

Be Yours 271

Chapter 271 Come Up With Solutions

Alec seemed to have recognized Joey too. Although he never interacted with Joey, he had helped Jenny investigate his stepmother, and he learned a thing or two about the boy in the process. He interjected to break the tension between the two, "Jenny, let's not get too riled up. Sit down and talk it out with him." Then, he called a waiter over to get them a quiet dining room.

Joey was reluctant to follow them but had no choice because Jenny was staring at him. They took their seats in the room, and Alec ordered some food. After that, he turned to Joey. "Tell us now. Why did you drop out?"

Feeling their eyes on him, he sighed and told them his story. After his stepmother was sent to jail, his dad, who had grown increasingly displeased with him, put all the blame on him. Not long after, his dad stopped paying for his school fees and pocket money. At his wits' end, he decided to quit school and work.

"You're only sixteen. Are you going to work retail forever?" Jenny was upset but didn't get mad at him because she understood he was in a difficult position.

He shook his head. "I don't want to, but I don't have a choice." It would be hard for a sixteen-year-old to continue school without basic financial support for meals.

"Can your boss legally hire you? You're technically child labor," Alec questioned, wondering if any boss would be so careless.

Joey panicked when he brought up the topic. "I...I lied about my age.

Restaurants of this level usually didn't run stringent background checks. If one lied about their age and claimed that they had lost their identification card, no one would raise a brow.

"Go back to school. Don't worry about the school fees and your monthly expenses." Jenny looked at him, angry but sympathetic. However, Joey merely bit his lip without agreeing to her plea. He didn't reach out to Jenny for help to avoid creating problems for her—he always felt that his existence was trouble, and the last thing he wanted was to annoy others. Although Jenny had volunteered to pay for his schooling, he was reluctant to be indebted to her because he had received too much kindness at this point.

"Are you really going to work here forever?" She fumed at his silence.

Alec quickly assuaged her, "Relax. I get him." After all, it was normal for a teenage boy to be egoistic and sensitive. Alec furnished a name card and wrote a phone number on it. Then, he handed it to Joey. "This is the number of the person in charge of our company's philanthropic arm. Call him, and he'll settle your living expenses for you to continue studying. Of course, this comes with a condition—you must sponsor another child in a similar situation after you graduate from university and start working. Can you do that?"

Even though it was an optional request, most children sponsored by the trust managed to fulfill the promise, and he trusted that Joey could do that too.

Joey was flustered upon seeing the name card. "Can I...accept this?" He refused to accept unconditional kindness and would rather earn the sponsorship, such as accepting Alec's conditional help.

"Of course. Do you really think that all poor kids could only end up quitting school and working?" Alec smiled at him weakly and added, "You're still young. When you run into problems, you should come up with solutions. Don't give up easily. Even if Jenny and I didn't sponsor you, you could have told your teacher about your situation. They could have figured out a way to help you, so you didn't have to quit school to work."

Chapter 272 I Don't Have a Home

Joey was unaware of his options, nor had he tried them out. When his teacher asked him the reason behind his decision, he merely answered that he didn't want to study anymore. Despite his teacher's attempt to change his mind, he didn't budge. Therefore, his teacher was left with no choice but to process the paperwork for him.

"But...I already dropped out." He hung his head in regret.

"I can handle that for you. What you need to do is to show up to school on time. Don't fret about it," Alec replied.

Joey looked at the two with teary eyes, even though he was a tough guy. "Thank you."

"Study hard and score well if you really want to thank us." Jenny was relieved after Joey agreed to go back to school.

He nodded. "I will." Joey had always been good at studies, which was why he was placed in 12th grade at sixteen. If all went according to plan, he'd be taking the SAT the following year.

"All the best! If you get into a good college, I'll buy you a gift." Jenny finally broke into a smile and appeared more relieved.

After lunch, Jenny accompanied Joey to submit his resignation to the restaurant manager. The manager readily accepted the resignation, paid his wages, and offered him words of encouragement.

Joey followed Jenny and Alec from the shopping mall to their car. At that moment, he had no idea where he should head to.

"Where do you live now?" Jenny asked.

Joey looked troubled. "I was living at the employee dorm, but now that I've resigned, I have no idea where to stay."

"Your home..."

"I don't have a home. He kicked me out." A look of resentment flashed across Joey's eyes when he mentioned his father, but he tried not to show his negativity in front of Jenny. He refrained from telling her that not only did his dad chase him out, but his dad would also ask him for money every month. Although Joey's pay was too little to live on, he had to put aside money for his dad to buy alcohol.

"I wonder if he found out I left my job and went back to school? What if he looks for me at school?" he wondered. He dared not picture the scene where his classmates laughed at him behind his back. Still, he kept his worries to himself instead of confiding in Jenny because he was sure he could handle the matter.

He had decided to continue school even if his dad made life hard for him. That was his only ticket out of his current situation, and he could only repay Jenny's kindness with success.

Jenny thought about it and suggested, "Why don't you crash at my place for a few days? When we settle the paperwork at school, we can send you there."

"No!" Alec quickly responded without giving Joey a chance to speak. Jenny and Joey stared at him, but he was unfazed and said, "How are you going to take care of him with that busy schedule? He might even go hungry at your place. How about this, Joey? I'll check you into a hotel for a few days. The hotel will serve all three meals, and all you have to do is relax."

Joey felt burdened by the luxurious arrangement and muttered cautiously, "I can stay at an inn. I'll cook my own meals."

"Listen to Alec. Clear your mind and rest well before returning to school." Jenny agreed with Alec's suggestion because she was indeed too busy to look after the boy.

Joey nodded and did not argue further. "Okay. Thank you so much. I will repay your kindness one day." Alec and Jenny chuckled at his serious attitude. Jenny chirped, "Sure. Good luck! I look forward to that."

Chapter 273 What Help Can You Offer Me?

On their way home, after they made the necessary arrangements for Joey, Jenny was suddenly reminded of Justin and Lilian. "Do you have any updates on the adoptive family?" she blurted out to Alec.

"Yeah, I found one, but we haven't gotten in touch with them," Alec answered. He would always fulfill Jenny's request to the best of his ability.

She sighed in relief after learning that. She had been busy with work and had no time to care for two children. Therefore, she sent them to Orchid Village and entrusted them to the villagers' care. Still, she couldn't leave them in the village for the long term and planned to find them an adoptive family so that they could resume their daily lives.

"Share their information with me. I'll look into their background." Speaking of investigation, Jenny was proud of her skills.

Alec agreed to let her take over because he knew that Jenny was blessed with detective skills. "Sure." Soon, they arrived at Perry Residence. As it was late, they wished each other good night and returned home to rest. When they fell asleep that night, someone was losing sleep elsewhere.

At the Wagner Manor, sounds of items crashing were heard from an eastside villa. The maids scurried away to hide when they witnessed Marigold's outburst.

"Damn it!" While throwing and breaking stuff, she cursed, "Jenny Walter, you drove Gilbert away! I won't let this slide!"

At the height of her fury, she was interrupted by her phone ringing. Her expression darkened when she saw the caller ID. "Why are you calling me?"

"Why the hostility? I'm here to help." Yvonne's sympathetic voice didn't convince her.

"Help me? What help can you offer me?" she spat in disdain and refused to engage further with Yvonne. Yvonne chuckled calmly in the face of her anger. "Aren't you upset because Gilbert left? You knew that Jenny was the reason behind it. Don't you want to teach her a lesson?"

Yvonne's words resonated strongly with Marigold, who had always wanted to find an opportunity to teach Jenny a lesson but had no idea how to go about it, which contributed to her anger.

"Let's meet up and have some drinks." With that, Yvonne hung up and sent Marigold the address of a bar. Marigold gritted her teeth and hesitated as she stared at the address. She was not naive and knew that Yvonne was using her to get back at Jenny. After some deliberation, she concluded that since she and Yvonne shared a mutual goal of exacting revenge on Jenny, what difference would it make if she met with her? Perhaps, Yvonne would have a better idea for dealing with Jenny.

After making a decision, she quickly changed and left the Wagner Manor.

Jenny woke up early on Monday morning, ready for a busy day ahead. As usual, Alec rang her doorbell and delivered breakfast.

She joked, "You're making me wonder if the Faust Group is faring well. You don't look busy at all."

"Well, if the Faust Group goes down, could you take me in and look after me?" He beamed at her and waited eagerly for her answer.

She rolled her eyes at him and took the food. "No!"

"That can't be. Dr. Walter, you're a kind soul. Are you going to watch as I die of hunger on the streets?" He walked up to her and put on a pitiful face.

She dug into the breakfast and casually remarked, "Don't worry. With your looks, you'll have sugar mommies lining up to pay your bills if you go bankrupt. You won't die of hunger."

Chapter 274 Are You Dissatisfied With Me in Any Way?

Alec's expression fell when he heard that, and he gave her a disgruntled look. "You can be one of them."

"I'm not rich enough to pay for you." She shook her head as she tried to hold back laughter. Alec shut up after trying hard to squeeze a word of affection out of her. Sometimes, she could be more simple-minded than a man.

After breakfast, she went to work at the hospital. Alec had offered to take her there but was turned down. According to her, their relationship was not at that level yet. It was one thing to deliver breakfast every day. If he started sending her to and from work, others might gossip.

Alec protested at the injustice, "Why won't you acknowledge me then?" As Jenny looked puzzled, he had to lay it out, "Just make me your boyfriend, and I'll have a good reason to send you to work."

Without hesitation, she shook her head, coughed, and replied gravely, "I don't dislike you as much as before, but...I can't make you my boyfriend."

"Why? Are you disappointed with me in any way?" he prodded with a determination to get to the bottom of it. His question made her speechless, for he was a perfect man that any woman would feel lucky to call her own.

She begged to differ. Alec was remarkable, but she was a respectable self-made woman too. She wouldn't prioritize him just because he was the CEO of Faust Group. Although they got along well, Alec didn't feel like a boyfriend to her for some reason she couldn't quite explain.

Under his intense gaze, she felt a little sorry for him. "I'm running late. Let's talk about it next time." She soon escaped, leaving him standing there alone with a bitter smile. He was always helpless around Jenny.

"Alright. I'll keep working hard to win you over. Your heart will open up one day," he mumbled, determined not to give up even after hearing her words.

On Jenny's way to work, she had a call with Stephanie Walker in the cab. Stephanie opined, "I think Alec Faust is a decent man. Look at how much effort he's put in to win your heart! No other man will have such patience."

Stephanie was not a fan of Alec in the past, but she was quite touched by his actions lately. Moreover, he was a better man compared to Paul Wagner.

The thought of Paul dampened her mood.

Jenny understood Stephanie's sentiment but still didn't feel like taking her relationship with Alec to the next level. "Well, I feel like something's missing. Yes, I agree that he treats me very well, but I don't really feel like dating him."

"Oh, I guess you don't love him then. You don't have romantic feelings for him," Stephanie analyzed and concluded. There would be a stark difference in one's behavior, depending on whether one was in love or not. If Jenny was in love with him, she'd be rushing to go official with their relationship and announce it to the world. However, she must be ambivalent because she didn't mind his advances but didn't feel like getting into a relationship.

"Do I not love him?" Jenny struggled with the definition of love. She had had one relationship in her college years that ended with a whimper. She wasn't in love with Alec, but her heart did flutter for him, especially...

She was reminded of his kiss, and her heart suddenly raced.

Chapter 275 Help!

"Alec Faust is handsome, and he's good to you. I'm surprised that you haven't fallen for him. Jenny, don't you think your standards are too high?" At first, Stephanie thought that Jenny had a grudge against Alec because of the divorce, but it turned out that Jenny truly didn't have feelings for him.

That sounded almost impossible. Even though Stephanie didn't like Alec, she figured she would have been moved by Alec's daily acts of service and surrendered her heart to him over time. Anyway, that was a hypothetical scenario that would never happen to her.

She fell silent, wondering if she had impossible standards. During the conversation, she got off the cab and crossed the road to the hospital.

Walking across the pedestrian crossing, she was distracted by Stephanie's chatter on the phone and was unaware of the incoming danger. A black car that had been waiting long at the intersection started moving and accelerating when Jenny showed up, and it seemed to be headed in her direction.

In the car, Marigold held tightly onto the steering wheel, Yvonne's instruction playing in her mind. She was told to teach Jenny a lesson via a bad scare so that Jenny would learn not to mess with her.

With the decision in mind, Marigold stepped on the accelerator and drove the car in Jenny's direction. Jenny was unaware of the speeding car, but the other pedestrians tried to warn her from afar. "Hey! Look out!"

The scream attracted her attention, and she turned around to see the car rushing in her direction. Through the windshield, she saw Marigold in the driver's seat.

Jenny's first reaction was disbelief. Instead of running away, she stood there thinking that Marigold must have gone mad. The car moved closer, targeting her, and she had no chance to escape.

Marigold was gleeful when she saw the frown on Jenny's face. She thought, "Now, is that enough of a lesson?"

Just when the car was about to crash into Jenny, Marigold thought it was time to bring it down a notch, and she stepped on the brakes to bring the car to a halt. To her shock, she realized that the car didn't stop even after she stepped on the brakes, which plunged her into a panic.

"What's wrong? Why is the brake not working?" she screamed frantically while stomping on the brakes. Then, she growled at Jenny helplessly, "Step out of the way!"

Jenny saw her lips moving but couldn't hear a thing. From her perspective, Marigold must have been cursing.

There was a loud crash that attracted terrified stares from the pedestrians. Those worried about Jenny went up to help, only to find her standing there unharmed. Instead, two cars had crashed into each other in front of her.

"Alec Faust!" she exclaimed in her head when she spotted his car. Her heart thumped wildly as she hurried in his direction. Fear and panic ran through her body. At that moment, she realized she cared a lot about his safety.

Alec lost consciousness in the driver's seat. The huge impact led to the release of the airbag, which protected his head from the crash. Still, he was bleeding from injuries caused by the falling shards of glass.

"Alec!" Jenny wanted to open the door to save him but found out that the door was jammed from the accident. Panicking, she turned to the crowd and yelled, "Help!"

Someone stepped up in time to help her open the car door and pull Alec out. Thankfully, he was sent to the emergency room immediately because the hospital was nearby.

Chapter 276 Shut Up

“Someone’s in here!” a pedestrian yelled. Jenny looked across and noticed that Marigold was stuck in the car. Upon closer inspection, she realized Marigold had lost consciousness from the huge impact of the collision, just like Alec.

“Please help me pull her out,” Jenny told the crowd around her. Even though she had been Marigold’s target not long ago, she couldn’t possibly leave Marigold’s life in danger.

Marigold was sent to the emergency room after Alec. At the same time, Jenny changed into her scrub and dived right into saving lives. Meanwhile, Alec’s operation wrapped up successfully. Since he only suffered from a temporary concussion, the doctor didn’t expect any complications. In contrast, Marigold seemed to be in a worse condition. As the best neurosurgeon in Parrington, Jenny had to jump in to help.

Alec woke up at the same time as Jenny completed her operation on Marigold. His first instinct was to search for Jenny, and he panicked when he failed to find her. “Where’s Jenny?” He gave Vincent a serious stare.

“Don’t worry, Mr. Faust. Miss Walter’s fine. She’s in the emergency room,” Vincent answered, feeling secretly proud of Alec, who had risked his life for Jenny. Without much thinking, Alec misunderstood the meaning behind Vincent’s words and jumped out of bed in grave concern, worried that Jenny was being operated on.

“Emergency room? Is she hurt?” Then, he headed out of the room. Just as he was about to turn the knob, Jenny pushed the door open and walked in.

She was taken aback when she found him standing there. “Why are you up? Didn’t the doctor tell you to rest for the time being?” Although he had only suffered some concussion and external injuries, he still needed to recuperate.

He didn’t answer. Only when he confirmed that Jenny was safe that he feel relieved.

“I told him you were in the emergency room, and he instantly thought you were operated on. He didn’t know that you were operating on others.” Vincent burst out laughing, thinking Alec could be quite funny at times. However, Alec quickly rolled his eyes at Vincent. “Oh, shut up!”

“...”

“Get out!”

Vincent had wanted to explain himself but wasn’t given a chance. Alec waved at him, signaling him to disappear from the room. Jenny and Alec watched as Vincent sensibly left the room.

After Vincent was gone, Alec finally gave Jenny an embarrassed look. “Are you okay?”

"I'm fine." She shook her head and stared at him with conflicted feelings. Before getting into the accident, she told Stephanie that she wasn't into Alec and had no feelings for him. But...

She found out that she was worried about Alec's safety. The moment she saw him risking his life and driving into Marigold's car, even her frozen heart started throbbing.

The two stood there without speaking. Silence hung heavily in the air for a few minutes until she noticed that he was getting wobbly. She quickly held him. "Go back to your bed. Don't do strenuous exercises for at least a few days. It's best that you rest in bed."

"Sure. I'll listen to you." He went back to bed with her help with a jubilant expression. Clueless, she thought him weird for looking so cheerful and excited despite his injuries.

"Weren't you on your way to the Faust Group office? Why did you drive past the hospital?" she asked as she wondered about the reason behind his timely appearance.

Chapter 277 To Me, Your Life Is More Important

Leaning against the headboard, Alec said in defeat, "I just wanted to see that you arrived at the hospital safely. That's why I followed you. I never thought that..."

He didn't immediately notice Marigold's car. It wasn't until Marigold was close to crashing into Jenny that he realized something was off. Without hesitation, he drove into Marigold's car to stop it from crashing into Jenny.

"Don't tell me you've always followed me to work?" She stared at him, dumbfounded. He nodded and did not deny it. Flustered and helpless, she sighed. "You don't have to do this for me. Frankly speaking, we don't have a relationship with each other. If something bad happens to you in a situation like today's, it will not bring you any benefit."

"You can run your little cost-and-benefit analysis because you aren't into me. But I love you. These considerations don't occur to me." He didn't have time to think twice in that urgent situation anyway.

She wanted to hide from his scorchingly passionate gaze. "If you know I'm not into you, why would you waste your time on me? It's out of character for you, Mr. Faust."

"I'm confident in myself. One day, you'll fall for me." He flashed her a confident smile. She wondered how he could be this confident. One thing was for sure-she seemed to have felt something for him. Still, she didn't express her feeling because she was unsure if it was love.

"Get some rest." With that, she stood up to leave. She needed some alone time, but he didn't want her to leave. "Won't you stay by my side for a while longer?"

"You need good rest. I'll only distract you from resting." She was already standing at the opened door and staring at the man in the bed. A while later, she blurted out, "Don't do this again. Nothing's more important than your life." Plus, she didn't want to owe him anything, even though she had already owed him enough at this point.

"You," Alec said, looking straight at her. She was confused by his reply. He explained, "You're more important than my life."

She stood frozen at the door as she listened to the loud thumping of her heart, a sensation she had never experienced before. “But why? I don’t get it.” She never understood why he fell hard for her, to the point of giving up his life just to save her. It was puzzling.

He thought it normal and explained, “You’re someone I love and care about. To me, your life is more important.”

“There’s literally nothing in me that’d attract you,” she muttered.

“Well, love isn’t rational. Sometimes, you fall for someone after one look.” That happened to him with Jenny.

Back in Jenny’s office, she couldn’t focus on work and replayed Alec’s words in her mind. Thankfully, she had no surgeries scheduled that day and had all the time in the world to space out.

Someone knocked on the door. Moments later, Morgan entered the office. “Dr. Walter, the patient named Marigold Wagner has woken up. She didn’t say a word after becoming conscious. It’s not looking good.” “Alright. I’ll check on her.” Jenny stood up and forced herself to put away her thoughts about Alec. When she left her office, she ran into Stephanie, who was running over in a hurry.

Stephanie gave her a huge hug. “What happened? I heard a huge crash before the call ended. I couldn’t reach you after that. I was so worried?”

Hugging Jenny tight, Stephanie sounded like she was about to cry.

Chapter 278 You Murderer

Jenny was touched by Stephanie’s concern. “Don’t worry. I’m okay.”

Stephanie let go of her and put on a stern look. “What happened? Tell me everything.” She clearly heard a crash that sounded like a collision on the phone, and she wouldn’t believe it if Jenny had told her everything was fine.

Jenny didn’t plan to lie to her. While walking to Marigold’s room, she recounted details from the accident. Stephanie felt her heart leaping into her throat when she heard how Marigold wanted to crash her car into Jenny, but she felt much relieved after hearing that Alec had saved Jenny by ramming his car into Marigold’s.

They arrived at Marigold’s door right as Jenny wrapped up the story. Fuming, Stephanie was about to barge into the room and fight Marigold, but Jenny held her back. “She’s still in recovery. We should probably leave her to the police. Don’t worry. She can’t run from what she did.”

After all, she had filed a police report, and there was evidence from the surveillance camera on the street. She believed that Marigold wouldn’t be easily forgiven for the car crash, and she had no intention of offering forgiveness, even though she was safe and sound. At the end of the day, Alec was injured while saving her. No matter what, she insisted that Marigold pay the price for the crazy act.

“I’m just angry! Is she a madwoman? How could she run you over with her car? No wonder Gilbert doesn’t like her at all.” Stephanie learned from Jenny the reason behind Marigold’s hatred. Jenny had thought that Marigold simply disliked her, not knowing that the girl would go to such an extreme to harm her.

Jenny didn't comment on Stephanie's remark, but she agreed that it'd be better for Gilbert not to fall for Marigold, who was a tad too radical. The two would not be happy if they were in a relationship.

In the room, Marigold was staring at the space with a vacant look. Still, her eyes immediately flared with resentment upon seeing Jenny, and she hissed, "You're lucky to be alive, given the circumstances."

At the moment when the brakes failed, Marigold had expected Jenny to die from the crash. Even though she never planned to take Jenny's life, she wouldn't mind Jenny dying too.

"You should say that about yourself," Jenny smirked as she looked at Marigold's bandaged head. Marigold glared at her viciously, but she suddenly thought of Alec and blurted out, "Where's Alec?"

"Alec Faust? Don't worry. He's fine," Jenny replied. "Never thought you'd care about him."

"He's Paul's good friend. That's why I worry about him," Marigold glared at her again and gritted her teeth. "I honestly do not know how you seduce Alec. Why would he show up and save you?"

Jenny shrugged wearily and smiled. "I don't know why he saved me, just like I couldn't understand your intention to kill me."

"I never wanted to kill you," Marigold mumbled in a hushed voice. "You were simply unlucky."

She attributed the malfunctioning brakes to Jenny's bad luck.

"You never wanted to kill Jenny? Stop lying, you murderer!" Stephanie couldn't hold back and stood up to retort

Marigold gave her a side eye and snickered, "And you are Paul's kept woman. Am I right? He really has no taste."

Stephanie's temper flared, and she almost charged at Marigold. "Who's his kept woman again? You'd better watch your mouth. Since when did I ask him to pay for anything?" She had never taken advantage of Paul Wagner when she was dating him. However, the Wagners had the audacity to characterize her as a bloodsucker. How despicable!

Chapter 279 You're Her Family, Indeed

Thankfully, Jenny held Stephanie back just in time; she didn't doubt for a second that Stephanie might get physical on Marigold.

"Steph!" Jenny chided her. "Calm down. She's not worth it."

Stephanie bit her lips and almost cried. "You're right. A murderer like her deserves to spend the rest of her life in prison."

"Who are you accusing of being a murderer? I'm warning you to watch your mouth. I lost control of the car -that's all." Marigold wasn't a fool. She adamantly denied her involvement in the planned act, considering that there was no evidence pointing at her and that Jenny was safe.

Stephanie became livid at Marigold's denial. "Jenny, don't stop me. I'll beat her up today."

She thought, "The Wagners are annoying. First, there was Paul. Marigold was the same too."

“Steph,” Jenny called out to Stephanie and shook her head. Stephanie was indignant but was surprised to find Jenny staring calmly at Marigold despite her denial.

“Do you think you could run from justice by denial? Marigold Wagner, who do you think I am? I’ve checked all the surveillance footage. Any sane person could tell that it was premeditated murder. Do you think you’ll be fine because your family will back you up?” She flashed a chilling smile that sent a shiver down Marigold’s spine.

Marigold questioned, “W-What do you mean?”

“Do you want to guess how much Paul will pay for his sister? Is he willing to give up the family’s reputation to protect you?” She smiled at Marigold, who was quiet but pale. She went on, “Once I release the footage online, your family will have to get ready for the backlash if they want to protect you. Are you sure that Paul will make that huge sacrifice for you? Plus, the Wagners has been undergoing an image change because it wants to part ways with its ugly history. Do you think Paul will defend you in this case? I bet he’d rather give up on you to show his dedication to protecting the family’s reputation.”

Marigold trembled from head to toe after hearing Jenny’s analysis, thinking she was scarier than Paul. Gritting her teeth, she finally muttered, “What do you want?”

“Nothing. I just want you to pay the price.” Jenny chuckled softly and decided to leave with Stephanie. Before they reached the door, they saw Paul pushing the door open and entering.

He was momentarily caught off guard by their presence but soon gathered himself. “Give me an offer. What can I do for you to let this slip?” He believed nothing was impossible as long as he offered a matching incentive.

“You’re Marigold’s family, indeed.” Jenny chuckled in disdain. She had never held any judgment against Paul, but after seeing how he treated Stephanie and his determination to protect Marigold, she started harboring a dislike for him.

He frowned in displeasure. “You won’t benefit from sending her to jail. There’s nothing for you apart from getting your revenge. Not only that, you’ll be on the wrong side of the Wagners. Look, Alec has always described you as a smart woman. If so, I believe you know what’s best for yourself.”

If Jenny weren’t important to Alec, Paul wouldn’t have engaged with her at all—he didn’t hold her in high regard.

Chapter 280 You’re Hopeless

Hearing that, she almost giggled at Paul’s hubris. “Did Alec tell you that I’m petty?” Smiling, she looked him in the eye and said coldly, “What if I told you I wanted to make her pay? What will you do to me?” Paul’s expression sank. A murderous gleam flashed across his eyes. “You’d better not challenge me.”

“Paul Wagner!” Stephanie was at her limits and jumped out to shield Jenny. “If you dare lay a finger on her, I’ll fight you!”

“Get out of my way. This is none of your business.” Paul was seething, but Stephanie stood her ground, determined to give her all.

Jenny pulled her aside and smiled. "Don't worry. He can't do anything to me." She looked at Paul, hoping that he'd back down. "Paul Wagner, you shouldn't forget that I am holding the evidence of your family's appalling doings."

He merely smirked without care. "You're too naive. After the last incident, your evidence is no longer effective. Why don't you try to bring it on?" He would never let Jenny hold evidence against him. Since he had erased the evidence early on, he had nothing to fear.

She was unsurprised to hear that. "Oh, is that so? No wonder you're so confident."

He replied, "I'll give you one last chance to make an offer."

When Stephanie saw that Jenny seemed to be considering his words, she got anxious that Jenny might agree to Paul's demand.

Amid the tense confrontation, Alec entered the room and instantly picked up on the tension. He quickly scanned the faces of Paul and Jenny, and he understood the reason. Walking up to Jenny, he glared at Paul. "I'm warning you. Be nice to Jenny."

Paul chuckled. "Alec, you're putting your chick before your friends."

"I almost got into huge trouble because I helped you last time. I won't help you this time around." Alec stood firmly on Jenny's side.

Flabbergasted, Paul stared at the two. "Okay, I admit that it's Marigold's fault this time. How about I get her to apologize and compensate you for the damage? You don't have to send her to jail. She's so young!"

With Alec's help, he might stand a chance to save Marigold from serving time. His attitude softened a little. Plus, Marigold was one of the few family members who were close to him. If he failed to even protect her, no one in the family would take him seriously.

Alec looked at Jenny and waited for her to speak. Still, she couldn't let this go. She turned to Marigold. "I don't understand at all. Why would you be angry at me just because Gilbert doesn't like you? Do you need to take my life for that?"

"Gilbert would have fallen for me if you didn't stand in the way." Marigold looked pitiful.

Jenny snickered at the ridiculous idea. "You're hopeless." Then, she turned to Paul. "She's your little sister. Don't you think there's something wrong with her head? If I were you, I would make her serve her sentence. Perhaps, she'll be a bit wiser when she's released."

Paul was definitely upset when Jenny humiliated his sister. To him, that was akin to offending the whole Wagner Family's name, but he held back and didn't refute her. Instead, he said to Marigold, "I wonder how you had the guts to plan a murder."