

Chapter 555 Are You Coming To My Place

Leonel remained the focus of Alexis' gaze.

She was a grown woman, but the way she looked at him made him feel a strong desire to be close to her.

The illusion persisted, painting her as pure and untainted.

He still remembered that teenage girl, trying to hide from the crowd because she was overwhelmed by her first period and afraid of being noticed or approached.

A surge of affection engulfed Leonel.

Caught unawares, he struggled to regain composure.

Leonel now comprehends the depth of Alexis' past resentment towards him. She held a grudge because he had ended their relationship and walked away. Ironically, he found himself in a similar position, harboring hatred for her abrupt departure without a farewell and for being with someone else.

Before he could grasp the situation, Alexis found herself placed on the desk.

The conventional knee-length skirt took on a sensuous allure as she assumed her provocative stance. Its fabric grazed against his gray suit trousers, separated only by a delicate layer of stockings.

Gazing upon the provocative tableau, Leonel's Adam's apple subtly bobbed in response.

"Your imagination runs wild," remarked Alexis.

Desiring to disengage, Alexis felt a warm hand gently resting on her leg, just above the knee. Their mutual attention gravitated toward that spot.

Numerous instances existed when he could have undressed her at his whim.

He could have her bare herself willingly.

He could claim her in the most lascivious and shameless manner.

However, Leonel refrained. Raising his dark eyes, he fixed them on her. "Does it really?"

Relinquishing his grip, he leaned back.

His hands were sizable, and the cigarette seemed almost diminutive, cradled between his fingers like a matchstick.

Lighting the cigarette, he drew a prolonged drag.

Alexis descended from the desk, resuming her seat, her gaze fixed on Leonel.

Leonel's purpose in coming could be either to stir up trouble or simply to lay eyes on her.

Despite his awareness that their meeting was not a joyous occasion, he continued to gaze at her. Leisurely smoking a cigarette, he extinguished it and departed without a word.

The door swung open and shut once more, the faint noise resonating loudly in Alexis' ears.

A month elapsed, and Leonel formally initiated legal proceedings to regain custody of Evelyn.

In relation to this issue, Waylen summoned Leonel back to the Fowler residence.

An hour later, Leonel emerged from the house sporting facial bruises.

Despite the injuries, Leonel maintained an air of arrogance.

Approaching him with trepidation, the servant uttered, "Mr. Douglas."

Halting, Leonel glanced upstairs, his tone indifferent. "It's getting hot lately, and Dad's temper is also getting short. Prepare some tea for him later. Otherwise, Mom will worry when she returns."

The servant stood in disbelief.

Gazing at Leonel, she couldn't help but find him handsome, even in the dim light, despite his injuries.

The servant pondered whether Waylen was seizing the opportunity of Rena being away to deal with Leonel.

The servant continued to mull it over as Leonel departed. Once in his car, he messaged Alexis, "Have you received the legal notice?"

Naturally, Alexis had received the notice.

Leonel orchestrated it intentionally. While he stood a chance in four months, he chose to file the lawsuit now, fully aware he would likely lose.

His intent was merely to torment Alexis.

Alleging her seduction, he framed his current actions as an opportunity for her.

Alexis was hesitant to seize this so-called opportunity.

Leonel had transformed, and Alexis feared repercussions if she succumbed to his provocations. He seemed to be anticipating her response.

Yet a hint of anxiety lingered within her.

Evelyn's illness posed a challenge for Alexis to spend years dealing with Leonel. What if he genuinely fell in love with someone else and desired marriage in the near future? What would happen to Alexis in that scenario?

Patiently, Leonel waited, but Alexis remained silent.

In frustration, he tossed his phone into the console, starting the car without a destination in mind. After half an hour of aimless driving, he arrived in a familiar, old neighborhood.

This locale held a sense of familiarity for him.

Parking at the curb, his lavish sports car stood out conspicuously in this modest neighborhood.

Pedestrians couldn't resist casting curious glances at the opulent vehicle.

With the window lowered, Leonel smoked languidly. Roughly 30 minutes later, a couple strolled across the street.

Clad in unassuming attire, they lacked the refinement of their past appearance.

It was Darwin and Serenity.

Darwin likely had a day off from work and went shopping with Serenity. She carried a small green bag with clothes, probably from a local brand.

Contrastingly, Serenity's previous wardrobe comprised garments easily worth thousands, affording her the freedom to indulge.

Now, they probably needed a month's savings to afford items priced in the hundreds.

Leonel perceived their situation as pitiable.

Curiously, Darwin and Serenity displayed contentment rather than sorrow, much to Leonel's disdain. He scoffed at the irony of two individuals, who were never meant to be, still finding themselves together. 

Regrettably, there was no prospect for reconciliation between Leonel and Alexis.

Leonel pondered.

His conjecture centered on the notion that Darwin and Serenity, having lost everything, found solace in each other's company.

People who lost everything tended to harbor less hatred, and surviving on what little they had became their only recourse.

As Leonel drove away, Darwin and Serenity coincidentally crossed his path, catching a glimpse of him.

Darwin's expression tightened.

Clutching the fabric of her attire, Serenity regarded Leonel with a desire to speak but hesitated upon reflection. Suffering from a leg injury, Serenity struggled with her gait. Her husband, Darwin, faced challenges in altering their financial circumstances. However, Leonel, the man Serenity once ardently loved retained his charismatic allure.

An overwhelming sadness enveloped Serenity.

Observing her distress, Leonel sneered. He found satisfaction in her sorrow.

Leonel departed in his car.

Veiling her face, Serenity wept. She had acclimated to their current circumstances. Despite their financial constraints, Darwin treated her well, allocating most of his earnings to her well-being.

Despite their infrequent intimacy, Darwin and Serenity earnestly endeavored to find happiness.

Leonel's presence alone easily shattered their fragile contentment. A mere glance from him became unbearable for Serenity.

Stripped of her facade, Serenity, amidst tears, implored Darwin to revert to their former lives. His countenance betrayed a hint of internal conflict.

After a pause, Darwin said softly, "If you hadn't visited Leonel's place that night during my business trip, none of this would have occurred. Leonel and I would have still been good friends."

Alexis would have retained a significant place in Darwin's heart.

If Darwin didn't see Alexis, he would likely forget that he ever had thoughts about her.

All would have been well.

The root cause of all their tragedies was Serenity's excessive greed. Now, she sought a return to their former lives, posing the question to Darwin.

Deep down, Darwin wished to inquire about the possibility of resurrecting his deceased mother.

Darwin suspected that Leonel was seeking revenge on them. Struggling himself, Darwin believed Leonel appeared to revel in humiliating him.

Darwin reconciled with the situation. In reality, he grew weary of the pretense in his relationship with Serenity.

Darwin chose not to abandon Serenity, yet he shed the pretense. Apart from work, he indulged in excessive drinking and encounters with lower-end escorts due to his modest income. The majority of these encounters cost him little, leaving him reeking of cheap perfume upon his return.

Serenity was well aware of the situation, yet she lacked the means to navigate through life on her own.

She endured it silently, never engaging in quarrels.

Darwin concluded that genuine love was absent in their relationship.

Thus, he ventured into excess. At times, he would remain absent for consecutive nights.

Bearing a wound, Leonel returned to Alexis' apartment.

His visit aimed to ascertain whether she had returned.

The surroundings remained unchanged.

Her absence persisted.

Seated in solitude in the dimly lit living room, Leonel exuded loneliness. Unable to endure the isolation any longer, he resolved to prepare a meal.

Fueled by his newfound role as a father, Leonel aspired to master the art of preparing meals suitable for his daughter.

Having been away for a while, the apartment was sparsely stocked. Intent on replenishing supplies, he headed to the supermarket.

Unanticipated was the encounter with Alexis at the supermarket.

In the fruit section where they had walked together, Alexis remained in her professional suit, half-squatting to pick up a piece of fruit. The tight fabric showcased her body in a highly alluring manner.

He noticed her waist retained its slender form post-delivery.

A graceful elongation characterized the line of her legs as she stooped.

Admirably beautiful were her calves, and the morning saw his suit pants brushing against her delicate stockings.

Navigating a shopping cart, Leonel positioned himself behind her.

Upon straightening, Alexis caught sight of Leonel.

It had been a considerable time since their last encounter. Their interaction had been limited to sporadic messages from Leonel.

Alexis fixed her gaze on his countenance.

Disregarding the injury, Leonel lightly traced his face with his hand. "Dad delivered a blow to my face," he uttered with apparent indifference.

Intuitively, Alexis sensed it.

With a subtle nod, she traversed past him, assuming the demeanor of a casual acquaintance.

Intercepting her, Leonel seized her arm.

Turning his head, he whispered, "I don't think you'll forget. I can't believe you'll forget the days we spent together and the times we roamed around here. I also don't believe that Calvin can completely take my

Lowering her head, Alexis replied softly, "Life must go on."

Despite his scrutiny, she delicately extricated his hand. "There are people here. I can't afford to lose my composure."

Having expressed herself, she departed.

In a daze, Leonel lingered. Eventually, he pivoted and called out louder, "I'll be at the apartment. Will you join me?"

Alexis hesitated briefly before quickening her pace.

Observing her retreating figure, Leonel swallowed hard.

He wasn't in the mood for shopping. After grabbing a few items, he headed to the checkout counter to pay. While waiting in line, he noticed Calvin, and to his surprise, Alexis was standing next to him. Calvin glanced at her, smiled softly and then picked up two boxes of condoms from the shelf.

Leonel fixed his gaze on them.

Gradually, his breaths quickened. Hastily, he pushed his cart to the opposite end.

Abandoning his selections, he fled without making any purchases.

The chosen vegetables and fruits remained neglected in the cart.

Calvin observed Leonel's departure.

Deliberately, Calvin returned the two boxes of condoms to their place, sighing softly. "Why put yourself through this, Alexis?"

Alexis cast her gaze downward.

She harbored a sense of guilt. While desiring proximity to Leonel, she hesitated to instill hope or become entangled with him afterwards. Projecting herself as somewhat unscrupulous seemed advantageous.

She resisted being overly compassionate.

Completing the transaction, Calvin whispered as they entered the car in the parking lot, "It's still not too late to change your mind, you know."

Seated in the car, Alexis shook her head in refusal.

Leaning against the back of the chair, Calvin pulled out a cigarette box from his pocket.

Although he rarely smoked, he couldn't help but consider lighting one up at the moment.

Immediately upon lighting it, Alexis extinguished the cigarette for him. Turning to her, Calvin, after a prolonged silence, extracted an invitation card from the console. Placing it gently in her hand, he remarked, "Don't procrastinate any longer."

Gazing at the invitation card, Alexis drifted into contemplation.

Despite the passage of three years, the sensation of being with Leonel had faded from her memory.

Deliberately, she avoided dwelling on that sentiment.

Although animosity had likely grown between them, the necessity of proximity and intimacy with Leonel for the sake of Evelyn remained.

An awkwardness engulfed Alexis.

Tucking the invitation card away, she uttered softly, "Let's head home."

Calvin maintained silence.

Upon reaching the villa, it was already seven in the evening. Evelyn had completed her dinner.

Calvin joined Alexis for dinner, and afterward, he regaled Evelyn with bedtime stories following her bath.

Ollie, the canine companion, lay curled around Evelyn's pillow.

With its head drooping and one eye barely ajar, the dog appeared to be engrossed in the narrative.

Calvin believed the canine displayed intelligence comparable to Leonel's.

Evelyn, rapt in attention, cradled the dog while drowsiness enveloped her.

Calvin lovingly tucked her into bed.

Abruptly, Evelyn's eyes fluttered open, and she inquired softly, "Where is Mr. Douglas? Why isn't he here?"

Following a brief pause, Calvin comprehended that she referred to

Leonel.

Such inquiries were likely inherent in the father-daughter dynamic, considering Evelyn was Leonel's offspring.

Calvin deemed it commonplace.

Tenderly caressing Evelyn's brown curls, Calvin murmured, "He's occupied with work. Isn't it nice to have me here with you?"

Affectionate toward Calvin, Evelyn embraced him, whispering softly, "I like you better."

While Calvin offered a smile, a touch of melancholy lingered.

Leaning down, he gently kissed Evelyn's forehead. "I know you do. Now, sleep tight."

Having pacified Evelyn, Calvin gently retrieved Ollie from her embrace. The dog lay on the pillow, fixating its dark eyes on Evelyn, evidently sharing an affectionate bond.

Calvin ran his hand over Ollie's fur.

As he rose to depart, Calvin noticed Alexis standing by the door, possibly having been there for some time.

Calvin inquired, "Did you hear all that?"

Alexis nodded in acknowledgment. Approaching, she took a seat at the edge of the bed, delicately caressing Evelyn's face.

Indeed, Evelyn bore a striking resemblance to Leonel.

Speaking softly, Calvin suggested, "If you were to have another child, Evelyn wouldn't feel as lonely."

In the event of Calvin's passing, Alexis wouldn't endure loneliness any longer.

However, Calvin refrained from articulating these sentiments, fearing it might sadden Alexis, who had already faced considerable challenges in recent years.

Alexis remained silent. Rising from her seat, she nodded subtly.

Seven days later, at the 60th birthday celebration of a renowned celebrity in Duefron, numerous prominent figures graced the event.

Owing to Rena's indisposition, Waylen remained by her side, delegating the attendance to Marcus.

Accompanied by Calvin, Alexis also attended the event.

Despite Alexis' three-year absence from Duefron, her legend endured. Attendees were taken aback by her return, especially in the company of Calvin, suggesting a harmonious relationship.

Surprisingly, Darwin and Serenity made an appearance as well.

Although Serenity had donned her finest attire, an air of unease clung to her. Taking the stage, she performed a piano piece.

Despite applause from the audience, internal disdain lingered.

The upper class had always been known for their snobbish attitudes. After Serenity finished playing, tears welled up in her eyes, and she instinctively glanced at her husband.

Engaged in pleasant conversation, Darwin conversed with a wealthy widow.

Desiring Leonel's company, Serenity sought him out, but he was nowhere to be found. Initially present in the hall, Leonel trailed Alexis and Calvin after their departure.

Alexis appeared stunning that evening.

Rarely participating in such gatherings, Leonel seldom witnessed Alexis in formal attire. However, on this occasion, she exuded a captivating allure.

Adorned in a champagne-colored, diamond-studded halter dress, she radiated elegance.

Perhaps owing to childbirth, she exhibited a noticeable fullness in all the right places.

Her every step drew the attention of nearly every man in attendance, captivated by her allure.

Despite the animosity stemming from their previous encounter, Leonel harbored resentment toward Alexis, particularly for her association with Calvin. Nevertheless, when Alexis and Calvin departed together, Leonel found himself compelled to follow.

Ultimately, in the villa's garden, Leonel caught sight of Alexis.