## Be Yours 311

Chapter 311 He's in Pain Too

It was yet another busy day in the hospital. Jenny had two surgeries scheduled in the morning; when lunchtime came around, she was exhausted. She had just sat down in her office when Zack called.

"Hey, Zack," she answered. "Have you found it?"

"Yes. I've already forwarded Simone Bloom's schedule to your inbox," Zack said. Although he had no idea what Jenny wanted it for, he didn't ask.

"Alright. Thanks, Zack, Jenny said. It was great having someone help her out. At least she wouldn't have so much on her plate. She couldn't help thinking about Gilbert. She hesitated for a moment before asking, "Have you heard from Gilbert lately?"

"Yes," he said, then asked, "Hasn't he contacted you?"

Jenny smiled bitterly. There was an ache in her heart. "He's never contacted me since the day he left."

It wasn't that she didn't want to contact him; she just didn't have the guts to call. She feared that she'd be influencing Gilbert if she called, so she had to keep her distance until he finally thought. things through.

Zack was quiet on the other end. He was no longer the naive Zack from before. "Don't blame him, Jenny. He's probably in pain too." He knew how much Gilbert cared for Jenny. It must have been torture keeping his distance, afraid a single phone call would unleash the unthinkable.

Jenny's eyes felt prickly. How could she blame Gilbert? She was just upset. "I'm not blaming him. I'm just worried about his overall being in a foreign country."

"Don't worry. Gilbert is much stronger than us. He's doing well overseas. The company's branch has been established. Everything is going according to plan." Gilbert had said nothing to Jenny, but he had contacted Zack. It was why he knew so much.

Jenny relaxed. "That's great."

"Relax. He'll be back soon," Zack said.

The call ended, and Jenny took a deep breath, clearing her thoughts. She opened her inbox and saw the schedule that Zack had sent.

Simone Bloom was Sam Bloom's sister. Not many people knew about her.

Jenny didn't head home after work. She went to the gym that Simone frequented.

Zack's information told her that Simone would come to this gym every day after work without fail. From this information alone, Jenny felt she was a persistent and patient woman. Would someone like this truly be pure and innocent? Jenny wouldn't believe it.

When she got there, she spotted Simone at once, who was already at the start of her routine. She wasn't in a hurry and observed Simone from a distance.

"Do you have a membership, miss?" A personal trainer went up to her.

Jenny looked at him. After thinking for a while, she said, "No, but I have something I'd like to ask you." While speaking, she took a wad of cash from her bag and handed it to him.

He smiled and pocketed it. "What is it? I'll tell you everything I know."

"That woman over there comes here often. Do you know if she has any close friends here?" Jenny knew she had to understand Simone thoroughly to avoid being at a disadvantage.

Chapter 312 I Don't Know What You're Saying

The personal trainer looked at Simone. He obviously knew her. "You mean Ms. Bloom? I know her. Her trainer is my brother. They're close. They even go out to eat together sometimes." He emphasized the part about them eating together, and Jenny got the hint.

She took out yet another wad of cash from her wallet and said softly, "Bring your brother over. Don't let her notice."

"Alright. You can count on me." The trainer was happy with the easy money.

Not long after, Simone's trainer was brought over. Jenny got straight to the point, bribing him while asking about Simone. She was surprised to know that they had a pretty problematic relationship. Problematic, in the sense that this trainer had a girlfriend, but Simone told everyone that she was single.

With a clear understanding in mind, Jenny walked toward Simone.

Simone was still running, and when Jenny went over, she paid her no mind. She thought she was. just another gym goer. Only when Jenny stood behind her for two minutes did Simone finally look over. "There are treadmills over there. You don't have to wait for me."

"I'm not here to run," Jenny said, smiling. "I'm here for you."

In the break room, Simone drank water and looked at Jenny. Calmly, she asked, "What do you want from me?"

"I'd like to talk about the Blooms," Jenny said, not beating around the bush.

Simone frowned immediately. She didn't look too happy. "The Blooms? I don't know what you're talking about."

"You're part of the Bloom family. How could you not know what I'm talking about?" Jenny smiled, knowing that Simone was just playing dumb.

Simone's face darkened. She didn't seem to want anyone to know about her identity. "What do you want? I've never cared about what went on in that family."

Although she worked at Bloom Conglomerate, she didn't tell anyone of her status as the Bloom family's daughter. She separated herself from them very well. She didn't think that she'd still be sniffed out.

"I'm quite curious to know why you've never disclosed your identity as a Bloom. They've never mentioned having you as their daughter, either." Jenny could find everything there was to know on the surface, but she wasn't able to find out the inner workings of things.

Simone drank her water and glanced at Jenny. "Why should I tell you that? Who are you?" She still didn't know who Jenny was, only that she was a weird woman saying weird things.

"I'm Jenny Walter. You may call me Jenny." Jenny smiled at her, expressing her kindness.

'Jenny Walter?" Simone murmured her name and came to her senses quickly. "Alec's ex-wife?"

Jenny was speechless. Was she doomed to be known as Alec's ex-wife, no matter how hard she

## worked?

"What do you want from me? Say it." Simone's attitude didn't change even after knowing Jenny's identity. She didn't care who she was.

Jenny said straightforwardly, "I think it's a pity that the Blooms have fallen under Sam's control. Aren't you just the tiniest bit interested in them?"

Simone's face shifted slightly at these words, but not in a good way.

Chapter 313 Don't Deny Your Wild Side

Simone's eyes were filled with hatred as she looked at Jenny. "What's that supposed to mean? What's wrong with Sam being in charge? He's the rightful heir."

Jenny frowned. She was a little surprised at Simone's words. "You work at Bloom Conglomerate. Anyone who knows you knows of your abilities. Haven't you ever considered taking over the company?"

Simone jumped from her chair and glared at Jenny. "Cut the crap, I'm warning you. Sam is my brother. It's only right that he inherits the company. Why would I think otherwise?"

Jenny couldn't help laughing at how serious her reply was. "Oh, really? Do you honestly not think. that? Or are you just afraid?" Simone was angry and wanted to retort, but Jenny said, "I think it's because your father warned you early on not to have any ideas about taking over the company."

"You..."

"In fact, he forbade you from disclosing your identity to anyone. He made you a cog in the machine and treated you unfairly. You hate him, don't you?"

Simone couldn't answer, but Jenny was right-that was indeed the situation. Since she was young, her sexist father told her that she would never inherit the company, and she could never tell anyone her identity. Once she came of age, she was kicked out of the family. But then, they made her work at Bloom Conglomerate and even appointed her as one of the executives. However, her father had ulterior motives. He just wanted Sam to have someone useful by his side when he took

over.

Simone would forever live in her brother's shadow.

"What do you want from saying all this?" she asked weakly.

"I'd like to help you. I don't think someone like you should always conform to others' wishes." It was honestly what Jenny was there for.

Simone didn't believe her. She scoffed, "You're here because of Yvonne, aren't you?"

Although she wasn't part of the Blooms, she worked at the company and knew of Sam's and Yvonne's marriage. It was an easy guess with Jenny and Alec's history, along with Yvonne's. "That's also true." Jenny didn't deny it. "I had laid everything to rest after the Dickmans went bankrupt, but she insisted on slighting me after marrying into the Blooms. She even tried to harm me. I can't just stand around and watch." Jenny said.

Simone believed her, but she didn't agree just yet. She merely smiled, saying, "Yvonne and I are cut from the same cloth. Her entire life, she has been looked down on by her family, and that's how she became who she is today. Why do you think I'd help you?"

Jenny shook her head. "You wouldn't be helping me. You'd be helping yourself."

"I like things just the way they are. I don't care about Bloom Conglomerate," Simone said.

Jenny wasn't angered by her words. "Really? Then why would you hate your father? Why would you complain about Sam being trash?"

"You!" Simone was anxious now. She looked at her personal trainer. Only he knew all this.

"Don't deny it anymore. You have a wild side. It's just that you were never given an opportunity to shine. Well, here it is." Jenny's enticing words rang in her ear, and Simone was moved.

Chapter 314 Do You Trust Me?

She didn't let it cloud her judgment. "You think you can help me take over Bloom Conglomerate?" she asked calmly.

"That's not for me to say but to do." Jenny handed Simone a document. As she flipped through it, Jenny said, "These are the board members of Bloom Conglomerate and their personal details. As long as half of them agree to elect you as the CEO, the company will be yours for the taking." She didn't need to take action against the Blooms. She just needed to get them to change their CEO.

"That's easy for you to say. Why would they vote for me? I don't even have any shares in the company." Simone was bitter about it. Every Bloom was supposed to get a share of the company, but her father hadn't given it to her.

Jenny smiled. "Don't worry. Shares can be bought."

Bloom Conglomerate wasn't some hotshot company. As long as one had money, one of the shareholders would be willing to sell their shares.

"And these people?" Simone pointed at the document.

"I'll give you all of their details and blackmail material that you need. You know the rest, don't you?" They would never dare to protest as long as she knew their secrets. Simone looked at Jenny in disbelief. "You found all of their dirty secrets?"

"There's bound to be dirt on people in such high positions of power." And if there was none, Jenny believed that someone like that would vote for Simone.

Simone nodded. She was shocked that Jenny was able to do all this.

Jenny clearly had no intention of telling her anything more. She made to leave, but before that, she said, "Oh, and I just received some news. Sam has just given Yvonne some of his shares."

"What?" Simone was stunned. "Is he crazy? He gave his shares to an outsider!

"You said before that you and Yvonne are cut from the same cloth. But I think that there are clear differences between you two." Jenny smiled. "At least you're not someone who achieves her goal through unscrupulous means."

"What do you mean?" Simone frowned, sensing something deeper behind Jenny's words.

"Why do you think Yvonne married Sam? Do you think she just wanted emotional support?" Jenny didn't answer, instead asking her a question.

Simone went silent and thought about it, and her face turned grim. "Are you saying that she's plotting against Bloom Conglomerate?"

"You're right." Jenny nodded. "So, if you don't seize the company now, it's only a matter of time before Yvonne takes over."

Simone's face was as black as thunder. She hated her father and thought Sam was trash, but she didn't want the Blooms to fall into someone else's hands. She was hesitant about working with Jenny, but now she was certain. "What should I do? I'll go with your plan." She looked at Jenny with

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determination in her eyes.

Jenny was happy to see it but didn't disclose her plan in detail. "It'll be you in charge of the

company in the future. If you don't have any ideas of your own, you won't sustain the company for

long, even if I help you obtain it. All I can do is provide you with information and help where

needed. You'll have to be on your own after that. Do you trust me?"

Chapter 315 | Have Something to Say

Jenny walked out of the gym after ending her conversation with Simone. She was about to hail a cab when Alec's car stopped before her.

"Are you done talking?" Alec rolled down his window.

Jenny nodded, then realization dawned upon her. "When did you come? No, how did you know I was here?" She didn't tell Alec that she was coming to see Simone, much less where she would go.

"I just found out you were with her when I sent someone out to investigate her." Alec didn't think that such a coincidence would happen, either. He wanted to find Simone before Jenny did, but Jenny was still faster.

Jenny didn't press the matter. Even if Alec sent someone out to spy on her, Jenny would believe he was considering her safety.

Wait. Since when had she become so trusting of him?

Alec opened the door for her. Jenny sat in his car and didn't ask where they were going.

"How did the conversation go?" Alec asked.

Jenny nodded. "It was just as I thought. She has an ambitious side but was never given an opportunity. Now that it's fallen right into her lap, she has no reason to refuse."

Alec wasn't surprised. It wasn't because he understood Simone, but because he understood Jenny. She could do anything she put her mind to, and Alec didn't doubt her from the start. He merely thought that his help would lessen her burden.

The car wasn't heading toward Perry Residences. "Where are we going?" Jenny asked.

"Dinner," Alec said.

"We're not eating at home?" She thought Alec would cook like usual, but Alec shook his head. He didn't say where they were going.

The car moved out of the city. It was then that Jenny's curiosity was piqued. They were evidently going to eat at an unusual place.

Ten minutes later, the car stopped.

Jenny realized that they were standing before a manor. They were surrounded by trees, and it felt like they were transported to a different world.

"Are we eating here?" Jenny asked Alec curiously. The place didn't seem like a restaurant to her.

Alec brought her in, and a butler moved forward. "Master."

"Is it prepared?" Alec asked.

"Yes, sir," the butler replied. He gestured for them to follow him.

"I bought this place a few years back," Alec explained to Jenny. "It's a little far away from the company, which is why I don't come to stay often.

"Oh." Jenny nodded. She knew this wasn't a restaurant. But why would Alec bring her here if he didn't come here often? Before she could ask the question, the butler had already brought them to the dining room. It was then that Jenny realized she had severely underestimated the sheer size

of the manor.

The dining room was as large as a hotel restaurant. On the long table a distance away were wine, steak, candles, and fresh flowers. It all seemed strange to Jenny, and she looked at Alec, who seemed unperturbed. Was she overthinking things?

"Sit, Jenny." Alec smiled at her, helping her to sit opposite him.

Once she was seated, he let the butler leave before saying, "Jenny, I brought you here today because...I have something to say to you."

Chapter 316 Will You Fulfill My Wishes?

Jenny felt as if a thousand needles were pricking her. She could guess what Alec was going to say, and her palms grew sweaty.

"Alec..."

"Hear me out, Jenny." Alec cut her off, and Jenny pursed her lips, not saying anything else. "To be frank, I sometimes wonder if destiny is at play with us. But I've never figured out the answer." He smiled like he was laughing at himself. "And then I thought, is that really important?" He shook his head. "I don't think it is. Because right now, I like you. A lot. I'm sure that you're the one I've been. looking for. I appeared by your side even if you hated me in the beginning because I knew that if I lost you again, I'd never find someone else that I liked so much."

Alec was still talking, but Jenny no longer had the heart to listen. She knew what would happen next but hadn't thought of her answer. Could she and Alec truly start over? Could she really believe this man, who had once neglected her and caused their marriage to fail?

She couldn't come up with an answer just yet. She wished that Alec would stop and keep his words to himself, so she would have more time to think.

Alec didn't stop. He thought the time had come. "Jenny, please give me a chance. Let me start by being your boyfriend." He didn't propose immediately because he knew that it was too sudden. Jenny would never be able to accept it. He also wanted to take things slowly. They could start off by being boyfriend and girlfriend.

Jenny looked at Alec; he was staring hopefully into her eyes. She couldn't help breaking out into a sweat. "Do I need to give you an answer right now?"

"Don't overthink, Jenny. Could we just go with the flow?" Alec was extremely nervous. He was afraid that Jenny would reject him. If he were to be rejected now, he didn't know if he would be able to muster up the courage to ask her out again.

Jenny bit her lip and looked around her, discovering the lights had turned dim. Roses surrounded them, showing that early preparations had been made. She pointed at the roses that filled the dining room, smiling as she asked, "How long have you been preparing these?"

"Since the car crash," Alec answered. He was a little embarrassed. "It was Vincent's idea. I have no experience in this department."

Jenny wanted to laugh. Who would think that this was the formidable Mr. Faust? He was now as nervous as a child.

"Did he tell you how to confess, too?" Jenny was about to laugh.

Alec hurriedly explained, "I honestly didn't know what to do, so I made him come up with a few Ideas, and I chose the best one." He chose this because he thought it was quiet and would suit Jenny's personality. "You can tell me if anything is lacking. I'll make it up to you." He was in a panic; if Jenny thought he was insincere, he would stop breathing.

Jenny could tell how antsy he was and laughed.

Alec was stunned, but he turned serious once more. "Miss Jenny, I'm in the middle of a

confession. Could you take this a little more seriously?"

"Alright." Jenny did her best to hold in her laughter.

"Really?" Alec was exasperated. "So, will you fulfill my wishes?" He was so nervous he could throw

Jenny stroked her chin and looked at Alec with interest. "What would you do if I refused?"

Chapter 317 Hello, Boyfriend of Mine

Alec froze, and his face turned pale. "To be honest, I haven't really thought about that."

"So, you were sure that I would agree?" Jenny raised an eyebrow. She wanted to know where he got his confidence.

"It's just how I feel. I don't think you hate me all that much. I think you like me." Alec replied honestly. He couldn't lie now.

Jenny didn't oppose anything he said. She hated to admit it, but what Alec said was the truth. She had begun disliking him less, even managing to catch a few feelings for him.

"I wouldn't give up even if you honestly don't like me. I would still love you," Alec replied after giving it some thought. He was not one to give up, even if Jenny rejected him.

Jenny had to admit that his words moved her. She didn't think he would be so determined.

"Are you really not planning on giving me a chance?" Alec asked. His heart felt like it was about to burst.

Jenny sighed a little helplessly. "It's not that. I'm afraid that if we break up, it'll be even worse than the divorce."

"I don't care about that," Alec said. "I don't care about what the future holds. I'm focusing only on the present." Besides, he didn't think he would leave Jenny, ever.

"Are you sure?" she asked, staring at him.

Alec met her gaze and nodded seriously.

Jenny smiled. "Well, hello there, boyfriend of mine."

It was all too sudden. For a moment, Alec forgot how to react. He froze in his spot, dissociating slightly. It was the applause and the fireworks outside the building that jerked him back to reality.

Jenny was stunned. Stephanie, Jade, Max, Zack, and even Paul Wagner walked in, and she was surprised and pleased.

"Why...why did you call them over?" Jenny was a little embarrassed. At the thought of them hearing what they had said to each other, she wished a hole would open in the ground for her to crawl into.

Alec smiled. "Happiness should be shared. Don't you think so?"

Jenny said nothing, but she had to admit that she was radiating joy.

"As your best friend, I'd never pass up the opportunity to see you happy, Jenny," Stephanie said, walking up to her with a bright smile on her face.

Jade went up to her, too, and patted her on the shoulder. "Just as I expected. You'd end up with Alec."

"Well, looks like I'm totally out of the picture now." Max walked over and pretended to be disappointed.

Jenny glared at him. Jade was here. Wasn't he afraid that she would misunderstand? But Max merely shrugged nonchalantly.

Alec smiled and went to Jenny's side. He gave her the present that he had prepared.

Jenny took the present, surprised. It was the pair of earrings that Alec and Gilbert had fought over at the auction. Alec had won the auction and given the earrings to her, but Jenny refused him in front of everyone.

"You're not going to refuse it now, are you?" Alec smiled. He had kept this pair of earrings. carefully, feeling that they would belong to her sooner or later.

Jenny rolled her eyes. She suspected that he was holding a grudge against her.

Chapter 318 Not Everyone Likes Roses

Jenny put the earrings on, and Alec heaved a long sigh. "Well, hello there, girlfriend of mine."

Jenny smiled as an unspoken happiness welled up in her chest.

The crowd surrounding them couldn't help teasing them. "Stop it, you two. We're all single."

"That's right. Let's eat," Stephanie chimed in. A bright smile hung off her lips. One could tell that she truly was happy for Jenny.

Alec and Jenny looked at each other, smiling.

Soon, the staff served them their food. They sat around the table, talking merrily. The dining hall was a harmonious place that night. But of course, there was just that one person who wasn't as happy as the rest.

Paul Wagner looked at Stephane, who was sitting next to Jenny. She hadn't said a single word to him or even looked at him. An indescribable fire was burning in his stomach. He had no appetite, even with the delicious food laid out before him.

After dinner, they went out to the garden to enjoy the fireworks display. Alec had prepared a long itinerary for the night.

"If it were me, I'd think all this is cheesy." Max offered his opinion.

Jade merely glanced at him. "Alec might be cheesy, but at least he's considerate. Max, on the other hand...with so many women around him, he hadn't been sincere to even one," she thought, keeping her opinion to herself. She could never say it out loud because she couldn't afford to offend Max. Besides, it didn't matter if Max was considerate of her.

Jenny stood at the front. She didn't think the fireworks were cheesy at all. She knew that the fireworks were only meant for her to see.

"Do you like it?" Alec appeared behind her. He held a glass of rose puree. "Try this. I made it."

"Roses again?" Jenny accepted it, not knowing whether to laugh or cry. The manor was filled with roses. Even the drink was made of roses.

"Vincent said that every woman likes roses." He'd purchased every single rose in Parrington, but it was still not enough.

"Well, not everyone likes roses." Jenny didn't think they were all that special.

"What flowers do you like, then?" Alec asked instinctively. He'd be sending her many flowers in the future, so he had to be clear about this.

As if reading his mind, Jenny smiled and said, "You don't have to do all this for me. I'm not a princess." Flowers could make her happy, but they weren't all that important to her.

"You're a princess in my eyes," Alec said, looking at her affectionately.

Jenny could see the love behind his eyes and felt touched. Things blurred together, and they leaned closer, drawing nearer to each other. Just before their lips touched, there was a roar. Jenny looked over; she heard Stephanie's voice.

"Are you crazy, Paul? I've stopped liking you for a long time now," Stephanie yelled. She was furious.

Jenny frowned. "I'm going to watch this."

"Alright." Alec nodded and followed her, feeling a little regretful about their moment before. They only needed one more second.

When Jenny arrived, Stephanie was wiping her lips furiously. Based on her repulsion, Jenny could roughly piece together what had happened. She looked at Paul. If he weren't Alec's friend, she would have smacked him.

"Do you know what this is, Paul? It's sexual harassment," she said, her gaze frosty.

Chapter 319 Control Your Woman

Paul's face was stone cold. He exuded disgust. "This is between Stephanie and me. Don't interfere!"

"Between Stephanie and you? What's there to say?" Jenny retorted. Then, she sneered. "Stephanie has already told you that she doesn't like you. Why are you still harassing her?"

"Control your woman, Alec Faust. Don't blame me for being crass if you don't!" He glared at Alec while suppressing his anger.

Alec knew that Paul was angry, but he wasn't planning on taking Jenny away. "Don't go overboard. You'll just push her away like this." In his eyes, if Paul truly liked Stephanie, he had to pursue her sincerely. What was the point of all this?

"You're choosing hoes over bros now?" Paul scoffed, feeling a twinge of disbelief.

Alec said nothing, but his actions said it all. He would stand on Jenny's side.

Paul retracted his gaze and looked at Stephanie once more. "You will regret your decision." Then, he turned and left. This time, he was truly incensed.

Jenny waited for him to completely disappear before turning toward Stephanie. "Are you alright?"

"I'm fine." Stephanie shook her head, but her spirits remained low. "He's not going to let the Walkers go, is he?"

"Don't worry. You have me." Jenny looked in the direction that Paul had gone, her face grim. If Paul were to really lay a hand on Stephanie, she would never let him go.

Alec smiled exasperatedly. "I'll talk to him after this. He's not as evil as you think, really."

Jenny looked at him. Wasn't he already evil enough?

"It's complicated in the Wagner family. He's actually protecting Stephanie by not revealing who she is." Alec was trying to speak on Paul's behalf.

No one believed him. Stephanie scoffed. "Protecting me? Do I need his protection? Besides, you know that he won't marry me. Why should I waste my time on him?" Although a relationship didn't necessarily have to end in marriage, people like Paul would never marry her. What was the point of that relationship? It would just be a waste of everyone's time.

Alec couldn't disagree with her. It would definitely be a struggle for Paul to be able to marry Stephanie. It wasn't because Paul didn't want to. He just had no choice.

"Oh, let's not talk about all this yet. Let's get a place to sit." Jenny saw how tired Stephanie was and didn't let them talk anymore.

Alec nodded and brought them to the living room, taking Stephanie to one of the guest rooms to sleep.

Once they had Stephanie settled, Jenny said to Alec, "Do you think it's likely that Paul will the Walkers?"

Alec said nothing, but Jenny already knew the answer. Her face darkened. "He can't give

go

after

"Are you crazy, Paul? I've stopped liking you for a long time now," Stephanie yelled. She was furious.

Jenny frowned. "I'm going to watch this."

"Alright." Alec nodded and followed her, feeling a little regretful about their moment before. They only needed one more second.

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Chapter 320 Afraid That It Will All Go to Waste

Alec stopped standing up for Paul when he realized how angry Jenny was. He didn't want to upset her on his first day as her boyfriend. "Will you come to see Grandpa with me?" He shifted the topic in case Paul was brought up again.

Jenny considered it. She hadn't gone to see him in a long time. She'd purposely kept herself at a distance because she didn't want to be too involved in Alec's life. But now...

"Alright." She nodded, not refusing.

They chatted and returned to the garden. Stephanie was resting in the guest room, and Paul had left. There were only Max and Jade in the garden. Jenny saw that there wasn't much romance between them, but it wasn't awkward, either. She even felt a little hopeful for them. If Max could let of Jade and have a fresh start, it would be a good step in the right direction.

go

Max's and Jade's conversation trailed off when they saw the two of them coming back.

"Is everything alright?" Jade asked. Although she wasn't familiar with Stephanie, she was still Jenny's friend. Jade would be concerned.

Jenny nodded. "It is. Don't worry."

"Great."

Jade didn't ask much, but then, Max said infuriatingly, "She had it coming, getting involved with that madman."

Alec's gaze grew sharp. "Shut your mouth."

"Am I wrong? He's always had a screw loose." Madman wasn't even cutting it; Paul was borderline psychotic.

Alec wanted to punch him, but with Jenny around, he had to control himself. "He's my friend. If you insult him, you're insulting me. You think you're so tough, don't you?"

The Pearsons still had things to settle that Max even had to beg Alec for help. He was truly bold talking about Paul like that in front of Alec.

"That's not how it works, Alec." Max was speechless. All he'd done was say a few words. Was that reaction necessary?

Alec scoffed. He had already filed this away in his mind for later use.

Jenny smiled and said nothing. She pulled Jade to the side to watch the fireworks. She couldn't be bothered to pay attention to Alec and Max.

"Do you

think my decision is right, Jade?" Jenny watched the colorful fireworks with conflicted. feelings. Although she couldn't deny her feelings for Alec, getting together with him was a different matter altogether.

Jade was older, so she had more experience and saw through Jenny's concerns. She patted her shoulder and smiled, saying, "Jenny, you're still young. You don't have to worry about all this. Just go with the flow."

"I'm just afraid..." Jenny bit her lip. "That everything will all go to waste." Relationships were hard to maintain. She was afraid of being hurt even after giving it her all.

"Don't be afraid. So what if it comes to an end? At least you cherished it while it lasted. It's all a part of life. It doesn't have to have a happy ending," Jade comforted her. She knew that Jenny was just overthinking. She was just afraid that she and Alec could not last forever. But Jade thought that young people shouldn't worry so much.

Maybe Jade's comfort helped. Jenny shook her head. "You're right. I'm overthinking things."

"That means you actually care more about Alec than you think."

Jenny didn't retort. Perhaps it was true. After all, she wasn't quite sure about her feelings for Alec