

Be Yours 181

Chapter 181 I Can't Stand Seeing Her Do Well

Max leaned backward as he chuckled. "Don't worry. Jenny and I are friends. How could I turn against my friend?"

Alec snickered at the notion and thought, "A friend? He must be keeping her around as a 'friend' that would be of use one day."

The conversation between them ended at the same time as the wedding ceremony. The bride and groom went around greeting and toasting their guests. Soon, the newlyweds arrived at the table where Alec was seated.

"Mr. Bloom, huge congratulations!" Alec raised his glass at Sam. Although the two were not close, there was no bad blood between them, and Alec would like to show him respect.

Sam laughed heartily. He was obviously in a great mood. "Thank you! Enjoy the feast, Mr. Faust! Make yourself at home!"

During their conversation, Max sourly remarked, "Mr. Bloom, you're quite cool about it, eh? You know Alec and Yvonne were so close to getting married." Sam Bloom was more of a simpleton than a generous spirit in his eyes. How could he marry a woman like Yvonne after seeing her debacle unfold online? Max wondered what was in Sam's mind.

Max's sudden remark attracted collective disapproval from Yvonne and Alec. Yvonne's glare was razor sharp, as though it could cut right through him. Alec was more concerned that Max's inappropriate comment might cause uneasiness at Sam's wedding.

In comparison, Sam was calm after hearing the comment. He smiled and replied, "Well, Mr. Pearson, as you said, they were so close to getting married, and they didn't. So, they weren't meant to be. There's nothing to be upset about."

"Hah! Mr. Bloom, you're really open-minded," Max jeered.

"Sam, let's head over to that group. We have a lot of guests today, and we need to be mindful of time." Yvonne tugged at Sam's sleeve to pull him away from the conversation with Max.

He turned around and beamed at her. "Sure."

The couple walked to another table of guests. Max looked on and added, "Is Sam a fool, or is he just acting like one? Is he not worried about marrying a greedy woman like Yvonne? One day, he might see her taking the reins of the family."

"How is that any of your business?" Alec was dumbfounded at Max's hostility. "He could have married her out of love. Are you against it?"

"How can I be against it? I just can't stand seeing her do well." Since Max was friends with Jenny, he wanted to get back at Yvonne in any way on behalf of his friend.

Finally, Alec left his seat with a glass of wine in hand to stay away from the problematic Max. Max didn't seem bothered. Instead, he scanned the faces of the guests to secure his next target.

In the dressing room, Yvonne changed out of her evening gown. She stared at Sam, who was taking off his tuxedo, and a hint of disgust flashed across her eyes.

"Sam, about Max's comment just now..." She bit her lips, worried Sam might take the remark to heart. After dealing with the Blooms, she found out that the family was dissatisfied with her. Sam was the one who insisted on marrying her. From this, she realized he was her only pillar of support within the Blooms. Therefore, as much as she disliked him, she had to please him and even make him fall for her even more.

After changing, Sam turned around and answered, "Yvonne, I don't care about your past because I've decided to marry you. I don't mind if you're involved with Alec or not." He walked up and hugged her. "I love you as you. It doesn't matter who you were with before."

His hug filled her with uneasiness, but she didn't push him away. Endurance would be her first lesson.

Chapter 182 The House Has Collapsed!

A while later, Sam finally let go of Yvonne. He appeared hesitant to speak.

"What's wrong?" she asked, sensing his hesitance.

After some thought, he decided to be upfront with her. "My dad had a talk with me just now. He said that... we probably can't bail out your family."

"Why?" Yvonne gasped in shock. She married Sam because she needed their financial support. Without it, the Dickmans would go bankrupt. She didn't do all of that out of love for her family. She merely understood that she had to protect them, for she would lose her standing in the Blooms if the Dickmans went down.

Feeling guilty, Sam couldn't bring himself to look her in the eyes. "Alec talked to my dad before, and he said he'd bring down your family if we were to help you out. If we did nothing, he'd hold back too."

All color drained from her face. She bit her lip hard and hissed, "Alec Faust!"

"Yvonne, don't lose sleep over it. We should feel glad that Alec promises not to hurt your family. Perhaps your dad could seek help from others in Parrington. I believe someone will lend a helping hand," Sam comforted her.

She smiled bitterly, knowing that no one could help them. Else, her family wouldn't have landed in this dire situation. She looked at Sam, incredulous that the man she looked down on was now her greatest support.

"Sam, would you look down on me if I'm no longer the daughter of a wealthy family?" she asked.

Without thinking, he shook his head. "Of course not! I don't care about your status. I just want you by my side."

Yvonne felt conflicted and was in no mood to talk. She started planning her next step.

Jenny finally wrapped up her first day at the free clinic in Clearwater at 8 pm. To her surprise, she was flooded with patients despite the small population. She was occupied from the morning until night and on every single case that showed up. It was tiring but fulfilling.

took

After washing up, she lay in bed to read some books. Without an internet connection, that was her only pastime in the village. She felt dizzy the moment she opened the book. Turning around, she saw the lamp on the headboard shaking violently. She froze for a second and came to a grim realization.

"It's an earthquake!" She jumped off the bed and dashed to the first floor. There, she banged on the door of the couple who ran the hotel and yelled, "Mr. Randall! There's an earthquake!"

Soon, the door flung open. Mr. and Mrs. Randall were quick to react and told her, "Run! Go to the village hall! It has the flattest ground in this area!"

Then, the three of them sprinted to the village hall.

To their horror, the earthquake didn't subside after a few minutes. Instead, they met with another quake of a larger magnitude that caused them to stumble on flat ground. They couldn't imagine what it was like for the villagers in their houses.

"It collapsed! The house collapsed!" someone shrieked and slapped their thighs furiously. Ten villagers had gathered on the ground in front of the village hall. Jenny stood there with the crowd as she watched houses nearby collapse. Her heart sank.

As the earthquake grew in strength, more villagers gathered on the flat ground. Everyone cowered in horror and despair as they watched the collapsing structures around them.

"Look out!" Someone tried to warn the others seconds before the village hall collapsed in a huge boom. Debris and rock rained down on the villagers.

Chapter 183 Dr. Walter Is a Good Person

It was 9 pm at Faust Mansion. Alec came home early, which was a rare occurrence. He had wanted to take a good rest in bed, but a bad hunch plagued him. He had a feeling that something terrible was going to happen.

He took out his phone to call Jenny but was reminded of Vincent's words. Jenny was in a village with no phone service, so it was impossible for his call to go through. Filled with anxious energy, he hopped out of bed and went to the balcony.

Suddenly, his phone buzzed incessantly, prompting him to rush back to his bedroom to take the call.

"Mr. Faust, we just got the news of a huge earthquake in Elmwood District. Clearwater Village, where Miss Walter is posted, is one of the epicenters. The entire village has lost contact with the outside world," Vincent reported in a great hurry.

An earthquake? Looking pale, Alec forced himself to calm down. "Get the helicopter ready. Bring medicine and aid supplies. We're going to fly there."

“Yes, sir.”

After the call, Alec’s heart pounded wildly. He finally found the source of his unexplainable worry.

Alec climbed aboard the helicopter at the heliport, and Vincent joined him. “You don’t have to go with me,” Alec said. “Go to Claymond City instead and prepare the aid for the earthquake. Bring your satellite phone with you and wait for my orders.”

“But Mr. Faust, your safety is-”

“Enough!” Alec cut him off. “Keep this from Grandpa.”

With that, he instructed the pilot to take off. Vincent had no choice but to take the orders. Staring at the slowly disappearing helicopter, he prayed that Alec would return safe and sound.

There were no more earthquakes in Clearwater Village, but some aftershocks lingered. Even then, Jenny and the other villagers didn’t stay put on safe ground.

“Chief, please count the villagers. We need to know if everyone’s here,” she ordered. She had no idea about the magnitude of the earthquake, but it was definitely a huge quake. If some villagers were trapped in their homes because they couldn’t escape in time, they would need emergency rescue and aid.

The village chief counted the villagers with the help of some volunteers and soon returned to Jenny. “There are 3,520 villagers in Clearwater, but only 2,500 are here with; 1,020 are missing.”

“A thousand of them aren’t here?” She was shocked to learn that many did not escape in time.

“Yes. Clearwater is a huge place. Some villagers lived in the middle of the hill and couldn’t run to us because the earthquake happened too fast.” The chief sighed.

Jenny looked at the collapsed houses and came to a decision to kickstart the search and rescue mission immediately. “Please get the men from the village to search and rescue the victims. I will get some first-aid supplies from the clinic. Let’s try our best to find every single villager.”

Everyone knew that saving each missing person was mission impossible, but they had to try for the possibility of a miracle. The chief nodded, but he shook his head soon after. “Dr. Walter, you shouldn’t go. I’ll have someone get you the supplies. You’re from the city. I don’t want anything to happen to you here in

the village.”

“Let’s not talk about that right now.” She shook her head. “We don’t have enough pairs of hands. The women should take care of the kids and the elders here. The others will head out to search for the victims. But please look out for your own safety because the aftershocks will strike at any time. Let’s save as many as we can while keeping your safety as the top priority.”

The chief looked at Jenny. Feeling complicated, he reminded her, “Sure, but you have to be careful.”

“You too.” She nodded at him and ran toward the clinic. As she disappeared into the night, the chief teared up. “Dr. Walter is a good person.”

Chapter 184 You Must Be Careful

Clutching her first-aid bag, she started the rescue mission with the other villagers. Since they had no technology, they could only shout and wait for responses from beneath the rubble. Once they detected a response, everyone would stop and dig through it.

Even though some victims were rescued successfully, the rescue mission was too slow to be effective. Jenny felt anxious as the clock ticked away. However, there was nothing she could do about it.

“Chief, is the landline connected?” After performing first aid, Jenny went up to the village chief to ask. In their situation, they needed to establish contact with the outside world as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, the chief shook his head, looking despondent. No. We only have one landline in the village. But the cables were damaged, and we couldn’t find anyone to repair them right away. I’m afraid we’ll be cut off for a while.”

Jenny frowned and stared at the collapsed houses they had yet to check. She was sorrowful and pleaded, “Let’s send someone to Elmwood District for help. We can’t go on like this.”

“We sent someone there, but we’re quite far from Elmwood District. There won’t be any transport available because of the earthquake. We have no choice but to walk there.” The chief sighed, knowing their messenger might take an entire day to reach Elmwood District on foot. Jenny knew things were not looking up, but they had no other choice.

“There are two kids under here!” someone shouted not far away.

Jenny looked over and said, “I’ll help out now.” She ran in the direction of the call and arrived in front of a collapsed house. “What’s the situation now?” she asked the villagers.

“We heard two kids crying under the rubble. This looks like John Bayer’s house! All four of his family didn’t show up,” someone answered. As the houses were damaged beyond recognition, the villagers relied on their memories to ascertain the families who lived in the houses. It wasn’t accurate, but it was good enough.

“Get everyone over to rescue this family.” Jenny looked grim, and she walked in the direction where the crying was heard. She yelled, “Lilian, Justin, don’t be afraid! I’m here to save you soon.”

Her voice echoed through the structure of the house, but she received no reply. Only faint crying could be heard from the inside.

Worried, she began removing the rocks on the top of the rubble in the hopes of rescuing the kids as soon as possible. The villagers came to her help. They moved fast and kept their mouth shut to focus on the

rescue.

Soon, the rocks were cleared from the top of the rubble, but everyone faced a new challenge.

“John Bayer and his wife didn’t respond at all. The kids keep crying. We can’t get them out.” They stared helplessly at the only entrance—a hole that could only fit one. If only the kids could calm down, they could be instructed to crawl out through the hole.

“We need someone to get in and bring the kids out,” someone suggested but was met with silence. The villagers were keen to rescue victims, but they understood the risk of getting buried under the rubble if they crawled in. Considering that the aftershocks were ongoing with the possibility of another earthquake, everyone was worried about the risk of putting themselves in danger.

“I’ll go,” Jenny volunteered without any hesitation. She knew the two kids very well because they’d visit her to play every day. She would be devastated if the adorable kids were to lose their lives in the earthquake.

Seeing that, the chief jumped out to stop her. “No, no, Dr. Walter! How could I explain to the higher-ups if something happens to you?”

“I’ll be careful,” she insisted. Soon, she was at the opening and bent down to crawl in. The chief, worried and helpless, could only sigh. “You must be careful!”

Chapter 185 Jenny Was Buried

Crawling through the hole, Jenny followed the sounds of crying and quickly located the kids, who were lucky enough to be hiding in the corner of the wall, forming a triangle of life that spared them from being crushed by the rubble.

She walked over and called out softly, “Lilian, Justin, are you hurt?”

The kids were shocked to hear someone speaking, and they broke into tears when they recognized Jenny. “Jenny!”

They crawled out and quickly ran to her, finally crying out loud when they were safe in her arms. She comforted them until their crying softened. Then, she confirmed with them again, “Are The kids shook their heads, but tears welled up in their eyes again. “Daddy and Mommy are still in there...”

you hurt?”

Her gaze followed the direction they were pointing. She saw nothing but a collapsed wall and guessed that the couple must have been in another room when the earthquake struck. Since she hadn’t heard a sound from them after entering the house, she knew things weren’t looking good. If they couldn’t rescue the couple on time, there might be no hope at all.

At the thought of it, she told the kids, “I’ll bring you out and come back to save your daddy and mommy. Alright?”

“Okay.” The kids nodded obediently. Jenny lifted Lilian and went to the hole. After sending Lilian to safety, she came back for Justin.

“Jenny, Daddy and Mommy will be fine, right?” The five-year-old curled up in her arms. He was more aware of the situation compared to his three-year-old sister.

With a heavy heart, Jenny promised him, “I’ll try my best. You have to believe that your daddy and mommy are trying their best. They must want to see you and your sister again.”

“Okay.” Justin nodded and fell silent.

Just as they inched closer to the hole, they heard a deafening sound, which triggered Jenny to squat down in a corner with Justin in her arms.

“There’s an aftershock!” someone yelled from the top of the rubble, and the rescuers had no choice but to leave momentarily to avoid being hit by the houses and falling rocks.

When the aftershock subsided a few minutes later, everyone hurried over to check on the Bayer house. However, they went silent when they realized that the hole was buried. The chief was the first to respond and yelled at the rescuers, “Why are you still standing there doing nothing? Start digging!”

Everyone answered his call and started digging away. Suddenly, they heard a rumbling. Just when they were about to escape, thinking it was an aftershock, someone looked up and froze.

“Is that a helicopter?” The villagers were unsure about the foreign object in the sky.

The chief, who had more exposure, immediately reacted. “Someone’s here to save us! We’re saved!”

“Hey! We’re here!” someone roared at the helicopter to attract the attention of the rescuers. Little did they know that no one in the helicopter could hear them because of the altitude.

Alec’s eyes scanned the ground, and he spotted no humans. There was only rubble and more rubble.” Have we arrived?” he asked the pilot in front of him.

The pilot answered, “Judging from the geolocation, Clearwater is somewhere near.”

“Let’s get ready for landing.”

The pilot nodded at Alec and started descending.

Clearwater didn’t have much flat ground, especially after the earthquakes. The only place they could land was in front of the village hall.

The villagers dispersed when they saw the helicopter landing. Everyone was anticipating the arrival of the huge and unfamiliar object with a look of curiosity.

When Alec alighted from the helicopter, the chief immediately went up to him. “My friend, are you sent here by the higher-ups to rescue us? Please save Dr. Walter right now!”

Chapter 186 Alec Faust Is Here

“Dr. Walter? Is that Jenny Walter? What happened to her?” Alec’s expression became serious, and he stared intently at the chief.

The chief froze upon seeing the grave look in Alec’s eyes, but he soon recovered. “She’s buried under a collapsed house.”

Alec almost lost his balance from hearing that. “What?”

Despite his speedy arrival, he was still too late for her. Standing in front of the rubble where she was buried, he immediately commanded people to start digging. As he had gone in a hurry, he only brought some simple tools instead of huge excavating machines. Even so, using the tools was much better than

having the villagers dig with their hands. The villagers immediately jumped into the rescue mission after receiving the tools.

Underneath the rubble, Jenny and Justin huddled in a corner. She ignored the pain in her right calf and scanned the area for a way out. She was discouraged when she realized they were trapped without any chance of escaping.

“Jenny, am I going to die here?” In the dark, Justin trembled in fear. The warmth from Jenny’s body helped him to maintain his consciousness.

“No, you won’t. The village chief and all the villagers out there will save us. Justin, you need to stay strong and believe in yourself. Remember, your sister is still waiting for you out there.” She gave him a tight hug to comfort him and boost his confidence. Despite that, she was worried about their circumstances. Aftershocks aside, they were too deeply buried that it’d be hard for the rescuers to remove the rubble with bare hands and save them.

She was filled with regret. Had she known earlier, she would have sent Lilian and Justin out at the same time rather than wasting precious time by getting one after the other.

Still, she took a deep breath and told herself to calm down. “We must stay alive, at least before the village chief gets to us!” she thought.

As time ticked by, however, she started feeling suffocated. It dawned on her that the oxygen was running out, and she might not make it out alive with Justin if they remained buried.

“Jenny, I’m thirsty,” Justin whimpered weakly. He was in a worse condition than she was because he was younger and had been under the rubble for a longer time.

“Justin, hang on a little more. The chief will find us soon.” She knew that her consolatory words rang empty, but she had no better way to assuage his fear. When he fell silent, she started feeling worried. “Justin?”

She called out again, “Justin?”

A chill went down her spine when she received no reply. She sat up and lifted his body. Then, she pinched his philtrum. He started coughing and regained consciousness.

“Jenny, I feel sick,” he moaned, and she felt extremely sorry for him.

“It’s okay. We’ll be okay.” Even she would feel hopeless in this situation, not to mention a child. Suddenly, they heard a loud noise from above. She reacted fast and yelled, “We’re here!”

“That’s Dr. Walter’s voice!” someone shouted.

“They’re here! They’re here!”

As a commotion formed above their heads, the heavy weight on Jenny’s heart finally lifted. Light trickled in as the rescuers created the opening that had been there when she lifted Lilian out. Then, a shadow appeared in her vision. She could not make out his features because of the bright backlight. However, he gave off a strongly familiar feeling, which she found hard to believe.

Chapter 187 Emerging From the Backlight

The man approached them until he was standing right in front of her.

“Alec...Faust?” She stared at the familiar face in disbelief and wondered if it was an illusion.

“Yes. Can you walk?” He was overcome by an inexplicable mix of emotions when he found her safe and sound. He wanted so badly to pull her into an embrace, but he decided to act cautiously, worried that she might flinch at his touch.

She nodded at him in a daze and didn't ask questions about his arrival. She looked at Justin in her arms. “Can you lift him out?”

“Sure,” Alec readily agreed and took Justin from her. However, he waited for her to go with him. It took him much difficulty to get to her, and he wanted to make sure she was in his sight.

She propped herself up with a hand on the wall and limped behind him as she endured the pain from her right calf. Noticing her limping, he halted and bent over. “Get on. I'll carry you.”

“No...no, I can walk.” She shook her head. How could she possibly have him carry her on his back when they were not that close to each other? Plus, he must have been married to Yvonne. She couldn't accept the idea of being carried by a married man on his back.

“Get on my back. Or, I'll let him go and lift you instead,” Alec said commandingly.

She paused to deliberate, for she knew he could definitely execute the threat. She clenched her jaw and warned him, “You'd better not let go of that kid.”

“Okay.” He nodded and bent over once more. This time, she quickly got on his back, especially knowing she might put everyone at risk the more she hesitated.

With Justin in his arms and Jenny on his back, he slowly walked toward the exit nearby. Even so, it still felt like a long walk due to the rocks on the ground. Luckily, they reached the exit without any accident.

Alec handed Justin over, then, without asking Jenny, he lifted her in his arms and walked out through the opening. Locked in his embrace, she could smell him. She couldn't put her finger on his scent, but it invoked a sense of security in her.

“Why? Are you feeling unwell?” Once they escaped successfully, he looked at her with worry. She shook her head and found it difficult to look into his eyes. “Are you okay? Why does your face look red? Do you have a fever?” He tried to touch her forehead and soon concluded, “No signs of fever.”

Jenny blushed deeper during their exchange. She wasn't running a fever-she was blushing because Alec was carrying her in his arms under the eyes of the villagers, embarrassing her further. She nudged him. “Put me down.”

“Oh, okay.” Even though Alec wanted to hold her longer, he agreed and put her on the ground.

After distancing herself from him, Jenny felt more like herself. Looking at the people around them, she asked Alec, “Why are you here?”

“What do you think?” he redirected the question at her.

From the unbridled display of emotions in his gaze, she could easily guess his intention. “But how is that possible? Did he really come for me?” she wondered. She had a lot of questions for him, but she didn’t know how to start.

The village chief walked up to them. When he saw that Jenny was fine, he sighed in relief. “Dr. Walter, I’m glad you’re safe. Your boyfriend is really good to you. Not only did he come to Clearwater in a helicopter,

but the first thing he did after we cracked the opening was to get down there to search for you. He didn’t hesitate at all. What a good man!”

Chapter 188 I’m Not a Hothouse Flower

Jenny blushed at the village chief’s assumption. She was about to clarify her relationship with Alec, but he spoke at the same time, “Let’s get your wound treated. I’ve asked Vincent to bring a rescue team here. They should arrive soon.”

“Okay.” She didn’t object to it because she needed to treat her right calf injury lest it became infected.

Alec helped her to a temporary tent. He immediately got a pair of scissors and cut off her jeans at the calf area to reveal a bloody wound.

“I’ll do it myself.” She felt a little embarrassed, His presence was touching enough for her, and she would not expect more from him.

Ignoring her, he went to work. He rinsed, disinfected, and bandaged her wound seamlessly. This came as a surprise to her. When he was done, he reminded her, “Get a good rest, and don’t move around.”

“I’m fine, but there must be a lot of injured villagers. I need to quickly treat their wound.” She was the only doctor around.

Alec frowned at her words. She was his priority. Taking care of the others was secondary for him, even if he promised to try his best.

She seemed to read his mind and told him sternly, “I know you’re worried about me, but I’m not a hothouse flower. This minor injury won’t affect me much. I can help the injured.”

He could sense her insistence. A while later, he sighed in resignation as though he was always the one who made the compromise. “I’ll let them in, but you have to stay put. Don’t move around,” he reminded her once more.

She battled with complicated feelings as he left the tent. She hadn’t expected him to be the first to rush to her help. Clearwater was hard to reach via any form of transport and didn’t have a connection to the outside world. She didn’t even expect Gilbert and the rest to come to her rescue because they probably didn’t know about the earthquake. To her surprise, Alec showed up.

She sighed, clueless about how to deal with him. Thankfully, villagers who came in seeking medical help diverted her attention from her jumbled thoughts.

Jenny managed to treat a lot of victims. However, she didn’t see Alec around even when night fell.

“Jenny.” Justin walked into the tent. He was an energetic kid who quickly recovered after being rescued from the rubble and had been helping others for the rest of the afternoon. Although he couldn’t be of much help, he still wanted to contribute in any possible way.

“Justin, come here. Sit down and rest. You’re still a kid. Don’t work too hard.” Jenny waved at him, feeling bad for the boy. She got the news of his parents in the afternoon—they were found dead. The family of four was now broken, and Jenny wondered how the two young kids, aged five and three, would live their lives after the tragedy.

He walked up and took a seat beside her. “Jenny, are you waiting for Alec? He’s with the chief. They’re saving the victims.”

She was astonished to learn that since she had assumed Alec was uninterested in the fate of the other villagers. Before this, he was reluctant to even let her treat their wounds.

“Alec is a strong man. I want to be as strong as he is when I grow up,” Justin declared. Jenny caressed his head and cheered him on, “Yes, you’ll grow up to be better than him.”

Chapter 189 You’re Not Invincible

Justin, about your parents...” Jenny stared at the sensible child in front of him as she struggled to explain the death of his parents.

Compared to her, he was more forthright on the topic. “I know that Mommy and Daddy went to heaven. They became stars and will look after Lilian and me from the sky.”

She was taken aback. “Stars?”

“Yes, Alec told me that.” The five-year-old nodded. He was too young to grasp the concept of death.

‘Does Alec have a soft side to him?’ Jenny wondered. Right then, Alec walked into the tent, and they looked at each other. She asked, “Has the rescue ended?”

“Yes, for now.” He nodded. “Without more advanced detectors, we can’t tell where the buried victims are. We can only wait for the rescue team to arrive.”

After a day’s hard work, everyone was tired to the bone. It was counterproductive to request that they blindly search for victims. The best thing everyone could do was to wait.

The fact weighed heavily on her heart. She understood that Alec was stating the facts, but the thought of people buried alive under the rubble dampened her mood.

Alec gave Justin a piece of candy and caressed his head. “Go find Lilian. Okay?”

“Okay.”

After Justin left, Alec and Jenny were alone in the tent. He comforted her, “I understand your feeling as a doctor who wants to save every single soul. But please know that you’re not invincible.”

She pursed her lips and forced a smile. “Don’t worry. I understand.”

“Your injuries...”

“It’s no big deal.”

Silence ensued. A long pause later, he said, “I went to dinner with Yvonne that night because it’d be hard to turn her down as a long-time acquaintance. I never thought she’d drug me.”

Jenny was surprised that he’d bring up Yvonne’s issue at this moment. She didn’t know how to feel about

Noticing her silence, he went on, “Since you have no internet access, you probably didn’t know that Yvonne recently married Sam Bloom.”

“She married Sam Bloom?” Jenny thought to herself as she appeared in shock and disbelief. “Why?” she asked. Although she was not personally acquainted with Sam Bloom, she had heard of him before. After all, the Blooms were well-known in Parrington and were on the same level as the Fausts.

“George Dickman always wanted help from the Blooms. It so happens that Sam is interested in Yvonne. Since both families wanted something from each other, the arranged marriage didn’t come as a surprise,” Alec explained.

Jenny frowned, troubled by the realization that she couldn’t lay a finger on Yvonne, who had married into the Blooms. She had total confidence in Max and Gilbert to take over the Dickmans’ business, but it would be hard for them to acquire a larger combined entity now that the Blooms were involved. Even if they wanted to, they might make enemies by taking over businesses consecutively.

“I know you don’t like Yvonne, but it’s hard for you to make a move on her now that she’s married into the

Blooms,” Alec reminded Jenny, but he offered, “If you really want to make a move on her, I can help you.”

“You?” She gave him an amused look. “Are you going to spare her after what she did to you?”

“I’m working with Max Pearson and Gilbert Hawthorn. If they share a portion of the Dickmans’ assets with me, I will get the Blooms to stop bailing out the Dickmans,” Alec replied. When the Dickmans went down, Yvonne might be put in an uneasy position.

“Is that all?” She lifted an eyebrow.

Chapter 190 But You Have Me

In Jenny’s eyes, Alec was never a kind and merciful person. He went silent because he understood what she was implying. “I’ll turn in the evidence proving she had hired the assassin, but the Blooms will definitely help her out. I assume that she won’t go to jail.”

“You have the capability to drag someone down if you put your mind to it.” She chuckled, thinking that Alec was making excuses.

“Jenny, I probably haven’t told you stories from my childhood. Are you interested?” He suddenly changed the topic and looked at her as he took a trip down memory lane.

She was confused by the random mention and thought he deliberately wanted to change the topic. She felt infuriated but didn't refuse to listen because she was interested in his past.

A long time ago, Alec's dad and Max's mom eloped, leaving Alec and his mom behind. He was a young child then, but he was acutely aware of the changes in his family. Despite that, he was sensible enough not to ask questions. Instead, he gave his best in his studies in an attempt to cheer up his mom. His efforts were in vain because his mom decided to take her life one night, leaving him all alone in the world.

He feared the dark because it reminded him of waking up to his mom's cold body. Whenever night descended, it brought uneasiness and anticipation of a tragedy that would plunge him into terror.

After his mom's passing, he was taken in by Old Mr. Faust and started living at the Old Mansion, where he met Yvonne. Back then, Yvonne was a bright and adorable child who always went to play with Alec after he moved in. She was a ray of hope that pulled him away from the darkness. Hence, he found it hard to take any action against Yvonne even if she had committed crimes that disgusted him. After all, she was one of his few childhood friends.

Jenny felt conflicted after hearing his story. She had never imagined his childhood to be riddled with pain, and she wondered how he had handled the death of his mother as a young kid. Suddenly, she felt sorry for him.

*Jenny, can I spare her just once? Consider it my way of repaying her kindness to me," he asked for her approval while staring deep into her eyes.

She went blank when she met his pleading gaze. "That's your business. You don't have to ask for my permission."

"No. To me, you're more important than her." He shook his head. "If you insist on taking action against her, I can help."

Yvonne, unlike Jenny, was not a priority for Alec.

Jenny felt cornered. She obviously couldn't do anything to Yvonne after hearing the sob story from Alec. She stared at him and asked, "What if she does it again? Do you plan to protect her if that happens?"

"Of course not! This is the last time," he assured her with a confident look.

She sighed and finally nodded. "Alright. I will give her one last chance."

Since Alec had offered her a lot of help, she didn't mind compromising this time. Moreover, knowing Yvonne, Jenny believed she wouldn't give up so easily. When Yvonne struck again, Alec would have no reason to protect her anymore.

*Jenny, thank you." Alec seemed happy.

She squirmed under his passionate gaze and quickly looked the other way. "You don't have to thank me. She's married to Sam Bloom anyway-I can't do anything to her even if I wanted to."

"But you have me. If you ever need my help, I can offer it," he replied. Then, he added, "In the end, your

didn't do anything to her because you care about me. I'm glad."