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The men in the uniforms exchanged a glance, then turned to look at Selena as they said in unison, "He has retired."

It was as if the weight was taken off her chest when she heard their answer. She had been afraid that Pierre was lying about his retirement. Nevertheless, she pressed on, "Is he really retired, or is that just another one of your elaborate lies?"

The men chuckled at this, and one of them said apologetically, "We're sorry to have traumatized you with the last incident, Selena. I can assure you that we have wiped out the two major organizations as planned, and Pierre executed the mission perfectly. He is officially retired."

It was only after hearing this that she broke into a bright smile. That's good news. That's really good news.

"One of the reasons for our visit today is to offer you our most sincere apology while making sure that you're doing alright, but the other is to check up on Pierre and his condition. We wanted to see if he's been well. Although he's retired, we still see him as one of our own. We will take full responsibility for what has happened to him."

Selena was confused by what the men were saying, and her thoughts were in a clamor as she stammered, "W-What condition? What are you taking full responsibility for? He's fine, isn't he?"

"Do you not know-"

Just then, Pierre stormed into the living room, cutting the men off mid-sentence as he thundered, "What are the both of you doing here?!"

Upon being roared at, the two uniformed men jumped in their seats, clearly baffled by what was going on.

Selena hurriedly rose to her feet as she shot Pierre an incredulous look. This was the first time since he came home that she had seen him so angry. Then, she watched as the two men straightened as well and followed him out of the room.

Having sent the men off, Pierre returned only to see Selena sitting in the bedroom with a blank look on her face.

"Do you feel like eating anything?" he asked warmly, resuming his usual caring disposition as he sauntered over to where she was and bringing himself to her eye level. He wrapped his arms around her waist and placed a gentle kiss on her belly, acting as though nothing had happened.

"Pierre, are you hiding something from me?"

"No, I'm not. What could I be hiding from you? I know they must have given you the shock the last time they were here, what with the news of my death and all. Don't worry, I'll talk to the superiors and get them to stop sending these men over."

His explanation made sense, and while she could find no fault in his words, she still felt as if there was something fishy going on. "Pierre, come closer for a bit. There's something I'd like to tell you."

He got to his feet obediently, then leaned forward so that his right ear was closer to her, but she craned her neck and brought her lips to his left ear instead. Having done so, she said in a low voice, "Don't lie to me, Pierre."

He frowned at this. When she was done speaking, she pulled away from him and stared at him, then asked, "Okay?"

"Okay," he answered without hesitation, nodding his head firmly.

However, she simply gaped at him in what appeared to be disbelief, and he could feel a chill run down his spine.

"What did I say earlier?" she asked suddenly.

At that moment, he faltered, and his face was grim as he struggled to come up with an answer. When she saw how flustered he was, teardrops began to roll down her cheekbones.

As it turned out, her guess was correct. She had felt as if something had been off since he came home. There were times when she called out for him, and he would hesitate before he responded. Her suspicions were further reinforced following the previous prenatal check-up incident, where he claimed to have forgotten all about the appointment, even though she told him about it the night before. She remembered thinking that he was not the type to forget these things.

"Don't cry," he muttered as he came up to her and gently wiped away her tears.

But the waterworks did not stop as she demanded, "Why didn't you tell me about this? Why?"

He lowered himself and gazed up at her steadily. "Be good and stop crying. It's no good for the baby if you keep being upset like this, okay?"

Devastated, she broke into heaving sobs, and she had never felt more childish than at that moment. She wasn't sure if the pregnancy had anything to do with this, but the sadness seemed to tear through her, and she wanted to cry her heart out.

"Please tell me the truth, Pierre. Please."