

Go After 1371

Chapter 1371

Raeleigh hadn't expected that they would actually win the competition. However, Santiago stood there, unfazed by it all. Raeleigh had never seen such a self-righteous person. Until meeting Santiago, Raeleigh had always felt that Jepherson was the most self-righteous person in the world.

Raeleigh looked over at Santiago, who was sitting in a high chair, with his arms spread out as he leaned against the bar counter. He was surrounded by several women. They were all waiting for a chance to drink with him. He had a flirtatious smile on his face as he talked to the women.

One woman even suggested that Santiago drink with each and everyone of them. Santiago took a sip of his beer and smirked.

Raeleigh didn't understand why Santiago liked to smile so much.

Raeleigh stared at Santiago for a little while longer before turning around to look at Jacky. At this time, Jacky, too, was surrounded by several women. Raeleigh thought to herself, "It's not like they are the only two men left on this planet! Anyway, shouldn't it be the guy who approaches the girl and not the other way round?"

"Raeleigh..."

Raeleigh was looking in Jacky's direction when Santiago called out to her. He walked over to Raeleigh and handed her a glass of beer. "Let's celebrate."

"I don't drink."

Raeleigh really didn't drink any alcohol.

Santiago clinked his glass of beer with Raeleigh and finished his glass. Raeleigh looked up at Santiago and said, "I don't drink."

"Will it kill you?" Santiago bent down and whispered in Raeleigh's ear. She turned her head to look at Santiago's handsome face. "It won't, but it doesn't mean I have to drink it!"

Santiago smiled at her and said, "Everyone is looking at us."

Only then did Raeleigh realise that a lot of people were looking at them. "I shouldn't have come with you."

"Well, it's too late, isn't it? Are you going to drink it?" Santiago motioned towards her glass of beer. Raeleigh knew that she had no way out of this.

Raeleigh quickly glanced around the room before picking up her glass of beer. She intended to take one small sip as a gesture.

However, just as she picked up her glass, Santiago reached out and held her hand.

Everyone in the room were looking at Raeleigh and Santiago. He smiled, and his smile lit up the room.

Raeleigh was slightly confused. "What are you doing?"

Raeleigh was afraid. She had no idea what Santiago was going to do. Was he going to replace her glass of beer for a bottle of wine?

Alas...

“What do you think you’re doing?” Santiago reached for her glass and raised it to the crowd. “I’ll drink it on her behalf. She’s feeling a little under the weather today.”

Raeleigh watched as Santiago downed the beer. The crowd didn’t say anything and let it go.

Santiago placed the glass on the table and leaned against Raeleigh’s shoulder. She raised her hand and gave Santiago a push. “What are you doing? Can you sit properly?”

Santiago closed his eyes. “I’m not feeling well. I think I need to lie down.”

Raeleigh looked at Santiago and realised that something was wrong.

Raeleigh quickly stood up and helped Santiago down from the chair. She patted his face, slightly concerned. “Santiago! Santiago, are you alright?”

Santiago slowly opened his eyes, looking a little dazed. “I need to lie down. I don’t feel very well.”

The colour had drained from Santiago’s face. It didn’t look like he was faking it. Raeleigh was extremely worried when she saw Santiago was. She did her best to hold Santiago up as she walked towards Jacky.

“Jacky!”

Raeleigh called out to Jacky. Jacky turned around to look at Raeleigh. He pushed through the crowds and went towards her.

“What happened?”

“I have no idea. He said he’s not feeling well. He drank a couple of beers. I totally forgot that he had just recovered from his injury. I thought he was fine.”

Raeleigh was so panicky that she started to sweat.

Jacky hurriedly took Santiago from Raeleigh and said to the crowd, “I have to go. You guys can continue on without me.”

Jacky helped Santiago out of the hotel. Raeleigh hurriedly followed him and held onto Santiago’s hand. People who drank regularly knew that this was not a common side effect of alcohol.

After leaving Jack Town Hotel, Jacky brought Santiago to another part of Waverly Village to rest. After laying Santiago down on the bed, Jacky immediately called the doctor. It did not take long for the doctor to arrive. The doctor quickly examined Santiago and said that Santiago was having an allergic reaction from the alcohol and his medication. He assured them that this was a normal and minor reaction and that he would be fine after receiving an injection.

Normally, the medications would remain in one’s system for about a week.

After getting the injection and seeing the doctor off, Raeleigh was still a little worried. She never thought that it would be so serious.

“Don’t worry, he’ll be fine. You guys can stay here tonight. I’ll be outside. Call me if you need anything.”

Jacky instructed and turned to go outside. Raeleigh sat beside Santiago and covered him with a quilt. She called Xanthus before calling Jepherson.

“He had an allergic reaction?” Jepherson was shocked when he learned what had happened to Santiago. After all, this was the first time it had happened.

“That’s what the doctor said, but I didn’t see any red rashes on him. He’s just sweating.”

Raeleigh gave Jepherson a quick update on Santiago’s condition. However, Jepherson did not say anything else.

Raeleigh was waiting for Jepherson to continue talking, but there was silence on the other end for a couple of minutes. “Hello? Are you still there?”

“Yes.”

Santiago was currently fast asleep on the bed. Raeleigh subconsciously froze. She rubbed her eyebrows and looked over at Santiago. “What should we do now? Do you want to come over?”

“I’m playing chess with my father.” Jepherson said as placed his chess piece down on the table. Calvin raised his eyebrows and got up to leave.

Jepherson watched as his father left the room. “I won’t come over.”

“Alright then. I’ll call you if there’s anything else.”

Raeleigh hung up the phone. She got up and stretched. She touched Santiago’s cold head and went to lie on the other side of the bed.

Truthfully, Raeleigh felt that it wasn’t that Jacky didn’t have any money nor was it that he couldn’t afford a better house. Waverly Village was a small village just outside of Capital City. In order to get to Capital City, one would have to pass by Waverly Village. At the very least, this would help the economy of the village. However, even so, she found it strange that a person like Jacky, who did not lack anything, chose to live in a simple house rather than a luxurious house.

Chapter 1372

Speaking of simplicity, Raeleigh did not know what size the bed actually was. It was too big to be a single bed, yet too small to be a double bed. She doubted two adults could sleep comfortably on it. It seemed perfect to accommodate just an adult and a kid.

Squeezed to one side of the bed, Raeleigh was extremely uncomfortable. There was a chair in the room which Raeleigh could sit on for the time being, but it would also get uncomfortable after a while.

She laid there for some time, after which she got up to check on the drip inserted into Santiago’s arm. Raeleigh pulled the needle out before laying back down on the chair.

Santiago suddenly turned over and reached out to pull Raeleigh over. She was caught by surprise and jumped when she felt his touch. However, Santiago’s strong arms pulled her back insistently.

“I’m really weak now. If you don’t take care of me, I might die.”

Santiago deliberately said that to frighten Raeleigh. Raeleigh believed it initially, but when she turned around to look at him, she noticed that he was trying hard to hold back his laugh. Raeleigh bolted up and hit Santiago, fuming with anger.

Even more irritatingly, Santiago suddenly burst out guffawing.

Raeleigh raised a hand, about to hit him again, but she couldn’t bring herself to when she saw how pale his face was. After all, he was not well. Thus, Raeleigh retracted her hand.

“Why did you stop?” Santiago asked. Raeleigh got off the bed and questioned instead, “Are you still feeling unwell?”

Santiago shook his head. Raeleigh could tell that he was lying.

Usually, a sick person would be sluggish and barely able to keep their eyes open.

That was Santiago at the moment.

“Give me a few minutes. I’ll go and make you something to eat.”

Raeleigh did not wait for a reply; she left the room. She wasn’t going to stick around to entertain his nonsense. Sometimes, talking to Santiago was to like talking to a brick wall. He just would not listen, just like Jepherson. There was no point wasting time to explain things to them because nothing she said could change their minds. It was best not to say anything.

Just as Raeleigh exited the room, Jacky emerged from the bathroom. He had a towel wrapped around his waist and was currently drying off his hair with another towel. Raeleigh let out a shriek when she saw him.

Jacky paused for a moment and gave Raeleigh a strange look.

At that moment, Santiago also came out of the room. When he saw Jacky as well as the shocked look on Raeleigh’s face, he quickly pulled Raeleigh into his arms and physically shielded her from Jacky. He put his hands over her head and asked, “Jacky, do you have a death wish?”

Jacky looked down at his own body while drying off his hair. Then, he turned around silently and put on some clothes. He continued drying his hair as he walked towards the sofa to take a seat.

Santiago turned around to check on Raeleigh before letting her go. Reaching out, he gently tipped her head back by her chin. However, Raeleigh pushed his hand away. After she composed herself, she said, “I’m fine. I was a just little shocked to see Jacky coming out of the bathroom.”

It wasn’t that Raeleigh had never seen a half-naked person before. It was just that she totally forgot that Jacky was also in the house. That was why she screamed. Raeleigh did not expect that it would lead to trouble.

Santiago turned to glare at Jacky. “Why did you take a shower?”

“Am I not allowed to take a shower in my house?”

After Jacky finished drying off his hair, he swiftly tossed the towel aside. He didn't meet Santiago's gaze, to avoid a fight from breaking out.

From a male's perspective, Jacky had indeed crossed the line that day. If it was Deanna who had seen Santiago half-naked, Jacky would have been unhappy as well. He would have probably bashed Santiago up.

Raeleigh stood aside, sensing the tension in the room. The one thing she knew with certainty was that Santiago was pissed at Jacky.

"I'm going to cook. I could use a hand, Santiago." Worried that Santiago would pick a fight with Jacky, Raeleigh invited him along to the kitchen. They went to the kitchen, upon which Raeleigh stood there in shock. There was no food at all there.

Raeleigh searched through the cupboards, but she could not find anything.

"I'll go out and get some food. Why don't you head back to bed?"

Raeleigh felt that it was best that Santiago went back into the room. He was sick so Raeleigh did not want him to get injured again. But then again, if he stayed there, he might start a fight with Jacky. Thus, it was safest if Santiago just rested in bed.

"I'll come with you."

Santiago glanced outside the window. It was already really late. Where were they going to get food from?

"It's alright, you don't have to."

Raeleigh had learned to be independent at a young age. She did not need anyone to accompany her.

Santiago still insisted. However, just as Raeleigh was about to walk out the door, Jacky stood up instead and suggested, "Why don't you stay put, Santiago? I'll go with Raeleigh. I want to take the opportunity to talk about Deanna."

Raeleigh looked at Jacky and then at Santiago. "No, it's alright. I can go by myself. Jacky, how about you stay as well and look after him? I'm worried that Santiago might suddenly feel unwell again."

"Then let's all go." Jacky blow-dried his hair, put on a shirt, and looked at Santiago. "I doubt you'll die anytime soon."

"Don't you worry. I'm sure I will outlive you."

Santiago quickly put on his jacket. He evidently looked weak. Raeleigh couldn't keep herself from worrying about him. She stopped him at the door.

Holding onto Santiago's arm, Raeleigh addressed Jacky, "Jacky, you go get ingredients. I'll write you a shopping list."

Raeleigh turned around in search of a pen, but could not find one. Her only choice was to take Jacky's mobile phone and type the list there. Jacky briefly skimmed through the list and cast Santiago a look. "This is so troublesome."

Santiago looked stony.. “Women are indeed troublesome, but...”

Santiago did not finish his sentence. Raeleigh doubted that he would say anything harsh.

Jacky turned around and left to buy the ingredients. Raeleigh then accompanied Santiago back to the room.

Raeleigh poured Santiago a cup of hot water as he lay in bed. He slowly sipped on the water, waiting for Jacky to return.

As soon as Raeleigh sat down, he immediately asked, “Besides Jepherson’s and mine, whose body have you seen?”

Raeleigh froze for a moment. Instead of answering his question, she retorted in anger, “What’s up with you?”

Santiago closed his eyes. “I’m sure it’s not just me and Jepherson.”

Raeleigh raised her hand to hit Santiago, who did not flinch at all. Raeleigh felt bad after hitting him, but she pursed her lips and stayed silent.

Raeleigh was still angry by the time Jacky came back.

When Raeleigh heard the knock on the door, she quickly stood up and opened the door. Jacky handed the bag of groceries in his hand to Raeleigh. “I’m not sure whether there’s everything that you’ve listed. I handed them the list and they packed everything for me. There’s some fish and cooked meat in there. It’ll aid his recovery.”

Raeleigh quickly checked through the items. Everything was there. Raeleigh turned around and took a look at Santiago, who was staring at the door. She ignored Santiago and made her way into the kitchen.

Jacky briefly glanced at Santiago before closing the door and following Raeleigh into the kitchen.

When Raeleigh heard footsteps behind her, she turned around and asked Jacky, “Can you please take care of him while I make dinner? He...”

“I don’t need anyone to take care of me. Jacky, why do you keep following Raeleigh?”

Santiago came in from behind and dragged Jacky out of the kitchen.

Amusement was written all over Jacky’s face. “Since when have I done that? I just need her help with something.”

Raeleigh rolled her eyes at Santiago. He was clearly trying to start a fight. “Santiago, please sit outside.”

Santiago refused to listen. He went into the kitchen, took out a persimmon and began slicing it.

Chapter 1373

Raeleigh knew that she was unable to keep Santiago in line, so she allowed him to do whatever he wished. Instead, she looked over at Jacky and asked, “You were looking for me because you wanted to talk about Deanna?”

Jacky did not reply. Raeleigh turned around and placed the fish on the counter, "Actually, I've been trying to get in touch with Deanna. I can only think of one other person who might be able to help us."

Jacky frowned slightly and asked, "Who?"

Raeleigh glanced over at Santiago, who was fiddling with a cucumber. She snatched it out of his hand and put it aside.

"New years is just around the corner. Besides Zorion, the only other person I can think of who can bring you to Deanna is Auntie Jeanna."

Raeleigh had pored over the matter for quite a while. In the end, the only person she could think of was Jepherson's mother.

Raeleigh had no idea how the cucumber ended up back in Santiago's hand. He took a bite of it and said, "Yes, my mom can bring you to see her. It seems like the Atkinson family have decided to keep the baby, which means that you still have a chance. The question is, how will you grasp it?"

Everyone knows how powerful the Atkinson family is in Capital City. You need to be on par with them in order to stand a chance. Yet you're not willing to make use of your connections with my family. That means you have to come up with another solution."

Santiago turned around and said, "The three most dominant families in Capital City are the Harvey family, Atkinson family, and the Cole family..."

"The only way I can ask Rhys for Deanna's hand in marriage is if I replace one of the families." Jacky was not a fool. He understood the importance of the matter.

However... too many things had happened, and he was chained down.

"That's right."

Santiago took another bite of the cucumber and began poking at the fish. "Which family are you targeting?"

Jacky stood at the door of the kitchen and thought it over. "It's impossible for me to defeat Jepherson. I know that if I provoke one of you, it means I pick a fight with the entire family. It's impossible for me to fight alone. Even the Atkinson family would not sit back and watch. Right now, I don't have enough money to contend with your family."

Santiago raised his head and smiled. "As long as you know that. Our family is indeed wealthy. I have not heard of any others, whether in or out of Capital City, who can compare to us.

"That's why my target isn't the Harvey family."

Jacky knew that very well.

"Even if we were, I doubt you would turn against me, for the sake of our friendship."

"You've seen right through me. What else can I say?"

"If you don't have anything to say, then don't say anything."

Santiago smiled nonchalantly. "So your next target is..."

There, Santiago paused. "The Atkinson family is the leader of the underworld. I think..."

"There's no way I'll challenge the Atkinson family."

Jacky cut in frostily, to which Santiago laughed. "I mean, you're also in the underworld. If you're not planning on targeting the Harvey family and the Atkinson family, does it mean you'll go after the Cole family?"

Jacky's brows furrowed deeply. "The Atkinson family has already given me half of their territory. If I continue to vie with them, it'll be equivalent to forcing them out. I'd never do such a thing. So what if I have power? I rather have Deanna than power."

"Well said. Then again, if you don't have anything to your name, do you think Rhys will trust you with Deanna?"

"I can't force it if he doesn't trust me."

Santiago's eyes were full of contempt as he glanced at Jacky's lower body. "You mean you can't force it on Deanna?"

Raeleigh suddenly felt that they had derailed from the original topic. She pretended to be busy.

Jacky smirked. "I can go into more detail. Would you like to hear more about it?"

Raeleigh felt goosebumps all over her body.

"Forget it. I'll find out myself."

Raeleigh blushed furiously. Was this what men usually talked about?

It was no wonder kids were turning out so bad these days. They must have learned it from TV or something.

Raeleigh continued to fumble in the kitchen while Jacky and Santiago talked.

"How do you plan on establishing yourself in Capital City if you're not planning on competing with the Harvey family and the Atkinson family? The Cole family has been in Capital City for a long time. Strong families have strong roots."

"So what? If I put my mind to it, I'm sure I'll be able to defeat them."

Jacky loomed over them imposingly. Raeleigh looked up at Jacky and said, "The Cole family have countless descendants here in Capital City. Although it might sound like I'm exaggerating, you should know that it's the truth."

The Coles have people in every corner of the city. They are by far the largest family here in Capital City."

Raeleigh glanced at Santiago as she spoke. Santiago then rested his elbow on Raeleigh's shoulder, pushing her down.

"Raeleigh, how do you know all of this?"

Santiago asked. Raeleigh said, "I'm not a fool. How would I not know?"

"Oh? I thought it was because Jepherson told you." Santiago removed his elbow from her shoulder and glanced at Jacky, before turning his gaze back to Raeleigh. He added, "Raeleigh's right. The Cole family is indeed the biggest family here in Capital City. It'll be difficult for you to overthrow them."

"No matter how strong they are, there'll be a day they will fall. I doubt they will be able to withstand the pressure."

Jacky turned around and left. Santiago immediately followed him outside. The two of them sat on the sofa and entered into a heated discussion on the matter.

Raeleigh was glad that she finally had peace in the kitchen. She began preparing dinner.

Soon, Raeleigh emerged from the kitchen with a couple of dishes. She could hear that Santiago on the phone.

"Mr. Jormen, I knew I could count on you! I'm sure you can arrange this for me, right?"

There seemed to be some hesitation from the other end of the phone. At that moment, Jacky was sitting on the couch as Santiago spoke.

Santiago went on persuading Mr. Jormen, but it seemed like they could not reach an agreement. Santiago then changed the topic. "Oh, Mr. Jormen! Dinner's ready. I need to go now. I'll call you later."

After he said that, Santiago's face fell. "That old fogey won't spare a thought for me."

By the time Santiago ended the call, Raeleigh had already brought out all of the dishes she had cooked. Santiago and Jacky took their seats and began eating. Raeleigh did not want to probe into anything, so she sat down and ate quietly.

Halfway through dinner, Santiago called Jepherson.

"Get me a job in the government."

Jepherson raised his head to look at his father, who was just about to head off to rest. He stood up and turned to walk outside. After stepping out of the door, he asked, "Why would a person like you..."

"I called Mr. Jormen, but he refused to help me."

"I'll talk to him about it, but Santiago..."

"Yes?"

"I know this is for Jacky, but this is our place to interfere. When Mr. Jormen calls you later, tell him that you don't need the job anymore. I'll tell you what to do later."

Santiago looked at Jacky, lowered his head and said, "Alright."

"Good. Are you feeling better?"

"A little. I'm guessing she told you." Santiago raised his eyebrows inadvertently and glanced at Raeleigh. Raeleigh knew that he was talking about her. She rolled her eyes at Santiago.

The two brothers chatted for a while before hanging up.

Santiago then took a bite of the fish. "Mm, delicious!"

Jacky also took a bite, but said nothing.

Since Jacky and Santiago did not want to talk about their work, Raeleigh struck up conversation about the food.

Santiago suddenly stopped eating and looked at Raeleigh calmly. As a result, Raeleigh had no choice but to stop talking.

Chapter 1374

"You can't even shut up when you're eating."

Santiago gave the best part of the fish, the boneless part, to Raeleigh. With that, she lowered her head and ate, minding her own business.

After dinner, she cleared the table. Just as she was bringing the dishes over to the kitchen, someone knocked on the door.

Raeleigh heard the knock but didn't bother as whoever it was, they wouldn't be looking for her. She was a maid at best there.

The person who entered was silent as he made his way to the kitchen.

"I haven't eaten yet." Raeleigh froze when she heard the voice behind her. She turned around to see Jepherson standing by the door.

"Why are you here?"

"Well, I came by to see what's up."

Jepherson took off his coat and left it in the neighboring room. Then, he turned around, unbuttoned his shirt and rolled up his sleeves before hugging Raeleigh, giving her a kiss.

Raeleigh quickly took a glance at the kitchen doorway and felt relieved to see they were alone.

"What are you doing? Let go of me, or..."

Right as Raeleigh was about to speak, Jepherson wasted no time sealing her mouth with his lips. By the time she registered what he had done, he had already let her go, helping her reheat the dishes as if nothing had happened.

Raeleigh was about to fly into a rage, but seeing Jepherson reheating some food for himself, she took over.

"Go wash your hands."

Jepherson was surprisingly cooperative, doing as he was told.

He ate in the kitchen.

“Why didn’t you come over earlier if you hadn’t eaten?”

Raeleigh sat beside him, keeping him company. Jepherson stuffed food into his mouth without responding.

Raeleigh was floored, thinking, so be it if he didn’t want to answer.

Raeleigh got up and sat down at her spot, waiting for Jepherson to finish his meal before she stood back up.

As Raeleigh cleared the dishes, Jepherson went outside.

Santiago and Jacky were watching TV when Jepherson switched it off. He sat down beside them and asked, “Has he called back?”

Santiago looked at him. “Mr. Jormen said he would treat me to a meal tomorrow and apologize.”

“And how did you put it?”

“I said I was just joking, and I won’t actually go.”

Of course, that wasn’t actually what he said, and Jepherson knew clearly, but he habitually turned a blind eye to Santiago’s antics.

“Go and socialize during the meal tomorrow. Also, help me deliver these tea leaves to Mr. Jormen while you’re at it. Tell him they’re from you.”

Jepherson placed the box of tea leaves on the coffee table.

Santiago was peeved. “I won’t go.”

“Then I’ll go.”

Santiago huffed.

Although not happy about it, Santiago acquiesced in the end.

Jepherson looked at Jacky. “You want to meddle in the Cole family’s affairs?”

“That’s the plan.”

“Going in wouldn’t be a problem. With my guarantee, you’ll be able to rise directly to the top.”

Jepherson’s words got Santiago and Jacky exchanging glances.

But neither of them spoke.

Jepherson continued, “But my guarantee is a back-door, no different from being a matrilocal husband. Even if you make a name for yourself, people still won’t take you seriously. Tactful as you are, you need to know where and how to use it, or else you’ll end up hurting yourself.”

“What do you mean?” Jacky questioned.

Jepherson thought it over and said, "With your capabilities, it wouldn't be a problem even if you start from the ground up. But I believe it's better for you if you become an entrepreneur and get a position through running an election."

"So what you're saying is, I should first start my own business?"

"What I'm saying is, you can make an appearance at some events or appear next to me to create entries into the business world, but you need to have the capability yourself. Wait for the right moment to run your campaign; use your status as an entrepreneur to take up the position. This will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for you."

As Jepherson spoke, Raeleigh had already exited the kitchen.

Raeleigh wondered if she would be leaving with Jepherson, so she took a seat beside him.

Jacky pondered for a while, "How long would that take?"

"About half a year. You should bring some assets over and start your business here first.

Even if you're dealing with the underworld, you still need your own business. If you rely on the underworld alone, you'll end up targeted sooner or later, no matter how rich you are. Plus, you don't rely on that for a living, do you?"

Jepherson finished speaking and stood up. He glanced at the room and said, "I'll sleep with Raeleigh; you two sleep together."

With that, he went into Raeleigh's room, and Raeleigh followed suit. As soon as she stepped foot into the room, Jepherson pulled her over. He shut the door and held her in his arms, feeling her up.

She pushed him away a little and cupped his face, asking in a whisper, "You're okay now? You've already recovered?"

He smiled in amusement. "Let's test that out."

That meant that there was uncertainty. Jepherson's hesitance made Raeleigh hesitate in turn. What if he still hadn't recovered? He was getting eager again.

Pushing him, they went to bed; she took hold of his wandering hands and said, "Not now. We can do it after you've seen a doctor."

Jepherson held Raeleigh's hand tightly. "How would we know whether I've recovered if we don't try?"

"Not a chance."

Raeleigh laid down and scrunched her face.

Jepherson turned over to lay an arm on Raeleigh's waist, huffing, and she raised her hand to block his breaths. With that, she bit her lip and turned to face the wall. "Even if you've recovered, we can't do it here. The walls are very thin. No way."

It was just an excuse. She just didn't want anything to happen to Jepherson. However, he hugged her from behind and said, "Then we won't do it."

Raeleigh didn't reply. Jepherson's heart was in disarray as he embraced her from behind. Well, he asked for it.

Raeleigh held Jepherson's hand. "You go to sleep first. I'll go check up on Santiago."

Jepherson let go of her and turned to lay on his back. She thought he was upset, so she turned to look at him and added, "If you don't want me to, I won't then."

"You're his sister-in-law. It's only natural you'd check on him. You'll be able to keep him in line if you're by his side, and he'll be able to protect you. You're overthinking it." Jepherson massaged Raeleigh's hand. His words got her feeling somewhat guilty. She stared at him, then said, "I'll be back soon."

Raeleigh got out of bed to check on Santiago. She wasn't gone for long. She soon came back with a glass of water.

"He still hasn't rested, hasn't he?"

Jepherson was asking about Santiago. Raeleigh responded instantly, "I asked him to. He said he would in a while."

She returned to Jepherson's side and handed him the water. Jepherson took a sip, laid down, and adjusted the blankets, gesturing for Raeleigh to join him. Raeleigh laid down with him after setting down the glass. The two chatted for a while before they brought up Deanna.

Raeleigh said, "Actually, I was the one who brought it up first. Jacky wanted to contact Deanna, but I couldn't think of any other solution. I can't stop thinking that you..."

Jepherson lowered his head to look at Raeleigh. She pursed her lips and rephrased. "I think your mom is the only one who can help. Hence, all this."

Chapter 1375

Raeleigh and Jepherson talked deep into the night, but she still got up Tristany in the morning. As soon as she woke up, she went to check on Santiago.

Hearing the knock on his door, Santiago got up to open it. Raeleigh stood outside the door. She was visibly relieved when she saw that Santiago was fine.

"Do you want to go out for breakfast?" Raeleigh couldn't tell Santiago that she had gone out of her way just to fuss over him.

He glanced at her with disdain in his eyes. "I thought you came to see me."

"Please, don't flatter yourself."

She then walked away. Subconsciously glancing at her surroundings, the door behind her closed, and she went to make breakfast.

She had been outside for some time before the three guys woke up.

It was the first time she had seen the locals in the morning; they were busy shouting out their wares to attract customers.

Some would inadvertently raise their hands at Raeleigh to greet her, and she would return the greeting in second nature.

Raeleigh even bought a few apples. When Jepherson came out, she happened to return, carrying the apples with her. He casually took the apples from her and walked back in with his hand around her, asking how many she bought and how much she paid.

“A dollar per apple. I bought five, and they gave me one for free, so six.”

Raeleigh felt a little self-conscious at the enthusiastic welcome she received.

Jepherson took Raeleigh inside and headed to the kitchen. He put the apples on a platter, then went out to get Santiago and Jacky.

Jepherson knocked twice on Santiago’s door, and it didn’t take long for Santiago to get up.

Santiago first went to wash up. By the time he came out and joined them, Jepherson and Raeleigh were already eating.

“Don’t forget your lunch with Mr. Jormen. Bring Raeleigh and Jacky with you and the tea leaves as well. Tell him they’re from you.”

After he was done eating, Jepherson wiped his mouth and stood up.

Raeleigh got up as well and saw Jepherson to the door. “Do you have something to attend to?”

“My grandmother wants me to go back. I’ll go and take a look.”

Jepherson got into the car and told Raeleigh, who was standing outside, “Remember what you promised me. If you break it, I will...”

“I know. I won’t break it.”

The chauffeur instantly closed the door as soon as he heard Jepherson knock on the armrest. He greeted Raeleigh politely before turning around and got into the car.

Raeleigh didn’t go back in until the car drove out of sight. Meanwhile, the other two had already finished eating, and Santiago went to get changed. He threw the box of tea leaves to Raeleigh and said, “Don’t forget to take this with you.”

Raeleigh hurriedly caught the box then followed Santiago and Jacky back to Capital City to meet Mr. Jormen.

Mr. Jormen worked in the government sector, but he was mainly responsible for human resources.

Mr. Jormen had booked a table and called Santiago then after in hopes that he would meet up. Santiago declined the day before, leading Mr. Jormen to make another call Tristany that morning. However, Santiago first got himself a fancy outfit to change into when they arrived at Capital City and even went to his family beauty salon to get his hair styled before they rendezvoused with Mr. Jormen. By the time he was ready, it was already noon.

Mr. Jormen made another call to Santiago, and he responded by saying he was nearby, then asked where they would be dining.

Raeleigh sat in the car and peered at Santiago. He liked green; the greener, the better, emeralds especially.

When they arrived, Santiago and Jacky got off the car in succession; Raeleigh was the last one to get off. Santiago took hold of Raeleigh's hand and strode into the restaurant.

Jacky followed closely behind the two of them as they headed for the restaurant.

Before she entered the door, Raeleigh saw several beautiful young waitresses standing by the entrance, coming up to greet Santiago as they approached. "Welcome, Mr. Santiago."

Santiago's lips curled into a smile that emanated a sinister aura. His amorous eyes were as seductive as a fox.

The girls blushed, and their hearts beat fast as they thought Santiago was into them.

Walking further in, a slightly older man greeted them.

"Mr. Santiago."

He looked to be in his forties. His eyes shone brightly, and he looked suave, wearing an aqua blue dress shirt paired with a black suit. Raeleigh looked at the man, but that man kept his gaze focused on Santiago, never sparing a glance to anyone else.

Miffed, she turned to look at Santiago and had a good idea what was going on. A public figure would never acknowledge a hedonistic b*stard. After all, to people like them, Santiago was a nobody, not even a noble heir.

To them, he was nothing more than a hedonistic son born to rich parents, ignorant and incompetent. It seemed that having an excellent family background meant nothing. He was regarded as an incompetent slacker, defective junk, to those high up in society.

The courtesy to invite Santiago for a meal was primarily out of regard for Jepherson.

Those who didn't know nor had ever interacted with Santiago would believe him to be a useless piece of trash.

Raeleigh suddenly felt a wave of sympathy for Santiago. They were both Calvin's sons, but Santiago was looked down upon.

Santiago stopped and stared at him. "Are you Mr. Jormen's son?"

"I'm his younger brother."

The man answered politely and sternly. Amusement flashed across Santiago as he glanced at the elevator and asked, "Will we be dining upstairs?"

"Yes, that is correct."

"Let's go then."

“After you, Mr. Santiago.”

Although the man was polite, Raeleigh didn't sense an ounce of respect in his words.

When the elevator opened, the man waited for Santiago and Raeleigh to enter before walking in. Seeing the door was about to close, Santiago blocked it. The man saw him stopping the door but did nothing other than looking at the person who hadn't gotten on yet. Raeleigh couldn't overlook the contempt in his eyes.

She was perplexed. If such a person wasn't on the same boat as the Harvey family, why did he want to entertain them?

After Jacky entered, Santiago pressed the button on the elevator. He then raised his hand to pat Raeleigh's face gently. “Let's go and look at some jewelry after the meal.”

Santiago laughed without restraint. Raeleigh obviously knew he was just putting on an act, so she took hold of Santiago's arm and played along.

Jacky stood beside them; hands hung to his sides as he stared at the elevator's floor display. When the elevator stopped, Mr. Jormen's brother was in no hurry to press the button to open the doors. Jacky did it instead and stepped out; the arrogance on his face did not pale compared to the man.

Mr. Jormen's brother gave Jacky a quick look-over as he walked out the elevator. Then, he proceeded to walk to their destination without asking, as if he knew everything.

Raeleigh looked at the man's face. He disregarded her entirely because she was a woman but had some opinions of Jacky instead; not a single moment gone noticed to her.

After exiting the elevator, Raeleigh took Santiago's arm and walked in Jacky's direction while Mr. Jormen's brother followed beside them.

Raeleigh leaned against Santiago, the two of them looking as affectionate as a real couple. The man thought that it was quite laughable, curving his lips in contempt.

Raeleigh stared at him. In her eyes, he was mocking them, thinking the only thing a young man like Santiago succeeded at was getting with a girl.

She believed there was no way Santiago couldn't tell when it was so obvious even to her. However, she found Santiago to be unmoved the two times she glanced at his face.

When they got to Jacky, he was standing by a double door. Two men, dressed in black, were stationed in front of it, blocking Jacky from entering. They said nothing but refused to let him pass.

Raeleigh could tell Santiago wasn't anyone special there.

Once they reached the doors, the man spoke, “This is Mr. Santiago.”

The guards looked at Santiago before putting their hands down. Jacky then pushed the door open but stood aside and turned to Santiago instead of entering.

“Mr. Santiago, after you.”

Mr. Jorman's brother gestured, and Santiago entered with Raeleigh by his side, then Jacky and he followed behind.

The floor they were on were all private rooms. The room they entered was spacious, and the table could fit about thirty people, but Raeleigh saw only a handful present.

There was a beautiful young lady, an older man in glasses with a white dress shirt, a bespectacled young man, and another middle-aged man dressed ordinarily.

Raeleigh assumed that the older man in the center, without glasses, was none other than Mr. Jormen.

"Mr. Jormen."

Santiago took Raeleigh to that man and greeted him.

In response, Mr. Jormen let out a hearty laugh; he was quite approachable, unlike his brother, who evidently looked down on them.

"Time sure is magical; it seems like it was only yesterday when you were still a child. I remember when I first met your father, you still had to be carried in his arms. When you came with him, you caused a lot of trouble, turning my office upside down."

Mr. Jormen pointed to a seat nearby and said, "Please, make yourselves comfortable."

Coincidentally, there was an empty spot next to Mr. Jormen. Santiago let go of Raeleigh and sat down. He glanced at the girl beside him passively and smiled. "I forgot how naughty I was when I was little."

Santiago said succinctly, then pointed to the side and said, "You guys can sit there."

Raeleigh sat as instructed, and Jacky followed along.

Santiago pointed at Jacky, "He's Jepherson's friend, Jacky. He came to accompany me especially. My brother has his hands full lately; Jacky came here especially from Waverly Hills."

Mr. Jormen pondered for a moment. "I'm sorry, I didn't quite catch your name?"

"Jacky Scott," Jacky responded with courtesy.

Mr. Jormen mused over it and said, "Yamilet, sit beside this lady over here. Get that young man to sit beside me."

"Yes, father."

The young lady named Yamilet stood up and walked toward Raeleigh. She smiled at her as she took a seat beside her.

Raeleigh returned a polite smile while Jacky sat beside Santiago as Mr. Jormen struck up a conversation with him.

"Do you know Jack Town Hotel?"

Jacky replied, "I own Jack Town Hotel."

"So you're that Jacky Scott from Waverly Village?" Mr. Jormen continued inquiring.

Jacky chose his words carefully. "I don't know about that."

"Serve the food."

As Mr. Jormen spoke, he leaned to the side and sized Jacky up, "Oh young lad, your reputation precedes you. I've heard of your name for quite some time. I never thought that I'd meet you here. Let's shake hands."

Mr. Jormen stood up as he spoke, and everyone else followed suit apart from Raeleigh, Santiago, and Jacky.

Santiago lowered his head slightly, his almond-shaped eyes downturned. Raeleigh decided that she would stay put, seeing as Santiago did not rise.

Jacky, on the other hand, glanced at Santiago before he stood up. Looking at Mr. Jormen's hands, he accepted the handshake.

Mr. Jormen smiled. "I'm Jormen Lee. It's a pleasure to meet you. I hope we can be friends."

"It's my honor."

With that, Jacky sat back down.

However, the two men on Jormen's side were displeased with Jacky, thinking why a punk like him deserved such grand respect.

They even mocked Santiago, saying birds of a feather really did flock together.

Raeleigh sat in her seat, silent. Jormen sat back down and said, "I've given careful consideration to what we spoke about yesterday. I'm old, so I wasn't thinking straight. Look, Santiago, I've arranged the job for you. It's a good one. If you can do well, I can promise you you'll sail right up to the top. This is a great opportunity."

"Mr. Jormen, that was just all talk. I was carried away by a whim. Don't take me seriously. I know it's way too troublesome."

Raeleigh wanted to laugh at Santiago's pleasantries, constantly thinking it wasn't him at all.

Santiago even winked at Raeleigh. She was truly concerned for Santiago, considering the serious situation they were in.

With how he acted, there was no wonder there were all sorts of rumors about him.

Jormen took some time to think of his next words. "Are you angry at me, Santiago?"

"What is there to be angry about? Oh, I almost forgot, this is for you, Mr. Jormen." Santiago took the tea leaves from Raeleigh and handed the box to Jormen. Jormen looked at the box, then opened it to have a smell. "This is my favorite red tea. Thank you very much, Santiago."

But Santiago, the job is..."

"I'm not taking it. Let's eat."

Santiago rejected him frankly. Jormen handed the tea leaves over to the person beside him and exchanged a few polite words before he fell silent.

While they were eating, Jormen struck up a conversation with Jacky, asking about his purpose in town. Jacky replied he hadn't thought it through, and that was the end of the conversation.

A few moments later, Jormen introduced his daughter, Yamilet, to Santiago and Jacky, and the bespectacled young man was his son, Fabian.

Raeleigh paid attention to Fabian. She had just been observing him, but to her surprise, he stared right at her.

Although he looked suave, Raeleigh felt uneasy under his gaze.

It was rude to stare at another person's girlfriend, after all.

However, he didn't seem to be conscious of it, keeping his gaze on Raeleigh for a long, long time.

Santiago noticed the displeased look on Raeleigh's face. He looked at Fabian and said, "She's my new girlfriend. If you've taken a fancy, Fabian, you can have her keep you company!"

Raeleigh blushed beet-red at Santiago's words, then her face went pale, and she shot a glare at Santiago.

Chapter 1376

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Chapter 1377

Fabian was taken aback by Raeleigh's glare at Santiago, but he chuckled under his breath with a face donned in delight.

Raeleigh, on the other hand, felt dispirited and continued to eat with her head down.

"Fabian, what are you doing?"

Jormen was a little irked and scolded his son. Fabian then responded, "Nothing, I just thought this lady looks a lot like an acquaintance of mine."

Raeleigh raised her head slowly and looked at Fabian. She recalled the way his eyes bore into hers attentively, and she came to understand that her uncanny appearance was the reason for the stares.

"My brother studied abroad, and he got to know someone there. He likes that person very much, but sadly, his feelings are unrequited, only seeing him as..."

"Yamilet, that's enough."

Fabian quickly stopped Yamilet from speaking.

Santiago looked over at him. "If you like her, Fabian, you can have her. We are just in a casual relationship; there's nothing real between us."

"Santiago, this is not something to joke about. Don't be ridiculous."

Jormen reprimanded immediately. However, Santiago didn't think much of it.

Fabian looked at Raeleigh and said, "If you truly don't see her as your future lover, I think you should break up with her."

"No need for all that fuss. It's just a fling. If you like her, you can have a go with her, Fabian."

Raeleigh had lost her appetite. If it weren't for the serious meeting, she would have probably gotten up and given Santiago a good beating.

Fabian quietly observed Raeleigh and said, "Let's eat."

Santiago then said, "Go sit next to Fabian."

Raeleigh didn't get up, deciding not to follow Santiago's orders.

"Are you disobeying me?" Santiago sounded displeased. Raeleigh shot him a glance that entailed his doom after they went back.

Then she stood up and went to where Fabian was. He looked at her in surprise, eyes twinkling behind his glasses.

Raeleigh took a seat, and the waiters were hot on their feet to prepare her new plates and cutleries. Fabian raised his hand instantly. "It's alright; I'll do it."

Fabian's temper was like his appearance, easy-going and polished.

After the waiter backed away, Raeleigh settled her plates and cutleries herself. However, Fabian immediately stopped her, "I was the one who troubled you. Please, let me do it."

With that, Raeleigh pulled her hands back lest they made skin contact.

Fabian quickly put Raeleigh's napkins in place. Santiago, on the other hand, turned a blind eye and only lowered his head to eat.

"My brother meant no harm."

Yamilet spoke, constantly observing Santiago. Santiago raised his eyes and glanced at Yamilet, but he had no intention of saying anything.

Couldn't care less about him, Yamilet then turned to Jacky and asked, "Mr. Scott, do you have an official job in this area?"

"Not yet."

Jacky didn't say much.

After that, Yamilet nodded and continued eating.

Meanwhile, Fabian had taken a liking to Raeleigh and took great care of her.

After she was done with her meal, Raeleigh sat aside silently lest things got out of hand.

However, Fabian struck up a conversation with her. "Are you still studying?"

Raeleigh thought for a moment before responding, "Yes, I am."

"Which university are you attending?"

"Elkton University."

"What year are you in?"

“First year.”

...

Raeleigh was continuously questioned, and she couldn't just ignore him in front of so many people.

On seeing that Raeleigh was getting annoyed and didn't feel like talking, Fabian stopped asking.

Santiago glanced at the time, stood up, and said, “We still have matters to attend to; we'll be taking our leave first. I'll see you around, Mr. Jormen.”

“Do come by often.”

“Of course.”

Santiago looked over to Raeleigh. She had already stood up, wanting to catch up with him at the door. However, just as she took a step, he stopped her. “You stay here.”

Taken aback, Raeleigh felt immensely disdained.

Santiago turned around and left with Jacky.

Raeleigh stood rooted on the spot, wanting to see what Santiago's plan was. She knew there was no way Jepherson wouldn't get even with Santiago if she didn't go back.

In the end, Santiago left without even making a phone call.

After the door closed, none of the people inside regarded Raeleigh. After glancing at his son, Jormen walked away without even acknowledging her, and the others followed suit. Everyone probably saw her as Santiago's escort.

Someone who would eat, drink, and sleep with him.

After everyone left, Fabian looked at Raeleigh and asked, “Where do you live? I'll take you home.”

Raeleigh sized Fabian up and said, “It's alright; I'll take a taxi home.”

“It's not safe out there; it'll be better if I give you a ride. Nothing good will come to someone as beautiful as you.”

Fabian said as he walked toward the door. Although Raeleigh was at a disadvantage, she knew she couldn't depend on him.

She thought she should teach Santiago a lesson and let him know what a sister-in-law was capable of.

“Let me call my fiancé.”

Raeleigh was about to make a phone call when Fabian put his hand on her phone, saying, “He obviously doesn't regard you as his fiancé. He's just a player; why are you devoting yourself to him?”

Raeleigh found it amusing. “I think you've misunderstood. Santiago's not my fiancé but my younger brother.”

With that, she made the call. Fabian stood there, feeling a little upset, thinking it was out of the question for Santiago to treat her so, but there was no way other people wouldn't cherish someone like her.

Raeleigh got through to Jepherson and asked him, "Where are you?"

"I'm at home." Jepherson stood up. He had just finished, and he happened to be talking to Stella, who sat across from him. In actuality, Stella was talking to Paige; he barely spoke the entire time.

"Something came up. I have to go."

With that, he got up, wanting to leave. However, Paige was visibly upset as she had just finished a good meal, but Jepherson immediately wanted to go.

"Is it Raeleigh?"

Jepherson turned around to face Paige when he heard her voice but said nothing in response before leaving.

Raeleigh knew Jepherson was at home. After waiting for a while, Fabian walked in front of Raeleigh. He was much taller than her, around Jepherson's height. She slowly looked up and glanced at Fabian as she made her way to the door, saying, "We came out for lunch, and Santiago left me with someone else. I'm in the restaurant right now, and a guy called Fabian offered to send me home. Can you pick me up?"

Jepherson frowned. "Alright, I'll be right there. Wait for me. Where are you?"

He had already stepped out and arrived at the entrance of the manor. The car stopped beside him and the door opened for him to enter.

After she told him her location, she hung up.

"I'm really sorry."

Raeleigh said cordially and opened the door to leave the room. Fabian followed Raeleigh to ask, "Are you a daughter of the Harvey family?"

Raeleigh cast a glance at Fabian and responded, "No."

"Then what do you mean when you say Santiago is your younger brother? Did the Harvey family really find the other child?"

With that, Raeleigh stopped in her tracks and stared at him. "How do you know about this?"

Fabian did not answer but gave a knowing smile instead.

Chapter 1378

Fabian told Raeleigh that he knew Jepherson and often played with him when they were little. He heard from Jepherson that he had a sister, and he added that everyone knew the child had already passed.

When Raeleigh went out, Fabian added, "I also thought the daughter of the Harvey Family was still alive until I inadvertently brought it up when I was fourteen. My father told me strictly that it was difficult for an adult to survive in such a high place, let alone a child."

"I even wrote to Jepherson about it when I just started studying abroad, but he didn't reply to the letter. I don't know if he received it, and we've never met these past years."

Raeleigh thought it was indeed a small world; she couldn't believe she would meet an old friend of his.

And with that, she was surprised to know he even had a friend.

After leaving the restaurant, she stood outside to wait for Jepherson. She didn't have anything to say to Fabian, but he had a question, "Is your boyfriend local?"

Raeleigh looked at him. "He is my fiancé."

"Then your fiancé..."

Before Fabian could finish his words, Jepherson's car had already stopped in front of them. Raeleigh said, "He's here; you can get to know each other."

Raeleigh said as she walked toward the car. On the other hand, Fabian fixed his gaze at the car. Although he had just returned, he was positive it belonged to the Richard Family.

After a moment of hesitation, he then caught up with Raeleigh while Jepherson alighted the car.

Upon seeing Raeleigh, Jepherson bent over to give her a peck while looking at Fabian. Fabian's eyes were almost dull with an indescribable expression.

Raeleigh turned around and looked at Fabian. "I didn't tell you, but I'm actually Jepherson's fiancée, not the daughter of the Harvey family."

Only then did Fabian come to his senses. He stared at Raeleigh and then turned to look at Jepherson. "I thought we would meet a little later."

Jepherson turned to Raeleigh and said, "Wait for me in the car."

She did as she was told. Fabian walked to Jepherson and said, "I was glad when I thought she was from the Harvey family. Guess I'm too late!"

Jepherson looked back at the girl sitting in the car scrolling through her phone, then smiled and said, "You still have a chance."

Raeleigh pretended she did not hear it.

Fabian looked over Jepherson's shoulder at Raeleigh and said, "I would if it was someone else, but if it's you... I give up."

"Are you giving up because you're afraid of losing to me or because of something else?"

"I'm not afraid of you, and I have won you before. It's because her heart isn't with anyone else but you."

Fabian turned his gaze back at Jepherson as he spoke. However, Jepherson found it amusing. "Of course, her heart is with me when she's with me; maybe it won't be when I'm not around."

"You never change, do you? You're so modest even when you're confident. I can't stand your fake modesty."

“Is that so?”

Jepherson then looked at the car. “You drove?”

“Yeah, you guys go ahead. We’ll meet some other day; I’m in a bad mood now.”

With that, Fabian walked away. Jepherson watched as his friend disappeared into the car before he got into his.

As the door closed, Jepherson put his hand on Raeleigh’s lap and leaned against her. He asked, “Upset?”

The driver peeked at Jepherson through the rearview mirror and drove the car away slowly.

Putting down the phone, she looked at Jepherson. “I really can’t think of a word for someone like you.”

Jepherson hummed in response after a slight stomp.

Raeleigh said, “Santiago too! He’s unbelievable.”

Throwing a glance at her, Jepherson said, “Yeah, he is.”

“You think so too?”

“Yeah, I think so too.”

Raeleigh fell silent at that.

Then she mumbled, “He’s as good as dead to me.”

“Maybe he thinks so too, thinking you’re a burden to him, and he wants to get rid of you.”

Jepherson said as he narrowed his eyes, holding Raeleigh’s hand. She turned to him and asked, “He did it on purpose?”

Jepherson did not answer, and Raeleigh let the case rest. After returning to the hospital, Raeleigh took a bath, changed into a new set of clothes, and then visited Stuart. She was surprised to find he was already able to sit.

“There’s nothing wrong with his sciatic nerve. Next will be his legs; I don’t think there should be a problem.”

Jepherson took Raeleigh to the bed. Seeing them, Stuart greeted them with a bright smile, and Raeleigh returned the greeting.

Xanthus had his back turned to Raeleigh. Upon seeing Stuart’s smile, he turned around to see who it was and gestured for her to wait for a moment. She waved in return, and Xanthus turned back to Stuart and said, “Since Raeleigh’s back, we’ll stop at this.”

“All right.”

Xanthus took some notes and walked out of the room. As he the door, he said to Raeleigh, “Come with me.”

Puzzled, she still followed him to the ward, and Xanthus took out a parcel from the closet.

“This is your New Year’s present.”

She walked over and opened it; inside was a pink box. She had never seen such a beautiful box embedded with rhinestones.

She opened the box to find a white coat inside.

“Did Mom design this?”

Raeleigh could imagine her mother designed it especially for her. Xanthus nodded. “Mom said she made it herself.”

She was so moved that she was at a loss for words. She didn’t expect to receive a gift, let alone one from her mother.

Raeleigh put it on immediately and did a turn, asking Xanthus, “What do you think?”

“Gorgeous!” Before Xanthus could answer, Jepherson opened the door and came in. Raeleigh turned around to see him sizing her up. “The most beautiful I’ve ever seen.”

Self-conscious, she fell silent.

Sometimes, Xanthus’s heart ached for his sister.

Knowing her temper, if Jepherson hadn’t used desperate measures, he wouldn’t be able to keep Raeleigh from leaving. She was not one to turn back easily.

But it was too late to say anything anymore.

“It’s New Year tomorrow. My parents will leave the hospital today and go back to Fragrance Garden tonight. I’d like to invite Raeleigh over, but I need your permission.”

Jepherson said as he looked at Xanthus. The news stumped Raeleigh. “You never told me about this.”

“I just found out about it. Santiago will be going back as well; I’ll be able to help you get even then.”

Raeleigh was speechless; it sounded like he was the one who wanted to get even.

Xanthus hesitated for a moment. “I will spend this year’s New Year’s with Raeleigh, so perhaps you...”

“So I plan on inviting you too. Mr. Aron will monitor Stuart’s situation; I believe your one-day off wouldn’t be a problem.”

Jepherson said before Xanthus could finish his words. Raeleigh then turned to look at Xanthus. “It’s fine if you don’t want to go.”

“No worries. I haven’t attended a family gathering like this for a long time; I should pay Mrs. Harvey a visit as well.”

With that, she silently turned to look at Jepherson’s handsome face, wondering if someone had shot themselves in the foot.

Chapter 1379

After leaving the hospital, Raeleigh sat beside Belle in the car. Holding her hands tightly, Belle blabbered, and Raeleigh only kept nodding her head in reply to her words. It was not until they arrived at the Harvey Group Manor that Raeleigh felt peace and quiet had returned to her.

Calvin took his beloved wife's hand as they descended the car and led her away like a lovely young couple. Raeleigh was a little lost in thought as she looked at their retreating figure, not expecting Calvin to be so affectionate to his wife.

He was not stingy about declaring his love even if Jepherson was there.

Raeleigh waited for Jepherson for a moment before he said, "Let's go to the Fragrance Garden first."

Raeleigh looked at Jepherson. "Are we not visiting your grandmother?"

"Are you for real?"

"Nope," Raeleigh said as she held Xanthus's arm. He patted her hand in return and said, "Let's go."

The siblings then went to the Fragrance Garden. As the head of the Harvey Group Manor, Jepherson briefly introduced the layout and design of the Fragrance Garden.

"The layout here is exactly the same as our manor in A City."

"It is indeed very beautiful," Xanthus said frankly.

"But I prefer the manors overseas. I think when I have kids a few years later, I will send them there. The environment there is great for them to grow and learn."

Jepherson said while walking. Raeleigh looked at him but said nothing.

Xanthus said nothing either. When the three of them arrived at Fragrance Garden, Jepherson immediately arranged a room for Xanthus. With that, Raeleigh accompanied her brother to tidy up the room and stayed in there for a while.

In actuality, everything had been sorted out. Raeleigh merely spread the quilt and had a chat.

Xanthus sat on the bed and scanned the antique display in the room. He looked at Raeleigh and said, "Take a rest."

Pouring a glass of water for Xanthus, she said, "I wasn't used to it either when I first came."

Raeleigh handed the water to Xanthus, who took the cup and asked, "What about now? Are you used to it?"

"Now... "

Raeleigh pursed her lips at that and continued, "Not really, but it is more comfortable here than in Ink Garden."

"Raeleigh... have you ever thought about it? Coming here means that you'll have to live here and spend time with everyone in the Harvey family. Do you know what this means?"

Raeleigh thought for a moment and answered, "I know, but I've never thought of staying."

Xanthus continued to wait for her answer, and she said, "I've never thought of living here. I can't leave now, but I won't live here."

"It's good that you don't. I won't be at ease if you do."

To Xanthus, handing Raeleigh back to Jepherson was the greatest compromise. If she were to live in this manor, facing a woman like Paige...

"You're worried about me living at home." Raeleigh ridiculed.

There came a knock on the door. When Xanthus looked up, Jepherson opened the door and came in.

He was in a casual outfit, pants and sweater, looking like a boy-next-door.

Entering the door, Jepherson paused for a moment. "I got these for you. Change into it and see if it fits."

He said as he handed Raeleigh a black bag.

With that, she took a look at the contents. The clothes inside were the same color tones as his, black pants and a red sweater.

Santiago's green top suddenly popped up in her mind, and she wanted to laugh.

The younger brother was green and the older brother was red?

Raeleigh took the clothes away. "I'll go get changed. You guys have a chat in the meantime."

Raeleigh went out of Xanthus's room into her and Jepherson's room to change.

Only Jepherson and Xanthus were left in the room. Jepherson took a quick look behind and closed the door.

Then, he turned to look at Xanthus. "I was outside."

Xanthus couldn't care less about it. "It won't change even if you're not; Raeleigh is my sister. I don't like your family's wealthy background or the rules inside and out."

"Raeleigh was born into an unfortunate situation, and to me, my family owes her a great deal. There is no way I'd let Raeleigh have any displeasure in marriage."

"What if I give Raeleigh a happy life here?" Jepherson asked Xanthus, who then replied, "If you're the only one giving, then it's not necessary. Both you and I are aware this place doesn't belong to you, but you belong here. The same goes to Raeleigh if she enters the family."

Xanthus was well aware of what a woman who married into a wealthy family like Jepherson's would have to face. To other women, perhaps finding someone from a well-matched family was important as nobility would guarantee their riches in the future.

To Xanthus, such honor was not important and unremarkable.

Women under the spotlight were actually more pathetic. To a certain degree, it was nothing more than a flash in the pan. When their cover story ends, they'll go back to being discriminated against and

miserable. So, this place wasn't any different than the other places, just that it was furnished with expensive furniture.

People loved a fully bloomed flower, but where would it go after it started to wilt?

"What if we leave here and settle down outside?"

Jepherson's words were unintentional; after all, he had never thought about it. His purpose was to marry Raeleigh, but his goal was to win her back.

There was no point for him to stay in the manor when she wouldn't be around.

However, the moment Jepherson spoke, Xanthus almost laughed, but his expression appeared displeased.

"Raeleigh isn't a woman you can just instate. She has to be the head of the house, at least. Even if she marries someone ordinary, she will be the mistress of the house. The people you can instate can only be someone else."

Xanthus stood his ground; he would never compromise on Raeleigh's affairs.

Raeleigh came back in; she had already changed into the clothes Jepherson gave her. The two guys looked over at her spontaneously and froze, seeing the girl approach them as if she were an elf.

Raeleigh was the epitome of intelligence and elegance, which cannot be found in ordinary people.

Jepherson naturally held Raeleigh in his arms, and she did not evade but raised her head and asked instead, "What do you think?"

Of course, Jepherson would say that she looked beautiful, and the tenderness in his eyes was evident.

Raeleigh then turned to her brother. "Xanthus?"

"Beautiful, you look beautiful in everything."

No brother would think otherwise, not to mention that she was truly gorgeous.

"I'll show you around."

Raeleigh left Jepherson's embrace and took Xanthus's arm, leading him out. Standing in the room, Jepherson watched the siblings leave hand-in-hand and went to catch up with them.

In all honesty, Raeleigh wasn't familiar with the layouts of Fragrance Garden. Walking as she looked around, Xanthus found it amusing and asked, "If you can't find it, forget about it. There's no need for us to make rounds."

Raeleigh stopped. "There is a first for everything. If we don't look for it, we can never leave."

Xanthus savored Raeleigh's words knowingly and smiled for no reason.

Chapter 1380

After strolling for a while more, Raeleigh still lost her way in the end. Only then did Xanthus speak up, "As happens to every first, failure."

Raeleigh threw a side glance at Xanthus. "You don't like Jepherson at all?"

"What's more important is that you like him." Although Xanthus minded, love was a complex subject; he'd rather trust Raeleigh knew what she wanted.

Raeleigh looked around and thought getting lost may not have been a bad thing. Perhaps they could find another way out.

She found a place to sit down, but Xanthus pulled her up and said, "It's too cold. Let's go back."

She then looked at him in bafflement and asked, "Even I'm lost. How would you know the way back?"

Amused, he replied, "There's no way I'd let my sister get lost, would I? I'd have to take you out somehow."

With that, she followed Xanthus in silence, thinking the whole journey if her decision had hurt him. However, she kept silent the entire time, not knowing what to say.

However, he just kept his gaze at the beautiful scenery to the point where she couldn't sense his discomfort.

After leaving Xanthus's room, Jepherson waited for the siblings' return at the door of his room. On seeing them, he went to Raeleigh and said, "Grandmother asked us to go over; we're having a meal there."

Glancing at the dark surroundings, she commented, "Your family sure is different; eating in the middle of the night."

Her comment stumped him for a second, but he retorted, "Well, weren't you sightseeing in the middle of the night?"

Raeleigh pursed her lips and rolled her eyes. "We're not hungry; no thanks."

Helpless, Jepherson looked at Xanthus. "You don't want to eat either?"

"Of course I want to eat. I'm hungry."

Xanthus then looked outside. Two people were standing at the door, waiting for them to go to Paige's.

"Let's go."

Jepherson took a coat and put it on Raeleigh. "You have to wear more layers when you go out."

With that, he took her hand, massaging it as they walked. His hand was warmer than hers, so Raeleigh no longer felt cold.

When they reached Paige's, Belle was already on the verge of falling asleep. She was sure their midnight meal meant Paige had something to announce, or perhaps, she had something against Raeleigh.

When it came to that, Belle was absolutely unwilling as she felt that the children's affairs were their own business, and they had their own decisions. They just needed to be happy for them; no reason to make everyone upset.

However, Paige did not think so, and Belle was helpless at her mindset. She was old, so she would not listen, and if the discussion got deep, she might even be infuriated.

But with her husband by her side, it didn't matter.

With all that in mind, Belle leaned against Calvin. Although they were closing their fifties, they were still as sweet as ever. She was only leaning against him at first, but it didn't take long for her to fall asleep, and with that, Calvin pulled her into his arms. Hence, Paige kept shooting glances at the couple.

Sometimes, as people aged and things got on their nerves, everything everyone did was wrong. The only thing Paige had in mind right then was that everyone was against her, unwilling to let her have her way.

So be it that her son wouldn't come back now that she was sick and grounded, but even her daughter-in-law treated her so too. Why did she come back this time? What was she trying to do, bringing that little b*tch back along?

Belle got on her nerves no matter how she saw it.

She hadn't even rested herself, yet Belle was so bold to have fallen asleep in front of her. Did she do it intentionally?

Belle got on her nerves no matter how, and Calvin, being her son, of course, could sense Paige's displeasure. However, he'd rather turn a blind eye as he wasn't part of the matter. As long as it didn't get out of hand, he'd close his eyes, but if things did, it'd be hard to say.

Paige was about to blow a fuse when Raeleigh and Jepherson came in, and she immediately vented all her anger on Raeleigh.

"I thought even I can't get you to come. Don't you feel ashamed that everyone has to wait for you?"

Raeleigh was taken aback by Paige's words. So this was what she meant by ordering the family to have a meal at such a late hour.

However, Raeleigh kept silent as she didn't think it was necessary to explain herself. Since she was asked to have a meal, then she'd go back after it was done.

On seeing that Raeleigh did not answer immediately, Paige snorted and turned to Stella. "Stella, you've been waiting for so long. Are you hungry?"

Raeleigh looked at the girl sitting in a wheelchair. Being put in a difficult position, Stella turned to Raeleigh and said, "Sorry for the trouble."

"Oh, Stella, you're an easy target," Paige grumbled. However, Stella didn't speak but slowly looked over at Jepherson.

He was wearing a matching outfit as Raeleigh though she had on a heavy coat, it was not difficult to tell.

Stella's face was dim as if she had suffered a great grievance, but she did not let it show too obviously and bottled it up instead.

Seeing that, Paige felt distressed and held Stella's hand tightly. "Don't worry, Stella. I'm here for you."

However, she did not speak but only looked at Raeleigh on the opposite side. With that, Jepherson said, "Come, let's sit."

Letting go of Raeleigh's hand, he pulled the chair out for her, but she continued to stand, facing the entrance, looking at her brother, who was the last to arrive.

Paige's face darkened upon seeing Xanthus. "Why is there one more?"

Entering, Xanthus hesitated when he saw Paige.

"If Mrs. Harvey doesn't welcome us, we can leave now."

Xanthus saw that Calvin was already awake.

"You're right; I don't. Such low-"

"What a pleasure to have you here, Dr. Osteen. I heard your father is a world-renowned antique appraiser; I do hope I get the chance to meet him."

As Calvin spoke, he helped Belle to her feet. Belle also left his embrace with a smile and said to Paige, "Doctor Osteen is a leading orthopedic expert and has won many medical awards; I like him a lot."

There was nothing wrong with Belle's admiration of a young man given her age, but to Paige, it was as if it was blasphemy.

And with that, her face sank, looking at Belle unhappily. "Watch your words."

Belle was stunned for a moment. She was mad in front of her son!

Instantly, Calvin refuted, "You too, mother!"

Stumped, Paige stared at Calvin. "What did you say?"

However, Calvin did not answer but looked at Raeleigh and said, "Come, have a seat. This is your home from now on; don't treat yourself as an outsider."

She then glanced at Jepherson, who in turn pressed her down to her seat, then turned to Xanthus and said, "Come, have a seat."

Only then did Xanthus sit next to Raeleigh. It was not the first time he had met Paige, so he never shot a second glance at her after he sat down.

His actions caused Paige to fly into a rage, and she slammed her hand on the table.