

## Chapter 524 It Was Because Leonel Wasn't Here

Nestled against his back, Alexis whispered gently, "Give me some time, okay?"

A hint of surprise flickered across Leonel's expression.

He was familiar with Alexis to the extent that he could recognize her proud nature, realizing that she wouldn't speak vaguely unless she was really hesitating. Additionally, her openness to share her life with him and her softened attitude served as clear signs.

It was likely that affection had taken root within her.

Moments later, he pivoted and planted a tender kiss on her lips.

Soft morning light filtered through the window, enveloping them in a gentle, serene radiance.

Alexis playfully murmured, "If you persist with these kisses, I'll be late for work!"

Leonel responded with another kiss before swiftly organizing breakfast. Amidst bites, she chuckled at the bandage on his face, jesting, "Not the best look for charming young ladies, is it?"

Nonetheless, I've got one at home, and there's no energy for others."

Alexis opted not to respond to the cheeky comment.

After breakfast, Leonel chauffeured her to the law firm, and then proceeded to the airport to fetch a returning partner from Acoiclya.

The car halted at the law firm's entrance.

Leonel turned to her, stating, "I'll swing by after your work. We've got dinner plans with them."

"Them?" she inquired.

Leonel grinned, "Darwin and his wife. You remember her, right? We shared a kindergarten; she's the piano virtuoso."

Alexis reminisced about Serenity.

She glanced at Leonel, saying, "You never mentioned staying connected with her while you were abroad. I had no idea."

Leonel assessed her expression.

After a brief pause, he smiled, remarking, "The community is small. If you'd rather not meet them, there's no pressure. We're not exactly in the same social orbit."

Alexis offered a faint smile and exited the car.

Inside the law firm, she promptly dialed Edwin, declaring, "I've got some funds that might come in handy for you!"

Edwin's voice carried fatigue, probably a result of his strenuous battles with the Smith family.

"No, Lexi. You've already been a tremendous help!"

"Just swing by and see for yourself."

Thirty minutes later, Edwin arrived in person, slightly taken aback at the sight of the check.

It bore Leonel's signature.

Edwin set the check on the desk, took a seat, and rubbed his temples, quipping, "Since when did your connection with him escalate to writing a \$200-billion check? Can I officially dub him my cousin-in-law?"

Alexis blushed, retorting, "Just accept the money; no need for banter!"

She smoothed her hair, adding, "In fact, I'm not rushing into anything with him!"

Edwin's eyes lit up with enthusiasm.

Reexamining the check, he flicked it and remarked, "Honestly, I'm in need of cash right now. But if I take this and your relationship hits a snag, being unable to return it would be worse than death for me. I won't let you demean yourself or beg for mercy on my account."

Playfully, Alexis gave him a gentle kick.

"Do you really think I'm that sort of person? Relax! Even if things go awry with him, I'll figure out a way to settle the score."

Edwin remained silent.

Swiftly taking the check, he left in a hurry, dialing Leonel as he got into his car.

Expressing his gratitude to Leonel with a respectful tone, he sounded polite yet a bit distant.

Subsequently, he conveyed his intention to return the check to Leonel.

Amidst the airport clamor, Leonel replied, "Edwin! Putting Alexis aside, don't we share brotherhood growing up? Do you doubt my sincerity toward Alexis, or is there still lingering resentment from our past altercations? Edwin, I've always wanted a face-to-face conversation all these years."

Articulate and expressive, he conveyed a considerable amount.

Ultimately, Edwin accepted the favor, whispering a quiet "Thanks."

Elsewhere, Leonel offered a subtle smile.

In the evening, Alexis returned home unusually early.

The clock hadn't struck 7 p.m., and the apartment exuded an oddly empty vibe, a sensation she wasn't entirely accustomed to.

Collapsing onto the sofa, she mused, "Humans are indeed social creatures!"

Yet she had experienced solitude before, and it hadn't been unbearable!

Alexis started seeking an activity to occupy her time.

Trying her hand at a basic recipe, she found it lacking in flavor. After a few bites, she discarded it, opting instead to order a steak from a luxurious five-star hotel.

During the steak's preparation, she poured a glass of red wine, accompanied by the melodic tunes of her chosen music.

Reminding herself repeatedly, she convinced herself that she was savoring this opulent solitude!

However, when the steak was delivered, despite relishing top-quality beef and sipping the most expensive wine in her upscale apartment, something still felt amiss.

Eventually, she grasped that the absence of Leonel was the cause.

Clutching her phone, she pondered for a while but ultimately refrained from making the call.

Dismissing the phone with a toss, she murmured, "Alexis, you're quite impatient! It's just a few nights with him' why make such a fuss?"

At that moment, Leonel returned.

The door clicked open, revealing Alexis sprawled on the sofa, appearing somewhat despondent.

Her long legs, usually an alluring sight draped over the sofa's arm, appeared incredibly endearing.

Noticing the noise, Alexis turned her gaze toward him.

Leonel mirrored her action.

Following a moment, he presented the package he held, stating, "I got you some rice noodles from Royal Tea House, your perennial favorite."

"You remembered!"

Having changed into different shoes, Leonel entered and arranged the food on the dining table, presenting it to Alexis.

Observing Alexis' immobility, he effortlessly lifted her and seated her on

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the dining table.

Alexis protested, "I do have legs, you know!"

Shedding his coat, Leonel unveiled himself in a snow-white shirt and black casual trousers, emanating a sharp and polished aura befitting a finance professional.

However, on his countenance...

As Alexis relished the food, she questioned, "Did you genuinely go meet your old classmates and her husband wearing that bandage on your face?"

Alexis had heard about Leonel's business partner Darwin Larson, a distinguished financial expert abroad.

Her parents were actually well-acquainted with his family.

Leonel offered a faint smile. "It's just a dinner with friends; my appearance doesn't really matter! By the way, did the station reach out to you today? I've heard that Janelle has been released on bail."

Alexis nodded.

In a subdued tone, she commented, "I've been informed."

Leonel inquired, "Do you have any regrets? You devoted all the legal fees to her, and yet she turned out to be ungrateful."

Alexis chuckled softly. "I've come across plenty of ungrateful individuals. Besides, she's not the worst."

An unspoken pause lingered.

After a while, Leonel, grinding his pearly teeth, proposed, "Miss Fowler, shall we steer clear of that subject?"

Alexis offered a slight smile.

She continued relishing her rice noodles, her appetite hearty as she swiftly finished the food.

"Just as good as I remember."

With her meal concluded, Leonel tidied up, and then casually leaned against the dining table, remarking, "That may be as good as you remember, Miss Fowler, but I'm even better. Interested in exploring tonight?"

Alexis admired his boldness.

Her own daring demeanor seemed subdued in contrast to Leonel's.

Wiping her lips, she apologized, "Nah! Engaging in excessive activities after dinner isn't ideal for digestion!"

Leonel glanced at his watch. "Maybe in an hour?"

Alexis, massaging her still-sore waist, forced a smile. "I'm exceptionally full tonight; Mr. Douglas, you're not on the agenda! If you feel inclined, you can explore other avenues."

With that, she tossed a substantial stack of tissues in his direction.

Alexis retreated to the study while Leonel observed the tissues, sporting a smile.

Evidently, news of Leonel's loan to Edwin swiftly reached Waylen's ears.

Despite the complex relationship between Leonel and Alexis, the utilization of \$20 billion signified a profound commitment.

Distressed, Waylen paced the house incessantly, causing Rena to worry.

Waylen eventually came to a stop.

"No! We must summon them for a discussion!"

Rena sighed softly. "How would you broach the subject? Marriage plans? Isn't that a bit forward? Wouldn't it embarrass Alexis?"

"You don't understand!"

Waylen sneered. "The youth of today don't commit like our generation. They can be close one day and apart the next, as ordinary as daily routines."



Rena scoffed. "Oh! Did you forget your own quest for excitement back then?"

Waylen's cheeks flushed.

"Why bring up such an ancient tale, Rena? Besides, I've stayed completely faithful to you, never straying from your side."

Unperturbed, Rena continued reading, "If you say so!"

Frustrated, Waylen was on the brink of making a solemn promise.

Eventually, he settled beside his wife, whimpering with a tone of complaint. "Aren't we talking about our children? How come I became the target here? Haven't I been a loyal husband all these years? Not many rich ladies enjoy such ease like you do without concern for their husbands' mistresses or illegitimate children."

Rena offered a subtle smile. "Well, you're reasonably acceptable."

"Completely acceptable!"

Holding her hand, Waylen planted a kiss on her cheek, expressing, "We are destined to age together! Once our children find their own happiness, I intend to embark on a worldwide journey with you."

Rena wasn't enthusiastic about traveling.

Yielding to his persistence, she responded with a gentle smile, "Waylen, you're my entire world."

This left Waylen perplexed.

His wife rarely uttered such romantic phrases. Despite his repeated requests for her to repeat them, Rena steadfastly refused. Consequently, Waylen, consumed by intense emotion and desire, shared passionate moments with Rena on the sofa, not once but twice.

As a result, both of them were drenched in sweat.

After their intimate encounter, Rena nestled in his embrace, toying with his distinguished features.

"At our age, still so lively!"

Waylen gazed at her with profound affection.

Having been married for more than two decades, Rena retained her beauty and physique like a woman in her thirties. Their marital life remained nearly as vibrant as in their youth, perhaps a heavenly blessing.

He kissed her, gradually trailing down to her shoulder.

Sensing his intentions, Rena gently pushed him. "Enough, exercise some restraint!"

Today, Waylen was not inclined towards moderation.

Right at that moment, a servant knocked on the door, announcing, "Mr. Flower, Miss Fowler has returned!"

Waylen looked down at his wife, speaking in a low tone, saying, "I'll go have a chat with Alexis; you take some rest."

Rena seemed slightly uneasy.

Waylen's fixation on their children's marriages worried her, prompting her to add, "Marriage is a momentous decision. Let Alexis make her own choice! Leonel is indeed a good kid, but still, it's their decision to make."

Waylen Fowler was now receptive to listening.

He gently caressed her shoulder. "I'm going downstairs."

He dressed in her presence, theatrically zipping up his trousers, eliciting a blush from Rena.

Waylen felt a sense of pride.

He descended to find Alexis lounging on the couch, engrossed in watching Chibi Maruko-chan.

Waylen descended the staircase.

Clearing his throat, Waylen remarked, "As a prominent attorney in Duefron, you still find pleasure in such shows for kids."



Alexis cast a glance at him.

She then took a bite of a chip, commenting, "Dad, this is called preserving a childlike heart. Don't you do the same, engaging in midday amorous activities? That's a youthful spirit too!"

She chuckled. "No, it's more like 'an old blade remains keen'."

Seated across from her, Waylen scolded, "If your mother caught wind of this, she'd be furious! Your bold demeanor is reserved only for me, you play the prim and proper role with her."

"One should conduct themselves appropriately in the company of esteemed individuals."

Waylen felt irritated.

Having sipped his tea, served by the attendant, he inquired, "Let's delve into the matter of Leonel's loan to Edwin."

Alexis smirked. "Dad, that's not your actual query, is it?"

Waylen abandoned the pretense, asking straightforwardly, "Fine! What about you and Leonel? Any plans? If you're serious, I can instruct your mother to commence preparations for your dowry, and I can offer Leonel guidance on matters like a father should."

"It's premature!"

Alexis responded with a light laugh, "Dad, understanding each other is crucial. Marriage isn't an impromptu decision. If we're incompatible and face the prospect of divorce, or if children become part of the equation, it becomes excessively complex."

Waylen agreed.

However, with Alexis being his own daughter and Leonel almost like his own son, any unsightly issues would pose complications.

Alexis acknowledged his concerns.

Pausing momentarily, she offered a faint smile. "At worst, it would revert to how it was before!"

Concluding, she rose from her seat and said, "Dad, I must head back to the firm."

Waylen frowned. "Are you that busy? I haven't concluded my inquiries yet!"

Alexis leaned down and kissed him. "You could call Leonel back and thoroughly interrogate him. I believe he'd willingly discuss even his hobbies with you. Dad, trust me, men often find more common ground to converse about."

Waylen perceived his daughter as quite the mischievous one.

Could Leonel truly handle her?

He truly started to wonder the dynamics of their relationship.

As Alexis rose, she smiled. "Dad, go take a shower! I can tell it was quite intense."

With that, she swiftly departed.

Waylen found himself without anyone to vent his irritation to.

Upon Alexis' departure, she received a call from Leonel, his voice soothing. "Did Mr. Fowler summon you for a conversation?"

Alexis sat in her car.

Casually chatting with him, she had one hand on the steering wheel, the other holding her phone.

"So, Leonel, you have your informants at my place!"

He chuckled softly. "How else could I successfully pursue my wife?"

Alexis paused.

Reflecting on her father's comments, Edwin's inquiries, and her feelings for Leonel, for the first time, she asked him, "Leonel, are you serious? Are you genuinely committed? Can I trust that you won't leave without cause, won't become unreachable, and won't bring up the idea of parting again?"

There was a moment of silence on the line.

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His voice was somewhat hoarse and trembling when he spoke up.

He reassured her, "I'm serious! Alexis, I won't leave you again!"

Alexis felt a lump in her throat.

Finally, after eight years of separation, she was prepared to admit her lingering feelings for him, still open to granting him a second chance. Her voice husky, she asked, "Where are you? I want to see you!"



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