

All Sins 301

Chapter 301

Olivia was walking a bit behind Claude, but then he stopped and turned to face her.

“Claude, what’s going on?” she asked, trying to figure out what he was up to. Although she was meek, she was certainly not a little lamb.

Noticing her scared expression, he asked with a smile. “Did I scare you?”

Olivia didn’t respond. She was definitely scared but didn’t want to admit it. Today, Claude was dressed in a white suit, looking very clean and sharp, but for some reason, Olivia felt more nervous around him than usual.

“Are you scared of me now, Olivia?” he asked, still smiling.

But before she could answer, Claude grabbed her hand firmly and started walking fast, pulling her along.

“Claude! What are you doing?” Olivia tried to get her hand back, but Claude’s grip was strong, and he kept speeding up.

Olivia felt like they were rushing, almost as if they were escaping from something. The wind was in her face, and everything around them blurred as they moved quickly. All she could hear was the sound of their heavy breathing

Finally, they stopped at the lawn outside the hotel, and Claude let go of her hand. Olivia stepped back immediately, rubbing her wrist from the grip.

Claude then surprised her by saying, “Let’s run away, Olivia.”

For a moment, Olivia felt a sense of romance despite the chaos. Then Claude came closer and added, “Let’s get away from here, with the baby.”

Olivia stepped back quickly. She remembered how dangerous Claude could be; after all, Morgan had died because of him. "Please stay away from me, Claude," she said firmly, warning him.

Claude looked hurt; his eyes seemed misty. "Are you afraid of me?" he asked, sounding

more vulnerable than before.

Olivia kept moving back. She knew she should have been more cautious around him, especially now that her situation had changed. She stayed silent.

But Claude didn't give up. He approached quickly, grabbing her hand again. "Come with me, Olivia. Let's leave this place together," he urged, desperation in his voice.

Olivia panicked, thinking he was out of his mind. "Please, let me go," she pleaded, trying to pull away.

Claude seemed to deflate with her struggle, his face showing pain as he finally released her

hand.

Chapter 302

Claude took a deep breath to calm down before saying, "I haven't been feeling well. I'm sorry, Olivia."

Olivia had noticed his sadness recently. She could see the sorrow in his eyes and guessed it was because of Morgan, especially since it was the anniversary of Morgan's death just a few

days ago.

When Olivia stayed quiet, Claude continued, "I just can't stand seeing you unhappy here. I don't know why, but I care about you too much. I don't want to see you hurt or hurt yourself trying to make others happy. I don't want you to feel insecure and bad about yourself."

He had a slight, mocking smile as he added, "Maybe because..." but he didn't finish his sentence.

Olivia asked, "Do I remind you of Morgan?"

Claude was visibly shocked by her question. He looked at her, clearly not expecting her to say that. But then, all the sadness in his eyes was gone the moment he saw her.

He didn't say anything at first. Then Olivia said, "I'm not Morgan, Claude."

"I know," Claude replied. Just when Olivia thought he was back to his normal self, he added, "You and Morgan are different. I shouldn't have compared you two. I just can't help caring for you."

His voice was soft and a bit rough, but his words were kind.

Olivia stepped back, surprised by his words. So, his sadness wasn't about Morgan?

In the world of the upper class, Olivia felt like an outsider, an unimportant illegitimate daughter overshadowed by Naomi. She thought Claude was kind to her because of Naomi or Morgan, but his kindness wasn't because of Morgan.

She was confused. His care for her was different from how he felt about Morgan. It was a quiet kind of caring.

Hearing this made Olivia feel relieved and happy. She wasn't a replacement for anyone.

Then, Claude came closer again. This time, Olivia didn't move away. She looked down at his feet as he stopped in front of her.

“Olivia, I don’t want you caught between Naomi and Tyler. Would you come with me?” he asked, offering his hand again.

Olivia was surprised by her own reaction. She felt drawn to his hand, wanting to reach out. Her hand actually started to move towards his.

Claude watched her hand, his eyes filled with anticipation. He was waiting for it to touch his like a butterfly landing.

ready to hold her hand,

But just as she was about to reach out, they were interrupted by someone calling, “Ma’am.”

Chapter 303

As if she was woken up from a dream, Olivia looked toward the voice that came out of

nowhere. It was Nina.

The face of bewitched she had earlier was gone, replaced with shock.

Olivia stared at her with horrid filled her face.

Nina stood there, staring at the two of them. She saw them standing close to each other, with Claude stretching his hand, while Olivia’s landing in his.

Olivia had no idea what she was doing at that very moment. She felt like she had just snapped out of a dream that she quickly retrieved her hand.

‘How could I do such a thing?’ she thought.

The baby existed to save Naomi, while she was thinking of running away with it. Did she wish for Naomi to die?

The thought she had was terrifying, she even felt despicable.

Her heart was pounding, it was chaotic facing Nina.

Meanwhile, Claude was staring at Nina too. There were no emotions in his eyes, the gentleness was gone, replaced with coldness.

Nina was scared by his stare, but she kept looking at them. She said nothing and left immediately.

Olivia snapped back to her senses when she saw Nina left. Panic flashed through her face. She wanted to go after Nina to explain herself, but Claude grabbed her right when she

moved.

“Forget it.”

Her heart was still pounding, as if she was busted of adultery. She asked, “Will Nina tell Ms. Ana about it?”

That was what she was most worried about.

Claude was unfazed when he said, “We were just chatting normally. We didn’t do anything.”

But Olivia knew they weren’t just chatting. She’d misunderstand too if she was to witness what happened.

She felt helpless as Claude grabbed her while they watched Nina leaving quickly.

Ana was still chatting with Jordan and the rest, but she had been staring at the time.

'Where did they go? It's been so long since they were gone,' she thought.

She was worried about Olivia. After all, she was pregnant, while it was Claude who took her away.

Nina came back after some half an hour. Jordan looked at her, Katrina too.

Nina panicked standing before Ana. She was hesitating to say something.

Ana asked, "What's wrong?"

Nina thought about it before responding, while Katrina asked, "Where did Claude take Olivia?"

"Mr. Claude took madam out for a stroll," said Nina after some thought.

Ana figured something was off about that. She frowned for a few seconds before asking more, "Where are they now? Is Claude still with her?"

Nina looked at Ana and said, "They're in the back garden."

Ana said, "Bring her back."

Nina responded, and that was when Olivia came in. She walked to Ana, looking nervous.

Chapter 304

Ana looked at Olivia and said, "I was looking for you with Nina's help, and here you are!"

Olivia seemed a bit down. "I went for a walk," she replied softly.

Ana didn't worry about it much. "We're leaving soon. Hang around here for a little while."

"Okay," Olivia agreed. She then went over to Ana and sat beside her.

Ana glanced at her. Right then, Claude came in.

"It's time for the ceremony. There's food and drinks outside, let's go," he said.

Ana nodded and put down her cup. "Let's."

She got up, and Olivia did the same. They headed out together.

During the ceremony, Olivia stuck by Ana and didn't speak to Claude.

Claude, now leading Yancey Bank, gave a speech. He thanked the Harris family and talked about the future of the company. The bank did a lot, like investment banking and managing funds. It was a big deal in international finance, handling 20% of it.

The Harrises and Pearces were tight, and Claude and Morgan were childhood sweethearts. Even though Morgan was gone, Claude was still close to her family. Claude leading the bank and thanking the Harrises showed they were still close.

Everyone clapped loudly when he finished, Ana included. She smiled, but who knows what she was really thinking.

Olivia, sitting by Ana, found the clapping scary. It was as if Morgan, who linked both families, was forgotten. Her death seemed overlooked, with everyone just smiling.

It felt like it was all about what each could gain.

Olivia was forced to clap as well.

Claude, now the bank's leader, looked humble but determined. "It's been seven years, and I'm back. Thanks to everyone at Yancey Bank for waiting. I'm here to lead us to new beginnings," he said.

Sophie, sitting with Jacob, whispered, "My brother's so impressive."

Being with her, the family welcomed Jacob. He was considered part of the family now.

Looking at the stage, Jacob agreed, "He really is."

Sophie squeezed his hand. "Once we're married, I'll make sure you get a good position at the bank."

Jacob smiled warmly. "I want to earn my way, Soof. You don't have to do that for me."

But Sophie was determined. She cared about him and wanted everyone to see his worth.

Chapter 305

Sophie said to Jacob, "How can I not help you after we're married? I'm my parents' only daughter."

Jacob smiled warmly and squeezed her hand back. "And you're the only wife I'll ever have,"

he told her.

Sophie felt so happy that she hugged Jacob right there, forgetting about everyone else

around them.

Jacob hugged her back, but he couldn't help looking around. He noticed Olivia sitting in the front row, which surprised him.

It showed that Olivia, now married to Tyler, had become very important. Even Jacob and Sophie, who were part of the family, had to sit behind her.

Jacob couldn't help but grin for a moment.

Olivia, on the other hand, seemed lost in her thoughts. She didn't even seem to notice Jacob, or perhaps she had stopped watching him the moment she saw him here.

She was worried about whether Nina would reveal what had happened earlier with Claude. She was so distracted that she barely clapped. The thought of running away kept creeping into her mind.

Later that evening, Olivia and Ana, who seemed unusually tired, went home. They were

greeted by Ben, who asked how the event at Claude's had been. This made Olivia nervous because she didn't want Ana to mention anything about the incident.

"I'm exhausted," Ana simply said, then told Olivia as she handed her coat to the maid, "You

must be exhausted too. Go rest."

Olivia, feeling relieved, agreed and went inside. She looked around for Nina, wanting to talk to her and make sure she wouldn't tell anyone about what had happened. But Nina was

nowhere to be seen.

Ben asked, "What are you looking for?"

Olivia quickly replied, "Nothing," and headed upstairs.

Reaching her room, she noticed the light was on. 'Is Tyler home? Has he been home all day?' she wondered.

Opening the door, she found Nina standing in front of Tyler, who was sitting on the couch. They both looked at her, and Tyler's cold, emotionless gaze gave her an ominous feeling.

Chapter 306

Tyler spoke to Nina while Olivia was standing by the door. "You can go now," he said. Nina left the room right after.

He turned to Olivia, "How was the party at the Pearces?" After a short pause, he added, "Did you have a good time?"

Olivia didn't answer right away, lost in thought.

Tyler sat casually on the couch, legs crossed, dressed entirely in black, creating a stark silhouette under the lamp's glow. The room felt tense during his moments of silence.

Olivia stayed quiet.

Tyler, noticing her silence, continued, "I'm just thinking it's a good thing Nina was the one who saw you two. Imagine what others might think."

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That's when Olivia realized Nina had already told him. She felt a nervous shiver.

Tyler then speculated aloud, "People might think Mrs. Harris is secretly meeting with her brother-in-law?"

The suggestion hit Olivia hard, her head spinning with the accusation.

"No," she said firmly.

"And what do you suppose people would think if they found out?" Tyler asked, his expression unreadable.

Olivi

oked him in the eye and said, "Tyler, I'm here to have this baby. But I still want to make my own choices in life."

Tyler stood up and approached her, stopping close by. "I've never said you can't make your own choices. Because of who I am, I'll listen to you. But what about everyone else?"

"I have my freedom, right? The baby will be a Harris, but I won't," Olivia asserted, standing her ground. She was doing this to save Naomi, not to be trapped.

"So, you're saying I should stay out of your business with Claude?"

"Yes," Olivia answered truthfully.

Tyler's demeanor turned icy. "After the baby is born, you'll get what's owed to you. Until then, as Mrs. Harris, follow our rules. I don't want any scandals," he warned.

Pausing, he added, "Especially not until you're no longer Mrs. Harris. We Harris don't

tolerate gossip.”

Olivia struggled to speak, “You don’t need to remind me, Tyler. I understand, and it won’t happen again.”

Tyler’s gaze was frosty as he replied, “It better not. I don’t want to repeat myself and drag your family into this.”

The atmosphere felt oppressive to Olivia, like being trapped in a nightmare.

Then Ana walked in, breaking the silence. “What’s wrong?” she asked, sensing the tension.

Tyler glanced at the door, responding coldly, “Nothing.”

He then left the room, clearly upset.

Sensing the mood, Ana looked at Olivia. “Did you two fight?” she inquired, having caught only the tail end of their conversation.

She added, trying to lighten the mood, “Couples argue sometimes. I’ll set him straight for you.”

Olivia didn’t respond, her lips trembling slightly.

Chapter 307

When Ana left the room, Olivia sat on the floor, looking like she had lost all her strength.

In the evening, Tyler went to see Naomi. Right away, Naomi asked, “How’s Olivia doing today?” She always worried about Olivia.

Tyler replied, “She’s okay.”

Naomi noticed Tyler seemed off and asked, "What's wrong? Something's bothering you, isn't it?"

"Nothing," was all Tyler answered.

Naomi could tell he didn't want to talk about it, so she changed the subject. She picked up something from the bed and asked with a smile, "Guess what this is?"

Tyler looked over and saw a postcard in her hand.

Smiling, Naomi said, "I got this today. Remember? We wrote it together in a little shop during our vacation ten years ago. They promised to send it after ten years, and they did." "Wow, ten years. It's hard to believe it's been that long," she added.

Tyler didn't say anything for a while. He took the postcard and saw their messages to each other, calling each other "daddy" and "mommy," and talking about their hopes for the

future.

They had hoped to be married with a child by now.

But things hadn't turned out as planned...

Tyler looked at the postcard, feeling mixed emotions, and finally said, "This is really special.

"

Naomi reminisced, her tone melancholy. "I'm surprised the shop is still around. We're still together, but we haven't made our dream of having a family come true."

Tyler put the postcard on the nightstand and told Naomi, "We'll have a child when you get better."

Naomi smiled. "Yes, I'm sure of it. I've been feeling much better."

Tyler didn't talk much that day. He was quiet and seemed lost in thought.

Naomi tried again, "What's really bothering you?"

"Just work stuff," Tyler replied, then went to sit on the couch and read a magazine,

Naomi knew he was in a bad mood but didn't ask further. Instead, she suggested, "How about we go out tonight?"

"You need to stay and rest with your health like this," he replied, not even looking up from his magazine.

Naomi just smiled, keeping her thoughts to herself.

Meanwhile, Olivia was overwhelmed by her own worries. She couldn't stop thinking about what Claude had said.

Standing in her room, touching her belly, she convinced herself she needed to leave. She planned to go with her baby as soon as it was born.

She wondered why time was moving so slowly.

After leaving the hospital, Tyler got into his car, and Adam drove him to the Pearces' house. Claude came outside when they arrived and walked up to Tyler's side of the car.

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The car window slid down. Claude peered inside and saw Tyler. "What are the chances of us meeting right outside my house?" he asked, surprised.

He remembered the last time Tyler was here, the day he got engaged to Morgan.

Tyler stared back with a serious expression. "This isn't a coincidence, Claude. I'm here for you."

Claude raised an eyebrow. "Really?"

"You come from a well-known family. I'm sure you wouldn't want any scandal, right?" Tyler's voice was chilly.

Claude guessed why Tyler was here the moment he spotted his car. He grinned. "What scandal? You mean the rumors about me and Mrs. Harris? What if I said I like her?"

Tyler's expression grew even colder at that, but he managed a smirk. "We both have reputations to consider, while Olivia is naive. I trust you'll act appropriately."

"And what if I admit I do like her?" Claude pushed back.

"You can try," Tyler responded coolly.

Claude laughed. "You think I wouldn't? Even though she's technically your wife, isn't it just on paper?"

Tyler said little, just a brief "Yes" while fiddling with his wedding ring. "Looks like you enjoy a challenge."

"I do," Claude replied, not backing down.

“You’ve just started at Yancey Bank. Try anything foolish, and see how quickly you lose your board of directors.” With that, Tyler rolled up his window and drove off.

Claude stood there, chuckling as he watched the car disappear.

Just then, Sophie came out of the house. Seeing Claude, she walked over. “Weren’t you going for a run? Why are you just standing here?”

He glanced at her and replied casually, “It’s nothing.” Then, he started walking.

But Claude wasn’t about to back down. From the moment he returned, he was prepared to confront Tyler.

J’s

Now, he was determined to save an innocent girl. How could he watch Tyler hurt someone

else for Naomi?

Despite Olivia being Naomi’s sister, he wouldn’t let her be the sacrifice for the couple’s relationship. He even pondered the idea of running away with Olivia and her unborn child. Would Naomi survive by then?

Claude’s smile grew, but there was rage in his eyes.

Sophie watched him from the front of the house, staring at his back. Her face filled with confusion.

When Tyler reached home, he found Olivia making candles with Ana in the living room. He looked cold as he walked silently into the living room.

Ana noticed him and said to Olivia, "Tyler's home. There's a red velvet cake in the kitchen. Why don't you bring it to him?"

But Olivia stayed put, standing silently beside her. Ana looked at her, waiting for her to

move.

Chapter 309

Tyler told Ana, "No need." He then quickly walked away.

Ana turned to Olivia and said, "Olivia, you don't have to stay with me. Go and keep him company."

Olivia stood still, and Tyler replied to Ana, "I've got things to do. I'll be in the study. I want to be alone."

Ana squinted when she heard this, Olivia was still next to her after Tyler went upstairs.

After a moment, Ana looked at Olivia and asked, "You two had a fight, right? Aren't you going to try to fix it?"

Olivia's arms trembled. She looked down, silent and unmoving.

Ana picked up a candle and said, "They say fights between couples don't last overnight. Are you really not going to talk to him again?"

She continued, "Go get the red velvet cake from the kitchen."

Olivia understood that Ana wanted to prevent their relationship from worsening, which is why she was being kind. But she also knew this was Ana's way of showing her stance to

Naomi.

Despite this, Olivia didn't move. She had always followed Ana's instructions since she arrived.

Ana noticed her hesitation and asked sharply, "What? You're not listening to me anymore?"

Olivia replied quietly, "Okay, Mom." Her voice was flat, like she was just going through the motions.

Ana's tone softened, "All conflicts can be resolved."

"I know," Olivia responded gently.

She went to the kitchen, took the red velvet cake from the maid, and walked upstairs robotically.

Tyler was on a call when she entered the study. He turned to see her coming in.

Olivia approached him, her face emotionless. "Tyler, Aunt Ana sent me to bring you this."

Tyler said, "Put it on the desk," and turned back to his work.

Olivia placed the plate on his desk. As she turned to leave, Tyler, now sitting, said, "You shouldn't have spoken to me like that yesterday."

Olivia stopped and replied, "It's my fault, Tyler." Her expression

she couldn't feel her face.

Tyler looked at her indifferently and said, "It's in the past now. Let's move on

"Okay, Tyler. I'll leave if that's all," Olivia said.

"Mm-hmm, you may go," he responded, equally cold.

Their conversation was brief. Olivia left the study after completing her task

Ana was in the living room, observing what was happening upstairs. She frowned when she saw Olivia leave the study after just five minutes.

Chapter 310

Ana asked Olivia as soon as she saw her come downstairs, "Why did you leave so early?"

Olivia quickly made up an excuse, "He's busy with work."

Ana didn't comment on that. After a brief silence, she suggested, "You should rest."

But Olivia replied, "I'll stay with you since I'm free."

Ana looked at her and said firmly, "I don't need help here. Your job is to stay healthy for your baby and keep things good with Tyler. Don't worry about anything else. No outsiders can interfere and stir up trouble with our family."

Olivia didn't respond or react.

Ana sighed, still standing there, then went back to making candles. Despite Ana's words, Olivia stayed by her side, insisting on helping.

That night, Olivia and Tyler slept far apart in bed. Olivia pretended to sleep while Tyler was busy reading a book. She didn't notice when he turned off the lights and eventually fell asleep from exhaustion.

The next morning, Olivia woke up to find a different maid serving her. Nina was gone.

Confused, she asked the new maid, Alisa Shannon, as she fetched clothes for Olivia to change into, "Where's Nina?"

"She

it," Alisa answered.

"She quit?" Olivia was surprised.

She wondered if Nina left because she was scared Olivia would ask too many questions. Olivia hadn't planned to, but now she was curious. Nina had been skilled at caring for pregnant women, so it seemed odd to replace her so quickly.

Wanting more details, Olivia asked, "Did she say why she left?"

Alisa replied simply, "No," and continued to prepare a thick sweater jacket for Olivia.

Olivia decided she would look into it later.

Meanwhile, Tyler had left early to play golf with business directors who were his close

associates.

As they played, Alan Randolph complimented him, "You did well with the farm project. I heard it's still under construction, but the holiday villas sold out as soon as bidding opened."

It was unusual for properties in remote areas to sell well due to inconvenient transportation, but the Harris Group's farm project was an exception—houses sold quickly even though construction had just begun.

“The property market hasn't been doing great. Not many projects are doing as well as this one,” Alan added.

Tyler responded flatly, “Really? I had no idea.”

He hadn't been closely involved with the project, having delegated it first to Jacob and then to Linda. Real estate wasn't the main focus of the Harris Group; Tyler just saw it as a

convenient side venture.