

Chapter 534 It Turned Out That Darwin Also Liked Alexis

Serenity was on the phone.

Meanwhile, dressed only in his underwear, Kenneth was eating some watermelon.

He felt a little unsettled after he finished the watermelon.

He thought of Serenity's soft skin on the bed and wiped his mouth as he headed back to the bedroom. But his plan was abruptly interrupted when the door burst open.

The police arrived and arrested Kenneth. Wrapped in a blanket, Serenity looked pale as she was assisted into a wheelchair.

She was escorted to the hospital for a medical check-up and to provide a DNA sample.

At the police station, Kenneth maintained a defiant attitude and demanded to see a lawyer.

When he realized that he had no one to turn to, he finally conceded, "I'll call my son. He's a successful businessman. I'm sure he'll handle this."

The police eventually got in touch with Leonel.

Leonel was a well-known figure.

So he arrived at the station dressed in fine clothes. He was clearly a member of the upper class.

At 4 a.m., Leonel looked terrible.

At that hour, Leonel was visibly irritated. Moreover, he was frustrated by his father's misconduct, though he partly blamed Serenity for the situation.

"Leonel, help me!"

Kenneth exclaimed as Leonel entered, like he was his savior.

Kenneth looked behind him and was dismayed. "Didn't you bring a lawyer? You should have hired a legal team for me. Alexis is competent, right? Have her handle this case for me."

Infuriated, Leonel asked, "Why didn't Alexis run you over yesterday?"

Kenneth felt a twinge of guilt.

But he stubbornly argued, "Serenity invited me to her place, and wore provocative dresses at night to seduce me. It wasn't my fault. Isn't it normal for two single people to have sex?"

He then added, "Just spend some money to make this go away."

Leonel was reluctant to get involved.

But Kenneth was his blood relative, and Serenity had once been with him.

Darwin, Serenity's ex-husband, was also his business partner.

This made the matter complicated as Kenneth had raped Darwin's ex-wife.

Leonel thought about how he was going to explain to Darwin and found the situation difficult to navigate.

Deep down, he wanted Kenneth to face justice in prison.

As Leonel turned to leave, Kenneth called out in distress, "Leonel, say something! What are you thinking? You wouldn't betray your father over a woman, would you?"

Leonel replied coldly, "Get ready for prison."

With that, he left.

Outside, dawn was yet to break. Leonel sat in his car, taking a moment to smoke a cigarette quietly. Then he drove to the hospital.

Serenity was there, receiving treatment for a tearing wound.

She became hysterical when she saw Leonel and hurled a glass from her bedside at him.

"Why are you here?" she demanded.

Leonel, having dodged the glass, stood by the door and watched Serenity in her distraught state.

He had just learned from the nurse that this had been her first sexual experience and she was raped by Kenneth.

He didn't expect the revelation that Serenity had never been intimate with Darwin.

It left him with conflicting emotions.

Given the situation, Leonel felt obliged to offer financial compensation to her. He had decided not to interfere with the legal aspects of the case.

Serenity continued to vent her anger as she smashed objects in the room.

Once she had calmed down, Leonel pulled out a chair and sat across from her.

"Are you here to mock me?"

Serenity sneered. "You must be pleased now, Leonel. And Alexis must be relieved, right? Now I'm damaged goods and won't bother you anymore, right?"

Leonel responded calmly, "This has nothing to do with Alexis."

With tears streaming down her face, Serenity looked up.

"Why didn't that monster rape her instead?"

Leonel remained silent. He believed that if Alexis had been the target, she would have fiercely defended herself. Alexis was strong and would never have let herself be victimized like that.

Moreover, Alexis would never have allowed Kenneth into her home.

But Leonel said nothing.

Serenity looked at him coldly. "I'll push for a public trial, Leonel. You won't escape this scandal. I will make sure you're ruined just as I am," she declared.

In response, Leonel brought out a checkbook from his pocket.

He wrote a check for 50 million dollars and gently placed it at Serenity's bedside.

He said in a low voice, "I understand the gravity of what you've lost and I'm sorry it happened to you. I won't defend my father. He can seek legal aid himself."

Serenity looked at the check and asked, "Is this a settlement?"

Is this the value you place on my ordeal?"

She tore the check to pieces.

Leonel watched her in silence. His face was unreadable.

After a pause, he addressed her, "Serenity, our time together was brief. I felt uncertain about lots of things in my life when I first went to Acoiclya. I initially believed someone like you would be right for me. When I realized I had no feelings for you, I decided it was important to be honest with you about it. And I was. Afterwards, you and Darwin got married. I viewed our past encounters as trivial and maintained friendly relations with both of you. In my mind, there was no romantic involvement between us, and I believed I hadn't wronged Darwin in any way.

But when you discovered my relationship with Alexis, you came here to reveal yourself to her.

Your decision to divorce Darwin and to pursue me are choices you've made on your own. I cannot be held accountable for your actions."

Leonel expressed himself bluntly as he looked at Serenity.

"You truly are a bastard, Leonel."

Feeling a mix of shame and anger, Serenity threw a pillow at Leonel who caught it effortlessly.

Leonel waited for her to regain her composure.

Serenity was deeply upset by Leonel's apparent indifference towards the loss of her virginity.

She gasped and sneered. "You can't just walk away. Even if I'm ruined, I'll make sure you're dragged down with me. I'll insist on a public trial. Remember, Leonel, you're the son of a rapist. Think about this. If Alexis marries you, her child will be the grandchild of a rapist. Do you believe she would still marry you under these circumstances?"

At this point, Leonel's patience finally wore thin.

Rising to his feet, he said, "Whatever!" and headed for the door.

Serenity called out desperately when he opened the door, "Leonel, come back!"

She realized that her current predicament was all because of Leonel.

At that moment, she deeply missed Darwin.

Darwin would never have treated her this way.

Meanwhile, Leonel drove directly to Alexis' apartment after he left the hospital. He waited there until she showed up.

She spotted Leonel when she came out of her apartment.

Alexis hesitated for a moment, but then she opened the car door and got in.

Aware that Alexis usually didn't prepare breakfast herself, Leonel handed her a bag of breakfast. As she ate, Alexis inquired, "Why are you here so early?"

Leonel glanced at her.

Given her court appearance scheduled for that day, she was simply dressed in a white shirt and black windbreaker and her long hair fell loosely.

Leonel reached out, gently touched her elegant nose, and asked in a hoarse voice, "Did you meet him yesterday?"

Alexis thought for a moment before she realized whom Leonel was referring to.

She nodded.

She looked up after a while and asked, "What? Did he come looking for you?"

Leonel hesitated briefly, and then quietly explained to Alexis the incident with Serenity. This caused Alexis to frown in concern.


Alexis knew precisely what Serenity was up to.

Her primary motive was to tarnish Leonel's reputation.

With his father's actions coming to light, Leonel's future in the business world would undoubtedly be challenging.

Alexis remained silent.

She chose to neither sympathize with Serenity nor to further criticize her

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in her vulnerable state. She understood the complexities from a woman's perspective.

Leonel admitted in a low tone, "There are many ways I could make Serenity back down, but Alexis... I don't want to resort to those methods. They're too distasteful."

Alexis nodded, understanding his stance.

With a slight smile, Alexis responded, "The decision is yours to make."

Leonel grasped her hand and asked, "Will it bother you?"

He reflected on his strained relationship with Kenneth and the potential outcome when the latter's crime came to light. Despite everything, that man was still his biological father.

Deep down, Leonel questioned whether Alexis would remain by his side despite these challenges.

Alexis pondered and said, "Honestly, this won't affect our relationship. Leonel, we aren't exactly on the same side. How you handle matters with Serenity is your business, not mine."

Leonel's face lost color at her words.

Alexis exited the car and said, "Thank you for the breakfast."

She got into her car and drove off. Through her rearview mirror, she could see a hint of disappointment on Leonel's face.

She was aware of the impact Kenneth's actions could have on Leonel.

Having faced betrayal herself in her past, Alexis had a certain level of tolerance towards Leonel's situation.

After leaving the courtroom later that morning, Alexis unexpectedly ran into Darwin.

Darwin leaned casually against her car with a cigarette in hand.

The ground near his feet was littered with five cigarette butts which indicated that he had been waiting for her for quite a while already.

Alexis approached her car, tossed her briefcase inside, and casually inquired, "What's up?"

Darwin looked at her with a thoughtful expression.

Although he didn't really know Alexis personally, their fathers had been friends.

He nodded and said, "There's something I need to discuss with you."

Alexis gestured towards a cafe across the road. "Why don't we sit down and talk?"

Sitting inside moments later, Alexis stirred her coffee and waited for Darwin to begin.

Darwin inquired softly, "What do you know about Serenity?"

Alexis looked at him curiously.

Darwin laughed bitterly. "Serenity has been my wife for a few years but her heart seems always set on Leonel. Alexis, you have it all. You're capable of attracting any remarkable man. Perhaps you might consider..."

"Consider letting Leonel be with Serenity?"

Alexis interjected.

Darwin bowed his head as he sipped his coffee, tasting its bitterness.

Smiling, Alexis remarked, "You're quite selfless, Darwin. Serenity was your wife. It's hard to believe you want to find her a husband. But you may be getting this mixed up. I don't own Leonel, and I can't make decisions for him."

Darwin was about to respond, but Alexis cut him off.

"I once naively thought Leonel was mine.

But I was mistaken. He left, only to return much later and not because he was mine, but because he chose to."

Visibly shocked, Darwin asked, "About your relationship with him..."

"No comment," Alexis answered with a smile.

With her unfinished coffee, she rose and said, "Darwin, carrying too much burden can harm both you and the other person. They may not even value your sacrifices."

With that, she left.

Darwin remained and slowly finished his coffee.

He realized Alexis had a deep understanding of the situation.

She sensed his affection for her, yet he was worthless to her.

Alexis met Leonel when she walked out.

Seated in the car, she remained quiet for some time before asking, "Have you been having someone shadow me?"

Leonel didn't deny it.

Glancing her way, he admitted, "I'm concerned about your safety."

Her fingers tensed as she looked at Leonel. "You're aware of what Darwin told me, aren't you?"

Leonel was indeed aware.

He wasn't aware that Darwin had feelings for Alexis.

He wondered why Darwin chose to marry Serenity.

He felt a chill break out at the thought of it so he refrained from probing further.

Without another word, he drove straight to his apartment.

"It's not the weekend," Alexis pointed out.

"Does that mean I can't spend the night with you unless it's a weekend?" Leonel said in an unnervingly calm tone.

She cast a sideways glance at him.

Their relationship this time was different. They spoke little and felt a distance between them.

The intensity of Leonel's feelings overwhelmed Alexis.

Alexis wondered if his need to flee in the past stemmed from similar feelings.

When they arrived at his apartment, he lifted her and carried her to the bedroom.

As evening approached, the room was bathed in the golden hues of the setting sun, both bright and soft.

Alexis resisted his advances.

She nudged him. "The curtains."

Leonel pressed a button to close the curtains. Then his breath turned seductive in the darkness... Alexis burrowed her face in the pillow and asked him to use protection.

Leonel whispered against her lips, "Alexis, let's have a child."

"Huh! You wish."

"Why would I as an unmarried woman, bear your child?"

His response was a passionate kiss. His lips eventually trailed to her ear. "Then why do you have sex with me?"

She kicked him. "Isn't it because you're aroused?"

Leonel's gaze deepened.

He eventually complied with her request and wore a condom.

His passion waned after he orgasmed twice. His mind was clearly somewhere else. He was not so excited, but he didn't want to let her go. She just buried her head in the pillow and soon fell asleep.

Leonel tenderly kissed her damp hair when he saw this.

The night fell.

He glanced at the clock and noted it was already eight. Alexis was asleep beneath him.

He swallowed.

He wondered if she thought it was boring to have sex with him.

He stood up and went to take a shower. When he was done, he went to the kitchen to prepare a simple but nutritious dinner. He then returned to the bedroom to wake her up when dinner was set.

He found Alexis awake.

She was sitting on the bedside, confused.

Leonel walked up to her and softly stroked her hair. "You fell asleep."

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Alexis smiled and said, "I fell asleep during sex. Isn't that the sign you're being looking for? Leonel, this is pointless and we should let go of each other go as soon as we can."

He looked at her and didn't reply.

Silently, they had dinner. Alexis didn't inquire about his situation with Serenity. It was his concern, not hers.

Even though Alexis didn't ask, Leonel was likely to share eventually.

Their relationship was functional yet hollow. They shared meals, a bed, intimacy, but the spark was gone. Leonel wondered what happened to the old Alexis.

She once desired him so deeply.

Now, she was calm and detached. It was a stark contrast to her previous longing.

Leonel felt unsettling knowing he couldn't fully really have Alexis.

He was trapped by his own emotions. The more he couldn't get Alexis, the more he yearned for control over her. Even knowing she resented it, he couldn't help himself...



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