

Go After 1191

Chapter 1191

After Cynthia got better, she was transferred to an ordinary ward. Scarlett was gone. Raeleigh immediately got a specialist to be in charge of taking care of Cynthia.

On one hand, it was Cynthia who had been looking after Raeleigh after she had her miscarriage. On the other hand, it was indeed inconvenient for a man such as Santiago to take care of Cynthia himself.

"Raeleigh, thank you. I'm sorry for causing trouble." Cynthia repeated this multiple times throughout her stay in the hospital. Raeleigh disregarded them all. Unlike Cynthia, she seldom spoke during her recovery from miscarriage. It was even more unlikely for her to say the things Cynthia had said during that period.

However, Cynthia was different. She would repeatedly tell the same thing to Raeleigh.

Raeleigh was accustomed to it. She thought Cynthia wouldn't give up expressing her gratitude even if she told her not to.

Cynthia had to stay in the ward and seldom get to go out. She also had nothing else to do to kill time, so she took it as a way for her to kill her boredom.

Santiago came back with some food. Seeing that Santiago had come back, Raeleigh walked over and took the food from Santiago.

Raeleigh was by her side all day long, which was pretty much the same for Cynthia. The only difference was that she could move around freely, whereas Cynthia could only lie or sit on the bed.

"Xanthus is here. He's parking the car outside," Santiago told Raeleigh after he came out of the washroom. Raeleigh turned around and shot a glance at him. "Oh?"

She placed the food on the table and arranged it neatly. Then, she went to the door to wait for Xanthus.

Cynthia could already sit up. Half a month had passed by in a flash. She heard that the weather was getting cold, and she looked out from time to time. She felt a sense of sadness whenever she watched the trees swaying in the wind. She didn't expect that the late autumn would pass so soon.

Xanthus brought a huge fruit basket with him. Raeleigh stretched out her hand to take it over, but Xanthus refused.

"You don't have to do this. Let me handle it." Xanthus put the fruit basket aside as soon as he entered the ward. After that, he stopped in front of Cynthia, and looked at her. "Are you feeling better now?"

Cynthia nodded. "I'm much better. Thank you for coming."

"I should have come earlier, but there was a conflict in the school involving a few students. I was with them for the past few days, and Raeleigh's grandmother needs someone to look after her. That's why I am only here after so long."

"Actually, my injury isn't that severe. Raeleigh has exaggerated it." Cynthia shot a look at Raeleigh. Occasionally, she felt that Xanthus would make a better spouse than Jepherson but love was blind. Sometimes, only the person whom they chose at first sight could be their life partner. By h*ll or high

water, it needed to be that person and no one else. No matter how excellent the others were, it would do nothing to alter their loves.

Cynthia then glanced at Santiago, who was sitting aside and waiting for breakfast. She couldn't help but to feel that she was the prime example.

"I wasn't sure what you like, so I bought some fruits. I guess you guys haven't had breakfast yet. Let's have breakfast first."

Xanthus sat aside as he spoke. Cynthia had misunderstood him, but he did not attempt to explain herself.

Raeleigh sorted out breakfast before she asked Xanthus, "Have you had your breakfast?"

Xanthus answered, "Yes, I have. Your grandmother's appetite has been great recently. We will go out for an excursion in the morning, and then go home to have breakfast."

"Did she talk about me?" Raeleigh had not gone home for two weeks and she missed her.

Xanthus smiled. "No, she didn't."

Raeleigh froze for a moment. It wasn't that she was disappointed, but she did not expect for her grandmother to get along so well with Xanthus.

Just when Raeleigh had prepared Cynthia's food and was about to bring it to her, Xanthus stood up and went to the washroom, without closing the door, to wash his hands. By the time he came out, Raeleigh had sat down. He went over and took the bowl from Raeleigh. "Let me do it. You can have your breakfast."

Raeleigh stood up. At first, she intended to refuse, but for some reason, she seemed to have understood something through Xanthus's eyes, and she accepted his suggestion.

Xanthus walked up to Raeleigh's original place, prepared to feed Cynthia.

"It's alright, I can eat by myself." Cynthia wished that she could eat by herself, but Xanthus did not let go of his hand. Instead, he took a mouthful of food with the spoon and sent it to her mouth. "It's even more awkward if you keep rejecting. It's just a meal. Don't worry."

Hearing his words, Cynthia stole a glance at Santiago, who was having his breakfast with his head down. He did not look at her, which showed that he did not care about this, but...

Cynthia hesitated for a moment before accepting Xanthus's offer, thinking that she shouldn't cause trouble for others.

However, it was an awkward breakfast for her. She was a vegetLexien, who rarely consumed meat in her daily life, but Xanthus kept feeding her with meat. He fed her one mouthful after another incessantly. She didn't want to appear like she was a picky eater, so she didn't turn him down. She wasn't a big eater, especially since she was hospitalized, her appetite had reduced further. However, she forced herself to finish the entire bowl. Xanthus filled up another half of the bowl after she had finished. Even though the portion was not big, it was difficult for her to finish it. Santiago would comment every day that she ate like a bird.

But right then...

Her upbringing didn't allow her to refuse Xanthus strongly, so her refusal was too subtle for him to take it seriously. As a result, she had to force herself to finish the extra portion.

As she sat on the bed, she felt that she was so full that she couldn't even swallow a mouthful of water.

Xanthus got up and stood aside. "You can get out of bed now. Try to come down and do some exercises."

Cynthia was thinking of doing that too. The doctor told her that it would be great if she could get out of bed and move around. It would help in her recovery.

She got out of bed and felt that she was enervated. Xanthus approached her and supported her with his hand. Raeleigh frowned slightly as she watched...

"Inhale, and then exhale. Take your time. You shouldn't stay in bed all the time. If you don't move around more, then your legs will become stiff in the future, and it's bad for your blood circulation." Xanthus was a doctor, and he was sagacious when it came to treating patients. Everyone understood this except for Cynthia herself.

Raeleigh cast a glance at Santiago, who got up to wash his hands after finishing his breakfast. Then, he came back and looked at Xanthus as he wiped his hands dry.

Afterwards, Santiago walked over and took Cynthia's hand from Xanthus. He held her hand with both of his hands to assist her. The two of them paced back and forth in the ward without caring for the presence of the others, as if they were dancing in their own world.

Only then did Raeleigh bring Xanthus out of the room.

They sat down outside of the ward. Raeleigh said, "The doctor said that it will take more than three months for her to recuperate, and she needs to be hospitalized for at least a month. It's very troublesome."

"Don't worry about your grandmother. I will look after her." Xanthus knew Raeleigh's concern, and he offered his help. Raeleigh nodded at his reply.

Chapter 1192

At that time, Xanthus said, "I heard that Hadrian is fine now. Is it true?"

Raeleigh looked at him. "I'm not sure."

"I've seen him around campus, all alone. I think he's probably looking for Scarlett."

"Then, Scarlett is going to have trouble coming her way." Raeleigh always felt that Hadrian was not the kind of person who would give up easily. It could even be said that he would not give up. However, Scarlett did not understand this point. Why did he have to come out?

It'd be fine if he did not show up. Who knew what would happen now that he did?

In fact, Scarlett did not care much about Hadrian. On the contrary, she was concerned about the Cole family's matter.

Raeleigh asked Xanthus, "Has Flynt been attending classes recently?"

"Yanora is a murderer now. He has to deal with her affairs. Where would he have the time to attend class?" Xanthus did not know whether he should be glad that Raeleigh was in the hospital. If she wasn't, then he had no idea what those people would do to Raeleigh.

However ...

Xanthus looked at Raeleigh and said, "Capital City is a dangerous place. I still hope that you can consider going abroad with me. The three most dominant families are building momentum, and I'm sure someone's going to get hurt if they start fighting. Although you are just a bystander, I always worry that you will get hurt if you are not careful."

"The thing with Cynthia is a perfect example."

"I know, and I'm also considering it. However, I can't leave right now. Cynthia once helped me. I can't just up and leave when she's still in the hospital. Besides, I have to discuss this with Grandma. Grandma is already used to living here. I feel bad asking her to move with me."

"She is already so old, after all. Asking her to hopscotch from place to place with me, I don't think it's good for her."

Raeleigh sighed. She only knew what happened before her eyes. It was not so much reluctant as it was troublesome.

When Xanthus noticed that Raeleigh was a little downcast, he raised his hand and patted Raeleigh.

"Let's not go back first. We'll wait for the holidays."

"Alright." Raeleigh agreed. Xanthus briefly looked at his watch and stood up. Then, he took a look at the two walking in the ward. He turned around and looked at Raeleigh. "I have to go back now, as I have other things to attend to today. I won't go in."

"Sure. Also, could you please relay the news to Grandma?" Raeleigh told Xanthus. Xanthus raised his hand and patted Raeleigh on the shoulder. "I got you."

"Yeah."

Raeleigh saw him off at the door of the elevator. After he left, she made her way back to the ward.

Deanna showed up in the evening. She had not left the house in two weeks, so she felt as though everything was new. She was even intrigued when she saw someone getting an injection.

Deanna sat opposite of Raeleigh and stared at her with her big eyes. Raeleigh felt strange and wondered what was so interesting about her to be stared at.

"Raeleigh, why don't we attend class later? I'm bored out of my mind staying at home." Deanna was about to lose her mind, being cooped up at home. Her parents were not at home, and right then, she was like a prisoner and couldn't go anywhere.

Usually, with her brother, she could still play the part of the spoiled sister, but right then she realized that it did not work on him anymore. Her brother had a new confidante and no longer loved her.

Deanna looked at Raeleigh's pitiful look. Amused, Raeleigh said, "I can't leave now. As you can see, I need to take care of Cynthia."

"Raeleigh, I'm fine. You don't have to worry about me. I can be alone for a while, or perhaps you can find someone else to take care of me while you're gone." Cynthia felt bad that Raeleigh had to take care of her, and that was why she suggested it. She did not want to trouble Raeleigh.

But Raeleigh was the first to disagree and immediately cut her off.

"No way, I don't feel at ease letting someone else take care of you. It's not safe now." Raeleigh felt that the Cole family had given up on Cynthia. They only cared more about how miserable she would be, as she was no longer useful to the Cole family. If the need arose, then she was sure they would have ended Cynthia for good.

Even if Flynt did not have the heart to do so, she knew the Cole family would not let Cynthia get away.

Raeleigh did not trust anyone to take care of Cynthia.

Deanna thought for a moment and said, "Why don't we bring Cynthia to the university with us? It's a much better environment. Being holed up in the hospital won't do her recovery any good."

Raeleigh looked at Deanna and said, "Deanna, are you afraid of going home?"

Deanna curled her lips. "I don't want to go back. There's no one to keep me company at home. My brother only spends his time with Rossie now. I had to beg him to let me out today."

Deanna lowered her head and hugged her bag. When she was broke and hungry, all she could think about was all the delicious food she wanted to eat. However, even though she had money then, she realized that money was nothing more than a piece of paper.

Raeleigh glanced at Santiago. "Can you please call Zorion and tell him that Deanna will be staying with us for a couple of days? I am very tired. I need someone to help me."

Santiago glanced at Raeleigh and took out his cell phone to call Zorion. He did as he was told.

"Deanna will not be going home today, she's going to stay over at our place. I'm just calling to let you know. Oh, and one more thing..." Santiago didn't initially want to meddle in this matter, but he looked at Deanna, who looked like she was about to cry, and said, "Just because you have a girlfriend now, it does not mean you can neglect your sister. She's a person, not a kitten or a puppy. You can keep her at home for a couple of days, but not longer than that. She'll go crazy."

At that time, Zorion was currently watching TV. After Santiago hung up on him, he immediately stood up.

Rossie was also watching TV. When she saw Zorion stand up, she followed suit. She wanted to follow him out, but she was stopped.

“You don’t have to follow me. I’ll be back very soon.” Zorion pinched Rossie’s chin. Rossie had been very obedient recently and he had slowly started to let his guard down around her.

Rossie did not say anything. She just watched as Zorion put on his jacket and walked out through the door. After he left, Rossie returned to the couch and continued watching TV.

It was not that Rossie did not want to leave, but she couldn’t. Zorion had kept her identity card and passport. She could not leave without those things.

To Raeleigh’s surprise, Zorion arrived not long after Santiago hung up the phone. He knocked on the door but did not enter. He pushed the door open and called out to his sister. “Deanna.”

Deanna suddenly looked up and said, “Yes?”

“Time to go home.” Zorion spoke to her in a gentle tone with a sweet smile.

Deanna froze for a moment. She then stood up and said to Raeleigh and the others, “I’ll go back first. I’ll come to see you some other day.”

After saying that, she made her way towards the door. When she arrived, she extended one hand to Zorion and allowed him to take her home.

Raeleigh did not move as she stared at the closed door of the ward and took a deep breath.

Cynthia said, “If it weren’t for me, then Deanna wouldn’t be like this either.”

“It has nothing to do with you. It’s between Zorion and Deanna,” Raeleigh said as she stood up. No one should meddle in others’ affairs.

Chapter 1193

Cynthia was quite confused when she heard Raeleigh’s words. So, she asked Raeleigh, “What do you mean?”

Raeleigh turned around and glanced at Cynthia. “Deanna is no longer a child. She keeps a lot of things to herself. Zorion must have realized that she no longer relies on him. He, as her brother, is not used to it.”

Raeleigh had just realized it. It was normal for Zorion to take care of his sister, but he did not need to watch her every step, and he did not need to hold her hand. Only a boyfriend would do such things. However, Zorion ticked everything on the list, as her brother.

Wasn’t that a problem?

However, Zorion was definitely not a person who wanted anything out of his sister. It was just that he was very important to Deanna. It could be said that even Jepherson could not replace her brother in her heart even though she had loved Jepherson for more than ten years. At that time, a person named Jacky, had changed Deanna. Zorion, as an elder brother, was already accustomed to being depended on. Suddenly, he was told that his sister did not need him, and that explained his change in behavior.

Deanna probably realized it and was afraid that she would hurt Zorion, so she always pretended to be obedient. Even if she knew he was wrong, she would still abide by his arrangement.

Suddenly Cynthia seemed to have had an epiphany. She felt that she and Deanna were the same. Both were tied down by affection. It was just that Deanna was lucky to have a brother like Zorion.

In the following days, Raeleigh began focusing on taking care of Cynthia. She listened to the doctor's advice and soon, Cynthia was fully recovered and was finally able to be discharged from the hospital.

That morning, Raeleigh decided to head out to get some breakfast. When she arrived downstairs, she happened to see Jepherson's car. She paused for a moment when she saw it, but she turned around and headed back up to the ward.

Raeleigh hadn't seen Jepherson for two weeks. If she had gone a little longer without seeing him, then she believed that she would have completely forgotten about his existence.

By the time she arrived back at Cynthia's ward, Cynthia had already changed out of her hospital gown and was ready to leave the hospital.

When Cynthia saw Raeleigh, she immediately walked up and asked, "What are we eating today?"

"I've bought some buns and two bowls of porridge. Let's have something simple. I'll fix something up for you when we get home."

Raeleigh placed the things in her hands on the table and was about to begin eating, but Santiago stopped them and made them wash their hands before eating. Once breakfast was done and over with, Santiago went through the discharge procedure. Soon, the trio left the hospital together.

It was not until Santiago entered through the door that he learnt that Raeleigh and Novalie had moved. At that time, Santiago did not say anything. After he brought Cynthia up to the room, he came back down and asked for Raeleigh.

Raeleigh walked over to Santiago and stood face-to-face with him.

"I have thought about it. I will find a way to put this house up for sale. After all, this house is under my name. I have the right to do so." Raeleigh was telling the truth. Since there was no purpose anymore, she might as well sell the house and use the money to buy a smaller house for her and her grandmother, and to settle down finally.

Santiago's face was colored with amusement. "Are you trying to get me to strangle you?"

Raeleigh thought for a moment and said, "Well, if you're up for it, then who am I to object?"

Santiago's brows twitched in anger. "You don't give a d*mn, do you?"

"How about seeing it as having a clean conscience," Raeleigh refuted. Santiago was on the verge of breaking into laughter. He raised his hand and pointed at Raeleigh. "You have guts."

This was the first time Serra had seen Santiago this mad.

After a while, Santiago turned around and said, "Bring Novalie back. I'll buy this house."

"We're not going to move back in. If I myself don't want to live in this house, which I own, then what makes you think that I will want to live in this house even if you buy it from me?" Since they had moved out, she never thought of moving back in.

At that time, Cynthia was fully recovered and did not need her help anymore. It was time for her to leave.

Just as Raeleigh was about to make her way towards the door, Santiago hurriedly stepped forward to block Raeleigh's way. "I'm not going to let you leave. You can try walking out, but no."

"Try me." Raeleigh had never been afraid of anyone in her life, not even Jepherson. So, Santiago was out of the question.

So, Raeleigh took a step forward, wanting to go out. However, Santiago grabbed Raeleigh and threw her onto the couch. Although the couch was soft, she was caught off guard by Santiago's unexpected movement, and she hit the couch hard. She nTristany passed out due to the impact.

Raeleigh lay on the couch for a long time and did not move. A gloomy look appeared on Santiago's face. He said, "If you had listened to me, then this would not have happened."

The color drained from Raeleigh's face, but she did not utter a single word. She just glared at Santiago and his handsome face.

Santiago walked over and gave his hand to Raeleigh. He wanted to pull Raeleigh up, but she did not move. She could not even stand up.

Santiago frowned. "What, are you stock-still from the impact?"

Raeleigh's face turned even paler. Santiago immediately bent down, wanting to help her up, but the action made her scream in pain.

Santiago immediately let go of Raeleigh. He stared at her and asked, "What's wrong?"

Raeleigh gulped. "My chest hurts."

Only then did Santiago sit down on the other side and gently pressed Raeleigh's ribs to identify where the pain was coming from. "Does it hurt here?"

Raeleigh nodded. Santiago placed his hand on her ribs and gently massaged her.

After a while, she finally felt much better. Then, she slowly sat up and leaned to one side of the couch.

Due to the immense pain, beads of sweat started to appear on Raeleigh's forehead.

Growing impatient, Santiago said, "I can't take care of you if you move out. Look at what happened to Cynthia. It's not like you can't see it."

"I can take care of myself. I feel much more comfortable when I'm not around you guys. You showing up here is only giving me a headache."

Raeleigh managed to stand up and wanted to leave.

Santiago also stood up and stopped Raeleigh. "Stop kicking up a fuss, will you. I'm still not going to let you step out of this house."

"Whatever fuss I'm kicking up is up to me. I should leave. And please, don't you try to block me."

Raeleigh stepped aside. She wanted nothing more but to leave.

Santiago was still holding Raeleigh's wrist, but that time, he did not stop her. Instead, he followed her to the door.

Raeleigh gasped when she arrived at the door. She did not expect her injury to be this bad. It was just a chest pain, but she felt as though she were within an inch of her life.

Raeleigh did her best to stay on her feet, but the sweat on her forehead started to drip down.

Santiago pinched Raeleigh's chin and stared at her. Raeleigh turned her head and was about to leave, but she lost her balance and fell to the ground. Just as Santiago was about to help her up, Jepherson entered the house.

It was only then that Santiago stopped. Raeleigh was in so much pain that she was on the verge of death. In the end, Jepherson bent down and gathered her in his arms.

Chapter 1194

The brothers' eyes met as they engaged in a staring contest.

Santiago shrugged. "She won't listen to me."

"I'll come back and beat the crap out of you," Jepherson said as he turned around with Raeleigh in his arms, and walked out of the door. He carried Raeleigh into the car. When Stuart saw him, he immediately opened the car door for Jepherson.

For several times, Raeleigh wanted to get up, but her pain got the better of her, paralyzing her.

"Don't move." Jepherson held Raeleigh in his arms. He held her down to prevent her from getting up. Only then did she stop moving.

Raeleigh leaned back in the seat and watched the scenery outside the window. She had suffered chest pains before when she was younger, but it had never been this excruciating.

Jepherson rested his head on Raeleigh's. He initially wanted to test Raeleigh's temperature, but as soon as he got close to her, he could not bring himself to pull away.

Jepherson rested his head against hers and took a deep breath. Raeleigh tried to get up immediately and turned her face away. Suddenly, he held her hand and pressed his head against hers again as he said, "Stay put. It'll stop hurting soon."

There was a fixed window between the two front seats and the back passenger seat. It made the interior of the car somewhat dark. Jepherson took advantage of that moment and kissed Raeleigh on her face. Then, he suddenly pulled her into his arms and closed his eyes.

Stuart was not a fool. He could tell what was going on just by the sound of their breathing. Turn around he dared not.

However, Raeleigh was an unwilling participant. She struggled for a while, but her chest was hurting, and Jepherson said that he was not going to let her go as he held her tightly in his arms.

"Don't move," Jepherson whispered into Raeleigh's ear while he held her hand. She clenched her teeth and stared at him coldly. However, she did not say anything but turned her face away.

Along the way, the more Jepherson hugged Raeleigh, the more he wanted to get close to her. However, Raeleigh's entire body was so cold to the point that Jepherson felt as if he was hugging a ball of thorns, and it filled him with hatred and agony.

When they arrived at the entrance of the hospital, Stuart immediately got out of the car and opened the door. Then, Jepherson got out of the car with Raeleigh in his arms and entered the hospital.

As Jepherson walked, he lowered his head to look at Raeleigh. She was in so much pain that her face was pale. It made Jepherson feel impetuous, but he still wanted to comfort Raeleigh. "It's okay. Don't cry."

Raeleigh frowned deeply. She stared at Jepherson and thought, "When have I ever cried? What in the world is he talking about?"

"It's okay," Jepherson repeated, to which Raeleigh ignored.

Jepherson walked into an examination room while Stuart handled the formalities. When the doctor entered the room, Jepherson was still reluctant to put Raeleigh down. It was as if once he put her down, it would not be so easy to hold her in his arms again, so he continued to carry her.

The doctor was in a pickle. He wondered, how was he supposed to examine the patient if Mr. Jepherson did not put her down on the bed?

"Go on, examine her." Jepherson sat down with Raeleigh in her arms. The doctors looked at each other and said, "Mr. Jepherson, there's no way we can examine her like that. Why don't you put her down on the bed? You can carry her to the ward later if you'd like."

The doctor said carefully. Jepherson had no choice but to place Raeleigh on the bed. After that, he stood up and walked to one side. He stood there as he watched the doctors examine her. As the doctors worked, they felt as if Jepherson's eyes were burning holes in the back of their heads. It was as though if they made one wrong move, then they would be killed.

One of the doctors then asked Raeleigh, "Where does it hurt?"

"My chest..." Raeleigh was barely able to speak, so the doctor massaged her ribs immediately and said, "Oh, it's just a normal chest pain. You must have hurt yourself when exercising. All we need to do is to massage it..."

"Back off!" Jepherson's face fell. The doctor immediately stumbled backwards.

Jepherson walked over to Raeleigh and sat down with an unpleasant expression. However, when he spoke to Raeleigh, the former harshness was gone. Instead, his voice was filled with gentleness. "Hang in there."

"Why don't you folks show me how to do it? I'll massage her on my own," Jepherson said and was about to place his hands on Raeleigh, but she raised her hand to stop him.

"Call Xanthus, anyone? He can take over!"

Raeleigh barely spoke, but the doctors did not dare to say anything. Then, they heard Jepherson say, "Do you want me to teach the likes of you what to do?"

Jepherson's voice was gloomy. Even Stuart could tell that this was jealousy on steroids.

The doctor quickly said, "Place your hand on her lower abdomen first and massage her, clockwise."

Jepherson placed his hands on Raeleigh's abdomen and raised his eyes to look at her. She wanted to raise her hand to push him away, but she had no strength. However, Jepherson was already holding her hand, rendering her unable to move.

"Like this?" Raeleigh could not move. Jepherson looked at the doctors as he gently massaged Raeleigh's body. The doctor nodded and said, "That's it, but I think you can exert more strength a little bit more. We will usually start off with a light massage before gradually increasing our strength."

Jepherson followed the doctor's instructions and gradually increased his strength until Raeleigh stopped sweating. When he looked over at her, she was lying on the bed, motionless.

"Mr. Jepherson, that should be enough," the doctor reminded Jepherson. Only then did he stop. After that, he reached out to hold Raeleigh's hand and looked at the doctors. "Does she need to stay overnight for observations?"

"That's not necessary. It's not that serious. Even if you hadn't brought her to the hospital, the pain would have gradually subsided. She was probably very nervous, and that is why the pain did not ease up."

Jepherson looked at Raeleigh, who had become much quieter. He stood up, bent down, and gathered her in his arms again. Then, he turned around and walked out of the room.

Stuart hurried to follow them. As soon as they arrived back at the car, he quickly opened the door for Jepherson.

Raeleigh was feeling much better now and had regained her strength. She began to struggle to get out of Jepherson's arms. She really wanted to get out of the car, but Jepherson insisted on holding her down, not giving her a chance.

"Mr. Jepherson, are we still heading over to the office or is there some other place that you want to go?"

In fact, Jepherson did not intend to head over to the office at all. He had planned to go back to the Ink Garden, but it sounded much more appropriate to head over to the office then.

Jepherson then said yes, after which Stuart immediately started the car and drove towards the office.

When they arrived at the office, Stuart quickly got out of the car and opened the door for Jepherson. He was about to get off with Raeleigh in his arms, but she immediately said, "Jepherson, you're crossing the line. We broke up. This is inappropriate."

Jepherson stopped himself short. He then asked Raeleigh, "What do you mean by crossing the line? I didn't..."

As he spoke, Jepherson glanced at Stuart and the driver. Stuart immediately turned away and pretended not to hear anything.

The driver, too, followed Stuart's lead and turned away.

Raeleigh clenched her teeth and said coldly, "I am fine now. I am very grateful to you, Vice President Harvey, for sending me to the hospital. However, I am still on leave now. If there is nothing else, then I'm going to leave now."

Raeleigh turned around and was about to leave. Jepherson reached out to stop her and took a step forward. He stood in between her and the car. He studied Raeleigh's face and asked, "Since when did I become the vice president to you?"

Raeleigh raised her eyes. "Since when you're not?"

Chapter 1195

Jepherson's eyes were cold and threatening as he approached Raeleigh. He lowered his head and whispered in her ear, "Raeleigh, do you believe that I will carry you in right now?"

Raeleigh glared at Jepherson. He continued, "I'll count to three. If you still refuse, then I'm going to carry you in."

Raeleigh gave him a nudge when she heard what he said. He immediately took her hand and started counting while staring at her. "One... Two... Three..."

Before Raeleigh could react, Jepherson had finished counting. He bent down to pick Raeleigh up.

Raeleigh struggled for a bit to get away. However, Jepherson did not let her go. He held her in his arms and entered the office building.

Raeleigh felt helpless and said, "I can walk on my own."

Jepherson paused for a moment. He placed Raeleigh down after a few moments and quickly reached out to hold her hand.

Raeleigh was stunned for a moment. She appeared displeased. She stared at her hand which had been gripped by Jepherson and tried to shrug his hand away, but Jepherson ignored her and led her towards the office building. Raeleigh tried to shove his firm grip with her other hand, but the more she tried, the tighter he held her. The skin on his hand was scratched as she tried to remove his grip.

Jepherson turned around and stared at Raeleigh sternly as he gritted his teeth. He then reached out to hold both of her hands before he continued walking towards his office with Raeleigh in tow.

"Jepherson, please let me go. We're not a couple anymore. Please let me go." Raeleigh continued to struggle behind him. In the end, he managed to drag her all the way into the office.

When they entered the office building, Raeleigh immediately stopped talking. Jepherson led the way as she followed him from behind.

Jepherson loosened his hold on her slightly, but Raeleigh still did not manage to wriggle out of his hand. The moment she was about to be freed from his hold, Jepherson tightened his hand on her again.

Soon, they arrived at Jepherson's office. Jepherson immediately locked the door after they entered his office. Raeleigh wanted to stand up, but he quickly turned around and placed his hands on her shoulders and pushed her to sit on the couch.

"I have something I need to attend to. Why don't you sit here for a while?" Jepherson walked over to his desk after he finished his sentence. Raeleigh sat on the couch.

Jepherson then sat down at his desk and began to go through the documents on his table. He would look up occasionally to check on her. After a while, he seemed to have suddenly lost interest and put down the documents in his hand. He asked Raeleigh with a thoughtful expression, "How's your grandmother doing?"

Raeleigh raised her head and looked at Jepherson for a moment before answering, "She is fine."

"Alright."

Then, he picked up another document and continued reading.

Raeleigh stood up. Jepherson raised his head to look at her and asked, "Where do you think you are going?"

Raeleigh sat down again. He lowered his head and said, "I would like to eat soon. What do you want to eat? You can put it in your order."

"I'm not hungry. I don't want to trouble you."

In her mind, exes could not remain friends after they broke up. It was only possible if the two people had never loved each other before.

She couldn't remain friends with him because she had once loved him.

"Did I say it was troublesome?" Jepherson's expression darkened. He kept his head lowered and placed the document aside. Then, he took out his phone to order some food.

After that, he continued to work. He was decisive and efficient when he worked.

She stared at him in a daze. It had been a long time since she last saw this side of him.

"What are you looking at?" asked Jepherson. Raeleigh froze for a moment and then snapped back to reality quickly but she did not answer him. Jepherson lowered his head slightly before looking up at her again. Only then did she turn her gaze away.

Jepherson continued to stare at Raeleigh for a while. With the document still in his hand, he stood up and walked over to her. He stood in front of her. They were in such close proximity that if she were to look up at Jepherson, her head would brush his pants. She turned her face away as she felt slightly uncomfortable with the distance between them and attempted to leave. However, Jepherson did not give her any chance to escape. He started flicking his shirt with the hand behind him.

"Smack!" One after another, all at once.

Raeleigh could not take it anymore. She wanted to stand up, but Jepherson immediately sat down beside her and crossed his legs. He then lowered his head and looked at the file in his hand. She quickly moved away from him.

Raeleigh did not look at Jepherson. She wanted to escape. However, the calmer Jepherson was, the more afraid she was to make a move. She was worried about his next move.

“Can you please take a look at this? I have been working on this design for some time, but I couldn’t find what is wrong with it,” Jepherson said as he shifted closer to Raeleigh. She looked at him and said, “I do not know how to evaluate this. I can’t help you.”

“You haven’t even looked at it yet. Don’t you know how to? Or do you not want to?” Jepherson questioned. She glanced at the document briefly in his hand and saw a new black sports car printed on the paper. It looked like he wanted to develop a new car.

Raeleigh knew that the Phantasy Dream and the Duke were already in the market and the sales were good.

Jepherson was preparing for next season’s production. Raeleigh was not surprised at all to find this.

Raeleigh neither wanted to interfere, nor did she have any opinion on the design of the car he was holding in his hands.

Raeleigh then replied, “I have no idea what I’m looking at. I think it’s best if you evaluate it yourself.”

Jepherson turned his dark eyes to look up at Raeleigh. He kept his eyes on her and said, “It’s somewhat dismissive to say that you do not have any opinion.”

“I don’t think there’s any problem with it,” Raeleigh said. Jepherson sneered and insisted. “I think there’s a problem.”

Raeleigh looked away and ignored him.

Jepherson placed the document on Raeleigh’s lap and tapped it twice. Raeleigh turned her face to look at the spot Jepherson was pointing. There were several words on it. Raeleigh scanned through it quickly and realized it was the name of the car.

Raeleigh could not be bothered and turned her face away after she read the lines of words.

“Looks good, eh?” Jepherson said. Raeleigh turned to look at the design of the car again but remained quiet. She had nothing to say.

Jepherson leaned to one side and waited for her to speak. He gazed at her intensely as she ignored him.

Raeleigh could feel his sharp gaze on her. It was as if his eyes could penetrate her soul.

After a few moments of silence, Raeleigh finally said, “I’m not feeling well. I don’t want to talk.”

“Not well? Here?” Jepherson stared at Raeleigh’s chest as if to hint her of something.

Raeleigh turned her face away. “I am going to use the restroom.”

She got up and walked hurriedly to the restroom. She thought she would be able to keep her cool but she became so irritated when she faced Jepherson.

She pushed the door of the restroom open and immediately locked the door after entering. She was afraid that Jepherson would follow her into the restroom.

Chapter 1196

Just as she had guessed, Jepherson stood up from his desk and made his way towards the restroom. He reached out to open the door but frowned when he realized that the door was locked. He knocked on the door and called out, "Raeleigh..."

Raeleigh quickly washed her hands as she kept an eye on the door. After drying her hands, she then walked towards the door and opened it, only to find Jepherson standing outside. He briefly looked inside the restroom before asking, "Are you done?"

"Yes." Raeleigh turned around to leave. Jepherson suddenly asked, "Did you lock the door?"

Raeleigh ignored him and continued to walk out. Jepherson turned around to look at her and instructed her. "Stay here. You are not allowed to leave."

Then, Jepherson turned around and entered the restroom. After he entered, Raeleigh turned around and looked at the closed door for a while. She contemplated making an escape when she arrived at the door that led out of the office. Jepherson's voice boomed, "Didn't you promised me not to leave?"

Raeleigh stopped and turned around to look at Jepherson who had emerged from the restroom. He was standing at the door and was looking displeased. He sounded like a child who was throwing a tantrum.

Jepherson did not seem angry. Instead, he looked like he was slightly amused with the situation.

Raeleigh frowned and thought about making her great escape. She wondered whether she would make it out through the door before he could reach her. In the end, she dismissed the idea because she knew it would not work. After all, she still had to go past Stuart.

Raeleigh finally made her way back and went over to the couch to sit down. She knew it was unwise of her to escape as she knew that Stuart would not let her pass.

Once Raeleigh sat down, Jepherson went back into the restroom. As soon as he came back, he walked over to the couch and sat beside Raeleigh. He picked up the file and read it for a while. He then asked Raeleigh with his head still lowered, "This car is designed for men. It lacks sophistication. I want your opinion."

"I have no opinions at all," Raeleigh said. Jepherson raised his head and took a look at Raeleigh before saying, "Since you think it's fine, why don't you design a new car for me?"

Jepherson handed the documents to Raeleigh before he stood up to get a glass of water. Raeleigh immediately refused his offer.

"I don't want to collaborate with another designer's work. I hope you can understand."

Jepherson drank the water, turned around, and looked at Raeleigh. He said, "Wait, do you mean from now on, you're not going to design any cars for the company?"

"That's not what I meant. However, when I signed the contract with the company, it was not stated in the contract how often I am required to produce a design for the company. I majored in designing and I only know how to design a certain part of the car. I can't pinpoint what's wrong with the overall design of the car. I think the exterior looks perfect."

"You're saying that there is nothing I can do to make you produce any design even though we have signed an agreement?" Jepherson looked at her as he waited for a reasonable answer. She sat quietly on the couch, and refused to answer. It was indeed the message she wanted to deliver, but she couldn't say that out loud.

In the end, Jepherson could no longer stand it, so he said to Raeleigh, "Fine, if that's what you want, but the company will not hire you to do nothing."

"I previously designed some cars for the company and even helped the company generate profit. I have no inspiration now. If you think that I can come up with a design now, then I have nothing to say."

Jepherson did not answer. He stood for a while, before returning to his chair. He sat down and glanced at the bodyguards. Then, he looked at Raeleigh. "I don't care what you think. I want the company to perform well."

He probably wanted her more than the performance of the company.

Jepherson frowned as he stared at Raeleigh. He was still waiting for her to speak. However, she appeared calm and remained silent for a long time. Judging by her looks, it seemed like she was implying, "You can do whatever you want. You may fire me if you do not like me. I'm fine with it. I don't want to come back to this place anyway."

Jepherson leaned against the chair and called her. "Come here. Bring along the documents."

Raeleigh glanced at the document on the couch that belonged to Jepherson. He was the vice president of the company. It wasn't surprising for him to give her orders.

Raeleigh got up to pick up the document. She walked over to Jepherson's desk and placed the documents in front of him.

Jepherson said to Raeleigh, "Come and put it next to me."

Raeleigh stared at him for a moment and did as she was told.

Jepherson reached out to pull Raeleigh's hand, but she immediately hid her hand behind her and said, "If there's nothing else, then I'll sit on the couch."

Raeleigh was not asking for Jepherson's opinion. Instead, she was informing him. Raeleigh turned around and went back to the couch when she finished her sentence. She kept her eyes on the door as if she was planning to make her escape anytime.

Jepherson remained seated and continued to work. He did not cause any trouble to her anymore for the rest of the day. When night fell, Jepherson asked Raeleigh, "Are you hungry?"

“A little. Are you done with work?” Raeleigh wanted to head home, but she did not want to make it seem like she was eager to leave. She did not want Jepherson to cause her further trouble.

“Yes. Let’s go, I’ll take you for dinner.” Jepherson stood up and put on his coat before briefly tidying his desk. Raeleigh stood up and said while walking, “Just send me home. I don’t want to go out and eat. My grandmother will be worried if I go back late.”

“Alright then. I’ll accompany you home to visit your grandmother,” Jepherson said as he opened the door. All Raeleigh wanted was to go home. She did not say anything and allowed Jepherson to do whatever he wanted to do.

She sat on one side after she got into the car. Jepherson was unhappy with the distance between them.

On the way back to Raeleigh’s house, Jepherson informed the driver to make a detour to the grocery store so that he could buy some fruits. Once he was done, they continued the journey back to Raeleigh’s house. Raeleigh pretended to ignore him and did not speak for the rest of the journey.

When they finally arrived at Raeleigh’s place, Raeleigh looked outside the window and realized that Jepherson had no idea that she had moved out. They were at her previous residence.

Raeleigh got out of the car and glanced at Jepherson. She waited for him to take the fruits out of the car before walking away from the house. When Jepherson turned around, he saw Raeleigh trying to hail a taxi. It was not too late yet, so she managed to get a taxi. The taxi drove away quickly after she got into it.

Jepherson looked at Stuart in surprise. It suddenly dawned on him that Raeleigh no longer lived here.

“When did it happen?” Jepherson was furious. Stuart answered immediately, “Right around the time Cynthia got injured.”

“Why didn’t you tell me?”

“We had just found out about it. Mr. Santiago did not know about it either and Serra did not say anything.”

Stuart was worried about Serra. He wondered why Serra had kept quiet about it. He was sure that Serra knew about her move.

Raeleigh finally arrived home safely. When she got out of the car, she breathed a sigh of relief.

Even if this place was not as good as her previous residence, it was a place of her own. It was definitely better than staying in someone else’s house.

Chapter 1197

Raeleigh got out of the taxi and saw Xanthus walking out of the house just as she was about to enter the house. He was staring at the watch anxiously. She knew he was extremely worried.

Xanthus was very busy that day. If he was free, then he would have gone to the hospital to pick her up.

“What took you so long to come home?” Xanthus asked Raeleigh as he took a quick look at his watch. Raeleigh decided against telling him that she had been held up by Jepherson all day. She told him that she bumped into him, and that was why she came back late.

Xanthus looked at Raeleigh for a moment and made sure she was fine before they entered the house together. It was time for dinner.

When Raeleigh saw the dishes on the table, she said, feeling slightly embarrassed, “Ever since we met you, you’ve been helping me take care of Grandma. You are turning into my housekeeper.”

“I will try my best. This is the only way I can repay my gratitude towards Grandma. If it weren’t for her, then I probably would have never found you. Besides, isn’t it my responsibility as a brother to look after my sister?”

Raeleigh froze for a moment. He had no obligation to do anything for her, even if he was her brother.

“I will take care of you in the future,” Raeleigh said after a long time. Xanthus could not help but to smile. He reached out and touched Raeleigh’s head. “I’ll hold onto your words. If I grow old alone, then you will have to take care of me. Perhaps, you can tell your children to take good care of me, alright?”

Raeleigh pursed her lips. What else could she say?

Since she had nothing else to say, she stopped talking and entered the house to greet her grandmother.

Meanwhile, Novalie was wondering the whereabouts of Raeleigh. She finally came back.

Novalie took a look at Raeleigh and said, “You’re back! Let’s have dinner then. I’m old and starving.”

“Sorry, I didn’t mean to come back this late.”

“You don’t have to apologize. You make it sound like I’m an outsider. If you are going to come back late in the future, then you should let us know ahead of time. I don’t mind waiting, but it’s not good to let others worry about you.”

Raeleigh instantly understood who her grandmother was referring to. She turned around and glanced at Xanthus as she felt a little guilty. Xanthus immediately went into the kitchen and said. “Do not ever do this again, alright? Just call us so that I don’t have to worry about you.”

“Alright.” Raeleigh promised. After dinner, she helped Novalie back to her room to rest. It had been a long time since she came home after spending so much time in the hospital. She felt guilty.

As soon as Novalie sat down, she started praising Xanthus. Raeleigh sat aside in silence.

“Raeleigh, when I die, you should go abroad with him and never come back,” Novalie said in the end. She had made up her mind. She wanted the best for her granddaughter. Since this environment was no longer suitable for Raeleigh, she should move abroad to start a new life. A change could be good for her and it was probably better for her career development.

Raeleigh hugged Novalie abruptly and said, “No, don’t leave me. I will never leave you either. Even if I have to leave, I will take you with me. We will never be apart.”

Novalie smiled. She was happy to hear what she had said. She held Raeleigh's hands and replied, "Don't be silly. People will die eventually. My days are numbered. Do you think I'm immortal?"

Raeleigh hugged her grandmother without answering. They sat there for a long time until Novalie asked to call it a night. Raeleigh was feeling much better by the time she went to bed.

The next morning, Raeleigh saw Santiago at the door as soon as she went downstairs.

She froze at the sight of Santiago. He got out of the car while Cynthia sat in the passenger seat. Cynthia greeted Raeleigh when she saw her. Raeleigh stopped and smiled. Then, she walked over to Santiago.

"Come home with me," Santiago said as he stopped in front of Raeleigh.

"Are you kidding me?" Raeleigh was calm. What had happened should be left in the past, she thought. She held no grudges against him.

"Do I look like I'm kidding?" Santiago was amused. He looked up and saw Xanthus walking out. He walked over to Xanthus and said, "I want to take Raeleigh back home. You and Novalie may come with us. Somebody needs to look after Cynthia. Besides, I promised my brother that I will bring Raeleigh home."

"There's no point in telling me. I'm just here to look after Raeleigh. I can't make any decisions for her."

Xanthus said and fixed his gaze on Raeleigh. Raeleigh turned around as well.

Santiago continued, "Raeleigh has to come back with me. I know that she will refuse if both of you decide to stay. I hope you can all come with me. There's no other way."

"Santiago, you can't do this to me," Raeleigh said as she stared at Santiago. She looked slightly annoyed. Although she was sure that Santiago would come looking for her, she thought that he shouldn't have come.

"What do you mean? Do you mean like yesterday?" Santiago's face darkened. He turned around and faced Raeleigh, who fell silent all of a sudden. She said, "Don't talk about what happened yesterday. I don't want to hear anything about it. Please don't say anything more."

"No negotiations. You have to come with me. You don't have a choice," Santiago said stubbornly. Raeleigh said after a moment, "I'm not going. Why don't you kill me then?"

Raeleigh stormed back into the house when she finished her sentence. Santiago tried to follow her, but was stopped by Xanthus.

"Get out of my way." Santiago's face was full of displeasure. Xanthus remained steadfast as he was not afraid of him.

"Raeleigh is a human being. She's neither an animal nor a toy. It isn't right to control her actions. I know you meant no harm and you are trying to protect her. But please consider your actions. Do birds prefer to fly freely in the sky or get locked up in a cage?"

"I know you and your brother may mean no harm, but the way you're handling this is wrong."

Xanthus turned around and went back into the house. Santiago thought for a few moments and decided to walk towards the house. Cynthia got out of the car quickly and followed him.

Raeleigh intended to have breakfast but she heard the sound of door knock just when she was about to prepare her breakfast.

Xanthus went to take a look at the door and realized that it was none other than Santiago and Cynthia.

Xanthus exchanged a look with Raeleigh before opening the door.

Santiago took off his shoes and led Cynthia into the house. Raeleigh watched as the two of them took a seat on the couch. Then, she turned back into the kitchen to continue preparing breakfast.

She knew that it would be a futile attempt to change Santiago's mind. It was better to let him do whatever he wished to.

Once breakfast was ready, Raeleigh brought the food out and placed it on the dining table. Xanthus went to invite Novalie out for breakfast. Santiago treated her house as if it was his own. He brought Cynthia to the bathroom to wash their hands before making their way to the dining table, and waited to have breakfast together.

Chapter 1198

After breakfast, Novalie went back to her room. She didn't want to interfere with Raeleigh's affairs and left them to solve their own problems. She thought that she should come to her own decision that time.

Raeleigh turned to Santiago and asked, "What in the world do you want?"

"You know very well what I want. Do you really have to ask?" Santiago said. His face was proud and arrogant. Cynthia couldn't bear to watch any longer.

"Raeleigh, let's talk," Cynthia said as she stood up. Raeleigh knew she was not fully recovered yet and did not want to make things difficult for her. So, she followed Cynthia to Xanthus's room.

When they entered the room, Raeleigh pulled a chair over for Cynthia to sit before pouring a glass of water for her.

"How are you feeling?"

"I'm getting better. We haven't seen each other for a day, as you know how my condition is. I'm just feeling a little weak. Otherwise, I am alright." Cynthia's face was pale as she spoke.

Raeleigh said after a moment, "I can't go back with you. Serra can take care of you. I want to stay here and accompany my grandmother. You know me, I don't want to go back."

After spending more than two months together, Raeleigh and Cynthia had become best friends. Raeleigh did not want to elaborate too much and she knew that Cynthia was understanding.

"Raeleigh, I got you into this mess," Cynthia said, feeling a little guilty. She had been a burden to Raeleigh for a month. Right then, she had even come with Santiago to disturb her peace. She knew Raeleigh's character well. She had broken up with Jepherson and there was no turning back for her. It was wishful thinking for them to reconcile. It was a fact that everyone knew.

“Don’t say that. You took care of me too when I had a miscarriage. Look at you, the only thing you have done in the past month was to apologize to me. Sometimes, I’m even mistaken that we have only become friends just so you can apologize. You are my friend. There is no need for this.”

Raeleigh reached out for Cynthia’s hand. She thought Cynthia looked haggard recently and she wondered why. Although Cynthia was recovering, she felt that Cynthia sounded a little depressed.

“No, I should definitely tell you. I am indeed a burden to you. If it weren’t for me this time, then Santiago would not have had the excuse to come and find you. Sometimes, I would rather have him drag you away than to let him use me as an excuse. In fact, everyone knew that what he said was just an excuse, yet...”

Cynthia trailed off as she wasn’t sure what else to say.

Raeleigh looked at Cynthia and said, “I know you wanted to help him try to persuade me to go home, but I don’t want that house anymore. Furthermore, I need the money.”

“Are you short of money?” Cynthia asked. Raeleigh thought for a while and said, “Yes, I am. Once the house is sold, I’ll have the money.”

Raeleigh had already thought everything through. She remembered that she still owed Zorion money. She wanted to repay him as soon as possible.

Zorion and Deanna had provided help when her hand was injured by Quirina. Now that she has fully recovered, it was time for her to return the money she owed.

“I have some money saved up. If you need money urgently, then I can lend it to you first. The house is roughly worth about a couple million dollars. I should have enough.”

“It’s alright. I know you wanted the best for me. But you know about my situation too. I want to sell the house for the money. Besides, I will finally be able to let go of the things in the past and move on.”

Raeleigh knew Cynthia meant well, but she could only acknowledge it without accepting her kindness. She should not depend on others for her life.

Cynthia was silent for a moment before she replied, “If this is truly what you want, then I will help you.”

“How are you going to help me?” Raeleigh asked.

She answered, “Don’t worry. Leave it to me.”

Cynthia stood up, turned around, and left the room to go to Santiago.

Raeleigh followed her. She did not hear their exchange but Santiago appeared surprised. Santiago stood up when he saw Raeleigh and said, “I will buy the house. Name your price.”

“Six million dollars.” Raeleigh looked at Santiago. She had no idea how much the house was worth but she knew that a house like hers that was in a prime location would be expensive. She thought about the amount needed to pay off Zorion and knew that she roughly owed him at least a few million dollars. She wanted to pay him back as soon as possible. If they needed another favor in the future, then Raeleigh would be glad to return it.

Deanna was right. Whatever was owed needed to be returned.

"I'll offer you seven million dollars, if you come over and stay with us for a couple of days. Once Cynthia is feeling better, you may leave. I'll pay you immediately after that."

Raeleigh hesitated for a moment. "Are you serious? You'll let me come home once Cynthia is fully recovered?"

"Raeleigh..." Xanthus stood up. He was not planning on interfering as he thought Raeleigh had made a wise decision but he was having second thoughts right then.

She cut him off. "I know, but this has to be solved. I really want to sell the house. The company gave me the house as a reward for my car design. It belongs to me and I have the right to sell it. I need the money. Even though you have it, I don't need it yet but I will let you know when I do."

Raeleigh's idea was straightforward. All she wanted was to settle all the matters here before reuniting with her biological parents.

Xanthus wanted to speak up, but decided against it after hearing what Raeleigh had said.

"Since you have made your decision, I will support you." Xanthus patted Raeleigh and walked away. Raeleigh took a look at him before turning to look at Santiago. "Answer me."

"I'll keep my promise. When Cynthia has recovered, you may return home." Santiago took his cell phone out and called Jepherson. "Give me seven million dollars in cash, now."

Jepherson, who was on the other end of the line, frowned when he heard his words.

"Stuart, I need you to prepare seven million dollars in cash for Santiago." Jepherson hesitated for a moment before giving the order. Stuart asked in puzzlement, "Cash?"

"Yes, cash."

Jepherson put away his phone and stood up. He went to the window and looked outside. He balled his fingers into a fist and knocked his forehead. Stuart observed him before he walked out of the office to deliver the money to Santiago.

Raeleigh went back to her room to pack her belongings. Then, she went into Novalie's room to inform her that she will be heading back to their old house to take care of Cynthia. Novalie was sitting on the bed when she came in. She knew exactly what was going on. Santiago must have forced her granddaughter to give in. However, she felt more at ease as she knew that Xanthus was looking after her. She did not say a word.

Chapter 1199

A few moments later, Raeleigh emerged from the room with an overnight bag. She also briefly talked to Xanthus before following Santiago into the car. Xanthus watched as they left before he made his way back into the house to check on Novalie.

When he entered the room, Novalie sighed and said, "I'm sorry to trouble you again."

“Don’t worry about it. It’s my duty to take care of you.” Xanthus sat down beside Novalie. Novalie said, “After I pass away, please take Raeleigh with you and leave this place. This place is not right for her at all. There are too many things going on here.”

“Grandma, why don’t you move abroad with us since you’re in good health? That way, Raeleigh would not need to worry about you and she’ll be able to focus on her studies. I’m trying to come up with a solution with my parents to see if there’s any way Raeleigh can move abroad soon.” In fact, this was the reason Xanthus had been so busy lately. Novalie took a look at Xanthus and said, “I respect your decision. Do what is best for her. However, as you know, she can be very stubborn. I think it’s best if you talk to her.”

“I know.” Xanthus was worried that she wouldn’t agree as well. If it weren’t because of that, then he would have gone through with his decision much earlier.

Raeleigh left her house and followed Santiago back to her previous residence. As soon as she arrived, she went straight to her room to retrieve the property ownership certificate. She said as she handed it to Santiago, “This belongs to you now. Once I receive the money, I’ll arrange to have the property title transferred to you.”

Santiago lowered his head and glanced at the property ownership certificate. He accepted it and handed the certificate to Cynthia. “You can have it if you want. I don’t need it. Once we complete the procedure to transfer the property, this house belongs to you.”

Santiago turned around and went to the restroom. Cynthia took the property ownership certificate and walked over to Raeleigh. “I told Santiago that I wanted the house. He once told me that he will agree to whatever request that I have.”

“Thank you.” Raeleigh wasn’t sure what to say. Cynthia was true to her word.

“No problem at all. If you ever want the house back, then let me know. You can pay me back in instalments. I will pay Santiago back in instalments as well.”

Raeleigh did not say a word. She knew Cynthia had good intentions, but she had made up her mind that she would never want the house back, just like her relationship with Jepherson. They would never get back together. Things had changed. Nothing would ever be the same again.

Raeleigh and Cynthia sat in the living room. When Santiago emerged from the bathroom, Stuart arrived with two men in tow. Each of them carried a briefcase in their hand. When Stuart saw Santiago, he hurriedly instructed the two men to put the briefcases down.

“Mr. Santiago, this is the seven million dollars in cash that you have requested. It’s all in here.” Stuart glanced at Raeleigh briefly when finished his words. Then, he turned around to leave.

Santiago glanced at Raeleigh and said, “Come on, let’s go and deposit the money.”

Santiago then picked up the two briefcases and made his way towards his car. As soon as he got into his car, he gave Jepherson a call. “Did I say I want the money to be sent over to the house? They placed the briefcases here and left without saying anything else.”

Jepherson did not reply and hung up the phone.

After Raeleigh and Cynthia got in the car, Santiago started the car and drove towards the bank to deposit the money into Raeleigh's bank account. Then, he drove them home.

Whilst on their way home, Raeleigh informed Santiago that she wanted to drop by at Zorion's place. Santiago made a detour and they arrived shortly after.

When they arrived at the Atkinson family's entrance, Santiago walked up to the gate and glanced at the password lock. Then, he raised his hand and pressed a string of numbers to unlock the door. He pushed the door open and led Raeleigh into the house.

Raeleigh and Cynthia followed behind and soon arrived at Zorion's living room.

As soon as they entered the door, they saw the servant running upstairs hurriedly to inform Zorion. Deanna was very surprised to see them in her house.

"Raeleigh..." When Deanna saw Raeleigh, she immediately rushed over to her excitedly.

On the other hand, Santiago and Cynthia appeared indifferent. Santiago walked over to the couch with Cynthia and sat down. The two of them sat aside like outsiders.

"Raeleigh, why didn't you tell me earlier that you are coming? I'm bored out of my mind. Come, sit down." Deanna pulled Raeleigh towards the couch and gestured to her to sit down. Meanwhile, the servant came back down from upstairs.

It was Santiago whom the servants were afraid of.

After a while, Deanna asked, "Raeleigh, do you want to stay for dinner?"

"I came to visit your brother. I don't think I will be staying for dinner," Raeleigh said. Soon after, Zorion came down the stairs. He was not surprised to see Raeleigh and Santiago as the servant had informed him about the guests' identities.

"What brings you here today?" Zorion said as he sat down and glanced at Raeleigh. Then, Raeleigh took out her bank card and handed it to Zorion.

Zorion was stunned for a moment before saying, "I have told you that I don't want the money."

"No, it's too much. I would have considered it if it weren't this much, but the amount is huge. It's best if I repay the money as soon as possible. I am not sure how much I owe you but at the very least, I have paid you back. There is seven million dollars in my account. Take it. I'm not sure whether it's enough, but it's all I have right now. Take it as a favor to me and accept my bank card."

Zorion was quiet for a moment before he asked, "Are you implying that we'll write everything off between us once I accept the money?"

She thought for a while and answered, "I don't mean to write it all off. But at least in terms of money, we are all clear. I will always remember the favors that you've done for me."

"Then, take it back. We don't owe each other money. Not now and not ever. There is only affection between us. I hope it will always be like this."

Raeleigh froze for a moment. Before she could say another word, Santiago sat up and looked at Zorion. He said, "She is my brother's girlfriend. No other man can have feelings for her. You ought to know that."

"Or else, I will lay my hands on you."

Deanna froze for a moment and raised her head to look at her brother. She wondered, "Doesn't Zorion already have Rossie? Does this mean that he still likes Raeleigh?"

What about Rossie?

Zorion turned to look at Santiago. "Mind your own business. This is between Raeleigh and me. It has nothing to do with anyone else."

As he was talking, they heard light footsteps coming from upstairs. Everyone turned to look up at the person who was walking down the stairs. It was none other than Rossie.

Zorion was slightly surprised to see Rossie at the stairs but he quickly shifted his gaze away from her. Rossie, on the other hand, paused on the stairs. When she noticed everyone's gaze on her, she said calmly, "I wanted to head outside. I'm sorry if I have disturbed your conversation."

Everyone remained quiet.

"It's alright, Rosie. I'll accompany you," Deanna said as she stood up. Although Deanna was naive, she did not agree with Zorion's way of doing things. She knew that he must have done it on purpose. He took advantage of her just because she had no feelings for him.

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Deanna walked towards Rossie. Raeleigh stood up and said to Rossie, "I'm indebted to Zorion and Deanna. I came here today to return the money. I hope I didn't cause any misunderstandings."

Rossie was smart. She knew that Raeleigh was honest from the look in her eyes. Ever since their first meeting, she knew that Raeleigh had no feelings for Zorion. However, Zorion was different. Although he had never admitted it, he'd be lying if he said he did not have feelings for her.

Rossie did not want to get involved in his affairs. He had the freedom to do what he wished to. It was none of her business and she knew she would leave him eventually.

Rossie continued walking down the stairs and said, "I'm heading outside to the courtyard. Please continue."

It was rare for Rossie to have free time. Usually, she would not be able to go out.

Rossie stepped out into the courtyard and started walking around its perimeter. The Atkinson family's courtyard was huge. Although she did not like the family home, she found the courtyard very beautiful.

Deanna held Rossie's arm and said, "Rossie, you don't know my brother. He didn't mean it. All of us respect Jepherson. He regards Jepherson as his brother and he will never do anything to hurt him. Zorion likes Raeleigh, but it is not love. I'm sure you know that he likes you more."

Rossie turned to look at Deanna. That was the first time she had heard this.

"It's my body that he lusts over, not me." Rossie truly thought so. She wondered if Zorion would still be interested in her if she suddenly became an old woman.

Deanna was stunned for a moment. She then hurriedly shook her head. "No, my brother is not a superficial person."

"Greed is a terrifying thing. Deanna... you have never experienced it, so you wouldn't understand. A greedy man is truly terrifying."

Rossie would sometimes pass out from Zorion's torment. If only she wasn't so terrified of him, then she wouldn't have kept quiet about the treatment she was receiving and would have left him a long time ago.

Deanna was in a dilemma. Her brother wasn't that terrifying, was he? No matter how terrifying he was, she doubted he was as terrifying as Jacky.

After thinking for a while, Deanna said, "My Mom once said that everyone makes mistakes. However, you must not immediately write them off. Instead, they should be given a chance to correct their mistakes. So, you have to be considerate of my brother. He might be a little arrogant, but I honestly think that he treats you very well."

"I am his sister. Before you showed up in his life, did you know how much he doted on me? Every day, he would agree to all my requests without hesitation, regardless of what I wanted to do. However, he never once brought me out alone after he met you. He would always bring you along."

"Rossie, I really do think that my brother treats you well. He is very sincere."

"Can't you feel it? He would ask for your permission every time before he goes out. He had never done this before. He would beam whenever people compliment that the two of you are a perfect match. You are all he sees. He just doesn't realize it yet."

"He may not know it, but I think you ought to know."

Deanna was naive. Rossie looked at Deanna and said, "Your brother has neglected you because of me. Don't you have a single ounce of hatred towards me?"

Rossie came from a place where a man was surrounded by many women. It was a place where people tended to plot against each other. She knew that women were best at competing for affection and jealousy, and that was why she asked.

However, Deanna immediately shook her head and said, "Those feelings had never occurred to me."

"Then, you are really kind to your brother." In other words, she was very naive, she thought.

Rossie walked to a place and knelt down to observe the ants on the ground. Winter was coming, but the ants were still busy working. They were busy storing food for the winter.

Rossie knelt down and pointed at the ants on the ground. "Do the ants look small?"

Deanna walked over and crouched down. "Yes."

"If a small ant can survive, then why can't I?" Rossie asked Deanna. She paused for a moment. She then looked up at Rossie and asked, "What do you mean?"

"I am human and I wish to have my own life too. I am not your brother's plaything. He is allowed to do whatever he wants to me. I will leave eventually. Deanna, look at these ants. They are so small. Are you willing to kill them?"

Deanna shook her head. "No."

"I'm only fifteen years old, yet I am forced to sleep with your brother every night," Rossie said. It was only then that Deanna stopped replying. After a long silence, she finally asked, "Do you really dislike my brother?"

From Deanna's perspective, it wasn't entirely her brother's problem that they were sleeping together. It was just like Jacky and her. If she hated him so much, then she would have killed herself rather than sleep with him.

If Jacky was an 80-year-old old man, then she would rather die. Since she was willing to sleep with her brother every day rather than killing herself, she probably did not hate him that much.

Rossie turned her face away. "I do like him occasionally, but it doesn't mean that he could force me to have s*x with him. I am a person, not a kitten nor a puppy. Even an animal could run away when it is unhappy, am I right?"

"You are right, but my brother is sincere. He just doesn't know... how..."

Deanna tried to find the right words and finally said, "... how to love you! That's right! He does not know how to love you!"

"He is your brother. Regardless of what he does, he is still a good person in your eyes. But I disagree."

Raeleigh watched Deanna and Rossie leave before sitting back on the couch. She said, "You will hurt Miss Lautner with your actions. You should go out and explain it to her."

"That's my business. Don't tell me what to do. Take back the money. I don't want to talk about this anymore. You may leave now." Zorion stood up and turned to head back upstairs. Raeleigh took a look at the bank card on the table and looked at Santiago. She knew he must have a solution to this. That was why she brought him here.

As expected, Santiago reached out and took the bank card. Then, he went out into the courtyard.

Raeleigh and Cynthia followed him out. Santiago had already made his way to Deanna. He then handed her the bank card.

"Inside the card is seven million dollars that Raeleigh is returning to Zorion. One of you is Zorion's woman and the other, his sister. Whoever that needs the money can have the card and consider the debt repaid. The PIN is 177156."

Deanna's eyes opened wide with surprise. She said, "We can't accept it. My brother will be mad."

Santiago did not speak. Rossie reached out and took the bank card.

