

Chapter 502 Have You Gone Mad

Edwin was taken aback. Over the past few years, Leonel had rarely returned.

They hadn't crossed paths in two or three years already.

Their contact had been occasional, and Edwin was aware of Leonel's thriving life abroad, well-regarded on some financial institution where everyone admired him.

He gestured lightly to Laura, indicating she should go and join Alexis.

Edwin took the initiative and called Leonel himself. "Back for a visit?"

Leonel nodded, stealing a glance at Alexis before making his way over.

Waylen, feeling a bit uneasy, excused himself, leaving the two men to converse, and went inside.

Once they were alone, Edwin offered Leonel a cigarette.

Leonel lit it and took a leisurely drag. With the smoke swirling around, he asked, "Are you planning to marry her? Have you thought it through?"

Edwin didn't offer a direct response.

He held the cigarette butt, glancing at Leonel with a faint smile. "If you hadn't ended things with Alexis back then, your kids would be growing up by now."

Leonel remained silent.

Edwin's tone softened. "What's on your mind? I've noticed neither you nor Alexis has had a partner these past few years. Any plans? Or will this go on forever?"

Initially quiet, Leonel smoked half the cigarette before speaking softly. "When I was young, I believed Alexis and I were destined. But after my time abroad, I've discovered the freedom and freshness of the world. I realized that no one is irreplaceable."

He paused, and then added, "Edwin, it's not as complex as it seems. I just don't want to start this. I feel content with my current life abroad."

Edwin remained silent, taking in Leonel's words.

His gaze held a mix of emotions. It was common knowledge why Leonel first entered the Fowler household. He had a rare blood type and Alexis was very fond of him.

As time passed, they had indeed developed a familial connection.

However, Leonel seemed uneasy now. He didn't feel at ease with the Fowlers or with Alexis. Despite engaging in several short relationships, none lasted more than a few months.

Edwin couldn't quite grasp Leonel's current thoughts.

He refrained from giving advice, believing Alexis deserved the best. Forcing someone to remain at her side would undermine her value. There were plenty of suitors in Duefron eager to pursue her!

After smoking, they entered the house.

Waylen was carefully peeling fruit, while Rena was busy brewing tea. She showered both Edwin and Leonel with her tender care and affection.

When it came time to serve the tea, Leonel instinctively stepped in to assist.

Meanwhile, Edwin found Leonel's behavior contradictory and continued to observe him.

If Leonel felt uneasy here with the Fowlers, why ever return?

It was understandable why Waylen didn't seem overly enthusiastic about Leonel now.

Meanwhile, Alexis and Laura were bonding well. Edwin might have felt jealous of Laura and Alexis' rapport if Alexis wasn't a woman as well as his cousin.

He sat beside Laura, putting his arm around her, suggesting they watch cartoons together.

Alexis playfully teased, "Edwin, you're an adult.

Aren't you embarrassed to be watching cartoons at your age?"

Alexis then attempted to change the channel.

Edwin playfully snatched the remote back, saying, "Laura loves watching this!"

Alexis giggled, playfully resting her chin on her hand as she teased, "Oh, so it's for Laura, huh?"

She then generously tossed the remote control to Edwin, jesting, "In that case, I'll let you take charge!"

Edwin shot her a sidelong glance.

Laura, feeling a touch embarrassed, gently pulled on Edwin's sleeve. "Edwin..."

Having grown up there, Edwin acted like a spoiled child.

Rena, sat on the other side, gracefully sipping her fruit tea. "Laura, you're the youngest. It's only right they indulge you."

This added to Laura's discomfort, especially since Edwin was even younger than her.

Edwin winked at her, lightening the mood.

Alexis playfully nudged him. "Stop showing off your affections!"

Edwin affectionately put an arm around her. "Then you better hurry up and find me a brother-in-law."

Alexis retorted sharply, "Brother-in-law? I've got plenty! Do you want a new one every week or every month?"

Edwin glanced over at Leonel, who sat off to the side.

Leonel tinkered with an old record player, seemingly preoccupied, only briefly pausing his actions.

Edwin, sporting a gentle smile, calmly remarked, "Whichever way you like!"

Alexis remained silent, propping herself on the sofa, engrossed in watching the cartoon with Laura.

After a while, Leonel glanced up at her.

Alexis didn't return his gaze until a servant interrupted, summoning them for dinner.

Just then, her phone rang. It was a message from a client.

A woman in the midst of a divorce crisis contemplated self-harm in her bathtub, but still remembered to inform Alexis before doing the act.

Alexis was visibly irritated, feeling a surge of frustration.

No one wanted to venture out in the cold. But this time, she might have to.

She grabbed her coat, announcing, "Mom, Dad, I have something urgent to attend to. I might not be back tonight!"

Waylen immediately objected, "Going out in this cold weather?"

Alexis nodded and replied, "It's a matter of life and death. I have to go!"

Leonel, already seated at the dining table, stood up decisively. "I'll drive you there!"

Alexis was changing shoes when Leonel offered assistance.

However, she declined without hesitation, "That wouldn't be appropriate. I need to maintain client confidentiality."

Leonel persisted, "I'll just drop you off and leave."

With the icy ground outside and his concern about Alexis driving alone, Waylen suggested, "Let Leonel take you. Just come back early after work and avoid wandering around. You know how you get when you've had a few drinks."

Alexis didn't appreciate the comment, waving it off.

"Can we not talk about this? We're all adults here."

Waylen retorted, "I'm your father!"

Quickly, Alexis leaned over and kissed his cheek. "I love you too!"

She also pecked Laura's cheek, leaving her a bit overwhelmed by the sudden affection.

"Stay here for a few more days. Keep my Mom company," she said.

With a sly wink, Alexis swiftly left.

In the car, as Leonel fastened his seatbelt, he asked, "So, do you often go

to bars for drinks?"

Alexis casually hummed. "From time to time."

Leonel turned to her and asked softly, "Ever picked up guys there?"

Alexis gestured for him to start driving, and after a brief pause, she shot back. "That's none of your business. What, did you become a cop in abroad?"

Leonel's expression soured.

The journey was filled with only small talk.

It was a rare instance of them being alone in such a private setting after many years.

Eventually, Alexis fell silent, gazing out of the car window.

Leonel reached for the radio and put on a song.

After a while, he broke the silence. "Do you have someone special in your life now?"

Alexis replied lazily, "No. But if I want to, I can always find someone... Going to a bar makes it easy. No commitments, and no need to discuss anything when it's over."

Alexis said this with a slight chuckle.

She had once loved Leonel, very much so.

Her youth was dedicated to him, and the best years of her young love were intertwined with him.

But he didn't want her anymore.

He left her and even brought other women to visit her parents. It was painful at first, but who said relationships were always destined to be eternal?

It took time, but Alexis eventually moved on.

She didn't care much anymore. If Leonel hadn't reappeared in her life, he would have been insignificant.

Now he asked if she was seeing someone else.

Alexis didn't try to decipher Leonel's thoughts.

Leone's face wasn't looking great, but he didn't pry further. Her words must have been hard for him to digest.

When he chose not to be with her, he should've realized that someday she would move on.

Whether for love... Marriage, or just fleeting pleasure.

Leonel's knuckles whitened as he abruptly stopped at a red light, the tires' screeching sounds startling both of them.

In a subdued tone, he murmured, "Sorry!"

Alexis remained quiet.

By sharing this with Leonel, she meant to emphasize that he shouldn't have any false hopes or expect her to remain chaste and without any man by her side, pining for him to change his mind.

What a joke!

She hadn't given up on herself. Alexis was an ordinary woman with needs who'd been involved with a man or two in the past.

There was even a famous celebrity who had pursued her and continued to do so.

But Alexis had grown weary of it all.

She didn't wish to conceal anything from Leonel, perhaps deep down hoping to sever all ties with him.

The traffic light at the intersection flickered intermittently.

Leonel retrieved a pack of cigarettes from the glove compartment, lit one, and reclined in his seat, puffing away.

Beside him sat Alexis, someone he had given up on but had frequently crossed his mind over the years.

However, it was evident that Alexis didn't think much about him anymore.

Leonel let out a self-deprecating laugh.

A half-hour later, they arrived at the apartment building where Alexis' client resided. Alexis instructed Leonel to head back first.

He nodded, gesturing toward the building.

Alexis said, "Alright, I'll try to come down as soon as possible."

The client was obviously just seeking for attention, and by the time everything was resolved, it was already past one in the morning.

Exhausted, Alexis got into the car, removed her coat, and sank back into her seat.

She then let out a deep sigh.

That woman had almost lost her life!

Quietly observing her, Leonel caught a glimpse of Alexis's profile.

She possessed Rena's beauty but also bore some resemblance to Waylen, an exquisite blend. Her shirt clung slightly due to her posture, accentuating her mature curves.

Leonel's throat bobbed slightly.

He picked up his phone and casually scrolled through it, suggesting, "Let's go grab something to eat."

With her eyes closed, Alexis replied, "At this hour? What's open?"

She slowly opened her eyes and offered a soft smile. "Leonel, how about a change? Let's go to a bar."

She leaned closer to him, her voice gentle. "You haven't brought any flings back this time. How have you been coping?"

Leonel looked down at her.

He understood she was purposefully diverting any thoughts he might have. He wasn't even certain of his own feelings. Since returning, he had simply felt a desire to spend some quality time with her.

They might not end up together, but he cared for Alexis more than any other woman.

He chose not to respond, and Alexis chuckled, settling back in her seat.

"Then let's head home!"

Suddenly, Leonel suggested, "Let's go to the bar!"

Alexis turned her head to him, her smile faint but resolute. She wasn't afraid of the challenge. So be it!

She guided Leonel to a bar she frequented where the bartender recognized her.

He promptly handed her a cocktail.

Flipping her hair lightly, Alexis said, "Give this handsome guy a drink too."

The bartender glanced at Leonel.

He found him affluent and good-looking, potentially within Miss Fowler's social circle.

He prepared the most luxurious drink for him.

Although Leonel attempted to pay, Alexis declined, insisting, "It's on me! I can afford a cocktail."

Leonel quietly observed her.

Leonel noticed her familiarity with many in the bar, but there was no hint of flirtation, just friendly exchanges.

This somewhat improved his mood.

Their conversation skirted personal matters, focusing more on work. Finally, Alexis remarked with a smile, "Stop sending blood bags here. I don't need them anymore."

Leonel's gaze intensified.

Alexis stood up. "I'm going to the restroom."

Leonel nodded, watching her head toward a dimly lit corridor.

However, after about ten minutes, Alexis hadn't returned.

Leonel decided to seek her out.

But as he approached, his steps halted.

There was Alexis, but she wasn't alone.

She was with a strikingly handsome man. The stranger wore sunglasses and a cap, pressing her against the wall and conversing in hushed tones.

She didn't seem bothered.

Instead, she lightly patted his face, and he wrapped his arms around her waist, resting his head on her shoulder, whispering seemingly disgruntled words.

Leonel felt his blood surge in reverse.

Although he couldn't hear their conversation, their body language hinted at something more than friendship, at least an emotional entanglement.

And Alexis didn't dislike this man's advances.

Leonel's gaze turned frigid, fixated on her until she noticed him. She offered a gentle smile, lowering her voice. "Leonel, maybe you should go on ahead?"

His tone was icy. "Are you planning to spend the night with him?"

Alexis maintained silence, her gaze fixed on him.

Leonel, who had bottled up his anger all evening, finally erupted. "If you're considering sleeping with someone, why not me instead? Alexis, I'm still here, and you're about to leave with someone else?"

Alexis' minimal courtesy toward him entirely vanished at that very moment.

Her voice turned cold as she spoke. "Who are you to me? Do I need to report all of my actions to you?"

Initially not in the mood, Leonel's demeanor inclined her more toward leaving with someone else. She took the arm of the popular young star, saying, "Let's go!"

Leonel remained where he stood.

The dim lighting above cast a shadow on his face, making it look extremely grim.

Suddenly, he swiftly strode to the door.

Alexis was pulled behind him, and the next second, he swung a punch at the handsome boy... Gasps of shock reverberated as Leonel carelessly tossed down a blank check.

He then forcefully led Alexis to the car.

Alexis resisted. "What are you doing, Leonel?! Have you gone mad?"

Leonel pressed her against the back seat, his expression cold, and asked, "Do you like him?"

Alexis sneered. "He's not bad!"

Leonel gradually released her, his gaze downcast, lost in thought... After a while, Alexis softly remarked, "Leonel, this is meaningless! Let go of me. I want to go back!"

Leonel asked in a hushed tone, "Alexis, are you trying to get back at me?"

Alexis remained silent for a moment, and then laughed lightly, "Sorry to disappoint you! Leonel, did you expect me to marry a respectable man, and then you'd experience a tinge of regret, reminiscing about our youth? This is what you want, isn't it? What you refuse to acknowledge is that I'm free to be with any man except for you!"

Her smile disappeared. "I'm not seeking revenge on anyone. How I live my life is my concern! As for what you think, that's your business!"

After saying this, she opened the car door, ready to leave.

There was no longer a need for them to continue this conversation.

She had once loved him, suffered from him, and now had no intention of accommodating him further!

The door opened gently, only to be abruptly slammed shut the next second!

Leonel spoke icily. "Why does everyone else get a chance but not me? Am I worse than them? Don't you want to try and see?"



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