

Go After 1051

Chapter 1051

The plane touched down the next day. Raeleigh was exhausted. It did not occur to her that Jepherson would be travelling to a distant land so far away from the country.

Jepherson held her hand as soon as they disembarked from the plane. They got into a taxi and headed straight to the hotel.

As he got off the taxi, Jepherson asked the hotel receptionist some details about a particular room. He sounded as if he had arranged to meet up with a friend.

The hotel receptionist politely turned him down. "I'm sorry," she said. "Our guests' details shall remain confidential."

"Sure, I understand," Jepherson said. He then turned around and shrugged his shoulders, looking rather disappointed. He made a phone call afterwards.

Raeleigh gazed at Jepherson. She could hear a man's breathy moan when Jepherson's call was connected. It was cringeworthy. Immediately, she turned around and directed her gaze elsewhere.

Jepherson hung up on the man there and then. "That old man is still as sprightly as ever," Jepherson thought. "But what is up with the afternoon delights though? He should do it at night."

"Let's take a seat," Jepherson said as he held Raeleigh's hand while carrying the suitcase. "You're tired, aren't you? Let's grab some snacks." Raeleigh was indeed tired. She could be seen leaning against Jepherson.

They walked to the opposite side of the lobby to take a seat. Jepherson clasped her in his arms. They sat on a couch and ordered some food.

At that moment, Raeleigh felt nauseous.

She had no idea why she felt like throwing up.

"I'm not feeling well," she said. Jepherson lowered his head and pinched her face. "Having motion sickness, huh?" Jepherson asked.

Raeleigh shook her head. "Could it be a stomach flu then?" Jepherson thought.

Jepherson then touched Raeleigh's forehead. "You don't have a temperature," he said.

"But I've been feeling sick though," Raeleigh said. "I have to go to the washroom." As soon as she got up, she retched.

Like a cat on a hot tin roof, Jepherson bent over immediately. Then, he carried Raeleigh to the washroom while holding his bag.

Raeleigh seemed to be suffering from food poisoning. The moment she went into the washroom, she vomited all over the basin.

While Jepherson was waiting anxiously, Calvin called up.

“Raeleigh’s sick,” Jepherson said. “We’re at the lobby. Come over here, please.”

Jepherson was on tenterhooks as he waited outside.

“How are you doing?” Jepherson asked.

Jepherson kept knocking on the door. A slew of hotel guests could be seen staring at him, wondering what had happened. Still feeling sick, Raeleigh mustered the strength to make her way out of the washroom.

As soon as she walked out of the washroom, she leaned on Jepherson’s shoulder. Jepherson bent over and carried her to the lobby.

While Jepherson was heading to the lobby, he saw Calvin and Belle.

Belle was taken aback when she saw her son carrying a woman. Soon afterwards, she was all smiles. Calvin glowered at her. “Why are you smiling though?” Calvin said. “There’s nothing funny. I have no idea why he’s here. Well, I’m not going back home though.”

Calvin hadn’t had enough fun. Naturally, he refused to head home.

Belle shrugged him off. She dashed towards Jepherson and asked, “Jerry, what’s wrong with her?”

Jepherson thought that his savior had shown up. “I’ve got no idea,” he said hurriedly. “She was feeling nauseous when we got off the plane.”

“What has she eaten?” Belle asked. Her charming face showed signs of ageing. However, it was still as tender as ever.

If she kept mum about her age, then no one would believe that she was a mother of two grown-up boys.

Raeleigh gazed at Belle. She was surprised to find that Belle is in fact Jepherson’s mother. They looked like siblings to her.

“I haven’t been eating anything, and merely consumed some drinks,” Raeleigh said weakly. Calvin frowned and murmured, “Oh, Jerry, you little rascal.”

Belle turned around and looked at her husband. She thought that he was irritated. However, she found no traces of anger as she looked into his eyes.

“Let’s head to the hospital and get a specialist in obstetrics and gynaecology to check on her,” Calvin said.

Then, Calvin walked towards his wife and clasped her in his arms. Belle felt a little awkward. Soon afterwards, she realized that her son had left the lobby, leaving his bag on the floor. Had she not seen the bag, she would not have believed that her son was here moments ago.

By the time Calvin and Belle arrived at the hospital, the doctor had confirmed that Raeleigh was pregnant.

“How was it?” Belle asked. Jepherson was all smiles as he got up and held Belle tightly in his arms.

Calvin walked towards them and pulled them apart. “Hey, kid. That’s my wife,” he said.

Jepherson did not respond to his remark. He went into the ward to see Raeleigh.

Belle rolled her eyes at Calvin. Having had to put up with nausea and vomiting, Raeleigh was then feeling weak and disoriented.

Belle turned around to look at Raeleigh. She sat down and said, "Pregnant ladies have all sorts of discomfort in many different ways. So, fret not."

"I'm so happy to know you're pregnant," Belle added. "It's just that..." Jepherson looked at Belle and interjected, "Not so soon..."

"Well, how old are you?" Calvin asked. He did not father a child at such a young age. Now that Jepherson had fathered a child at such a tender age, Calvin felt like a sore loser. If only there was a time machine to transport him back to his younger days...

"Humph!" Calvin snorted.

Belle looked at him and said, "Hey, what's wrong with you? Why are you perpetually angry?"

Calvin sat down and looked at Raeleigh. "She looks like you in your younger days."

Belle was surprised to hear that. She looked at Raeleigh closely and said, "Oh, really?"

Raeleigh squinted her eyes. "Am I Jepherson's first love?" she wondered.

"Jerry, be sure to look after her," Belle said. "I'll simmer some broth for her. Make sure she's properly nourished throughout her pregnancy. Goodness me, look at her hand. It's so slender. I wonder if the baby's development would be impeded. By the way, have you guys planned to tie the knot? I mean, she's pregnant. You don't want the child to be born out of wedlock, do you?"

At that moment, Belle recalled an incident in her past. She could not help but to feel that in life, one should always plan ahead.

Jepherson thought for a moment. Then, he said, "Well, Grandma doesn't like Raeleigh. I've always told her that Raeleigh is Santiago's girlfriend. Now that she's pregnant, I've got to tell the truth. I've no idea how she'd react though."

"Oh, dear. How can you do that?" Belle said. "Grandma is concerned about you. You shouldn't have lied to her. Have a heart-to-heart talk with her. I'm sure she'd give her blessings to your relationship with Raeleigh." It had not come to Belle's knowledge that Jepherson had been lying to Paige about his relationship with Raeleigh. Had she known this earlier, she would have returned home much sooner to resolve this issue.

"She's pregnant and people would naturally think Santiago is the one who fathered the child," Belle thought. "Oh, no. This is going to be a real mess."

Belle knew Paige's character well enough. She was certain that Paige would hate Raeleigh even more if she knew that she was pregnant.

Belle felt sorry for Raeleigh.

“Oh, Raeleigh, you poor thing,” Belle said. “Jerry, I’ll have a word with Grandma.” Belle did not wish to see her future daughter-in-law going through all the sufferings that she had to put up with over the years. Now that Raeleigh was pregnant, she would try her level best to tend to her.

Calvin could not be bothered. His son asked for it, or so he thought.

However, he was elated, as he would soon be a grandfather.

“You’re too slim,” Calvin said. “Be sure to get yourself properly nourished.”

Calvin stood up and clasped Belle’s arm. “It’s a little stuffy here,” Calvin said. “Let’s go out and get some fresh air. I thought you wanted to simmer some broth for her. Well, what are you waiting for? Let’s go.”

He then grabbed hold of Belle’s arm and led her out of the ward.

Raeleigh opened her eyes slowly and saw Jepherson.

Chapter 1052

“The doctor says you’re pregnant,” Jepherson repeated thrice as he held Raeleigh’s hand. Looking at Jepherson, Raeleigh did not know what she should feel. She had never imagined having a baby, but since it had happened, she did not want to abort her child either.

To Raeleigh, a child was a gift from heaven. She could not end the child’s life before it had even begun.

Raeleigh rubbed her belly and her gaze met Jepherson’s eyes. She said, “Even if your grandmother is against it, I will give birth to the child. I neither need a title nor any property, I just want the kid to have a happy life.”

As Raeleigh said that, thoughts of her younger self floated into her mind.

She had been abandoned and had grown up in an orphanage. There, no one had ever visited her. Raeleigh thought to herself, her mother might have been in the same situation as she was in at the time, stuck with a child of a man whose family did not accept her. Hence, after she was born with great difficulties, she was sent to the orphanage. Perhaps, her mother had wanted to take her away and raise her, but misfortune had befallen her and people had come hunting for her, after her life...

Numerous scenes played out in Raeleigh’s mind. She suddenly felt grateful for her position in life. Since she was blessed with good fortune, she could not give up the child in her belly.

Raeleigh patted her belly, with her hand still in Jepherson’s grasp. Jepherson kissed her and said, “No, since the child has already been conceived, my grandmother will agree to it for sure.”

“Jepherson Harvey.” It was the first time Raeleigh addressed him that way. Jepherson froze for a moment, knowing that she had something to say. He answered softly, “Yes, I’m all ears.”

Raeleigh mulled over it for a moment, and she then told him, “Promise me that you won’t tell your grandmother about the child until she accepts me. I don’t know what sort of person she is. What if she hates me and antagonizes me? Marrying into money is like stepping foot into h*ll, or so my grandmother said. I had always been living a quiet life, but then you came into my life, for better or worse.”

“I don’t regret bearing your child. I wanted to, but...”

“If your Grandma shuns me, and if you tell her that I’m pregnant with your child, and if she really cannot tolerate me, then she may take the baby away from me after I’ve given birth to him or her. I would go mad if that happens.”

Raeleigh didn’t intend to frighten Jepherson, but she had to make things clear. Only then would he be able to make the right decision.

People all had different philosophies in life. No one could tell good from bad. People could all have good intentions, but with different ways of thinking about it, they would inevitably make different decisions. Raeleigh did not have any high expectations for her life. She just wanted a peaceful one.

Jepherson gazed at Raeleigh, lowered his head, and kissed her on the lips. “My bad. I understand. No matter what, you and your child will have the best I can give. You can rest assured that no one will separate you two.”

Raeleigh heaved a sigh of relief. Holding onto Jepherson’s hand, she said, “You must be tired. Let’s rest. We can talk about everything else tomorrow.”

Raeleigh was really fatigued. All she could think about was to have a good night’s sleep.

Only then did Jepherson get up. He closed the door and went to take a shower. After changing into comfortable pyjamas, he went to lie down beside Raeleigh, cuddling her. Both of them were restless. Even though they were lying on the bed, they did not sleep a wink all night. It was not until the Tristany hours of the morning, when Raeleigh was completely exhausted, that she fell asleep in Jepherson’s arms. The next morning, Belle came to visit with some chicken soup. Raeleigh and Jepherson were embracing each other tightly, deep in sleep.

Belle peered at them from the outside. She liked Raeleigh more and more.

As Raeleigh was not awake yet, Belle didn’t enter the room. She sat outside and waited the entire morning. Calvin was already impatient by noon. Finally, when they were about to have lunch, he dialled Jepherson’s number to wake him up.

Jepherson got up from the bed and looked at his phone. He immediately got out of bed to open the door.

Belle entered the room first, followed by Calvin, and made an immediate beeline for Raeleigh. Raeleigh had just pried her eyes open. Her body felt much better than it did the day before. Sitting up, she finally noticed Belle.

Belle gave Raeleigh a sweet smile. She set down the container she had brought and opened it. “It’s tough birthing a baby. Some people don’t feel anything during their pregnancy while others suffer immensely. I’ve heard that the more difficult the pregnancy is, the more lovable the child is.”

Belle served Raeleigh a bowl of the chicken soup and told her, “Drink up while it’s warm.”

Raeleigh was staring at Belle. She could not understand. Wasn’t Belle worried that her current husband wouldn’t be happy with what she was doing?

Only God knew.

Well, since she meant well, Raeleigh accepted the bowl of soup and blew on it before taking a sip.

Belle sat down, looking Raeleigh up and down minutely. The more she looked, the more delightful Raeleigh seemed to her.

“Jerry, when are you two getting married?” Belle was excited. She reckoned that they shouldn’t wait for the child to be born to get married. That would be unfair to Raeleigh and the child.

“We’re still considering that. I will talk to Dad about it later,” Jepherson said. Raeleigh choked on a mouthful of soup and began to cough.

Belle stood up in a hurry, producing a tissue to wipe Raeleigh’s mouth. She took the bowl away from Raeleigh.

“Take it slow. Was it too hot?” Belle had not deciphered the true meaning of Raeleigh’s actions.

Raeleigh looked at Belle, and then looked at the men in front of her. Jepherson looked exactly like his father. Raeleigh was overcome with embarrassment.

Raeleigh glanced at Belle’s youthful and beautiful face, bit her lip, and turned to look at Jepherson.

Jepherson frowned. “Who did you think they were?”

His tone made it clear that he was displeased.

Raeleigh processed it for a moment, and she then asked, “How would I know? You never told me, did you?”

“What’s wrong?” Belle didn’t understand. Was this trouble in paradise?

“Didn’t you tell her that we’re your parents?” Calvin asked.

“I forgot,” Jepherson replied as he walked to Raeleigh’s side and squeezed her hand. “It’s fine.”

How could Raeleigh be fine? She was speechless in front of Jepherson’s parents. She could only stare blankly and remain silent.

The pressure on Raeleigh was mounting. Why had she met his parents that quickly?

“Well, you two should talk outside. Raeleigh needs some peace and quiet.” Belle’s expression darkened as she drove the father and son out.

Calvin traipsed out first and called for Jepherson. Jepherson closed the door on his way out.

“Why the second thoughts about marriage?” Calvin was vexed, and it showed.

“We still need to think about it. Raeleigh and I are both a little worried. Grandma doesn’t like Raeleigh,” Jepherson and Raeleigh shared the same concerns. If Raeleigh had not reminded him of that, then he would have announced her pregnancy to the world in his elation. However, it was true that no one could predict what would happen.

As Raeleigh said, they had to consider every possibility for the sake of their child.

Chapter 1053

In the end, Calvin allowed his son the freedom to choose what he wanted to do. Jepherson was soon to be a father. He had his own thoughts on the matter. Calvin didn't want to coddle him.

Inside the room, Raeleigh was busy sipping the chicken soup that Belle had served her. She said nothing. Belle, on the other hand, was besotted from the moment she saw Raeleigh.

"I don't know why, but I liked you at first sight. I haven't felt this way for years."

As Belle spoke, Raeleigh slowly lifted her chin and looked at her.

"What other family do you have?" Belle asked Raeleigh. Raeleigh thought it over and replied, "Just my Grandma. She's in her seventies."

"Is it just you and your grandmother?"

Raeleigh nodded in response. She had thought that Belle would be completely different. However, contrary to her expectations, Belle was a warm person, who was easy to get along with.

Belle then peppered Raeleigh with questions, like any typical parent. It was as though she was interviewing Raeleigh. Finally, she said, "I don't know when I'm going back with your father-in-law. Jerry told me that you don't plan to hold a wedding. I don't agree with that, but anyway, you are our daughter-in-law. You're bearing a child of the Harvey family. You'll adopt the Harvey family name sooner or later. I won't interfere with your decisions. But I must tell you, please come to us for help if there's any issue."

"Your safety is what's most important."

Afraid that Raeleigh would land in some sort of trouble, Belle repeatedly drilled that into her head.

Belle finally got up after Calvin called out to her from outside the room. She told Raeleigh, "We're heading out for a meal. I'll get you some takeaway. Rest."

Belle stood up, patted Raeleigh's hand, and left the room. Raeleigh was left sitting calmly on the bed. She watched Belle leave, with a flurry of mixed emotions in her heart. She really didn't think that Jepherson's parents would have been so accepting of her family's situation.

After they left, Jepherson came in and walked straight towards Raeleigh. He sat down on the bed and the two of them conversed about Belle and Calvin.

"Your parents have so many stories," Raeleigh said. She could not believe that they were not natives of Capital City.

After a while, Raeleigh piped up again, "Since your parents aren't from here, could that child be in A City where you lived? You haven't found her yet anyway, so why don't you give it a shot?"

"If you hadn't brought it up, then I would have forgotten it completely. I'll have a look next time. I'll bring you along too."

"Sure."

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Due to her pregnancy, Raeleigh stayed in the hospital for a few days. As a result, Lamarre was a little anxious and called Jepherson to inquire.

Jepherson couldn't say anything else, in order to protect Raeleigh. All he could do was to bring up Calvin.

Lamarre then said over the phone that Raeleigh still had five days to generate a new idea. Otherwise, she would be fired.

Jepherson hung up and looked at Raeleigh. "Pregnant women shouldn't be exposed to too much rAI Diartion. I'll print the blueprint for you."

"It's okay, you don't need to fuss over every little thing. I'm pregnant, so are plenty of women around the world. They're all using their phones and computers without any issue. You're too much of a coward."

Raeleigh clearly looked displeased. Jepherson turned to look at her and asked, "Who's a coward?"

Raeleigh kept silent. She didn't want to say anything.

rAI Diartion was everywhere in the present day. Even ordinary people were mindful of it, what more a person as careful as Jepherson.

The last thing he wanted was for his descendants to contract any diseases.

Jepherson calmed down from Raeleigh's silence. He said, "You can use the computer from time to time. If you don't have the time to come up with designs, then you can take a break."

"I don't want to. These years are all I have. I need to work hard. When I get older, I have to take care of my child. I don't want her to fall behind in education. Once she's reached kindergarten age, I can't be falling behind other mothers either. Time is passing fast and it won't stop for me. I don't want my child to be stuck on alphabets when she's already in grade school."

"Then, you want me to worry myself sick about your problems now?" Jepherson suddenly figured that there was a high chance that he would be replaced by the little fellow in her womb in the future.

"If it's a self-inflicted worry, then I can't help you. We should just act normal. I can wear rAI Diartion-proof clothes, as they're available everywhere. There must be a way."

Raeleigh delivered her point calmly, rendering Jepherson speechless.

It was quiet inside the ward. Jepherson sat beside Raeleigh with his legs crossed while holding her hand. Suddenly, he understood. All these trivial matters were not important.

Raeleigh was tired by that point. Holding Jepherson's hand, she rolled over in the bed. It didn't take long for her to fall asleep. When she did, Jepherson caressed Raeleigh's face gently. She really was a stubborn person, wasn't she?

Jepherson tucked Raeleigh into bed, covering her with the quilt. He then got up and went to the door to call his parents. Calvin's phone was turned off.

Jepherson frowned and called his mother instead. He also could not get through to Belle. So, he was directly transferred to voicemail.

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At the international airport.

With much unhappiness, Belle observed Calvin, who was in front of her. Calvin was pulling his luggage along while waiting for Belle to catch up.

“Calvin...” Belle was very vexed with how Calvin did things. He had left her son and daughter-in-law behind without saying a word. It was all far too rude. Plus, she still had a gift for Raeleigh. Then what?

Calvin turned around. Although he was in his fifties, he looked like he was in his thirties. He had no wrinkles at all.

He said, “It’s rare for us to go outside for once, but he messed it up for me. I’m still mad. And now it’s your turn?”

Belle rolled her eyes and retorted, “You’re making no sense! This has nothing to do with Raeleigh. Jerry wanted us to meet her. They’re as good as married! How can you not care?”

“Didn’t he say that he would decide? Well, we’ve seen him, what else do we have to do?”

“I don’t care. I’m not leaving,” Belle said as she came to a stop. Calvin asked, “Are you really not leaving?”

“I’m not leaving.” Belle was firm.

Calvin glanced at the bellboy beside him and waved his hand. He handed a large sum of money to the bellboy and spoke two simple sentences in the local tongue. Belle had just arrived and had yet to learn the local language. She did not understand it. On the other hand, Calvin was able to learn the language very quickly in a short time.

However, Belle figured that it definitely did not bode well for her.

Surely enough, she saw her luggage being pushed away by the bellboy. Then, Calvin walked up to her with knitted brows and a gentle gaze. He seemed to have a plan in mind.

“Don’t come closer,” Belle warned. She wanted to run, but Calvin grabbed her and carried her. Belle suddenly felt the urge to cry, and hastily hid her face. She hated being humiliated. It was too shameful at her age!

Chapter 1054

Raeleigh woke up from her nap. Jepherson was sitting opposite her, deep in thought about something.

When Raeleigh opened her eyes, Jepherson immediately turned his gaze from the window to her. He got up to help her up. It amused Raeleigh. She told him, “I can take care of myself. I’m just pregnant. Do you need to be this fussy?”

Jepherson didn't say anything. He merely lowered his head and kissed Raeleigh. Raeleigh looked at him in confusion. What was he doing?

"My parents left," Jepherson informed Raeleigh as he helped her sit up and poured her a glass of water. Raeleigh took the glass. Looking puzzled, she asked, "And?"

"And I'm very disappointed," Jepherson said curtly. Raeleigh could tell that he was in a bad mood.

"Why are you disappointed?"

"It's not fair to you." Jepherson had guessed that his father would leave, but he had not expected his mother to go along as well.

Raeleigh wore a smile as she asked, "What's the big deal?"

Jepherson could not wrap his mind around her reaction. "Aren't you sad?"

"What should I be sad about? Your parents have their own lives to live. It's clear to me that your father doesn't like your mother doing things for me. It's not that your mother doesn't like me. She must have been whisked away by your father." Raeleigh did not want to blurt it out, but it was indeed her true thoughts on the matter.

The couple was enviable indeed.

Jepherson's mood inexplicably brightened. With great interest, he asked, "How did you know he had taken her away and she didn't leave on her own?"

"I don't think your mother would do that. She would inform me, at the very least. However, your father would definitely consider it a chore that may stop him from leaving. Therefore, he took your mother away, so that you two can't meet face-to-face, let alone think of a way around it."

"My Dad is too arrogant. Since I was young, I've always felt that he was jealous of my brother and me. He wants my mother to belong to him alone. No one can snatch her away from him."

Jepherson kept a sombre face while Raeleigh laughed.

"Why are you laughing?" Jepherson asked.

"There'll always be tension between a father and his son. He loves you, but he is absolutely possessive of your mother. I understand that."

"What's there to understand?" Jepherson stood up and went to get a drink for himself as well. He smiled silently to himself. Raeleigh was one of a kind.

Raeleigh felt completely fine by the time afternoon rolled around. After she was discharged, the two went to a hotel. There, Raeleigh mulled over her drawings and finally made some changes. She immediately informed Lamarre as soon as she was done.

In Raeleigh's timezone, it was late at night, but it was only nine o'clock in the morning for Lamarre. Lamarre accepted the video call and examined the revised drawings which Raeleigh had sent to him. He seemed completely satisfied.

“Brilliant work. From today onwards, you will officially become my student. When you’re back, you can sign up here,” Lamarre said. Raeleigh looked at Jepherson. Jepherson got up and sat down beside her. Raeleigh had to hand over the phone to him.

“I will explain the details to you later on. Something has happened to Raeleigh and I won’t allow her to be rushed about from one place to another. I hope you’ll understand. The only thing she has now is this. I will hand it over to you. I will bring her back when her physical condition stabilizes.”

“No problem, but Raeleigh still has to report to me. I won’t rush her about. Don’t worry.”

Lamarre immediately hung up. Raeleigh had not anticipated Lamarre’s quirky temper.

After a long while, Raeleigh looked at Jepherson. Jepherson informed her, “Your achievements these past few years have been outstanding. There are too few independent creators. My mother and him are both the cream of the crop. He had mentioned that he wanted to transfer over, but my mother got the position first. In order to accompany me for a few more years, she personally guided me and brought me to work. Plus, I entered the workforce very Tristany, so he couldn’t get me anymore.”

“Your results are the best of all the recruits after me.”

“It’s normal for him to want to recruit you. When I brought you over here, he probably thought that my mother had snatched you away too. He was very worried.”

“You mean, Lamarre wants to have me as his student?” Raeleigh felt puzzled. Was it possible?

Jepherson laughed. “It’s normal. You just have to meet someone who understands and admires your talent. You’d still shine in this field without him, but he would be a fool not to recruit you. He could not accomplish greater things on his own.”

Lamarre won a lot of awards throughout his life. When it came to car designing, he would forget about food and even his family. He is crazy for it.”

“In the Tristany years, Deanna had wanted to be his student, but he rejected her. Deanna cried for a few days after the rejection.”

“He is evidently very strict about the students he would accept.”

“One of the reasons he was so eager to have you is because of your creation, Lanox. Another reason is because I’m interested in you and would personally guide you.”

“Lamarre is not a fool. He will cherish a diamond when he finds one.”

“Since I broke the rules and wanted to teach you myself, he realized that your talent needed a bigger platform. When signing into the company, there was a rule that if any designer liked a new student, as long as there was no formal mentorship, then they would be transferred to the designer’s care in order of seniority. Although I am the vice president with full rights to represent my father, the rules cannot be broken or else, the company members won’t stand for it.”

“Lamarre simply took advantage of that and made things difficult for you when you joined. But he needs talent like you, so you have nothing to worry about. Many people have dreamed of following in

Lamarre's footsteps. Take Deanna as an example. She even dreamed of having Lamarre as her mentor, but Lamarre didn't pander to the Atkinsons at all," Jepherson concluded.

"I don't think Deanna has the passion for this." Raeleigh spoke her mind.

Jepherson said with a smile, "Indeed."

Raeleigh looked over, waiting for Jepherson to continue. Jepherson took the prompt and went on. "Deanna liked fashion design since she was a child, but our family has been selling cars for generations. As we grew up together, she still likes me. She's actually working very hard, but I..."

Jepherson said no more. Raeleigh smiled. "It's because Deanna is just the right age for a younger sister. I guess that's why you can't leave her alone and you've treated her as your own sister from childhood. But Deanna was doing just fine with Zorion looking after her. Plus, Deanna wanted you to be her boyfriend. And one thing led to another."

"It did indeed." Jepherson laughed. Raeleigh knew everything.

A thought came to Raeleigh's mind. "Deanna's interested in Santiago now, did you know?"

"I do, but he can decide on his own. I don't want to meddle in his love life. Santiago wouldn't want a relationship like that."

Jepherson looked perfectly calm, and his gaze revealed a thousand expressions. Knowing that Jepherson understood all that was going on, Raeleigh dropped the subject there.

Chapter 1055

Raeleigh and Jepherson stayed abroad having fun for two more days. They finally flew back a week after they departed. Jepherson followed Raeleigh back to her house.

Novalie and Xanthus were chatting with each other while watching TV.

Novalie didn't like it when Xanthus visited, which he did every week. It was frankly annoying.

However, out of courtesy, she said nothing. Xanthus had said that it was volunteer work, so she could not very well demand for him to leave.

However, Novalie knew deep down that Xanthus had an ulterior motive behind his visits.

They were watching TV when Raeleigh and Jepherson entered the compound. The couple first saw a pair of leather shoes at the door and halted momentarily in their steps. Raeleigh turned around and glanced at Jepherson, asking, "A visitor?"

Jepherson naturally knew what Raeleigh was hinting at. He trailed behind her into the house and they changed into indoor slippers. As soon as they went in, they saw Xanthus sitting inside.

At the sight of Raeleigh, Xanthus stood up and greeted her. "You're back?"

Raeleigh froze for a moment and then went over to her grandmother. "Grandma, I didn't know you had a visitor."

“Ah, yes. Isn’t it the weekend? Dr. Osteen came to visit. He comes here every week. You were busy for a few weeks, so I didn’t have the chance to tell you. Scarlett was here yesterday. But she had something to do, so she’s already left.”

Novalie looked at her granddaughter and then at Jepherson.

Jepherson was carrying a lot of things. Seeing Novalie, he hurried over and set the items down in a corner. After that, he took off his coat and sat down with her, as if it was his own home.

“You’re so happy today. What’s the good news?” Novalie could read people’s emotions. She could tell as soon as she saw Jepherson that something was making him rejoice from the bottom of his heart.

“There’s something we have to tell you later.” As soon as Jepherson spoke, Raeleigh blushed. He was unbelievable. He didn’t have to spread the news that she was pregnant.

Raeleigh put her belongings down and stowed their luggage away properly. Then, she poured a glass of water for Xanthus.

“I’m very grateful for your frequent visits to my grandmother.” Raeleigh thanked him and sat down courteously. Xanthus sat opposite her and looked her up and down, and he then replied, “It’s what I should do. I often visit people. But most of them have other family members with them. But your grandmother stays alone in this house. I chat with her for a bit every time I visit. I have nowhere else to go anyway.”

Raeleigh nodded, and continued. “Last time, you asked me about the fire incident in the orphanage. I inquired about it for you. I heard that everyone died in that accident. I don’t know if that’s true or not. But a lot of children did die. It was tragic.”

What Raeleigh said took Xanthus aback. When Novalie glanced at Xanthus, she noted that his face seemed pale.

After a while, Xanthus said, “For so many years, my parents have always wanted to find my sister. If a fire really happened and everyone was burned to death, the least I can do is to find her corpse.”

Raeleigh frowned. He was looking for a corpse?

Xanthus was suddenly overcome with depressive emotions. He could not sit there any longer. Thus, he picked his belongings up and said as he got up, “Sorry, I’m not feeling too well. I’m leaving now. I’ll visit again when I’m free.”

After that, Xanthus immediately went to the door, put on his shoes, and left right away.

Raeleigh saw him off. She gazed outside for a long while and did not return until he drove far away into the distance.

When she returned to the living room, Jepherson was waiting at the door. Jepherson asked, “Is Xanthus also looking for his sister?”

Raeleigh looked at Jepherson. “He said that once. However, he seemed to have misunderstood and mistakenly regarded me as his sister.”

Raeleigh walked in and began preparing dinner. Jepherson felt that something was off. He went to Raeleigh's side and helped her clean as she prepared the ingredients. She was silent the whole time, but Jepherson did not let it slide. He started by asking, "How did he find you?"

"I don't really know. I met Xanthus when Zorion hurt his waist previously. After that, he told me that he was looking for his sister. He said that his sister was sent to an orphanage. He has been looking for her all these years and ended up here."

Raeleigh explained as she cooked. Jepherson asked her to leave the kitchen as he did not want her, a pregnant woman, to be exposed to the smoke. He cooked dinner all on his own.

Raeleigh could only go to the living room. Novalie asked when she saw Raeleigh coming out, "Are you two in a proper relationship now?"

Raeleigh thought it over and hesitantly said, "Grandma..."

"I'm listening."

"I..."

Raeleigh was also at a loss as to what to say. She could not help but to stutter when she spoke. Novalie, who had waited for her to continue for quite a long while, could not help but to grow anxious.

"What's wrong?" Novalie asked.

"I met his parents." Raeleigh wanted to tell Novalie that she was pregnant, but she couldn't. Novalie was thrown in a loop. Well, that wasn't so difficult to say. Was there any need to cover it up? There was definitely something more that Raeleigh wasn't telling her.

"You did?" Novalie smiled, her eyes narrowing into crescents.

"Yes, I did."

Raeleigh was blushing at that point, but she still did not blurt the whole truth out.

Novalie feigned ignorance and asked Raeleigh, "Did they get a good impression of you? Are they satisfied with you as their daughter-in-law?"

Raeleigh's face turned redder. "They don't hate me."

"Only that?" Novalie widened her eyes as Raeleigh continued. "His father is a tough man who keeps to his word. Although he is overbearing, it is obvious that he loves his wife very much. His mother, on the other hand, is very kind and smiley. She treats me well. There was a time when I passed out because I was not feeling well and she made me chicken soup. She has been asking about my well-being and when we'll get married."

"That's great!" Novalie was ecstatic. Although Jepherson's grandmother did not want grandchildren, Raeleigh's life would definitely be less stressful as his parents had approved of her.

Raeleigh's face was as red as a tomato. When Jepherson brought out the food, he noticed the scarlet hue of her cheeks. He asked in confusion, "Is it too hot?"

Raeleigh rolled her eyes. Leave it to him to let the cat almost out of the bag.

“Let’s eat.” Raeleigh got up hurriedly and strutted away fast. It startled Jepherson. Caught by surprise, his face was drained of color. “Be careful. Where are you going?”

Jepherson set down the food in his hand and walked over to Raeleigh. Raeleigh stopped with an awkward look on her face and quizzed, “What are you doing?”

“What do you mean?” Jepherson lowered his head. He held onto Raeleigh’s arm and stared at her belly. The scare had left him looking not too well.

Raeleigh pushed him away hurriedly. Then, Jepherson reminded her, “Be careful when you walk. Don’t let anything happen to her.”

Raeleigh didn’t say anything. She looked at her grandmother. Novalie knew very well what was going on. It was just as she had thought.

“Here, eat more.” As Raeleigh ate, Jepherson kept serving her more food. Raeleigh felt like he was making too big of a deal out of everything. She was merely pregnant. There were so many pregnant people around the world who got by just fine.

Novalie said nothing. She simply ate her meal opposite them. After she finished eating, Jepherson went to wash the dishes. He did not want to let Raeleigh work too hard. He alone took care of the house chores. In fact, he had also hired a caretaker in her thirties to take care of Raeleigh when he was not around.

Jepherson had also bought Raeleigh a house. The house was not far from her university, in a convenient and safe location. It was well-equipped with all the facilities one would need and its layout was comfortable. It was a two-storey house averaging more than 200 square meters on its first floor. There was a guest room and a study for Raeleigh to do her designing.

Raeleigh was opposed to it. That night, she voiced her issues to Jepherson. She didn’t want to rely on her child to get by in life. People would point fingers and say that she used her child to get to where she was.

“The house is not for you alone. It’s for our kid and your Grandma. Novalie is getting old. Plus, I don’t want Xanthus to come over all the time. Since you’re bearing my child, I can’t let you be wronged. I’m thinking about how to tell Novalie that you’re pregnant. I can’t bring you to Ink Garden right now. I wouldn’t be able to rest assured of your safety if you’re there.”

Jepherson knew that some things were out of his control. Anything could happen.

Raeleigh sat on the bed without saying a word. This was her room. The caretaker hired by Jepherson was named Serra. A loyal and honest woman, she had been taking care of Santiago’s family and was loyal to the Harvey family. Jepherson trusted her.

At that moment, Serra was chatting to Novalie outside of the room, as Raeleigh was telling Jepherson about her not wanting to move. She had initially wanted to argue with him, but he had brought up Xanthus, so Raeleigh remained silent.

Jepherson pulled Raeleigh over and sat down. He said earnestly, "This is our first child. I don't want anything bad to happen. A bigger house can accommodate a few more people. It won't cause any problems if you don't stay at the school dorms. You're only a little more than one month pregnant now. Time passes quickly. Your belly will begin to show, and then what are we to do?"

"Whew!" Raeleigh sighed.

"You're only nineteen years old, and you're having my child. We're still young, so I blame myself sometimes. I didn't think it over properly at first. I feel bad now."

Jepherson pinched Raeleigh's cheek, looking at her meaningfully. Raeleigh realized that sometimes, Jepherson could be extremely sullen. His melancholy could instantly take over him.

"If I move there now, then what's the status of the house? Will you give it to me?" Raeleigh ruminated for a long time, but Jepherson did not respond. "What do you mean?"

Raeleigh thought over it and said, "I don't need it. You have given me enough. If you give me money and property just because we're a couple, then I can't accept them. But I could consider it if it's a reward from the company."

"What's the difference?"

Jepherson raised his eyebrows. Was this her way of being financially independent?

Raeleigh said, "Of course it's different. If you're giving it to the child, then I won't accept it as long as the child isn't born yet. Love is a give and take process between equals. I don't want your grandmother to use this as ammunition against me. If it was a reward from the company, then I can design a car that can be immediately launched in return for it."

Jepherson frowned. "In such a short time, you're going to design a ready-to-sell car?"

"Since Lanox got me a car, if I create another series, it will naturally get me the house, right?"

"That makes sense."

Jepherson gritted his teeth. Raeleigh was a force to be reckoned with.

Raeleigh thought for a moment before she said, "You have seven days to prepare the house. The house must be placed under my name. I'll create a car from the Lanox series for you."

Jepherson grabbed Raeleigh gently and pulled her into his arms. He lowered his head and asked, "Is this necessary?"

"I want our child to know that she has both a great father and mother."

"Well, her mother feels much greater to me right now." Jepherson kissed Raeleigh and slowly deepened the kiss as he carried Raeleigh towards the bed. The two didn't step out of her room the entire night. Raeleigh woke up late at night. She lay on her side and let out a soft sigh.

"What's wrong?" Jepherson woke up and placed his arms over Raeleigh as he leaned his head on her shoulder. He couldn't bear sleeping in the same bed but not embracing her.

Raeleigh said, "I feel a little sad leaving this place. Besides, I have a lot of things here. I don't know if I can take them all with me."

"I can prepare a room for you to put all your stuff in."

"Isn't that just a showroom?" Raeleigh looked at Jepherson. In the darkness, he stared at her with furrowed eyebrows. "Well, do you want to put it all in your bedroom?"

"No, I just think it's a waste."

Jepherson did not say anything in reply. He simply held Raeleigh in his arms, waiting for her to fall asleep.

The next day, when Raeleigh woke up, she stared blankly at Jepherson, who was sleeping beside her. As she sat up, the quilt fell down on his waist, exposing his bare chest. Jepherson had one hand on his stomach, and the other on the bed. She observed him carefully. His eyelashes were thick and his facial features were stunning. He gave off a unique aura even while asleep.

Raeleigh leaned aside and let the sunshine from the window illuminate Jepherson. The beautiful sight of him sleeping soundly under the sunshine suddenly struck her with inspiration. Raeleigh turned around, took out a pen and piece of paper, sat down, and began drawing.

Jepherson slowly pried his eyes open and observed Raeleigh, trying not to disturb her. He never realized how attractive an inspired person looked.

Raeleigh put the final touches on her design after two hours. On the paper, there was a silver car with striking lines, portRhysing a feeling of wildness. The taillights of the car were prominent. Its lights shone like a rocket blasting into space. The paper was divided into two sections. At the bottom was a drawing of the car's layout. The main illustration was the sleek beauty of the car.

Raeleigh put down the pen, stood up, and looked around. She was shocked to see no one in the room.

Seeing that Jepherson was gone, Raeleigh went outside. Jepherson was talking to her grandmother in the living room. Raeleigh stopped at the door, looked at him, and asked, "When did you come out?"

Jepherson stood up, not looking too good. "From now on, you can't sit still there for two hours. It is not good for both you and the child."

After saying that, Jepherson went into Raeleigh's room. Blushing, she stared blankly at his retreating back for a moment. She didn't dare to look at her grandmother, so she hurriedly went into the room.

She didn't know what the problem was with Jepherson. When she entered the room, she found Jepherson staring at her illustration.

Chapter 1056

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Chapter 1057

Jepherson remained rooted to the spot. When he heard Raeleigh enter the room, he turned around to look at Raeleigh.

"What's wrong with you?" Raeleigh knew that he was a little angry, but since it was just a trivial matter of her sitting there for too long, he could have prompted her to get up at any time.

Jepherson seemed to have read Raeleigh's mind. Suddenly, he said, "I didn't dare to disturb you, in case you got startled."

With a sullen face, Jepherson seemed very much like a child at that moment. Raeleigh froze all of a sudden. Then, she smiled very happily. "The child is still young. She doesn't know anything. Look how scared you are."

Raeleigh walked over to Jepherson, who was still looking mad. "She's a little girl. You're a grown-up."

Jepherson held Raeleigh in his arms and leaned in to kiss her. Raeleigh resisted for a while and pushed him away, only to be met with a grim-looking Jepherson. She didn't quite understand. He wasn't really angry, so why did he have to act that way?

"Did you see the design?"

Raeleigh asked, pulling Jepherson over to have a look. He followed her to the desk to look at it.

Jepherson pointed at the paper and asked, "Do you know how much this design is worth?"

Raeleigh shook her head. She only designed cars. She had no idea about their market value.

Raeleigh lifted her chin to look Jepherson in the eye. He then told her. "Fifty million."

Raeleigh was shocked for a second. "Fifty million dollars?"

"That's right."

Raeleigh stopped talking and stared blankly at the drawing. Jepherson said, "This is a great design by international standards."

International?

Raeleigh looked up at Jepherson again. Wouldn't she then be a billionaire?

Without waiting for Raeleigh's reply, Jepherson continued. "You haven't named it."

Raeleigh gasped and stared at Jepherson. Gently, he tilted her chin upwards and nibbled at her lips. After that, he said, "I suddenly found out I didn't just strike gold, I got diamonds as well. If someone discovers your talent, then I won't be able to sleep knowing that they want to snatch you away at any given opportunity."

Raeleigh rolled her eyes. "You're talented as well. Why must you compliment me?"

"You and I are different. We don't have the same style in designing cars. You're better at catering to the public's taste. Your designs are s*xy. Mine are too rigid."

"Why don't you just say that your designs are for the elite?"

"No. You bring a tenderness which can make up for the rigidity of the designs. My designs only number a few dozen over the world. It isn't that profitable."

"So, you want to steal my talent?" Raeleigh looked at the drawing. Jepherson hugged her from behind and said, "This is a huge fortune that our child can inherit in the future."

Raeleigh looked at him with a smile. Hearing that made her happier.

Looking at her design, she murmured one word. "Duke."

Duke?

Jepherson was slightly taken aback. Raeleigh picked up her pencil and wrote the name 'Duke' on the corner of the paper.

"A duke is a noble. He is an army commander who is skilled in defence and offence, who conquered lands all across the world. The duke is a man of both the pen and the sword. He is elegant and dashing, skilled at martial arts, passionate and charming..." Raeleigh mused.

Jepherson held Raeleigh in his arms and did not speak. Was this what she thought of him?

Raeleigh put down the drawing and turned to look at Jepherson. "Promise me all the cars I designed will be credited to the name 'Arsel'. I like my privacy, and it saves you from having to worry about my identity being exposed too."

Jepherson frowned. "So many promises."

"You don't have to. I'll destroy the design right now."

As Raeleigh said that, she was about to turn away, but Jepherson tugged her back into his embrace and said, "Alright, I promise."

"Good."

Raeleigh became much more agreeable then. Jepherson asked her, "Why do you call yourself 'Arse'?' Is there any special reason?"

"Yes." Raeleigh replied with a smile, "When I was a child, I remember a boy named Arsel who helped me. It's in memory of his kindness to me."

When she brought up Arsel, Raeleigh's thoughts drifted to Belle, for some reason. She looked at Jepherson and queried, "Did you visit that orphanage when you were young?"

Jepherson thought for a moment and shook his head. "I heard that a fire happened, but I haven't been there."

Raeleigh nodded at his reply. She didn't pursue the line of questioning further because she reckoned that it couldn't have been him.

They turned around and put the design away. Then, they went searching for Novalie. Novalie was waiting for Raeleigh's explanation.

She couldn't feign ignorance forever.

Raeleigh went and sat down with Novalie. Serra brought out breakfast and set the table. Then, Raeleigh confessed to Novalie about her pregnancy while they ate. Jepherson had gone outside to allow Raeleigh to be more comfortable.

He returned as soon as she was done. By that time, Raeleigh's embarrassment had faded somewhat.

Novalie addressed Raeleigh. "Having a child is normal for a woman. What's there to be embarrassed about? Silly girl."

Raeleigh said nothing. Only then did Jepherson tell Novalie about Raeleigh's new house. Novalie remained quiet. She was fine with her current house, except for Xanthus' constant visits! She really didn't like him. He visited day in and day out. She couldn't help but to find him annoying.

It was great that she could move away. As for her current house, Novalie had a plan for it.

When Jepherson was not around, Novalie asked Raeleigh, "Did he give you that house?"

"No, I earned it. I gave him a car design, so in return, he gave me the house. It is mine. I'll stay there during my pregnancy."

Raeleigh was not afraid to say it out loud, because she had made profits for the Harvey Group in return.

Novalie pondered for a moment before she asked, "So, is the house under your name?"

"Yes."

"That's good. But after you give birth, you still have to accept his goodwill. Since you are a couple now, don't fret over the tiny things."

"I know, but we did not reveal our relationship to the public yet, so I can't accept free goods from him now. When the child is born and named, I'll be a little more open."

"Good girl." Novalie was relieved. After all, Raeleigh was bearing a child of the Harvey family. If she wanted a peaceful life, then she had to get along with Jepherson.

After Raeleigh clarified everything to her grandmother, they got up and went outside. Jepherson's car was stopped there. Raeleigh and Novalie got in the car together, ready to go to the new house that Jepherson had acquired.

All the way there, Raeleigh had been holding onto Novalie's hands. Even though she did not wish to move away, this was for Jepherson's sake. She could not just drag Jepherson down because of her stubbornness.

It was his child too. He had the right to provide his child a better life.

When the car arrived at the house, Raeleigh and Novalie got off. Novalie looked at the beautiful house ahead of her. Serra was already waiting at the door. Scarlett and Hadrian were also standing outside. Santiago's car was parked at the entrance, meaning he was also there.

When Raeleigh saw them, she thought to herself that her lonely days were over.

Chapter 1058

Raeleigh helped Novalie settle down, and afterwards, she went back to their previous residence to pack up their belongings. She brought everything she could take with her. Their old house had not always been Raeleigh's, as it used to be rented from a landlord.

Jepherson instructed Raeleigh to bring her personal belongings while Scarlett accompanied her. Raeleigh was not allowed to do anything else. Scarlett found it strange when she looked at Raeleigh. Although Raeleigh's pregnancy was expected, she had not anticipated that it would have come that fast.

Scarlett thought that it was all too much. If Raeleigh had a child at such a young age, then what would her future look like?

"Raeleigh, are you sure you want to give birth to Mr. Jepherson's child?" When everyone else was walking ahead of them, Scarlett held onto Raeleigh's arm and asked her that. Raeleigh replied, amused, "What do you mean?"

"What else do I mean? You're so young. If you really have a child now, then you will have to take care of it and work at the same time. Are you going to give up on your job and have Mr. Jepherson financially support you?"

"Of course not. I'll save up enough before the child is born. I'll be able to support my child on my own. After I give birth to the child, Jepherson will supply the necessities like formula milk. I can crank out one or two designs per year and it'll be fine. Getting by in my daily life won't be a problem. As for my future, I've made my decision."

"Raeleigh, why don't you just settle down and have a comfortable life? Why are you working so hard? I've told Hadrian that I'll marry him if he can financially support us."

A disappointed Scarlett grumbled that Hadrian always ignored her when she said that.

Smiling, Raeleigh said, "Well, that's that. Why don't you just go for it?"

"It's all because of Hadrian. He ignores me," Scarlett muttered helplessly.

"That's all the more reason you shouldn't rely completely on him. I think Hadrian is a good guy who will persist in a relationship. He definitely has his own view on the matter. The main thing is you." Raeleigh looked at Scarlett, who stared back at her blankly. "What about me?"

"What are your true thoughts? What do you want? Do you want to be with Hadrian or do you just want the status?"

"Are you kidding me? Who doesn't want status? Of course, I truly want to be with Hadrian too. He slept with me, so he has to take responsibility for that."

Hearing Scarlett's reply, Raeleigh said, "It depends on the circumstances. Relationships are complicated. You say that Hadrian should take responsibility for you since you guys have slept together, but Hadrian may have regarded it as your fault that he does not need to be responsible for. Didn't you say that it was you who came onto him?"

At Raeleigh's question, Scarlett looked offended. "Even so, I paid the price. He didn't reject me, but now, he turns me down. Can you blame me?"

Raeleigh could not help laughing. "The process of love doesn't matter. What's most important is that you love each other in the end, no matter what you did, whether it's you who made the first move, or Hadrian, who has feelings for you. But you'll only make him uncomfortable if you act this way."

"So, you're saying that it's my fault." Scarlett stared at Raeleigh with her lips pursed. Raeleigh retorted, "What else could it be? When it comes to love, men love the chase. Your plan backfired. Now, he's gotten lazy. Do you understand?"

"No, I don't." Scarlett turned her face away, not wanting to continue the conversation. What else was there to say? It was all her fault.

After Scarlett left, Raeleigh turned back to look at the home where she had lived for many years. They lived there for at least six years. With that amount of time, it was natural that she had developed some affection for the place. A lingering nostalgia made Raeleigh reluctant to leave.

Raeleigh stood there for a while, with her eyes wandering around.

She had never thought of leaving that house. If it weren't for the fact that she was pregnant or Xanthus' constant visits, then she wouldn't have left.

But as things were, Raeleigh had no choice but to leave this place.

After standing there for a while, Raeleigh got in the car. Jepherson was sitting inside, with Santiago in the driver's seat. The other staff members sat in their respective positions. When she got into the car, Raeleigh glanced outside with a reluctant look on her face. If she had the choice, then she would not leave, but the choice was not hers to make.

The car started and was driven away. Raeleigh leaned against the seat. Jepherson reached out to pull her into his arms, patting her on the back lightly. "If you want, then we can come back here after renovations are done."

Raeleigh looked up at Jepherson and said bluntly, "It'd be a different house by then."

Jepherson did not reply. What Raeleigh said had a reason for it. After the renovations, it would be different. It wouldn't be what Raeleigh wanted anymore.

Neither of them spoke further during the ride. Drowsiness overcame Raeleigh. It was a lethargic sort of sleepiness. She fell asleep soon after in Jepherson's arms. Jepherson had initially intended to bring her to A City in his search, but after seeing her tiredness, he could not bear to do so.

When they arrived at the new residence, Jepherson got out of the car first. Raeleigh woke up and followed behind him. However, Jepherson didn't head into the house. Instead, he said to Santiago, who was walking towards him, "Take care of your sister-in-law. There are two lives in her body now. Be more cautious."

"I understand. You can leave." Santiago stopped in his tracks and slid his hands into his pockets. He was the mercurial type, as wild as the wind.

Raeleigh looked at Jepherson. "Are you heading out?"

"Yes, I was going to take you there, but in your current condition, I think it's best if you stay here. Rest well. I'll be back in a few days," Jepherson replied.

He glanced into the house and Raeleigh asked, "Is it about that matter?"

"Yes, I'll go over and have a look. Based on your hypothesis, it's possible that that person is in A City. I'll visit Grandpa along the way." Jepherson had some spare time on his hands anyway.

"You're visiting Grandpa?" Santiago was dying to see him.

"Yeah."

"I want to go too," Santiago butted in, but Jepherson insisted, "Stay here. I don't want to see you arguing with him."

Raeleigh thought that it was quite amusing. It sounded as though Santiago was raring for a fight.

"Okay, fine, you go." With that, Santiago went inside the villa. Raeleigh gave Jepherson one more look and said, "Take care."

"I will."

After kissing Raeleigh, Jepherson got into the car.

It was not until Jepherson had left that Raeleigh remembered the list that she had taken that time.

At the villa, Raeleigh arranged things in their places rudimentarily and took the list out. She examined the names on it carefully. It wasn't a blank piece of paper, after all. If she looked carefully, then she would definitely find something.

She might be able to crack the case.

Raeleigh was fatigued that day, so she soon put the list away to take a nap. She woke up in the evening and had dinner. After that, she wanted to head out.

Santiago asked Raeleigh, "Do you want to buy something?"

It was a new house, so there would certainly be things that Raeleigh wanted to buy. Scarlett had helped Raeleigh to pack her things, yet there were many items that haven't found their proper place.

There had to be a reason as to why she hadn't finished packing.

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Raeleigh claimed that she wanted to buy something, but she didn't specify what exactly. Then, she said that she wanted to go out for a walk and didn't want a crowd following her.

Standing aside, Scarlett said with a long face, "You don't want us to follow you, do you?"

That was what Scarlett felt. Her frown intensified.

"Didn't you say that you wanted to live here instead of our dorm? Since you're not going to live in the dorm anymore, you should go back and pack your things. Otherwise, how are you going to move in?" Raeleigh asked. Scarlett suddenly realized that there was logic in what Raeleigh was saying. Scarlett huffed. "You're actually right. I'll head back to school. Serra, please take care of Novalie. Hadrian, come with me. There are too many things to bring over. I can't handle them alone."

Scarlett walked out as soon as she finished speaking. After they were gone, Raeleigh went out with Santiago.

In the car, Santiago asked, "How far along are you?"

From the back seat, it took Raeleigh a while to react. Santiago was asking about her pregnancy.

"Five weeks." Raeleigh was not sure about the specific date, as it was an estimate given by the doctor. If her memory was correct, then it was indeed five weeks ago when she had slept with Jepherson.

"That quickly? Are you sure?" Santiago was curious about the baby. Raeleigh was embarrassed. As the child's uncle, he didn't have to ask all that in detail.

But Raeleigh considered that Santiago was young. He was just curious.

"I don't know," Raeleigh replied. Since it was dark, she couldn't see the pedestrians' faces clearly as the car whizzed by the street. Raeleigh felt her face flush red. She was tempted to get out of the car from the awkwardness of it all.

"Wanna listen to a song?" Santiago asked. Raeleigh thought it over and nodded. "Sure."

Santiago fidgeted around the dashboard and found a playlist. Raeleigh frowned. She couldn't figure out the era of the song that was currently being played.

"What song is this?" Raeleigh couldn't help asking. Santiago answered, "If There's Still Tomorrow."

Raeleigh remained silent. Why was the song titled that way?

They listened to that one song on repeat. Raeleigh leaned against the seat, with lethargy overtaking her once more. When the car finally stopped, Raeleigh was about to fall asleep.

She exited the car and looked around, confirming that it was the former site of the orphanage. Raeleigh took a look around and went to a burger place nearby. She announced that she wanted to eat something, and she then headed inside.

“Supper?” As Raeleigh stepped into the restaurant, a young man approached her. Raeleigh smiled and peeked inside. There were a lot of customers in the restaurant eating away. Raeleigh found a seat and settled in.

“Can we have two burgers, please?”

Raeleigh asked. The host immediately asked with a smile, “Do you want it normal or spicy?”

“Normal would do.”

“No spice.” Santiago pulled out a chair and sat down, informing the host. Raeleigh glanced at the host and said, “Yes, just like what he said.”

“Okay, please wait a moment.” The host retreated to the kitchen. Raeleigh looked at Santiago and asked, “Can’t you eat spicy food?”

“Pregnant women should not consume too much spicy food,” Santiago said. Raeleigh thought about it, and she then retorted, “Well, they say that if you crave spicy food, then your child will be a girl.”

“Not necessarily,” Santiago suddenly said. Raeleigh checked if there was anyone around before she asked, “Why?”

“There are no daughters in the Harvey family.” Santiago was certain.

Raeleigh asked in confusion, “You know that your brother has been looking for someone, right?”

Santiago glanced at Raeleigh. “I know.”

“Then, how do you know it’s not a girl?”

“I just know.”

...

Raeleigh was floored. She couldn’t say anything in reply to Santiago.

After eating for a while, Raeleigh noticed that almost all the patrons had left. She then asked the host, “When was this restaurant built?”

Raeleigh was presently nineteen years old. She was ten years old when the orphanage had burned down. It would have taken around seven years for the restaurant to be constructed and become a staple of the area. The people there would most likely know something. What did they know?

The host replied, “Six years. I’ll be frank with you, I bought properties here, so everything’s cheap.”

“Is that so?” Raeleigh smiled. “Then, you’re probably not that old. How old are you?”

“I’m thirty-six. When I first came here, it was still in ruins. I bought houses here because it was dirt cheap. Who knew that the housing prices would begin skyrocketing in a few years. Rent here is a few hundred dollars per day. The properties here are definitely profitable.”

“Do you have many properties?” Raeleigh asked, giving off the impression that she was envious of him. Opposite her, Santiago was full from the supper. He wiped his mouth and looked at the host with his legs crossed. The host explained, “My sister and I bought the property here, actually. She died in a car accident, so it became mine. For many years, I didn’t think about making money. I just wanted a quiet life. I didn’t expect to make this much money. Even if I wasn’t planning on it, I still made a lot of money here.”

While explaining, the host took a chair and settled himself down opposite Raeleigh. Raeleigh found him to be a pleasant person and began chatting with him.

“Your sister is looking after you from heaven, isn’t she?”

“I’ve always thought so, so I don’t intend to sell my property here. A lot of people want to buy the properties here...”

The host took out a pack of cigarettes, setting the scene to bring up a sad story. Santiago interrupted, “You can’t smoke here.”

“The ‘no smoking’ signs are just there for decoration.” The host lit a cigarette, and Santiago immediately lunged to slap away his hand. Raeleigh pulled Santiago’s arm, silencing him.

However, Santiago definitely looked stormy. She could already tell that he was getting impatient.

The host lit the cigarette and took a puff. He asked Santiago, “Do you want one?”

“No.” Santiago looked away. He did not want to look at the scene.

Raeleigh knew that Santiago disliked people smoking when she was around because of her pregnancy.

However, there were exceptions to everything.

Raeleigh was not going to let this golden opportunity slip past her.

The host took a few puffs off the cigarette and continued. “My sister didn’t agree to buy the place with me initially. It was cheap, and too good to be true in fact. However, if we didn’t buy it, then we would soon regret it. We were not rich enough to afford such a place, so we couldn’t miss that chance. But in the end, my sister worked very hard to get this house here. I was enamored by this place. I would have argued with my sister if she didn’t agree to buy it. There were only us two siblings. My parents divorced Tristany on. My sister went with my mother. My father was a drunkard who died Tristany and left me some money. To take care of me, my sister gave up the opportunity to go abroad and divorced her ex-husband.”

“I didn’t want my sister to suffer. I wanted to find a place where I could make money, so I bought the properties here.”

“At first, it was tough. My sister never hated me for making this decision. She always said that it was just the beginning, just a matter of time.”

“Then...”

“Slowly, the business got better, but she died in a car accident and left me here alone.”

“When my sister passed away, I couldn’t sleep for months. I was so dispirited and often thought of what she said. She told me that this place was bad luck because of the fire that happened here which killed many people. The prices wouldn’t have been so cheap otherwise. But I didn’t listen. I did what I wanted out of my own selfishness. I told her that wealth comes from taking risks. It was foolish to assume we couldn’t make money because of a few people’s deaths. I even said that people died everywhere in the world. I ruined my sister’s life.”

The host spoke with tears in his eyes. He then brought his sleeves to his eyes, wiping away his tears. Raeleigh shot a glance at Santiago. He had a brother, so he must have sympathized with those feelings, his guilt, and longing for his loved ones.

Raeleigh took a tissue and handed it to the host, who accepted it and continued dabbing at his eyes. He cursed himself. “I’m inhumane.”

Raeleigh did not respond. The host gave his eyes one last wipe and said, “If I were to get a second chance, then I’ll always be a good little brother to my sister. I’ll never disobey her.”

Raeleigh said, smiling, “If I were your sister, then I would want that too.”

“Really?”

Raeleigh nodded. The host then proceeded with a bitter smile. “After my sister’s death, this place developed rapidly. In a few years, it was comparable to Capital City.”

“Many people want the properties here. I have never inquired about the price, but it must be worth a lot of money.”

“However, money is not important to me. I would give up everything for my sister to come back alive.”

Then, the host drew a final puff of his cigarette and told Raeleigh, “I don’t usually just tell this to everyone, but I don’t know why, but you remind me of my sister. That’s what I wanted to tell you.”

“The food is on me tonight.”

Santiago glanced at the other party with a hint of impatience in his gaze.

Smiling politely, Raeleigh said, “No, that’s fine.”

“It’s nothing. I can afford it. If you like the food, then you can come here as often as you like. I’ll cook it for you. My sister liked the type of food we serve here too.”

“Thank you. I’ll bring along some friends in the near future.”

“If it’s someone you’ve introduced, then I’ll give them a discount. They can even eat for free.”

“Let’s go now. Didn’t you say you want to buy something?” Santiago stood up and strode outside. Seeing Santiago leave, Raeleigh shouted after him. “Wait for me.”

Santiago turned around and sat down at a table near the entrance, waiting.

Raeleigh turned back to focus on the host and explained, “I hope you don’t mind my brother. He has a bad temper.”

“Your brother?” The host shot a casual look at Santiago. “I assumed he was your boyfriend.”

“No, he’s my brother, Santiago,” Raeleigh hurriedly clarified. She followed it up with, “I want to consult you on something.”

“What is it? Just say it. Since it’s fate that brought us together, I will tell you everything I know,” agreed the host readily. Raeleigh peeked at Santiago.

“I want to ask you a little about that incident that happened here before. You said it was a fire. You were in the area at the time, right?”

The host thought for a moment before he nodded in response to Raeleigh’s question.

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The host had mentioned that due to the deaths at the orphanage, no one wanted to buy property in the area.

Therefore, he managed to acquire it for an extremely cheap price.

Raeleigh chose her words carefully and asked, “That means you lived near the orphanage?”

“No, but I know someone who did. I can introduce you to them,” he replied. His answer caught Raeleigh off guard. She repeated, “You said that you know someone who lived nearby?”

“Yes, I know him. From what he’s told me, he lives near here and he was well-acquainted with the orphanage. He occasionally comes here for a meal and talks to me. Once, he got drunk and started talking about the incident at the orphanage.”

“I thought it was inappropriate to ask for further details. Personally, the fire seems fishy to me, so I didn’t mention it to anyone. But you seem like a good person, so if you want to see him, then I can introduce you to him. But I must warn you that he is a very strange person. He doesn’t talk to people, and he has no friends.”

“Well, I really want to meet him,” Raeleigh chimed in. The host added, “In fact, someone came to inquire about these things a while ago, but I did not tell them anything. I thought it would be better if I just let it go.”

“A man came to me and said that he wanted to know something about the orphanage. He asked me if I knew anything, but I lied and told him that I only came here recently, so I had no idea. He left afterwards.”

Raeleigh ruminated over it. It must have been Xanthus. Contrary to her expectations, he had not given up on pursuing the matter.

Raeleigh sat for a while, recalling the names and contact information on the list. She confirmed that there had been children sent to the orphanage. Unfortunately, she was too young to remember where these children came from. If she had remembered, then she might have an idea of the children's backgrounds.

As the saying went, no news was good news. Jepherson would not be searching in vain.

Raeleigh agreed on a subsequent meeting with the host. After thanking him, she made a beeline for the door.

When she reached the entrance, Santiago stood up. He glanced at the host inside the burger joint and left with Raeleigh. They went to the supermarket for a quick shop and then headed to the car to return back home.

It was eleven o'clock by the time they got home. Time had passed quickly.

Raeleigh called Jepherson and asked him where he was. Jepherson replied that he had already reached his destination and was on the way back, in his car.

"Why haven't you gone to bed?" Jepherson questioned. Raeleigh lied and told him that she was busy tidying up the house. The reply she got from Jepherson was, "Rest. Don't mess up your sleep schedule. It's not good for the child's health."

"I know. You should rest Tristany too when you get home. Call me tomorrow if you find anything."

"Okay."

After they chatted for a while, Raeleigh hung up.

There were still a lot of things strewn around on the floor. Raeleigh was tired. Since there was nothing urgent for her to do tomorrow, she did not put them away. She looked at Santiago, who was lounging around downstairs, and told him, "Let's retire for the day."

Santiago stood up and went upstairs, and so did Raeleigh. Raeleigh had thought that Scarlett was not back yet, but Scarlett was actually clearing up the mess downstairs. When she saw Raeleigh, Scarlett said, "You're back, Raeleigh?"

Raeleigh stopped and looked at Scarlett. Seeing that Scarlett was in her sleepwear, Raeleigh said, "I'm going to bed. I'll handle things tomorrow."

"Go." Scarlett hadn't finished unpacking. She planned to rest only when she was done.

Raeleigh went back to her room, took a shower, and went to bed. When she woke up the next morning, she went to see Novalie, who complained that she hadn't had a good rest since she got to the villa. Hopefully, that would change, the day after.

Raeleigh had breakfast with Novalie and followed Santiago to college afterwards. After class, Raeleigh left without waiting for Santiago.

It was not that she didn't like Santiago following her. She just didn't want Santiago to find out about the past.

Raeleigh called a cab and went to the burger joint. Raeleigh had made a phone call to Scarlett on the way there, to inform her that she had gone out to shop and would be returning late. Scarlett asked Raeleigh what she wanted to buy and why she was alone. Raeleigh dodged her questions and ended the call before walking into the restaurant. When she entered, she saw the host, who was dressed differently that day.

"You're here!" The host was dressed in casual clothes and looked like a tourist. Raeleigh nodded. The two exited the restaurant and hopped into his car to pay the mystery man a visit.

When they arrived at his residence, Raeleigh was first of all taken by surprise. It was a very remote place, but the place gave her a sense of *deja vu*.

Raeleigh stood there for a while after getting out of the car. If her memory did not fail her, it was the exact layout of the orphanage. How could that be?

"Come on, let's go in. He has lived here for a long time. I heard that his child built the house for him and he's lived here ever since," the host informed Raeleigh.

Raeleigh said nothing and obediently followed the host to the yard. The host spoke again. "I've been here twice. Everyone says that he is crazy, but I don't know the reason. I've never met his children either."

At the door, the host gave a couple of knocks. There was no response even after they waited quite a long while. The host exchanged glances with Raeleigh before pushing the door open.

A musty smell wafted out from the inside. The host walked ahead while waving his hand around to get the dust out of their faces. Raeleigh traipsed behind him and peered inside.

A strange feeling struck Raeleigh when they entered the place. Not only was the exterior similar to the orphanage, the interior also looked the same.

The bed and table inside were built the exact same way as the ones in the orphanage.

As Raeleigh walked inside, two rats dashed across in front of her. She stood still. This had been a childhood nightmare of hers. Though she was not scared anymore, her heart could not help but to beat faster when she suddenly saw the rats.

"It's okay." The host had seen the mice too and immediately calmed Raeleigh down. Raeleigh nodded as she looked inside a room. She clarified, "I'm not afraid of rats, it's just that they spooked me with how suddenly they appeared."

"Most women would be afraid." The host laughed.

Raeleigh kept her words to a minimum. Upon peering into the room, she saw that there seemed to be a person lying under the bed. The person moved a little.

Raeleigh bent down and pointed at the man under the bed. "There is a man down there."

"A man?" The host hurried over and bent down to look under the bed. There was indeed a man under the bed.

“Who is it?” the host asked, and the man under the bed shrank further inside. A few mice ran out in a blink of an eye, but the man did not come out.

A thought immediately crossed Raeleigh’s mind. She addressed the man. “You can’t come out, can you?”

The host looked at Raeleigh, who then went to move the bed aside. The bed was made of wood. The rats had not nibbled at it, but they were squeaking incessantly. Raeleigh was about to help, but she was stopped by the host, who told her, “Don’t come over. I can do it by myself.”

After saying that, the host pushed the bed away with all his strength.

When Raeleigh looked at the man, she found that half of the man’s face was rotting. Most parts of the man’s body were covered with rat bites.

Upon closer inspection, the man was trembling. It was clear that he was unconscious.