

Go After 1101

Chapter 1101

When Hadrian realized that Scarlett's legs had given out, he bent down and gathered her in his arms. He carried her into the cabin and placed her down before leaving.

Following that, Raeleigh went into the cabin to check on Scarlett. The moment she entered, she heard Scarlett cursing Hadrian. She sounded furious. Raeleigh stood at the door helplessly as she watched Scarlett.

Some people just did not know how lucky they were! How wonderful it was to be able to be with someone they loved. Scarlett just did not know how to appreciate it.

"Raeleigh, what are you doing here? Weren't you out on the deck with Jepherson?" Scarlett immediately asked when she saw Raeleigh. Her anger slowly dissipated as she walked towards Raeleigh.

"I came to check on you. If you're fine, then I'll go back to him. You don't look too good, so I think you should get some rest," Raeleigh said and turned to leave. Scarlett trailed along behind her, asking Raeleigh as she walked, "Raeleigh, you've been acting very strange lately. Much stranger than Mr. Santiago, you know?"

Raeleigh evaded the purpose of the question and asked instead, "What's up with Santiago?"

"He said he's planning to get engaged to Cynthia. He claims that they will be wedded in the future. I can't accept this, at all. Do you get me?" Scarlett was fuming.

Raeleigh stopped in her tracks when she heard what Scarlett had to say. She turned around to meet Scarlett's gaze and continued, "Wait, are you saying that Santiago wants to get together with Cynthia?"

"He doesn't just want to! They're already a couple. He wants to get engaged to her. Do you understand?" Scarlett remained puzzled even after she had given the matter a lot of thought. Why did it turn out that way? Why did Santiago want to marry Cynthia? Was it out of love?

Although Cynthia turned out to be a real beauty after Santiago gave her a total makeover, and had a pleasant personality, that could not be the sole reason.

Scarlett thought of Santiago as truly wicked. He just had to go after someone whom he absolutely shouldn't have.

"I had no idea about that, but Santiago is old enough to decide what he wants. Why are you so worried?" Raeleigh eyed Scarlett. It struck her suddenly that she would not be able to see Scarlett anymore in the future. Raeleigh thought to herself that she would never be able to find a best friend like her again.

"Let's go," Raeleigh said as she went outside. Scarlett kept on grumbling to Raeleigh as they walked.

Raeleigh listened on till her eardrums were about to burst.

When they arrived on the deck, Raeleigh saw Jepherson leaning against the railing and walked over to him. Knowing that she did not have much time left with him, she wanted to spend every possible minute

with him. She hoped that it would allow him to understand her better. Moreover, she wanted them to spend as much time as possible together as a family. Just him, her, and their child.

“How could you do this to me? I’m not done yet,” Scarlett complained. She was dissatisfied as Raeleigh had walked over to Jepherson and pretended not to hear her.

Jepherson hugged Raeleigh and gave her a kiss. “You’re back?”

“Yes, have you been waiting for me all this while?” Raeleigh responded.

“Of course, who else would I be waiting for?” Jepherson teased. Raeleigh had nothing to say to that. She could only lean into his arms.

After ensuring that Scarlett was out of earshot, Raeleigh told Jepherson what they had talked about. She asked him whether he knew that Santiago was planning to get engaged to Cynthia.

Jepherson’s first reaction was silence. Raeleigh observed his calm, neutral, and handsome features framed by the sea breeze. Raeleigh did not know what to say, but she knew that Jepherson did not care about fame and fortune. Although he was still young, he had already regarded money as a mere worldly possession. As for why he needed to do what he did to climb to power, maybe it was just so he could make a spot for himself in the world to rest.

Jepherson broke the silence by saying, “You don’t understand Santiago. He is a very emotional person. Although he looks as cold as my father, he has my mother’s soft heart. He cannot bear to see anyone who treats him well get hurt, regardless of who the person is.”

“As long as they are just a little good to him, he would walk through fire and cross oceans for them. That’s the kind of person he is.”

“He might seem frivolous, but he has a heart of gold. You and I can’t compare to him.”

“Initially, I intended to take advantage of Cynthia. I was the one who asked him to approach her. The plan was not to hurt her from the beginning. However, I did not anticipate what a kind person Cynthia was.”

“Both of them are kind at heart, so it’s natural for them to be attracted to each other. Their relationship was something I did not foresee at first.”

“But they should take things slow. As for what Santiago wants to do, I’m still going to say the same thing again. It’s up to him to decide,” Jepherson said.

“I realize that you’re very rational as an elder brother.” Raeleigh poked fun at Jepherson. Jepherson turned around, still holding her. The sea breeze was gently caressing their faces. He smiled. “There are some feelings that you’ll never doubt, some paths which you never question. When you start on such a path, you just know whether you should continue down that road or not. You don’t need anyone to understand why, as long as you have a clear conscience about it.”

Jepherson wrapped an arm around Raeleigh’s waist, and Raeleigh reciprocated his gesture. They walked on the deck for a while. When Raeleigh began to feel like she needed a rest, Jepherson immediately went with her to the cabin for a good rest.

As soon as Raeleigh lay down, she began asking about Scarlett and Hadrian out of simple curiosity. She started out by casually mentioning it. To her surprise, Jepherson had known about it all along. It really shocked her.

“How is it that you even know about this?” Raeleigh asked, lying flat on the bed. Jepherson had one arm over her head. He looked down at Raeleigh and quipped, “How could I not know about this?”

“You sly man. I’ve always thought that you were a self-righteous person who wouldn’t stoop to the level of doing what most ordinary people do. Plus, I think Hadrian’s older than you. They say we should learn from our elders, but you, on the other hand, don’t care about that when it comes to Hadrian.”

Raeleigh feigned seriousness. A discerning smile appeared on Jepherson’s lips. “I see what I see, I know what I know. It’s not that I don’t respect Hadrian and was spying on him. It’s normal for a guy to love a girl. I just so happened to see them together. What do you want me to do about it? Do you want me to shut my eyes and ears when something happens so I won’t know about it?”

Jepherson laughed as he played with Raeleigh’s hair. He noticed that her hair was gradually getting healthier. Maybe it was because she was pregnant.

“Then, what do you know?”

“Why, look at you! Aren’t you curious?”

“People are curious creatures by nature. I’m no different.”

“In that case, let me tell you.” Jepherson leaned on his side and thought it over, before saying, “They are childhood friends, but Hadrian is the old-fashioned sort. He doesn’t like women who make the first move. He does have feelings for Scarlett, but he’s at a loss because she was the one that made the first move on him. And so, things have just hit a roadblock until now. Hadrian is just one year older than me. He’s not very old. On the other hand, Scarlett is nineteen, so she’s still a child to him. That’s why...”

While listening to Jepherson ramble on, Raeleigh’s eyes closed. She held Jepherson’s hand in hers, wrapping her other arm around his waist. Soon, she turned around and fell asleep.

When Jepherson saw that Raeleigh was asleep, he raised his hand and stroked her hair. It must have been hard on her recently. He had no idea when the burden resting on her shoulders would be lifted off.

Jepherson let out a soft sigh. He lowered his head and kissed Raeleigh’s pale face. Her complexion was lacklustre as she had been downcast those days.

Chapter 1102

By the time Raeleigh woke up, they had arrived at their designated fishing spot. When she opened her eyes, she was met with the sight of Jepherson sleeping. However, as she stirred in his arms, he, too, woke up. Raeleigh told him, “Sleep a little longer.”

“It’s already dark outside. We haven’t had anything to eat for the entire day. Let’s go out and grab some food,” Jepherson replied, getting up and stretching as he did so. He then led Raeleigh out onto the deck. The sea breeze was a little cold at night. So, he took out a thick coat and helped Raeleigh put it on before leaving the room.

Hadrian had already prepared their meals. They were to have dinner on the deck.

When Raeleigh went onto the deck, she noticed that a grill had been lit and all sorts of food were laid out for them. Scarlett beckoned to Raeleigh to take the empty seat beside her when she spotted her. Jepherson sat down too. They began grilling their food. Opposite him, Santiago was already seated, dressed in a white T-shirt. Raeleigh had been wondering if he was still intent on going shirtless in the cold night. Well, he wasn't.

Cynthia kept her head lowered, feeling a little shy. However, she was a quick learner, and soon, cooked some skewers for them under Santiago's guidance.

Although she was from a rich family, Cynthia was amiable and approachable. To Raeleigh, that was a valuable trait.

Santiago was in charge of the grill. An enticing smell soon wafted through the air. Jepherson took a slice of brisket for Raeleigh. However, Raeleigh had no appetite. Noticing that everyone found that the cod was particularly delicious, Jepherson gave Raeleigh a piece of cod instead, which Raeleigh then began to eat. While eating, a thought suddenly occurred to her and she asked, "Where's Stuart?"

"Raeleigh's Grandma has some matters to attend to, so she needs someone to help her with that. Stuart is back home helping her out. You won't be seeing him for the next few days," Santiago replied. He ate heartily while drinking beer, seemingly content. Cynthia sat beside him, not saying a word, as if she was non-existent.

Raeleigh looked around at the people on the yacht. If it wasn't fate that they were able to gather here together, then what was it?

Raeleigh ate for a while more. When she had her fill, she got up. At that juncture, Scarlett suggested that they should play some poker. She even assured them that she had come prepared. The group exchanged glances with each other. It was a long night and they had nothing to do, so they agreed.

Raeleigh already knew how to play. Naturally, Scarlett did as well. The only person they potentially had to worry about was Cynthia.

"Do you know how to play?" Santiago asked Cynthia. Cynthia thought about it and replied, "I played Caribbean stud poker while I was abroad."

"Wow!" Santiago erupted in laughter all of a sudden. "Look at her! She knows stud poker. I don't even know how to play that."

Santiago's words caused Cynthia's face to flush immediately.

Raeleigh said with a smile, "I've just learnt how to play that."

"Then, stud poker it is. The three of us will play while the girls back us up," Santiago decided. Raeleigh glanced at Jepherson, who said, "Sure."

They then cleaned up before making their way back to the table. The six of them sat down and began to play. They stayed up and played all night. Hadrian lost overall. Santiago won, whereas Jepherson remained neutral.

At the break of dawn, Scarlett chided Hadrian for losing.

Raeleigh had fallen asleep in the middle of the night, leaning against the couch. By the time they finished playing, the sun was beginning to rise. Jepherson picked Raeleigh up and carried her back to their cabin.

They all slept the entire morning. By the time they woke up, it was already afternoon. They prepared the fishing equipment, ready to go fishing.

Raeleigh stood at the bow with Cynthia. Cynthia was worried for Santiago's safety, but she didn't dare to voice her concerns, for fear that she would cause Santiago to be paranoid. Taking a good look at Cynthia, Raeleigh had the feeling that she had misunderstood her all the while before.

Raeleigh gazed at the ocean. Scarlett initially wanted to fish as well, but chose to stay on the boat after Santiago told her something.

The ladies watched as the men got onto a motorboat each and began casting a net.

The motorboats were speedy. Raeleigh, Scarlett, and Cynthia basically could not see anything at all through the splashing caused by the motorboats cutting through the water. It was the first time Raeleigh had seen anyone fish. On the other hand, Scarlett was raring to join the men, but she could not. She began pacing back and forth on the yacht. Cynthia was indifferent to everything else. All her attention was focused on Santiago.

The three motorboats circled rapidly over the sea, and finally halted in separate areas. After they had waited for a while, their net seemed to have caught something. The men made their way back to the net and towed it along through the water for a distance of roughly twenty metres. Jepherson tugged at the rope attached to the net, tightening it. When the net was fully tightened, Jepherson swiftly pulled it towards the yacht. Once he arrived at the yacht's side, a lifter elevated him and his motorboat back onto the yacht. Santiago and Hadrian returned and did the same. After the three of them were safely back on deck, they then lifted the net upwards. The net finally left the water. Inside, lots of greenish-black fish were flapping about. They were not really large, and measured at most thirty centimetres in length. Here and there, there were a couple of larger ones. Besides that, some prawns and smaller fish had been trapped in the net too.

Santiago brought the net over to a flat platform and opened it up. Immediately, the fishes, crabs, and prawns came pouring out. There was about a hundred kilos worth of seafood on deck. Raeleigh stood to the side, watching in shock as Jepherson grabbed hold of a large octopus that they had caught and tossed it back into the water. He also threw some of the fish back into the water. Santiago hurried to Jepherson and after surveying their catch, he asked, "How much did we catch today?"

"About a hundred kilos," Jepherson said as he sized up the fruits of their labor. The brothers chatted very animatedly. Hadrian came up from behind to clean up the mess. The three men were completely drenched, a far cry from the three women on the yacht.

When Cynthia saw how happy Santiago was, she, too, was delighted. Meanwhile, Raeleigh was feeling a different emotion altogether. She stood in the distance and stared at Jepherson, without saying a word. No one knew the pain she was feeling in her heart. She was even going to leave Scarlett. She kept reminding herself that soon, she would have nothing to do with them anymore!

After they cleaned up, Jepherson brought a mackerel to Raeleigh, informing her, "This is a mackerel."

Raeleigh stared at the fish and looked at the rest of the group. She was a tad irritated. "Are you rubbing it in my face?"

Jepherson was amused. "No, but there's a reason why I showed it to you."

Raeleigh rolled her eyes. Jepherson's amusement only grew. He threw the fish overboard, into the ocean. As they would not be eating that much, the rest of the fish were released as well from an underground hatch.

Raeleigh saw the fishes eagerly swimming back into the sea.

The sun had already set. The day seemed to have passed in the blink of an eye. They were having seafood for dinner that night. Jepherson was in charge of preparing it because the rest did not know how to cook seafood. Raeleigh offered to help him but he told her to sit and rest. However, she refused and stubbornly stayed to help him cook. When the seafood chowder was ready, she was going to bring it over to the table. She was stopped immediately by Jepherson, who requested that she leave it to him. He brought the hot chowder out to prevent Raeleigh from being scalded. He was always watching out for her.

Raeleigh watched Jepherson in a daze, as he brought the chowder out to the table. The more he treated her that way, the more reluctant she was to part with him. She was at a complete loss as to what she should do.

Turning around, Raeleigh gazed at the fire on the stove instead. She nTristany burnt the fish.

Fortunately, Jepherson hurried back in time to switch the stove off.

Chapter 1103

After dinner, drowsiness overcame Raeleigh again. Before they had even cleared up, she had dozed off in a corner. As Jepherson and Raeleigh had prepared dinner, Scarlett and Hadrian were in charge of washing the dishes. Raeleigh intended to wait until Scarlett and Hadrian were done, but she fell asleep much quicker than she thought she would. Jepherson got up and carried Raeleigh back to their cabin.

Scarlett and Hadrian were nowhere to be seen when they left. Cynthia told Santiago, "Your brother and Raeleigh are such a loving couple."

"And we're not?" Santiago retorted in a joking manner. Cynthia blushed as she asked, "How are we the same?"

"Emotions are universal. The right person will bring peace to you. My brother's temper is worse than mine. When he loses his temper, he's like a madman. You haven't seen it before, so you wouldn't understand. But whenever he's with her, he's as gentle as a lamb."

Santiago laughed. He got up to chug his beer as he leaned forward. Cynthia looked at Santiago and cautioned him. "You shouldn't drink too much. It's not good for your health."

“If I don’t take full advantage of this body in my youth, then I won’t have any chance to in the future.” Santiago took another chug of beer and turned to face the direction of the wind. “Why?” Cynthia asked, a little confused.

“No particular reason. That’s just how I feel about it. I’m young, so I should do whatever I want. It’ll be tough when I get older. Who knows, maybe I’ll have to take on a position in the company like Jepherson. If that’s true, then I don’t have much time left.” Santiago had finished his beer when he said that. He drew his arm back and sent the bottle sailing far away into the ocean.

Cynthia stood beside him, looking at him for a brief moment. She did not say anything in reply. She simply accompanied him as he gazed at the blue waters.

By the time Raeleigh woke up, it was already the next morning. The yacht was already returning to the harbor.

In Raeleigh’s waking moments, she saw no sign of Jepherson in the cabin. She sat on the bed for a while before going out onto the deck. Jepherson was just about to return to the cabin after collecting the laundry that he had washed the day before.

When Jepherson saw Raeleigh, he smiled. “Finally awake?”

“Yup,” Raeleigh replied tersely, stopping in her tracks. Jepherson led her back into their room.

“We’re going back to the harbor, right?” Raeleigh had momentarily looked at their surroundings. Jepherson sat down and teased her. “Is your sense of direction that good?”

Raeleigh cast a glance at Jepherson and sat on the bed too. She replied, “I’ve had a good sense of direction since I was young.”

“That’s strange. Santiago and I are the same. We’ve had a good sense of direction even as children, especially out at sea. No matter where we go, we will still be able to determine our exact location.”

Jepherson laughed as he told her that. Of course they’re the same. They’re siblings after all. It’s probably genetic. Raeleigh thought to herself.

Jepherson put down the laundry and went out to bring in the seafood chowder that he had prepared for Raeleigh. “I cooked it this morning. Have a taste. This fish is really fresh.”

Raeleigh held the bowl, taking a few sips of the chowder. It was indeed very delicious, but she did not have much of it. She did not even eat the fish. She only took a couple of sips of the broth before making her way into the bathroom. When she emerged from the bathroom, she looked at Jepherson, who was standing to one side, dressed up and ready to go out on the deck. Raeleigh said, “Let’s not go out. There are too many people outside. Let’s lie down here together for a while.”

Jepherson was bemused. “Are you feeling seasick? You’ve been sleeping a lot since we got onto the yacht.”

“No, I’m not seasick. I just want to lie in bed,” Raeleigh told him and made her way back to the bed. Jepherson looked at Raeleigh and asked, “Are you feeling extra sleepy because of the baby?”

Raeleigh did not answer him. However, she did notice that her extreme drowsiness recently was because of her pregnancy.

Raeleigh looked very cozy lying in bed. Jepherson turned around, got into the bed as well, and pulled her into his arms. Out of nowhere, he said, "Is there anything you want to tell me? If there is, then just say it."

Jepherson could not bear to see Raeleigh suffer alone. He wanted her to tell him her problems so that they could work through them together. He was distressed seeing her fret over it all alone, unable to come up with a solution.

Raeleigh looked at Jepherson and asked, "Tell me, what do you want to name our baby?"

Jepherson was momentarily taken aback. "Why are you asking this all of a sudden?"

"There's no reason in particular. I just felt like it." Raeleigh turned over and hugged Jepherson. He thought it over for a while and asked her in return, "Then, what names do you have in mind?"

"I don't really have any. That's why I asked you."

"Let me think." Jepherson lay on his side, pondering Raeleigh's question carefully. He frowned from time to time, looking perplexed, as though he was trying to solve an extremely complicated puzzle.

In the end, Jepherson asked Raeleigh, "What do you think the gender is?"

Raeleigh gave it some thought and replied, "I think it's a boy." Jepherson paused to think and he then replied, "If it's a boy... then we should call him Kylin."

"Kylin Harvey?"

Raeleigh asked after a long pause. Jepherson nodded. Raeleigh asked, "Why Kylin?"

"My family has a list of names prepared for the next generation. Santiago's name is from that list as well."

"So, your father's and uncle's name came from that list as well?" Raeleigh asked. Jepherson shook his head. "Nah, only Santiago's."

"Kylin... sounds like a good name. Is it spelt K-y-l-i-n?" Raeleigh continued questioning Jepherson.

"Yes, it is."

"It's an unorthodox name, but it has a nice ring to it."

Raeleigh smiled. She was very happy with the name.

However, after some further thought, something didn't feel right to her. She asked Jepherson then, "If we have more kids, then what are they going to be called?"

"Xayvion, Walerian, Zasper, Tobias..." Jepherson rattled off.

Raeleigh blushed. "You want that many kids?"

"Of course. The more kids we have, the more happiness they'll bring us."

Raeleigh frowned. She was feeling more and more ill. However, she still maintained a smile and asked, "Then, why did you only list out boys' names?"

"Isn't Walerian a girl's name?" Jepherson asked. Raeleigh shook her head. "How does that sound like a girl's name? It clearly sounds like a boy's. You even told me before that you'd prefer a girl. You clearly lied. Deep down, you actually want sons."

"Those names were just made up in the spur of the moment. That's really all there is to it."

Jepherson leaned against Raeleigh. "If it's a girl, we don't really have to think. If we have a daughter, we'll call her Loretta. I love that name. So, I'll naturally name our daughter Loretta."

Raeleigh closed her eyes and held onto her one and only Jepherson. She could not muster any words. So, she merely continued hugging him.

She wanted nothing more than to have a daughter for him so that he could name her Loretta.

Unfortunately, even if the child in her belly was a girl, she would not dare to let her meet him.

"Raeleigh... If something's up, then you have to tell me. We are husband and wife. Although we don't officially have our marriage certificates, you're my wife and that's not going to change. Do you understand?" Jepherson told Raeleigh.

Raeleigh held Jepherson in her arms. "There's nothing. You sound very suspicious of me. How can I marry you if you don't trust me?"

"Ah... you're such a silly woman. How is it that you don't take advantage of your position at all?"

"What position?"

"Your position as my lover, of course."

"What kind of advantage do I have? It's you who fell blindly in love with me. I have no idea what you see in me." Raeleigh held Jepherson tightly. She was extremely reluctant to part with him, but did she have any other choice?

Raeleigh could not bear to leave Jepherson just like that. She held him tightly all the way until they docked at the harbor.

Chapter 1104

After everyone got off the yacht, Santiago told the group that he would be sending Cynthia back to the Cole family residence. He bade farewell to everyone and headed to his car to drive Cynthia home. Scarlett and Hadrian left in another car, while Raeleigh and Jepherson waited for Stuart to come and pick them up.

While Stuart drove, Raeleigh asked Jepherson as she looked at him, "Are you going to the office today?"

Jepherson leaned aside with his legs crossed. He reached out for Raeleigh's hand and asked, "Is something the matter?"

Raeleigh shook her head. "No, I just think it's too taxing for you to rush straight to the office right after we're back. You should take a rest."

"You're this worried about me? Have you been captivated by my charm?" Jepherson smiled devilishly, holding onto Raeleigh's hand without any intention of letting go. However, he had too much work to complete that day. He had to go to the office to deal with it all. He wanted to hurry up and finish the work, so that he could free his schedule for the next couple of days and enjoy some time by Raeleigh's side.

Jepherson could not rest easy, as Raeleigh had been dispirited lately.

"You have become more and more fond of sweet-talking recently. Are all men like this? Do they love saying sweet nothings?" Raeleigh looked indifferent. Frankly, she wanted to relax too, but she could not no matter how much she tried.

"Of course not. There are men who do not like to say such things." Jepherson raised his eyebrows. Raeleigh pondered over it and asked, "For example?"

"For example, mute men are men who don't have a way with words." Jepherson broke out into sudden laughter after he said that. Raeleigh stared at him in a daze, unsure of how to react. She stayed silent. Jepherson's laughter continued. By the time Raeleigh came back to her senses, his face was already red from laughing.

"Am I just an idiot to you?" Raeleigh could not help but to ask after she calmed down. She pulled a long face.

Jepherson did not answer. He gazed outside the car while gently patting Raeleigh's hand. "I'll be very busy today. Plus, I don't think that I can accompany you tonight. You haven't been sleeping well during nighttime as of late. If you want to stay at your university for a day, then you have to get Scarlett and Santiago to accompany you."

Raeleigh froze for a moment, and she then said, "Okay."

Jepherson turned around and gave Raeleigh a long look. "Don't make empty promises. Remember, you must keep your promise."

Raeleigh met Jepherson's gaze and changed the topic. "You're getting more and more talkative. What will you be like when we're older? If you continue nagging at me like an old hag, then I don't think I'll be able to tolerate it."

Jepherson was bemused and laughed. "I've never heard of any married old couple who can't get along just because one of them likes to nag."

Raeleigh froze slightly. An old married couple?

How would they ever get to that stage? When that time came, they wouldn't be able to go back to each other anymore. She wondered if he would forgive her for the choice she would make that day.

"If you still nag this much when we're old, then you won't be getting any food," Raeleigh quipped.

"Fine then, I'll be the one supplying food for you."

No matter what Raeleigh said, Jepherson already had an answer prepared. Raeleigh was unable to beat him. When they arrived at her house, Raeleigh quickly got out of the car. Jepherson followed suit.

“Don’t you want to go back to your place?” Confusion was written all over Raeleigh’s face when she realized that Jepherson had also alighted and was making his way towards her house. He shot her a look and replied, “Yes, but I’m not in a hurry. I want to pay your grandmother a visit first. I also want to gift her some frozen mackerel.”

“Are you planning to cook for her?” Raeleigh asked, taken by surprise. Jepherson looked back at her. “Can’t I?”

Raeleigh did not answer him. Of course he could, as he could do whatever he wanted.

Stuart opened the car door and alighted, carrying a cooler into the kitchen. Jepherson cooked the mackerel for Novalie. After he was done, his eyes stRhyed towards the clock. He then kissed Raeleigh and said to her, “Tell your grandmother that I have to leave for something urgent. I won’t be able to stick around here to see her. The mackerel is delicious and nutritious. Get her to eat some.”

With those words, Jepherson patted Raeleigh’s arm and quickly left. Raeleigh stood outside and watched as the car disappeared into the distance. Only when it was gone out of sight did she turn around to go back into the house.

Raeleigh froze for a moment when she saw Santiago standing at the door. “You’re home?”

“Where else can I go?” Santiago clearly found Raeleigh’s reaction amusing. Raeleigh had nothing to say to that. She went straight inside as Santiago followed along behind her. While they walked, Santiago asked, “Did my brother do something wrong?”

Raeleigh looked back at him. “What nonsense are you spouting?”

“Nonsense? Your expressions, your actions, everything seems to be hinting to him that you’re leaving and never coming back. Where are you going?”

Santiago had a keen eye, and he had been reading into Raeleigh’s every move.

“You should chat with Cynthia instead, why would you use your free time to nag me?” Raeleigh kept her pace steady as she retorted. She felt anxiety creeping in at being called out by Santiago, but she managed to calm herself down. By the time she calmed down, the moment had passed and it was as though nothing had happened.

Raeleigh took the mackerel that Jepherson had cooked to Novalie’s room. She knocked on the door, informing Novalie that she was home before entering.

Novalie had been resting when she heard that Raeleigh had returned. Joy flooded her heart. She opened her eyes and looked at the door, smiling as she saw Raeleigh. “Raeleigh, you’re back.”

“Yes, I am.”

“Did you have fun?” Novalie asked. Raeleigh mused over it and replied, “Yes.”

“That’s wonderful. What’s that you’re holding?” Novalie had already smelled the fish since Raeleigh entered. Raeleigh smiled and replied, “We brought back a mackerel for you and Jepherson cooked it. He said that he has some pressing matters to handle at the office, so he left. He asked me to bring it to you.”

“I can’t blame him. He’s so busy with the company and yet he’s still fussing over me. I’m just an old woman. It doesn’t matter what I eat. But his kindness is a rare thing. Bring it over and let me have a taste.”

Novalie got out of bed as she spoke. Raeleigh walked towards her and put down the fish. Novalie picked up a fork and tasted it. She then smiled. “He knows that I like my food to be mild. It’s very delicious. Here, have some as well. You’re bearing a baby now. You need to nourish your body.”

“I’ve already eaten, so I’m not hungry. You can eat it all. I’ll help pick out the bones.” Raeleigh turned around to wash her hands. When she returned, she picked the bones off the fish one by one for Novalie. As she did so, she struck up a conversation with Novalie.

“Grandma, what if I told you that I want to leave this place and move somewhere new, would you be alright with that?” Raeleigh asked cautiously. Novalie looked at Raeleigh while eating the mackerel and asked, “Did you guys have an argument?”

Raeleigh shook her head. “No, I just don’t want to live here anymore. I don’t like the environment here.”

Although Raeleigh maintained a flawless poker face when she lied, Novalie could tell at a glance what was going on.

Novalie knew that one would only grow haggard when under much pressure. She knew that Raeleigh had been extremely stressed out by something recently and was not willing to let anyone know about it, but Novalie was a reasonable woman.

“I don’t mind living anywhere. As long as you’ve thought it over and you’re sure that’s what you want to do, I’ll support you, but...”

Novalie felt her heart twist into a knot as she looked at her granddaughter, who always strove to bear her burdens alone. “But what?” Raeleigh asked Novalie. Novalie thought for a moment and continued, “But you should tell me what is bothering you. Otherwise, you will collapse under the pressure sooner or later. My days are numbered. You can tell me anything. I’ve lived a long life and have much more experience than you. I’ll rejoice with you if it’s good news. I’ll keep your secret for you if it’s bad news. But if you don’t tell me anything, then I can’t help you.”

Raeleigh could not suppress the urge to cry. She embraced Novalie and immediately burst into tears.

Novalie sighed, put down her fork, and wrapped her arms around Raeleigh. She said, “Child, you’re too silly!”

Chapter 1105

Raeleigh cried for a while and came clean with her grandmother. She told her the entire story. Novalie could not help but to frown. “That’s not right.”

Raeleigh stared at Novalie blankly. “What do you mean?”

“So, you’re saying that you’re Jepherson’s missing sister. How can you jump to that conclusion based on what you saw in those documents? Even abandoned children have to do a DNA test to confirm things. It’s something even an old lady like me would know, so how could you not think of that? It’s rare for you to be like this.” Novalie looked helpless. However, Raeleigh did not lighten up at all.

“Actually, I did think of doing a DNA test. However, the results between siblings are inconclusive. Jepherson’s parents are currently abroad. Even if they come back here, it will be very difficult for me to try and get a sample from them.”

Raeleigh had thought about it all before. It was just that she could not think of a way to get a sample from Jepherson’s parents. Hence, she gave up on the idea.

Novalie gave it a serious thought. Then, she started speaking again. “That won’t do. Even if it comes to this, you can’t just make such a hasty decision. Also, how can you be so sure that Francia isn’t Jepherson’s sister? She was there at that time, wasn’t she? Why do you have to assume that you’re his sister instead?

Where’s Francia now?”

Novalie’s words caused Raeleigh to mull over it for a while. “She remained at the orphanage. No one adopted her, but...”

“You’re such a fool. How can you be this careless? If Francia was actually his sister, then wouldn’t you have made a big mistake?”

Novalie looked displeased. It wasn’t because she was selfish by nature, but how could she choose the selfless route in this kind of predicament? Novalie knew that Jepherson was a good man. Raeleigh and Jepherson were perfect for each other. How could she not be angry when Raeleigh just assumed that she was his sister without solid evidence?

When Raeleigh noticed Novalie’s anger, she immediately pacified her by saying, “Okay, I’ll look more into it.”

“How are you going to do that? She’s already dead.” Novalie looked at Raeleigh unhappily. Falling silent, Raeleigh didn’t dare to look at her. After a while, a thought struck her and she replied, “Francia’s older than me.”

Novalie was still staring at her. “By how much?”

“I don’t really remember. Although we are the same age on paper, I remember that Francia has a different horoscope. Everyone thought she was younger than me because she was a crybaby.”

Raeleigh racked her brain, recalling many incidents from the past. Novalie’s gaze was unflinching. “She could be born a mere day before you. That would still count as being older than you.”

“But I really think...”

“Raeleigh, stop splitting hairs over this. Look at how you’ve tortured yourself over these past few days. You’ve lost so much weight. It’s your problem but you’ve dragged Jepherson into this. You are not allowed to be this wilful ever again. Don’t go anywhere today. Tell me what happened. I’ll try to think of something.”

Novalie had to come up with a solution for Raeleigh's sake, and for Jepherson's too. After all, he had cooked her some delicious mackerel.

As Novalie instructed, Raeleigh stayed home the entire day, retelling the story from the beginning to Novalie. In reality, Novalie knew very clearly that this sort of thing wasn't uncommon, but wasn't everything dictated by the heavens or one's destiny?

Novalie had lived for so many years. What was there left in this world that she had not experienced before? What was there that she had not seen before?

Novalie was determined to get to the bottom of the misunderstanding. She did not want her efforts that she put into raising her granddaughter to go to waste. She did not want to see Raeleigh ruined just like that. She would hate herself for it.

Raeleigh sat aside in silence. Novalie then said, "Judging from the situation now, it seems that there are only two possibilities. The first is that Francia is actually from the Harvey family but had died in that fire. The other one is that the whole thing was a hoax. Neither one of you are from the Harvey family. Maybe the child was somewhere else or died not long after she was born."

"What do you mean?" Raeleigh looked at her grandmother, perplexed. Novalie sighed softly and continued, "Children are their mother's flesh and blood. Although I've never had a baby, I understand that a mother has to carry her baby in her belly for ten long months before they are born. When the baby is born, the mother is the happiest person in the world, not anyone else."

"In the same way, if a child disappeared and died after birth, their mother would probably at her most miserable."

"Although Jepherson said that his sister was taken away, there's something fishy about it. Think about it, if that child really existed, then would a family like the Harvey family be sitting idly by?"

Raeleigh processed what Novalie had said and replied, "Of course not, but they have been looking all over for her."

"No, they have not been looking for her. Jepherson has," Novalie reminded Raeleigh. Raeleigh thought for a moment. "What do you mean?"

"Maybe his parents lied to him. You said that Jepherson had been looking forward to having a sister. What's more, his mother fell off the cliff because she wanted to save him. Hence, she miscarried. If that was the case, then he would naturally blame himself for the incident and feel awful about it. But his parents did not want him to feel guilty, so they came up with a story to deceive him and that led him to search for his missing sister."

Novalie explained. Raeleigh shook her head. "It's impossible. I don't think so. If that's really the case, then his family would come up with something. He told me before that his father was also looking for her. It's just that given their family's standing in society, they did not publicize it to avoid any chaos."

"You silly child. Even so, the search has gone out for so many years. Jepherson's parents know that that child does not exist and he will never find her. They don't feel the need to tell him because it would be a big blow to him. Instead of letting him suffer such a blow, they let him be. That way, he will still remain hopeful. He won't be heartbroken."

“After that long search, Jepherson has definitely regarded his sister as a real person. How do you think he would feel if his parents suddenly told him that that sister was actually non-existent? His supposed sister for nineteen long years would suddenly vanish from his world, and that he was the cause of her death. His parents would not mercilessly tell him that if they thought it through.”

Raeleigh did not agree with what Novalie said, but she was in a better mood nonetheless.

Raeleigh thought of Francia. Maybe there was a way out. What she had to do was to find out more about Francia’s past. Although Francia was dead, she could still find out where Francia was from. If she could prove that Francia was...

Raeleigh thought that she was a really cruel person. Because of her desire to be with Jepherson, to prove that she was not his sister, she had to dig up Francia’s past. Was that right of her? Raeleigh did not know.

Raeleigh sat in Novalie’s room for the whole afternoon, chatting with her. She did not leave until after dinner. She opted not to go back to her room. Instead, she decided to go downstairs and watch TV. She sat in front of the TV, daydreaming.

Santiago entered the living room from the side and waved his hand in front of her. Raeleigh jolted back to her senses and stared at Santiago. “What are you doing?”

“I should be asking you that.” Santiago sat next to Raeleigh with an evil smile. He leaned over and asked Raeleigh, “Are you feeling better?”

Raeleigh took a look at Santiago. “How are you so sure that I was in a bad mood? I’m feeling excellent.”

Santiago turned off the TV and said, “You should know your own mood more than anyone. You don’t have to put on a brave face.” He then took out his phone and began texting Cynthia. Raeleigh watched him. Santiago had a huge smile on his face. What was he smiling at?

Raeleigh wanted to peek, but when she did, Santiago immediately hid his phone screen from her.

Before Raeleigh could see Santiago’s phone screen, he raised his hand to push Raeleigh’s face away. Raeleigh immediately pushed his hand away and asked, “What are you doing?”

“You’re asking me that? Do you know what you did? You’re invading my privacy. I pushed you away, yet you still dare to ask me what I’m doing? There must be something wrong with you.”

Raeleigh was no match for Santiago when it came to arguments. She gave him a blank stare before facing the TV that was already switched off.

Santiago sat up and handed his phone to Raeleigh. She looked up at him and asked, “Do you know that your brother is looking for your missing sibling?”

“Didn’t you ask me this before? Why are you asking me the same thing again?” Santiago evidently found it amusing. Raeleigh thought it over and said, “I’m just curious. Jepherson’s been adamantly searching for years but you don’t look like you care.”

“Of course not! Why does he want to look for a missing sibling? To split our inheritance?” Santiago was unconcerned about the matter. Raeleigh shook her head. “I know you’re not that kind of person. There must be a reason why you aren’t invested in it.”

“What reason?” Santiago retorted back in amusement. Raeleigh looked at him for a while. She then said, “I’m not sure, but I know there must be one.”

“You keep persistently asking me about this today. That reminds me... We went to the archive room the other day to investigate the orphanage fire. Is this related in some way?”

To Santiago, it was nothing more than entertainment, but Raeleigh replied seriously, “How can you not care about what your brother does at all?”

“Even if I do care, I can’t do anything either. Plus, he’s been looking for so long, yet he still can’t find our sibling. What makes you think that I will be able to find that person if he can’t?”

Santiago looked at Raeleigh in disdain. He spread his arms out on the couch and said, “Actually, I hope that my brother and I are the only children in the family. Isn’t that much better? Wouldn’t it be awkward if we add a stranger into the mix? We’d have nothing to talk about.”

“If that sibling is a guy, who knows what he’s learnt from the streets. If he returns to the family and I don’t like him, then I’ll beat him to death. What’s the point of bringing him home?”

“Since they’re gone, that means that we’re not meant to be a family. Why does he have to force it?” Santiago finished.

“You’re saying that your brother is forcing this?” Raeleigh looked at Santiago. She still could not understand. He and Jepherson had the same parents, so why were they so different?

A sudden smile broke out on Santiago’s face. “I am different from Jepherson. I’ve also heard that my mother fell off the cliff trying to save him and because of that, my mother miscarried. Jepherson feels extremely guilty about that. That’s why he has been looking for our sibling over these years. He has a feeling that our sibling is a girl, but I think that it’s a boy.”

“How can you be so sure?”

“There won’t be a girl in our family.” Santiago sounded very confident. Raeleigh was rendered speechless by his conviction.

After staying silent for a while, Raeleigh asked again, “What if your sibling is a girl?”

“That’s impossible.” Raeleigh was taken aback by Santiago’s unwavering confidence. Santiago smiled and stood up. He strode to the opposite side and stood there for a while, before turning to Raeleigh and saying, “In fact, none of this is important. I’m sure that everything has been decided by fate. It’s not to spoil us, it’s so we treasure the position we are in today because we remember the tragedies of the past. Whoever Jepherson is looking for has nothing to do with me. I only care about defending my current home. However, after so many years, he still cannot forget it. He is traumatized by what happened to my mother. I heard from my mother that he had frequent nightmares when he was younger. They said that he was having dreams of my mother falling off.”

Santiago pondered for a moment. "When we were younger, Jepherson often told me that I had a sister. He said that he would find her when he's older."

"I thought it was ridiculous, but he has persevered for so many years in his search. I can't say anything. But if it were me, I would have repented and accepted the reality.

"That's just how life is. Because of that nightmare, he refused to let anyone in and persisted in searching for that sibling."

"You wouldn't understand if you didn't know what happened back then. He is possessed by the ghosts of his past."

"If Jepherson heard what you said, then he would bash you up," Raeleigh reminded Santiago. Santiago displayed a fleeting smile. "No, he won't."

Raeleigh was caught off guard for a moment. Santiago turned around and said, "I don't believe that I have another elder sibling. I'm fine with one elder brother. I wouldn't like to have another one."

"But he's different. He wants a younger sister."

Raeleigh suddenly realized that Santiago was jealous. He wanted Jepherson to care about him and not cast him aside for someone else.

Raeleigh stood up and walked to Santiago's side. She resumed. "You did not answer my question. Is there really such a person?"

"I have no idea. My parents never talked about it. We aren't kids anymore. My mother has been in a lot of pain because of this. No one wants to mention it. However, my father did investigate it several years ago," Santiago replied.

Santiago's words had proved one thing. The Harvey family did have another child.

Raeleigh looked at the scenery outside. "Autumn is coming. The fallen leaves will go back to their roots eventually. Maybe you will have a chance to find your sibling. If you get the chance, would you join the search?"

When Santiago heard Raeleigh's words, he said with a chuckle, "I don't know."

"I want you to help me look for him or her. Would you be okay with that?" Raeleigh queried. Santiago put his hands in his pockets. His eyes were as bright as the stars in the night sky. "Is this the reason you've been so upset lately?"

Raeleigh did not say anything. Santiago glanced at her. "Why aren't you saying anything?"

Raeleigh replied with a forced smile, "I don't know what to say."

"Don't tell me that you think you're our missing sibling." Santiago turned around to look Raeleigh in the eye. Raeleigh inadvertently stumbled backwards. Her face was pale. Words failed her.

"What nonsense are you saying?" Raeleigh forced herself to calm down. Santiago's smile was like that of a demon, burning like the sun itself.

Raeleigh's expression became even more distraught, but she did not retreat further. She persisted and tried to calm herself down so that Santiago wouldn't call her bluff.

"I just want to find that person. If you don't want to help me, then forget it. You don't have to doubt me like this."

"You sound guilty." Santiago laughed. He turned and looked outside with a smile, taking a deep breath before saying, "If you thought you were my sister, then that explains why you wanted to terminate your pregnancy."

Feeling nervous, Raeleigh clasped her hands together.

However, what Santiago said was, "He's possessed, and it seems like you are too."

Raeleigh was taken aback. "How could you say that about your elder brother?"

"What should I say then?" Santiago smiled. "Should I say that God is playing tricks on our family?"

Raeleigh could not say a word. She remained silent.

Santiago paused for a moment and said, "If you really want me to help find that person, then I will lend my assistance."

Raeleigh raised her head to look at Santiago. "Are you serious?"

Santiago looked at Raeleigh with a smile. "Don't you trust me?"

Raeleigh was quiet and did not answer. She faced the window and looked outside. What Santiago said was right. She had lost her mind. She had lost her mind because of Jepherson.

Even if it was her last hope, she was still willing to hold onto it tightly, never letting go.

Chapter 1106

Before Raeleigh could see Santiago's phone screen, he raised his hand to push Raeleigh's face away. Raeleigh immediately pushed his hand away and asked, "What are you doing?"

"You're asking me that? Do you know what you did? You're invading my privacy. I pushed you away, yet you still dare to ask me what I'm doing? There must be something wrong with you."

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Chapter 1107

Now that Santiago had agreed to help, Raeleigh quickly gave him a brief account of the situation. She informed him that there were two children in the orphanage, both from a different city. Of these two children, one of them had to be the person Jepherson was looking for. Raeleigh had hoped that they would be able to find them.

However, the two children had perished in the orphanage fire. Raeleigh did not want Jepherson to find out. She was disheartened because of that.

Santiago sat in Raeleigh’s room and carefully went over the information. His head was lowered as he listened to Raeleigh without interrupting her. At that time, it was already late at night.

“That’s all,” Raeleigh concluded. Initially, she hadn’t felt the need to explain since Santiago did not ask. However, she did not know what it was, perhaps it was guilt that spurred her to spill everything to Santiago the moment he looked at the information she laid out.

Santiago raised his head to look at her. “You know those people who talk too much while trying to cover something up and then accidentally expose themselves?”

Raeleigh was taken aback. She sat there and said, “I’m telling you the truth, and you’re saying that I’m trying to cover up something for my benefit.”

“You usually don’t talk much. You keep everything to yourself. So, when you go on and on, it gives me the feeling that you’re lying.” Santiago stood up, picked up an apple that Raeleigh had washed, and took a bite.

As he nibbled on the apple, Santiago sat back down and followed it up by saying, "Don't worry. You're not my sister."

Raeleigh froze and asked, "W-what nonsense is this?"

"It's not nonsense. You know what I'm getting at. Why don't you get some rest? Jepherson and I will be quite busy these few days. He's going to accompany me to the Cole family residence to make a formal proposal," replied Santiago. He stood up with the documents in hand and the apple in his mouth.

Raeleigh got up immediately. "Wait, what?"

Raeleigh couldn't wrap her head around it. Did Santiago just say that he was going to the Cole family residence for a formal proposal?

Santiago stopped in his tracks and shifted the documents to one hand which he put behind his back. He took the apple out of his mouth with the other hand and looked at Raeleigh curiously. "What? Now that I'm taken, do you regret not pursuing me?"

Raeleigh looked downcast. "Why do you always twist things? What I'm asking is if it's true that you're going to propose formally?"

"Do you think I'd joke about something like this? Of course it's true!" Santiago retorted.

"But you..." Raeleigh was at a loss. To her, the whole affair seemed abrupt. What was more, Santiago did not look like the kind to do that...

"But I, what?" Santiago walked to stand in front of Raeleigh. Then, he leaned towards her. Raeleigh hurriedly raised her hands and gave him a push. "Don't try to pull this stunt. I know you better than to fall for it, even if others don't."

Only then did Santiago turn around and take another bite of the apple. He said, "In that case, I'll take my leave now. Rest well."

"Are you really going to propose?" Raeleigh asked, still a little uncertain. Santiago turned around and eyed Raeleigh. "It's inevitable. I dragged Cynthia into this. I have to take responsibility for it. I can't allow her to be scorned."

Santiago looked dead serious. Raeleigh pondered and asked, "Tell me, do you really love Cynthia?"

"I have to propose regardless of whether I love her or not. Why are you asking so many questions?" Santiago laughed.

"You're too young. You are only seventeen. There are a lot of things that you still do not understand," Raeleigh solemnly said, sounding as if she had a lifetime of experience. A bright smile appeared on Santiago's face as he shot back. "And how old are you?"

"I'm not much older, but I know more than you. Cynthia is a good person. If you don't really want to be with her, then don't hurt her."

"Although your family has a feud with the Cole family, it has nothing to do with her," Raeleigh replied.

“Are you playing at being a goody two-shoes? Or do you have feelings for me?” Santiago did not answer Raeleigh’s question. Raeleigh’s face turned red, and then she turned pale. “If Jepherson knew...”

“Don’t use Jepherson to pressure me. That’s all you go on about. You’ve gone too far!”

Raeleigh remained silent. As she was deep in her thoughts about what Santiago said, Santiago went out of the room and re-entered, counting, “One, two, three...”

Raeleigh froze for a moment. Then, she heard Santiago leave with a chuckle. When she jolted back to her senses, he was gone.

Raeleigh closed the door and decided to hit the sack. She lay down but she was unable to fall asleep. It was already three o’clock when sleep finally overcame her. She woke up at eight o’clock the next morning.

Raeleigh got up and looked downstairs. Santiago had already left.

“You’re finally awake!” Scarlett was there. She greeted Raeleigh when she noticed her there, and took a picture of her to be sent to Jepherson.

Jepherson was currently on his way to the Cole family residence. The two brothers were heading there in separate cars. Santiago’s car was leading Jepherson’s. Santiago was driving at breakneck speed, whereas Jepherson took his time. He was in a fairly good mood after receiving the picture of Raeleigh. He raised one hand to point at Stuart in front of him, using the other hand to dial Raeleigh’s number.

Stuart swiftly took his phone out and called Santiago.

As soon as Santiago answered, Stuart immediately cautioned him. “Mr. Santiago, Mr. Jepherson thinks that you’re driving too fast. He wants you to slow down.”

Santiago’s reply came over the line. “If you speed up, then I’ll slow down.”

Stuart was miffed. “Mr. Santiago, with the speed you’re driving at, we can’t catch up.”

The only thing that Stuart heard was the dial tone.

Santiago had hung up. Stuart turned around and shot a glance at Jepherson, who was chatting with Raeleigh. Raeleigh had just picked up the phone.

“Hey, are you awake?” Jepherson asked. Although Raeleigh was still feeling dispirited, there was a vast improvement in her condition for the past couple of days. She answered quickly, “You had someone to monitor me?”

“I just wanted to see how disheveled you look first thing in the morning.” Jepherson laughed in a low tone. Raeleigh descended the stairs with her phone in hand and sat down at the dining table. “It’s not like you haven’t seen it before. You act like it’s the first time. Is there any point to it?”

“Yes, there is.” Jepherson chuckled again. A thought suddenly flitted across Raeleigh’s mind. She asked, “Are you on the way to the Cole family residence?”

“Yes, I’ll explain everything to you when you get back.”

“What’s there to explain? Santiago is willingly doing it. You don’t have to explain anything to me.”
Raeleigh felt that there was no need for any explanation.

“That’s not the whole story. This incident with Santiago has caused an uproar. My grandmother still doesn’t know about it. Maybe Santiago and I will get an earful tonight. And if Santiago insists on continuing with the marriage, then there’s a possibility that my grandmother might come looking for you.”

Raeleigh was dumbfounded. “She’ll look for me?”

“Of course, you’re supposedly Santiago’s girlfriend. You’ve been to Harvey Manor a few times. My Grandma will definitely want to see you and ask you why you guys broke up.”

“Phew...” Raeleigh heaved a sigh of relief. Jepherson’s mirth escalated into a full-blown guffaw. It’s alright. You have me.”

“Then, what should I tell her if she asks?” Raeleigh questioned Jepherson. She did not think that it would be right to say that Santiago had cheated on her or had fallen for another woman. But if that was out of the question, then what else could she say? Should she say that they had never been a couple?”

“If you don’t know what to say, then don’t say anything. It’ll be worse if you talk too much.”

Raeleigh did not respond. She found it a little funny that Jepherson was so laid back about it. He was tricking his own grandmother.

After talking for a while more, Jepherson arrived at the gate of the Cole family residence. He gave Raeleigh a few simple words of advice before hanging up. Stuart quickly got out of the car to open the door for Jepherson.

Chapter 1108

Raeleigh sat there in her house, thinking about Jepherson accompanying Santiago to make a proposal. After she mused over it for a while, she tucked into her breakfast.

Raeleigh was planning to take a stroll in the backyard after she was done with breakfast. However, as soon as she exited the house, she was met with Deanna and Zorion getting out of their car. Deanna hurriedly ran over to Raeleigh when she spotted her. Tugging her hand, Deanna asked, “Raeleigh, I heard that you guys went to the sea?”

Raeleigh turned around to look at Scarlett. Scarlett was very disdainful. How could Raeleigh think that she was the one who told Deanna?

Raeleigh turned around and looked at Zorion. Then, she glanced back at Deanna. “I wanted to eat mackerel, so we decided to head out to sea to catch some.”

Raeleigh’s answer was tactful. Deanna, after thinking it over, asked, “I heard that there were other people besides you, Jepherson, Scarlett, and Hadrian?”

Raeleigh nodded her head and did not give any further reply.

Deanna’s tears were about to pour out as she said, “Does this mean that Santiago has a girlfriend?”

Raeleigh froze. Deanna could not hold back her tears any longer. Raeleigh was at her wits' end when she thought of what Deanna said. She was stuck in a difficult position.

Zorion held his younger sister in his arms and comforted her. "It's alright. Don't cry."

Zorion hugged his sister and coaxed her while looking Raeleigh up and down. He looked at her as though he was scanning her for any unusual signs. Raeleigh felt unsettled.

"Why don't you take Deanna into the house?" Raeleigh relented when she saw Deanna crying. They couldn't stand outside all day. Hence, she kindly invited the two in.

However, she immediately regretted it. What was she going to say when they asked her where Santiago had gone?

As expected, as soon as Raeleigh sat down, she heard Deanna ask through choked sobs, "Where's Santiago?"

Her tone was a little demanding. It gave one the impression that it was an interrogation, making them feel ill at ease. To Scarlett, it sounded as though she was going to pick on Raeleigh.

If Deanna went after Scarlett, then she would tolerate it. However, when it came to Raeleigh, Scarlett would not let it slide.

Scarlett, who had been standing quietly at the side, plonked down on the couch opposite Deanna upon hearing the tone of her voice. Looking displeased, she asked Deanna, "What's with your tone? What? Is Raeleigh your nanny? Is she supposed to watch him for you?"

Zorion's expression darkened, but he did not fly into a rage. However, his eyes gleamed with an unpleasant shine.

Regardless of whether the person was right or wrong, no one could scold his sister.

Raeleigh tugged Scarlett's hand and said, "It's none of your business. Why did you have to stick your nose into this? This is between me and Deanna."

"Who's doing the talking? You or her? You are too naive. She... only knows how to bully you because you're an easy target. Furthermore, she has Zorion, who thinks he's so great. So, what if he has a sister? His sister is human, and you aren't?"

"They always come knocking on your door when they have a problem. Do you think that they are here to catch up with you? No! They're here to interrogate you. They blame you if something's up with Santiago. Why the h*ll are you going to take the blame?"

Scarlett roared at Raeleigh furiously. Raeleigh raised her head and looked at Scarlett, "Did you have a nightmare last night?"

The question left Scarlett speechless. She stopped and returned to sit in her corner, not wanting to say anything further.

Raeleigh looked at Deanna and said, "Scarlett has been a little worked up these past few days. Don't pay any mind to her."

Scarlette stood up and left without saying a word.

Raeleigh watched as she walked away and looked at poor Deanna. Deanna pouted. She finally said, "Raeleigh, I didn't mean to speak to you that way."

"I know you did not do it on purpose. Scarlette is the same. The two of you have similar personalities, unlike me. Whenever something happens, I remain aloof. It's not that I don't have any emotions, it's just that it's difficult to shake me. I remain calm and won't react. I can't cry like you or be as impulsive as Scarlette..."

As Raeleigh said that, Scarlette stopped in her tracks and turned around to observe Raeleigh. She was beginning to feel uncomfortable. She had overreacted.

Meanwhile, Raeleigh continued, "That's the kind of person I am. For example, when you see a bird, you'll rush towards it, but I won't. I will just stop and look up at it flying freely in the sky."

Zorion frowned. Raeleigh was not done yet. She added, "If you came to ask me about Santiago, then just ask me directly. You don't have to beat around the bush or put up an act. I have emotions too, but you won't notice them because I don't let them show on my face."

Raeleigh smiled in amusement. Deanna froze for a moment and asked, "Raeleigh, are you blaming me?"

"I'm not. I'm just unaccustomed to you interrogating me the way you just did. It's kind of like the way Scarlette was just now. Perhaps, that's the way you talk to other people, so you don't see anything wrong with it, but we're different. When people question me, I have feelings about it, I have my own thoughts about it. I just don't say it out loud."

"If I reacted the way Scarlette did and gave you the cold shoulder, then how would you feel? Have you ever thought about that?"

"You always apologize to me after being called out. You think that it smooths everything out, but that's just what you think."

Raeleigh picked up an apple, cut it with a knife, and put it on the table. "Take this apple here for an example. Once it has been cut, it will stay cut. Well, not unless you eat it, but then it ceases to exist. Whatever it is, the cut on the apple will not disappear."

Deanna was leaning against Zorion in his arms. Her face was pale as she looked up at her brother. "Zorion.."

"I know." Zorion gently patted her and faced Raeleigh. He said, "The way Deanna talked might have hurt you, but she did not mean it. She has been this way ever since she was a child. I will make sure she changes. I hope you can forgive her."

"I'm not angry. It just made me a little uncomfortable. I'm happy that you're here in my house, but I hope you will show me some respect. Since society treats people equally, as friends, shouldn't we treat each other on the same level as well? Just because she has a higher status and is the daughter of a rich family, unlike me, it doesn't mean she can come to my house and make a big fuss."

Scarlette remained sitting on the couch, and her face was pale. Deanna too, looked ill at ease as she stared at Raeleigh, unable to utter a single word.

After a long while of Zorion thinking it over, he said, "Deanna did not have any bad intentions."

"I know, I did not say that she did." It was just that Deanna did not treat Raeleigh well at times.

Raeleigh looked at the apple and picked up the knife again. She handed the apple to Scarlett while keeping the knife. Her gaze shifted to Zorion and Deanna. She said, "Do you see this? I have a knife which can hurt people. Scarlett, on the other hand, has an apple."

"However, you both aren't afraid of the knife in my hand. What if Scarlett was the one holding it?"

Raeleigh then handed the knife to Scarlett. Deanna's face drained of color at once. She leaned further back into Zorion's arms, shielding herself. Even Zorion had his guard up against Scarlett.

Raeleigh took the knife out of Scarlett's hand and set it down. "Don't think that you didn't hurt anyone just because you didn't do anything. You say you did not mean it, but I feel that you did."

"Just because I look weak to you, you raise your voice when you're talking to me. You are afraid of Scarlett, so you talk more politely to her. To me, it seems that you think that you can walk all over me."

Deanna shook her head. "I don't understand."

Zorion patted Deanna on the shoulder and told her, "You need to rest."

Raeleigh glanced at Zorion and Deanna. She said, "I remember my debt to you. I appreciate your help. If it weren't for you at that time, then my hand might have been a goner. I'm very grateful for your help."

"I'll find a way to return the money to you as soon as possible. I also hope that you will respect me and treat me as an equal in the future."

"We did not trouble you for that reason. The money has nothing to do with it. I'm sure you know that, right?" Zorion asked Raeleigh. A nervous Deanna kept her head hung low, avoiding everyone's eyes.

Chapter 1109

Scarlett's current expression was not to be trifled with. Out of the blue, she questioned Deanna, "What are you afraid of? What are you hiding?"

"Nothing, it's nothing," Deanna replied suddenly. Zorion looked down at Deanna. He knew his sister better than anyone else.

"Deanna, did you use that debt to threaten Raeleigh?" Zorion asked, keeping his head low. Deanna hurriedly shook her head and implored, "I didn't want to hurt Raeleigh. I just wanted her to spend more time with you." Deanna's face was overcome with gloominess. Zorion was dumbfounded for a second, but he did not put the blame on Deanna. Instead, he held her in his arms and told her, "It's okay. I'm not mad. You're still young, you don't know enough."

"Young? She's the same age as us. It's because of a brother like you that..." Scarlett started.

Zorion instantly shot Scarlett a glare. Scarlett immediately cut herself off.

Zorion then said, "I apologize on Deanna's behalf."

Raeleigh was smiling as she replied, "I'm fine. You don't need to apologize. I will think of a way to return the money to you."

"I told you, I don't want that money..."

"Don't say that you don't want it. If that's really the case, then it makes me feel like I've sold myself for that money. I owe you, so I have to return it to you."

"In fact, I did think about returning the money to you. But it's just that I never had the means to do so. This house was bought by Jepherson. Although the house is in my name and it's a reward for my design, I always thought in the back of my mind that my life wouldn't have soared to these heights without Jepherson. It wouldn't have gone this smoothly."

I don't have a stable income of my own yet. Plus, I've done the math. Even if I sell this house, it won't be enough to pay off my debt to you guys. So, I'll come up with a way to pay it off, but it may have to wait a little longer."

Raeleigh had planned to get a job so that she would be able to pay off her debt slowly. However, that was beginning to look impossible.

"You can take your time. I'm not looking down on you." Zorion was stuck between a rock and a hard place. He was caught between the beloved sister in his arms and the woman he loved.

Raeleigh shook her head. "Give me one year. I will pay it all off within one year."

Scarlette's eyes grew wide. She exclaimed, "Raeleigh, are you being serious?"

"Do I look like I'm joking?"

"No."

Scarlette thought that it was best if she called Jepherson and told him about the situation. She excused herself and went to the bathroom. Upon entering, she immediately dialed Jepherson's number. At that moment, Jepherson was talking to Brooklyn. Calvin and Belle were abroad. Hence, Jepherson was the one accompanying Santiago to make a formal proposal to Cynthia at the Cole family residence.

After he received the call, Jepherson left the manor. Santiago asked him what the matter was. Jepherson then took out a credit card and handed it to Santiago. He instructed his brother, "Use this to pay off Raeleigh's debt to Zorion. She won't accept it if I'm the one giving it to her. Think of a way to get her to accept it."

Santiago took the card and stowed it away. "How about you head home first? It'll just be a minute, I haven't said all I wanted to say yet."

Santiago strode back into the manor after saying that, in search of Cynthia. Jepherson made his way back into his car.

Raeleigh was sitting in the living room, talking to Zorion and Deanna. It did not take long before Jepherson arrived at the house.

Jepherson alighted and went to the front door. Raeleigh was taken aback for a moment when he made his entrance. She looked at Scarlett, who immediately turned around and hid in the corner.

When Jepherson came in through the door and saw Zorion and Deanna, he did not show much of a reaction.

Jepherson walked towards the living room and asked calmly, "Are there no classes today?"

Serra hurriedly departed for the kitchen. Raeleigh looked over at Serra. She hardly ever saw Serra walk away in terror like that.

"No, there aren't. We haven't seen you two in a few days. Deanna said she wanted to see you two, so here we are," Zorion replied with a smile.

Following that, Jepherson sat down on the couch and took Raeleigh's hand. His gaze landed on Raeleigh and then shifted to Zorion and Deanna. "You came here to pay us a visit?"

Terrified, Deanna hid herself in Zorion's arms.

There was something off about Jepherson that day. Deanna was afraid of him.

"Of course, that's not the only reason. I heard some news about Santiago and I wanted to know whether the rumors are true."

Since they were already face-to-face with each other, Zorion did not want to obscure the truth.

"Yes, it is true," Jepherson replied. Zorion's expression darkened. Off to the side, Raeleigh frowned. Zorion's mood changed like the wind, it seemed.

From Zorion's perspective, no outsider could have any real say in Santiago's affairs. Only Jepherson would have the final say.

However, now that Jepherson had clarified it to him, it meant that Jepherson had allowed the proposal to take place.

"Are you kidding me?" Zorion wiped Deanna's tears off her face, but Deanna sat there crying uncontrollably.

Jepherson paid no mind to it. He remained calm and indifferent. There was not a single trace of warmth in his eyes when he looked at Zorion.

"I rarely joke with you. It's always been that way. You should know that," Jepherson said in reply. Zorion looked away. He gritted his teeth as he was looking off to the side, and he then turned back to meet Jepherson's gaze. He exclaimed, "You know that Deanna has feelings for Santiago, yet you still made that decision. What in the world are you thinking?"

"I wasn't thinking about anything in particular. I just did what I was supposed to."

"You should understand how Santiago is. No one can stop him from doing what he wants to. You want me to interfere in his relationship?"

Jepherson's expression was cold, and his gaze was piercing.

“Then, you’re just going to allow him to be with a woman who’s older than him? You’re going to let him act that wilfully?” Zorion raised his voice suddenly, unable to keep his emotions in check anymore.

Jepherson exhaled and rose to his feet. His gaze turned even icier. “What, do you think that the Harvey family is responsible for Deanna?”

Zorion was dumbfounded for a moment. Then, he said, “That’s not what I meant. Deanna has me. There’s no need for anyone else to take responsibility for her. But to me, you guys have gone too far. Everyone knew that Deanna and you were childhood sweethearts and the envy of many. But you flat out rejected her and pretended as if nothing had happened. Deanna fell for Santiago, but just as their relationship started to bloom, he went off to propose to someone else. You caused Deanna to...”

Zorion gnashed his teeth in a fierce fury, shooting Jepherson a death glare.

Raeleigh stood up. “I know what’s going on with Santiago, but I would like to remind you that no one can control who they fall in love with. I know that you mean well, as Deanna’s brother. You worry about her and hope to give her hand to a good man whom you’re satisfied with. That being said, has it ever occurred to you that you’re not the one in her shoes? You won’t live her life for her. This concerns only Deanna.”

Zorion was on the verge of flying into a rage. He slowly turned to look at Raeleigh. “Yes, I know, but I can’t leave her be. I don’t believe that there’s anyone other than us who can protect Deanna. No one other than us can tolerate her.”

Raeleigh froze. Deanna suddenly got up and hurried away.

Zorion was about to check on her, but she broke off into a run.

Raeleigh had learnt her lesson from the past. She immediately chased after Deanna. By the time she emerged from the house, Deanna had already got into the car. Anxious, Raeleigh followed her into the car. Jepherson and Zorion also ran out of the house.

Chapter 1110

“Deanna...” Zorion yelled as he chased her from behind. As he got into the car, about to drive away, Jepherson flung the car door open and pulled Raeleigh out of the car. “Scarlette, look after Raeleigh.”

As Raeleigh was pregnant, Jepherson did not want her to wander around. He was nTristany scared to death when she ran out like that.

Raeleigh didn’t dare to act recklessly. She watched as Jepherson and Zorion chased after Deanna.

After they left, Raeleigh looked over at Scarlette and said, “Call Santiago right now. I’m sure he has a solution.”

Just as Scarlette was about to call Santiago, Santiago’s car pulled up at the front door. Raeleigh hurried over. When he had stopped the car, she walked over.

“What’s wrong?” Santiago asked.

“Deanna has run away. Can you please go and find her? Jepherson got into a fight with Zorion. Deanna has feelings for you. When she found out about you and Cynthia, she immediately bolted.”

Anxiety was written all over Raeleigh’s face. Santiago immediately got back into his car and called Jepherson.

Jepherson answered the phone and informed Santiago that he was in the city. He told him that he should be able to find Deanna there and asked Santiago to hurry over, but added that there was nothing to be worried about.

However, none of them were able to find Deanna.

“Mr. Jepherson, I found the car in the downtown area, but there was no one in it.”

As soon as Jepherson received the call, he instantly rushed over to the spot. There was indeed no one in the car. Zorion ordered his subordinates to block the surroundings and send out a search party right away. However, after searching the entire night, Deanna was still nowhere to be found.

No one could get through to her phone, either. She just disappeared.

Raeleigh waited patiently in her house, but even after a long time, no one came home.

Raeleigh called Jepherson, but he did not pick up.

After another day of waiting, someone finally returned. It was Jepherson, and Jepherson alone. Raeleigh saw no sign of Santiago and Zorion. Raeleigh knew straight away that there was something up.

“How is it going?” Raeleigh took two quick steps. When Jepherson saw her hastening, and he stopped her there and then. He said, “Be careful.”

Raeleigh stopped and glanced at her belly. She inhaled and asked Jepherson again, “How is it going?”

Jepherson pulled her into his arms. “We’re still looking for her, but we don’t know what’s happened to her. She suddenly just disappeared completely.”

Raeleigh pulled away from Jepherson’s embrace and looked at him. “Could it be the Cole family?”

“No. I doubt Flynt would do anything right now. Unless... it’s someone else from the Cole family. Well, if we just consider Flynt... For Cynthia’s sake, I doubt Flynt would capture Deanna, unless he wants to die.”

“Although Flynt and Santiago haven’t interacted much, he should know what kind of person Santiago is. I doubt he would offend him,” Jepherson concluded.

“If it’s not the Cole family, then where else could Deanna have gone?”

“It’s possible that she’s just hiding. She’d better not be held hostage by someone else. If that’s the case, then it’ll be tricky.”

Raeleigh raised her head and looked up at Jepherson. “Are you saying that someone wanted to kidnap Deanna?”

“It’s hard to say, but I will not rule it out. I think that it’s possible that Deanna is just hiding on her own, but she is a beautiful girl, so it’s very dangerous for her to be out alone for so long.”

When Raeleigh heard what Jepherson said, her anxiety rose.

Raeleigh furrowed her eyebrows and she then asked worriedly, "Where did you find the car?"

"Downtown."

"Let's try to look for her again. We can check the hotels and alleys nearby. Maybe we'll be able to find her." Raeleigh wanted to go out and join the search. Jepherson held her back and asked, "With your condition, won't I be preoccupied with looking after you instead of finding Deanna if we were to go together?"

Raeleigh stopped and cast a look at her belly. "Then, what should we do?"

"Don't worry. Everything will be fine." That was all Jepherson could say at the moment. Raeleigh's worries did not subside. She told him, "I'll stay at home. Take Scarlett and Hadrian to search for her."

"There's no need for that. We have plenty of manpower already. You don't have to go out. Now that you're safe here, I can rest assured. Plus, Madam Paige wants to see you tonight."

"She wants me to see her?" Raeleigh remembered what Jepherson had said previously. "With my condition, you still want me to go over..."

"I'm not asking you to go alone. Santiago and I will be going over too." Jepherson had his hands tied too. There were too many things happening at the moment, but he had no choice. If he did not accompany Raeleigh, then Madam Paige would probably find out about Deanna. That would cause even more of a ruckus.

"What about Deanna?" Raeleigh couldn't stop herself from worrying. Jepherson said, "We'll go back for dinner. Santiago will try to look for her now. I will get someone to send you over while we do another quick search in the meantime."

"That's the only thing we can do." Jepherson looked at the time and added, "Dinnertime is pretty soon. Why don't you go and get dressed? I'll head back first and ask Stuart to come and pick you up."

"Okay, noted. You can go ahead." Raeleigh gave Jepherson the approval to leave. Then, she went upstairs and changed her clothes. Just as she finished changing, she heard Scarlett yelling that Stuart had already arrived. Raeleigh immediately saw Stuart there as soon as she went downstairs.

"Mrs. Harvey," Stuart greeted. Raeleigh was a little bit surprised with the way Stuart addressed her. Raeleigh felt depressed at the thought that she might be Jepherson's sister. However, now that so much had happened, she could only take it one step at a time.

What else could she have done?

"I'm all set. Let's go. We shouldn't keep Madam Paige waiting." Raeleigh then followed him out. Scarlett and Hadrian, too, got into the car and they made their way towards Harvey Manor.

When they arrived at the manor, Stuart instantly got out of the car and opened the door for Raeleigh. She paused for a moment after coming out of the car, exhaling.

"Miss Anson, this way." Raeleigh felt much more at ease being called that.

Raeleigh glanced at Stuart and said, "Let's go."

Stuart accompanied Raeleigh to the Ink Garden. When they arrived, Stuart announced, "Madam Paige, Miss Anson has arrived."

Paige was fuming. She had already given Jepherson a dressing down. She had been waiting for Santiago and Raeleigh, but only Raeleigh had shown up. Paige mused over it before she stood up. For the first time, she made her way to the door to greet Raeleigh.

Raeleigh saw Paige coming out. She quickened her pace and closed the distance between them, greeting her, "Madam Paige."

"Yes, you're here?" Paige said, her countenance neutral, without any trace of anger. Raeleigh took a careful look at Jepherson, who was standing behind her. She could roughly guess what had transpired. Jepherson must have said something to her, and that was why she was being so amiable.

"I can't turn down an invitation from you. I wanted to come earlier, but I don't have a car. I still have to rely on your family for commuting purposes. I'm really sorry."

That was the first time that Paige realized that Raeleigh knew exactly what to say on any given occasion. Raeleigh had her own merits. Few people of Raeleigh's age would be able to remain calm in the face of such a serious situation.

Paige thought that if Santiago could change his mind, then it would be a good thing. Alas, she feared that he would be too impulsive.

The Cole family had nothing to do with them. Moreover, wasn't Cynthia Flynt's sister? How old was she? Wasn't she older than Santiago? Paige was reluctant to consent to the relationship.

No matter what flaws she had, Raeleigh was still better than anyone from the Cole family.

Paige understood that well. She would not allow Santiago to marry Cynthia.