

Go After 1271

Chapter 1271

Time passed like flowing water. He had dreamt about a time when he was old. He was like the sun in the middle of the sky, and Jepherson was his shadow. This feeling...

Calvin wanted to laugh but he couldn't.

Once upon a time, he was also young and passionate.

However...

His days passed like falling flowers, lingering in his mind for many years, and the autumn wind was desolate. Suddenly, he understood one thing and he was unhappy about the discovery.

He had wasted a lot of time when he was young. In the end, he felt that life was too short. He didn't want to waste his time again.

"I heard that you quarreled with your grandmother." Calvin was silent for a moment before he asked his son, Jepherson, who lowered her head and remained silent.

Calvin rose to his feet. Jepherson stood up to support him. The father and son both understood the reason for the silence.

Since he was silent, it meant that he admitted to it.

How could Calvin not understand his son's logic? However, sometimes, one couldn't go too far because it was useless.

"Back then, I suffered a lot because of your grandmother. Your grandmother has always held a grudge against your mother. I don't want to say too much, but there are some things that you should know in your heart. No matter how bad your grandmother is, she is still your grandmother. After all, she is my mother. Think about what happened to you when you were a child. Has your grandmother ever been against you?"

"However, marriage is sometimes too radical."

"She had always thought that the men of the Harvey family, on one hand, should carry forward the family line and win glory for the Harvey family and on the other hand, we should establish our roots and pass them on to the descendants of the Harvey family."

Calvin sat down and Jepherson returned to his seat.

At that moment, there was a kind of aura on Calvin's handsome face.

His handsome face turned to the other side of the screen and glanced at his wife, who was talking endlessly inside. The corners of his mouth moved. Although the smile was very shallow, it was not hard to see. His love for his wife grew more and more. But the way he showed his love was slowly changing.

Looking at his wife, Calvin looked at his son. His deep eyes were still lit up, but the manner in which he spoke was a lot simpler.

“In the past, I didn’t quite understand why as a mother, she was so demanding of her son. She refused what her son wanted and gave what her son didn’t want.”

“But when I looked back, it was not her fault. It was mine.”

“If I did it in another way, then maybe it would not be like this.”

“In the past, I had a grandmother like you. I was very close to her, sometimes even closer than I was to your mother.”

“She hoped that I would marry your mother and we got married, but I didn’t understand her good intentions and I treated your mother badly.”

“Later, I encountered a lot of things with your mother until we were finally together.”

“People don’t communicate with others in the same way. Have you seen the way children in kindergarten fight with each other?”

Calvin asked his son. Jepherson nodded. As a father, he was deeply gratified.

“When children fight, they all think they’re right by expressing their views. You have your reasons, while others have their reasons. This kind of opposition, no matter what it is, right or wrong, they only have one relationship, to fight.”

Children and adults will also quarrel. When they quarrel, children will think that adults are unkind, but in fact, they are with good intentions. They just think that the child is disobedient and feels disappointed, so she does some unreasonable things, just like your grandmother.”

“I know she wants me to have a meteoric rise. The Doyle family is a noble family. If I can get the Doyle family’s help, then it will be of great benefit to me in the future.”

“But I am not a blockhead. I have my own ideas. I want to marry Raeleigh and make her the happiest woman. This will never change, even if I become a beggar on the street.”

Calvin laughed. “You’re indeed my son. You’re the same as I was in the past.”

Jepherson didn’t reply. Calvin pondered and asked, “But you can’t anger your grandmother to death, right?”

Jepherson never responded. Calvin said, “Do the marital registrations first, leave the rest alone. If you want to have a child, then you can have a baby outside. The Harvey family will be yours sooner or later. Santiago has no objection to you living in Capital City or returning to A City. What else do you want?”

“Grandma threatened Raeleigh to ruin her reputation. I don’t want anything to happen to her.”

Jepherson also knew that if Paige could say something like that, then it meant that she could really do it. It was not just all talk.

“If you can’t even protect your own woman, then you won’t be able to accomplish great things in the future.”

...

Raeleigh didn't hear what the father and son had said. However, Belle kept talking. She was a little nervous. If she wanted to change clothes inside, then she couldn't know what was going on outside.

"Are you ill?" Calvin finished his sentence. Jepherson asked Calvin instead. He looked up at him. "Can't you tell whether I'm ill or not?"

"The doctor said that there was something wrong with your heart." Jepherson was not asking, but was certainly questioning Calvin.

Calvin was silent for a long time. "Of course there will be problems at old age. No matter how good the car is, there will be problems over time. Do I need to tell you this?"

"Then, you insist on going out for vacation although there's something wrong with your heart?" Jepherson's eyes were sharp. Calvin rolled his eyes at him. "You seriously think I'll buy that?"

Jepherson opened his eyes. "Take a vacation. I'll take care of the company."

Jepherson rose to his feet and walked over to the screen. Calvin raised his eyebrows slightly, his eyes gleaming.

Taking a detour, Jepherson looked at Raeleigh, who had changed her clothes and said, "She looks very beautiful."

Raeleigh froze for a moment subconsciously and she then looked up at Jepherson. She was still speechless about her being morally abducted, so she didn't say anything.

Belle walked out from inside and saw that her husband had lay down and was wiping his head.

Raeleigh and Jepherson came out and didn't stay for long. Jepherson said he had something to do and went out with Raeleigh.

When they left, the corners of Calvin's mouth curled up, giving him a carefree smile.

He raised his hand and held Belle's hand. Belle asked him with a strange face, "What are you laughing at?"

"I killed two birds with one stone."

"What?" Belle didn't understand what he meant.

Calvin laughed even more. "We can go wherever we want in the future. The company will no longer be ours to worry about."

"Why?" Belle was even more confused. How could her son agree to take over the company so quickly? It was impossible.

"I'm his father. I'm so sick now, why?"

"But you're not ill?" Belle was puzzled. Calvin was amused. "Why would I stay here if I'm not ill?"

"Isn't that just a front?" Belle asked Calvin. He gave a hum of assent before lying on his bed and laughing out loud.

Chapter 1272

After Raeleigh left the hospital, she planned to go back. Jepherson did not say that he would not allow her to go back. Later, the car arrived at the door of Xanthus's residence. Raeleigh got out of the car and went straight to him. However...

"Why are you also getting out of the car?" Hearing the footsteps following her, Raeleigh turned around and looked at Jepherson with a displeased face.

"I am homeless now. Don't you intend to take me in?" After saying that, Jepherson stepped towards Xanthus's villa. Raeleigh stopped outside for a while, and she then followed him inside.

After entering through the door, Raeleigh changed her shoes and looked into the villa. Xanthus had already prepared the food and was waiting for Raeleigh to come back to eat together. But the atmosphere was still a little strange. After all, Xanthus did not expect that it was Jepherson who came in first, and he had already gone inside.

Raeleigh explained to Xanthus, "I will find a way to let him leave."

"Are you able to do this?" Xanthus turned around and took a look at the room where Raeleigh was in. As soon as he cleared it, Xanthus came back.

Xanthus was amused when he turned back.

Raeleigh said, "There will be a way."

"It's good that there's a way. The most worrisome way is if your ideas fail on him, then it will make him bolder." After saying that, Xanthus turned around to prepare the food. Raeleigh stood at the door for a while. She did understand Xanthus's meaning, but Jepherson was indeed very difficult to deal with.

Raeleigh returned after washing her hands. Xanthus had already placed the food. When they sat down and were about to eat, Jepherson came down from upstairs as if he had watched the time.

Raeleigh raised her head to look at Jepherson, who had already changed his clothes. As soon as he saw her, he went straight to Raeleigh and sat down beside her. He held up her bowl and chopsticks, ready to eat, as if he was at home. Raeleigh fixed her eyes on the bowl in front of her, which was empty. It was her dinner.

"Drink some soup first." Raeleigh's rice was taken away. Xanthus immediately filled up another bowl of soup. Raeleigh took it over and lowered her head to drink the soup.

"I have fallen out with my family and will live here from today onwards." Jepherson, who was having his meal, told Xanthus about his current situation.

Raeleigh raised her head slowly to look at Jepherson. "You own a hotel outside, don't you?"

"The hotel is owned by the Harvey family. I have nothing but you." After eating a mouthful of the rice, he turned around to see Raeleigh, who wore a blank look on her face. "What are you talking about?" she asked.

"Isn't that the case?"

"It's between you and your grandmother. I don't want to talk to you. I'm also very confused now. Please stay away from me."

"Now, you don't need me. You want me to go. But you didn't say that at the beginning. You still have my gift on your wrist. If you take it off unscathed, then I will promise to leave you. Otherwise, it's impossible."

"You are unreasonable."

"Yeap, but what can you do to me?" he asked Raeleigh, while putting the rice into his mouth, chewing. He had an extraordinarily handsome face, but she was also very angry. Raeleigh said, "You are too much."

"That's right."

...

Raeleigh was speechless and glanced at Xanthus on the opposite side. Xanthus froze for a moment. Although he did not like Jepherson very much, he was almost amused by his shamelessness.

"Let's eat." Xanthus dipped some meat into Raeleigh's bowl. "Eat more and you'll feel better and stronger."

Raeleigh blushed. Why did she need to be so strong? Did he want to fight? She thought.

What was the point of being strong if she was unable to defeat a person like Jepherson?

Raeleigh lowered her head and kept eating. She did not know who she was angry with. After eating, Raeleigh stood up and left. Then, she sat on the couch in the living room to watch the news.

If Raeleigh didn't watch the news, then she wouldn't even know that such a big thing had happened to the Harvey Group... Jepherson was reported missing!

"Are you missing?" Raeleigh pointed at the TV and asked. He was walking towards Raeleigh with a cup of tea with honey and sat beside her.

Jepherson sat down and blew on the water in the cup, replying to Raeleigh with his nose.

"Are you crazy?" Raeleigh immediately became unhappy and looked pale. "You are missing. It is related to a kidnapping case. Am I a kidnapper?"

Raeleigh almost shouted out, while Jepherson sat on the couch casually with his legs crossed. He said in an astonishing tone, "If I won't say that you're a kidnapper, then who would dare to say that you're one?"

"The implication is that if I don't take good care of you, then will I be a kidnapper?"

Raeleigh was unhappy. Wasn't that what he meant?

Jepherson laughed. "That's what I meant."

Raeleigh got up and went upstairs quietly without coming down for the rest of the day.

When Xanthus knocked on Raeleigh's door in the evening, the reporters had already surrounded Xanthus downstairs.

Raeleigh looked out of the window and found that there was a circle of people around the villa, who were all looking over, waiting for Raeleigh.

Raeleigh went to open the door but she did not go down. Instead, she let Xanthus in first and sat down. Xanthus was standing on the opposite side of the cabinet.

"What are you going to do?"

"What can I do? Now, everyone thinks that I kidnapped Jepherson, what can I do? Maybe the police will come to me later, arrest me, and take me to the police station."

Raeleigh looked a little bad. She was in a mess and didn't know what to do. Xanthus asked her what to do. How could she know?

"Since you don't know what to do..."

"Don't start on cranky thoughts. You need to rest. You don't even know how pale your face is."

"I want to rest, too, but I can't fall asleep. I'm always thinking about it."

"Don't bother about it. Just rest," Xanthus said and turned to the door. The door opened and he said, "I will talk to Jepherson about this and let him deal with it."

Raeleigh looked at the door. "Will he listen to you?"

Xanthus turned around and stared at Raeleigh. "It depends on who you are. Maybe it's not enough if you're just Dr. Osteen. But if you're Raeleigh's brother, then it's another story."

After Xanthus left, Raeleigh was stunned. After a while, she lay on the bed and covered her face with her hands. It was a mess!

After coming out of Raeleigh's room, Xanthus went to find Jepherson, who was watching TV downstairs. He heard footsteps and did not look back, but soon, Xanthus came to him and sat down.

The casual posture showed Xanthus's calmness at that time, which allowed Jepherson to understand that Xanthus was by no means an ordinary doctor.

Crossing his legs, Xanthus watched the news on TV and said, "I don't want Raeleigh to get hurt, and I don't want her to be involved in anything. If you don't even have the ability to keep her safe, then I can take her away from you. This is the best way to protect her. With my ability, it's easy to take someone away."

Jepherson looked over at him. "Are you threatening me?"

"Yes." Xanthus stood up. "If you think I'm a threat, then you can try and see if you can persuade me like you persuaded Raeleigh."

After that, Xanthus went back to his room and left Jepherson alone.

Chapter 1273

Raeleigh got up the next morning. The first thing she did was to look out of the window, but there was no one outside.

While she thought about this, Xanthus knocked on the door and asked Raeleigh to eat.

Raeleigh walked downstairs and saw that Jepherson was sitting on the table waiting for her to start eating breakfast.

“You’re awake?” Jepherson asked when he saw Raeleigh, but she didn’t answer. She just walked to the other end of the table and sat down. Jepherson tugged at Raeleigh’s face as he looked at it carefully. After a while, she lowered her head and said, “The matter has been settled. I’m going to the hospital later. Come with me.”

“I don’t want to go to the hospital. You go ahead.”

“If you don’t go, Mom will be worried.”

“... You’re guilt tripping me.”

Jepherson didn’t know how to respond to that. He picked up his bowl to eat. Raeleigh was depressed and didn’t want to eat. After breakfast, Raeleigh got changed immediately. Thinking about how she needed to go out but wouldn’t know if anything would happen while she was out, Raeleigh changed her mind.

After taking off her clothes, Raeleigh took off her shoes to stay at home. Jepherson, who was sitting inside, looked at Raeleigh and asked. “Are you scared?”

Raeleigh puckered her lips. It was unnecessary for him to ask whether she was afraid.

Xanthus asked them, “What are you talking about?”

“Nothing.” Not waiting for Raeleigh to speak, Jepherson answered first. Raeleigh walked over to Xanthus and helped him clean up the table. After Xanthus asked her about what happened in the kitchen, she finally told him what Paige had said.

“Since she said so, she’d definitely do it. We need to be careful.” Xanthus felt that it was time to leave.

“We’ll talk about it in a few days. I want him to leave so that...”

“Raeleigh...”

Before Raeleigh finished her words, Xanthus interrupted her. Raeleigh then raised her head and hummed in response.

“Paige hates you and thinks that you’ve taken her favorite grandson away. Even if you give up now, there are no promises that she will let you go.”

Raeleigh was silent.

Of course, she knew about this. But...

Raeleigh lowered her head slightly. “I can’t hurt Paige just because of this, or can I kill her with a fit of anger?”

“Rest first. I won’t go out for the next two days and will just stay at home to keep you company.”

Xanthus would not stop worrying if Raeleigh was alone. Staying here was best for both of them.

Patting Raeleigh on the shoulder, Xanthus pushed Raeleigh out of the room and stayed in the kitchen alone. He really missed Santiago.

Raeleigh found somewhere to sit and watched TV in a daze. Jepherson leaned against her, asking her, “What are you thinking about?”

“I was thinking about how unlucky I am to have met you!”

Since Raeleigh’s mind was in a chaotic state, it showed in her actions and attitude.

Jepherson raised his eyebrows. “You’re unlucky because you’re just a very unfortunate person.”

“You’re so shameless.”

“As are you.”

Silence ensued between the two.

Raeleigh felt like she was going mad, so she went upstairs while Jepherson sat downstairs and smiled with amusement.

However, when afternoon came, Jepherson could no longer smile; his face a big contrast from his earlier expression.

Flynt called Raeleigh before coming over and asked if she had the time to help him watch the store for a day.

Though Raeleigh did not actually want to do it, Flynt kept droning on and on about how he had important guests to entertain that day, and that he wouldn’t be able to leave.

Thus, Raeleigh promised to come help. When Flynt arrived, he knocked on the door and Xanthus opened it.

Jepherson stood up when he saw Flynt. Just then, Raeleigh changed out of her home clothes and was ready to go downstairs.

“Where are you going?” Jepherson’s face was grim. Raeleigh looked at him as she went downstairs, but she did not answer.

“I’m asking you a question.” Normally, Jepherson could let many things slide, but when it came to his enemies, he would not let his relationship be jeopardized.

Raeleigh did not answer until she came downstairs, “I have to go out. Can’t I?”

“It’s not that you can’t, but rather, it’s impossible for you to go.”

Jepherson walked to Raeleigh and looked down at her. He pinched her soft chin and said, “Don’t go out. Stay home with me.”

“Jepherson, you...”

“You can get lost now.” Jepherson turned around, his face and gaze piercingly cold as he stared straight at Flynt.

Flynt stood at the door. He was only here to pick Raeleigh up, so he had not gotten out of his footwear. He remained at the door and said with a smile, “Things are over between you two. Even if there’s still some lingering elements of a relationship, you have no right to interfere with Raeleigh’s interaction with others.”

“I’m very clear whether I have the right to or not. Get out of here right now.”

Jepherson stepped towards Flynt. Feeling as if things were about to take a turn for the worse, Raeleigh quickly followed and tugged on Jepherson’s arm. His face was aghast as he stared at Flynt. “Are you leaving or not?”

“I’ve already left the Cole family. Isn’t that enough? I just want to be friends with Raeleigh.”

“I don’t care who you’re friends with. But Raeleigh is mine. You’d better understand this well, or you will be responsible for whatever happens.”

“Capital City is not the Harvey family’s territory. You don’t have to threaten me. Raeleigh and I are...”

“Enough, stop talking. Please go.” Raeleigh felt that Jepherson was about to lose his temper and immediately interrupted Flynt. Flynt looked at Raeleigh in shock, “Raeleigh, do you really care about him this much?”

“It’s not that I care. I’m just worried that something might happen to you. You can go. I can’t help you with your shop. Please go.”

Raeleigh pulled Jepherson along while hinting Flynt to leave immediately. Even though he was unwilling to go, he still turned on his heel after hearing Raeleigh asking him to.

Flynt’s car was parked nearby. After getting it, Flynt leaned against the car door, looked up and took a deep breath.

Raeleigh had been keeping an eye on what went on outside. She watched as Flynt drove away, just as she watched Jepherson make a call.

She couldn’t hear their conversation, but knew that he was on the phone and was in a bad mood.

After ending his call, Jepherson took a look at Raeleigh, sat down on the sofa and said nothing more. Raeleigh had decided against going out as well.

The day passed quickly, but before it got dark, Raeleigh caught yet another piece of news from the TV.

Flynt had met with a car accident and was seriously injured in the hospital.

Raeleigh paused and slowly observed Jepherson, who was watching TV next to her. With a frown, Jepherson turned to look at Raeleigh as well.

He remained silent, not wanting to be the first to speak. Raeleigh pursed her lips. “Did you do this?”

Raeleigh remembered Jepherson's phone call, but the latter made no notion to speak to Raeleigh as he continued staring at her without saying a word.

Raeleigh asked him again, "Did you do this?"

"Yes." Jepherson's sudden reply made Raeleigh freeze for a moment as she sat there like a ball out of air, face completely pale.

"Do you care about him?" Jepherson frowned as Raeleigh stared wide-eyed at him. "You've gone too far," she said.

"Do you care about him?"

Jepherson only wanted to know the answer.

Raeleigh did not answer Santiago's question but just pursed her lips. Then, she stood up, "I'm going to see him. Try getting someone to set me up and get me killed too if you like."

After Raeleigh finished speaking, she walked towards the door. Knowing that things between the two were going to turn sour in an instant, Xanthus quickly held Raeleigh back from leaving. Thus, she remained at home instead of going out.

Although Raeleigh didn't leave, Jepherson left without a word that night.

Chapter 1274

Raeleigh only found out that Jepherson had left when she got up the next morning. Xanthus said from down the stairs, "He had a misunderstanding. He thought that there was something between you and Flynt. He was just upset for a second."

Raeleigh began descending the stairs. She knew this, of course, but she didn't think it was anything bad.

"I know he must have misunderstood." After she finished breakfast, she followed Xanthus to visit Flynt. However, when they arrived at the hospital, they were blocked off by the Cole family, so they didn't go in.

"Let's go home then." Raeleigh wasn't exactly dying to see Flynt anyway. She thought to herself that if Jepherson had hurt Flynt out of a moment's rage, it meant that he had been wrongly accused. If this was the case, who was the real culprit then?

It was probably Flynt himself. Perhaps he was fine after all.

Thus, it didn't matter whether she looked into this or not.

Raeleigh followed Xanthus back to the car and went to school together. On their way there, Xanthus received a call from the hospital, saying that they needed his help. Xanthus quickly turned the car around, but something was blocking the road ahead. The car came to a stop.

"I'll go check it out. Don't leave the car." Xanthus unfastened his seat belt and then got out of the car while Raeleigh poked her head out to take a look. Several people got out of their cars with something in their hands. Raeleigh noticed this and got out of the car right away. She flung the door open as she ran towards Xanthus. With her hand on his arm, she immediately pulled him with her as she ran away.

“Run, someone is after us!” Raeleigh shouted at him as they ran towards a crowded area. Xanthus looked back and saw five men chasing after them.

Then, Xanthus held her hand and sped up his pace.

The people behind them were still chasing after them. Raeleigh was unfit so she couldn't keep running for long.

“Call Jepherson.” Xanthus tried to hide Raeleigh away, but the men had caught up with him. Raeleigh picked up her phone and dialed for Jepherson.

When Jepherson answered the phone, Xanthus was already fighting with the men.

The men were armed with knives, so Xanthus did what he could to protect Raeleigh. Weaponless, he was placed at a great disadvantage.

“Where are you?” Jepherson stood up, picked up his jacket, and walked towards the door. After learning where she was Raeleigh, quickly told him her location.

She hung up the phone and looked for a way out, but the roads were blocked.

“What's going on?” Jepherson asked as he leaned out of the car. Stuart replied, “There's a traffic jam ahead.”

“It's not rush hour right now. Someone must have arranged this.”

“Sir, could it be...”

“Shut up!”

Jepherson's frown etched deeper on his forehead, his mood incredibly sour. Stuart quickly shut his mouth.

A few seconds later, Jepherson gritted his teeth and said, “Get out of the car and find Raeleigh. Don't get into trouble. I'm here, so no one will stop you.”

“Yes, Sir.”

After Stuart got out of the car, he dashed right in front of the crowd. Jepherson sat in the car, clutching his phone tightly in his hands when Paige suddenly called.

Jepherson hesitated for a few seconds before answering. He heard Paige's calm voice from the other end of the line.

“Whether she lives or dies, it depends on what you say.”

Jepherson gritted her teeth. “Do you think I'll be scared?”

“I don't care whether you are afraid or not. If you don't promise to marry Stella, I will have someone leave a nice, little gift on Raeleigh's face.”

Jepherson gripped his phone hard, his breathing heavy and labored.

The driver looked over at Jepherson and thought that Jepherson must be in trouble as his complexion looked terrible.

...

Xanthus never stopped protecting Raeleigh, even as the men forced them into a corner.

“Did you think you could run away?” One of them who was holding a knife asked as he stared at them. At first, there had only been five of them, but that number had turned to eight in a blink of an eye.

Xanthus was very skilled at fighting; only these strange men were injured after fighting for so long. Since they didn’t dare take any chances with Xanthus, they had called for backup which led to them cornering Xanthus and Raeleigh into a dead end.

“Did you call him?” Xanthus asked Raeleigh, his forehead beaded in sweat. She held on tightly onto his arm. “I did, but I still don’t see him.”

“Something must have happened. Don’t panic.” Xanthus turned around and comforted her. Then, he took a look at the approaching men.

“You’re only doing this for money, but we don’t hold that against you. I’ll give you more money if you just let us go.”

Xanthus took out his wallet, grabbed some credit cards, and tossed them on the ground. “There are millions of dollars on those. If that’s not enough, I will ask my people to send more over. I’ll tell you the password. If you’re worried, get someone to collect the money first. We’ll wait.”

“We aren’t short of money. We’re afraid of losing our lives. Today, someone wants us to rough you up. If you really want to get revenge, you should look for the person who hired us to hunt you down. Now, we want your lives.”

“Are you really going to do this in broad daylight? How reckless are you people? So careless...” Xanthus tried pushing Raeleigh away with his body, but she refused and kept holding on to his arm. “I won’t leave you. We’re leaving together.”

“No one leaves. We won’t let you.”

“Shouldn’t I be asked if they could be let go? Do you think you have the final say?” Two men appeared from the other end of the alley. The man who spoke had a long, black jacket on. A wide fur collar was wrapped around his hat that covered half of his face. Hearing his voice, they could tell it was Santiago.

“Santiago?”

Raeleigh cried out to him. Santiago slowly raised his gaze and took off his hat. He looked at Raeleigh, and saw how pale her face was. He looked at her and then at Jacky, who was dressed the same way except for the hat.

“I’ll leave this to you.”

“Me again?” A sarcastic smile appeared on Jacky’s handsome face, his eyes lit up at what Santiago said. Although he was slightly unwilling to do this, he didn’t exactly mind either.

Santiago glared at him. "It's fine if you don't want to."

"It's all good..."

After saying that, Jacky got into a preparatory stance and waved his hand at the men. "Come on, the lot of you."

The men looked at Jacky, "Who are you? Mind your own business."

"In Capital City, there's nothing I don't have control over. Come then, I'll take care of all of you today." The corners of Jacky's mouth curled up into a smile.

Some men who stood in front of him exchanged glances before walking towards him while the others surrounded Santiago.

"Mr. Santiago, please don't make things difficult for us. We're just following orders." The moment they saw Santiago, they knew how things would end.

However, Santiago was the Second Young Master of the Harvey family. They had to greet him properly.

Santiago laughed. "I'm not home at the moment. Are you all just trying to suck up to my father?"

"We're just following orders, Mr. Santiago."

"Whose orders?"

"... We can't say."

"If you don't tell me, you'll die. If I kill you, what can any of you do to me?" Santiago smiled as he walked forward. He put his hands in his pockets before calmly walking towards Raeleigh.

Chapter 1275

Santiago walked towards Raeleigh. The men who were in his way didn't dare approach him. They all knew his temper. He didn't care about the consequences when he beat others up.

When he was in front of Raeleigh, Santiago suddenly raised his hand and pinched her face, making Raeleigh at a loss for words. He brought his hands together after pinching her. "Not bad, we don't see each other for a day and you've gotten yourself in quite the mess."

She stared blankly at Santiago, unable to utter a single word.

Behind him, Jacky walked up to him after taking care of the group of men. Santiago turned around to look at Jacky, "Thank you!"

"Heh!" Jacky hummed in amusement.

"Let's go home." Santiago turned on his heel and walked out of the alley while looking at the men on the ground. He walked over to one of them, squatted down and looked at his face. "Do you know what the consequences are for offending me?"

"Mr. Santiago, we were just following orders. Please forgive us."

“Sure, I can spare you, but have you thought of letting her go? Have you forgotten how determined you were earlier?”

The man said nothing. Santiago stood up, feeling sorry for him. Though she didn't know what he was going to do, judging from his expression, she knew it wasn't going to be anything good.

“Forget it. They were just obeying orders. It's useless for you to kill them. They did it for a living.”

Santiago turned around and looked at Raeleigh. “You can't even protect yourself yet you're still worrying about others. Why not use some of that time to take better care of yourself?”

Raeleigh was speechless after Santiago said that. He was right. She ought to take better care of herself.

She couldn't even protect herself, but still wanted to help others.

As Raeleigh kept silent, Santiago fell quiet too. He raised his hand to pinch Raeleigh's chin, which was so soft that Raeleigh turned pale when he did it again.

“That hurts.”

“Oh, so you do feel pain? I thought you didn't.”

Raeleigh raised her hand to push Santiago's away. “I'm not an idiot. How would I not know that it hurts?”

“Since you know it hurts, you should fight back. All living creatures are able to defend themselves, so you should too, no?”

When he finished speaking, Santiago tugged on Raeleigh's arm before pulling her towards him. The two were leaning closer and closer to each other when Santiago bent over and held Raeleigh in his arms.

Raeleigh felt dizzy. Suddenly, she raised her head and looked at Santiago blankly. “What are you doing?”

“Nothing, let's just go home.”

Santiago then turned and walked towards the entrance of the alley with Raeleigh in his arms. Raeleigh struggled for a while, but she couldn't break free since Santiago had her locked tightly in his arms.

After leaving the alley, Santiago walked towards a black car and Jacky opened the door for him.

He bent down and placed Raeleigh inside the car. Once he closed the car door, he looked up at Jacky with a frown and said, “I'll help you solve some of your problems with Deanna. But you'd better think clearly about this. Zorion is just one step forward. If you want to marry her, you've still a long way to go. I can help you as much as I can, but it all depends on how you deal with the Atkinson family.

Based on what I know about Mr. Atkinson and his son, you'll only be stepped on.”

“You don't need to tell me this, but I can't see Deanna right now. I want to see her.” Jacky's words were extremely firm and arrogant. It sounded as though he absolutely had to do it.

Raeleigh sat in the car and watched him. Jacky's handsome face beamed just as brightly as Santiago's. However, in comparison, there was a hint of arrogance on his face, and Jacky's aura was inferior to Santiago's. Perhaps this might have something to do with his age.

After all, Jacky was getting along in age.

Santiago placed his hand on the hood of the car and knocked on it twice. He stared at Jacky and said, "Seeing Deanna won't be a problem. The problem is that you'd have to think about the consequences thoroughly. If you're planning on eloping with Deanna, I advise you to forget about that."

Deanna wouldn't abandon her family and follow you. She's playful, so this might feel new and exciting to her in the first couple of days, but once she's tired of playing, she'd do anything she can to go home.

You'd better be mentally prepared for that. Whatever happens between you and Deanna, you'd still have to live with the Atkinson family."

Jacky gritted his teeth, "No way."

Raeleigh saw Santiago laugh, saying, "Nothing is impossible. Even brothers would turn against each other over a woman. Is anything even impossible?"

Unless you love her?"

"I love Deanna." Jacky didn't hesitate in replying, stunning Raeleigh. At first, her mind was fixed on the fact that her brothers had turned against each other because of a woman, but she was shocked by Jacky's declaration.

Raeleigh fell silent as she looked at Jacky's determined eyes.

She often heard that all men were superficial, but not all of them were the same; at least not the ones she met.

There were men with feelings everywhere.

Santiago laughed. "It's your business whether you love her or not, but that doesn't necessarily make it true love. Some people just lie to themselves."

"I'm not that kind of person."

"Who are you then? We'll find out eventually. You can come over tomorrow to see Raeleigh, and I'll call Deanna over."

When Santiago came into the car, Xanthus soon followed. Raeleigh looked at Santiago, face full of shock. "You want to help Jacky?"

"Do I look like an ungrateful person?" Santiago looked at Raeleigh. Though she did consider this, she left the question unanswered since it wasn't the case at all.

As the car slowly pulled away, Jacky stood on the road and watched it leave. Soon, another person walked over and stood beside him.

"Jacky, are you really going to work with Santiago?"

"Santiago is a reliable man." This was the only praise Jacky ever gave Santiago.

"But Santiago is known as the Demon Lord of this area. We're from Waverly village. If we enter his turf, we'll definitely have to take over some of his family's territories. Will he give it to us willingly?"

“This territory wasn’t taken over, it was given to me by him. He made it very clear that he wants to work with me. He must have a smidgen of sincerity in him. As long as we don’t cross him, he’d let us have the Richard’s family’s territory. He has his own plans.”

“Why? It’s not like he lacks anything.”

“He needs this woman. He wants to protect her.” The corners of Jacky’s mouth curled up into a smile. It seemed like he really did come here to protect Raeleigh.

“Then we...”

“Get the order out to always protect Raeleigh within our territories. I’ll kill whoever starts any trouble.”

“Protect Raeleigh?”

The man was shocked. Wasn’t he protecting Deanna?

“Didn’t you hear me?” Jacky looked amused. Everyone knew that the most sinister aspect about Jacky is that the more he smiled and laughed, the more vicious he would get.

Raeleigh arrived at the door to her house. When she got out of the car, Jepherson’s car slowly stopped next to her before the man himself emerged from his car.

“When did you get back?” When he spotted Santiago, Jepherson’s face fell. His gaze followed Santiago, who was getting out of the car.

“I just got back. I’m tired. I’m going in to take a bath.”

Santiago walked to the back of his car and popped open the trunk. He took out a suitcase and placed it on the ground. He then closed the trunk and went into the house.

Raeleigh felt that something was amiss based on how angry they looked. She looked at Santiago, who was walking into the house. Xanthus got out of the car and looked at them as well, but didn’t say anything, nor did he follow them inside. Instead, he stayed behind to keep Raeleigh company.

Jepherson also stared at Santiago. After a while, he looked away and diverted his attention towards Raeleigh. “The Old Madam had sent those men over. I was on my way but didn’t make it in time.”

“I know. This has nothing to do with you. I don’t blame you. But you should still tell your grandmother that I have nothing to do with you anymore. I hope she’ll stop bothering me anymore.”

Jepherson frowned, “I might be engaged to Stella, I’ve already called her and she said she’d help me.”

Raeleigh froze for a moment. She stood there, staring at him and unable to say a word.

Wasn’t this what she wanted? Why did her heart feel like it was being pricked by needles?

Her face turned pale in an instant, and Xanthus reached out to hold her hand. She turned to look at Xanthus, who said, “Go on inside and hand me the key. I have something to say to him.”

She thought about this for a moment then turned away.

“Raeleigh...”

Seeing her leave, Jepherson called out to her. She hesitated for a moment before ultimately continuing on her way.

Jepherson grew anxious as he watched her walk away. He had never felt this way before.

"I believed that you did love Raeleigh, but it's clear that you love yourself a lot more. I don't want Raeleigh getting sad because of you. You've done something that she can't forgive you for. You should leave."

Xanthus had never felt so enraged before.

Jepherson stared at him. "You don't understand love. I will resolve things with Raeleigh."

"You are in no position to say that, and Raeleigh will not accept your solutions."

"Your grandmother wants to hurt her, but I can assure you that I am not going to let that happen."

"Oh, my powerless brother, I can protect Raeleigh. Otherwise, I wouldn't have agreed to come back with her.

You lot have underestimated my capabilities. I don't want what happened today to happen again.

"I will fight violence with violence. If your grandmother wants to hurt Raeleigh, I will go to her and settle things with her – of that, I'm certain."

Silence fell between the two.

Jepherson clenched his fists, gritted his teeth, and looked at Raeleigh. "Rae..."

Without looking back, she said, "Let's call it a day. I can't forget what happened in the past. I came back only because of the contract I have with your company. I don't want you pestering me. I hope you can just let me go."

Another long silence ensued.

Raeleigh took out the key and handed it to Santiago. The latter then opened the door and brought her inside. As soon as she entered, she stumbled on her feet and Jepherson's face immediately turned sour. He instantly shouted at Santiago.

But Santiago didn't turn around. He just slammed the door shut to block out Jepherson's voice.

Jepherson gritted her teeth and walked towards the door, but Xanthus blocked his way. "You are not welcome here. Leave now."

Jepherson stared at Xanthus. "I'm her husband."

"Not necessarily. Moreover, Raeleigh has never accepted you."

"Then I..."

"Enough. I only see the truth."

Xanthus turned back towards the villa, leaving Jepherson standing outside for a long while. While he stood there, he looked inside, through the windows. Santiago was bathing in the bathroom. The sound of running water could be heard from outside.

Raeleigh then watched Jepherson walk back to his car, but the car didn't leave. She stepped out of the room and went downstairs. When she did, Xanthus had just come back inside.

"Is he gone?"

"Knowing him, he won't leave yet." Xanthus walked towards Raeleigh, pulled her into his arms, and patted her on the back gently.

Raeleigh laughed. "I'm fine."

"I know you're fine. I'm patting you because you're fine. If something did happen, it would've already been too late."

"That's funny." Raeleigh pushed Xanthus away and looked into the room. "Santiago might need to stay. I'll cook. You're tired, you should go wash up."

"Let's order some takeout later. We don't have much to cook anyway. Go and wash up."

...

After chatting for a while, they went their separate ways to clean up. Santiago stepped out of the room upstairs and came down to enjoy a cigarette. He then received a call from Jepherson.

"Come out." Jepherson sat in the car, his face twisted in bitterness. Stuart gathered that the two brothers must have gotten into a row.

"What do you want? I told you to take care of her, but you didn't." Santiago's attitude changed drastically.

"How dare you talk to me like that? Come out."

Since this sounded like nothing but an order, Santiago quickly hung up the phone.

Santiago looked at his phone and had no intention of calling the other party back. He didn't leave the villa either. He just stood up, went to the kitchen and started cooking.

He wasn't familiar with the kitchen, so he took a bag of rice and poured it into the pot. As he was pouring water into the pot, Raeleigh had made her way downstairs. She didn't see Santiago, so she went to the kitchen to take a look. After all, it was better to order takeout than have him cook.

But as Raeleigh reached the door, she saw Santiago stirring a pot of rice along with a pot of water.

Raeleigh walked over and asked, "What are you doing?"

"I'm cooking rice."

His answer sounded firm.

Raeleigh asked, "Did you wash the rice?"

“We don’t have to, it’s written on the packaging.”

Raeleigh was speechless as she stared at Santiago.

With a frown, she asked, “Are you playing with me?”

“Am I?”

Raeleigh was quiet as she thought of a response.

She then pushed Santiago aside. “You may leave the kitchen.”

“I’m helping.”

“There’s no need.”

With a wave of her hands, Raeleigh started rinsing the rice. Once she was done, she put them into the rice cooker and with a press of a button, the rice started cooking. She then turned around to check what was in the refrigerator before she began preparing her ingredients.

Santiago took out a can of beer and went into the living room. He heard Raeleigh say, “It’s not healthy to drink cold beer during winter.”

“Then I won’t.”

Although he said that, he did feel slightly suffocated by her. He sat cross-legged on the sofa and watched TV.

Xanthus came out of his room soon after. Knowing that Raeleigh might have gone to cook, he went straight to the kitchen to help her with her chores.

Compared to Jepherson, Xanthus was much friendlier with Santiago. When it came to the former, Xanthus and Santiago had nothing to say about him.

Chapter 1276

Raeleigh arrived at the door to her house. When she got out of the car, Jepherson’s car slowly stopped next to her before the man himself emerged from his car.

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“I know. This has nothing to do with you. I don’t blame you. But you should still tell your grandmother that I have nothing to do with you anymore. I hope she’ll stop bothering me anymore.”

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Chapter 1277

"It's fine, Xanthus. I'm already done," Raeleigh said. She had cooked up fish, some stewed meat, two vegetable dishes, and a beef and tomato soup – all of which were her specialties.

Xanthus looked into the kitchen with a hint of displeasure in his eyes. "Even I, as your brother, have never seen you prepare so much delicious food for me before."

"That's because you don't need me to." Raeleigh brought the soup out and handed a pair of oven mitts to Xanthus.

Xanthus raised his eyebrows. "Why don't I remember that?"

"Take your time to recall."

"Rae Rae..."

Raeleigh hummed in response, raising her head just as Xanthus said, "Have you noticed that you're being especially nice to Santiago?"

"He's still young, so of course I have to be nice to him."

Raeleigh did not notice anything wrong with what she said.

"He's just about done with puberty. Don't you think that he might have had some lapses in judgement?" Xanthus stared at the beef and tomato soup and thought for a while. Raeleigh replied, "Though he is still a child, he's smart."

"Cynthia is a good girl. He would have taken good care of her. Why didn't he like her though? He even sent her away, right?"

Raeleigh paused and looked at Xanthus. "What do you mean?"

"Nothing."

Xanthus felt that he had said too much, so he turned around and left. If he continued talking about this, he wasn't sure if it would cause a ruckus.

Raeleigh looked at the fish, frowning. "What on earth did he want to say?"

Santiago, upon seeing the pot of soup, stood up. He had changed into a black casual suit and went into the kitchen to help Raeleigh.

Raeleigh had thought that it was Xanthus and said, "Santiago's still young. You're overthinking it."

Santiago walked behind her with a plate in his hand. He lowered his head and asked, "How am I still young?"

Raeleigh paused for a moment before turning around to look at him. "You scared me. Don't do that again."

Raeleigh then took out the fish as Santiago turned around and left the room. He looked at Xanthus and asked, "How am I still young?"

Raeleigh heard him from the kitchen. She raised her hand and rubbed her forehead, thinking about what she said.

“Let’s eat. Don’t mind that.” Raeleigh came out and gently gave Santiago a push to sit him down at the dining table. After he finished eating, he stood up and started cleaning up. When he heard someone knocking on the door, he got up and went to open the door. However, as soon as he saw that it was Jepherson through the window, he turned back without letting him in.

Raeleigh asked, “Why didn’t you open the door?”

“I didn’t feel like it.”

Raeleigh went to see who it was, then realized it was Jepherson.

“Young Master, the Old Madam is calling.” With a phone in hand, Stuart got out of the car and approached Jepherson, who was waiting by the door.

Jepherson ignored it and said, “Don’t worry about it. You can go back first.”

Jepherson took out his cell phone to send Raeleigh a text. She was upstairs and heard everything he said. However, she didn’t go back down, and simply stood by the window.

Before long, Jepherson turned around and headed back to the car.

As the car door closed, Stuart told the driver to go. The Old Madam had finally stopped calling. If she did, the phone would have exploded.

When they reached the Harvey family’s mansion, Jepherson got off the car and went straight to the Ink Garden, where Paige was at.

Stella had been waiting by the door for a very long time. Having spotted Jepherson, she walked over to him and called out to him.

He hummed in acknowledgement. As agreed, he went straight to Paige’s room. When he entered, she was lying on his bed, throwing a tantrum.

When she saw Jepherson, she tossed her cup at him. Instead of hitting him in the face, she deliberately aimed for his body.

The teacup and water hit him in the torso before falling onto the ground, shattering into pieces.

Jepherson only stood motionless and reactionless at the door while Paige gritted her teeth at him.

“You’re finally back. I didn’t think you’d still remember that this is your home.”

He stared at her haggard face. “Well it is, so why wouldn’t I come back?”

“Are you sure you want this place? Why do you even bother coming back?”

“Let’s cut to the chase. You want me and Stella to get engaged? Fine, we’ll get engaged. From now on, stop bothering Raeleigh. I won’t forgive you the next time you do this again.”

After saying that, he turned on his heel and left. A yell from the room followed, “Stop.”

Jepherson turned around to look at her. “Is there anything else?”

“From today onwards, you will live together with Stella. Once you have a child, we will hold a wedding. I’ve already discussed this with Stella. If you don’t agree to this, I will get someone to go after Raeleigh.”

Paige was evidently ready to risk everything as she huffed at Jepherson, red-faced and expression twisted unpleasantly.

Jepherson casted a glance at Stella who quickly explained, “She threatened me, she wouldn’t eat unless I agreed, so I had to.”

“It’s not your fault. This is on me.”

Jepherson glanced back at Paige. “I hope you live to a very old age, so that everything you’ve done today would be worthwhile.”

“Of course I will, and I will watch you and Stella grow old together.”

“Is that so?”

With that, Jepherson turned around and left. Stella looked at Paige with a puzzled expression.

“Grandma, what do you...”

“Why are you still standing here? Hurry up and get over there. I’ve already sorted that out. What more do you want?”

“Yes,” Stella replied reluctantly. She quickly turned around and chased after Jepherson. When she saw him storming off, she stopped.

“Jepherson.”

Jepherson glanced at Stella. “I know that you had no choice, but I can’t do anything about this. If we live together, people will think that you are no longer a virgin even though I won’t do anything. However, my only priority is Raeleigh’s safety.

“Jepherson, I know that Raeleigh is all you care about, but it doesn’t matter. I can do this. Remember, you helped me when I was a kid. Now I’m helping you in the only way I can. Don’t you think this is fair?”

Jepherson paused for a moment, and his handsome face finally softened. “Stella, thank you.”

“Don’t mention it. We’re like siblings, right?”

“Yes.”

...

“Is this our new room?” Stella brought her luggage towards Jepherson.

She stood in the room and twirled around.

“Sort of. I’ve never stayed in this room before.” Jepherson placed his luggage down and started tidying up the space.

Stella went to the bed and sat down. “There is only one bed. How will we sleep?”

“You’ll sleep on the bed, and I’ll take the floor,” Jepherson said this very matter-of-factly. It was impossible for him to sleep on the same bed with any other woman that wasn’t Raeleigh.

“Why don’t you sleep on the bed too? We’ll each take one side and not bump into each other.” Stella looked as though she had good intentions. Jepherson smiled in reply, “No, we can’t. You sleep on the bed and I’ll sleep on the floor.”

“It will be cold on the floor, especially since it’s Winter...”

“I’m fine, that won’t be a problem. Don’t worry about me.” Jepherson then opened his luggage, took out a pair of pajamas and walked into the bathroom, followed by the sound of running water. Stella sat down, a funny feeling rising in her chest. This was what one called a good start.

Chapter 1278

Before going to sleep, Jepherson sent a text to Belle and told his mother about the incident.

After reading the message, Belle couldn’t sleep in peace and she started to complain to her husband.

“Is the same thing going to happen again? I thought she changed. I can’t believe she is still the same.”

Belle said bitterly, helplessness painted across her face. She had done her best to appease her mother-in-law but she didn’t expect this outcome at all.

Their children were adults. They should have the liberty to make their own choice. Why did their mother-in-law have to interfere?

Belle couldn’t understand her mother-in-law’s ways. She wondered if she had ever changed anything about how she went about things in all those years.

Be that as it may, Paige was Calvin’s mother, and Calvin felt uncomfortable when he heard Belle’s complaint about her. No matter what kind of mother she was, she still cared for her children.

Calvin held his wife’s hand. “She’s only doing this out of kindness. She just thinks that Raeleigh isn’t suited for Jepherson. She thinks that Stella is a better fit. That is all.”

“She used to think that Deanna was the right match for him too. But she changed her mind right after she heard about the news that she got kidnapped. She was afraid that she was raped and worried that her reputation would be affected. That was why she stopped trying to get them together. In fact, all she wanted at the time was to draw a clear line to separate herself from the Atkinson family. Although Lottie didn’t say it directly, I could tell from the way she spoke over the phone. I think Grandma is quite tricky to deal with.”

“Don’t say that.” Calvin doted on his wife very much. She was his most beloved person but he needed to protect his pride.

Aron was nearby and he didn’t want him to overhear their conversation either.

It was shameful for a man if he couldn’t manage his family affairs well.

Calvin’s face stiffened and Belle rolled her eyes at him. His intimidating appearance was only superficial. He never dared to scold her.

Belle stopped talking. Calvin then said, "At the very least, she is still your mother-in-law. It is unlike you to gossip about others behind their backs."

"How am I usually like?"

"Not like this," Calvin said with a faint smile. Belle rolled her eyes at him again.

The couple chatted for a while more. Then Calvin said, "I am curious as well to know what mom thinks about this. If she's set on her decision, we would have no choice but to intervene. You know how Jepherson is too. He wouldn't give up without a fight. As for Raeleigh, I don't think she wants to stay with him. If she was willing to, she would have stayed even with my mom's intervention.

It wasn't entirely my mom's fault. Jepherson was partly to blame as well. Besides, his stubbornness was what cost him his relationship with Raeleigh. He would have to show his sincerity if he really wanted to save their relationship. He cannot treat Raeleigh unfairly."

"The audacity you have to say such things. If it were not for you telling Jerry that the child was still alive and that Fabian was hiding overseas, would any of this have happened?"

"I told you a long time ago that we have to tell Jerry the truth, that his little sister is dead but you refused. This is all your fault."

The more Belle thought about this, the angrier she got and she just couldn't help but blame her husband.

Calvin, on the other hand, was calm. He looked at his wife for a moment. "Let bygones be bygones. Why do you have to bring that up again? I was also trying my best at that time."

"It was your fault!"

Belle glared at Calvin while he remained silent.

He held on tightly to Belle's hand as he recalled the incident. "I was really desperate at the time, I thought that..."

She immediately calmed down when she saw how dejected her husband looked. She looked at him and said, "Alright, it was all in the past. Let's not bring it up again. It wasn't your fault either."

"... Mmm..."

...

After a good night's rest, Raeleigh was ready to head to work. It was not like she had a choice either; she still had to work even if she did not want to see Jepherson. Since she was an employee of the company, she might cause unnecessary trouble if she were to throw in the towel like this.

Raeleigh sat in the car as she mulled over the question of whether she should terminate her contract.

She wondered how much compensation she would have to pay to cancel it?

"I would like to terminate my contract. How much do I have to pay in compensation for breach of contract?" Raeleigh said this out loud without realizing it as she thought about it. Santiago took a glance

at Raeleigh while he drove and said, "If you were to terminate your contract, based on your qualifications, it would cost at least a few hundred millions."

"Hundreds of millions?"

Raeleigh widened her eyes instantly, flabbergasted when she heard the figure.

Santiago continued to drive. "Moreover, considering the influence and power of the Harvey family, they wouldn't allow you to call it quits as easily as that. If you insist, they could blacklist you and you will never be able to work in the industry again."

Raeleigh placed her hand on her forehead. "That is terrifying."

"It's about time you realize that."

Santiago's lips curled up into a smile. He was amused by her response.

The phone started to ring. He answered it and heard Jacky's hushed voice on the other end, "When can I see Deanna?"

"In the afternoon. I have to work this morning."

"Alright."

...

After ending the call, Santiago immediately called Deanna. Jacky couldn't get through to her phone but he could.

"Santiago."

Deanna was sleeping and had just woken up. She was grounded in her room and wasn't allowed to leave her house.

"I'm back. I'll pick you up in the afternoon. Be sure to get ready by then."

"Santiago, my brother has locked me in the house and he won't let me out."

"I'll come and pick you up."

Santiago was not bothered by her explanation. He hung up the phone immediately after he finished speaking. Raeleigh blinked suspiciously and asked, "Don't you find this strange?"

"What?"

"That Deanna got locked up at home."

"What's strange about that? It's logical to lock her up. If my sister hung out with a strange man, I would probably break her legs."

Raeleigh was speechless to hear that.

After a while, Raeleigh turned to look at Xanthus, who was reading a book. before turning back around to tell Santiago, "Well, I wouldn't."

“That’s not what I meant.”

Santiago laughed and said, “You want to know how I would react if my own daughter were to hang out with other men, right?”

Raeleigh looked at Santiago. “I can’t even imagine it.”

“I’d kill him.”

“You’re just saying that.”

“No, I’m not.”

Santiago’s face darkened. He wasn’t joking.

Raeleigh turned away. “In that case, why did you help Jacky?”

“I helped him because I’m not Deanna’s brother nor her father. It’s simple. I stand for and think for myself.”

“You’re being selfish.”

“And what about it?”

Santiago smiled as if to challenge her.

Raeleigh did not say another word. She got out of the car when they arrived at their office, and Xanthus took over the wheel since he had to leave for a prior engagement.

Santiago was different from Xanthus. He was a free man with plenty of free time so he could spend all his time keeping her company.

After Xanthus left, Raeleigh and Santiago walked into the office building. A car in the near distance stopped behind them.

Santiago had excellent hearing and he immediately turned around to look at the car behind them. Two people got out of the car; the first person was Jepherson, who was wearing a grey suit and coat, while the person next to him was dressed in a fashionable red coat, looking rather charming. He smiled at Jepherson as he got out of the car.

Raeleigh followed suit and turned around to look. The four of them paused as their eyes met.

Chapter 1279

Raeleigh spoke first when she saw Jepherson. “Mr. Harvey.”

“Come here for a moment. I have something to tell you.” Jepherson casually looked at Santiago, then walked towards the entrance while Raeleigh remained where she was. Santiago walked up to him and asked, “What’s there to talk about? I’m Raeleigh’s boyfriend now. By the way, I’m the general manager of the Harvey Group from today onwards. I’ve already told our father about it; talk to him if you have any questions. Raeleigh will be under my supervision from now on. In this company, save for me, no one is allowed to do anything to her. I hope you understand, play fair and know your boundaries between personal affairs and business.”

“Is that how you speak to your brother?” Jepherson’s eyes darkened, his expression as grim as his eyes. Santiago’s mouth curved up slightly. He then looked at Stella and walked towards her. He raised his hand as he wanted to pinch her. Stella was so scared that she hid behind Jepherson and stayed behind him to avoid Santiago.

“Santiago, don’t do that. You know I’m afraid of you,” Stella whimpered as she hid behind Jepherson, causing Santiago to laugh out loud. “You’re afraid because of your impure intentions. Otherwise, why are others fine with me?”

“Santiago, you’ve always been like this since young, and you always bully me.” Stella was terrified of Santiago but only she knew the real reason behind her fear of him.

Jepherson couldn’t bear to watch this any longer. His expression darkened as he glared at Santiago. “Santiago, stop speaking nonsense.”

Santiago laughed. “I’m sure some would know whether I’m speaking nonsense or not.”

“Santiago!”

Jepherson gritted his teeth. Santiago turned around and walked over to Raeleigh. He tugged at her before walking into the building together; Raeleigh never looking back as she did. She didn’t want to know what was going on. With Santiago around, she felt assured. If it were not for him being around during this difficult period, she would probably feel hopeless about life.

After they entered the building, Raeleigh followed Santiago over to Lamarre, who was stunned when he saw them entering his office. He slammed his fist on the table and asked, “Why are you here?”

“Is she not welcomed here?”

“Who do you think you are? What are you doing here?” Lamarre had tried to mentor him before but he was chased away only after three days because he couldn’t abide by any instructions and refused to listen to him. Since then, Lamarre had never seen him again. Even though they never met up again, they kept in touch. Santiago was an old friend.

He would give him presents every New Year – regardless of the size or value of the gift.

Among all that he gave, the most unique one was an inflatable doll that he gifted him during the Spring Festival. Lamarre had even called Santiago up and scolded him for it.

That was why he always scolded him whenever he saw him.

When they were out in public, the two pretended to be strangers but their actual relationship was one of a kind.

“Raeleigh has been having a rough time. The Old Madam is trying to cause trouble. I came here because I heard that you were feeling ill, so I wanted to personally visit you.”

“Since when have I fallen sick?” Lamarre refused to talk about this but Santiago went straight to the point without any attempt to polish his words nor conceal his intention. However, Lamarre was obviously not ready to discuss it.

“Raeleigh told me. I came to have dinner with you. Do you have time?”

Santiago found a place to sit while Raeleigh stood at the door as though she was an outsider. Lamarre glanced at her and scolded, “Big mouth.”

“It wasn’t me,” Raeleigh defended herself.

Lamarre paused. He glanced at Raeleigh and then looked at Santiago. “Come back with some coffee.”

With that, Raeleigh turned around and left. Lamarre closed the door, walked to one side of the room, and sat down. “So??”

“You can’t stay. You have to get treatment immediately.” Santiago’s face darkened, and his current expression looked worse than Jepherson’s earlier.

Lamarre didn’t respond. He was silent for a moment. Just as he was about to speak, Raeleigh opened the door and walked in.

Lamarre said immediately, “You didn’t knock when you came in.”

Raeleigh didn’t respond and proceeded to place the coffee on the table before standing aside.

Santiago stood up immediately. “It’s a deal then. I shall make the decisions. From today onwards, Raeleigh shall take over all your projects. I don’t want to cause you any trouble, and I hope that you won’t start any trouble in return. You should know that I’m more than capable of turning this place upside down.”

“You brat, are you threatening me?”

“That’s right. Hand over your work to Raeleigh at once. I hope you understand that humans are selfish and would prioritize family over outsiders. So, be sure to give Raeleigh a hand to set herself up well while you still have the ability to, so that she won’t get in trouble or get trampled on by other people.”

“You know Stella and her agenda very well. If she’s here for a game, then let’s play. We’ll see who gets eliminated first.”

Once Santiago was finished with his speech, he promptly left. Raeleigh looked at Lamarre and asked, “What exactly did he say to you?”

“Nothing. I told him that I was going abroad. He asked for my position and requested that I hand it over to you.”

Raeleigh spoke to Lamarre while he cleared up his desk, “Are you afraid of him?”

“He’s the devil incarnate; of course I am.”

Lamarre laughed and looked at Raeleigh. “How did you get together?”

“I... I am his classmate in school.” Raeleigh didn’t know how to explain it.

Lamarre didn’t ask any more questions. He handed over his documents to her and typed out his resignation letter. Then, he headed straight to the door to pass his resignation to Jepherson. When he arrived at the door, Santiago snatched his resignation letter from his hand.

“I’ll take that. If you have any questions, you may talk to me.” Santiago stuffed the resignation letter into his pocket and looked at Raeleigh. “Close the door. We’ll take a break today and visit Deanna in the afternoon. We’ll have lunch together.”

Lamarre laughed, “Your parents are such responsible people, yet did they give birth to a son like you? I suspect they must have made a mistake at the hospital.”

Santiago laughed. “I suspect that as well. But... how would you know that my parents were responsible people? As the saying goes, never judge a book by its cover.”

“You have such a glib tongue. If your parents know about your behaviour, I am sure they will be furious.”

Lamarre turned around and walked to the elevator. Raeleigh came out of the office and asked, “Why do you always do this? You always argue with him. He’s a good man.”

“He’s your mentor. Of course, he’d be nice to you. But I just don’t think that’s true.”

While they talked, Raeleigh followed Santiago out of Lamarre’s office. They left with Santiago in the driver’s seat while Raeleigh sat in the back with Lamarre.

Raeleigh was still a little stunned. Had she really just become the chief designer and taken over all of Lamarre’s work?

“Are you really going on a vacation? Is...”

“This is different. I’m going to help set you up properly so that you wouldn’t be taken advantage of. I have made my decision. You can’t convince me otherwise.”

Lamarre’s words cut into Raeleigh’s mid-question, and the way he replied made it evident that he was done talking, so Raeleigh decided to let things be.

While they were heading towards the Atkinson family villa, Jepherson had come down from his office looking for Raeleigh...

However...

When he pushed Raeleigh’s office door open, he was only greeted by an empty room, rendering him speechless!

Chapter 1280

Santiago went to the Atkinson family, but he was stopped when he arrived. Several servants were standing at the door, waiting for him.

Santiago looked at the servants, a glint of amusement in his gaze. He lifted his leg and kicked at the door. “What is this supposed to mean?”

Santiago looked displeased.

These servants were afraid of offending him and one of them quickly explained that they were there to greet Rhys and Lottie as they would be returning the same day.

Santiago’s lips curled up into a smile. He stood at the entrance with his hands on his waist.

“Mr. Atkinson is coming back?” Santiago seemed to have believed it. The servants nodded to reassure him.

They knew they would get in trouble if they were to cause trouble for Santiago. But their Young Master had instructed them to stand guard here. They had no choice but to do as instructed.

Santiago kicked the door again. “Mr. Atkinson is on his way, so I understand you are all standing here to welcome him, but it’s strange that you keep your main entrance shut.”

All the servants fell silent. Santiago gave the main door another hard kick. “I’m going to have lunch soon. I don’t have time to waste with you lot. I will be back. Just you wait.”

Santiago raised his hand and pointed at everyone present. The servants bowed their heads quietly.

Santiago then turned around and walked back towards the car. Raeleigh casted an innocent look at Lamarre. “Sometimes I think his temper is like a balloon that will explode at any time.”

Lamarre laughed. “He’s not a balloon. He’s an atomic bomb.”

Santiago got into the car and started to drive away. He continued to talk to Lamarre as if nothing had happened. Raeleigh sat quietly in the back while Santiago poked fun at her from time to time.

Raeleigh found it strange that both Santiago and Jepherson were born in the same family but turned out so differently. Why was Santiago like this, while Jepherson had a completely different personality?

Once they got out of the car, they entered the restaurant from the back. A waiter invited them into the room they had reserved that morning. Soon, the three began to eat.

While eating, Raeleigh received a call from Jepherson who questioned her whereabouts.

Santiago was in the midst of eating when he raised his hand and took the phone away from her. He placed it against his ear and asked, “Is something the matter?”

Jepherson paused for a moment, then said with a grim face, “Bring Raeleigh back.”

Santiago did not reply. He hung up the phone and swiftly deleted Jepherson’s number. He then casually placed the phone next to Raeleigh.

Raeleigh ate quietly, as though she was completely immersed in her own world. No matter what Lamarre and Santiago were discussing, she stayed quiet until they finished their meal. After that, Santiago said that he was heading back to the office to drop Lamarre back before going to Zorion’s house. Raeleigh sat in the back, and pressed her hand on her forehead as her head started to throb, thinking about how she had been in a streak of bad fortune ever since she met the Richard siblings.

That afternoon, Raeleigh watched as Santiago kicked the door of the Atkinson family manor again. Only his final kick left an impression on her., and she had long gotten accustomed to Santiago’s antics.

She did not pay much attention to his actions as she was already used to them. However, his last kick was particularly hard and she knew that he wouldn’t give up easily. No one could stop him. Santiago was always the one with the final say.

Santiago looked into the rearview mirror and laughed. “What’s the matter? Are you scared?”

Raeleigh was slightly bemused and replied, "Am I not supposed to be?"

"What's there to be afraid of now that you're with me?" The corners of Santiago's lips curled upwards, his thin lips were red and glossy. His smile was particularly bright, but Raeleigh couldn't be bothered to look at him again.

Raeleigh liked being with Santiago. Although she used to hate him, she cherished him a great deal after they found each other again.

She felt comfortable and safe with Santiago.

As if there was nothing to worry about at all.

Raeleigh didn't want to see Jepherson, nor was she willing to be with him. Although she liked him and loved him, love alone was not enough to save their relationship. Jepherson's presence equated to the pressure in her mind. When she was with him, she always felt like she couldn't breathe and was burdened by him.

She was to blame for everything that happened when she was with him.

Raeleigh wanted a peaceful life, not a chaotic one and that was exactly what Jepherson could not provide for her.

When the car arrived at the gates of the Atkinson family villa, Raeleigh wished she was asleep. However, the car pulled up so forcefully that Raeleigh was jolted awake even in her dazed state.

After stepping out of the car, her gaze followed Santiago towards the door. He slammed the car door with a loud bang. The loud noise gave her a sudden headache, so she started rubbing her head with her hand.

Raeleigh felt depressed. She turned around and watched Santiago walk to the door of the manor. He sure was a headache to deal with at times.

Raeleigh remained in the car. This issue had nothing to do with her. It was Santiago's affair as he was the one who had promised Jacky to bring Deanna. She decided she would not get involved in this.

She should learn to be more tactful.

Raeleigh felt rather amused when she thought of this. She wondered when she had become so wise.

Perhaps she had always been wise.

Santiago made his way to the front door. The Atkinson family didn't expect him to return that day. They were terrified at the sight of him and didn't know that he was looking for Deanna. They all believed that Santiago was there to get even with them.

The moment they saw Santiago, they retreated slowly.

Santiago swaggered over to the Atkinson family's entrance and kicked the door once more. "Open the door."

“Mr. Santiago, please forgive our ignorance.” Santiago was the Devil of Capital City. Nobody dared to offend him!

“Enough nonsense. Open the door!” Santiago landed another kick on the door. He had a brown cotton-padded jacket draped over his shoulders. His hands were on his waist, his head lowered. The rich fur collar ruffled along his shoulder when he kicked the door.

Raeleigh looked at Santiago.

She felt sleepy as she watched him try to enter the house. He left the engine running so it was warm in the car and Raeleigh quickly fell asleep leaning against the car seat.

Santiago turned to look at her. Then, he turned back around and questioned the servants, “What? Are you asking me to open the door myself?”

“Mr. Santiago, please forgive us. We’re only following orders.”

“Alright, I won’t make things difficult for you. Please send a message that I want to see Deanna, and get her to see me. I heard that she had eloped with somebody. It wouldn’t look good if the rumor spread.”

“Mr. Santiago, that’s nonsense. She is upstairs. How could she have eloped with anyone?”

“If you refuse to let me see Deanna, wouldn’t that mean she had eloped? Is that why you are trying to hide her from me?” Santiago beamed, his accusation causing the servants’ head to hurt. How could he slander someone like that? Her reputation would be severely affected if she were to get married in the future and it had already been ruined when Jacky kidnapped her. It would be further tarnished with his accusation!