

Coolest Girl in Town Chapter 826-830

Chapter 826 Give Up on Each Other Amidst Hardship

Irvin pressed a hand on his nose, and felt the tears well up in his eyes as the pain spread across his nose. "Irvin..." Feeling bad for him, Mimi reached out a hand in an attempt to ease the pain in his nose.

He was gasping in pain when he noticed her worried look, so he quickly cast her a smile. "I'm fine, Mimi. Don't worry about me." "Let's go." He picked up the fruits that were scattered on the ground before he held her hand in his own and walked toward the stairs. Then, he stopped in his tracks at the stairs when hesitation crept into his mind.

Irvin was here to apologize but ended up screwing things up. As such, he felt bad for failing his mother. However, he would have to face Mrs. Lawrence's overbearing hostility if he turned back to the room, and it created a dilemma for him.

Hesitating after a long time, Irvin was still unable to make a decision. Thus, he turned around and led Mimi into the exit passageway instead.

Facing the exit as the duo sat on the exit stairway, Irvin decided to try for a second time once Mrs. Lawrence left the room.

As he turned to check on Mimi, he found her staring intensely at the fruits in the bag and swallowing.

He rolled his eyes slyly as an idea occurred to him, and he eventually decided he had nothing more to lose at the moment. "Mimi, let's eat the fruits. Later, we'll tell Mommy that Jace has forgiven us. What do you think?"

"Sure!" She nodded vigorously.

He smiled at her compliance. "Surely you'll only agree with all my decisions. You'll never contradict any of my statements, am I right?"

She hummed in agreement, still smiling at him.

He shook his head in resignation and took out some bananas and a dragon fruit from the bag. "Which one do you want?"

Her answer came out immediately. "The bananas! I love bananas!"

Therefore, he gave her all of them while he quietly peeled the dragon fruit.

As the bananas were small, Mimi finished one in the blink of an eye and threw its skin on the ground.

These Strange Ways Will Keep Your Relationship Strong Day To Day

“Mimi, littering is not right,” Irvin reminded her.

Reluctant to stop eating, she negotiated, “Okey dokey, Irvin. I’ll pick them up after I finish them all. Can I?”

“All right.” He was understanding.

Smiling at him, she began to eat the rest. When she was chewing, her cheeks puffed out, as if she was an eating hamster.

Even only watching her eat had somehow eased most of his anxiety.

Meanwhile in the ward, Jace was lying on the bed when she whined at her mother, “I don’t want to eat a banana! I don’t! I told you I hate them!”

“I don’t want to force you, but eating them can prevent you from having cramps. Your father is already mad at you since you got into a fight and broke your arm during the banquet. Please, listen to me.” Mrs. Lawrence shoved the banana next to Jace’s mouth as she tried to convince her.

Pursing her lips, Jace was unwilling to cooperate.

“Jace!” Mrs. Lawrence’s patience was bottoming out. “Can’t you behave? Can you ever imagine the hardship I had to go through over the years? I also hate to force you. If only you worked harder and were a boy, we’d never have to live in such hell.”

“Do I have no right to be loved as a girl?” Growling to show her displeasure, Jace pulled the blanket away as she slid down the bed and rushed out of the ward.

Heading straight for the nearest emergency exit, she wanted to hide from others and get rid of her negative emotions.

When she pushed the door open, she wasn’t expecting to see Irvin and Mimi enjoying the fruits.

Their smiles stung her eyes and were inflaming her fragile heart.

Irvin wasn’t prepared for Jace to rush inside all of a sudden, so he rose to his feet in embarrassment and helplessly stared at her without a word.

“Why are you eating the bananas that belong to me?” She took out her anger on them as she unreasonably accused them.

“What?” He was taken aback by the accusation. “You said you don’t want them!”

“Even though I don’t want them, they’re still mine! You can’t eat them!”

At that, Jace slammed the door behind her before she rushed over to snatch the banana from Mimi's hand. However, before Jace could even touch another girl, she stepped on the banana peel first.

At the next moment, she lost her balance and fell off the stairs.

Both her entrance and exit were so sudden that Irvin and Mimi didn't even have the time to react to her behavior, her wail already resounding through the stairwell.

This time, Jace broke her leg.

Elise was eventually forced to see Mrs. Lawrence herself, while Irvin and Mimi got scolded.

After that, the Lawrence Family insisted on not seeing them ever again.

Moreover, Irvin learned his lesson of never littering in public anymore.

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The following day in the White Residence.

On the morning of a weekend, Onyx was reading the newspaper on the sofa to pass his free time. Lately, the downturn in the publishing industry also gave him more free time.

Lyra seized the opportunity to serve him hot tea and snacks. Massaging his shoulders, she began, "Dear, since Adelpha has been staying in the rural area for seven years, I think it's about time for her to come back. You see, she has nobody to depend on as she lives alone in our old residence. The local thugs and hooligans have been trying to take advantage of her, and we can't even protect her in time if something happens."

He rolled his eyes at her petulantly when he heard her request. "You'll take care of her after she's married? You already know the publishing industry is receding lately, and there is a sharp reduction in my income. How am I supposed to feed a big spender like her?"

"She won't! Adelpha told me that she has changed a lot. She's turning thirty years old in three years; do you want to see her become a spinster and get picked by others instead?" She put more effort into persuading him. "There's no way we'll ask her to marry an uneducated man. I know some people who are looking for a wife for their sons, and we shouldn't let the chance slip."

Pondering for a moment, he didn't show a hint of firm disapproval as he commented, "I'll consider it."

At that moment, the sole servant of the residence came into the house to report. "Master, Madam, Miss Anastasia is here with the young master and young mistresses."

As soon as the words reached them, Elise walked into the house with three children in tow.

"Oh my. There's a lot of them!" Lyra's eyes widened at the children as her interest piqued. She wouldn't have thought "Anastasia" would give birth to so many children.

Onyx watched the group with a livid expression, not bothering to welcome them into the house. “Why are you even here? You’ve never called us over the last seven years, and I’ve gotten used to pretending you aren’t alive out there.”

Asking the kids to take a seat on the sofa, Elise put on a façade by making a sad face at him. “Dad, I’m your daughter and one of the Whites. You have to help me. I broke Maestro Yorkson’s piano when I was in another country, and I need to compensate fifty million. I don’t think I can pay that much even if we sell the house. Can you help me, Dad?”

“What? Fifty million?” His expression changed as he jumped to his feet in anger. “How dare you ask for so much?! What do you expect from me? Do you think I’m in charge of printing the money? I don’t have that kind of money!”

“Dad, it isn’t right to say that. As a family, we must go through thick and thin together. I’ve never asked you for any favor. This is the first and only time when I need your help. Are you that cruel to leave your daughter in misery?” She tilted her head to hide the grin forming at the corner of her lips.

“You ungrateful little b*stard! I’m not your father. We broke off relations with each other a long time ago. I don’t have any money. Don’t even try to scam money off me.” He decided to turn his back on her.

He had chosen self-preservation over bearing the hardship with his family.

“After all, I’ve been providing a roof over your heads.” At last, Elise finally cut off to the chase.

Chapter 827 I’ve Been Posing as You

Onyx’s expression kept changing throughout their conversation before it settled into a cold look. “I’m not interested in living in your house either. I would’ve long moved out of the house if I’m not looking after it for your mother. Are you implying that I have to pay your debts for living in the house? Dream on! We’ll move out right away. There’s no way I’ll take over your debts.”

At the end of his words, he turned to Lyra and ordered, “What are you waiting for? Grab some help and pick up the things.”

Sighing, Elise feigned hurt as she fell onto the sofa.

As she had briefed the children on her plan beforehand, the trio wasn’t worried about her feelings getting hurt, but gathered around her nonetheless as their curiosity piqued.

Their curiosity had created a miserable scene of the mother and her children cuddling against each other for comfort from Onyx’s perspective. Looking at them, he was even more sure of his guess, in which Anastasia had to come home because she was heavily indebted.

Thirty minutes later, as his resolution to leave the house reached its peak, he yelled at the people from downstairs. “Enough! Just pick some clothes. The documents are more important. We can come back later if you left anything behind.”

The pathetic look on her face had driven him to make the resolution of leaving the house as soon as possible, or else he would get himself tangled up in their business. He wouldn't want to waste even a penny of his hard-earned money on them.

A few minutes later, Lyra and the servant rushed down the stairs with some suitcases in tow.

He walked over to the duo and took one of them before he pushed the suitcase toward the door without wasting a second.

A wheel fell off of Lyra's luggage on their way to the exit. Seeing she was struggling to pull the luggage, he shoved the handle of the suitcase he was pulling into her hand. Then, he carried hers on his shoulder and dashed off of the house.

Walking over to the French windows, Elise looked at their hilarious behavior and couldn't help but chuckle.

Irvin stood beside her. "Mommy, since when do we owe Mr. Yorkson money?"

"Winning is all that matters." Humming, she shrugged before explaining, "Didn't you say your grandfather is a different man from what I've told you? I'm just giving him a small test to see if he has changed. If he has chosen to share the burden with us, we'll continue to consider him a family. Since he's not willing to do that, which means he doesn't see us as his family. Therefore, we don't need him either. Can you get that?"

"Do people always change?" Irvin wasn't able to accept the statement.

At that, Elise answered with a gentle tone, "A relationship built on true hearts won't, so we only need to care about those who're being sincere with us. It's meaningless and unhealthy to worry ourselves over the hypocrites."

At last, he nodded and found her words giving him the *déjà vu*.

Then, he recalled that the playboy, Alexander, had said the same thing.

As Alexander shared the same opinion with Elise, Irvin began to doubt if the man was as undependable as he was portrayed in the news.

Elise had no idea about the thoughts that ran through his mind. Turning to face Alexia and Mimi, Elise clapped as she announced, "Darlings, we have a new house!"

She was happy to find herself chasing the two deadbeats out of the house with minimum effort.

Meanwhile, Lyra was staring longingly at the villa even though the car was moving away from it before she tugged the hem of Onyx's shirt. "Dear, are you sure we're leaving the house to Anastasia just like that?"

“What an ignorant woman you are! We must leave now. It’ll be too late when the creditor comes for her.” He found no reason to stay. “The house is under her name, so there’s no way we can take it. Thus, we must keep the money cautiously.”

“Let’s go.” He kicked the driver’s seat. As an idea occurred to him, Onyx turned to his wife. “By the way, I’m fine with the matter of setting up the blind dates for Adelpha. We’ll get her back after we buy a new house.”

He decided that it was about time for them to look for a son-in-law to depend on.

“All right! I’ll call her right now.”

Within an hour after the pair made a hasty exit from the White Residence, Margaret showed up at the door.

As she was well-prepared, she took a seat on the sofa without bothering to hide the aggressiveness on her face. “Anastasia, you must know the reason why I am here.”

Calmly taking a sip of her coffee, Elise replied leisurely, “Of course. It seems like you already knew that I am Cardashian. You’re more competent than I imagined.”

“Why did you do that? Am I still your best friend? You hide your identity from me even when I have serious business to discuss with you. I had been doing nothing for a whole day in the hotel.” She only thought her friend had gone wrong with a harmless joke until now.

“What else?” Elise replied, not bothered by her questions. “After all, I’m not interested in publishing a biography. It won’t look good on us if I reject your request at the airport and lead it into a fight in public.”

Her words shifted the woman’s attention away as Margaret asked, “Why not? The cost of raising the children isn’t low. Nobody will ever say no to money nowadays.”

“I can depend on the book royalties for my previous works.” Elise’s words had a second meaning. “Since you’re here, I want to discuss the matter to stop using my pen name. I’m planning to reveal my identity to the public.”

“I told you, this matter requires planning. Your dad’s business and the procedure are the aspects to take into account. Besides, the children are young. You’ll pressure yourself if there’s a dispute later. Let’s be patient for the moment.” Margaret lied to Elise with practiced ease.

“Don’t worry about it. I’ll take care of my own business. My only requirement is to claim back my authorship.” Elise raised her voice.

“It’s complicated. I’m afraid that we can’t do anything but wait for a few more years.” Margaret’s face turned cold as she saw Elise wasn’t convinced.

“A few more years?” Elise sneered. “Seven years ago, I had discussed the same thing with you. Now, however, you’re asking me to wait for another few more years. Is the matter too hard to deal with, or you’ve never wanted to deal with it?”

“Are you questioning my motives?” Margaret narrowed her eyes as a look of surprise flashed in her eyes.

“Seven years ago, I asked someone to look for ‘Margot Anastasi’ and see the author in person. However, the request led the person to meet you, but you never informed me about it.” The smile on Elise’s face disappeared in a split second as her usual calm eyes shone with cold glints, and a strong and domineering aura enveloped her.

At this point, Margaret didn’t need more hints to understand that she was exposed.

Pondering for a while, she sat upright and stated, “You’re right. I’ve been posing as you. Everyone in the industry has been seeing me as none other than Margot Anastasi.”

“Well, I respect you for being honest with me.” The corner of Elise’s lips curled up, but her eyes betrayed no amusement. “You’ve been only giving me the basic income over the years, but pocketed the shares and gratuity to yourself for more than ten years. I think that’s enough. Now it’s time to return them to their rightful owner.”

“And who’s the rightful owner I must return them to? You?” Margaret smiled, not taking Elise’s words seriously. “They belong to me in the first place. There’s no way I’ll give them to you. You want to tell others that you are Margot Anastasi, but you have no proof.”

Margaret then continued with a triumphant smile. “We’re the best in the industry. Do you think ‘Margot Anastasi’ can make its name recognized by others without my operation? I’m the one who accomplished Margot Anastasi. You have no right to take everything that comes with the name.”

Elise snorted at Margaret’s arrogance, and the mocking amusement showed up on her face. “So you’re saying that the authorship belongs to the publisher that promotes the work and the editor, right? What about the hard work of the author? How do you calculate them?”

Chapter 828 All Dead

“Have you heard of the story of the House of Medici? Without them, artists weren’t appreciated and supported as they wither away without the funds. The same applies to us. Without me, you won’t be anything too. We’re in the same boat, Anastasia. If you push it too far, I may just flip it over.” Margaret narrowed her eyes, and there was a threatening glint in them.

If this was seven years ago, Elise might have been wary of her. However, the time was right, and everything had fallen into place. She didn’t need to be afraid anymore.

“If that’s the case, I’m afraid this place doesn’t welcome you anymore, Miss Ainsley. The door’s that way. Please see yourself out.” Elise didn’t hesitate to kick her out.

“Well, it’s your choice to break this up. Don’t regret it,” Margaret warned her before leaving.

Elise wasn't fazed as she picked up her coffee and slowly took a sip.

Margaret and Edmond's relationship was at its end. She just needed to do something, and they would fall into the depths of hell. There was no need for her to be worried.

It was late at night when Elise was ready to go to bed when she suddenly heard a child crying from outside her room.

After she had listened for a while, she realized the sound was coming from Mimi's room. So, she quickly got down from the bed and rushed over.

Just as she arrived at Mimi's room door, Irvin also came out from his room.

"Mommy, it sounds like Mimi's crying."

"Yeah, I heard it too." Elise nodded before pushing the door open and entering the room.

Sure enough, Mimi was crying her heart out on the bed.

Elise walked in and carried Mimi as she patiently comforted her, "Don't cry, Mimi. We're here. Don't be scared."

Mimi could not stop sobbing as she whimpered, "Miss Elise, Mama, and Papa are dead. There's so much blood. I'm so scared."

"It's not true. Don't worry. Dreams are the opposite of reality. Look, Mimi. It's only Irvin and me here with you right now. There's no blood, right?" Elise gently consoled her.

Mimi sniffled and slowly opened her eyes to see Irvin before she stopped crying.

Once Elise had gotten her to calm down, she tried to ask about her family again. "Mimi, do you remember what your last name is? Do you remember where your home is? What about your family members?"

Mimi pondered for a while but dipped her head down and murmured, "I don't remember."

Her blatant act of avoidance did not escape Elise's eyes. Yet, that made Elise wonder why the young child would not tell if she knew.

She respected the child and did not force her to reveal her identity. Then, she carried her to Alexia's room.

Alexia was also awakened by the noise just now, but she was exhausted. So, she was dozing off sitting on the bed when they entered.

"Lexi." Elise softly woke her up. "Is it alright if Mimi sleeps with you from now on?"

“Okay.” She yawned as she scooted onto the other side of the bed with her eyes half-closed to give Mimi some space to lay down.

Elise placed Mimi on the bed, and Alexia reached over and embraced Mimi as they quickly fell asleep together.

“Mommy, why don’t I stay with them as well?” Irvin was still worried.

Elise was at a loss. “Hmm, how should I say this? It’s not convenient for boys and girls to sleep together. When you’ve grown up, you have to keep a respectful distance and not intrude on their personal space. So, the girls won’t be troubled. Can you understand that?”

“Alright.” Irvin was a little disappointed, but he did not insist. “Then, I’ll head back to bed. Goodnight, Mommy!”

“Goodnight.” Elise was wide awake after the incident and could not fall back to sleep. So, she decided to switch on the computer to look for Mimi’s family.

Her search criteria were to look for families in Tissote with both parents dead and a missing daughter. She only found four matching results that all indicated an accident had caused the families to be broken up.

The first three news had posted pictures of the missing girls, but they did not look like Mimi as she was not of the local descent and had distinctive eyes that were easy to recognize.

That left Elise with the last news about the Hoffman Family that manufactured rare earth magnets. However, the girl’s name was Holly Hoffman and not Mimi. So, this meant that all of the results were incompatible.

As Mimi was too young, they would not have entered her face into the face recognition system. So, that would not work. As a result, it was going to take a lot more effort to search for Mimi’s family.

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On the other side of the city, Narissa pulled on the shutters with ease before dusting her hands as she got ready to leave.

Suddenly, a silver Mercedes-Benz whizzed in from the junction not too far away and stopped right in front of her.

The window slowly rolled down to reveal Jayden’s excited face. “Narissa, hop on!”

“Do we have a covert operation today? There wasn’t anything in the group chat,” Narissa asked as she leaned on the car window.

“Get in first. I’ll tell you on the way!” He reached over and opened the door for her.

So, she didn’t continue the small talk and hopped on the front passenger seat.

Just as the car started moving, Jayden could not help himself and wanted to create some suspense. "Can you guess what we found this time?"

"What? Could it be about Alexander?" Narissa answered nonchalantly.

"Not him. He always escapes when we try to stalk him. We're guessing that there's an informer within the reporters. So, they've decided to give up the lead on Smith Co. for the moment."

Narissa nervously scratched her head and kept quiet.

Jayden turned his head to glance at her. Since she didn't look too interested, he dropped the pretense. "It's the SK Group! That mysterious SK Group. The leader of the group has always been mysterious, but there's news that he'll show up tonight to discuss the ownership of the port's jurisdiction with the mob near the port itself."

Narissa frowned miserably at his words. Jamie jinxed her as it was yet again something related to Elise.

"Has the SK Group committed any crime?" she asked.

"That, I've never heard of," Jayden told her truthfully, but he was still excited. "But that group would do anything as long as the money's right. So even if we don't know what they do, it doesn't mean it doesn't happen. It's a dangerous thing for a group to live beyond the law. It'd be better for society if more people knew what's going on inside."

"Maybe you're right, but I think this will be the last time I'm joining in one of your missions." Narissa placed an arm limply on the windowsill to support her jaw. "I'm tired of the danger. I want a peaceful life."

Jayden's smile froze and fell, but he decided to be supportive. "Okay."

They drove in silence for the rest of the journey. When the sky was getting dark, they finally arrived at the hideout Jayden had prepared.

After they had been on the scene for seven years, the hideout they found was very discreet and secure. No ordinary person could discover it. Soon, the mob and people from the SK Group met at the port.

There were a bunch of people from the mob standing so arrogantly while opposite them were only two men representing the SK Group. It was Joseph and another wearing a mask, making it hard to guess his identity.

Chapter 829 Only One of You Can Leave

The mob initiated a fight as they felt they had the upper hand with the number of people they had brought. The man in the mask stood still while Joseph fought them. Within minutes, he had defeated the whole mob.

The leader of the mob knelt and hit his head on the ground a few times as a sign of admitting defeat before running away with his subordinates.

It was a clear victory for the SK Group. Finally, they had gotten the authority for the port's jurisdiction. It was the first time Jayden saw someone so good at fighting and could not help but take more pictures of Joseph.

Right then, it seemed like the masked man felt the environment was safe enough, so he slowly removed his mask.

Jayden kept zooming in on him, and when the mysterious person removed the mask, he finally saw who it was and looked at Narissa with wide eyes.

The leader of the SK Group was Danny!

Narissa was also as surprised as Jayden. These few years, she didn't have a close relationship with Jamie, so she could not get much information about SK Group. However, she didn't expect Danny to take over the management on behalf of Elise now.

Jayden very quickly composed himself and pointed the camera at Danny again.

These two brothers from the Griffith Family were exceptional. One was the owner of Smith Co., while the other led the SK Group. He was curious about what other surprising identities the remaining two brothers had.

His fingers clicked on the shutter non-stop, and he did not want to let go as he was afraid of missing any detail.

As he was busy capturing the scene, Joseph, who stood on the side, got a phone call and quietly walked out of the camera's range.

After Jayden had taken pictures for five whole minutes, he was content and started packing away his gear. Then, he turned his head and wanted to tell Narissa about his achievement today, but instead, he saw a tall looming figure behind them.

He didn't need to double-check by lifting his head to see the person's face, and he knew it was Joseph based on the shirt the man was wearing. He knew they were no match for him.

On the other hand, Narissa met Joseph's eyes, and they recognized each other but were discreet about showing it in front of Jayden.

Joseph politely made a welcoming gesture. "Mr. Griffith would like to meet you both. Please come with me."

It wasn't the first time they had met a situation like this. So, they calmly stood up and followed him to meet Danny.

Tension filled the air as their eyes met, and both parties were displeased with each other.

After seven years, Danny has grown out of his naivety. Now, he was mature and poised. He even bulked up so much that even his suit could not hide the lines of his muscle.

Danny walked toward Narissa first and looked at her meaningfully before stopping in front of Jayden, "Mr. Quinn, it seems like you're displeased with the SK Group?"

"Everyone has a right to be displeased with anything in this world." Jayden was unafraid and held his head up high.

Danny's lips curved slightly as he sneered, "If you are, you should have avoided us. You're like a fly that comes and goes. It's very annoying."

"Someone's got to do the things that people hate for the society and its people." Jayden was adamant.

"Oh? I didn't know you were so righteous. Can you tell me what crime the SK Group committed?" He bored into Jayden's eyes with a neutral face, but his eyes were enough to pressure him.

"Isn't lynching a heinous act itself?" Jayden argued. "The SK Group will do anything as long as there's money. It doesn't even matter if it breaks the law!"

"So, what's the problem? Whatever the law can't solve, the SK Group will do it for them. We've solved so many conflicts, but why do you want to rat on us? Huh?" Danny questioned in a low voice.

"It's just a matter of differences in personal values. I've got nothing else to say. Do what you will with me," Jayden scoffed as if he was prepared to die.

That didn't anger Danny as he looked toward Narissa on the side intentionally. "I see. It's definitely worth it to die being accompanied by a beautiful woman. I would feel the same too."

Only then did a hint of panic flash across his face. "You're a man, Danny. You shouldn't lay your hands on a woman. She's got nothing to do with this. Let her go."

"I should let her go because you said so? Do I look that benevolent to you?" Danny took a step back with a half-smile and said playfully, "I know. There can only be one of you who leaves, but you'll have to decide that among yourselves!"

"No need for that. I'll stay!" Jayden stood in front of Narissa, blocking his eyes on her. "She didn't want to do this job. I was the one who pulled her in. Let her go and kill me. Then, no one would know what happened today."

At that moment, Narissa's heart pounded as she gazed at him with admiration, like he was her hero.

She had once told Elise she hoped that the person she loved would be a hero.

A person who fought with his life for the people and would protect her in the face of danger was indeed a hero.

It had been seven years before she realized this.

Danny smacked his lips as he felt the fun drained out of the situation. He went up and snatched the camera in Jayden's hands and slammed it into the ground before crushing it with his feet until it was all shattered beyond repair.

Then, he picked up the memory card before throwing it into the sea.

Jayden could feel his heart twist in pain at the sight. "What are you doing, Danny?"

He rolled his eyes as he warned impatiently, "Consider yourself lucky. I'll let you off the hook today. But if one word of what happened here gets out, you won't live to see the next day's sun. I know you're not afraid of death, but what about your family? Now, scram. You only have one minute to get out of my eyes. Otherwise, I can't promise I won't change my mind."

Jayden didn't even think and grabbed Narissa's hand before sprinting away. As the two silhouettes disappeared under the night sky, a shadow slowly got down from the boat parked on the side until it reached under a light to reveal Jamie's face.

"Always sacrificing yourself to help others. How many times have you done this? Are you going to keep wiping their ass every time?" Danny mocked him. "I didn't know you were such a kind person."

"What else can I do? We've promised Boss to take care of Narissa on his behalf. It's our responsibility." Jamie answered with conviction.

"Responsibility? Ha." Danny did not point out what he was trying to hide. Instead, he just smiled and patted him on the shoulder before leaving with Joseph.

The salty sea breeze whizzed through the port in the pitch black night, and the cold air blew into Jamie's clothes, making them flutter along with the draft. He ducked his head and silently gazed in the direction Narissa left with eyes filled with longing.

Jayden and Narissa kept on running until they got in the car.

After he took a few deep breaths, he suddenly grabbed her hand.

"Narissa." He breathed heavily. "Would you be my girlfriend?"

Her hand holding the water bottle froze mid-air.

"I finally realized how much I love you at that moment just now" Jayden's voice was sincere. "What about you? You have feelings for me, right?"

"I don't know." Narissa was flustered. "It's exhilarating and fulfilling when I'm with you, but I always feel like something's missing."

He tightened his grip on her hand. "Give me one chance. Let me do something about that missing piece, please?"

Not many girls could resist such a passionate confession during a life and death situation.

So, it was only natural for her to cave in and accept his confession, "Yes!"

Chapter 830 Let's Compare Notes Together, Shall We?

Ariel stood in front of Danny International Finance Corporation Building with a coat tightly wrapped around her body. The cold wind blew, and her body shivered due to the chilly breeze while her eyes locked on the corner of the street that wasn't far away.

The time stated on her watch was 11.00PM—an hour later than the latest time she usually clocked out. He's probably not coming, isn't he? Ariel took out her mobile phone and prepared to book a cab when she thought of that.

Out of the blue, a flash of light beamed from a distance and illuminated the entire area when Ariel had just logged onto the ride-hailing application.

Ariel kept away her phone and watched as the car stopped at a familiar spot. The door opened, and Danny stepped out of the vehicle. After that, he went around the car to open the door to the passenger seat for Ariel.

She instinctively entered the car, made herself comfortable, and fastened her seat belt. Then, she watched as Danny also got into the car and skillfully started the engine swiftly.

Danny had been consistently fetching Ariel to and from work for seven years. The only inconsistency was Danny's increasingly mature aura and also his ability to shoulder his responsibilities alone. Right now, every gesture Danny made exuded a sense of superiority of someone sure and confident in himself.

"I thought you were not coming today," Ariel eventually started a conversation to fill the silence.

"I got held up by some matters," replied Danny's heart was on the road as it wouldn't be a good idea to get distracted when he was driving. "Are you hungry? Do you want to eat something before going back home?"

However, instead of answering him, Ariel suddenly asked, "Are you in a relationship?"

When Danny heard her question, he lightly curled his lower lip into a faint smile and replied, "You know me best. I'm busy all day, so how would I have the time for such a trivial thing as a relationship?"

Ariel lowered her lashes and smiled as she asked, "Actually, there's one thing that I'm quite curious about. Don't you feel annoyed fetching me to and fro every day for seven years?"

"I'm used to it," Danny blurted. Regardless, he felt something was off with his words after he had the time to think about it. Therefore he immediately added, "You deserve such special treatment for being the company's ace accountant."

"I'm preparing to resign," Ariel said, absolutely catching Danny off guard.

Danny's eyes flickered slightly, and despite unknowingly tightening his grip on the steering wheel, his face remained calm as he teased lightly, "Is it because I took the CEO position? I can return it to you. Besides, everyone established this company together in the first place, so it doesn't matter who becomes the CEO."

Ariel smiled brightly when she heard that, genuinely happy for him. "You taking the position of CEO is in favor of everyone's expectations. Besides, I'm not that petty. I'm resigning due to personal reasons, that's all."

Danny was silent for a moment. In the end, he still relented and said, "I respect your choice, but you're an essential asset to the company. So, you must give me some time, either six months or a year, to hire someone capable enough to replace you. Whatever it is, just don't resign now."

"Sure. I'll wait another year before handing in my resignation letter." Ariel readily compromised.

After she finished saying that, she leaned against the car window. Her mood gradually sank as she looked up at the moonlit sky. Seven years have passed anyway. Will it make any difference to our situation if I wait another year? Perhaps I'm just deceiving myself. Since when exactly did I hope my relationship with Danny to be different? Was it because of his punctuality in fetching me to and from work regardless of the weather condition? Or was it because of the warmth and concern he offered when I was sick? Or was it because of his attentiveness to me, regardless of how trivial the matter was? Or was it because of his present unique charm of maturity and steadiness? But what's the use of hope? I'm no longer young, and no matter how much I put in the effort to maintain my beauty, my condition is still far worse than Danny, who is in his prime. So we're not destined to be together.

The car pulled over downstairs at Ariel's apartment while she was still deeply immersed in her thoughts.

"Good night, and sweet dreams."

Danny bid her goodbye as usual and watched as she walked up the steps. He only retracted his gaze once her figure disappeared at the hallway entrance—a disappointed glint flashed across his eyes as his mind constantly replayed the scene where Ariel mentioned her resignation in the car earlier. I learned to restrain myself and hide my feelings in the deepest part of my heart after she rejected my confession seven years ago. I never once showed traces of affection over the years and only silently took care of all her needs, just like a good friend. I'm already doing my best to keep my feelings to myself, so I wouldn't scare her away, yet why is she still leaving?

As he thought of that, he clenched his fists and furrowed his brows due to the bitterness he felt. Then, he leaned back and rested his head on the seat. His eyes closed, he remained in this posture and only drove the car away until it was almost dawn.

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It was already fall when the world's top symphony orchestra arrived in Tissote to hold their first domestic concert tour.

Sure enough, someone as notable as Alexander naturally would attend such a grand occasion. As Alexander's fiancée, it was only natural for Jessamine to walk by his side. Meanwhile, her two children ambled in front of her under the servant's care.

Shortly after, they bumped into Elise and her children, who were about to enter the concert hall at the ticket gate.

When Jessamine noticed they didn't have tickets in hand, she took the initiative to hug Alexander's arm and walked up to greet them, "Miss White, you guys are here too? What a coincidence, huh? Did you guys forget to bring your tickets?"

Before Elise could say anything, Alexia acted first and replied, "We don't need tickets."

Jessamine smiled indifferently and said, "You can't enter without tickets. Kid, do you want me to find a way to get you guys some tickets? But the seats may be a little behind the front row seats."

"That won't be necessary. Miss Jessamine, my sister and I are used to sitting in the front," Irvin chimed in, "We came here just to buy some popcorn."

"Sit in the front?" Jessamine purposely drawled as she curled her lips upward into a meaningful smirk. Anastasia's two children are rather clever. They know how to cover up for her, but too bad, their overly confident statements are full of flaws. The organizer has allocated the VVIP seats to Alexander, me, and my children. So, how can they magically vacate extra seats for Anastasia and her children? Perhaps they may have never attended any musical concert at all, and they just deliberately show up here in an attempt to get acquainted with the upper-class society.

"Well, in that case, you guys must like the piano very much. So tell me: which maestro do you guys admire?"

As she spoke, Jessamine silently gave her children a wink, motioning for them to answer.

Her children were very discerning as well. Thus, they immediately pounced and chimed in when they received Jessamine's signal.

"I like Maestro Yorkson!"

"I like Danielton!"

Irvin glanced up at Elise before he commented on the maestros mentioned, "I like my Mommy better. Maestro Yorkson is too lazy, while for Mr. Danielton, his musical pieces have lacked plenty of their soulful tempo as he's simply busy with his relationship these years."

While they were abroad, Yorkson and Danielton came to visit them in person basically every week and jammed with Elise when they had the time. Sometimes they would also get a little competitive. Hence, the two siblings naturally had a different insight than others, for they were subtly influenced since childhood.

When Jessamine heard this, she further confirmed that Anastasia and her family knew nothing about classical music.

Even so, she still maintained an elegant demeanor in front of Alexander. "Little guy, your insight is really unique. Your mommy must be very good at playing the piano. Am I right, Miss White?"

"Oh, thank you. You're too kind. I'm just playing it for fun," replied Elise modestly.

Jessamine deliberately set a trap as she had no intention of backing off in order to embarrass Elise. "It happens that I know how to play the piano myself. Shall we compare notes together if you're free?"

"Sure." Elise readily agreed. Just after she finished saying that, she saw the staff waving at her. Thus, she nodded and immediately took her children away. "Excuse us. We'll be taking our leave first."

As Jessamine didn't expect Elise would agree so readily, she was stunned for a moment. By the time she came back to her senses, she hurriedly feigned composure as she remarked, "It's really not easy to be a single mother. She even forgot to educate her children on the basic respect one should have for fellow maestros."

Alexander, who had been silent for a while, finally spoke, "Don't forget. We haven't got our marriage certificate yet, so you're a single mother yourself."