

Go After 1291

Chapter 1291

"I'm not kidding. I swear on my life, I really like you. I like you more than anything else."

"Impossible... This can't be. You're much too young, you don't understand this at all..."

Raeleigh was shaking her head when Santiago kissed her face. She flinched, turning utterly unresponsive.

Santiago lowered his eyes slightly and smiled. He then spun around and walked away. The entire time, he had his hands in his pockets. With an exaggerated swagger he shuffled away, as though he were a god sashaying among the grass.

Raeleigh slowly turned around and looked at Santiago, gasping, "Are you out of your mind?"

Stopping short, Santiago swung around, observing her. She had taken a step back as though she had been hurt. However, she found it strange as she wasn't afraid of Santiago. What could account for her sudden backing off?

With pouted lips, Raeleigh looked at Santiago, her face impassive. She felt like she was cocooned in bleakness. Yet, the corners of Santiago's mouth twitched upwards, his smile as brilliant as the sun.

"Raeleigh, my dearest."

The corners of Santiago's lips tugged into a smile. He sounded exceptionally sweet when he called her by her name. Raeleigh, on the other hand, kept a straight face. He backtracked and stopped in front of her.

"Are you scared?" Santiago asked, to which she shook her head. Santiago responded by lowering his head and kissing her on the cheek.

Raeleigh was about to step back once more when he grabbed her arm and whispered into her ear, "The more you resist, the more you appear attractive to me. Do you know that?"

Raeleigh stayed eerily silent and still while Santiago slowly distanced himself. He fixed his eyes on her, whose expression could not look any uglier.

Santiago laughed and released his hand. He turned around and went into the kitchen. After doing so, he began to cook.

When Raeleigh walked into the kitchen, Santiago had already started boiling a pot of water.

He stood by the stove and watched the noodles cook. Raeleigh didn't think that Santiago was any good at cooking, so she had a hunch that he was probably going to ruin the kitchen.

Shortly after, she walked in and took out the noodles. She was going to prepare them for Santiago. He leaned to one side and watched her.

They didn't say anything. A while later, Santiago said, "If you leave my brother, don't just rush off somewhere. Come to me, I'll love you for the rest of my life."

Raeleigh's hand froze. She raised her head and turned to look at Santiago, asking, "Do you even know what you're doing?"

"I do" Santiago's smile was as handsome as ever and pleasing to the eyes. Raeleigh's heart and body were pushed over the edge of sanity.

"Don't do that. Do not laugh."

Santiago raised both hands to cup her face. Raeleigh's hands were full with the noodles and she wanted to put them down, but Santiago pinched her cheeks, "I promise, I won't do anything to you until you've completely forgotten my brother. But... you shouldn't piss me off either. I have a volatile temper and poor self-control. If you get on my nerves, I wouldn't know what I'd do to you. So... you should give me – give us – some time."

Raeleigh widened her eyes in disbelief, "Are you crazy? I'm your brother's –"

Raeleigh suddenly clammed up, after which Santiago laughed, "Perhaps, you used to be. But now the both of you are over."

Raeleigh pursed her lips. She couldn't refute him, but he was wrong.

Raeleigh shut her eyes and tried to keep her wits sane. When she did, she said, "Get your hands off me."

As soon as he heard her say that, he let go of her. Furious, she turned around and placed the noodles into a pot. Then, she took a pair of tongs and mixed them in the water. Santiago watched for a while before stepping forward and held her from behind. Raeleigh shivered and used her hand to push him away.

"Don't move, or there will be hell to pay."

Raeleigh was silent and warned, "Your brother will kill you."

"Or maybe I'll kill him first."

She was mind-blown.

Raeleigh was rooted in place and didn't respond. She felt that her whole world was blanketed in darkness. How had things ended up like this?

Santiago's hands slowly wrapped around her waist. He held her in his arms and breathed gently. Beaming, he said, "I believe that time will change many things, including your feelings for me. If we've been together for some time and you still miss my brother, I'll pull out from this relationship."

Raeleigh bit her lip, "Even if I could forget your brother, you'd still never stand a chance."

She was borderline shouting at him since her anger was uncontrollable.

Santiago burst out laughing and then lowered his head to kiss her face. Raeleigh really wanted to pick up the tongs and smack him on his head to knock some decency into him.

However, she couldn't move. What was she to do?

"The noodles will be ready soon," Santiago held her tightly, which greatly irritated her. Raeleigh threw the tongs at him, pushed him away, and lost her balance.

Santiago was quick with his eyes and hands and caught her before she fell to the ground.

Raeleigh struggled. She didn't realize how much strength she used before finally managing to push him away. Then, she turned around and stormed off upstairs.

Seeing as Raeleigh headed back upstairs, Santiago smiled and resumed cooking.

Raeleigh went back into her room and slammed the door shut. She leaned against it wearily and gasped, which greatly frightened the others who were sleeping in their rooms.

Hadrian was the first to react and quickly shielded Scarlette's belly. He got up and looked at the door. He was very tense as he moved closer to the door. After a while, Scarlette asked, "What's wrong? Did Jepherson come and blow up the house?"

The corner of Hadrian's mouth twitched. He glanced at the woman in his arms. It had only occurred to him that she possessed quite the wild imagination.

"Lie down, I'll check things out. It sounded more like a door being slammed shut."

Hadrian put on his clothes and went towards the door. He pushed the door open and saw Jacky standing outside, staring at Raeleigh's door. Soon after, he heard Santiago ask from downstairs, "Do you have any idea how to cook noodles?"

Jacky looked downstairs before turning around and returning to his room.

Inside the room, Deanna was sitting on the bed waiting for Jacky to return. She thought that her older brother must have come back and kicked the door open, which had nTristany scared the life out of her.

When Jacky returned, she asked, "Was it my brother?"

"No, it was Raeleigh and her racket of a door."

"Excuse me?" Deanna looked a lot better today, and she was eating again. The doctor had said that if she didn't eat properly, the baby would become unhealthy. She hoped that her child would be born healthy, so of course she would force herself to eat something.

Even if she didn't like to, she did her best to provide her body with sustenance. She forced herself to a bowl of soup and even fed on a list of Jacky-approved meals.

Jacky found her hilarious. No matter how aloof he was towards outsiders, this veneer of his would be stripped off in her presence.

Back on the bed, Jacky pinched Deanna's chin and kissed her. She was still somewhat reluctant, her small hands pushing his face away. With a distance between them, she began to grumble, saying that she had just woken up and had bad breath.

Jacky didn't say anything else. He pulled her close and lifted her up onto his lap. He pinched her chin, pried her lips open, and brought their tongues together, allowing her to wrap herself around him.

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Deanna was disinclined to do so at first. She felt that she shouldn't have kissed him since she had just woken up. Although she didn't really have bad breath and she had brushed her teeth before going to bed...

Moving about too much wasn't good for the baby, and Deanna wasn't willing to give in just like that.

The problem was that women were weak when compared to men. Deanna was starting to reject his foreplay. However, after a little while, she began to respond positively. Jacky gently patted her gently since she was weak. He controlled his pent-up drive and allowed her to straddle him in his lap. Slowly he started to give her what she wanted and made her happy.

On the other hand, Raeleigh felt a breakdown incoming. For more than an hour she squatted in the room before she eventually rose and climbed onto her bed, the physical exertion instantly sapping all of her strength. She fell ill the next day.

She wondered: did she catch a cold? Her night had been punctuated with her coughs as she laid on the bed. The next morning, Santiago called for her to come out, wherein no response was elicited. He then opened the door with a key and upon entering her room, was met with Raeleigh all curled up beneath a blanket. He wanted to fool around and give her a pinch. However, when he peeled the blanket off her, she was as red as an apple in autumn. Santiago didn't say anything and quickly went to rouse Xanthus.

Xanthus went upstairs to check on her and gave Raeleigh an injection. Santiago watched them intently as Xanthus prepared the saline to be injected. When it was time for the injection to be administered, Xanthus asked Santiago to turn around, which he did obediently. After injecting Raeleigh, Santiago asked Xanthus, "What happened?"

"Maybe it's a cold. She seemed to have slept outside the covers last night. Did the two of you have a fight yesterday?"

Xanthus took out some medicine for Raeleigh and prepared the injection while asking Santiago. Although he hadn't seen it for himself, the slamming of the door was enough to speak for itself. Something must have happened.

"It's nothing."

Santiago sat down and looked at her. As she was getting the injection, Raeleigh felt muddled and kept tossing on the bed. Since Xanthus couldn't keep her calm, Santiago held Raeleigh down by holding her hand, assuring her, "Relax. You're fine."

Raeleigh, still in a daze, cried like a child after being pricked by the needle. Xanthus sighed, "Don't cause her any more grief. She's been through a lot. She may look tough, but she's barely holding on as it is. I really don't get what's going on between you two brothers. You regret and lament over her loss when she leaves you, but abuse and mistreat her badly when she's yours."

"If you can't control your obsessions, best to let it go and leave Raeleigh to start anew."

"If you look at things from the standpoint of her family and as her brother, I'm sure that you will see things differently."

"I never thought about taking anything from her because I love her more than I do myself. I do so only because I'm her brother, but the two of you..."

Xanthus packed up his things and gave the order to leave, "You can leave now. I'll take care of her."

"No, I can take care of her," Santiago was equally worried about her. Xanthus put his things aside and said, bemused, "Are you qualified to do so? Just go."

Xanthus's face darkened as he ordered Santiago to leave.

Santiago looked at Raeleigh, who in the end showed no signs of stirring.

Lying down on the bed, he held Raeleigh's wrist and said, "I won't go. I'll wait for her to wake up."

Xanthus stood up and looked at Santiago, warning him, "You know what, I'm really itching to give you a jab and teach you what death feels like. Maybe then you'll zip your mouth for a change."

Santiago gave a lopsided smile, "Feel free to."

Once Xanthus turned towards the bathroom, only then did Santiago check up on Raeleigh. He ran his hand through her hair, unwilling to leave a single strand behind.

Raeleigh's fever was letting up. Santiago took a deep breath and leaned on the bed. When Xanthus came out, he was still leaning on the bed.

"Alright now, Raeleigh's fallen asleep. You can let yourself out."

Xanthus found the Harvey brothers an eyesore. If he could, he would hurl them out the window and watch as they fell to their death stories below.

Santiago could read the room, but move he did not.

"You must be tired. Go and rest, I'll stay with Raeleigh. By the way, call the company and let them know she'll have to take a sick day."

Santiago did not budge an inch. Xanthus, deeming him a lost cause, turned around and stormed off.

Staring at the closed door, Santiago called out behind Xanthus, "Raeleigh needs rest. Don't let anyone in."

Xanthus paused. He pushed the door open again and looked at Santiago, leaving one last threat, "You should also leave in a while."

Santiago did not reply. Holding his phone, he lowered his head and made a call.

He called Jepherson.

"What's up?"

As soon as Jepherson got into the car with Stella, who had just sat down, his phone rang.

"Raeleigh and I are taking a sick day today. Also, her office is off limits to anyone else."

Santiago then hung up the phone. Jepherson held his phone and looked at Stuart. He ordered, "Start driving."

"Yes, Mr. Jepherson."

Soon, the car started and drove away slowly.

Jepherson looked outside. Stella leaned over and locked arms with him intimately, "Jepherson?"

"I'm fine."

Stella let go and sat back down, feeling secretly euphoric.

However...

When the car arrived at the entrance of the company, Jepherson didn't get out. Instead, he looked at Stella, who had gotten out of the car and said, "Stella, I'm going to check up on Raeleigh. Stuart will be your escort for lunch."

Stuart got out of the car and quickly went to stand next to Stella. Without even having a chance to reply, the car zoomed away. Jepherson was gone.

Stella was bristling with anger, but she kept smiling. She looked up and muttered in her best attempt at acting casually, "What's the matter with him? He's acting so weird this Tristany in the morning!"

Unfortunately, Stuart wasn't a very talkative person. He always kept his mouth shut.

"Miss Stella, let us go."

"All right."

Stella looked at Jepherson's car, then turned around and walked away.

It didn't take long for Jepherson's car to arrive at Raeleigh's home. After coming to a stop, Jepherson got out. He walked towards the door and looked at the security pad on the door. After thinking for some time, he raised his hand and entered a string of numbers. The door clicked open, allowing him to walk into the villa.

The driver sat in the car and shook his head. He couldn't help but marvel at Jepherson's intelligence. He was really amazing. No wonder he was the head of the family.

As Scarlett was relishing some fruits, she saw Jepherson come in from the front door. She got off her chair and attempted to stand up to greet him.

Her belly was so swollen that she had to hold it as she spoke.

"Mr. Jepherson."

She was a little nervous. Although she was already divorced and Hadrian had promised to retire from his job as a bodyguard, she was still very worried. Therefore, she didn't really know how to face Jepherson.

This was true especially now since she hadn't informed him about Deanna's pregnancy or about Raeleigh being sick.

From her point of view, there were some things that didn't need to be said.

But from his point of view, even the smallest scrap of news should be reported. Scarlett was clear that this was what he expected, but now...

It was like she had been caught red-handed stealing something. She was at a loss.

Jepherson's deep eyes glanced at her as he said, "Don't be nervous or you'll affect the baby. Just pay me no heed."

As he tried to assure Scarlett, he looked upwards and started walking upstairs. Her response falling behind, Scarlett turned around and watched Jepherson head upstairs. This was really strange, she thought. What was he up to?

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"Master Jepherson!"

Seeing Jepherson head up the stairs, Scarlett called out to him.

Jepherson stopped and turned around to look at her. Her lips trembled as she wondered if it would be best to say what was on her mind.

"Although I'm quite the gruff person, I can feel that Raeleigh is really bothered about Stella. No matter what the reason may be, you have already accepted Madam Paige's orders to marry Stella. I don't know what this means for Raeleigh, but if Hadrian ever told me that he loved me yet promised to marry another woman for whatever reason it may be, and even if it was for me, then I will never forgive him."

After saying that, she spun around and left. She went back to her room, afraid that she would get yelled at by Jepherson.

After she closed the door, Scarlett panted in her room. Hadrian was reading a book about maternity care. He was surprised to see Scarlett so rattled. Seeing how scared she was, he put the book down, stood up, and quickly walked over to her to hold her.

"Master Jepherson is here! He is here!" She was so frightened that her entire body trembled. Hadrian held on to her and breathed a sigh of relief.

"It'll be fine." He believed that Jepherson wasn't the kind of person who would hurt them.

Raeleigh slept soundly. Santiago and Xanthus were in the room, watching over her. Jepherson pushed the door open, with his eyes settled on the bed.

Raeleigh had been given an injection and was fast asleep. However, Santiago and Xanthus were on either side of the bed. Jepherson glanced at them. His face had an obnoxious expression.

Santiago stood up, his hands in his pockets. As he walked, he raised his head. He was then as tall as Jepherson.

"What are you doing here?"

Jepherson took a deep breath and turned around to leave. Santiago looked behind him and followed him outside. The brothers stood on the steps of the stairs. Jepherson still had a mild temper. "What's wrong with her?"

Santiago leaned against the railing. "She has a fever."

Jepherson looked at Raeleigh's room and went downstairs to sit on the couch.

Santiago thought his actions were comical. "What are you doing? Trying to terrorize me?"

Jepherson leaned back on the couch, with a deathly hush descending upon him.

Santiago walked around and sat down opposite him. Neither of them initiated to break the silence.

Hadrian stepped out of the room, saw them, then turned around and went back inside. Scarlett, in the speed of light, joined him at the door. Since nothing had happened, she thought that Jepherson had already left. But when she stole a glimpse from the door, she recoiled, as if she had seen two live lions perched on the couch in the living room. It was terrifying.

Scarlett returned to the room and scurried over to the bed. She covered herself with the quilt, balking at the idea of leaving the room. It was too dangerous.

Hadrian turned around and looked at her. He gave her another vitamin for pregnant women.

She opened her mouth, popped the tablet, and went back to sleep.

Raeleigh opened her eyes. She was wide awake then. When Jepherson arrived, she had woken up. But she neither moved nor made a sound. Then what?

Raeleigh had her line of sight focused at the door. Xanthus raised his hand and placed it on her forehead. It wasn't hot anymore.

Raeleigh looked at Xanthus. "Was I wrong to have come home?"

Dumbfounded, Xanthus looked at Raeleigh. He knew her well and it wouldn't be easy for her to keep herself from coming home.

"I should have listened to you from the beginning. I should have solved this with a lawsuit and stood in opposition to them. At the very least, I could have kept my dignity. It would have been much better than now. But I was too naïve. I thought I loved him, and if we couldn't be a couple, then we could be friends. I thought I could let time blunt whatever love we had between us, and bring us back to square one."

"What I hadn't expected is for this hopeless love to have ended up with so many complications."

"Let's go home, shall we. I'm missing Grandma."

Raeleigh said as a single tear rolled down her cheek. Xanthus thumbed her tears away and smiled. "It is too late to leave now. They are not the type of people to give up easily. Don't be so hard on yourself. Take it easy. Things will get better."

Raeleigh smiled. "I could neither face myself nor them. I wish I had never appeared in their lives."

"Don't say that."

Xanthus patted Raeleigh's head, his heart aching for her.

"Raeleigh..."

"Hmm?" she prompted.

"In fact, you can refuse both of them, and don't accept either of them. There's always another way."

Raeleigh said her thoughts out loud, "Why do you always push me when I want to stay?"

"It's very simple, because I can't let you back down when you're in trouble. What should I do next time when you're in trouble?"

Raeleigh smiled. "There won't be a next time."

"That's hard to say. For now, just take my advice. We'll follow your heart next time."

Xanthus got up and poured a glass of water for Raeleigh. She sat up and drank it. Xanthus pulled out the needle from the intravenous drip and also drank some water. After resting for a while, she felt better. She looked at the door and said, "If we don't leave, then what will they do?"

"You should know that even if they get into another fight, you're just an outsider. You have no part in this drama."

"But they're brothers," she replied.

"That is no excuse for them to treat you like this. In fact, as long as we abide by our duties and don't interfere with their business, we'll be fine."

Raeleigh thought for a moment and blurted out, "Maybe."

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Raeleigh stayed in bed for the whole day. Xanthus stood up and went out of the room. Raeleigh went to lie down again. According to Xanthus, she didn't need to worry about anything. This was nothing that sleep could not solve. As for the two of them downstairs, he would deal with them.

Raeleigh believed Xanthus and trusted him to handle it.

He went downstairs and walked towards the two brothers. He sat on the armchair beside them and casually crossed his legs.

"I don't want to know whatever it is you two plan on doing, but from now on, without my permission, you both better not do anything you shouldn't be doing in front of Raeleigh. Otherwise, I can't guarantee that you will see her tomorrow."

"In return, you can stay for dinner tonight, but I hope you won't put her out. Because if you do, then you won't get away with it either."

"As for your friend, Jacky..."

"I can accept all of you here, but I won't allow any of you to act like gangsters. It's best not to have so many out at once. We have people from all walks of life here, and I'm not a very good-tempered person. You'd better understand this."

Santiago laughed. "Are you threatening us?"

"I am, and I've already threatened your brother. He's downright afraid of me. If you don't believe me, then you can ask him."

Xanthus stood up and went into the kitchen to make some snacks for Raeleigh.

Santiago looked at Jepherson. "Is he threatening you?"

Jepherson got up and walked into the kitchen. He entered the kitchen and asked Xanthus, "Is it just a regular fever?"

Xanthus was busy doing something. "Are you worried, huh?"

Jepherson didn't reply. Behind him, Santiago had leisurely walked to the door. He raised his hand and tapped on Jepherson's shoulder. "Are you worried?"

Jepherson moved Santiago's hand away without even looking at him. "Stay as far away from me."

"H*ll is as far as I can go," jeered Santiago.

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Jepherson turned towards him. "Do me a favor and shut your mouth."

"Whatever!"

Smirking, Santiago turned on his heel and buried his hands in his pockets. He swaggered his way upstairs. When he reached the middle of the staircase, Xanthus had come out of the room. He stood at the kitchen door and said to Santiago, "I'll give you three seconds. Make a sensible choice."

After saying that, Xanthus turned around. Santiago sighed and said, "Seriously, I find you quite nosy. You'd better mind your own business."

Turning around, Santiago went back down. He walked to the couch, sat down, and watched TV.

Jepherson went into the kitchen and cooked some soup for Raeleigh.

With the soup prepared, Xanthus carried the bowl up as Jepherson went to sit down.

Santiago laughed. "Just like my brother, he can keep calm. Pops often said that I could never maintain my composure, didn't he?"

Santiago tilted his head to look at Jepherson. Jepherson raised his hand and pressed Santiago's head, and he then forcefully pushed it away.

Santiago played along and laid down on the couch, kicking the slippers off his feet. In all his glory, he rested his legs in Jepherson's lap, crossed them, and closed his eyes for some rest.

When Jacky came back down, he witnessed the glorious spectacle. There were two men, with one sitting on the left side of the couch while the other was on the right side. The two of them looked very relaxed. Jepherson raised his head and leaned back against the couch while Santiago was lying down on the other side, sleeping quite comfortably.

Jacky looked at the two brothers on the couch. When he thought of Raeleigh, he turned around and glanced at her door.

One woman, two brothers.

Jacky went downstairs to buy some food for Deanna, so he didn't greet Jepherson.

After walking past the two brothers, Jacky rushed over to the door. The two brothers who were sleeping both opened their eyes at the same time. They spotted Jacky, who was at the door.

Santiago was the first to ask, "Anything at all?"

"I'm going to buy some fruits and potatoes for Deanna."

Deanna had said that she wanted to eat potatoes, the kind she had had at Waverly Village. Jacky planned to buy some for her to eat.

Hearing that he was going to buy fruits, Santiago leapt to his feet and asked Jacky to wait for him, as he wanted to buy some for Raeleigh as well.

He stood up and patted down his pockets. He realized he didn't have his wallet with him.

"Do you have any money?"

Santiago asked Jepherson. Jepherson took out his wallet without saying a word. He had planned to give him some, but Santiago quickly snatched it and left without hesitating.

After walking out the door, Jacky laughed as they walked. "What are you two doing here?"

"For a woman, I guess." Santiago slowly got in the car. He spoke candidly and then started the car.

Jacky opened the car door and sat inside. He looked at Santiago and said, "Dealing with relationship issues is sort of like playing with fire. It screws with your mind, if you ask me."

Santiago retorted, "How do you know if it's not real fire? Things can be pretty literal sometimes, if you ask me."

Jacky was rendered speechless. The two of them went to a nearby supermarket and got out of the car to buy some fruits.

"Go on up." Xanthus had been waiting outside Raeleigh's room. When he saw Santiago leaving the house, Xanthus sat on the couch. Jepherson looked at Xanthus and stood up, saying, "Much obliged."

Xanthus thought his ears had played tricks on him. He turned to look at Jepherson, paused for a moment, and continued watching TV.

Jepherson walked over to Raeleigh's room. He pushed the door open and went in after closing the door behind him.

Actually, Raeleigh hadn't really fallen asleep, but when she heard the door swing open, she thought that it was Xanthus. She hadn't expected it to be Jepherson.

Raeleigh opened her eyes. As she was about to speak, Jepherson closed the door and stopped for a moment. Raeleigh sat up as Jepherson closed the distance between them.

Raeleigh was confused and ashamed. She wanted to say something, but before she could, Jepherson had already held her in his arms.

Raeleigh was surprised. She raised her hand and was about to shove him away. However, she heard him say, "Don't move."

She didn't move, but she didn't intend for this to continue. "Then, keep your hands to yourself."

Jepherson lowered his head, slowly let her go, and looked at her. "I don't know how many worries you have in your heart. I don't care for Stella, yet this has brought you so much trouble. I will resolve things with Stella as soon as possible and send her away."

"I don't care about..."

"If you really didn't care, then you wouldn't have said anything."

Raeleigh didn't respond. She knew exactly what Jepherson was talking about. It was true that she was very cold towards Stella every time she met her or greeted her.

But how would he know what had happened between Stella and her?

Raeleigh didn't want to say anything and felt jealous, like a resentful wife. Even if she was, she wouldn't admit it.

"If there isn't anything else, you can take your leave." Raeleigh didn't want to talk. She wanted Jepherson to leave right then, in case Santiago came in later and caught them together. However, she wasn't even sure what she was guilty of.

"So, if there is something else, can I stay?" Jepherson sat down on the bed. Raeleigh moved her feet away and wrapped herself in her quilt as she stared at Jepherson.

Jepherson gazed at Raeleigh for a while. "You look like a madwoman, with your hair sticking out here and there. I haven't got the faintest idea why your hair grows this slowly."

Raeleigh didn't answer, as silence was her best choice.

"I will stay for dinner. If you can come down and eat, then I'll leave after our meal. If you can't get out of bed and are still very weak, then I will stay and not go anywhere."

Raeleigh said, "Don't be a jester. I'm fine. Even if something happens, this isn't your problem."

"That's what you think."

...

Raeleigh didn't answer right away. She couldn't say anything in front of Jepherson right then. He wouldn't listen anyway.

After a while, Jepherson called Stuart and said, "I have something to do. I can't go home for dinner. Take Stella out for dinner. I will call you at eight o'clock to let you know if I'll be coming home tonight."

Raeleigh finally understood that Jepherson would not give up, as long as he still had the slightest bit of hope to cling to.

"Have it your way, wait downstairs if that's what you want. I need to rest."

Raeleigh lay down, reluctant to get up. Jepherson didn't say anything. Seeing that Raeleigh had lain back down, he draped the quilt over her. Raeleigh hugged herself, with her eyes closed.

In the room, one could have heard a pin drop. Jepherson raised his hand and patted her back. Raeleigh extended her hand and wanted to push him away, but she was pulled closer to him instead.

Raeleigh intended to withdraw her hand, but Jepherson said, "Sleep for a while. Don't cause a fuss."

Raeleigh gradually calmed down. She didn't know what to say anymore. She couldn't win against him. She could neither scold him, nor could she quarrel with him. Her nerves were fraying at the edges from all the pressure.

"Stay if you want, but you have to let go of my hand."

She pulled her hand back, but he was unyielding and didn't let go.

Jepherson sat back down and laughed. A woman's heart is a deep ocean of secrets. She was so deeply in love with him, yet she wouldn't admit it.

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He knew that their baby had wrought a bottomless rift between them. It was one that was, for all intents and purposes, impossible to bridge. In truth, that gaping crack was best left untouched, so that he would always be reminded of the pain, so much so that it would always lurk in his memory, that he had murdered his little princess.

But what did this woman want? After such a long time together, she still refused to admit that they were meant for each other. She was deeply loved and appreciated.

Neither of them said a word to each other as Raeleigh had drifted off to sleep. Jepherson wasn't sure if he ought to get into another argument with her, but for ages he hadn't felt as real as then.

Even if it was just to watch her sleep peacefully for a moment.

Raeleigh slept soundly for a very long time.

When she woke up, he was no longer in the room. When Raeleigh went to see him again, Xanthus, who was taking her temperature, was sitting in the room.

"You're much better."

Xanthus took the thermometer out of her mouth and looked at it. Raeleigh looked around the room, her reverie still lingered.

She had a fever. She wasn't sure if Jepherson was in her room earlier, or if she had been delirious. She wanted to ask about him but she swallowed her words instead.

"Jepherson came by earlier, but he's already left." Xanthus handed Raeleigh her phone. "He left you a message."

Raeleigh took the phone and looked at the screen. It really was a message from him.

She remembered that his number had been deleted and added to a blacklist. She realized just how capable Jepherson really was. His contact number had been restored and removed from her blocked numbers list.

"I'm going back. I'll tie up the loose ends with the issue regarding Stella as soon as I can. We'll talk about it once I've got it sorted out. You can return to work for now."

It was a brief text message. She deleted it right after she was done reading it. She wanted to delete his number and block him again. But she thought about it for a while and gave up on the idea.

She decided to keep it.

Raeleigh lay down for a little while longer until she felt much better. Then, she got out of bed and went downstairs to have some dinner.

"I can't just go on a hunger strike in bed," she thought.

Xanthus and Raeleigh went down together and heard Santiago in the kitchen. "Are you sure Deanna likes this?"

"She said she wanted to eat them." Jacky washed the potatoes and placed them into a pot. After the potatoes were cooked, Santiago looked at them with a strange look on his face. How was she supposed to eat this?

"Are you going to turn them into mashed potatoes?" Santiago asked.

Jacky glanced at him. "You'll find out in a bit."

Jacky scooped out the cooked potatoes onto a plate and placed a fork beside them. He also brought a bottle of barbeque sauce.

He then stepped out of the kitchen and placed the plate of potatoes on the dining table. Deanna's face looked pale, but she was clean and refreshed. Jacky had also blow-dried her hair.

For the first time in her life, Deanna had learnt that there really were men in the world who were better than her brother and could also act as her personal hairstylist.

Deanna thought this to herself, "Jacky doesn't have a younger sister, so how is he able to do all of this?"

When she saw the potatoes, she drooled and quickly sat down, dressed in her white sportswear. She looked like a snowman. She poked a potato with a fork, and then happily stuffed it into her mouth.

The potatoes were a little hot at first. Deanna blew hastily on them. She then took a small bite and dipped it in some sauce. "Mmm, this is divinity in the shape of a potato."

Jacky turned around and went upstairs. Not long after, he took a hairband and came back down. He stood behind her and tied up her beautiful hair, making her feel even more comfortable.

Deanna didn't mind this at all. She happily ate her delicious potatoes.

"Raeleigh, have some too. It's delicious." Deanna looked at her. Raeleigh sat down and carefully looked at the potatoes. Then, she picked up a potato with a fork. She took a bite but found that it didn't taste good. She had eaten this dish before, but it wasn't tasty enough to make an impression on her.

But Deanna was clearly having a different experience. They tasted exceptionally delicious to her. She nTristany cleaned up the entire plate.

Jacky sat next to Deanna. He grabbed a potato and dipped it in the sauce. He ate it with the skin on.

Santiago pulled out a chair and sat next to Raeleigh. He had claimed the chair next to Raeleigh's as his.

Santiago took a bite out of a potato and looked at Raeleigh, and then at Deanna, who was relishing hers. He said, "Don't eat it. It's not to your liking."

Santiago took Raeleigh's potato away as well. There were eight other dishes and some soup on the table. Each of them tasted better than Deanna's potatoes.

It seemed that pregnant women had a very different palate.

Raeleigh held her cutlery and ate some of her dinner. Scarlett grew curious and wanted to try some of Deanna's potatoes. So, she took a bite and thought that it wasn't bad. It was still pretty delicious.

Raeleigh also thought that pregnant women often craved eccentric foods.

No one spoke while they ate, not even Scarlett, who was usually chatty. Deanna loved to eat and had a very good appetite that day. She was completely focused on eating, and wouldn't be distracted by anything.

Everyone concentrated on eating, but in the middle of their meal, someone arrived.

Xanthus stood up to see who it was. After confirming it, he told the rest that it was Zorion. He then looked at Santiago. It was normal for one to clean up one's mess.

Santiago stood up, wiped his mouth, and walked towards the door. Even if Xanthus didn't say who it was, he had figured it out.

When he got to the door and changed into his shoes, Santiago stepped outside. Jacky turned around and looked at the door. Deanna wouldn't be afraid of anyone if she didn't see them. So, he had to make sure that whoever it was, they wouldn't take her away from him ever again.

Raeleigh felt that there was something wrong with the atmosphere, but she couldn't tell what. Then, it seemed like it was...

Santiago went outside and looked at Zorion, who was standing in the snow. It was wrong to beat someone up. When Zorion had first come, he said they only had one day left. Now that a few days had passed, he had to fulfil his promise.

Santiago didn't say anything when he opened the door. Zorion looked even worse than before. He had been very busy lately and Rossie was in poor health. The doctor said that it had something to do with how much love he had asked from her. She needed at least three months' worth of rest. This was undoubtedly very bad news for Zorion.

He was completely overwhelmed by Rossie, and she was like an enticing drug to him. He had taken so much of the drug that he had turned blind to its effects.

So, wherever he went, he had to take Rossie with him. The doctor had advised him about the state of his mental condition, which Zorion found very funny. Did he then have some kind of distorted mania?

Zorion stepped out of the car and strode towards Santiago. As he walked, he said, "Just you wait."

Santiago looked amused. "At your service, round-the-clock."

Zorion snorted and quickly entered the villa.

Deanna was still happily eating her potatoes. When the door opened, she turned her head and looked at the door.

She then saw her brother, Zorion. She then quickly stood up with a fork in her hand. She didn't move at all.

Jacky stood up and grabbed her shoulder. "It's alright, I'll tell him."

"I won't go back, I won't go back." Deanna shook her head as she hid behind Jacky.

Jacky patted her back and said, "It's alright, don't be afraid."

She raised her head and looked at him. "Let's go back to Waverly Village."

Everyone there was shocked.

Raeleigh and the others knew how Deanna and Zorion felt about each other as siblings. There must have been a reason for her to have said such things all of a sudden, but what was it?

"Deanna, let's leave and talk elsewhere."

When Zorion approached her, she quickly hid from him. "I'm not going back. I'm going to Waverly Village. That's where I want to go. You can leave. I'll tell Dad and Mom about it."

"Deanna, let's go home."

Zorion was only ever mild-tempered when he was with his younger sister, Deanna. However, he didn't appreciate it. Instead, she hid behind Jacky and refused to see him.

"No, I won't."

"Deanna, you are way too unpredictable. You can spend time outside, but you should always come back home. Do you understand?" Zorion attempted a conciliatory tone, but she couldn't and refused to understand him. She was very anxious and shouted at Zorion, "No, never! I will never go back home."

“Deanna.” Worried that something bad might happen to her, Jacky immediately wrapped his arm around her shoulders. He didn’t want her to get too agitated. Otherwise, she might hurt the baby or herself.

She felt terribly wronged and shrieked at Jacky, “Are you going back on your word? Do you intend to hand me over to this horrible person? He wants to kill my baby! He’s a bad person!”

Deanna started screaming at the top of her lungs. Raeleigh and Scarlett were shocked at how violent she had become. Hadrian suddenly stood up and pulled Scarlett close to him and said, “Go back to the room.”

With the baby still in its mother’s belly, it wasn’t good for her to see this. It wasn’t good for the baby. Hadrian was very worried about this.

Scarlett didn’t want to leave, but Hadrian bent down and picked her up and went straight into their room.

After watching them leave, Raeleigh looked at Deanna. Jacky slowly turned around and looked at Zorion.

He knew that something must have happened. Deanna didn’t want to say it, but he didn’t expect her to.

While glowering at Zorion, Jacky said, “She’s your younger sister.” Zorion sneered. “I know she is, but she’s only nineteen years old. Are you going to let her get pregnant even before she’s even married?”

“What do you want her to do then?”

Zorion shouted this at Jacky angrily. Jacky gritted his teeth. “The child in her belly is your nephew. How can you be this way?”

“Why can’t I? She’s my sister. I can’t let my sister get pregnant before getting married. I can’t let her marry a gangster who has nothing.”

Zorion was furious. Jacky laughed. “What’s wrong with being a gangster? Aren’t I human too?”

“A ruffian like you doesn’t deserve her.”

“What a joke!”

Jacky’s face stiffened as he took a deep breath. “You will never touch her, and you can forget about ever seeing my child. From today onwards, we’re sworn enemies.”

“Oh, really? Do you seriously believe that you can take over the entirety of Capital City with Santiago’s help? It’s not that easy.”

“We won’t know if we don’t try. Zorion, I didn’t expect you to be this kind of person. Deanna is your sister, yet you treat her like this...”

He let his sentence hang.

Silently, Jacky turned around and looked at Deanna. He then cupped her face with both of his hands. “Don’t be afraid. I’ll protect you. No one will hurt our baby. Remember, no one is allowed to.”

Jacky bent down and picked her up. He turned around and was about to head upstairs when Zorion stepped towards them. Raeleigh saw that Jacky was acting aggressively and quickly tried to stop him. However, she didn't expect that Zorion would get so angry. Zorion jostled Raeleigh aside. She fell and hit her head on the corner of the table. She fell onto the floor and lay motionless. She had fallen unconscious.

By the time Santiago ran over, Raeleigh had already fainted. Jacky turned around to look at her. He froze for a moment before turning towards Zorion. Zorion's face had turned pale as well. This whole thing had turned into a terrible mess. Hadrian came out of his room. He took a deep breath and immediately called Jepherson.

Raeleigh was sent to the hospital. Jepherson rushed over as soon as he heard the news.

He glanced coldly at Zorion, but didn't say anything to him. Instead, he walked over to Santiago and asked, "How is it going?"

"The doctor's tending to her. She should have woken up by now." Santiago stood outside with a grim look on his face. If it weren't for Raeleigh's sake, then he would have acted out by then.

Jepherson walked past everyone else and entered Raeleigh's room. He pushed the door open and stepped in.

Santiago was stunned. He looked around him and then sat down.

A nurse stopped Jepherson, who had just entered the room. "This is..."

When Jepherson saw Raeleigh, he calmed down and asked, "How is she?"

"She's suffered a concussion and is in a coma."

"I'm going to see her."

"Alright, follow me." The nurse turned around and brought Jepherson in. He was the first young master of the Harvey family. This hospital belonged to them. Wasn't it obvious then that Jepherson was a member of the family that they owed their jobs to? How many brave little nurses would dare to deny him entry?

When they reached the operating theater, Jepherson saw a few medical personnel tending to Raeleigh. They had to part her hair to operate on her injury. Xanthus was also present and personally oversaw her operation.

Hearing his steady footsteps, Xanthus looked up at Santiago. He then lowered his head and continued operating on Raeleigh's wound.

Jepherson drew closer to Raeleigh's head and looked at her. After confirming that there was a deep gash, his face suddenly darkened.

"Will it leave a scar?"

"I don't think so. Fortunately, it's where her hair is. Otherwise, it would look quite ugly." Xanthus neatly cut off some surgical sutures, placed down the scissors in his hand, and quickly sewed up Raeleigh's injury.

"That'll do. Bring the patient to the ward." Xanthus breathed a sigh of relief. Even though he was from the orthopedics department, he still had some suturing skills. He just felt really tired at the moment.

Xanthus followed Raeleigh as she was wheeled out of the operating theater. Jepherson followed closely.

Raeleigh was sent to the ward. Santiago and Jepherson entered while the others waited outside.

Xanthus changed his clothes, still looking sullen. He walked into the room, sat down beside Raeleigh, and remained silent. He knew he couldn't go on like this.

Jepherson had already arranged everything for Raeleigh. He sat down and looked at Xanthus. "This was an accident. I think you should understand that."

Xanthus leaned on the chair while he watched Raeleigh. He was too lazy to say anything.

Fortunately, he had found Raeleigh. If he hadn't, then they would have crushed her.

Xanthus didn't reply. Jepherson found this immensely troubling.

"I'll take responsibility for this. What do you want?"

Jepherson already had his hands full with Stella. He had no control over Raeleigh, so he knew compromise was in order.

However, what Xanthus sought wasn't Jepherson's compromise. He wanted Raeleigh to be safe.

Xanthus kept silent, and the whole ward fell uncomfortably quiet because of this.

Standing by the window, Santiago put his hands into his pockets and closed his eyes. "It's my fault for not protecting her. It's none of your business. I'll tell Zorion..."

"That should put things to an end. I'll look for Zorion. Scarlett is pregnant and Rossie is in poor health. He's been in a foul mood recently. Mr. Atkinson may return as well."

Jepherson said all of this at once. Santiago sneered, "So, you'll just let Raeleigh get hurt?"

"It wasn't intentional. If you hadn't taken Deanna away and brought her to Jacky, then this wouldn't have happened."

"So, you mean to say that this was all my fault?"

Chapter 1296

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Jepherson said all of this at once. Santiago sneered, "So, you'll just let Raeleigh get hurt?"

"It wasn't intentional. If you hadn't taken Deanna away and brought her to Jacky, then this wouldn't have happened."

"So, you mean to say that this was all my fault?"

Chapter 1297

"It's not your fault. You're right, but Deanna is his younger sister. How do you expect him to treat this matter? She is pregnant but unmarried. The last time Jacky took her away, everything was in chaos. Because of this, Grandma is no longer fond of Deanna. In Grandma's perspective, she is no longer the naive and pure Deanna."

"If even Grandma thinks so, then what do you make of the entire Capital City?"

"Zorion was our childhood playmate. Don't you know what kind of person he is?"

"He knows Jacky very well, that is why he gave Jacky a chance. If it weren't for him, then how could Jacky be allowed to date Deanna? And yet--"

Jepherson was equally incensed. "He shouldn't have made Deanna pregnant!"

Santiago turned around. "Why?"

Jepherson gritted his teeth and said, "If Deanna were to get pregnant after getting married, or even engaged, then she wouldn't have to endure any pressure or discrimination from society. Now that she's having a baby out of wedlock, word would spread around that Deanna was impregnated when she was taken hostage, or they would even spread rumors saying that she was violated, abused, or something even more absurd."

"In the face of such a cruel reality, we can only control the thoughts of the crowd if you marry her. Owing to our family's wealth and status, people will stop gossiping."

"But if she is to marry Jacky, then the consequences would be unimaginable."

"Others would claim that the young mistress of the Atkinson family was kidnapped, abused, and finally had a child with the kidnapper. She would have no choice but to marry a thug."

"Why?"

"Because Deanna has been defiled, and no one wants a broken toy. People might say neither of us wanted her too. Who could they give her to? Who was willing to take her in?"

"The Atkinson family had no choice but to scrape the dirt, so..."

Veins bulged from Jepherson's face in rage. Stunned, Santiago gritted his teeth and turned his face to look out of the window. Suddenly, he smirked. "How funny!"

The first person Xanthus focused on was undoubtedly Jepherson.

Jepherson gradually calmed down. "Don't go to Zorion. I'll talk to him about this. There's a way, but we need to consider every aspect. Give me some time to think about it."

Santiago stood silently by the window, his hands moving about in the pocket of his pants.

Raeleigh woke up Tristany, but she did not open her eyes. She was suddenly afraid of the pain that might come if she continued to have her eyes closed, so she opened them.

At that time, Jepherson's figure was like a mountain. Yet, he was majestic and as handsome as ever.

Facing Raeleigh, Xanthus smiled when he saw her wake up. "Are you feeling better? Did we disturb you?"

Raeleigh shook her head. "I'm still in pain. Do you have any painkillers for me?"

"I'll give you a dose, but it won't be good for your wound," Xanthus said, standing up and inserting a dose of painkiller into Raeleigh's saline drip.

Raeleigh felt the pain fading after a while. The Harvey brothers were looking at her. Santiago walked towards Raeleigh, put his hands on the bed, and asked Raeleigh, "Does it hurt?"

"No, it doesn't hurt anymore," Raeleigh said, her gaze on Jepherson. "I'm fine now. Can you guys give us some space? I need to talk to my brother in private."

Jepherson looked at Xanthus and rose to his feet. Not wanting to make Raeleigh uncomfortable, he was the first to excuse himself.

When Jepherson stood up and left, Santiago followed suit. However, his hands were restless and he pinched Raeleigh's arm. Raeleigh didn't make any fuss and watched them leave.

The door closed, Raeleigh looked at Xanthus. "Is it true, what he said?"

Xanthus glanced at the door of the ward and nodded silently.

Raeleigh's expression changed subtly. She finally understood why Zorion had been so livid and pushed her so hard.

Since they were all older brothers, Xanthus would understand his emotions better.

As for younger siblings, they would never need to think that much.

Jacky maintained his personal point of view. The things in his mind were different. He hoped to marry Deanna, and taking into the consideration of having children, it was difficult for him not to be impulsive. This was how things developed.

Raeleigh raised her hand and touched her head, wearing a smile on her face. "Is this really necessary? I just bumped onto the table, that's all. Why did you need to wrap me up like a mummy?"

"Now you're laughing. I've decided to buy tickets. I won't let you stay here. We should go back."

"But ..."

"Look, I know you care about Deanna, but even so, you can't do anything. Jepherson has his ability and resources. He will help her, so just come with me, ok?"

"I have some unfinished business in the company, but I can't go to the company like this. I can't leave until I've submitted my work."

"You have a month. Then, we'll leave. We'll be going back to spend the holidays with the family."

Raeleigh nodded. "I understand."

"Have a good rest. I'll get someone to bring you some soup."

“No, it’s not that serious. I don’t need to drink soup.”

“I’ll drink it.”

Then, Xanthus stood up. Raeleigh looked helpless and watched Xanthus make a call.

When he came back from the call, Raeleigh suddenly remembered one thing. She asked Xanthus, “Were you contacting Cynthia?”

Xanthus sat down and asked, “Why did you mention her?”

“I sense that you like her very much. Aren’t you curious, what is she doing now?”

“Well, so much for your curiosity. We can’t fly there anyway.”

“Xanthus.”

Raeleigh called out to him in a cute, childlike way. Xanthus knew what she was trying to say, so he spoke before Raeleigh could spill it.

“I will never leave you alone. If I’m going anywhere, then I will take you with me, unless you want to go with me to see her, that is.”

Raeleigh froze subconsciously. After a while, she looked at the door. After a long time, she said, “Okay, I will go with you. When everything here is settled, we will go and visit her.”

“Alright.”

Xanthus smiled and looked at the window of the ward. It was late at night, and there was no starlight outside the window. They weren’t at a higher level, so only the lights from the floors could be seen. It was nothing pleasant. After all, surrounding them were the hospital’s buildings.

But looking outside, Xanthus was a little disappointed. In fact, Cynthia knew that he had feelings for her. However, she only had Santiago in her heart and did not want to give him any response. If he acted impulsively, then he would not know whether she would accept it or not.

Raeleigh looked at Xanthus. “Are you worried?”

Xanthus looked at Raeleigh and said, “Yes, but not as worried as you think.”

“But the worry is there.”

...

Xanthus just smiled and looked at the lights in the distance, recalling Cynthia’s face.

...

While the ruckus was unfolding, Deanna had been enveloped in Jacky’s embrace. They had also come to the hospital. Zorion brought Rossie together while she sat across from them. Although her body was a little weak, she wasn’t as serious as the doctor had described her to be. It was just that her menstrual cramps had been terrible for her. The doctor had prescribed her some medicine and she had also been

given an injection. Moreover, she had been eating well during that period of time and was getting sufficient nutrition every day. She felt she was gradually regaining her strength.

Chapter 1298

But Zorion had a different opinion, as he tended to exaggerate whatever that had to do with Rossie. In fact, the most serious thing Zorion encountered was the kick from Santiago.

The doctor had asked him to stay in the hospital, to which Zorion refused, saying that he was fine. After taking some supplements and injections, he walked out, looking nonchalant.

Rossie could see why Zorion was in a hurry to leave, as he was worried about Deanna. When she was at home, she heard them quarrel. Zorion had urged her to terminate the pregnancy, but Deanna, reluctant as she was, had cried.

Rossie stared at Deanna, who was curled up in Jacky's embrace like a little bunny. She then looked at Zorion, who was sitting at the side, his expression gloomy. His anger was going to be the death of him. The sister who, he had worked so hard to take care of was currently fighting against him while being held in another man's embrace. He would do anything for Deanna, but she didn't appreciate it at all.

Rossie didn't know whether it was his karma. After all, he was not good to her, and in turn, his sister was not good to him.

Rossie looked at them for a while and leaned against the side. She tugged at her jacket and narrowed her eyes, a wave of drowsiness ebbing and flowing.

Zorion looked at the woman in a coat beside him. Who could understand the desolate feeling in his heart?

"Are you sleepy?" Zorion whispered in Rossie's ear. The doctor had said that Rossie was very fragile then. He reminded her to take care of herself and refrain from exerting herself. She was like a sheet of glass that would break upon the slightest touch.

With her eyes still screwed shut, Rossie softly hummed in reply. Zorion pulled her over and adjusted the coat on Rossie's shoulders. "Catch some shut-eye. We'll go back shortly."

Santiago and Jepherson stared at the pair. Deanna was still burrowing into Jacky's embrace and did not intend to come out.

Jacky was also currently clinging on to Deanna. Even though he had already calmed down a little, his heart was plagued with hatred towards Zorion. The fact that he wanted to hurt his lover and child was completely unacceptable.

No one could hurt her and their child. Not even Zorion.

"Deanna." Jepherson took a few steps forward. Deanna lifted her head to look at him. Her way of thinking meant that Jepherson remained a trustworthy figure.

Jepherson squatted down and said, "Deanna, I have something to tell you. I can guarantee that you will be safe after you go home, and the child will be healthy, but you have to go home."

“No, I’m not going back. My brother will harm the baby.” Deanna hastily covered her belly with her hands. Jacky also hugged her tightly. “Jepherson, I know you’re trying to do this for me, but...”

Jepherson raised his eyes and stared at Jacky. “I’ll tell you this later, but Deanna has to go back.”

“We’re not going back.” Before Jacky could say anything, Deanna shouted first, but then her yells came to a halt. She raised her head to look at Jacky. Jacky hugged Deanna and looked at Jepherson. “Why are you so opposed to me and Deanna being together? What did I do wrong? Just because my status isn’t as reputable as yours?”

“No, it has nothing to do with this. Although the Atkinson family is rich and powerful, Mr. Atkinson is not the “money talks” kind of person. The problem is...”

“Santiago.”

Jepherson turned around to look at Santiago. Even though he was a little reluctant, he still walked over to Deanna.

Jacky’s face darkened. “What are you guys up to?”

Jepherson remained in a squatting position. “Do you believe me?”

Jacky’s brows furrowed. “I only trust Santiago.”

“Great. Santiago, promise him that Deanna will be safe and sound.”

Santiago stood to one side and gave Zorion an impatient look. He then looked at Jacky. “Deanna will be fine. She’s in good hands. Go with him, he has something to say to you.”

Santiago darted his eyes towards Jepherson. Only then did Jacky think about it. He looked at Deanna and said, “Deanna, I believe in Santiago. What about you?”

Deanna looked at Santiago. She then blinked and nodded.

“I’ll go with him. Wait for me,” said Jacky.

Deanna nodded and the two got up slowly and separated from each other. Immediately, Deanna hid behind Santiago.

“Babe, please come back soon.”

Deanna was very dependent on Jacky right then. She couldn’t leave him at all. Zorion clenched his fists and stared at Jacky, and a fierce gleam flashed in his eyes for a fraction of the moment.

“I know. Just calm down. You’re in a bad mood and it’s not good for our child.” Jacky kissed Deanna. She hurriedly nodded and placed her hand on her belly. Only then did Jacky look at Jepherson, who was squatting on the ground. Jepherson stood up and looked at both Santiago and Zorion. “Before I return, no one is allowed to mess around. Otherwise, you’ll have to bear the consequences.”

No one spoke. Jepherson turned around and glanced at Jacky. “C’mon.”

Jepherson walked over and entered the elevator, with Jacky at his heels. With the door of the elevator closing, Jacky asked, “What is it you want to say?”

Jepherson glanced at him. "Some time ago, Deanna was kidnapped and her reputation was ruined. Now, you made her pregnant. If word gets out, do you know what the public will think of her?"

Jacky lowered his eyes and did not reply. He stared at Jepherson.

Jepherson continued, "Apart from me and Santiago, Zorion has never allowed any man to come into contact with her. You are an exception. Do you know what it means?"

Jacky frowned. "That he approves of me?"

"Mr. Atkinson isn't a fool, and neither is Zorion. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree. It wasn't a coincidence that the Atkinson family could be where they are today, nor was it luck. Mr. Atkinson and Zorion don't intend for Deanna to marry me, because they know that a hard life is in store for the matriarch of the Harvey family."

"As a wise man said, there is a price to be paid for greatness."

"Being my wife is tantamount to subjecting herself to hardship. Fine, the happiness may come after the bitterness, but in its wake, she will have to bear a lot of distressing memories."

"Mr. Atkinson felt that Deanna was not suitable for me. I only treated her like my younger sister."

"As for Zorion, he hated it more when Deanna was to marry me. He knew that being a matriarch in my family would be a very hard task, and I really didn't love Deanna romantically."

"But..."

"Zorion has his eyes set on Santiago. He wants her to marry him."

"Why?" Jacky asked.

"Santiago is just like you. Although there was nothing special, the both of you were born with kind hearts. Zorion is very good at judging people, and he thinks that Santiago matches her well."

"But Santiago is too young, and just like me, he regarded her as his family. He didn't have those kinds of feelings."

"And you, you're an accident. So, when you first showed up, Zorion did not intend to do anything to you and still let Deanna meet you."

"But now that you got Deanna pregnant, she will be discriminated against by society. With your current status, everyone will think that she is married to you because she had been defiled, with an illegitimate child in tow."

Jacky frowned and tried to exit the elevator but the elevator button had already been pressed several times by Jepherson.

"What I gathered from you is that I could have rightfully been the Atkinson family's son-in-law, but because I got Deanna pregnant, and that I ruined her reputation, the Atkinson family wouldn't let me marry her?"

Jacky laughed, and threw his arms in the air.

Jepherson glanced at him. "Have you gone soft in the head?"

Chapter 1299

Jacky paused for a moment before turning around to look at Jepherson, who appeared irritable. He hated going up and down in the lift.

"Let's just head outside." He pressed the 'open' button and marched out of that claustrophobic space.

Jacky followed him out the elevator. Outside, Jepherson walked on while saying, "Deanna is already yours. With your child gestating inside her, it's out of the question for her to marry someone else."

Jacky didn't understand at all. "Then, why are you trying to tear us apart?"

"Is there any other way to hide the fact that Deanna is pregnant? You wanna wait for her belly to eventually become bigger, and then thrust her into the overly critical public eye?"

"What do you mean?"

"This is not my idea. It's what the Atkinson family wants."

Jepherson walked to a place absent of people and turned around to look at Jacky in the darkness.

"Deanna will be fine when she returns home. Zorion is her brother. Even if he was a little angry at first, you were still chosen by him. He won't do anything to Deanna. Moreover, Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson are coming back for two days. Judging by Deanna's character, she will cry and complain. Mr. Atkinson will come to you by then. As for how he'll find you, not even I can predict it. So, watch your back, I'd say. If you want to marry Deanna, then you would need more than capability. You would need luck."

"You want me to hand Deanna over to Zorion?" Jacky said.

"Do you still think you have a choice?" Jepherson turned away. Jacky laughed. "Although Capital City isn't my territory, with my current ability, it's not a problem for me to keep Deanna from the likes of you."

"Then, you are so wrong, you might as well die here." Jepherson was almost unhesitating. Jacky's eyes instantly turned cold. "Die here?"

Jepherson looked around and said, "You've only seen the tip of the iceberg of Capital City. Don't underestimate the Harvey and Atkinson family is what I'm saying."

"Don't think that we can't do anything to you after you set foot in Capital City. I can tell you that both our families are tight-knit. Whatever conflict we have between us, with outsiders it is always 'in unity there is strength'."

"No matter what your relationship with Santiago is, if Zorion got caught up in any trouble, Santiago may choose not to help, but he won't help you either."

"Moreover, we don't have to do anything to you. Zorion alone is enough."

"Enough?"

Jacky's eyes were filled with doubt.

Jepherson smiled and said, "Everyone in Capital City knows that the Atkinson family dominates the underworld. As a newcomer from Waverly Village, it's impossible for someone like you not to know this. The problem is, when Santiago was not here, you managed to occupy most of the city. Don't you feel strange? Are you really that d*mn lucky?"

Jacky thought for a moment. "Zorion intentionally let me in on purpose?"

"No sh*t. What else do you think? Zorion is anything but a fool. If he alone can find someone in your village, then do you think he will be afraid of you? To put it bluntly, he wanted you to come in. It leads people into thinking that you fought your way into Capital City to get his sister. In the end, you became famous because of your determination, and the Atkinson family is showered with praises."

Realization dawned on Jacky.

He looked around him. "Why?"

"Of course it's because of Deanna. You've slept with his sister. You think he would let this go?"

"It's just that he had no choice. After all, Deanna was a willing party."

Jepherson turned to look at Jacky. "No matter what, Zorion is her brother. They are a family. He won't hurt her. Maybe he was somehow harsh with his words when he was angry and disgusted with Deanna. But Zorion cares about her, and not any less than you do."

"Say what you want, but it all boils down to getting me to return Deanna to Zorion."

"Bull's eye."

"I can't leave her, and I'm worried about Zorion. After all, she is still young, and she can be pregnant again."

"Man, you aren't too bright, are you?" Jepherson laughed, in contrast to Jacky's straight face.

Jepherson took two steps forward and said, "Zorion won't force his sister to get an ab*rtion and risk her going mad. Moreover, ab*rtion is not good for her body, and he knows that.

If Deanna loses the child, she will go crazy. Zorion knows this very well."

"You are right, but Deanna said-

"Stop using her as an excuse. The decision is on you. Let me remind you, when Mr. Atkinson returns, he must see her at home, and she must be happy at home. If not...

"As a father, when he knows that his daughter is not married, has a bad reputation, and has gotten pregnant by a stranger, what would be the consequences? Think about it, will you?"

"With my understanding of Mr. Atkinson, dying with your corpse still intact is the best you can get."

"Now, since you could be invited as a guest, it's better than being kidnapped as a guest. With Deanna there, Mr. Atkinson will have no choice but to accept you as his son-in-law. Now is the time to protect Deanna and let her give birth to the child safely."

"Only when you have a child can you gain your footing."

“Why do you help me?”

Jacky was not a fool.

“Your influence in the village besieges Capital City. Should you continue to expand in a few years, I will crush you without hesitation.”

“You? Could you even do it?”

Jacky laughed. He didn’t believe it at all.

Jepherson just smiled and said, “Since I dare say this, I will do it. Don’t you want to stop and think about why I haven’t raised my fists against you?”

Jacky thought for a moment. “You’re not worried about how strong I am.”

“In other words, even if you grow stronger, I will still weed you out. Not by luck, but by certainty.”

“Is it because I’m in Capital City that you dare say so?”

Jacky laughed.

“I attribute that to my ability.”

Jacky lowered his eyes as the corners of his mouth curled into a smile. “I really want to test your strength.”

“Then, you’d better build a good relationship with Zorion, or else, you’ll have no chance at all.”

“Because you have a younger brother?”

“That’s right.”

“But if I become the son-in-law of the Atkinson family, then I will unite with Zorion. The city will be ours sooner or later.”

“You are sensible and smart, but our two families will not have disputes and will coexist. This is a guarantee, and you will also be on the same side with us.”

Jepherson looked over at him and Jacky’s thoughts clicked. “So, you’ve already made preparations, I see. Deanna is just the bait to reel me in. I’m that bigger fish to be fried.”

“Glad that you understand. Those who can be friends with Santiago are definitely not ordinary people. You are very clear that he has no other friends.”

“You two have a towering aspiration, don’t you?”

“This is not an aspiration, but a matter of course. With you, it is also to make Zorion rest assured and to balance the relationship between our two families.”

“Since it is destined that there must be someone to balance the two families, I hope this person acts as a bridge, not to sow discord.”

Jepherson walked towards the hospital after speaking. Jacky followed behind him. As he walked, Jacky said, "I don't feel good being with someone like you."

"I don't care whether you're feeling good or not. You are neither a woman, nor are you Raeleigh. As long as she likes me, I'm fine."

Jepherson's words were careless, but Jacky instinctively paused. Since Jepherson could say something like this to him, it was obvious that he did not treat him like an outsider.

"I want to be with Deanna tonight. Tomorrow, I will send her back." Jacky entered the elevator. He wanted to find a way to comfort her. She was in a bad mood and he was worried that something would happen.

Chapter 1300

Jepherson entered the elevator and adjusted his clothes. "I will talk to Zorion about this. You have to comfort Deanna. It's best to tell her our plan. She needs to know this."

Jacky didn't reply, and only stared at the elevator. The door opened and he walked out first. When he turned around, he saw that Deanna was still there. He walked briskly and she immediately took a few steps towards him. The two of them hugged each other.

Rossie opened her eyes and looked at the pair, sensing Zorion's anger.

Zorion also stood up at that time, staring at the both of them.

Jepherson walked over and stopped in front of Zorion. "I have already promised to let him stay with Deanna for a night. He promised me to send her back tomorrow, so you can go back to rest now."

Zorion glanced at Deanna. Without saying a word, he helped Rossie up and turned to the elevator with Rossie in his arms. Deanna looked at Zorion's back facing her and finally breathed a sigh of relief. She thought that all was well and completely ignored the matter of the day.

Jacky looked at Deanna for a while before kissing her and leaving with her.

Jepherson was the only one left. He looked at Santiago and said, "I'm going back. If you need anything, then I'm one call away."

After saying that, Jepherson approached the door of the ward. From the window, he looked at Raeleigh, who was chatting and laughing with Xanthus. He turned around and walked towards the stairs, heading downstairs.

When he reached downstairs, Jepherson took out his phone and switched it on. Paige's call came in immediately. She was very unhappy as soon as she spoke. She asked Jepherson where he was and said that he didn't even know what had happened to Stella. She had asked what he wanted to do.

Only then did Jepherson know that something had happened to Stella. Stella got into the hospital because of a car accident, and she was in the hospital where Raeleigh stayed.

After learning that Stella had been hospitalized, Jepherson called Stuart. However, no one answered the phone. Jepherson was slightly stunned and put the phone away. Something happened to Stella, but Stuart did not call him. Something must have happened.

Following that, Jepherson called his men and asked before realizing that something had happened to Stuart.

Jepherson asked about Stuart's condition and they said that he was in a coma. Stella was also in a coma, while the rest was without any news.

Jepherson then hurried over to see Stella. She had just woken up and was crying in the ward. Stella was paralyzed for the waist down. When she woke up, she started crying on her bed, shrieking that her legs were numb. She cried miserably. Jepherson stood outside for a while, opened the door, and went in.

When Stella saw Jepherson, she cried louder and couldn't move in bed. She was looking at Jepherson while crying.

"Jepherson, Jepherson, what should I do? What should I do?" Stella tightly held the quilt on her body and stared at Jepherson. Her eyes were red and swollen from the crying.

Jepherson held Stella's hand and sat beside her. "Stella, you have to know that you must be optimistic and have a good mentality to recover."

"I promise you that I will ask the best expert to give you a consultation. You will be well."

"No, my legs are numb. My legs, I'm disabled. I'm not married yet. I'm not married yet. What should I do? What should I do?"

Stella cried badly. Jepherson held her hand and said, "You are beautiful and very talented. You will be fine. This is not a problem. Stella, you need to be strong."

Stella kept crying and looked at Jepherson with a pair of pitiful eyes. "Jepherson, someone harmed us, someone brought harm to us."

Stella sniffled, sobbing so hard that she could not breathe. Jepherson frowned. "Stella..."

"Our car was always in good condition. Several cars suddenly surrounded us. Stuart said that something was wrong and asked the driver to speed up. We wanted to go back quickly, but the cars had been chasing us and driving us somewhere. Stuart asked me not to get up and asked me to duck in my seat, but the car was blocked at a turn."

"He asked me not to get out of the car no matter what happened, but he still opened the door and got out of the car."

"Those people saw Stuart getting out of the car and rushed to him without any explanation. I screamed in fear. I saw Stuart's body being knocked far away and fell to the ground. Those cars, they were worried about Stuart still being alive, and suddenly rushed over and ran him over. I was afraid, so I held my head in the car and cried. The driver asked me to stay in the car, because Stuart forbade us from leaving."

"But those cars still won't let us go. Several cars rammed into us together. They... they wanted to kill me. They wanted to kill me..."

Stella shouted, and Jepherson suddenly stood up. He let go of Stella's hand and turned to walk towards the door of the ward. His face was already extremely dark when he walked out of the door. His voice was even colder. "Where's Stuart?"

A few people stood at the door of the ward. Seeing Jepherson's angry look, they were so frightened that they stammered, "B-boss."

"Where is he?"

They couldn't say a word and could only raise their finger to point at the end of the corridor. This floor was for the ICUs, for emergency use.

Jepherson walked to the end of the corridor. A couple of people stood up, just in time to block his way.

"Move it!"

Everyone moved aside. Jepherson looked at the window and walked over. He stopped and stared at Stuart lying in the hospital bed.

At that time, tubes were sticking into Stuart's body, and he was badly injured. It was even difficult for him to breathe.

Jepherson closed his eyes and immediately, his eyes flew open. His fierce eyes scared the people around him and made them take two steps back.

He didn't know if he was too angry or that he was going crazy. He seemed to be twitching, but he pursed his lips and said in a cold voice, "Cordon off the location of the accident immediately, inform them of the current situation, and place traffic supervision at each crossing intersection. Without my approval, no one is allowed to access the records of the current situation, the monitoring system, and traffic supervision."

"The family will take over the Department of Traffic."

"Ask them to see me."

"Inform Santiago."

The people around him immediately agreed and executed the order.

At that moment, Hadrian also arrived. He was stunned to see Stuart. After thinking for a few seconds, Hadrian looked at Jepherson and said, "Mr. Jepherson..."

Jepherson raised his hand and gestured for Hadrian to stop talking.

"From now on, I'll leave Stuart to you."

Hadrian glanced inside. "Then, do we need to inform Mr. Robertson?"

The Mr. Robertson that he referred to was Aron. They were all raised by Aron.

Jepherson didn't answer. He just breathed heavily.

When he received the call, Santiago's face darkened. He stared at Raeleigh, who was lying on the bed, with a complicated expression. Raeleigh subconsciously felt that there was something wrong with Santiago's aura.

"What's wrong?"

"Something has happened to Stuart."

Putting away his phone, Santiago put on his coat beside the door. He looked at Raeleigh and his sharp eyes fell on Xanthus. "I might need your help."

Xanthus put down the book in his hand, looked at Raeleigh, and then at Santiago. "If there's anything I can do, then I will do my best."

"Thank you!"

Santiago turned around and walked towards the door of the ward. Raeleigh watched him walk out. Her heart sank. "What on Earth happened?"