

## Esper 931

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#### Chapter 931: Mood Swings

Maria was furious at Rudy after she read the report. Her shock had quickly transformed into a storm of emotions, and anger was at the forefront. The revelations contained within the report had caught her completely off guard, and she felt a mixture of betrayal and hurt. As she looked at Rudy, still lost in conversation with Kaguya, her mind raced with questions and emotions that she struggled to process.

The conflicting feelings swirling inside her were overwhelming, and she grappled with the decision of whether to confront Rudy immediately or allow him the chance to explain himself.

Rudy and Kaguya finally decided to head back to the car, not wanting to keep Maria waiting for too long. Rudy opened the backseat door for Kaguya, a warm smile on his face that made her cheeks flush. The gesture was simple, yet it held a certain charm that Kaguya found hard to resist. She thanked him softly, feeling a mix of gratitude and awkwardness.

As Rudy opened the driver's side door, he turned to Maria with a cheerful expression. "Would you like to take the wheel for a bit more, Maria?" he asked, trying to engage her in their outing.

But Maria's fury was palpable, and she ignored Rudy's question, not even acknowledging his words. Rudy assumed she was just upset about being kept waiting in the car, unaware of the storm that had been unleashed by the contents of the report.

With a sigh, Rudy took the driver's seat and started the car's engine. The vehicle smoothly glided onto the city streets, the atmosphere serene and beautiful. The sounds of the city outside created a calming ambiance within the car, but there was an underlying tension that Rudy couldn't quite put his finger on.

He glanced at Maria, her profile rigid and her gaze fixed on the passing scenery outside. Rudy's concern grew, but he didn't want to push her if she needed some time to cool off. Kaguya, sitting in the backseat, also sensed the unease and remained quiet, unsure of how to navigate the situation.

Kaguya shifted her gaze back and forth between Maria and Rudy, her mind racing with thoughts and worry. She replayed the animated conversations they had on their way to the restaurant in her mind, contrasting them with the palpable silence that now hung in the air. It was almost surreal how the atmosphere had shifted so dramatically within such a short span of time.

She recalled the intimate moment she had shared with Rudy, the warmth of his touch on her cheeks, and the comforting reassurance he had offered her. And now, looking at the two of them sitting side by side, she couldn't shake off the feeling that she might have inadvertently caused this change.

Kaguya was convinced that Maria had seen their interaction and interpreted it as something more than it was. She wanted to apologize, to explain that it wasn't Rudy's fault and that she hadn't intended to cross any boundaries. But the tension in the car made it difficult for her to find the right words, and the words seemed to stick in her throat.

However, Kaguya soon realized that her assumption wasn't accurate. Maria's silence seemed deeper and more inward-focused than being simply upset over their interaction. Still, she couldn't shake off the guilt that she might have added to the discomfort between the couple.

In an attempt to break the tension and lighten the mood, Kaguya decided to initiate a conversation. She asked them about their dining habits, inquiring if they frequently visited such luxurious restaurants. However, her efforts were met with silence from Maria. Kaguya's heart sank, feeling more like an intruder than a friend at that moment.

Feeling Kaguya's unease, Rudy intervened, trying to offer some explanation. "Don't worry, Kaguya. Maria is probably just having one of her regular mood swings," he said, trying to downplay the situation. "She gets upset over the smallest things sometimes. It's not your fault."

Kaguya's relief was mingled with guilt as she realized that Maria's silence wasn't because of her actions. She wished she could somehow bridge the gap between them and ease the tension that had settled in the car. But for now, she decided to respect their space, hoping that the atmosphere would lighten eventually, and the cheerful camaraderie they had enjoyed earlier would return.

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As the car continued its journey, the silence persisted, weighed down by unspoken tensions. Kaguya mustered up the courage to break it, her voice soft but resolute, "Actually, Rudy, I'll get off at the next pick-up station. It's more convenient for me."

Rudy glanced at her, surprised by her request. "Are you sure? I can drop you off at your house."

Kaguya smiled gently. "Thank you, Rudy, but I have some other things to take care of before heading home. It might take a while, and I don't want to trouble you."

Rudy shrugged lightly, offering a reassuring smile. "It's not a problem at all. But if you insist, I understand. Let me know if you change your mind."

As the car approached the next pickup station, Kaguya readied herself to get out. She gave a genuine smile to Rudy and Maria, "Thank you for the lovely dinner, both of you. It was nice spending time together."

Maria smiled back and waved in return. "You too, Kaguya. It was nice meeting you."

Rudy nodded, "You're welcome, Kaguya. Have a good evening."

Kaguya stepped out of the car and gave a final wave before heading into the station. Rudy looked at her retreating figure for a moment before adjusting his grip on the steering wheel, his gaze following her for a moment before he turned his attention back to the road.

Once they were at a safe distance from the station, Rudy glanced at Maria, his expression thoughtful. He didn't look directly at her as he spoke, his eyes focused on the road ahead. "So, something happened back there. Mind telling me what's bothering you?"

Maria's silence stretched for a moment before she sighed softly. "It's nothing, really."

Rudy's lips quirked into a half-smile, though he still didn't turn to look at her. "Maria, you know you can't fool me. I can tell when something's bothering you."

Maria shifted uncomfortably in her seat, her gaze fixed on her hands. "... I read the report."

"Oh... I suspected as much..." he let out a soft sigh.

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#### **Chapter 932: Maria's Atonement**

Rudy let out a sigh, his gaze fixed on the road. "I was planning to tell you when the time was right, Maria. I didn't know how to bring it up."

Maria's fury seemed to reach new heights at his explanation. She clenched her fist and punched him on the shoulder with all her might, her frustration evident in her voice. "How could you doubt me like that, Rudy? After everything we've been through, after all the trust we've built between us, how could you even think that I would..."

Confused and taken aback, Rudy interrupted, "Wait, Maria, what are you talking about?"

Maria's voice trembled with a mix of anger and hurt as she shouted, "Why would you need a DNA test confirmation of our unborn baby if you trust my loyalty to you?"

Rudy's brows furrowed in confusion, and he immediately pressed the brakes, parking the car on the side of the road and turning on the parking lights to ensure safety. He turned to Maria, his expression serious. "Maria, calm down. You're misunderstanding something."

Maria's chest heaved with emotions as she continued to glare at him. "Misunderstanding? Rudy, I saw the name of the report. 'Paternity Test'. What more is there to misunderstand?"

Rudy's face was a mix of frustration and concern as he spoke, his tone even. "Maria, did you read the full report?"

Maria's anger hadn't subsided, and she shook her head, her voice sharp. "No, I didn't. I didn't need to. I know who the father is."

Rudy took a deep breath and sighed, his voice softening as he explained. "Maria, the report isn't about our baby. It's about someone else."

Maria's brows furrowed in confusion, her anger fading to confusion. "Someone else? What are you talking about?"

Rudy reached into the compartment, retrieving the report from the envelope. He carefully unfolded it and held it out to Maria. "Read it, Maria. Read the full report."

Maria hesitated for a moment before taking the report from him. She scanned through it, her eyes widening with realization as she read the contents. The anger and hurt that had filled her moments ago seemed to dissipate, replaced by a mix of astonishment and embarrassment.

"Oh..." Maria muttered, her cheeks reddening.

Rudy's expression softened as he observed her reaction. "You see, Maria, I didn't doubt your loyalty. I was trying to get answers to something else. It's a long story, and I was planning to explain it to you."

Maria lowered the report, her embarrassment evident in her expression. "I should have read the full report before jumping to conclusions."

As the car cruised along the road, the atmosphere inside seemed to have lightened considerably. Maria turned to Rudy, her expression softened, and she let out a sigh. "Rudy, I'm really sorry for jumping to conclusions without confirming anything."

Rudy glanced at her with a reassuring smile. "Maria, it's okay. Honestly, anyone would've reacted the way you did. It's not your fault."

Maria's shoulders relaxed, and she nodded, appreciating his understanding. "Still, I shouldn't have let my emotions get the best of me."

Rudy's gaze returned to the road, his tone gentle. "Maria, it's completely normal. Imagine reading about a paternity test result right after a pregnancy check-up. It's enough to make anyone's mind race."

Maria let out a sigh of relief, appreciating his understanding. "Yes! I just saw the words 'paternity test' after a pregnancy checkup, and my mind just jumped to conclusions. I really thought you were doubting me."

Rudy sighed softly. "I understand, Maria. I should've been more transparent about it."

Maria's expression turned thoughtful. "Are you going to tell 'her' about this? About the report?"

Rudy pondered for a moment before responding. "Honestly, Maria, it doesn't matter whether I tell her or not. It won't change anything."

Maria looked at him curiously, her eyebrows raised. "Are you sure about that?"

Rudy nodded. "Yeah, 'She' knows that I'm investigating things, and she trusts me. Whether she knows the specifics or not won't change her trust in me."

"I'm glad to hear that." Maria sighed in relief, accepting his response. "Okay, I understand. I just wanted to make sure."

Rudy chuckled softly. "You're always looking out for me, huh?"

Maria grinned mischievously. "Well, someone has to."

Suddenly, Maria's expression turned mischievous, and she grinned at Rudy. "Oh, by the way, I'm really sorry for punching you earlier. You can punch me back as punishment if you want."

Rudy chuckled, his gaze flickering to her mischievous grin. "Oh really? I have a better idea."

Maria raised an eyebrow, intrigued. "And what's that?"

Rudy's tone turned playful. "I only punish girls in bed."

Maria's eyes widened at his suggestive comment, and she couldn't help but play along. She moved her hand towards Rudy's thigh and gently rubbed it, giving him an alluring look. "Maybe I should try to atone for my mistake before I get punished, huh?"

Rudy's lips curled into a flirtatious smile as he glanced at her. "Is that so?"

Maria leaned in a bit closer, her voice dripping with seduction. "Well, maybe."

As they continued their playful exchange, Rudy couldn't help but be intrigued by Maria's whispered words. He turned to her with a curious expression. "So, how would you atone, Maria?"

Maria's lips curled into a mischievous grin, and she leaned even closer to him. Her warm breath tickled his ear as she whispered her response, her voice low and sultry. "I have a few ideas in mind, Rudy."

Rudy's eyebrows shot up in surprise, his interest clearly piqued by her suggestive comment. He was about to respond when he heard a soft zipping sound. His eyes widened as he realized what Maria was doing, and a soft chuckle escaped his lips as he listened to the slurping sounds.

Maria was giving him a blowjob in the car. The warmth of Maria's mouth made Rudy feel free.

Rudy adjusted himself in his seat, making sure he was comfortable as he continued to drive. His hands moved effortlessly between the gear shift and Maria's head, guiding it up and down, his focus divided between the road ahead and Maria's playful advances.

Their car came to a stop in a deserted area. And it soon started shaking with occasional moans escaping from the car.

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#### **Chapter 933: Daily Commute of Lonely Nurse**

Kaguya sat on the bench at the train station, her gaze wandering across the bustling platform. It was a mosaic of lives, each person lost in their own world, yet collectively creating a dynamic scene. She observed the myriad expressions and interactions, feeling a mix of emotions welling up within her.

As people hurried by, some with smiles that seemed to radiate happiness, Kaguya's thoughts drifted. She couldn't help but wonder about the paths these individuals had chosen and the experiences that had shaped their lives. The variety of emotions on display, from joy to sorrow, left her contemplating the complexities of existence.

Her eyes scanned the scene, capturing moments of connection between people. Families sharing laughter, couples holding hands, friends engaged in animated conversations – each scene depicted a different facet of human relationships. She felt a sense of longing, a desire for those connections that she had been so absorbed in her studies and career to pursue.

The buzz of conversations, the distant sounds of trains approaching and departing, the gentle rustling of leaves in the breeze – all merged into a symphony that provided a backdrop to Kaguya's introspection. Lost in thought, she pondered the impact of choices on people's lives. A simple decision, a chance meeting, or an unexpected event could alter the course of one's destiny in ways that were both remarkable and unpredictable.

As the train station continued to hum with activity, Kaguya found herself contemplating her own journey. She recalled the dreams she had once harbored, the path she had envisioned as a future doctor, and how circumstances had led her to where she was now. The disappointment of a dream deferred had been painful, but her determination to excel as a nurse had been unwavering.

With a sigh, Kaguya leaned back against the bench. Her gaze remained fixed on the platform, her mind a whirlwind of thoughts and emotions. Amidst the ebb and flow of lives around her, she realized that

every individual had a story – a unique narrative shaped by their choices, circumstances, and the people they encountered along the way.

The announcement of an arriving train pulled Kaguya from her reverie. As passengers gathered their belongings and made their way to the platform edge, she straightened up, her eyes focused on the incoming train. With a mixture of anticipation and reflection, she prepared to board, knowing that her own story was still unfolding, filled with twists and turns that were yet to come.

As Kaguya settled into the train, she found herself navigating the challenge of securing a seat among the crowded carriages. A pair of kind eyes caught her attention – an elderly couple who noticed her struggle. They smiled warmly and shifted closer, making room for Kaguya to sit. Grateful for their gesture, Kaguya nodded her appreciation and took the offered seat.

The rhythmic motion of the train and the gentle swaying of the carriage created a soothing ambiance. Kaguya's gaze drifted towards the window, where a mesmerizing view unfolded before her. The city's towering buildings were illuminated by the soft glow of streetlights, while the sky was painted with hues of orange and pink as the sun set. Airplanes dotted the distant horizon, their twinkling lights resembling stars on earth.

As the train carried her through this enchanting tableau, Kaguya's exhaustion caught up with her. The lull of the journey and the gentle vibrations of the train lulled her into a state of drowsiness. Her eyelids grew heavy, and before she knew it, she had drifted into a light slumber.

In her dream, Kaguya found herself in a hospital room. The scene was hauntingly familiar yet disconcerting. Before her lay Rudy, his body immobilized by a tragic accident. Her heart clenched at the sight of his vulnerability, and she felt a rush of emotions – concern, empathy, and a deep desire to care for him.

In her dream, Kaguya became his caregiver, attending to his needs with unwavering dedication. She provided comfort, tended to his wounds, and offered solace in moments of despair. The dream was bittersweet, a blend of tenderness and sorrow. Rudy, who had always appeared confident and capable, was now dependent on her care.

A shiver ran down Kaguya's spine as the dream intensified. Her subconscious unveiled her hidden longing to be there for Rudy, to offer her support and compassion in his times of need. The dream both frightened and tantalized her, revealing desires she had suppressed.

With a start, Kaguya woke from her dream, her heart racing and her breathing uneven. She scolded herself for allowing such thoughts to surface, for entertaining notions that seemed so distant from her reality. Kaguya dismissed the dream as a terrible nightmare, determined to push those feelings aside.

As the train reached her destination, Kaguya gathered her belongings and stood up. She approached the elderly couple who had been so kind to her during the journey and thanked them again for their generosity.

Stepping out of the train station, Kaguya's tiredness weighed heavily on her shoulders. Normally, she'd opt for the leisurely walk to her apartment, finding solace in the familiar route, but today was different. The exhaustion had a tight grip on her, and all she craved was the warmth of her apartment and a soothing hot bath.

She waved down a few taxis, but they zoomed past her as if in a rush, their vacant lights ignored. The frustration in her tired eyes grew with each passing rejection. Some taxi drivers even shook their heads, their gestures indicating that her destination wasn't lucrative enough for them.

With a resigned sigh, Kaguya weighed her options. The thought of walking the distance felt daunting, but her apartment wasn't too far off. She adjusted her bag on her shoulder, determination sparking in her gaze. Today, she was willing to push her limits, to prove that she could overcome even the most wearisome of days.

As she walked, her steps were a little slower than usual, her fatigue clearly evident. Yet, her determination was unwavering. Each step brought her closer to the sanctuary of her apartment. The familiar surroundings provided a sense of comfort, even on days like this.

Despite her exhaustion, Kaguya couldn't help but appreciate the quietness of the night. The soft glow of streetlights and the distant hum of the city served as a gentle backdrop to her thoughts. With each step, her weariness seemed to lift slightly, replaced by a sense of accomplishment for persevering through the hurdles.

By the time she reached her apartment building, a mixture of relief and satisfaction washed over her.

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#### **Chapter 934: Kaguya's Apartment**

As Kaguya's key turned in the lock, the door to her apartment swung open with a soft creak, allowing a glimpse into her personal sanctuary. Stepping over the threshold, Kaguya was immediately greeted by the comforting embrace of her living space, a place where she could unwind and be herself.

The entrance led directly into the living room, where soft ambient lighting cast a warm glow that seemed to wrap around the room like a soothing hug. Cream-colored walls adorned with a few carefully selected paintings gave the space an inviting and tranquil ambiance.

A plush gray sofa dominated the center, adorned with a few patterned throw pillows that added a touch of vibrancy. A wooden coffee table adorned with a couple of magazines and a vase of fresh flowers stood proudly in front of the sofa, a subtle hint of Kaguya's penchant for simplicity and elegance.

To the left of the living room was an open kitchenette, separated by a sleek breakfast bar with high stools. The kitchen area was clean and organized, with white cabinets neatly lining the walls and stainless steel appliances adding a modern touch. A splash of color came from a potted plant perched on the windowsill, its green leaves adding a refreshing contrast to the otherwise monochromatic palette.

As Kaguya continued into the apartment, she would pass a compact study nook tucked against the wall opposite the kitchen. A small desk held her laptop and a few study materials, reflecting her dedication to her dreams of becoming a doctor.

Further down the hallway, the door to Kaguya's bedroom beckoned. Pushing it open, she would reveal a cozy and serene haven. Soft pastel blue walls exuded tranquility, while a large window let in natural light during the day. A queen-sized bed, dressed in crisp white linens and plush pillows, occupied the center of the room. A collection of fairy lights adorned the headboard, casting a gentle and enchanting radiance in the evenings.

Against one wall, a simple wooden wardrobe stood, its mirrored doors adding depth to the room and reflecting the soft illumination from the fairy lights. A vanity table with a well-loved mirror and a few makeup essentials was positioned next to the window, where Kaguya could enjoy the serene view as she got ready each morning.

Finally, a door adjacent to the bedroom revealed a compact bathroom, a private oasis for relaxation. The walls were a soothing mint green, and a vintage-style clawfoot bathtub stood proudly in one corner. Soft towels in shades of white and blue hung neatly on a towel rack, while a small shelf held a collection of skincare products and fragrances.

Throughout the apartment, the presence of potted plants—whether resting on windowsills or perched on shelves—brought a touch of nature and life into every corner. The gentle interplay of colors, from the serene blues to the warm neutrals, created a cohesive and calming atmosphere.

As Kaguya moved through her space, she couldn't help but feel a sense of comfort and belonging. Her apartment was a reflection of herself—simple yet elegant, inviting yet personal—a place where she could find respite from the outside world and cultivate the dreams and aspirations that fueled her every step.

Kaguya went to the living room and stretched her hands, yawning uncontrollably without any care. She tossed her belongings in the living room and released a deep sigh. The events of the evening replayed in her mind like scenes from a cherished movie, each frame bringing a mix of emotions that both warmed her heart and caused her anxiety.

Without wasting a moment, Kaguya headed straight for the bathroom. She filled the bathtub with warm water, the steam gradually rising as she let the soothing ambiance envelop her. As she eased into the water, the warmth seeped into her skin, relaxing her muscles and calming her racing thoughts.

In the solitude of the bathroom, Kaguya's mind painted vivid images of the day – the luxurious restaurant, the laughter, Rudy's gentle gestures, and the camaraderie she had shared with both Rudy and Maria. The scenes played like a dream, leaving a soft smile on Kaguya's lips.

As the hot water enveloped her, Kaguya's mind drifted into a realm of wishes and fantasies. She imagined a life where every day was as full of joy and companionship as today had been. Her heart ached for the possibility of more, of a deeper connection with Rudy beyond friendship. But the realization that Rudy already had Maria, who was carrying their child, cast a shadow of doubt over her fantasies.

With a heavy sigh, Kaguya leaned back against the tub, her fingers tracing aimless patterns in the water. She acknowledged the futility of her desires, knowing that her feelings for Rudy couldn't change the reality of the situation. She had seen the love and bond between Rudy and Maria, and she wouldn't disrupt that.

As the minutes passed, Kaguya's thoughts became more serene, her mind embracing a mixture of acceptance and longing. She let the warmth of the water cocoon her, allowing herself this fleeting moment of vulnerability and introspection. The soft glow of the bathroom lights created a sense of tranquility, and Kaguya found solace in the embrace of the bathwater.



Kaguya's wet body glistened softly under the bathroom's warm lighting as droplets of water trickled down her smooth skin. Her damp hair clung to her shoulders and back, framing her face with tendrils that carried a touch of steam. The moisture created a subtle sheen, enhancing the gentle curves and contours of her figure.

The small droplets adorned her collarbone like delicate jewels, while rivulets of water traced their way down her arms, accentuating the supple lines. Her skin, flush from the hot bath, held a rosy tint that added to her natural allure. With every movement, the droplets danced and shimmered, painting a picture of quiet sensuality. The air around her held the soothing scent of bath oils, infusing the atmosphere with a sense of relaxation and tranquility.

Eventually, Kaguya got out of the bathtub, wrapping herself in a towel and stepping out onto the cool tiles of the bathroom floor. She stared at her reflection in the mirror, her eyes holding a mixture of determination and wistfulness. Her heart may yearn for something more, but she knew that she had to respect the boundaries that already existed in Rudy's life.

Kaguya emerged from the bathroom, her skin slightly flushed from the warmth of the bath. She moved with a deliberate grace, her wet hair cascading over her shoulders and down her back. As she entered her bedroom, she glanced around the dimly lit space, the soft glow of a bedside lamp casting a warm ambiance.

She closed the door behind her, leaving the rest of the world outside as she sought solace within the comfort of her own space.

Carefully placing the towel on a nearby chair, Kaguya felt the cool air of the room brush against her skin, a sensation that sent a gentle shiver down her spine, her gaze momentarily drawn to the soft fabric before she turned her attention to the bed. She hesitated for a moment, her heart racing with a mix of anticipation and vulnerability. Then, with a determined exhale, she stepped towards the bed and gracefully lowered herself onto the plush mattress.

Naked and unburdened by the constraints of clothing, Kaguya cocooned herself with a cozy blanket. The cool air of the room mingled with the warmth of her skin, creating a cocoon of comfort that she relished. She stretched out, the soft fabric of the blanket brushing against her sensitized flesh.

Kaguya's fingers brushed against the table by the bedside, seeking out her phone in the dim light. The device came to life under her touch, illuminating her face with its soft glow. She navigated to the photo gallery with practiced ease, her heart fluttering in anticipation of the memories captured earlier in the day.

The images from today's unforgettable moments with Rudy and Maria filled the screen, and Kaguya's lips curled into a serene smile. Each image held a moment frozen in time – Rudy's charismatic grin, Maria's infectious laughter, and the camaraderie that had wrapped around them like a warm embrace. Kaguya's heart swelled as she relived the moments, her thoughts traversing through the scenes of the day.

With her phone resting on her chest, Kaguya let herself get lost in the memories. She traced the contours of their faces with her fingertip, her mind retracing the steps they had taken, the words they

had shared, and the emotions that had flowed freely. The silent intimacy of the photos served as a testament to the connection they had formed, capturing something both tangible and ethereal.

Exhaustion settled over Kaguya's body, a gentle reminder that the day had been both physically and emotionally demanding. Her eyelids grew heavy, and she felt herself drifting, caught between wakefulness and slumber. The phone slipped from her fingers, coming to rest on the bedspread beside her.

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#### **Chapter 935: Back at the Castle**

As the sun began to set over the sprawling expanse of Rudy's dynasty, a sleek and elegant car glided through the skies, defying gravity itself. It was the very same car that Rudy had gifted to Maria, now transformed by his unique abilities to transcend the limits of technology. The car, bathed in a soft golden light, approached the majestic walls of the castle.

With the precision of an experienced pilot, Rudy expertly guided the flying car through the towering entrance of the castle. The car descended gracefully, its tires touching the ground with a gentle thud. The car's doors opened, revealing the interior bathed in soft illumination that gave off an inviting warmth.

Stepping out from the driver's seat, Rudy's confident and composed demeanor reflected his mastery over the vehicle. The transformation from a mundane terrestrial vehicle into a flying marvel was a testament to his ingenuity and his unique powers. A faint glow surrounded the car as it reverted to its original appearance, a seamless blend of futuristic design and cutting-edge technology.

He looked inside the car and smiled softly after watching Maria's defenseless sleeping body.

He once again entered the car and with practiced ease, Rudy emerged from the vehicle, his strong arms cradling Maria's sleeping form. She had succumbed to peaceful slumber after her daily dose of Rudy's rich, restorative juice he had nudded inside her.

Gently, Rudy ascended into the air with a solemn look on his face.. Maria's body rested securely against his chest, her head nestled against his shoulder. The night sky painted a tapestry of stars above, casting a soft luminescence that illuminated their path. With the grace of a guardian spirit, Rudy soared through the night, carrying Maria in his arms.

Landing gracefully on the balcony of their castle, Rudy stepped onto the cool stone, his movements unhurried. The scent of the flowers, vibrant and blooming, mingled with the sweet aroma of smoke that wafted from the incense that adorned the space. The tranquil atmosphere welcomed them, a haven of peace and serenity amidst the bustling world.

As he entered the lounge with Maria in his embrace, the soft glow of ambient lighting bathed the room in a warm, inviting radiance. The plush furnishings beckoned, offering a place of rest and solace. Rudy's footsteps were hushed against the lush carpet as he approached a comfortable couch, his gaze tenderly fixed on Maria's serene face.

With utmost care, he settled her onto the cushions, ensuring that she was nestled in a cocoon of comfort. Her breathing remained deep and steady, the embodiment of restfulness. Rudy's own features softened as he looked upon her, his heart brimming with a love that knew no bounds.

The room's enchanting scents wrapped around them, the heady fragrance of flowers mingling with the soothing aroma of incense. The flickering candlelight cast dancing shadows, creating a dreamlike atmosphere that matched the tranquility of the moment. Rudy's fingers brushed a gentle caress against Maria's cheek, a silent testament to his affection.

Stepping back, he lingered for a brief moment, absorbing the serene scene before him. He smiled softly after looking at her innocent face and left the room facing backwards.

With a focused expression, Rudy's eyes shimmered with a faint ethereal light as he tapped into his enhanced vision abilities. As if peering through the walls themselves, he surveyed the various rooms and spaces of the castle. Each harem member's location was revealed to him, their presence like glowing beacons in his mind's eye.

He detected some in their private chambers, lost in their own thoughts or activities. Others were gathered in the common areas, engaged in leisurely activities or engrossed in conversations. A few were exploring the castle's grand hallways, their footsteps echoing through the empty corridors.

A soft, knowing smile graced Rudy's lips as he assessed the diverse array of activities his harem members were immersed in. With a purposeful focus, he extended his consciousness through the castle, casting a subtle telepathic command that gently resonated within each of their minds.

"Join me in the living room, please," his mental voice echoed, carrying the warmth and sincerity of his intentions.

One by one, the harem members felt the gentle tug of Rudy's command, a compelling invitation that was difficult to resist. Their various activities were momentarily paused as they exchanged glances, sensing the unspoken call that bound them together.

As if guided by an invisible thread, they began to converge towards the living room, the heart of their shared sanctuary. Conversations were left unfinished, books were set aside, and wandering footsteps redirected as they followed the telepathic summons that resonated within their minds.

The living room soon became a focal point of reunion, a space that held within its walls the laughter, camaraderie, and unique connections that had formed among them. Their gazes met as they gathered, each one carrying a reflection of the bonds they had forged and the experiences they had shared.

Rudy stood at the center, his presence a steady anchor amidst the gathering. His smile was genuine, a testament to the deep care and affection he held for each member of his harem. Their diversity was a testament to the intricacies of their own stories, the paths that had brought them together under his watchful gaze.

The air was charged with a sense of unity and shared purpose as the harem members settled, their eyes turning to Rudy with a mixture of anticipation and curiosity. The unspoken question hung in the air, a question that Rudy would soon address, fostering an environment of openness and understanding among them all.

As each member of the harem gathered in the living room, Rudy greeted them with a warm smile and a nod of acknowledgment. The air was filled with a sense of camaraderie and connection, the shared experiences and memories woven into the fabric of their interactions.

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#### **Chapter 936: Harem's Reaction**

Turning his attention to Rias, Jane, and Niti, Rudy's gaze softened with genuine concern. His eyes met theirs, his expression one of gentle inquiry as he asked, "How are you all feeling after our session? I hope I didn't push you too hard."

Rias, Jane, and Niti exchanged quick glances, their faces tinted with a hint of embarrassment. Despite their initial shyness, they soon found their voices and settled into the plush chairs, each finding a comfortable spot from which to engage in the conversation.

Jane, the confident vampire, cleared her throat and gave Rudy a playful smirk. "Well, I must admit, I didn't expect to be quite so thoroughly exhausted. But it's a good kind of soreness, you know?"

Niti's cheeks turned a delicate shade of pink as she shyly echoed Rias' sentiment. "Yes, I agree. It was a challenging and scary session, but I appreciate the effort you put into it."

Rias chimed in with a chuckle. "I thought I was in good shape, but you certainly pushed our limits, Rudy. I can already feel the pain and the pleasure I didn't even know existed."

Rudy's smile widened as he listened to their responses. His interactions with each member of his harem were unique and special, and he appreciated the honesty and openness they shared with him.

"I'm glad to hear that you all enjoyed it," he said, his tone warm and encouraging. "Remember, the goal is always to make you feel good to your full potential while also ensuring your well-being. If any of you ever feel overwhelmed, please don't hesitate to let me know."

As the conversation continued to flow, Rudy engaged with Rias, Jane, and Niti, discussing their progress, exchanging lighthearted banter, and offering his insights. The embarrassment from their earlier fatigue gradually transformed into a sense of camaraderie and connection, a testament to the trust they had in Rudy and the unique dynamics of their relationships.

Amidst the laughter and shared stories, Rudy's role as the leader of the harem was not one of dominance, but of guidance, understanding, and genuine care. Each member of the harem found themselves contributing their own thoughts and experiences, enriching the shared space with the diversity of their personalities and backgrounds.

The lively conversation with his harem members, Rias suddenly leaned forward, her brows furrowing as if she remembered something important. "Wait a minute, Rudy. Didn't you mention something about wanting me to cook for you when you got back?"

Rudy chuckled, his gaze warm as he met Rias's concerned eyes. "Yes, I did mention that, Rias. But don't worry about it. I actually had dinner while I was out with Maria."

Rias's expression shifted from concern to relief, her lips curving into a sheepish smile. "Oh, thank goodness! I completely forgot about it after I woke up from my nap. I'm sorry for not keeping my promise."

Rudy's grin widened, his voice laced with understanding. "No need to apologize, Rias. I appreciate your willingness to cook for me, but my stomach is full for now."

Rias sighed audibly, her shoulders relaxing as she settled back into her seat. "Well, that's a relief. I didn't want to leave you hungry after a long day."

Amid the ongoing conversation, Rudy's harem members exchanged knowing glances, their expressions tinged with amusement. Rias, noticing their behavior, furrowed her brows and leaned in, her curiosity piqued. "What's going on? Why are you all looking at me like that?"

Lilim let out a playful giggle, her gaze fixed on Rias. "Well, Rias, we couldn't help but notice a certain change in your behavior recently."

Rias's cheeks turned a shade pinker as she shifted in her seat, feeling slightly self-conscious under the scrutiny. "Change? What do you mean?"

Jane leaned forward, a mischievous grin playing on her lips. "Oh, you know what we mean, Rias. Your demeanor seems to shift after spending a night with Rudy."

Rias's eyes widened in surprise, her gaze darting from one harem member to another. "What? That's not true!"

Angelica joined in, her tone light but teasing. "Oh, come on, Rias. We're your sisters, and we can tell when something's different."

Rias turned to Rudy, her voice a mixture of surprise and disbelief. "Rudy, is this really a thing?"

Rudy chuckled, his eyes crinkling with amusement. "It's not that you change drastically, Rias. It's just that when we're together, you tend to show a side that's a bit more vulnerable, a bit more open."

Rias's cheeks flushed deeper, her gaze dropping slightly. "...I didn't realize..."

Lilim's voice was gentle as she continued, "It's a good thing, Rias. It means you're comfortable around him, and you can let your guard down."

Rias glanced at Rudy once more, a mixture of emotions swirling in her eyes. "I guess... I guess that's true."

The other harem members nodded in agreement, their smiles warm and reassuring. The atmosphere was lighthearted and teasing, but beneath it lay a genuine camaraderie and understanding that defined their unique relationships with each other and with Rudy.

The girls of Rudy's harem had gathered in the opulent living room of the castle, their curiosity piqued as they wondered why Rudy had called them together so suddenly. Their gazes turned expectantly to him, their expressions a mixture of anticipation and curiosity.

"Rudy, is there a reason you've gathered us like this?" Angelica, always the perceptive one, voiced the collective question on their minds.

Rudy looked around at each of them, his expression a mix of seriousness and a hint of apology. "I'm not sure if Maria has had the chance to tell you all herself, or if she even wants to share the news just yet," he began in a calm voice. "But I feel that I should tell you, even without her permission, because you are all a part of this...of our lives."

The girls exchanged glances, sensing the gravity of the situation. Lilim spoke up, her tone gentle yet concerned. "Rudy, you don't have to force this. If Maria wants to share something, we can wait until she's ready."

Rias, ever the empathetic one, chimed in, "Yes, Rudy, we're a family here. We'll support her no matter what."

Rudy appreciated their understanding and the way they valued Maria's feelings. He nodded, taking a moment to gather his thoughts. "I appreciate your consideration, but I've made my decision. Maria and I are deeply connected, and I believe in being honest with all of you."

The room fell silent as the girls braced themselves for the news Rudy was about to reveal. Rudy took a deep breath, his eyes scanning each of their faces. The suspense hung heavy in the air, and then he spoke, his voice steady and resolute.

"Maria is pregnant with my child."

The announcement hung in the air, sinking in slowly as the implications of his words settled over them. There was a moment of stunned silence, then various reactions rippled through the group. Some girls gasped in surprise, while others exchanged excited glances. Some were simply shocked into speechlessness.

Rudy let the news sink in, his gaze never wavering. "I know this is big news, and it's going to change things for all of us," he continued, his voice filled with sincerity. "But I want you all to know that you are important to me, and this harem is my family. We'll face this together, just like we have faced everything else."

The room remained still as his words hung in the air, the weight of the news settling over them. Rudy had opened up to them, sharing a deeply personal aspect of his life, and they knew that whatever lay ahead, they would face it as a united, loving family.

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#### **Chapter 937: Rudy's Reaction**

Rudy had expected a variety of reactions – perhaps some sadness, envy, or even anger. After all, he had thought his harem members might be upset that Maria was the first to bear his child.

However, what he witnessed was entirely different from his expectations.

Alice, the youngest and most shy of the group, was the first to react. She jumped up from her seat and clapped her hands with glee. "Oh, Rudy, that's wonderful news! Congratulations to you and Maria!" Her eyes sparkled with genuine happiness.

Niti, the nurturing soul, gave Rudy a warm smile. "I'm so happy for both of you, Rudy. This is a blessing."

Angelica, always playful, chimed in, "Looks like our little family is growing. Congratulations, Rudy!"

One by one, they expressed their congratulations, their faces lit with genuine joy. Jane, who had once struggled with her feelings about motherhood, stepped forward and said, "Rudy, we're all thrilled for you, truly. We're not upset at all. Maria deserves all the happiness too."

Rias, with her calm demeanor, nodded. "Yes, Rudy. We're here for you and Maria, every step of the way."

Rudy couldn't believe what he was witnessing. His harem members weren't harboring any negative emotions – no jealousy, no resentment. They were genuinely happy for him and Maria.

Rudy felt a profound sense of relief and gratitude. He had expected his revelation to create discord or tension, but instead, it had strengthened the bond among his harem members. They were a family, ready to support and celebrate each other's joys and milestones, no matter the circumstances.

As the room filled with smiles and laughter, Rudy knew that he was blessed to have each of these remarkable women in his life. Their love and acceptance were more precious than he could have ever imagined.

However, Rudy couldn't help but notice that Ruby had been conspicuously silent, her arms crossed and her expression stubbornly stoic in the midst of the joyful celebration that had erupted among his harem members. He understood her well enough to know that she wasn't one to hide her true feelings behind a fake smile or hollow words, and he appreciated her authenticity.

While the others were busy celebrating and wondering how Maria's child will refer them as, Rudy decided to approach Ruby. He didn't want her to feel left out or misunderstood.

As he gently nudged her shoulder, Ruby turned her head to look at him, her eyes still harboring a hint of irritation. Her cheeks were slightly puffed in a classic sulking fashion.

Rudy couldn't help but chuckle at her expression. "You know, Ruby," he began in a playful tone, "I was wondering if Maria's child will call you cousin or aunt."

Ruby's eyes narrowed, and she shot him a glare that could have melted steel. She crossed her arms even tighter and pursed her lips, making it abundantly clear that she was not in the mood for jokes.

Rudy couldn't suppress his laughter any longer. He found Ruby's reaction utterly endearing. "Alright, alright," he conceded, raising his hands in mock surrender. "No jokes. I promise."

Ruby huffed but couldn't maintain her stern facade for long. A small smile tugged at the corner of her lips as she finally relented. "You better not," she muttered, her irritation giving way to amusement.

Rudy was glad to see Ruby's sulkiness dissipate. He knew that she was fiercely protective and caring, and her initial reaction had likely been rooted in concern for him and Maria.

As Ruby and Rudy stood side by side, observing the joyous celebrations of his harem members, Ruby couldn't resist the temptation to share a private moment with him. She gently tugged at Rudy's sleeve

and leaned closer, her voice dripping with seduction as she whispered in his ear, "Come with me for a bit. I want to share something with you."

Rudy, although intrigued by her offer, tried to be discreet. He responded, "Can't we do that here, Ruby?"

However, Ruby's determination was evident in the way her expression darkened, and she grabbed Rudy's hand firmly. With a playful but insistent smile, she began to pull him away from the living room, leading him down the hallway to the secluded lounge at the far end, where privacy could be assured, and no one was around to eavesdrop or interrupt.

Once they reached the dimly lit lounge, Ruby turned to face Rudy, her eyes locked onto his with an intensity that hinted at her desires. It was clear that she had something specific in mind, something she wanted to share with him in the intimacy of this secluded space.

The lounge was bathed in a soft, muted light, casting gentle shadows on the ornate furnishings that adorned the room. A plush velvet couch sat against one wall, while an elegant chandelier hung from the ceiling, scattering a warm glow throughout. Portraits of historical figures and landscapes adorned the walls, giving the room an air of timeless sophistication.

In this refined setting, Rudy and Ruby stood facing each other, their expressions painted with curiosity and intrigue. Rudy's emerald eyes sparkled with anticipation, his lips curled into a polite smile. He was genuinely interested in what Ruby had to say, but he also carried a hint of confusion as to why she had insisted on this private conversation.

With grace and charm, Rudy inquired, "So, Ruby, what is it that you wanted to tell me? It must be something important if it couldn't wait. I find it a bit rude to leave a celebration in the middle. Honestly, I would have felt a bit offended if any of my harem members had done that."

Ruby, on the other hand, wore a look of contemplation. Her sapphire eyes held a mixture of determination and vulnerability, her cheeks tinged with a soft blush. She had a secret to share, something that had weighed on her mind, and now that they were alone in this elegant lounge, she felt the time was right to reveal it.

Her voice, though, remained seductive as she leaned closer to Rudy, her breath warm against his ear. "It's not something for the celebration, Rudy," she whispered, her words a velvet caress. "It's something... personal. Just between you and me."

The room seemed to hold its breath as the two figures stood in the intimate hush of the lounge, a secret about to be unveiled.

Rudy was genuinely curious as it was unlike Ruby to act like that.

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#### **Chapter 938: Rudy and Ruby**

In the soft and dimly lit lounge, Rudy and Ruby's eyes locked onto each other, the anticipation crackling between them. Ruby's sapphire eyes bore into Rudy's dark crimson ones, her earlier hesitation replaced with a newfound boldness. She moved her lips as if to speak, but then, with an unexpected burst of energy, she pushed Rudy gently but firmly onto the plush velvet couch.



Rudy landed on the couch, his expression a mixture of surprise and curiosity. Before he could react or question Ruby's intentions, her slender fingers framed his face, her touch gentle yet commanding. With a magnetic pull, she drew him closer, their breaths mingling, and then, in a surge of passion, their lips met in a fervent kiss.

It was a kiss filled with longing and unspoken desires, a rush of emotions that had been kept hidden for too long. Ruby's lips were soft and inviting, and Rudy couldn't help but respond to her fervor, his arms instinctively wrapping around her, pulling her closer still.

The world outside seemed to fade away as their kiss deepened, and the lounge became a sanctuary for their intimate moment. Ruby's actions had left Rudy pleasantly stunned, but he surrendered to the intensity of their connection, his heart racing in sync with hers.

The kiss was a whirlwind of emotions, an unexpected storm that had swept Rudy off his feet. Ruby's lips were like a sweet, intoxicating elixir, and he found himself unable to resist the allure of her passionate embrace. He had initially intended to stop her, to remind her of the celebration happening in the other room, but now, that thought seemed to be a distant echo.

As their lips melded in a fiery dance, Rudy's mind raced. He knew he should put a halt to this unexpected turn of events, but the sensation of Ruby's lips on his was simply too captivating. His initial surprise had given way to a sense of surrender to the intensity of the moment.

Ruby's actions held a fervor he hadn't anticipated, her kiss filled with a longing he hadn't known existed. Rudy's arms tightened around her, pulling her closer as if to assure her that he was present in this passionate exchange. He marveled at the softness of her lips and the warmth of her touch, and for a moment, he allowed himself to get lost in the sensation.

As their lips finally parted, a sharp intake of breath passed between them, leaving Rudy slightly breathless and flushed. His dark crimson eyes, now darkened with desire and confusion, met Ruby's intense gaze. He thought she might be done, but instead, she inhaled deeply and closed the small gap between them once more.

Rudy's mind was a whirlwind of conflicting thoughts and desires. He should have stopped her, put an end to this unexpected intimacy. Yet, he found himself succumbing to the electricity in the air, allowing the kiss to continue, yearning for what would come next in this unpredictable moment.

With their lips mere inches apart, Ruby's fervor suddenly encountered an obstacle as Rudy gently but firmly pressed a hand against her chest, creating a small but significant space between them. His dark crimson eyes bore into hers, his expression a mixture of curiosity and judgment.

"Did you not say you had something important to share with me?" Rudy questioned, his voice tinged with a sense of reproach.

Ruby's lips curved into a sly smile, her eyes holding a mischievous spark. "Yes," she admitted, her voice a sultry purr. "I wanted to 'share' a kiss."

Rudy raised an eyebrow, his gaze unwavering. "Ruby," he began, his tone firm but gentle, "when I said something important, I meant..."

He didn't finish his sentence, but Ruby could see the unspoken warning in his eyes. However, she wasn't one to be easily deterred. With a playful glint, she responded, "But, Rudy, a kiss can be very important... at least, for me."

She leaned in again, attempting to capture his lips once more, her intention clear: she was determined to prove the importance of that stolen moment of intimacy.

Before Ruby could initiate another kiss, Rudy gently but firmly placed his hand over her lips, halting her advance. He looked into her eyes, a puzzled expression on his face, and inquired, "Ruby, what's come over you? This isn't your usual behavior. You've never been this assertive before."

Ruby bit her lower lip, her gaze avoiding his for a moment, before she finally spoke up. "Rudy," she began, her voice revealing a touch of vulnerability, "you've been spending so much time with the other harem members, and it felt like you were distancing yourself from me. I just... I wanted your attention, your affection."

Rudy's expression softened as he understood Ruby's underlying concern. He sighed gently, his hand moving away from her lips. "Ruby," he began, "you were the one who set the challenge for me to make you fall in love. You know it's not something that happens overnight. You have to work for it, just like everyone else."

Ruby met his gaze with determination in her eyes. "But Rudy," she replied, her confidence returning, "it seems like you're purposely playing hard to get."

Rudy chuckled softly at her comment. "Well, maybe a little," he admitted, a mischievous glint in his eyes. "But you know, it's all part of the fun, isn't it?"

Ruby couldn't help but smile at his response. "You're impossible, Rudy," she said with a playful roll of her eyes.

Rudy grinned and leaned closer to her, his lips hovering just inches from hers. "And you love it," he whispered before finally closing the distance between them with a gentle, lingering kiss.

Ruby straddled Rudy's lap, her legs fitting comfortably on either side as their passionate kiss continued. Her kisses grew increasingly fervent, igniting a fiery passion between them, and Rudy eagerly reciprocated. Their connection deepened, and the room seemed to blur as they surrendered to their desires.

Rudy's hands began to explore Ruby's body, tracing the contours of her figure with a gentle touch. He savored the softness of her skin, the warmth of her body pressed against his. Ruby moaned softly in response, her senses overwhelmed by the intoxicating sensations.

As their passion continued to rise, Rudy reluctantly pulled back, placing his hands firmly on Ruby's shoulders to hold her still. He gazed intensely toward the entrance of the lounge, and Ruby followed his line of sight, perplexed.

Confused and curious, Ruby searched the empty doorway but saw nothing. She turned back to Rudy, her eyes questioning.

With a knowing smile, Rudy said, "Don't worry, you can come in."

Ruby's heart raced with curiosity and excitement as she wondered who Rudy was addressing.

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#### **Chapter 939: Dedications**

Ruby's curiosity grew as she continued to scan the darkened entrance, her eyes locked on the elusive silhouette. The tension in the room heightened until, with a gentle swish, a figure emerged from the shadows into the pool of light.

It was Alice.

Ruby couldn't help but raise an eyebrow in response to Alice's appearance. Her presence at this particular moment seemed a little too coincidental. Without uttering a word, Ruby smoothly slid off Rudy's lap and gracefully adjusted herself beside him.

Alice, noticing Ruby's silent reaction, offered a small, apologetic smile. "I didn't mean to disturb you two," she began, her voice calm and composed. "I was simply searching for Rudy and followed where the hallway led me."

Ruby eyed Alice, assessing her carefully. The explanation seemed plausible, and Alice's demeanor appeared innocent enough. However, Ruby remained silent, choosing to keep her thoughts to herself for now.

Rudy, ever the peacemaker, decided to address the tension in the room. He could sense Ruby's frustration and wanted to assure Alice that her presence was welcome.

With a warm and reassuring smile, he turned to Alice and said, "Don't worry, Alice. Even if it was on purpose, it's okay. I know you must have an 'important' reason to be here." Rudy emphasized the word 'important,' his gaze shifting toward Ruby with a hint of playfulness.

Ruby, who had been silently seething, couldn't help but roll her eyes at Rudy's antics. She shot him an annoyed glare, fully aware that he was intentionally provoking her. But beneath her irritation, there was a trace of affection for the man who seemed to revel in her fiery reactions.

Rudy, still wearing that mischievous grin, couldn't hide his amusement as he met Ruby's angry gaze. He enjoyed the playful banter between them, especially when it was sparked by his deliberate teasing. It was moments like these that made their unique bond even more special.

Rudy patted the spot beside him, inviting Alice to take a seat. She hesitated for a moment, her nerves evident in the way she gulped and took a deep breath. Finally, she settled beside him and mustered the courage to ask him a question.

"Did you talk with Dad and get his permission for me to sleep in your castle?" Alice inquired, her voice tinged with nervousness. She anxiously awaited Rudy's response, unsure of what George had said.

Rudy met her gaze, his dark crimson eyes gentle and reassuring. He smiled warmly before replying, "I went to talk with George, but he wasn't home. However, rest assured, you can sleep here. I'm sure George wouldn't mind."

Alice, still feeling uneasy, shook her head. "I appreciate that, Rudy, but I can't sleep over at anyone's place without getting my father's approval. It's just not something I do."

Rudy's annoyance flickered across his face momentarily. He sharpened his gaze and asked Alice, "Why are you so afraid of George? And since when did he become so strict about this?"

Ruby decided to chime in, her voice calm but firm as she addressed Rudy. "Hey, if she doesn't want to sleep here, you can't force her, you know?" Her gaze flicked between Alice and Rudy, her body language showing her support for Alice's choice.

Rudy nodded in agreement. "Obviously. I wouldn't force her to stay here if she doesn't want to; that's out of the question. However, her reason is different."

Alice remained silent, her emotions in turmoil. She loved Rudy deeply, and the idea of making him sad or disappointed weighed heavily on her. She did want to stay in Rudy's castle, perhaps even move in permanently, but she knew that her father, George, would never allow it.

"My father was strict too," Ruby interjected, sharing a knowing look with Rudy.

Without a doubt, Rusher was a coward. However, Rudy couldn't help but admire him a little, despite his harshness. Rusher's unwavering determination to protect his loved ones, even if it meant crippling his own syndicate, had left a deep impression on Rudy.

Ruby continued, her tone softening as she empathized with Alice's situation. "I doubt and wonder if Alice's father can be worse than my own in strictness. I've heard about how Alice's mother passed away, and I understand George's desire to protect his only daughter. I can imagine how he must feel, afraid of losing her."

Rudy let out a sigh as he agreed to take Alice home, understanding her concerns. "Of course, Alice. We'll get you back safely," he assured her. However, he added, "But just give me a moment here."

Turning his attention back to Ruby, he gently pulled her closer, settling her onto his lap. Ruby's cheeks flushed a bright red with embarrassment as she instinctively tried to get off Rudy's lap. But despite her efforts, she found herself lacking the physical strength to move him.

Seeing her struggle, Rudy couldn't help but grin mischievously. "What's the matter, Ruby? You were quite assertive earlier," he teased.

Ruby knew that her physical attempts were futile. She decided to use words instead, giving Rudy one of her trademark glaring looks.

She asked him to let her go, her voice carrying a mix of embarrassment and frustration. Rudy raised an eyebrow, genuinely curious. "Why are you acting differently now? You were making moves on me just a moment ago."

Still blushing, Ruby glanced over at Alice before returning her gaze to Rudy. "It's... different with another harem member around," she admitted, her voice soft but resolute.

Rudy chuckled softly, understanding her feelings but also trying to ease her embarrassment. "Ruby, it's something we'll all need to get used to. This is how our relationships are going to be from now on."

Ruby, however, wasn't entirely convinced. She turned to Alice and asked, "Would you really do this if you were in my place, Alice?"

Alice didn't hesitate. She met Rudy's eyes with determination and nodded. "Yes, I would, Ruby. I'd do anything Rudy wants, and I'd do everything in my power to please him, in any way he desires."

"..."

"I would even suck his dick here if he wanted me to."

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#### **Chapter 940: A Calm Night**

Ruby carefully got off Rudy's lap, a mixture of embarrassment and irritation visible on her face. "I've had enough for today," she stated firmly, avoiding eye contact with Rudy. "I'm heading to my room to sleep."

Rudy, undeterred, leaned back on the couch, one arm draped casually over the backrest. "We can continue where we left off once I've dropped Alice off," he suggested with a playful smirk.

Ruby didn't even spare him a glance. "You'll have to wait until I'm in the mood again," she retorted before walking away, her steps echoing faintly in the hallway.

Rudy couldn't help but groan at her response. He got up from the couch, his attention now focused on Alice. He extended a hand to help her up, looking at her warmly. "Are you ready?"

Alice nodded in response, her nerves still palpable. In an instant, they teleported and appeared in Alice's room, the scene of her familiar surroundings filling Rudy's senses.

It was past midnight, and the darkest hours of the night surrounded them.

Nervously, Alice turned to Rudy, her voice trembling slightly as she asked, "Can you use your vision ability to check if Dad has returned home?"

Rudy nodded, understanding her concern. He closed his eyes, activating his vision ability, and scanned the entire house. After a suspenseful moment, he finally opened his eyes and turned to Alice with a reassuring smile. "He's not home yet, Alice. You're safe."

Alice sighed in relief and sat down on her bed. She hugged Rudy tightly, appreciating his presence and the comfort it brought her. Her innocent eyes looked up at him, filled with gratitude. "Can you stay with me until Dad returns? You can teleport away when he comes back."

Rudy, always a bit cheeky, raised an eyebrow and asked with a playful tone, "What do I get in return for granting your wish?"

Alice pondered for a few seconds, her brows furrowed in thought, trying to think of something appropriate to say in response to Rudy's playful question. Amused by her innocent reaction, Rudy couldn't help but chuckle softly. He leaned down and hugged her tightly, patting her gently on the head.

"There's no need to worry, Alice," he reassured her in a warm, soothing tone. "I'll stay with you for as long as you want."

Alice felt a rush of relief wash over her. She let go of her tight grip on Rudy and, with a contented sigh, leaned back against the slab on her bed. She arranged the pillows behind her to make herself more comfortable, stretching her legs out in front of her.

Rudy settled in beside her, their closeness bringing a sense of warmth and security. As soon as he did, Alice decided to take the initiative. With a playful glint in her eyes, she swiftly moved, crawling on top of him, her expression one of surrender as she nestled herself comfortably against him.

In the dimly lit room, the atmosphere was charged with an unspoken tenderness. Alice, perched comfortably on top of Rudy, stared into his eyes with a sweet, affectionate smile. Her fingers gently traced along his jawline, caressing his cheek as she leaned in and planted a soft kiss on his lips.

Rudy's eyes closed momentarily as her lips met his, a warm and gentle sensation that seemed to envelop them both. When she pulled back, he looked at her with a gentle smile, his fingers softly brushing a strand of hair from her face.

Her eyes sparkled with a hint of playfulness as she moved in again, this time placing a tender kiss on his cheek. Then, with a contented sigh, Alice shifted herself and rested her head against Rudy's chest.

They lay there in the quiet intimacy, neither of them needing words to fill the silence. The room was filled with the rhythmic sound of Rudy's heartbeat, a comforting and steady cadence that Alice found strangely soothing. Occasionally, she would tilt her head up and kiss him again, her lips meeting his in soft, lingering kisses.

Rudy's hand moved in a slow, gentle caress down her back, his touch feather-light and soothing. Sometimes, he would play with her hair, running his fingers through the strands as they shared this tranquil moment of closeness and affection. It was a moment that needed no words, a silent understanding that bound them together in a warm, tender embrace.

Alice's gaze, filled with a mix of vulnerability and curiosity, flickered as she looked up at Rudy. Her voice was soft, almost hesitant, as she asked, "Are you going to leave me?"

Rudy's brow furrowed slightly in confusion, but he replied in a calm, reassuring tone, "No, Alice. I won't go anywhere until your dad returns."

Alice shook her head, her eyes locking onto his with a hint of desperation. "I didn't mean it that way," she clarified. "I meant... will you leave me?"

The seriousness of her question registered in Rudy's eyes. He took a moment to absorb her words before responding firmly, "No, Alice. I won't leave you."

A flicker of frustration crossed her features, and she pouted slightly. "You know that's not what I mean. I meant, will you ever leave me alone... like, forever?"

Rudy's expression shifted to a mixture of surprise and concern. "Alice, why would you even think something like that?"

Her gaze met his earnestness, and she replied, "I just... I need to know. Things are different now, and with all the other girls around..."

Rudy cut her off, his voice carrying a hint of annoyance. "Alice, you're different. We're different. We have a bond that no one else in my harem has. Before being lovers, we were best friends, childhood friends. We can't be separated, and I have no intention of ever leaving you alone."

He leaned down and kissed her gently, his lips warm and reassuring. When he pulled away, he added with a tender smile, "You're like a dear little sister to me, Alice. I'll always protect you, and I hate to see you sad."

Alice's cheeks puffed up slightly, her playful spirit returning. "Don't sister-zone me after everything we've done together," she teased, her eyes dancing mischievously.

Rudy chuckled and kissed her again, more passionately this time, his arms wrapping around her in a protective embrace. "You're right," he whispered against her lips. "You're much more than a sister to me, Alice."