployed man.

Carlos hums quietly, releasing Logan's shoulder and calling over a man holding a tray of drinks. He whispers something into the man's ear— which Logan guesses is his order— before turning to him, "What do you want Logan?" Carlos asks.

"I'm fine with anything," Logan shrugs, watching as Carlos orders him a drink. They wait in silence until the server comes back, handing Carlos a bottle of some sort of beer and Logan a colorful looking drink topped with a basil.

Despite taking only a small sip of the dangerous looking drink Logan's nose instantly scrunches as he swallows, causing a rumble of laughter from the Spanish man beside him.

"It's not bad, no?" Carlos laughs, patting Logan's back as he coughs.

"Mate, what did they put in this?" He asks, inspecting the colorful drink in his hands. "Carlos?" He asks again when the other man stays silent.

"I gotta go Logan." Carlos suddenly says, placing his own bottle back on the table before rushing off, leaving a confused Logan at the table again. "What the fuck was that" he mumbles, watching as Carlos makes his way to the bathroom.

"He's dickmatized, mate." A voice above him answers curtly, and usually Logan would laugh at the crude comment. He really would because that's somehow his exact sense of humor, but their familiar Australian accent that has caused him to laugh so many times before, seems to make Logan freeze in place as the man slides into the booth placing themselves right where Carlos had just sat.

They sit in awkward silence— somehow managing to feel even worse than the silence between him and Carlos— before Logan finally feels his tongue uncurl around itself, "I thought you didn't want to talk to me anymore." he confessed, hand tightening against his cold cup.

"That was you who said that Logan, not me." Oscar scoffs. "And I'm still your friend."

Logan's lip curls a flare of anger curing through his body, "It sure didn't feel like that." He spits, feeling bolder as Oscar's expression turns shocked, his left eyebrow shooting up in surprise—an old habit of his that reminds Logan so much of a younger Oscar, and somewhere deep inside Logan aches at the sight.

"It didn't feel like that when you were staring at me like- like I was some kind of psycho, Oscar." he continues desperately trying to chase away the building guilt crawling up his throat. Oscar didn't deserve any sort of pity from him.

Oscar takes a deep breath in, "I'm just worried about you Logan." Even in the shitty club lighting Logan can tell his eyes have softened, all bite from his initial statement gone, and Logan curses at his inability to stay mad at Oscar for long periods of time.

He blames his younger self for this.

"I'm okay Oscar," He says softly— softer than he had originally wanted— back to the Aussie, and Logan's eyes wander as he watches Oscar's body physically decompress from his words and Logan can't help but wonder how much this whole situation had been affecting Oscar.

"I know I was being pushy, but I care about you Logan, I really do, and I would hate to see you hurt." Oscar whispers, his slightly downturned face looks more solemn as the lights cast a heavy shadow across Oscar's face, his face slightly blurs together and Logan has to manually repaint Oscar's face in his mind. "If you really do like him, I'll support you."

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Logan can practically taste the tension flowing through the room. It leaves a bitter taste lingering on his tongue, like one of those sour suckers Dalton would "trade" for his M&M's during Halloween, and Logan sinks further into his seat; he's always preferred sweet things over bitter.

His eyes flicker carefully to where James is sitting, his back straight and arms crossed in that mean sort of way. The way James always does whenever he's about to scold him— similar to how his mom would when he would leave a trail of ocean water into the house because he wouldn't bring a towel.

Logan knows it's not the same, though. There's no childish laughter or glee, this time Logan feels small, like he's somehow more of a child than he was back then being scolded by his mom. He feels practically like a dwarf among giants surrounded by the not exactly subtle glares being passed around the room, all directed towards him.

He knows he fucked up.

Bottled it into the barriers and caused a red flag, ultimately fucking up Alex's chances at points for the team.

The worst thing is, it was a rookie mistake. A snap of oversteer over a fast speed curb heading into a straight, and he was out. The right side of his barely repaired chassis smashed against the barrier, and the worried voice of his engineer ringing in his head.

"I think that should be all." James's voice forces him out of his thoughts, James's hand motioning towards Logan's direction, "Stay back for a minute, Logan, will you." He says, his voice curt.

Logan nods slightly as Alex exits the room with the rest of the blue cladded mass of workers, a sympathetic glint in his brown eyes, leaving Logan alone with James in the debrief room.

It's silent, scarily so if you were to ask Logan. The room feels colder, though perhaps it's just because he knew he could hide behind the Williams workers, even if they didn't like him very much.

Now, alone with James, it feels scary almost.

He's grown to know how James acts when Logan messes up a race—both their jobs being on the line messes with James's brain.

"I'm sorry." Logan whispers, his voice traveling silently across the room.

James just stares, his jaw clenched tightly, "It's fine." James finally says, though Logan can tell it's not. Not when James' hands are still clenched, and his eyes still feeling piercing.

"You finally understand Australia, right?"

Logan's breath catches his throat, his mouth dropping slightly. The memory of watching his mechanics carefully applying Alex's number onto his car burns in his mind at James's words.

James lets out a slight laugh. It's cold and distant, and Logan almost shivers at the tone, "Don't look at me like that Logan." He continues when Logan doesn't respond, "Don't look at me like you're scared, like I'm some big bad villain."

"I'm not." James whispers, his chair creaking as he gets up. "I love you." James says softly, his arms wrapping around the back of Logan's neck.

Logan feels the hairs at the base of neck prick up at Jame's soft breaths before he forces himself to relax. To melt into James's warm embrace— even if James has started to feel more cold than warm recently.

"It's all for show baby; me being mean. You know I just want what's best for you." James presses a soft kiss on the right side of his neck, his lips barely connecting with Logan's skin.

It feels like each soft touch of James's lips sears into him, brandishing into his skin. He wonders if it actually did, if a person were to come in if they would be able to see James's lingering kisses.

"You know Logan, I wouldn't need to be saying these things if you did what I told you to do." James scoffs, his finger pointed in Logan's face.

The ground under them is mushy, a reminder of the recent downpour of rain that has graced the paddock. Logan shivers slightly, he had forgotten his jacket inside his drivers room and James had practically pulled him into the dim walkway situated between the motorhomes.

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Logan sighs, "I tried James." He starts, trying to ignore James' piercing gaze, "I told my engineer that it didn't feel right—" He tries, only to be cut off by an increasingly irritated James, his face set in a deep scowl.

"Logan!" James lashes out, his hands throwing up to grab Logan's head.

Logan flinches back at the motion, but James' hands are already gripping his head, the world around him buzzing.

His mouth feels dry, sore like his voice has just suddenly disappeared.

And it's so fucking scary.

His chest hurts, his breathing picking up as James' speaks words that Logan can't even keep up with against the fuzziness filling his brain.

The flowers sitting at his doorstep makes him feel sick. Their beautiful long stemmed flowers in bright shades of varying blues— Logan's favorite color.

The petals are soft against the pads of his fingers as he runs them across the delicate petals.

His stomach turns as he sets out to find the base he always uses when James sends him flowers. It's an intricate piece of glass that James had gifted him, spouting that it'll be the only one he'll ever need.

But James is a liar, and he's always been one.
A sharp sting shoots across his face as Logan stands frozen next to the bed, looking dumbly at James' wife.
His breaths feel short as he watches her, practically shaking with rage. Her pretty face is twisted in anger and her lips are tightly pursed, and she makes him feel like a troublesome child again despite the fact that she's smaller than Logan in every way.
She's staring with the rage of a mother.
And in the back of his mind, Logan realizes that's because that's what she is.
It's yelling at him to leave, to run away, to flee or at least anything to get away from the women who had shown nothing but kindness to him whenever he went over to James' house, who would give him a warm hug whenever he left.
She's also the mother of James' new baby girl, who still probably hasn't said even her first

words and he feels his insides turning as her hands grab tightly at his carelessly thrown on shirt,

Somehow, her shaking feels even more powerful than any G force he would find in a car.

"Rachel." James' clipped voice comes from across the bed, "Let him go." His voice attracts the

violently shaking his back and forth.

attention of Rachel whose head practically snaps.

Her eyes narrow. "You fucking ass!" She screams, "
"You promised me." He quietly says pulling the blanket closer to his body earning an annoyed huff from James who was still buttoning his white dress shirt.
"I've already told you Logan, you have to be patient. These things take time." James says, turning around to face Logan. His eyebrows are pinched tight against his forehead, and Logan feels himself shrink under his gaze.
"It's just Alex has already gotten his renewal-"
James slams down his hand, "Well you're not exactly performing, are you Logan?"
Logan flinches, pulling his legs closer to his torso.
"Jost believed in me.