

100 Days 331

Chapter 331 Great Tension Between Two Men

Day Thirty-Nine...

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Nathan and Dave were left alone in the living room. There was growing tension between the two men. Dave knew Nathan Sparks as one of the most influential men in Towerville City. But he didn't have a good impression of Nathan because of his sponsor. Dave was indebted to him and his sponsor was hostile toward Nathan Sparks and the entire Sparks Family.

'What is he doing here? Who is the child? Does he know Abigail?' Dave asked himself, sizing Nathan up from top to bottom.

On the other hand, Nathan remained silent with his dominating aura. He continued to assess Dave's condo unit. For him, it was too small for them. 'Is she going to live here together with him?' Nathan's expression turned grim further.

"Cough!" Dave cleared his throat. He was the host of this house. He didn't want to be rude toward their uninvited visitor so he decided to talk to him. "Do you want coffee? I'll make one for you."

Dave didn't wait for Nathan's reply. He proceeded to the kitchen. Then he realized that their dinner was still untouched. He wondered when Abigail would be done talking with the child.

"Sigh. Our dinner was interrupted. Abi said she was hungry. She should eat on time," Dave murmured as he put a cover on their untouched food. He was concerned about Abigail.

Meanwhile, Nathan followed him behind. He wanted to confront the guy. "What is your relationship with Abigail?"

Dave turned around and glanced at Nathan with disbelief. "I should be the one asking you that, Mr. Sparks. What is a prominent man like you doing here in our simple home?"

'Our Simple Home?!' Nathan arched his eyebrow. 'Why do I feel like he is insinuating that the two of them are already cohabiting?'

"I'm..." Nathan paused. He didn't know what he would call his relationship with Abigail.

"You are?" Dave urged him to continue.

"I'm her crush," Nathan declared, making Dave speechless.

After a while, Dave let out humorless laughter. 'No wonder he hates Nathan Sparks. I begin to hate him as well. What a conceited man he is?!'

"I didn't expect that you are capable of joking, Mr. Sparks. It is so unlike you."

"I'm notâ€œ" Nathan was about to argue when Dave cut him off immediately.

"But I guess... you might be telling the truth. Lots of women have a crush on you. But Crush is different from Love so I don't have to feel jealous." Dave was confident with himself. He trusted Abigail more than anybody else. She might have forgotten him for now but she would still love him once she regained her memory back.

Dave flashed his smile just thinking about Abigail. Nathan became more annoyed because of Dave's reaction. He had the urge to rip the smile off his face. 'I wonder if he can still smile like this once he finds out that Abigail and I already kissed!'

Nathan was about to disclose something to Dave when his phone rang. It was a call coming from Little Ethan. 'Why is he calling me? He is with Abigail.' Nathan frowned, feeling puzzled.

Without further ado, Nathan walked out of the kitchen and answered the phone call. Little Ethan's voice was heard from the other line as soon as the call got connected.

"Dad, don't you dare say something to Uncle Dave, otherwise, you won't be able to set foot in this house again. We might not see Miss Abi again!"

Nathan was taken aback for a moment. 'Uncle Dave? Is he close with him? Just a while ago, this kid wants to eat that guy alive. Why is he trying to take sides with him, not me?!

"What did that woman say to you?" Nathan could no longer control his temper. He had been suppressing his anger ever since he set foot in this house and saw the scene between Abigail and Dave.

They looked like a couple a while ago. He even gave her a bouquet of white roses. He just confirmed his assumption. Abigail and Dave were definitely in a relationship. That fact was making him furious!

"Dad, calm down. Miss Abi said... she didn't remember Uncle Dave. She has amnesia, remember? As of now, Uncle Dave and Miss Abi are just friends." Little Ethan tried to coax his angry father.

"Then why did she come here with him?" Nathan scowled.

"Why do you think so? It's your fault, Dad. You don't have the right to be angry. You were the one who announced to the world that you were already engaged. Miss Abi wanted to avoid you for the moment."

"I'm not the one who spread the news about my engagement! I took down all the news articles." Nathan defended himself.

"Tell that to miss Abi yourself. I have to go now. I'll talk to you later, Dad. I'm still having an important discussion with Miss Abi." Not waiting for his Dad to say another word, Ethan hung up the phone.

Nathan could only sigh helplessly, tossing a glance at the closed door of Abigail's room where Abigail and Ethan were currently talking.

Meanwhile, inside the room, Abigail continued explaining things to Ethan.

"Thank you for doing this favor, Ethan." Abigail was referring to the conversation between Ethan and Nathan. Ethan warned his father not to say anything to Dave.

"Miss Abi, I really thought you didn't want to be with me anymore. I cried after knowing that you won't be coming home with us." Ethan put on a pitiful face. His eyes looked so sad.

But Abigail caressed his cheeks and said, "This is just temporary, Ethan. I'll come and visit you at the mansion. But for now, I have to stay with your Uncle Dave. Dave is a good man. I'll be safe here with him."

"But Dad won't like it. Aren't you trying to make my Dad fall in love with you? What are you going to do with him now?" Ethan asked Abigail expectantly.

Abigail took a deep sigh. "Ethan... my situation is a little bit complicated. I want to gain your dad's affection. But he is currently involved with another woman. I don't want to look like a desperate woman who is chasing after him. I have to secure my pride as a woman."

Ethan bobbed his head. "I understand, Miss Abi. Don't worry. I will ask my dad to fix this. I don't think he likes Helena. Believe me, Miss Abi. You don't have to worry about this engagement. My grandfather has a reason for doing this but I assure you that this will not end up in marriage. I won't allow that!"

Abigail let out a soft chuckle. Little Ethan had this kind of power, comforting her with just his words.

"Yeah. I always believe you, my cute little angel." Abigail couldn't help but give Ethan a peck on his cheek.

"You should trust me as well. I don't have feelings for Dave. I also have an important reason why I choose to stay here and live with him for a moment. Do you think your dad will get jealous?" Abigail asked Ethan curiously.

Little Ethan giggled giddily. "Of course, he is! Can't you see? He is fuming with rage right now because he is jealous. If he didn't care, then he wouldn't be here. But he is here with me! He wants you back, Miss Abi!"

Abigail: "..."

Chapter 332 If You Say... You Miss Me

Day Thirty-Nine...

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After waiting for twenty minutes, Abigail and Ethan finally came out of her room. Nathan and Dave were awkwardly sitting on the couch in the living room. The two men turned in their direction, giving them a questioning gaze.

Abigail was holding Ethan's hand. They were walking side by side, the young boy grinning from ear to ear. Ethan was now in a cheerful mood. Abigail managed to coax the young master. On the other hand, Nathan couldn't stop himself from staring at her sharply.

Abigail just ignored his sharp gaze as she shifted her eyes to Dave.

"Dave, I want you to meet Ethan Sparks, he is the loyal fan I mentioned to you this morning," Abigail introduced Ethan to Dave. "The man sitting beside you is his father, Nathan Sparks."

Nathan narrowed his eyes at her. The way she introduced him to Dave was so bland as if they were not related at all aside from being the father of her loyal fan, Ethan.

"Dave is my childhood friend. I'll be staying here for a moment for my safety. He is a policeman who will help me solve my case." Abigail glanced at Nathan meaningfully. In fact, she was assessing his facial expression. She found out that Ethan was right. Nathan was not happy to hear that she would be staying in this house with Dave.

'Hmm. Now you got the taste of your own medicine.' Abigail smiled inwardly, rejoicing. She wanted to get even with Nathan for making her jealous. This was her turn to test him. Though she felt so bad for using Dave in this scheme, she had no choice but to do this.

"I can help you with that. My men are already on the move, searching for the real culprit," Nathan spoke up. This was his way of telling her: 'You don't have to stay here because of that.'

"I also assigned a top-notch bodyguard who would keep you safe at all times. He is a policeman so I know he has a lot of things to do," Nathan added.

"I'm currently on leave. I can serve as her bodyguard while I'm solving her case. I will conduct an independent investigation regarding her case." Dave looked straight into Nathan's eyes, challenging him. They were having a cold war at this moment. The tension grew further as the two exchanged gazes at each other.

Abigail just rolled her eyes skyward. 'I can protect myself. I don't need anyone's protection. I'm not a damsel in distress. I am a warrior princess or shall I say... a villainess!'

"Dad, Uncle Dave, stop arguing. Miss Abi is mine to protect, not yours," the charming boy butted in, expressing his possessiveness.

Abigail giggled and said, "That's right. Little Ethan is all I need."

"Come, Baby, let's eat." Abigail guided Ethan to the dining area. She didn't want to take sides and choose between Nathan and Dave. She had to remain neutral in front of the two. Fortunately, Little Ethan was there to save her in this difficult situation.

Little Ethan bobbed his head cheerfully and followed Abigail obediently. Leaving the two men, they headed to the dining area. Nathan and Dave could only watch their backs.

The two men felt like abandoned puppies once more. Abigail's attention was focused on Ethan only. Both Nathan and Dave had been neglected by Abigail.

"I guess we are no match against your adorable son," Dave blurted out of the blue.

Nathan absentmindedly nodded his head in agreement. Both men exhaled deeply in unison before they stood up to follow Abigail and Ethan to the dining area. The four of them decided to enjoy the meal together.

Abigail was very attentive to Ethan. She was only engaging in a conversation with him, completely ignoring the presence of the two adult men. She had no energy to deal with and entertain them. Besides, she was just being cautious about how she would act in front of the two men.

Dave realized how fond Abigail was toward Ethan. He felt relieved since Abigail didn't even show interest in Nathan Sparks.

'I'm glad that she only cares about the young boy. I don't have to feel threatened by Nathan's presence.' Dave thought to himself. He was trying his best to get close to Ethan. He exchanged a few conversations with the little kid. Ethan was such a polite and sweet child, contrary to his father's very intimidating behavior and aura. Dave started to like Ethan.

Among the four of them, only Nathan didn't enjoy the dinner. He felt like he was out of place there. He felt betrayed because his son was cheerfully talking to Dave and Abigail. He even lost his appetite listening to the three of them.

Slam!

Nathan suddenly slammed the table and stood up, walking out. He could no longer stay there. He was so annoyed and mad.

"Uncle Dave, I apologize for my Dad's rude behavior. Don't take it to the heart," Ethan softly said.

Dave could only smile and nodded at him. He wondered if Nathan had anger issues.

"Dave, can you look after Ethan? I will just talk to his father briefly." Abigail requested Dave. Then she stood up to follow Nathan. Nathan already went out of Dave's condo unit. He was now walking in the hallway, approaching the elevator.

Nathan quickly took the lift. But before the elevator closed, Abigail was able to catch up, joining him inside.

"What are you doing here? Go back to your boyfriend," Nathan coldly said, cocking his eyebrow at Abigail.

"Are you leaving? Ethan is still here. Perhaps, you are going to see your fiancÃ©. Well, enjoy." Abigail flashed her fake smile.

"Yes. Ethan will stay here for a sleepover. I will just fetch him tomorrow." Nathan couldn't imagine leaving Abigail and Dave alone in that small unit. It was best to leave Ethan behind to stay with the two.

Abigail crumpled her face. Nathan didn't even try denying her accusation of him seeing Helena tonight. She said those words only to mock him. She just turned around, her back facing Nathan. She regretted admitting to him that she was jealous of Helena.

The entire elevator ride was very silent. No one spoke between them until they reached the lobby floor.

Ding!

The door of the elevator slid open. Abigail stepped to the side, without looking at Nathan. She was giving him the way to step out of the elevator. But Nathan didn't move nor take a step. He stayed rooted in his spot, standing behind her.

Abigail turned her head to look at him. "Are you not stepping out? I thought you were leaving."

"I'm not the one who spread the articles of my engagement online. I took them down. You won't see any news articles about my engagement." Nathan heeded his son's advice.

Abigail blinked several times, surprised. She didn't expect that Nathan would explain to her this matter.

"Are you not going back to the mansion?" Nathan asked her with a serious expression on his face. He was staring at her intently.



Abigail lost her ability to speak for a moment. She was just gazing at him with amusement and disbelief. There was a moment of silence between them. All they could hear was the closing sound of the elevator door. The two of them got stuck inside the unmoving elevator. Nathan was waiting for her response.

"I'll come back if you say... you miss me..."

The two just looked into each other's eyes for a long moment, not breaking their eye contact.

Chapter 333 Hot Morning

Day Forty...

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[Dave's Condo Unit...]

Little Ethan stayed last night, sleeping in Abigail's room. It was Nathan's strategy so that he could have a reason to come back this morning.

Since Abigail was close to Ethan, Dave agreed to let the child sleep in his house. The three of them bonded together and slept late.

Dave woke up early to cook breakfast for them. On the other hand, Abigail and Ethan were still sound asleep.

It only took half an hour for Dave to finish cooking their breakfast. He still had a lot of time left before waking the two up. He decided to do some research. He wanted to read news articles related to Abigail's case.

Using his laptop, he searched for old news articles. He was shocked to find out that his name got involved in Abigail's suicide scandal.

There was speculation that he cheated on her and he broke her heart. But they didn't argue nor fight on that day.

"This is a murder attempt, staged as suicide! Who wants Abigail dead?" Dave murmured, his eyes skimming all the articles.

'I never heard about this. My last mission forbade me from contacting anyone in Country M, including my girlfriend. This was the reason why I didn't know that Abigail's life was put in danger.' Dave began blaming himself once more.

"I have to investigate this... and catch the culprit... for her safety." Dave folded his laptop when he heard the footsteps coming his way. Abigail was now awake. She got out of her room alone.

"Good morning! How's your sleep?" Dave asked her.

"Not good. I'm still adjusting to this new environment," Abigail responded.

Dave's expression became gloomy. Abigail was supposed to feel at ease in this house since she had been sleeping there for the past few months. Though her memory had forgotten it, her body should recall the feelings of comfort that this place could provide her.

"Don't worry. You will get used to it once more. When are you going back to work?" Dave moved to the side, inviting her to sit down next to him.

Abigail moved closer and sat down. Then she recalled that she had to attend the Star Gala for her comeback.

"I'll go back to work after the Star Gala Night. Do you want to attend with me? Be my escort." Abigail invited Dave to cheer him up. He looked gloomy early this morning.

And Abigail didn't fail. Dave's face brightened up when she mentioned that. "Are you sure? You want me to be your escort?"

"Yes. But as my bodyguard and my friend, not as my boyfriend." Abigail reminded him.

Dave let out a soft chuckle. "I understand. It's my honor to be your escort in that Star Gala."

Abigail just nodded her head. Since Nathan continued to deny what he truly felt for her, Abigail could only take her time in making him realize that he was attracted to her.

She wouldn't be clingy but she would distance herself from him at the moment. Last night, she gave him the magic words. If he would admit that he missed her then she would certainly make a way to see him and spend time with him.

However, Nathan remained tight-lipped last night until they were interrupted by the other residents of this condo building who joined them in the elevator. Abigail and Nathan were not able to talk further.

"I'm going to cook breakfast." Abigail stood up, thinking of making it up for Dave. He had been a thoughtful and generous host last night, serving them well.

However, before Abigail could take a step, Dave grabbed her elbow to stop her. "No need. I'm done cooking. I was supposed to wake you and Ethan up."

"Sigh. You are treating me like a princess. Let me do some household chores as well." Abigail complained a little.

Dave chuckled once more. "You will always be my princess." He glanced at Abigail dotingly. Abigail looked away as she felt a little bit uncomfortable with the way Dave was staring at her lovingly.

"Stop that. You are making me uneasy." Abigail pouted her lips.

"Don't be. It's my fault. I'm sorry. I can't help it," Dave apologized, gently patting her head. Then he pulled her to the dining area. "Alright. I will let you do some chores. You can set the table for the three of us. You can also make me a cup of coffee."

"Got it!"

Both Abigail and Dave headed to the kitchen. She began setting the table by putting plates, spoons, and forks. Dave, on the other hand, just stood there watching her every movement. His eyes were following her around with a subtle smile on his face.

If Abigail didn't lose her memory, he would be allowed to hug her from behind while she was doing this. He would cuddle her and shower her with kisses. Too bad he couldn't do those things at this moment.

Abigail was done setting the table. She moved to the kitchen cupboard to pick a mug. She started making coffee for Dave. Her back was facing Dave and he had the urge to embrace her.

Dave didn't know what had gotten into him. He just traced his steps toward Abigail and suddenly gave her a peck on her right cheek. Abigail was stirring the coffee when she felt his warm lips touching her face.

As her natural reflex, Abigail turned to her side to push Dave away. She ended up pouring the hot coffee on his shirt.

"Aah!" Dave gasped at the feel of hot liquid on his chest.

Abigail's jaw dropped and her eyes widened as she realized what she did. "I'm sorry!"

Abigail marched toward the refrigerator, taking a bottle of cold water. She quickly brought it to Dave, splashing the cold water on his chest.

Dave was at a loss for words. He could only watch Abigail in amusement. He didn't know whether he would cry or laugh.

"I'm really sorry!" Abigail apologized over and over again as she tugged Dave's wet shirt.

"It's okay. It's my fault. Don't feel guilty," Dave chuckled. He was very understanding toward her.

'Yes. It's your fault! How could you just kiss me like that!' Abigail scolded Dave in her mind.

It did not take long before they heard the sound of the doorbell.

Ding! Dong!

Abigail and Dave met each other's eyes. Both of them were clueless about who was the early visitor this morning.

"Abi, I can take care of this mess. Go on and open the door for our visitor." Dave gave her a reassuring smile.

Abigail could only bob her head obediently. She opened the door only to see the gorgeous Nathan standing before her.

'Eh? He is here.' Abigail reflexively checked the wall clock near the door. It was only 7:00 am, too early for him to visit them.

"I came here to fetch my son. He is going to school," Nathan explained right away, after reading Abigail's expression.

Abigail was about to respond when Dave suddenly showed up from behind. Nathan's expression turned dark in an instant upon seeing Dave's shirtless body.

When Abigail went to open the door, Dave took off his wet shirt, leaving him naked on his upper body.

Abigail turned around, following Nathan's line of sight. She was also flabbergasted when she saw Dave's well-toned body. 'Damn! What a Hot... Coughâ€" Morning!'

Chapter 334 Keep Your Enemies Closer!

Day Forty...

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It was indeed a hot morning that could boil Nathan's blood as early as this. He was like a raging volcano that was about to erupt especially when he noticed Abigail's eyes staring at Dave's shirtless body.

What Nathan did was grab Abigail's shoulder, twirling her around to face him. He didn't want to see Abigail gawking at Dave's body.

'Where is Ethan?! I left him here to guard these two. He is not taking his job seriously!' Nathan's eyes roamed around the house, searching for his son. But he didn't see him.

'Why is he not wearing any shirt?' Nathan looked at Dave sharply.

Dave was supposed to greet Nathan with a smile. But his smile faded as soon as he was greeted by Nathan's bloodshot eyes. He was displeased.

Abigail was about to toss another look at Dave but Nathan stopped her by holding her head. His gesture was telling her " 'Don't turn around. Just look at me. Only me!'

"Mr. Sparks, why are you here?" Dave broke the silence, questioning Nathan's sudden arrival.

"My son is here so I came. I'm fetching him," Nathan responded coldly.

"Do you mind putting some clothes on first? It is inappropriate to stay naked while welcoming a visitor," Nathan added, urging Dave to wear his shirt.

"Oh. I'm sorry about that. I don't usually entertain guests while shirtless. Abi made me do this." Dave chuckled lightly. He was just joking around, teasing Abigail.

However, his last statement pissed Nathan off further. So Nathan gave Abigail a questioning gaze. He looked like a boyfriend who was interrogating his girlfriend after catching her making out with another guy.

'What did you do with him?'

Abigail, who was clueless about Nathan's wild thoughts, just removed his hands from holding her in place. When she turned around, Dave was already walking toward his bedroom to get a new shirt.

Watching Dave's back, Abigail blurted out something. "He is surprisingly flawless... though he is a policeman."

Nathan's face darkened further with her remarks. He misunderstood Abigail. He thought she was drooling over Dave's body.

But Abigail meant something different. She expected him to have some marks and scars on his body, proof of his training and dangerous mission as a policeman. But he didn't have those scars and marks. So Abigail felt amused.

"So you get easily attracted to a guy with an excellent physique." Nathan scowled at her.

Abigail moved her gaze back to Nathan. She grinned playfully, sizing his body up. Then she tapped his chest and said, "Yes. That's why I like you."

Abigail simply flirted with Nathan, winking at him while biting her lips. She teased him as if she was imagining him naked. She had already seen his excellent body many times.

Nathan didn't know if he would feel mad or not. Just a while ago, she was drooling over Dave's body, and now, she was flirting with him. Should he feel glad or not?

In the end, Nathan just changed the topic. "Where is my son?"

"Little Ethan is still asleep in my room. Wait here. I will just wake him up." Abigail was about to leave when Nathan held her arm.

"No. I'm coming with you." Nathan wanted to stick with her in that house. He couldn't trust both Dave and Abigail to be left alone in this house.

Nathan hadn't slept since last night just thinking about them, most especially Abigail. He had conflicting thoughts in mind. Deep inside, he wanted her to return to the mansion and stay with them but something was stopping him from telling her that he missed her.

He felt like he was going crazy. He didn't know what he would do. He was torn in between. It was either he would continue to cooperate with his father about this false engagement or he would stop pretending for Abigail to return to the mansion.

Nathan was still lost in his thoughts when they reached Abigail's bedroom. Ethan had just woken up, rubbing his eyes. The little boy smiled broadly as soon as his eyes fell on Abigail's face.

"Good morning, Miss Abi!" He got off the bed and gave Abigail a warm hug.

"Good morning, my little angel," Abigail greeted him back. She hugged him and rubbed his hair.

"Dad, you are early. Good morning!" Ethan also hugged his father. "Is it time for school?" he asked his Dad.

"N-No. I came here to tell you that your teacher informed me that you don't have class today." Nathan lied. He just wanted Ethan to stay and watch over Abigail.

Meanwhile, Abigail and Ethan eyed Nathan suspiciously. They thought Nathan came there to fetch Ethan and drive him to school.

"Are you surâ€" Ethan was about to retort when Nathan gave him a meaningful glance. He was asking his son to play along with his plan.

"Oh right! I remember! We have no class today since our teacher gave us time to prepare. Tomorrow is the school event... our family day. You and Miss Abi promised me that you would both attend." Ethan reminded the two.

"Yes, of course." Nathan promptly responded. "So I think Abigail should go home with us today. The three of us should prepare for tomorrow's school event. Am I right, son?" Nathan was conniving with his son for his scheme.

After having wild imaginations regarding Abigail and Dave, Nathan would never feel at ease, leaving the two of them in this house alone. As much as possible, he wanted to separate the two!

"Yes, Dad. She must!" Little Ethan supported his father.

Abigail: "..."

Abigail darted her gaze back and forth between the father and son duo. She didn't know why but she felt like the two were up to something. They were in sync today.

'What alibi will I use to explain this to Dave?' Abigail became troubled by this thought.

Looking at Little Ethan, she was aware that she couldn't refuse him. Furthermore, she already promised him that she would attend the Family Day at Ethan's school.

"Hey, guys, what's up?" Dave showed up at the front door. He was now wearing a shirt. "What did I miss?" He asked them as he noticed that the three seemed like they were discussing something.

"Uncle Dave, Can I borrow Miss Abi today until tomorrow? She promised me something so she must go home with us today." Little Ethan spoke up, using his charm to seek Dave's permission. He could feel that Abigail was contemplating a while ago because of Dave.

"Oh, sure. I don't mind... as long as it's okay with Abigail." Ethan successfully charmed Dave. Just like Abigail, Dave couldn't say no to this adorable child.

"Thanks, Uncle Dave!" Ethan ran in Dave's direction and hugged him.

Nathan couldn't help but feel jealous. Even his son was now close to Dave. They were getting along very well. 'Is he going to take my son from me as well?' Nathan pursed his lips.

Nathan was drowning in the sea of vinegar as early as this morning! Seeing the closeness of Abigail, Ethan, and Dave, Nathan felt threatened and jealous.

Nathan was not in a good mood when they came out of Abigail's bedroom. But Ethan quickly approached his father, tugging his sleeve.

Then he whispered, "Dad, stop frowning and glaring at Uncle Dave! You should smile and take it easy."

"Remember the saying: Keep your friends close and your enemies closer!" Ethan added.

Nathan: "..."

Chapter 335 Rival Vs Rival

Day Forty...

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Dave did his groundwork when Abigail left his condo unit together with Nathan and Ethan. He visited the Centerville hotel where Abigail fell off. He booked the same room where the incident happened.

Dave could feel the rage in his heart as he watched the ground from the balcony of the 13th floor. "She could have died from that fall. It's a miracle that she stayed alive and only lost her memory."

From that height, two things could possibly happen to her. Either she would die or miraculously live with a paralyzed body. But surprisingly, Abigail only lost her memory and her body was intact. No severe injury or bone fractures!

Dave gripped the steel railing of the terrace tightly while clenching his jaw. "I shouldn't have left her that night. She was supposed to meet me in this hotel."

He recalled that a few hours before his meet-up with Abigail, he received a call from overseas. He received an urgent mission and he had to leave the country immediately. He didn't get the chance to see Abigail. He tried calling her but Abigail didn't answer. In the end, he just sent her a message.

After assessing the room, Dave went to ask the hotel manager about the CCTV footage. Unfortunately, he got nothing as the floor's CCTV was under maintenance then.

"Everything is properly set up. A well-committed crime which they staged as a suicide." Dave mumbled after analyzing the situation.

"This is not just a coincidence. Someone from this hotel is an accomplice! I couldn't be wrong!"

Dave began to narrow down the possible accomplice- a hotel manager, an employee in the maintenance team, or a person in charge of the CCTV control room.

After a while, Dave listed the people who had resentment toward Abigail. The first person on his list was Jun Shen. He was kicked out of the company because of Abigail. His wife divorced him.

He made a phone call from his source to gather information about Jun Shen. Dave was surprised to hear that someone had taken care of him. Someone sent Jun Shen to prison.

"Who sent him to prison?" Dave asked his friend.

"The most powerful man in this country. Nathan Sparks." The man declared from the other line.

A crease formed on his forehead at the mention of Nathan's name. 'So he is indeed helping Abigail to find the real culprit. As far as I know, Nathan Sparks is not generous enough to do this. He is not that kind of man. Is he doing this because his son is a fan of Abigail? Or does he have another reason for doing so?'

Dave suddenly had a nagging feeling about this. He wondered if Nathan was interested in Abigail. But Nathan was faithful to his late lover. Did he move on? He could only take a deep breath, trying to clear his mind.

He had to put these thoughts to the back of his mind because these things wouldn't help him solve this case. His priority was to catch the culprit.

"I shouldn't feel threatened nor feel worried about another guy. Abigail will remember me... our memories together," Dave uttered, comforting himself. He continued his investigation, forgetting about the possible love rivalry with Nathan Sparks.

Meanwhile, Abigail and Ethan were back at the Sparks Mansion. Butler Li was elated to see Abigail. He thought she would never come back. The other maids were rejoicing because of her absence. But they got disappointed upon seeing her today. The head maid, Adelaida, even informed Veronica that Abigail was no longer staying in the Sparks Mansion.

"Why is she here?"

"She is truly shameless!"

"She just wants to leech off our Master's generosity."

"She really has a thick skin, dreaming of becoming the Lady of this house!"

The maids kept murmuring to each other while glaring at Abigail. They couldn't believe that she was back.

"I'm in trouble. Lady Veronica is coming here. She won't be happy seeing that woman here," Head Maid, Adelaida anxiously mumbled.

Adelaida had just mentioned Veronica's name when she suddenly showed up. Veronica came to visit because she wanted to confirm that Abigail was not around and she had to ask Butler Li about the news she heard that Nathan was engaged.

Veronica and Abigail met each other's gaze. Both of them looked displeased. They didn't bother to hide the hostility they had for each other. Butler Li and the maids could feel the growing tension between the two ladies. Ethan wasn't there since he went upstairs to take a quick shower.

"I've heard that you moved out. Why are you still here?" Veronica asked her with a mocking smile on her face.

Abigail shrugged her shoulders and said, "I'm always welcome here. I can visit Ethan and Nate."

Veronica arched her eyebrow. She hated Abigail's arrogance. "Ow. I thought you were kicked out. Have you heard? Nathan is getting engaged. Is it true?"

Abigail lightly chuckled. "Is that the reason you came here? Why don't you ask him yourself?"

Veronica glared at Abigail. She was talking back to her. And she felt like she was being disrespected by this actress. She gnashed her teeth, trying her best to maintain her composure. So many eyes were watching them at this moment.

"Nathan is busy so I don't want to disturb him," Veronica retorted.

Abigail just sneered at her. She could sense that Veronica was still pretending as if she had an important role in this household. For goodness' sake, she was just the sister of Nathan's woman.

Her sister, Monica, was not even married to Nathan but Veronica was acting all high and mighty in front of her. She didn't have the right to act like that. She hadn't earned the status of being part of the Sparks Family yet.

'Ahuh! Since she loves competition, then I will give her a proper rival. I don't want to waste my precious time dealing with her,' Abigail smiled inwardly at that thought.

"Alright. Don't disturb Nate about this matter. I can give you an answer," Abigail declared.

Veronica looked at her with disbelief. She didn't know whether to listen to her or not. However, she was dying to know if Nathan's engagement was real or fake.

"Her name is Helena Carlsen. She has an extraordinary background. She is the daughter of the Chairman of AMB Diamond Corporation from Country R. Chairman Xu was the one who arranged this engagement with Chairman Carlsen. Nathan and Helena started dating. She is currently here in Country M. That's all I can say."

After feeding Veronica those pieces of information, Abigail excused herself. She turned around and headed upstairs, leaving Veronica speechless. Abigail rejoiced because she got the expression she wanted to see from Veronica.

Veronica was shocked and anxious. She didn't expect that Old Man Xu had something to do with this engagement. Since the woman had an excellent background, it was not a surprise that Old Man Xu decided to marry Nathan off.

'Damn it! That old man chose another woman, instead of me! I can't let this happen. I wanna know who this Helena Carlsen is. What kind of woman she is!'

From the second floor, Abigail saw Veronica marching out of the house. She presumed that Veronica would try to meet Helena. "Hmm. It worked! That woman will not bother me in the meantime. She will be busy dealing with Helena Carlsen. I diverted her attention away from me." Abigail snapped her fingers and giggled, praising herself for that bright idea.

"Divide and conquer. I just hope the two women will fight each other, not gang up against me. Otherwise, it will be a very handful for me to deal with two love rivals at the same time." Abigail cringed at that thought. One woman was a Witchie Bitch while the other one was a White Lotus.

'Hmm, between them... I find Helena more dangerous than Veronica. It's hard to figure out what's on her mind. She can control her temper and hide her emotions very well.' Abigail analyzed the behaviors of the two women based on her observation and experience while interacting with them.

"Miss Abi!" Butler Li called her attention. "I know what you did... Nice strategy!" he gave her two thumbs up matching with a wink.

"Huh? What are you talking about?" Abigail feigned ignorance.

"You used your rival to deal with your other rival. Haha! They can fight all they want and whoever wins between them will be your final rival! Is this some kind of elimination round?" Butler Li praised her. "I will be rooting for you!" he added. "Fighting!"

Abigail could only shake her head helplessly. She was amazed by Butler Li's quick thinking and sharp observation. He could see through her well.

"Are you sure, you are just a Butler? Why do I feel like you are a Psychic?!"

Chapter 336 A Shocking Truth

Day Forty...

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[At Stephen's Place...]

Stephen and Cherry were so focused on taking care of Phantomflake. Stephen's father, Dr. Zhao, was closely monitoring Phantomflake's condition. Aside from the unexpected marks appearing on Phantomflake's body, everything was normal.

"I have good news for both of you. Can you see these lines? Her brain wave activity is very active. She will likely wake up soon. I'm very positive about this. Her condition improved a lot." Dr. Zhao shared this piece of good news with them. Both Cherry and Stephen were delighted to hear this.

"Thanks, Dad. What should we do?" Stephen asked his father.

"I can't explain the huge improvement in her health. But I think Cherry's presence is a big help. Just continue talking to her. Let her feel that she is not alone. Our patient is keep on fighting for her life. At least, she is not brain-dead. There is a high possibility that she will regain consciousness."

Cherry bobbed her head, her eyes getting misty. She felt so happy and thankful. "I will never get tired. I will always be here for her."

Dr. Zhao patted her shoulder. "She is so lucky to have a friend like you. Be more patient. She will eventually wake up."

"I will lower the dosage of her medicine. We don't want to ruin her kidney and her liver once she wakes up. I will come again the next day. If anything unusual happens, just inform me immediately."

"Okay, Dad. I got it." Stephen also felt relieved.

"I will write a new prescription for her. I will leave it on your table." Dr. Zhao said goodbye to Cherry and his son.

Cherry and Stephen were left in Phantomflake's ward.

"How do you feel?" Stephen softly asked Cherry but his eyes were fixed on Phantomflake.

"I feel like a heavy burden has been lifted off my chest. I can't wait to see her open her eyes." Cherry grabbed Phantomflake's hand. It felt so warm as compared to before.

"How about you?" Cherry asked Stephen back. She looked at him, assessing his facial expression. She could see so many emotions in his eyes.

"I feel the same way. I missed her. I've been searching for her for the past five years. Though she can't remember me, I always pray to see her one more time."

"Thank you, Stephen. I appreciate how much you care for my sister. I owe you. Please allow me to return the favor. Can I go to your clinic and do a general cleaning? I've heard that you haven't visited your clinic because you are spending more of your time here."

"This is the least I can do for all the help you rendered us," Cherry added. She tried to convince Stephen because she had another agenda. She promised Abigail that she would help her find Stephen's records of Phantomflake's sessions.

"Okay. Since you insist, I won't stop you." Stephen picked up the access keycard from his pocket. "This is the key to access the door of my clinic. Feel free to drop by."

Cherry's eyes lit up when she got a hold of Stephen's clinic access card. "Thank you for your trust, Stephen. I swear, I won't rob your clinic!" Cherry cracked some jokes to hide her real intention.

"Yeah. I know. You mean no harm." Stephen chuckled. "Promise me that you will not touch or read any patient records. Those are confidential documents."

"Yes. Doc! So may I leave my sis in your watch? I'll be back soon!" Cherry was excited to conduct a thorough search in Stephen's clinic. He might have been hiding Phantomflake's file in his clinic.

"You don't have to worry. I got you covered! I will be watching Jane on your behalf." The way Stephen mentioned Phantomflake's name was very gentle.

"Thanks, Steph! I gotta go. See you later!"

An hour later...

Cherry was done cleaning the entire clinic. She slumped her body on Stephen's chair, feeling exhausted. She cleaned everything first before starting the search. After organizing Stephen's file, Cherry made sure to tamper with the CCTV camera inside his office.

"Now, let's the search begin!" Cherry cracked her knuckles while stretching her neck from side to side. She began to scan through the files dated back five years ago. She searched for Jane Frost's patient record.

She kept on skimming and scanning the folders patiently. She didn't get any documents related to Jane Frost.

"Sigh! Where did he hide it?!" Cherry took a deep sigh. "Fine. Let me find the soft copy on his computer!"

Cracking Stephen's passcode on his desktop was child's play to Cherry. She broke the security system and cracked the passcode using unique algorithms in just ten minutes. She made sure not to leave any evidence behind.

The tap-tap sound of the keyboard reverberated inside Stephen's office. All her attention was focused on the screen. Cherry began to use another set of algorithms as she ran a command. The command prompt was to find any documents related to Jane Frost. The program she used began scanning the storage of the computer, looking for the documents containing the keywords: Jane Frost.

After twenty minutes, one folder popped up on the screen. "Jesus! It's here! I finally found something!"

Cherry clicked the folder but it was locked. The file was asking for another passcode. The folder was a restricted file.

"Damn! Stephen is a meticulous one!" Cherry lamented.

She tried to crack the passcode once again. After three attempts, Cherry was able to open the folder.

"YES!!!" Cherry punched the air, rejoicing.

Blowing on her hands, she clicked the folder, two files could be seen on the screen. One pdf file and one image. Cherry clicked the image first. She was confused for several seconds upon seeing the enlarged photo.

"What the hell is this?" Cherry mumbled, her mind trying to absorb what was on the screen. "This looks like... an ultrasound photo of a child..."

Cherry didn't know why but her heart began to race. She had a nagging feeling about this. Without further ado, Cherry clicked the pdf file. Her eyes scanned the document, reading what was written on it.

Cherry felt like her heart stopped beating for a moment when she realized what she was reading. "OH, MY GOD! This can't be! How could this happen?!"

The file on the screen was a medical record of Jane Frost's pregnancy. According to the medical clearance, Jane aka Phantomflake was pregnant!

Cherry covered her mouth while shaking her head vehemently. She read the file over and over again. She thought she just misread it. But no! It was Phantomflake's name, written on the document.

'No way.... This can't be. Sister Phantom... got pregnant? How? When? Who is the father?' Cherry couldn't explain what she was feeling at this moment. Her mind was screaming, her heart was drumming, her body was trembling and her energy was drained. She was shocked beyond belief!

Cherry smacked her face twice, making sure that she was not dreaming. "Oh, No! This is real!" She gasped once more.

"Shit! Is this real?" She repeated.

"If this is real, then where is her child? What happened to her child? Who is the father? Don't tell me... it's Dr. Stephen?"

Chapter 337 Get It Off Your Chest

Day Forty...

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Cherry was quite shaken by this shocking discovery. Her mind was in shambles. She felt like her brain cells got numb. She just stared at the computer screen blankly for several seconds.

[ Phantomflake got pregnant. ]

[ Phantomflake got pregnant. ]

Those words kept replaying in her mind at this moment. She didn't know what to feel. When her brain recovered from the great shock, she was bombarded with so many questions.

'What happened to her?'

'How did she get pregnant?'

'Where is the child?'

'Who is the father?'

'Is Stephen the father of her child?'

Cherry absentmindedly closed all the applications and the running programs. Then she switched off the computer. She remained seated, gathering her emotions. She inhaled and exhaled. She needed to calm down otherwise, she would freak out!

"Perhaps... this is the thing she wanted to hide from us?" Cherry folded her fingers into fists.

She leaned on the backrest of the chair, placing her arm on top of her eyes to cover them.

"This might be a different Jane Frost... a woman with the same name?"

But Cherry disregarded that thought right away. There was no way it was another person with the same name. Stephen met Phantomflake and he recognized her face. Phantomflake didn't have a twin! And why are they using the same name?

"Damn it! I am dying to ask Stephen. He is the only one who can answer the truth. But..."

"I'm not yet ready to face this kind of truth..." Cherry admitted to herself. She was still in denial. She couldn't believe this just yet.

"Arrghhh!" Cherry screamed as she tugged her hair.

"Damn it! I don't know what to do! Sis Phantom... please wake up! I wanna hear the truth from you!" Cherry continued her monologue.

'But how can she do that? Stephen erased her memory. She won't probably remember this! This is something she wanted to forget!' Cherry's alter ego retorted.

"Damn it!" Cherry cursed under her breath. She wanted to let it out, otherwise, this would drive her nuts. She continued tugging her hair tightly.

"Hey, are you okay? Don't pull your hair like that, if you don't want to lose your hair!"

Cherry jolted and almost fell off the chair when she heard that voice. Her soul almost got separated from her body from the shock. When did he arrive? She didn't expect him to be there.

"For goodness' sake! Don't you know how to knock? What are you doing here?!" Cherry lashed out at Aiden.

Aiden blinked his eyes in amusement, scratching the back of his head. "Eh?! I've knocked thrice already but you didn't acknowledge me. I heard you talking so I opened the door. You scared me. Are you hurting yourself by pulling out your hair?" Aiden pointed his finger at her head, giving her a strange look.

Cherry's mind was so preoccupied with the shocking revelation that she failed to notice Aiden's presence. She massaged her chest. She needed some fresh air. She felt suffocated inside.

Cherry pushed the chair back and stood up. She needed to get out of that room. "Let's go! I want to leave this place."

Aiden just bobbed his head and followed her obediently. He could tell that something was wrong with Cherry. She looked pale.

'What happened to her? Did she get exhausted from cleaning the entire clinic?'

Aiden dropped by Stephen's place. He found out that Cherry went to Stephen's clinic. He decided to check on her and at the same time, fetch her. He was hoping that he could finally get an answer from her. Would Cherry give him a chance?

Unfortunately, Cherry didn't have time to think about Aiden's request at this moment. She was still troubled by the fact Phantomflake had a child. Walking ahead, Cherry came out of Stephen's clinic.

"Where are you going?" Aiden asked her, grabbing her arm to stop her.

"Anywhere... I just want to breathe some fresh air."

Aiden smiled as a great idea resurfaced in his mind. He immediately pulled Cherry toward his car. "Let's go for a ride then."

Cherry didn't argue with Aiden. She just let him pull her. She wanted to clear her mind otherwise, she would go crazy. Fortunately, Aiden was there to accompany her. Aiden decided to have a road trip. There was a rural community three hours away from Towerville City. This was also a great chance to spend time and bond with her.

As Aiden drove the car, Cherry remained quiet in her seat. Her mind was still wandering off somewhere. On the other hand, Aiden didn't disturb her. He focused on driving and on stealing glances at her from time to time.

He was dying to ask her what happened but he could tell that Cherry was not in the mood to talk.

'I hope this long drive will make her relax.' Aiden thought to himself. He already felt content and happy since Cherry tagged along with him willingly.

Cherry rolled down the car window for her to feel the air. 'Sigh. If the wind could help me forget, I want my memory to be erased. My discovery today is so hard to accept...'

Cherry had a bad feeling that Phantomflake had gone through a very difficult moment in her life.

'My sister carried this heavy burden alone. Perhaps, it was too much for her to handle, that's why Dr. Stephen was left with no choice but to erase some portion of her memory.'

"A penny for your thought..." Aiden could no longer hold his curiosity. He wondered what was running through her mind right now.

Cherry turned in his direction with a sullen look on her face. Her eyes seemed like she was about to cry. She didn't know how she would handle this truth. Cherry was feeling helpless.

"What's wrong?" Aiden softly asked, pulling the car over. They were in a rural area now. They could see the greenfield.

"Aiden... I need your help. I have something to get off of my chest... It's too heavy here." Cherry placed her hand on her chest where her heart was beating.

When he heard that, Aiden quickly unbuckled his seatbelt and stepped out of the car. He walked to her side, opening the car door for her. He extended his hand to her, inviting her to step out. Cherry held his hand and moved out of the car.

"Come. Let's take a walk and climb the valley. Can you see that? There is a big old tree at the top of that valley." Aiden pointed his finger at the nearby valley.

Cherry tossed a glance at the area. She liked Aiden's suggestion. Maybe by doing this, she could divert her attention even just for a while.

"Okay."

Aiden smiled tenderly when Cherry agreed. He held her hand as he guided her toward the top of the valley. Since there were lots of trees around, they didn't feel the heat coming from the sun. Furthermore, the wind was blowing that day, giving them a refreshing feeling.

After half an hour of trekking, they finally reached the top of the valley. There was indeed a big old tree that they could use as shade and a resting place.

"Go on. This place is all yours. You can shout anything you want. Get everything off your chest. Nature and I are willing to listen."

Chapter 338 Does He Have A Child?

Day Forty...

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Cherry and Aiden were the only people present in that valley. She could confide her feelings with Aiden and the nature surrounding her. No one would stop her. No one would judge her. Cherry was in her helpless state at this moment. Her mind was in turmoil.

"Aaaaaaaah!" Cherry screamed so loud, her voice echoing in that valley.

"AAAAAhhhhh!!!"

"AAAAAhhhhh!!!"

Cherry repeated her actions thrice until she was satisfied. Screaming in that unknown place was quite refreshing. She just released her stress by shouting out loud!

Aiden just watched her silently, a subtle smile curling up on his face. He was glad that Cherry was listening to his advice today.



When Cherry was done yelling, Aiden patted her back to comfort her. Though he was clueless about what she was going through at the moment, Aiden would like Cherry to know that he was there for her. She could rely on him. He was also dependable like his best friends, Nathan and Stephen.

"So how does it feel?" Aiden asked her, his eyes shining with delight.

"I feel a little bit better now. Thank you, Aiden."

Aiden couldn't contain his happiness when Cherry expressed her gratitude toward him. He looked like a kid who got praised by his favorite teacher.

"I'm glad I could be of help..."

Cherry nodded her head with a faint smile on her face. "Can we stay here for a moment? I want to immerse myself in this scenic view as I admire the beauty of our mother nature."

"Of course. Just take your time. I will just stay here to accompany you."

Aiden and Cherry sat on the bushy ground, under the big old tree. They kept silent while appreciating the beautiful view of the green fields, blue sky, and trees.

After a while, Cherry finally spoke up, breaking the silence. "Do you come here often? How did you know about this place?"

"Honestly, I didn't expect that someone like you knew this kind of place. I could only imagine you visiting clubs and other entertainment establishments." Cherry added.

Aiden chuckled softly and said, "See. You have a lot of misconceptions about me. This is just one of my true sides I wanna show you if you will just give me a chance to get to know me more." Aiden managed to mention his original agenda.

Cherry hadn't forgotten Aiden's request so she just smiled at his last remarks. Even Abigail talked to her, encouraging her to give Aiden a chance. She hadn't made her decision yet. But it seemed like today's encounter helped her to see Aiden in a different light.

"Kidding aside, answer my question first. How did you know this place? Do you go here often?" Cherry repeated her questions. She was glad Aiden was with her, diverting her attention away from the shocking discovery she found out at Stephen's clinic

"Actually, this is my secret hiding spot. I often go here when I am avoiding some troubles in Towerville City. As you know, among the three of us, Nathan, Stephen, and I... I'm the big troublemaker." Aiden admitted while scratching his face. He felt a little bit embarrassed.

"Yeah. I'm not surprised. You are indeed a great troublemaker." Cherry seconded.

"I bet you always come here when you are running away from your girlfriends," she added, teasing him further. She already heard about Aiden's bad reputation when it came to women and romantic relationships. He changed girlfriends almost every month.

"Sigh." Aiden heaved a deep sigh. "I'm afraid that your bad impression of me would last forever... I hope that I can still change your negative views about me." Aiden put on a pitiful look while staring at her. He looked worried and afraid. What if he would fail to change her views and first impression of him?

Cherry just shrugged her shoulders while giggling. She didn't deny nor confirm it. She had no idea how sincere Aiden was. She couldn't even understand why this guy wanted to get close to her.

"Your feelings are unreal. You just want to get my acknowledgment just because you can see me as a challenge. Perhaps, you seldom receive a rejection from women. So when I treated you badly like you didn't matter to me, your interest in me grew. Sooner or later, you will get tired of this challenge and go back to your habit... habit of collecting women." Cherry patted his back before she lay down on the grass to take a short nap. The atmosphere there was so refreshing. She would like to savor this moment and unwind.

Aiden just heaved a sigh of defeat. He was still far from changing her views about him. He didn't say a word. He just let Cherry take a rest. She had a lot of things in mind so it was best for her to take a nap.

Three hours later, during sundown, Cherry asked Aiden to stop by the rural side tavern. She wanted some booze. She was in the mood to drink. With her request, Aiden couldn't possibly say no to her.

Aiden parked the car in that small town, in front of the tavern. There were only a few customers because it was Weekday. The majority of people in the town were busy with their respective jobs. Aiden and Cherry chose the most isolated table inside so that they could enjoy their privacy.

As soon as their orders arrived, Cherry began to drink her beer. Aiden could only watch her silently.

'This scene looks familiar. Why do I feel like I became a drinking buddy of troubled women? At first, it was Abigail. And now, it is Cherry.'

Staring at Cherry intently, Aiden began to wonder how Cherry would act when she was drunk. A mischievous smile formed on his lips as he imagined Cherry in her drunken state.

'I think she will look prettier with her reddened face.'

A few minutes later, Aiden realized that Cherry had a low alcohol tolerance as compared to Abigail. The silent woman began to open her mouth, engaging in a conversation with Aiden. She started asking him a ridiculous question.

"Aiden, you are a man. A playboy with so many experiences with women, am I right?"

Aiden didn't know whether to feel proud or ashamed of the way she described him. Maybe he would go with the latter.

"Why do you ask?" Aiden felt like he was being bullied verbally by her. He didn't like Cherry to call him a playboy. The word felt so different when it came from her mouth.

'Why do I feel like I am a bad guy?'

"I want to ask you a question since you are an expert in this field." Cherry chuckled lightly, raising her bottle.

"Okay. What is your question then?" Aiden asked her.

'She only finished two bottles and she is already drunk...' Aiden shook his head helplessly.

"How can a woman with no interaction or relationship with any man get pregnant?"

"Cough! Cough!" Aiden choke on his drink when he heard her innocent question. 'Seriously, she is asking me this?'

"Hey! Don't just look at me. Answer me!" Cherry demanded in her drunken state. She even grabbed Aiden's collar, tugging him closer.

'Even in her drunken state, she is still violent,' Aiden thought to himself.

"Fine. Let go. I will answer you."

Cherry giggled in satisfaction. Then she let go of him.

Aiden, on the other hand, cleared his throat and fixed his collar before answering her.

"Of course, she got pregnant because she had sexual intercourse with a man. She had sex with a man for sure. If that was not the case, then maybe the woman had undergone artificial insemination."

Cherry paused for a moment just staring at Aiden with her blinking eyes. She was trying to process Aiden's words.

Smack!

"Ouch!" Aiden grunted because Cherry hit his head.

"Dumbo! Of course, I know that!"

"If you know... then why are you still asking me how a woman could get pregnant?" Aiden spat back at her, rubbing his head.

"I mean... my sister doesn't want to get pregnant. She has no plan of marrying someone nor doing artificial insemination! How can she get pregnant?!"

"Maybe she fell in love at first sight! A one-night stand." Aiden nonchalantly responded before taking a sip of his whisky.

He almost dropped his glass when Cherry pulled his collar once more, turning him to face her. "Tell me the truth. Does Stephen have a child?"

"Huh? Stephen? You mean Stephen, my best friend?" Aiden asked, confusion resurfacing from his eyes.

Cherry bobbed her head frantically. Meanwhile, Aiden wondered why Cherry was asking him about Stephen. 'Wait... don't tell me she is interested in him? She has a crush on Stephen?'

"Eh? Why do you care if he has a child or not? Do you like him?" Aiden questioned her.

"Don't dodge my question. Just answer me," Cherry said with a warning gaze.

"Sigh. Stephen doesn't have a child. I don't have a child as well. Only Nathan is a single dad among the three of us!"

Chapter 339 Sharing Information With Nathan

Day Forty...

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"Are you sure? Who knows Stephen hides his child from everyone... including you?" Cherry insisted on Stephen having a secret child.

"Cherry... you know what? You are just drunk! Stop overthinking! I don't know where you got this crazy idea that Stephen has a child." Aiden looked at her helplessly. He grabbed her hands that were holding her collar. He tried to remove them from tugging his shirt.

"Do you plan to strangle me?" Aiden complained.

Cherry scrunched her nose and frowned deeply before releasing Aiden from her grasp. "Fine. I will investigate it myself!"

Aiden shook his head. "There is nothing to investigate. Believe me. You will just waste your time."

Cherry wagged her forefinger in front of Aiden. "No! No! No! I have to find the truth myself! Stephen will not disclose anything to me... because of this damn patient-doctor confidentiality!"

Cherry grabbed her bottle of beer and finished it in one gulp.

"Cherry. Stop drinking already. You are at your limits!" Aiden distanced the other beers from Cherry.

He looked at the bar counter and called the attention of the waiter. He was about to settle their bill. He couldn't let Cherry get drunk further otherwise, she would suffer from a great hangover tomorrow.

When the waiter arrived, Aiden left the payment on the table, leaving some tips for the waiter before he guided Cherry outside.

Cherry was staggering on her footing. She could no longer walk straight and Aiden had to hold her body and support her balance. After struggling a little, the two finally reached their car.

Aiden opened the car door and positioned Cherry inside the front passenger seat. He buckled her seatbelt before stepping inside the car in the driver's seat.

Cherry continued murmuring something.

"If not Stephen, then who is the father of her child?"

"Where is the baby? What happened to her baby? Did she leave her baby in an orphanage? I have to find her baby!"

"Sis! Who took advantage of you? Did the guy abandon you? Were you heartbroken because of him?"

Aiden sucked his teeth as he listened to her. He thought she was just spouting some random things because she was drunk.

Aiden already started the car when Cherry began to sob in her seat.

"Sis! Why did you hide this from me? Can't you trust me? I should have been there in your darkest moment."

"Did you abandon your child? But why? Do you hate your child's father?" Cherry continued asking herself, her tears pouring like raindrops.

She knew the feeling of being abandoned. She suffered a lot for being an unwanted child. She felt horrible just thinking that her sister Phantomflake decided to abandon her baby.

From Country R, Phantomflake and Miss Frost came back to Country M without a child. There were only two of them who returned to this country. If her calculation was correct, the child had been born at that time.

"Oh my gosh! What if the real father took the child away from my sister Phantom?"

Aiden's attention had been caught by Cherry's last remarks. 'What did she just say? Is she referring to Phantomflake? Phantomflake has a child? She is a mother?'

Aiden gasped when the realization dawned on him. 'Oh my God! This is an important piece of information. I have to tell this to Nathan.'

To make sure that Aiden didn't mishear anything, he asked Cherry for confirmation.

"Cherry, who are you talking about? Who has a child? Your sister? Is the child a boy or a girl?"

Cherry just stared at him for a long moment before she responded. "My sis. This is my problem. You don't have to know. Just mind your own business."

Cherry leaned on her seat, settling down. She felt like her head was spinning. She was becoming dizzy and was about to throw up.

"Can you drive me home... faster? I wanna sleep," Cherry commanded.

Aiden just bobbed his head obediently. He continued driving. After a while, he realized that Cherry had been staying in two houses.

"Where should I drop you? In your place or Stephen's place?" Aiden asked her. Cherry didn't respond. He turned around only to find out that Cherry fell asleep. No wonder she suddenly became quiet. She was no longer talking to herself.

'Sigh. She can't hold her liquor. Next time, I will not allow her to drink more than one bottle.' Aiden made a mental note.

Aiden was still on the road when he received a phone call coming from his place. His Butler informed him that his favorite dog was sick.



Feeling worried about his pet, Aiden drove straight into his house, instead of dropping Cherry in Stephen's place.

It was already 8:00 pm when Aiden arrived home. He carried Cherry, bringing her to the guest room. The Butler and the maids were no longer surprised to see Cherry. She had been there in the house before. She was the first woman Aiden brought home.

"Aunt Leticia, please assist her to change her clothes so that she can sleep comfortably. I will just call someone." Aiden requested his maid before heading to his study room. Cherry was still sound asleep.

After leaving Cherry in the care of his maid, Aiden called Nathan. He would like to ask him whether he was aware of Phantomflake's child or not.

Nathan just finished his dinner together with Abigail and Ethan when he answered Aiden's call.

"What's up?" Nathan asked Aiden. He stepped out of the house using the backdoor and stayed on the balcony.

"Nate, are you busy?" Aiden was still assessing Nathan's mood.

"Nope. Why?" Nathan responded shortly. He wondered why Aiden called him at this hour.

"There is something I wanna ask you. It's about Phantomflake..."

Nathan's expression changed at the mention of Phantomflake's name. He was now all ears on Aiden. "What is it?"

"Hmm. Nate, are you aware that Phantomflake has a child?" Aiden asked him curiously.

That question made Nathan speechless for five seconds.

"What are you talking about?" Nathan asked back when he recovered.

"I just heard from Black Rose... that Phantomflake has a child. Can you confirm if it is true or not?"

Nathan: "..."

Chapter 340 Plenty More Fish In The Sea

Day Forty...

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"Is this information reliable?" Nathan asked Aiden the moment he recovered from his deep stupor. Never had he imagined that Phantomflake had a child.

"I don't know. I informed you so that you can verify this information. Furthermore, Black Rose is so drunk. She might be confused since she is under the influence of alcohol," Aiden explained to him.

"So Black Rose is with you?" Nathan sounded a little bit surprised.

"Yes. She's with me. But Nate... what will you do if Phantomflake really has a child? Correct me if I am wrong... when you attacked their headquarters, you didn't kill a child, did you?" Aiden continued interrogating Nathan.

"No. Only assassins were present. No child." Nathan was certain about this.

"If she does have a child, then I must find that kid... I can use that child against Phantomflake once she wakes up. She will not dare disobey me and she might cooperate with me."

"Nate. Her child is innocent. Don't involve the child in your revenge against Phantomflake," Aiden disagreed.

"Furthermore, how will you find the kid? It looks like even Black Rose doesn't know the child's whereabouts." Aiden informed him.

Nathan fell silent. He had conflicting thoughts right now. He wondered if Stephen knew something about this.

'I will confront him tomorrow after the family day event.' Nathan thought to himself.

"Nate, I have to go. I will have to bring my pet Chao-Chao to the vet. He has fallen sick." Aiden said goodbye to Nathan. He didn't want to dwell further on matters related to Phantomflake. He had some priorities— one was the drunken woman in his guest room and the other one was the adorable pet who needed to be treated tonight.

After Aiden hung up the phone, Nathan remained standing in his spot, looking at the night sky blankly. He was spacing out when Abigail approached him.

"Nate..." She called him. Her voice snapped him out of his stupor.

Nathan tossed a look at her. He saw Abigail inching closer and closer to him.

"Hmm?" Nate simply hummed. His eyes scanned her from top to bottom. Deep inside, he was glad to see her back, although this was just temporary. He felt somehow relieved that Abigail and Dave were not together.

"Tomorrow... are we going to pretend a couple?" Abigail paused, allowing Nathan to speak. It was a very direct question.

Nathan blinked, thinking about her words. 'Do we really need to do that? But how are we going to explain her participation in the event? Only parents, guardians, and relatives are allowed to join the Family Day event.'

"Yes, we have to do it so that the school will not question your attendance. Ethan's school is very strict toward outsiders." Nathan responded.

Abigail sneered at him and asked, "But you are engaged to Helena. Do you want people to think that you are two-timing us?" She was teasing him.

Nathan just arched his eyebrow. "So what? You don't have to worry about my reputation, Miss Scarlett."

Abigail just shrugged her shoulders. "Ok, fine. But I don't want to look like I'm the other woman... the mistress... or the third party. I will not gamble my reputation... especially if there is someone who is waiting for me..." Abigail was taunting him.

Nathan's face contorted when he heard that. He didn't need to guess. He presumed that she was referring to Dave, her childhood sweetheart.

Nathan immediately grabbed her shoulders. "Are you playing with me, Abi?"

"No Nate... I'm serious about you. I'm just giving you a heads-up. I am letting you know that if you don't want me... it's not my loss. If you will reject me then I will remind myself that you are not the only fish in the sea. There are many more fish in the sea." Abigail smiled at him confidently.

But Nathan wouldn't back down. He tightened her grip on her shoulder. Using his right hand, he lifted her chin so that she would look him straight in the eyes. "But my Lady, there is only one Nathan Sparks in this world. You won't meet someone like me."

Nathan smirked cheekily when Abigail was rendered speechless. When it came to verbal war, Nathan already learned how to counterattack.

"Yeah. I agree. You are one of a kind... A very rare specie of men. So if ever you will end up marrying Helena for political reasons, then I will have to retreat and give up on pursuing you." Abigail removed his hand that was holding her chin and patted Nathan's chest before she turned around to leave.

Nathan could only glare while watching her back. "What am I gonna do to her? Abigail Scarlett... let me deal with you tomorrow."

[An hour later at Aiden's place...]

Aiden returned home together with his pet dog, Chao-Chao. It turned out Chao-Chao had an allergy, causing him to vomit and have diarrhea. Aiden had no talent for naming his pet dog. He called him Chao-Chao because of his breed. His pet dog was a chow-chow dog breed.

He brought his dog to his room. After putting his dog in IV, Aiden proceeded to the guest room to check on Cherry. The maid told him that Cherry was already sleeping in her room. But Aiden wanted to see her before going to bed.

A broad smile broke into Aiden's lips when he saw Cherry curling up in her bed. He decided to watch her, admiring her beautiful feature. She looked pretty even in her sleep. He was totally smitten by her.

Aiden leaned over to fix her blanket. She was now wearing a comfy pajama set. Aiden enjoyed observing her up close. He even tucked her hair behind her ear.

'Damn. She is so pretty. I want to pinch her soft cheeks. Can I touch her? She won't wake up, right?'

Unable to hold his urge, Aiden poked her right cheek using his forefinger. He tried his best to hold his laughter. He wanted to touch her other cheek when suddenly Cherry opened her eyes. Aiden's heart jumped out of his chest when he met her gaze. He got frozen as if he had forgotten to breathe.

'Damn it! She woke up! She caught me in the act.'" Aiden's face was close to Cherry's because he was leaning over. 'Uh-oh, I'm doomed!'