

Chapter 549 Leonel, Do You Wish To Keep This Shirt

Alexis, too, harbored a fondness for girls and hoped for a daughter. Her voice softened unintentionally. "Any ideas for a fitting name for our child?"

She then expressed her dissatisfaction. "Douglas doesn't quite cut it. It doesn't resonate like my last name, Fowler."

Leonel grinned. "Indeed, the Fowler name is exceptional. Douglas pales in comparison."

Following his remark, both of them shared a spontaneous laugh.

After a pause, Alexis inquired softly, "Is it true that we're going to have a child?"

In truth, she wasn't particularly fond of children.

Infants were incredibly fragile and posed a challenge in caregiving during their early stages.

Plus, they had a penchant for crying.

However, if it were the offspring of her and Leonel, she believed that no matter how boisterous, the child would be endearing.

Alexis had lightened her workload, concentrating on recovery and eagerly anticipating the wedding. Laura, too, was a constant presence, providing companionship throughout Alexis' pregnancy. Lately, Laura had taken up knitting. Not only did she craft sweaters for her own future child, but she also unintentionally created several for Alexis' baby.

Numerous sets of light pink and baby blue sweaters, coupled with tiny trousers, presented an adorable sight.

The entire ensemble couldn't match the length of Leonel's arm.

Observing this, Alexis leaned in, resting her face on Laura's shoulder. Blinking, she praised, "Laura, you're truly versatile."

Laura blushed.

She hadn't entirely accustomed herself to her proximity to Alexis. In truth, after an extended period of interaction, Alexis proved to be somewhat different from Laura's initial perception.

Alexis was no longer as aloof and haughty as she once was. Occasionally, she even exhibited a more playful, childlike demeanor in Laura's presence.

Leonel must have a strong liking for Alexis, Laura thought as she contemplated.

In the midst of her thoughts, the apartment door was pushed open.

Leonel returned, accompanied by Edwin. Nonchalantly changing his shoes, Leonel inquired, "Any cravings for tonight's dinner?"

After a brief contemplation, Alexis replied, "I'm in the mood for honey-glazed, smoked spare ribs."

Alexis glanced at Laura.

Laura whispered, "I'd like to have that as well."

Leonel grinned. "It's okay, Laura. Edwin will be our chef tonight."

Laura blushed, stealing a glance at Edwin. He appeared well-groomed, his allure undiminished since before marriage, unlike herself, sporting a baby bump. With slender limbs, she felt somewhat like a petite frog.

She couldn't help but worry whether he found it unappealing.

Nonetheless, despite her frog-like appearance, Edwin remained cheerful and attracted to her.

Despite being married for a considerable time, Laura was still too shy to gaze at him directly.

After glancing at Edwin, Laura promptly shifted her position and whispered, "I'm in the mood for prawns."

Edwin entered with a grocery bag in hand, containing prawns.

Upon witnessing this, Laura's joy was evident. "How did you know I was craving these?"

Edwin casually unbuttoned his cuff link, grinning. "I did mention last night that I'm a mind reader."

Laura's face turned as red as a ripe apple, as she recalled last night.

She deemed Edwin shameless.

Lounging on the sofa, Alexis narrowed her eyes at Edwin. "It's still daylight, Edwin, so show some restraint. Ten Lauras wouldn't be sufficient for your teasing antics."

As Edwin headed to the kitchen, he quipped, "I just need one."

Alexis snickered. "Hah! That's our man."

Laura's face deepened in color, and she remained silent. Observing Laura's expression, Alexis understood what had stirred Edwin's interest.

Edwin was robust in nature, while Laura was such a sweet little thing.

She was so endearing.

Edwin excelled not only in teasing Laura but also in the culinary arts. The dishes he prepared were delectable.

After dinner, Edwin spent two hours in the study with Leonel. Upon emerging, Edwin departed with Laura. Eventually, Leonel, rubbing his temples, stepped out of the study.

Engaged in watching TV, Alexis inquired softly, "You've been spending a lot of time with Edwin lately, haven't you?"

Leonel nodded.

Unbuttoning his shirt, he expressed gently, "He approached me for an investment in a project. After evaluation, it seems viable. I might have a business trip for a few days next week."

Alexis nodded without delving further into the matter.

Leonel draped his arm around her shoulders from behind the sofa and inquired, "Why the sudden lack of inquiries?"

"It wouldn't be suitable for me to pry into your business matters. Besides, Edwin is like a brother to me."

Alexis maintained a clear distinction between business and private matters.

Leonel proposed, "Wouldn't it be fitting if I gifted you some shares?"

After a brief pause, he inquired, "What do you think of twenty percent?"

Turning to face him, Alexis embraced his neck and whispered, "Don't, Leonel. We don't need to convey our feelings through such gestures. I have my own financial means."

Gazing down at her, Leonel whispered in a husky tone, "Yet, Alexis, I desire to give you all that I possess and share every aspect of my life with you."

Inhaling deeply, Alexis expressed, "Your words truly move me."

Leonel affectionately patted her hip and remarked, "You're quite a character."

Following a brief laugh, Alexis shifted to business matters. "Oh, speaking of which, Calvin has been well taken care of abroad. He's returning."

Leonel exhibited possessiveness and jealousy.

Observing his expression, Alexis reassured in a hushed tone, "Don't be jealous. Calvin is aware of my pregnancy, and that we're planning to get married. He actually brought back our wedding gifts from abroad."

Leonel playfully pinched Alexis' nose and quipped, "I'll consider him as the son we've never had."

Alexis chuckled with a hint of irritation. "Come on! Calvin is more like a brother to me. Did you even hear yourself? He's only a few years younger than you. Leonel, why do you resemble my dad in this shameless manner now?"

Leonel affectionately patted her head and grinned.

Just as he was about to speak, his phone buzzed—a call from Darwin.

Leonel picked up the call, and a subtle shift in his expression followed.

After a prolonged conversation, he ended the call and somberly informed Alexis, "Darwin's mother has passed away."

Alexis was taken aback. She heard about the surgery from Leonel. But didn't it go smoothly? Why this sudden demise?

Leonel murmured, "The Larson couple introduced a girl to Darwin. Serenity rushed over, causing a commotion that angered Darwin's mother once more. She was taken to the hospital and, unfortunately, passed away later."

Alexis was left in shock.

After a pause, she spoke up in hushed tones. "Serenity may not love Darwin, but having been married to him, she considers him her possession. She won't tolerate anyone trying to take what she deems hers."

The weight of the situation was overwhelming.

Leonel nodded, contemplating whether he should attend Diana's funeral in person or delegate the task to his secretary.

Ultimately, he chose to have his secretary make the trip, as he wished to avoid the presence of Serenity, which might evoke strong negative emotions.

Despite his absence, members of both the Fowler and Larson families, including Waylen, Rena, Marcus, and Elva, attended Diana's funeral as friends.

A week elapsed, and Alexis encountered Darwin.

In this brief span, Darwin appeared as if a layer of skin had been peeled away, rendering him gaunt.

His eyes were shrouded in gloom.

Empathy compelled Alexis not to overlook Darwin, especially considering his recent loss.

Darwin extended an invitation for coffee, and Alexis accepted.

In the cafe, even the waiter maintained a distance from Darwin while taking their orders, given his somber demeanor.

"Why didn't you attend that day?" Darwin inquired of Alexis.

Initially taken aback, Alexis struggled to formulate a response, but Darwin continued, "Ah, yes, you're pregnant. It wouldn't have been suitable for you to attend such an event."

Alexis offered a smile as the waiter delivered Darwin's coffee.

His trembling fingers grasped the cup, and he consumed half of it in a single gulp.

Alexis couldn't help but notice the blood on his finger.

She gazed silently at his finger for a moment before shifting her gaze to

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his face.

Darwin lowered his head to inspect his finger. Abruptly, a sinister smile crossed his face as he whispered, "I encountered Serenity before this."

Alexis remained silent.

Darwin's tone remained nonchalant. "I broke her legs. She won't trouble me anymore, and my world will be serene. Oh! The baby in her womb is no more. Are you pleased, Alexis? She won't torment you with the baby anymore."

Darwin spoke in a detached manner, and Alexis listened with growing numbness.

A sudden wave of nausea swept over her.

The situation was repulsive.

Overwhelmed, Alexis rushed to the bathroom and leaned against the wall, expelling the juice she had consumed. She didn't recover until her stomach was empty.

Darwin came up behind her, offering a tissue.

"Six months into my marriage with Serenity, I briefly harbored affection for her and aspired to build a happy life together. But ultimately, I drove my mother to her demise. Alexis, can you empathize with what I'm going through?"

Alexis dabbed her lips and pivoted slowly to face Darwin.

Surveying him, she sensed an oddity but found it somehow understandable.

Such experiences could drive anyone to madness.

Darwin erupted in sudden laughter. "Yet I can't accept it. Serenity always fancied Leonel. Why did I end up losing my mother? Soon, you'll have a joyous family with adorable children.

Meanwhile, I have nothing."

Regaining composure, Alexis inquired, "What brings you to me today, Darwin?"

Darwin lightly brushed her hair with his fingers.

Alexis evaded the touch.

Undeterred, Darwin smiled. "Nothing specific. I just wanted to have a conversation with you, Alexis. If there's anyone in the world who can understand my pain, I hope it's you."

"I don't want any part of it," Alexis responded casually.

She continued in a light tone, "Darwin, it's not just Serenity who caused your mother's death, but your own actions as well."

By giving Serenity a chance in the first place, Darwin also played a role in Diana's demise.

Alexis, devoid of sentimentality, added gently, "I'm sorry, but Darwin, you need to move forward."

With that, she headed toward the exit.

Darwin murmured behind her, "I'll never be as ruthless as you and Leonel. And that's why you don't fancy me, right?"

Alexis stood motionless, offering no reply.

As she prepared to depart, Darwin's voice elevated, declaring, "Alexis, I have feelings for you."

But Alexis had already departed.

She had tasks to attend to, but her current state of mind was not conducive. Once in the car, she called her secretary, instructing them to cancel her schedule.

After ending the call, Alexis reclined in her seat, deep in contemplation.

Serenity experienced a miscarriage, and her legs were indeed fractured.

Nevertheless, Alexis didn't share the jubilation Darwin had hinted at. Instead, she appeared troubled. Alexis considered Darwin's actions erratic. There was a notable change in him. Breaking Serenity's legs and causing her a miscarriage—was it truly just an outlet for his anger?

Alexis harbored some doubt.

In the evening, with Leonel busy in the kitchen, Alexis entered and embraced him from behind, resting her face against his back.

Leonel shifted his head slightly, questioning softly, "What's troubling you?"

After a moment of silence, Alexis murmured, "I met Darwin today. He revealed that he was responsible for breaking Serenity's legs, resulting in her having a miscarriage."

Leonel tensed imperceptibly, maintaining silence.

Alexis looked up at him, attempting to gauge his thoughts. With a subtle smile, she chose not to make any further remarks.

Alexis retreated to the living room to watch TV, leaving Leonel to do his cooking.

The rhythmic chopping of vegetables echoed from the kitchen, while the antics of Tom and Jerry unfolded on the TV. The grimness and discomfort Alexis experienced after encountering Darwin appeared to slowly dissipate.

Determined to maintain a positive mood, she resolved to push those thoughts aside.

As night fell, Leonel found himself compelled to work overtime. After a shower, he headed to the study.

Alexis typically had spare time, engaging in occasional household chores.

She derived satisfaction from sorting Leonel's clothes and placing them in a laundry bag for the cleaning lady to transport to the dry cleaner. Occasionally, she would personally deliver the garments if she had the time.

Alexis picked up one of Leonel's white shirts with the intent of placing it in the laundry bag.

To her surprise, she noticed a faint bloodstain on the shirt's cuff.

It wasn't readily apparent, but it seemed like it had been rinsed with water, taking on a faint red hue.

Alexis was taken aback.

She eased onto the small sofa in the dressing room, gazing at the shirt stained with blood. Although she was eager to ask Leonel about the source of the blood, she hesitated, convinced he wouldn't disclose the information.

The mere contemplation of the most likely scenario left Alexis feeling as if all the strength had been drained from her body.

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At that moment, the door to the dressing room creaked open.

Lifting her gaze, Alexis encountered Leonel. As their eyes locked, Leonel spoke quietly. "Leave these tasks to the cleaning lady. You're pregnant, and we don't want you to tire yourself out."

After a prolonged silence, Alexis summoned a smile.

She inquired, "Leonel, do you wish to keep this shirt?"



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