

Go After 1391

Chapter 1391

Jacky kept staring at Deanna as she sat down to eat. Even Scarlett felt embarrassed, thinking about how shameless they were.

“Save some for Raeleigh, or she’ll have nothing when she comes out.”

Scarlett placed the chicken to one side, refusing to let Deanna eat anymore.

“You are so stingy.”

Although Deanna was not happy, she was not picky with her food. She could eat other dishes than chicken.

Fine then.

Jacky didn’t eat anything and waited for Raeleigh to come out. He couldn’t help but pinch Deanna’s chubby face.

Scarlett pretended not to see, waiting for Raeleigh too.

“Did you fall into the toilet?” Scarlett immediately glared daggers at Raeleigh when she came out.

Raeleigh wiped her hands. “I asked you to eat first, didn’t I?”

Scarlett rolled her eyes. “You’re my guest. How can I eat without you?”

Raeleigh said in amusement, “You the host now, huh? Is this room your home?”

“I intend to get some money. When I buy this place down, it’ll be mine.” Scarlett sounded convincing, picking up her cutlery to eat. Raeleigh sat down, ignoring her. Even if Scarlett had the money, she knew Scarlett wouldn’t actually do it.

After eating, Raeleigh pushed Scarlett out for a walk. Deanna wanted to tag along; frowning, she said, “I want to go too.”

“That is if you can leave.” Scarlett was rude, and her tone was cold. Deanna twitched her lips and said, “Oh, c’mon, aren’t we friends? How can you say that?”

“What am I supposed to say then? You’re as round as a ball, and you still want to go out? Aren’t you afraid of being laughed at? You...”

“Alright, that’s enough. We’re leaving. You two stay.” Raeleigh did not wait for Scarlett to finish her words and pushed her out the door. Deanna puffed out her cheeks and said, “I hate you, Scarlett!”

“You’re not the only one. Get in line.”

Raeleigh surrendered. Couldn’t Scarlett back down from an argument?

After leaving the room, Raeleigh wandered outside for a bit as she pushed Scarlett, but it was freezing, so she brought Scarlett to a nursing unit. That way, they could chat, and they’d be warmer. The reason she pushed Scarlett out was to give the two lovers some space.

Raeleigh sat down and gave Scarlett a heat pack, but she refused, so Raeleigh simply bent over and put it under her feet, then covered her with a quilt.

After that, she leaned against the wall, silent. If Scarlett didn't want to talk, she wouldn't either.

They sat in silence just like that. Scarlett couldn't help but ask, "Do you honestly want to bring me back?"

"I didn't say that I have to take you back. There's actually another option." Raeleigh didn't look at her; it was useless to talk about it nor look at her at that point. If Scarlett agreed to go back with her, anything and everything was negotiable, but if Scarlett refused, everything would be off the table.

Everything was laid in front of them, and neither of them were fools. Why should she waste her breath?

Seeing that Raeleigh fell silent, Scarlett began wavering.

"It's not that I don't want to go back with you. If I go back with you in my current state, wouldn't that be..."

"Any excuses are useless. The conditions here are not good. Although it's not bad, there are still in a foreign land. We don't speak their language, so what are you going to do if something happens to you?"

"The reason people here treat you well is because of Mr. Atkinson; they've been paid. If one day, the nurses here left, and so did Mr. Atkinson and Deanna, what are you to do?"

"I've never thought about it before. I only want to get on with my life here."

"You've already lost your legs, and you still want to get on with your life? Scarlett, stop lying to yourself. If you don't want to stand up, at least consider Hadrian. If Hadrian can't find you, he will keep looking for you. Are you going to let Hadrian look for you forever?"

"What else am I supposed to do then? The child is gone, and it's my fault. Am I supposed to tell him the child is gone? I know how much he had been looking forward to meeting this child, but how can I face him now?"

"I was the one who gave up Hadrian. I was always kicking up a fuss, leaving in the end, and even lost our baby in the process."

Scarlett roared, and when Raeleigh looked over, she was already crying.

With that, she wiped Scarlett's tears away and said, "There is no use crying; it won't solve any problems."

"It's not that there's a problem with your legs, but you refuse to stand. You heard Deanna, your legs are fine, but if you don't get up, nobody can help you."

Facing Scarlett, Raeleigh's only felt heartbreak. She didn't even know how to tell Jepherson.

When Scarlett first went to Deanna, she was aware of it.

Now that Scarlett had become like this, how should she explain it?

Scarlette was one of the Harvey family's people, after all. Though she was adopted, she must be different from others to be able to join the family.

Jepherson never said it, but she was a sister to him.

Raeleigh racked her brains, not because of what she wanted to do with Scarlette but to bring her back and help her stand up again.

However, she wouldn't be able to do anything if Scarlette wouldn't cooperate.

"I don't want to talk more about this; I only feel distressed seeing you like this. I have no objection if you want to live here by yourself, but I don't want you to stay paralyzed forever."

"I've had a child before, and I lost it too. I know the pain of it, but I'm still alive and well. I have my grandmother to take care of and a family to look after. I can't live only for myself."

"Scarlette, you're too selfish," Raeleigh thundered, upset.

Scarlette was quiet for some time before she said, "That's enough. So what if I am selfish? I don't want anybody to care about me; it is up to me whether I live or die."

No matter what Raeleigh said, Scarlette wouldn't listen. Resigned, Raeleigh shut up.

"Forget it. It's your choice whether you want to listen. But you have to leave with me; end of discussion."

...

Raeleigh was resolute, and Scarlette looked to her, saying, "You're crossing the line."

"This is me. I am who I am, even from when you first met me. It's just that you don't know me," Raeleigh said bluntly. She turned to stare into Scarlette's eyes, but Scarlette didn't dare look into hers, her head hung low, silent.

They sat for a few hours, and it was almost time for lunch. Worried that Deanna and Jacky would be exposed, Raeleigh pushed Scarlette back.

As they went back, Scarlette asked, "Why do you care about me?"

"Don't think I've forgotten you were once there for me too."

Raeleigh didn't want to explain more, but she knew some friends were forever.

Sometimes, friends were more important than lovers.

Chapter 1392

When Raeleigh and Scarlette reached her room and were about to enter, they heard Deanna moaning, and Raeleigh's face flushed in an instant, then pushed Scarlette in the opposite direction. "What a nuisance," Scarlette huffed.

Raeleigh lowered her head to look at Scarlette and suggested, "Where's the cafeteria?"

Scarlette looked up in turn. "Can you not be so corny?"

“Am I really that corny?”

Raeleigh rolled her eyes at Scarlett and went to fix her blanket, worried that she was feeling cold.

“Yes. So corny that... that...”

Raeleigh burst into laughter at Scarlett’s upset.

“Now tell me where the cafeteria is; I feel cold.”

“Up ahead, but it isn’t a cafeteria; it’s a restaurant,” Scarlett said while rolling her eyes.

“What’s the difference?”

“How are they the same?” Scarlett refuted, but Raeleigh didn’t want to argue further. She pushed her to the restaurant and had their lunch there, then brought some food back for the two lovebirds. Raeleigh suddenly felt pressured; what if they weren’t done yet?

Biting the bullet, Raeleigh walked toward the room and saw Jepherson standing right outside the door. She was stumped for a moment before she pushed Scarlett over. On the other hand, Scarlett panicked, afraid for Jepherson to see her, but she had nowhere to hide as it was already too late.

Standing face to face, Jepherson didn’t react much when he saw Raeleigh, but the same couldn’t be said when he saw Scarlett.

“What happened to you?”

His voice was cold, and Scarlett immediately lowered her head, not daring to speak.

“I’m asking you a question.” His voice wasn’t loud, but it was sub-zero, enough to pierce Scarlett’s heart. Terrified, her hands began sweating, still not daring to look at him.

Meanwhile, his face only grew colder by the second. After a long time, he looked at Raeleigh and said, “You say it.”

Raeleigh took a glance at Scarlett before telling him everything. After hearing the whole story, he clasped his hands behind his back, closed his eyes, and drew deep breaths.

Then, he turned around, went to Scarlett’s room, and pushed the door open. Raeleigh’s heart pounded, horrified, and subconsciously looked into the room. Inside, Jacky was sitting in front of Deanna until he saw Jepherson and stood up.

As there were many people outside, Deanna rushed to close the door. On seeing Raeleigh and Scarlett, she called them in.

Raeleigh pushed Scarlett into the room. After closing the door, Deanna patted her chest hastily, repeating, “That was a close call!”

Raeleigh stood at the door, unable to wrap her head around the fact that the Atkinsons were a shrewd and capable bunch, but Deanna was the exact opposite.

“Come here now.”

Raeleigh felt a little strange when she saw Jepherson making a call, but he only spoke once before he hung up immediately.

Something would happen to him at some point; there was no way he'd be unscathed. Moreover, being the president of a company, he would be bound to have a plan. But whoever Jepherson called, Raeleigh didn't ask.

After pushing Scarlett into the room, Raeleigh took the food from her and set it down. "I didn't know you were coming; why didn't you call me before you came?"

Aggravated, Jepherson said, "You didn't call to tell me you wouldn't be going back."

In other words, he was upset.

Disconsolate, she thought he was unreasonable, sulking over such a small matter.

She only let it slide, seeing that he was still a patient who hadn't recovered completely.

"Eat some then. The food should be enough for the three of you; if not, I'll get more."

Raeleigh took out the food and set the utensils. Deanna was long starving, so she hurriedly sat down and took a bite; it was delicious. She looked at Jacky and asked, "Jacky, aren't you eating?"

"I'll eat it later."

Jacky sat by her side but didn't touch his set of cutlery.

Only when Raeleigh handed Jepherson a set of cutlery that he took it and sat down to eat.

Throughout the meal, Deanna was the only one talking; the others, silent.

After the meal, Jepherson looked at the time and said to Deanna, "I'm staying here today. Raeleigh and I will share a room."

"In that case, I'll share a room with Jacky." Deanna blurted out, afraid of being separated.

Scarlett pursed her lips; she was left alone.

"You sleep alone; I'm staying with Scarlett. She needs someone to take care of her; I can't leave her alone at a time like this."

Raeleigh said immediately, but Scarlett disagreed, "I can take care of myself. I've been doing so before you came. Ask Deanna if you don't believe me."

Blinking twice, Deanna rebutted, "But your situation is getting worse."

Infuriated, Scarlett rolled her eyes at her and said, "I'm fine."

Deanna thought for a moment and said, "How about this, Raeleigh and I accompany you. Let Jacky and Jepherson stay next door. That way, no one will know who Jacky is."

Scarlett was rendered speechless. What logic was that?

“No need, I’ll stay and take care of Scarlett. Your time is limited, so don’t stay here. The room next door is empty, but I don’t know if it’s warm inside.”

Raeleigh was still a little worried. In all honesty, she thought where they were was not as warm as Tamberland. Not only was it cold outside, but also in the room.

“The room next door is warm. There used to be two occupants; they left after they healed. It had been vacant since. I can get the person in charge to sort it out.” Deanna was very familiar with all that was going around in the sanatorium; there was nothing she didn’t know.

With that, Raeleigh turned to Scarlett and said, “In that case, I’ll stay and take care of you. Deanna and Jacky can go to the other room.”

“But...” Deanna wondered if she should agree to the arrangement while Raeleigh had already decided and turned to Jepherson. “You stay here too. You can sleep on the opposite bed; I’ll change the sheets for you. If anything happens to you at night, I can take care of you too.”

“Jepherson doesn’t need to be taken care of,” Deanna said, but Jacky tugged on her and said, “It’s their business.”

“Oh.”

Deanna leaned against Jacky like a child, her face filled with happiness.

It was a world of difference compared to the sweat-covered Scarlett on a wheelchair.

Raeleigh walked to Scarlett’s side, facing her as she sat down. “Scarlett, have a rest first.”

“Okay.”

Scarlett was afraid of Jepherson, especially his pair of eyes. So whatever Raeleigh said, she would oblige as long as she didn’t have to face him.

Going back to bed, Scarlett pulled on her blanket and soon fell asleep.

Raeleigh tucked her in before turning to Jepherson and said, “You didn’t sleep all night?”

Jepherson did not reply, sulking.

She had no idea whether he was upset because she didn’t call him or that he saw what happened to Scarlett.

But she decided to let it slide, seeing that he was still sick.

Chapter 1393

Raeleigh changed a new set of sheets for Jepherson, ignoring that he was acting like a king. When she was done, she called him over, and he went to lie down without taking off his shoes.

The others were still in the room, and Raeleigh didn’t know whether he did it on purpose. Regardless, she didn’t know how to react to what he did.

However, she still took off his shoes and placed them on the ground before tucking his feet in like she was serving a master. When Raeleigh was done, she turned to look at him only to find his eyes already shut.

Deanna pulled Raeleigh away warily, "Raeleigh, you treat Jepherson like this. He has gone too far, and he's not a child either. Why should you take off his shoes?"

"He's tired."

Raeleigh had always thought nobody would understand her feelings. If she decided to love someone, she could give everything.

It didn't mean that she'd be lowly. In fact, she was glad; at least she was able to accept and to love. Better than what Scarlett was doing.

She thought Deanna was holding on to too many fixations while Scarlett's insistence was absolutely meaningless.

Apart from life and love, perhaps a simple life was what they needed.

It would be better if they did not compete or hold back.

"But you still can't do that even so. Zorion will take off his shoes no matter how tired he is." Deanna felt bad for her. Raeleigh looked over at Jacky to find his head lowered, carrying a hint of ridicule.

He tugged on Deanna and said, "C'mon, I'll take you to another room."

"There are people outside. Maybe we should go at night." Deanna was genuinely fearful. Who knew if her father did it on purpose? What if her father didn't? What if they were caught?

"It's okay. I had a look just now. The people outside are far away; they can't see us."

He had indeed done a quick check, but he wasn't sure if Rhys knew he was there but purposely sent his people away or that Rhys didn't want to disturb his daughter and had them only stationed outside. Jacky faced a little trouble coming in, but he didn't see any of Rhys's men after coming in.

Deanna blinked. "That's more like it."

After that, Jacky took Deanna away. Raeleigh closed the door and looked at Jepherson, who was fast asleep. It looked like he did not rest well last night.

She then turned to check on Scarlett; she was also fast asleep.

There were only two beds in the room. Raeleigh moved the curtain in the middle away so that it'd be easier for her to take care of the both of them.

The table still hadn't been cleared, so she got down to it, bringing the plates and cutlery to the bathroom to clean with hot water before putting them aside. Seeing they were still fast asleep when she came back out, she sat down at Scarlett's bed to warm her feet.

But just as she sat, Jepherson called to her, "Come and sleep."

With that, she got up and filled a hot-water bottle, and put it under her feet to warm them up. After tucking her in, she went to lie down next to him.

The bed was a little small for two; she laid down on her side, facing Scarlett, while he turned over and held her in his arms, the two of them snug underneath the covers.

Resting her head on Jepherson's arm, she said, "I want to bring Scarlett back to my parent's place. Don't tell Hadrian about this for now."

Jepherson had his eyes closed as he said nothing.

She then added, "Everything takes time to adapt."

However, he still said nothing. Raeleigh turned over to look, only to be rendered speechless. He was truly fast asleep, and she resigned, unsure of whether to laugh or cry.

She turned back around and fell asleep around two or three, but the coldness quickly woke her up. It was freezing.

She then gingerly got out of bed, tucked Jepherson in before putting on her clothes, and brought the plates and cutlery to the restaurant.

She then went to ask for a heater. It wasn't until she plugged it in that she thought the room was much warmer.

While the other two were still sleeping, Raeleigh stared at the door, spacing out. Scarlett had long awoken, but she was too afraid to move. She was horrified by Mr. Jepherson's silence.

If it were Mr. Santiago, they'd be packing up by now, but Mr. Jepherson was silent the entire time, and she found this side of him intimidating as she didn't know what he was planning.

She then sat up, no longer able to stay lying. Seeing so, Raeleigh got up to pour her a glass of water. "Drink some."

Scarlett shook her head. "I'm not thirsty."

"Are you not thirsty or afraid of going to the bathroom?"

Raeleigh fixed her eyes on her and she took the cup, "Busybody."

"If you don't drink up, your body won't stand it. It's freezing here; you should drink more hot water."

Raeleigh sat down and looked at Scarlett while she lowered her head in turn, asking, "How is it that Mr. Jepherson is still asleep?"

Raeleigh looked back at Jepherson and assumed, "He's probably worn out."

Scarlett looked at Raeleigh and asked, "Why are you so lowly in front of him? I thought you don't like him anymore."

She thought she must've gone crazy to have said such things to Raeleigh. If Mr. Jepherson heard it, it would be the end of her.

"I don't think I'm lowly. He treats me well, just that he has a bad temper at times and can be rather unreasonable. But other than that, he's nice."

"You call that nice?"

She did not understand. "I came in here not too long ago. How have you guys already made up?"

"He went far and beyond to have me back. I'd be heartless if I don't treat him nicer."

Scarlette looked over at Jepherson and felt glad that he hadn't awoken.

"Will you marry him?"

"Don't think so. Madam Paige doesn't like me and even wants to sabotage our relationship. If she doesn't die, I won't be marrying him."

Scarlette was taking a sip of water when Raeleigh said so. Flabbergasted, she choked on the water and violently coughed before she asked, "Raeleigh, are you cursing Madam Paige?"

"I guess you can put it that way." When Raeleigh spoke, Jepherson opened his eyes and sat up all of a sudden. Frightened, she nTristany threw the cup away; it was too scary!

Raeleigh did not look back but said directly, "There are only so many people in the world who can make me feel truly aggrieved. Other than my parents, my brother, and my grandmother, it's him."

"After all, his grandmother doesn't like me. Rather than having to face her, why not wait for her to pass before I accept him. It's better that way."

Fear grew within Scarlette, constantly feeling Raeleigh was carrying a ticking time bomb, exploding at any moment. What was unfortunate was that she had nothing to do with it, yet she'd also be blown up to pieces.

Chapter 1394

She thought Raeleigh was vicious; she actually cursed Madam Paige.

But why didn't Mr. Jepherson do anything?

Oddly, Jepherson laid back down after sitting for a while. Immediately, she turned her gaze back at Raeleigh, wide-eyed, refusing to believe Raeleigh was unaware he had awoken.

"Raeleigh, Mr. Jepherson's blanket." She thought she should remind her. The room was freezing even with an additional heater.

With that, Raeleigh stood up, went to Jepherson, and tucked him in again while he looked to be genuinely asleep, lying motionless in bed. After that, she went back to Scarlette and continued talking to her.

Scarlette said in disbelief, "Raeleigh, he..."

"People come and go, just like plants that could only live for a season. Although life could not last forever, everybody has a shining moment in their lives and a place where they lived for themselves. Plants would also live for the sake of reproduction, ensuring that their species would never go extinct..."

“Although things might come to an end, life was never meaningless.”

“Nobody did anything without considering themselves, just like how flowers would fight just to be the prettiest among the bunch. It’s nothing even if we don’t marry or even be accepted as a couple.

“I don’t care what others think or if they approve of our relationship. What matters is I’m willing.”

“His grandmother opposes our relationship and wants to come between us. I didn’t cross the line but only talked behind her back. If he is even splitting hairs over this, we will never see the end.”

“Scarlette... Deanna and Jacky love each other, but because of his social status, he’s constantly hindered. He and I are quite alike, I think. That’s why I agreed to help him even though I knew I might not be able to do anything.”

“I don’t know why but my mind told me I should.”

“Thinking about it now, it’s because we’re going through a similar experience.”

“How sad it is if two lovers can’t be together. External factors ended up determining many peoples’ fate. Perhaps wealth, pride, status, and freedom are important right now.”

“But I don’t wish to regret it when I become an old woman with my children and grandchildren around me, suddenly recalling the man who once loved me.”

Scarlette stared at Raeleigh as her heart went to Hadrian...

She nervously took a sip of water. As she placed the cup down, a drop of tear fell into the cup. Scarlette said, “I’m tired; I want to rest.”

She handed the cup to Raeleigh. When she came back after placing the cup down, Scarlette had already laid down.

Raeleigh tucked her in, then bent over and said, “Maybe you don’t think much of it now; you won’t be afraid even if you’re alone. But you’ll come around many years later when you look back, lying on your deathbed, finding a person had done nothing but searched for you his whole life until he dies in front of you.”

With that, she returned to Jepherson’s side. She sat down and placed her hands under Jepherson’s body; she felt more comfortable like that.

Jepherson unbuttoned his shirt under the covers and put Raeleigh’s hands in his arms.

The moment he placed them on him, Raeleigh unconsciously moved her hands away a little. It was freezing; anyone’s hands and feet would be icy.

Leaning to one side, she fixed her gaze at the silent but teary-eyed Scarlette.

Raeleigh understood the pain of losing a child well, but all of it was no longer important. If it was destiny, then so be it; things would only turn for the better.

Scarlette fell asleep in tears soon after. She also fell asleep after eight, but just as she did so, Deanna knocked on the door and asked them to get up for dinner.

Jepherson got up, got dressed, and opened the door. Although half-asleep, Raeleigh still got up for dinner. If she didn't, there wouldn't be anything to eat if she got hungry later.

With that in mind, Raeleigh got up and woke Scarlett. After eating, none of them had the intention of resting immediately, so they all sat together.

Deanna spoke the most, followed by Raeleigh. The guys barely spoke, let alone Scarlett. She couldn't shake off the feeling that Jepherson was glaring daggers at her even as she sat in bed.

It wasn't until nTristany eleven when Raeleigh said she was feeling sleepy that Deanna and Jacky left to rest.

Raeleigh got up several times at night to check on Scarlett. Scarlett was awake the entire night, her pillow wet from all the tears.

Deanna received a call from her father the next morning asking when she would return. As a result, she bawled her eyes out, hugging Jacky after she ended the call.

The other three were heartbroken even just looking at them.

With Deanna in his arms, he lowered his head and kissed her face, "I'm already happy to be able to meet you. Baby, you must take care of yourself and our child. I'm very worried."

Jacky hugged Deanna, not willing to let go.

Deanna shook her head. "Let's elope."

Raeleigh was rendered speechless.

And so was Scarlett.

If Rhys heard her words, they could not imagine how he would react.

His daughter, whom he loved with all his heart, was going to run away with a boy?

At the very least, Jacky was sensible, "No, how can we elope? It won't do our baby good. Don't worry; I'll go back and find a way to become more powerful. I'll come and get you once I'm capable enough."

"I don't want that of you; you're already very powerful."

As she spoke, Deanna cried piteously.

Jacky wiped her tears away and said, "I need to be powerful for your sake and to be able to protect our child."

Deanna then lowered her head, silent for some time before nodding.

At last, she stopped crying. Jacky wiped her tears away before he turned to Raeleigh. "I'll leave her to you."

Raeleigh glanced at Jepherson and then at Jacky. "I can't help you this time; I won't be going back. I'm staying to take care of Scarlett. You'd better get rid of him."

Jacky looked at the person Raeleigh was referring to. Jepherson?

“Are you bringing her back?”

However, Jepherson’s face darkened in an instant. “Send her back for me.”

Hearing that, Raeleigh turned to him. “You’re joking!”

“Do I look like I am?” Jepherson looked dead serious. Raeleigh didn’t think he was.

“But if he goes, what are we going to do if something happens?”

“If something were to happen, it would already have.” Jepherson was sure about it, and it got her believing everything would be fine when he put it that way.

“Since everything will be fine, go back with Deanna then. I’ll stay and take care of Scarlett,” Raeleigh said again. Jacky looked at Jepherson with confusion.

“Xanthus is waiting for you at the door. He has a car.” Jepherson said.

Jacky threw a look at him before leaving with Deanna.

After they left, Raeleigh turned to him, “You’re really not leaving?”

“I’m waiting for someone, so not for the time being,” Jepherson said and headed out. Though he said so, Raeleigh didn’t take it seriously. However, in the evening, someone really came.

Not just Raeleigh, but Scarlett was surprised as well. What Jepherson said was real!

Chapter 1395

Seeing Hadrian, Scarlett’s face turned extremely grim. Never in her wildest imaginations had she thought he would appear in front of her and travel-worn at that.

Where he came from was obviously just as cold as the sanatorium as he was wearing a black below-the-knee puffer jacket, with a white sweater and black pants. It was the first time she saw him in winter boots; he looked utterly lifeless.

He was also slinging a black backpack, Scarlett’s favorite, on his right shoulder while carrying a handbag in his left hand, Hadrian’s favorite.

It seemed that he was not surprised to see her. After putting the two bags down, he walked to her and looked at her with his head low.

“Great, now that your legs are broken, let’s see where else you can go.” Hadrian gritted his teeth. It seemed that he wanted to rain millions of hatred on her, but he couldn’t utter a word, feeling a dull pain in his chest.

Tears fell from her ghastly face thereupon.

Raeleigh looked at Jepherson and wondered if his call the day before was to Hadrian.

Scarlett’s cried silently, and Hadrian’s eyes were bloodshot, but he didn’t let his weak side show and looked to Jepherson and Raeleigh instead. “Thank you, guys. I’d like to talk to Scarlett in private, please.”

Not even looking at Scarlett, Jepherson walked out of the room with Raeleigh behind him.

Raeleigh turned to look at the door after exiting. Hadrian had locked it; he didn't intend to let them back in.

Then, she turned to Jepherson and said, "You didn't leave because you were waiting for Hadrian?"

Without a word, he walked toward the exit of the sanatorium. Raeleigh stood rooted to the spot for a while, thinking what was up with him.

Resigned, she followed him. Jepherson didn't walk fast, but just like anyone with long legs, they strode, never waiting.

She thought Jepherson would not wait for her, but it was evident he paced for her to catch up.

However, Raeleigh deliberately strolled, thinking and looking around as she walked.

In the end, Jepherson had to turn around, staring at her from a distance.

Even so, Raeleigh played dumb, taking her time to get to him.

"I'm freezing!" She actually wasn't but still said so. With that, he immediately took off his coat and draped it on her. Looking at her shoulder, she thought his coat was so long that she could wear it as a dress.

After that, he continued to walk ahead. Seeing that he was only wearing a sweater, she asked, "Are you not cold now that you've given me your coat?"

"I'm fine!"

Jepherson glanced at Raeleigh and walked to the exit with his hands behind his back. The car was parked outside the gates, so they'd still have to walk a distance.

With that, she returned the jacket to him and said, "Put it on. I'd have to take care of you if you're sick."

His eyes were bottomless as he glanced at Raeleigh. "You'd still have to take care of me even if I'm not sick."

"Beats having to carry you on my back."

Raeleigh said as she walked ahead. He put on his jacket and followed her to the gates. Midway, she turned back to see that he was slowly catching up.

Seeing that he didn't button up his coat, she pointed at it. "Button it up."

Jepherson looked at his coat and did as he was told, rather obedient.

After they were out the gates, Raeleigh asked, "Will Scarlett be staying in Everland from now on?"

"She won't. She's one of us; I won't let her stay here."

Jepherson was resolute. Thinking for a moment, she asked, "You treat everyone around you well, don't you?"

Jepherson didn't answer. When they reached the car, he opened the door and gestured to Raeleigh to get in with his chin. However, she didn't get in immediately but stood in front of the door instead. "You've long thought of her as your sister, don't you?"

Hearing that, Jepherson let go of the door and pressed her head, shoving her into the car. She didn't like he was doing that; it felt as if he was a shepherd dog while she was a lamb. She could get in the car on her own. Why did he have to do that?

However, he still succeeded.

Sitting inside, she watched as he got in. She didn't know where the car came from, but he was familiar with driving it.

After leaving, Raeleigh leaned against the car to keep warm. On the other hand, Jepherson drove with one hand and unbuttoned her collar with the other.

She threw a glance at Jepherson and thought he was bizarre. If he weren't the president of a company, he might be more approachable.

"Are we not going to wait for Hadrian and Scarlett before going back?" Raeleigh said with her eyes half-closed. He didn't answer, focused on driving as he draped the coat he had taken off before getting into the car on her. After putting her hands into it, she felt much warmer.

After the car pulled over at Rhys's villa, he got out of the car and walked to her side, then opened the door and waited for her to come out. However, she was sleeping snugly, unwilling to leave, but she still got out, seeing that he was waiting outside.

She believed there were probably only a handful of people that could get the high and mighty young master of the Harvey family to open the door for them.

After getting out of the car, she waited for him before entering Rhys's villa together.

In a low voice, she asked him about Jacky's whereabouts, but he did not answer.

Raeleigh didn't see Deanna when they entered, so she asked only to learn she was resting upstairs.

Like a couple of days before, the Harvey couple and Atkinson couple were seated downstairs. Seeing Raeleigh, Lottie invited her to join them, but she kindly declined, saying she wanted to see Deanna.

"Go ahead. She may still be awake." Lottie said.

Raeleigh thanked her and headed upstairs. After reaching Deanna's room, she knocked on the door and spoke up.

"Deanna, I'm leaving. I'm here to see you and tell you about Scarlett."

Now that Scarlett's incident was out in the open, Raeleigh didn't need to be secretive.

The people downstairs weren't bothered either. Scarlett was a good kid, and Rhys was merely doing his daughter a favor. Moreover, Lottie was shrewd, so she didn't need the specifics to know what was happening.

Hearing it was Raeleigh, Deanna immediately woke up from her dream and rushed to the door. But as soon as she got to it, she remembered she was pregnant and opened the door slowly, then pulled Raeleigh in.

“Why are you leaving so soon?”

She asked eagerly after Raeleigh entered. Raeleigh thought for a moment and said, “I’ve already done what was promised, so it’s only natural for me to leave. What can I do if I stay anyway?”

Deanna pondered. “You’re right.”

She sat back down and looked at Raeleigh. “Jacky told me you’re also in a bad situation. Do you want me to get Zorion to help you out?”

Deanna had given it some thought. When Jacky left, he said it was all thanks to Raeleigh that they could meet, and he thought they should repay her.

As Deanna didn’t like to owe favors, she took the initiative to return them.

However, Raeleigh shook her head and refused.

“It’s fine; I can deal with it myself. I’ll look for him if I really need to.”

In actuality, she had no intentions of approaching Zorion, even if she was driven to a corner.

Deanna blinked twice. “Raeleigh, I hate owing favors the most.”

“I didn’t say you do, and you don’t. Jacky came to me himself; his determination moved me. I merely tagged along on this trip, trying my luck, that’s all. I didn’t expect to be this lucky.”

She really didn’t like to interact with Zorion. To her, regardless of the reason, since some things did happen in the past, then there was no way she would forget everything.

Thus, she didn’t want to have much to do with people like him. He was different from Deanna. Deanna was the carefree, harmless type, but he was like a businessman; he had his own views on everything. It wasn’t that people like him were bad, but Raeleigh preferred the quiet life, best that she didn’t have to socialize at all.

After Raeleigh said all she wanted to, she turned to leave, not waiting for Deanna to say more. Worried that Raeleigh would leave just like that, Deanna got up and grabbed her hand, stopping her with a hug.

“Raeleigh, I really don’t want you to leave.”

In all honesty, Deanna was really reluctant for anyone to leave her right then, but she had no choice; her belly was getting bigger by the day. Rhys had told her to keep the baby, but no one could know about it. Otherwise, she would be an embarrassment to the Atkinson family, and she would not be able to have a foothold in society in the future.

It meant that she could not go back until she gave birth to the baby.

Deanna didn't know if her father was right, but she told Jacky about it. Even though he didn't agree, he didn't refute either. It wasn't until she pestered him repeatedly that he said it wasn't wrong as a father to do so.

With that, Deanna agreed reluctantly; she had no better ideas, but she genuinely wanted to go back with Raeleigh, not just for Jacky.

However, Raeleigh didn't have a clue about any of it; she just knew Deanna was really pitiful.

Hugging Deanna, Raeleigh patted her shoulder and consoled, "It's just a short separation. It's not a bad thing for you to stay here; you need a quiet place to raise your baby and a good environment to rest. At least I think so."

In turn, Deanna pushed her away and twitched her lips, looking like a child. "Will you come and see me again?"

"Of course I will, but I need time. Though I'm not sure if I do."

"Then you have to free up some time. You can also call when you're free. Please, Raeleigh."

Deanna put her hands together and begged, and Raeleigh immediately understood what she was trying to do.

"Then you'll have to give me your number at least. Also, you have to make sure my calls can go through. Otherwise, it'll be useless if it's an idle number."

"Come with me."

Pulling on Raeleigh, Deanna left her room eagerly but calmed down after she was out, taking steady steps, looking like someone who was about to act boorishly but suddenly remembered she was a princess. She took Raeleigh downstairs to her parents.

"Dad, please give Raeleigh your phone number. I want to call her. I don't know why but none of my calls could get through ever since I came here, not even when I called Zorion."

As she spoke, Deanna blinked her big round eyes. Anyone with discerning eyes knew what was going on, let alone Belle and Calvin.

The couple had a tacit understanding. It was a sign that the child had grown up and had become independent.

No matter what your thoughts were, even if they came out of your belly, the two of you don't share a brain. You would never understand their mindset; when they thought yes, you would think otherwise and vice versa, simple. Perhaps like father, like son, neither would meet halfway.

Calvin took a sip of tea as Rhys took out his phone. "Raeleigh, is that so?"

Raeleigh replied courteously, "Yes."

"What's your number?"

With that, Raeleigh told Rhys her number. Deanna took her father's phone and called Raeleigh directly; it rang indeed. However, worried still, she made another call to Raeleigh with her mother's phone.

"This child." Lottie could only let her daughter have her way.

"I'm just making sure, lest you won't let me chat with anyone. Raeleigh, when you call, if my dad's number can't get through, or that he said I'm busy, don't believe him, I'm free 24/7. You can call my mom too."

Deanna was doing this just in case.

With that, Raeleigh wore an awkward smile. What would a parent think of a daughter like her?

"You're outrageous. Don't you have a phone? Why can't yours get through when ours can? It's all the same."

Lottie couldn't stand it anymore. She was her daughter; there was no way she'd be hard on her, would she?

She knew her daughter like the back of her hand. She grew up innocent and worry-free; she wouldn't even know what money was for even if you asked of her. But now, she was even scheming against them for her boyfriend. There was no reason for them to really drive her to a corner and have them turn against each other.

So what if she got pregnant before marriage? Wasn't she like that too back then?

Lottie had made peace. Deanna had only wanted to make phone calls.

She was all alone here, but she had a playful spirit; she'd be bored to death if there were no one to talk to.

There was no way she'd be pregnant again when she was miles away now, could she?

With Lottie's reminder, Deanna quickly went back up to get her phone and called Raeleigh in front of everyone. She even told Raeleigh, "Raeleigh, call me first. If you can't get through, call my dad. If he is busy or has engagements, call my mom. Oh, right, we have two landlines here. I'll text you the numbers. Save them. If you can't get through to any of us, call the landlines."

"If you still can't get through..."

When it seemed that there was no other option, an idea suddenly struck Deanna, and she said, "If you still can't get through, you can call my servants. I'll save all their numbers and send them to you later."

Feeling even more awkward, Raeleigh nTristany burst into laughter.

Fortunately, she could hold it back and managed to do so in the end.

Meanwhile, Calvin stood up with Belle and said, "I forgot to tell you guys, we're just dropping by. The purpose of our trip is to visit Raeleigh's grandmother and parents."

This trip? The purpose...

Chapter 1396

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This trip? The purpose...

Chapter 1397

Raeleigh had been somewhat distracted since she left Deanna's house. She had made a few efforts to call Xanthus but never once pressed the call button. In the end, in for a penny, in for a pound, Jepherson simply confiscated her phone.

They sat in an MPV as they journeyed to the Osteen's home. In actuality, everyone was well aware, but Jeanna chose to lie in Calvin's arms and pretended to rest while he kept his eyes closed. Hence, the two of them played dumb to whatever happened during the journey.

Raeleigh, on the other hand, was exasperated. She knew she couldn't make a big fuss, but if she didn't, she didn't know how to explain it to her parents.

Moreover, they were not too far from her parents' home. It was hard to tell how long she could stall when they traveled by car.

"Behave yourself."

Jepherson took the phone away and whispered in her ear. Livid, she bit her lip, leading him to look at them. "Are you seducing me?"

Raeleigh's face flushed immediately, biting her lip, silent. Jepherson smiled lightly in turn. "You asked for it."

With that, he sucked on her lips; they were like soft marshmallows, perhaps even better. With a soft moan, he pulled her into his arms and ravaged her lips like a hungry wolf.

Raeleigh, on the other hand, tried shoving him away, but she didn't dare make any noise. She refused to believe the driver couldn't see what they were doing. If she made a sound, the one to be embarrassed would be her.

After Jepherson let her go, she glared daggers at him, furious. He must be mad to act so frivolously in front of his parents.

"Take a nap if you're tired; we'll be there soon."

He had her entirely in the palm of his hands, leaving her at a loss.

In actuality, it would take at least three to four hours to get to her parents' home. At first, she thought she could inform her brother, but she had lost all her chances, judging by the current situation.

The car showed no signs of stopping at all.

Raeleigh pRhysed for Xanthus to call her, but it seemed as if he had forgotten about her entirely, never calling once.

...

"When did you come here?"

In a café, Xanthus had his gaze fixed at Cynthia, who was wearing a hat, a pair of glasses and dressed somewhat childishly.

Cynthia felt somewhat awkward as she hadn't expected to meet Xanthus in a foreign land.

Just a moment ago, she was coming out of medical school with her classmates when someone called out to her. She turned around reflexively and immediately caught sight of Xanthus.

And with that, they came to a café right outside of the school.

"I came right after I left."

Although she traveled around, she loved this place the most and hoped to further her studies here.

"It's a little late for you to study medicine considering your age; I'm sure it's no picnic."

Xanthus viewed the matter objectively, not beating around the bush but only seeing things on their merits.

"It's true. Many of my classmates are younger than me, but my professor also said my abecedLexien is outstanding. He had taught me things that were even beyond my professor's imagination."

"So?" Xanthus continued to fix his gaze at her. She had gotten thinner after she left, but her style had changed a lot, evident that an environment could change a person.

“So, thank you.”

She smiled, but it was not the kind that he expected.

Then he stood up and looked at the time. “I’ll drop by again; I have something urgent to attend to.”

“I’ll walk you out then.”

With that, Cynthia stood up and sent him off.

However, Xanthus paused and stared at the couples dating in the café, then turned to Cynthia and asked, “I want to ask you something.”

“What is it?”

Cynthia looked up at him, puzzled.

Xanthus subconsciously looked around before landing his gaze back at her face as he asked, “Do you have a boyfriend?”

His question stumped her for a split second before she replied, “No, I don’t plan on finding one so soon.”

“Then how long do you want to stay single?”

It was a hasty remark, but it was also what he wanted to know.

She wanted to reject him outright. “Three, five years.”

To Cynthia, three, five years wasn’t short, but it wasn’t long either. However, it was enough to waste away a person’s youth.

To someone like Xanthus, it didn’t mean that three to five years meant nothing.

“Alright then, promise me you won’t find a boyfriend within these three, five years. Otherwise, I will let him have it, and I won’t hold back.”

At that instant, Cynthia’s eyes were utterly dull while Xanthus took a step forward, cupped her face, and planted a deep kiss.

Everything happened all so suddenly that she forgot to respond. However, he left her lips unwillingly the next moment.

Looking at her, Xanthus did not say anything but turned around and left.

Cynthia looked at her surroundings; people got on with their lives while she stood rooted dazedly, watching Xanthus’s retreating figure.

She touched her lips before pursing them, wondering what had gotten into him.

What was going on?

...

Raeleigh’s phone rang; she was about to grab it when Jepherson took it away, and the ringing stopped before she could answer the call.

She was bewildered at the fact that Xanthus had disconnected the call.

Jepherson put her phone aside leisurely as if nothing had happened.

However, Raeleigh knew something must've happened.

...

Xanthus stared at the car on the opposite side of the road. Only when Jacky got out of the car did he turn off his phone.

"You need something from me?" Xanthus looked back at the café. Any wise guy would know some things didn't need to be said.

Jacky lowered his head, "I'm here to pick you up."

"Where to?"

"You'll know when you get there. Raeleigh will be there too."

Jacky knocked on the car. There would only ever be people running errands for him, but now, he was the one running errands for others, all for returning a favor.

However, he had a feeling he wouldn't be able to repay it fully.

Xanthus put his phone away and sat in the car. After closing the door, Jacky got onto the driver's seat and drove away, following the tracker.

...

Raeleigh had fallen asleep midway through the journey, and she woke up when the car stopped.

She opened her eyes and looked around, realizing they had reached their desNorahtion.

Calvin and Belle had already gotten out of the car, and it was her turn.

After she got out, she huffed as she looked at the front of the manor.

"Jepherson, doing this..."

"Raeleigh, it's me."

Belle didn't want to put her son in a difficult situation. Before Raeleigh could say something, she had already walked away.

With that, Raeleigh pursed her mouth and kept quiet.

When Bernardo came out, he was stumped for a moment when he saw Raeleigh. Then, he opened the gates and sent someone to inform Mr. and Mrs. Osteen, as well as Novalie.

Raeleigh kept her head bowed, not saying a word.

Chapter 1398

He saw Jepherson and his parents right after that, but he didn't think so at first as Calvin and Belle looked more like Jepherson's older siblings.

"Miss, Madam was talking about how much she wished you were here yesterday."

After Bernardo led the group in, Raeleigh introduced the Harvey out of courtesy, "This is Mr. Harvey; you two have met before."

"Yes. Good day, Mr. Harvey." Bernardo greeted.

"This is Mr. Harvey's parents; this is our Lennox, Bernardo."

Raeleigh's introduction surprised Bernardo. "Mr. Harvey's parents are so young."

"You're too kind."

Belle was all smiles as she replied. Stumped, Belle left a good impression on Bernardo. At the very least, she was unpretentious and courteous.

"Mr., Mrs. Harvey, let's go inside."

At this point, it was too late for Raeleigh to say anything; she could only improvise. However, there was no way she'd address Jepherson's parents as Mom and Dad in front of her own family.

Belle also understood that although she would usually playfully have Raeleigh address them as her actual parents, it was the usual. They were at her family's home right then; it wouldn't be wise to do so still.

"Alright, let's go, Jerry. Go and bring the gifts for Raeleigh's parents over," Belle said before she went in. Hearing that, Raeleigh turned around. "You've prepared gifts?"

"You've forgotten the set of jewelry I showed you before, didn't you? I didn't."

Belle said as she walked in, admiring the manor while Jepherson went back into the car and drove in.

On the other hand, Bernardo couldn't stop him from doing so. After all, not only did Miss Raeleigh bring a guest over, but his parents also followed; they could be considered guests of honor.

Belle didn't know the way; it was her first time here, but what about her husband?

She looked up and saw that he also looked surprised and lost. Even though he had sent people to investigate Tristany on and was sure her family was prominent, they'd leave fruitlessly every time. In short, they found nothing, and everything would end at the gates.

Looking at it right then, the scenery was unlike any other, and the building was magnificent; it had a unique charm, not a place for ordinary businessmen.

Calvin had never admired or envied anyone in his life, but he had to admit he was rather envious then.

Like any man who loved his wife, he wanted nothing but the best for his family. For a moment, he wanted to buy the manor and give it to Belle. This idea flashed through his mind like lightning; he raised his eyebrows and gave up the idea in the end.

A gentleman does not take away what others love. Although he was no gentleman, and he would take what he liked as his own mercilessly, just like him to his wife...

Calvin glanced at Belle as he held her hand while she held his arm and looked ahead.

As much as he wanted to give what belonged to Raeleigh's family to his wife, he knew he shouldn't.

Unknowingly, Calvin patted Belle's hand, leading her to look at him curiously. "What are you up to?"

"Nothing."

Calvin said justifiably.

Belle rolled her eyes at him. "Don't think I don't know what you're thinking; no way I'd believe you don't want to do anything."

Calvin did not speak but continued to enjoy the scenery.

Meanwhile, Raeleigh waited for Jepherson, watching as he parked the car and got down with two bags. She walked over to him and asked, "What are they?"

"A set of jewelry and three scarfs."

"Your mom made all of them herself?"

"Yes."

Jepherson carried the bags and walked forward with Raeleigh. She appeared to be worried as she said, "Why did you want to come here?"

"Don't you think it's for your sake?" Jepherson asked, and Raeleigh sneered, "Why don't you say it's for your's?"

"Is there a difference?" He stepped forward as Raeleigh followed behind. There were not many people in the manor, but not less either.

Bernardo entertained Calvin and Belle while Raeleigh accompanied Jepherson.

On their journey here, Raeleigh was a little worried. Although she had some complaints, Calvin and Belle bore no ill will, so she didn't have the heart to blame them.

But she was still worried.

So she said, "My mom will be easy to deal with; I'm worried that my dad will be upset. We didn't tell them beforehand."

"Would you be willing for us to come if we told them?"

Jepherson did not reply but asked her instead. Raeleigh was speechless. "And you think it's okay to just show up at their doorstep?"

"Take things as they come. My in-laws are reasonable people; they won't make things difficult for us."

"Speak for yourself. Who are you calling your in-laws?"

Raeleigh was pedantic, but Jepherson lowered his head to kiss her, stopping her from saying more for the time being.

Shy, she shoved him away immediately and walked ahead, blushing and furious at the same time. She was certain someone was watching them.

However, he managed to catch up with her with just a few strides.

"It's only a matter of time."

Raeleigh pursed her lips. "I wouldn't be so confident if I were you."

"Doesn't matter. I, Jepherson Harvey, swear that I..."

He deliberately hesitated for a moment for Raeleigh to turn and look at him. When she did, he continued, "Won't marry anyone but Raeleigh Anson this lifetime."

Raeleigh froze for a moment and fell silent.

She then turned her head back and walked ahead. After walking for a while, she stopped and looked at the man by her side. "You can find someone better, more outstanding, prettier, and with a better background than me."

"But none of them are you; they will never understand me."

"Cajolery."

"A pledge of my undying love."

Jepherson smiled and took a glance at Bernardo.

Bernardo didn't dare go near them, but he had definitely heard Jepherson's words.

He wasn't sure if he was touched, but he was gratified that Miss Raeleigh had someone who loved her.

Raeleigh followed Jepherson's gaze and found that Bernardo was reddened.

"It's all your fault."

With that, she stormed ahead. Bernardo then went to Jepherson and wanted to take the gifts from him.

"Mr. Harvey, allow me."

"It's okay. You're an elder, not as physically strong as me; I'll carry them."

Jepherson replied politely, "Please don't call me Mr. Harvey anymore; just call me Jepherson or think of me as Raeleigh's husband."

"But..."

Of course, he didn't dare call Jepherson by his name, but Raeleigh's husband?

Bernardo turned to look at Raeleigh, who was blushing and exasperated. She turned back around and walked away, not looking back since.

"Please, Mr. Harvey."

Bernardo still addressed him so, and Jepherson did not reply but walked ahead, chasing after Raeleigh.

After walking for a while, Raeleigh still felt bad and waited for Jepherson. When he got to her, she continued to walk ahead, telling him, "Can't you watch what you say?"

"I already am."

He genuinely didn't think he was indiscreet.

However, Raeleigh fell silent, upset.

Bernardo could tell Miss Raeleigh truly loved Mr. Harvey. However, he wasn't sure what Mr. Harvey saw in her.

After all, the world was never short of playboys; there were only a few people who lived celibately like Mr. Xanthus.

Chapter 1399

When Raeleigh entered the house, Calvin and Belle were waiting in the living room. As they waited, they admired the paintings and interior design.

Bernardo had already invited them to have a seat, but Calvin and Belle were not one to lose their manners; they wouldn't sit before the head of the house came out.

People like them were well aware of the etiquette when visiting someone sincerely.

It was justifiable that Raleigh's family didn't want to see them. After all, Jepherson had done the unspeakable. They were grateful to even be able to come in.

Parents always put their children first. If they had a daughter and the same thing happened to her, Belle couldn't even guarantee she'd be able to forgive immediately, but her husband, on the other hand?

Belle unconsciously glanced at her husband, who was looking at the paintings by her side. She knew he wouldn't let it go, at the very least. He might even wreak havoc with their two sons, burn the guy to ashes, and then feed him to the dogs.

Belle shook her head. Everyone was two-faced; if it happened to someone else, it was easy to let go, but it would be different if it were happening to them.

Raeleigh changed her shoes, took off her coat, and hung it on the coat rack. She walked to Calvin and Belle. "Uncle Calvin, Auntie Belle, I'm sure you're tired. Please, have a seat while I go and check on my parents. They're not always in their room, especially my mom. She likes to stay in the studio, and my dad would often accompany her. Maybe they're not back yet. It's a twenty minutes walking distance; I'll go take a look."

Raeleigh was in a dilemma. They had been there for twenty minutes already; her parents should already be here. Plus, someone would've informed them if they weren't at home.

Standing aside, Bernardo glanced upstairs. They were home!

“Raeleigh, don’t worry about us. Calvin and I really like the paintings your family owns; we can take a good look at them in the meantime.”

Belle patted Raeleigh’s hand as she spoke. Feeling somewhat awkward, Raeleigh said, “My parents are not usually like this; I’m sure there’s a reason.”

With that, she turned to Bernardo and asked, “Bernardo, are my parents not home?”

What should he say?

“I did see them going out this morning; I just came back myself. Maybe they’re still out.” Bernardo could only put it that way. After all, it was unusual.

Raeleigh looked at Bernardo and believed his words as she trusted that he would never lie to her.

“What about Grandma? Is she home?”

She was sure her grandmother would be home.

Bernardo nodded. “Yes.”

“Then I’ll go up and see Grandma,” Raeleigh said and looked at Belle, “Auntie Belle, I’m sure you’re tired, please, have a seat. I’ll go and take a look at Grandma... Bernardo, please prepare some tea and cake.”

“Yes, Miss Raeleigh.”

Lennox ordered someone else to prepare while he stayed with the guests there.

After Jepherson put the things on the table, he took off his coat and hung it on the coat rack. Then he went back to the table and took a scarf as he looked upstairs. After some thought, he walked upstairs. Seeing that, Bernardo walked over to him and said, “Mr. Harvey...”

“Please, call me Jepherson.”

Jepherson turned his head around and said to Lennox, then went straight upstairs. He was as quick as the wind; although it didn’t look so, it took him barely any time to reach upstairs. Bernardo didn’t catch up to him, and he couldn’t shout, so he waited downstairs resignedly.

Belle was a little worried. She held her husband’s arm and tugged on him. “Calvin...”

Calvin patted her hand and gave her a reassuring look. Seeing so, she nodded.

Raeleigh knocked on the door when she reached Novalie’s room, and Novalie told her to go in.

Raeleigh froze for a moment when she saw her grandmother watching TV. When Novalie saw Raeleigh, she asked her to lock the door.

They hadn’t seen each other for too long; they embraced each other immediately. Novalie patted Raeleigh and said, “It’s okay.”

Raeleigh cried for a while before she wiped her tears and asked why weren't her parents home. Novalie thought for a moment and said, "I have no idea. You know I don't like to go out; Bernardo has been keeping me company during my meals lately. Could it be that they had gone on a vacation?"

Novalie's words stumped her. They had gone on a vacation?

At this time?

Raeleigh did not speak her thoughts but asked Novalie if she would like to meet Calvin and Belle. After some thought, Novalie said, "An old lady like me doesn't enjoy showing up in front of people anymore. I'll pass."

Raeleigh's hand paused for a split second, but it was subtle.

"I'll leave you to rest then; I'll go and entertain them."

Raeleigh knew she couldn't be absent for too long. Her parents weren't home, and her grandmother wasn't willing to see the Harvey couple; she couldn't possibly leave them be for too long.

"Go on then. I won't be joining you guys for a meal."

After that, Novalie closed her eyes while Raeleigh stood rooted to the spot. For a moment, she thought she was hallucinating. Was this her home?

What was going on with her parents and her grandmother?

Then she walked out. As soon as she opened the door, she saw Jepherson standing behind the door, and her face paled slightly. "Why are you also here?"

"I've missed Grandma Novalie. Go ahead downstairs; I want to catch up with her... Grandma Novalie, are you well?"

Jepherson did not wait for Raeleigh's reply and stepped inside. She moved aside in turn, looking at her grandmother, who had her eyes closed. Troubled, she walked out, closed the door, and headed down.

Downstairs, Calvin and Belle were still standing; they've put her in a difficult position.

After returning to the living room, she invited Calvin and Belle to sit down once more, but Belle insisted on standing still. Her excuse was that they hadn't done admiring.

Raeleigh had no choice but to accompany them. She introduced the background of the paintings and the elements of the house.

After Jepherson entered the room, he sat by Novalie's side the entire time. However, Novalie never spoke, keeping her eyes closed.

Jepherson smiled. "Are you angry because I haven't been visiting?"

Novalie didn't answer. The TV was on, but she seemed to be asleep.

Jepherson was still smiling obsequiously. "There's no one in the house; I wonder where they have gone."

Novalie still didn't answer. Only then did Jepherson stop smiling. He thought for a moment and said, "Is there anything you'd like to advise me on? If I did something wrong, please do point me in the right direction."

Only then did Novalie open her eyes slightly and look at Jepherson. She may be old, but it was evident her bright eyes were filled with experience.

After some thought, Novalie said, "This has nothing to do with you, but with your family, though not the one at present. That's all I can say. I pity my granddaughter, nothing to do with you. Look after yourself."

With that, Novalie closed her eyes and did not speak again.

Jepherson frowned deeply for a moment before he eased and said, "Thank you, Grandma Novalie. I'll make my way out now."

Then he placed the scarf in her hands. "My mother knitted this herself; it'll keep you warm."

With that, Jepherson left. After the door closed, Novalie opened her eyes and looked at the door, then sighed helplessly.

Her granddaughter was really unlucky. Why would she encounter such a thing?

Disconsolate, Novalie closed her eyes in the end!

Chapter 1400

Raeleigh was waiting in the living room when Jepherson came downstairs and said, "Bernardo, please get our meal ready."

Stunned, Bernardo hadn't expected him actually to have seen himself as part of the family.

Seeing that Bernardo wasn't responsive, Jepherson turned to Raeleigh, who was looking right back at him. Only then she said, "Please, Bernardo."

"Right away, Miss Raeleigh."

Jepherson then turned to his parents. "I know you're both tired; take a rest. If you're not comfortable down here, there are rooms upstairs; I can show you the way."

Belle thought it wasn't right for them to rest in someone else's home, especially when the hosts were absent.

Calvin turned to his son. "You didn't tell Raeleigh we'll be coming over today?"

Belle's heart raced; this guy sure was getting better at passing the buck.

"I didn't."

In for a penny, in for a pound, Jepherson thought it was all his fault at that point.

To ease the mood, Raeleigh said, "I'll go and see if my parents are at the studio."

She wasn't sure either, but it was all she could do right then.

“Since your parents are not here, it’s not appropriate for us to stay over either. Calvin and I will go back first. There should be a hotel nearby; we’ll stay there for now. If you have anything, you can come to us. Jepherson, you should stay.”

Belle was well aware they were uninvited guests. Even if there was something, they could not find anything to support their actions. Belle blamed herself for always being impulsive.

Now she’d done it. They had to leave.

Raeleigh felt bad. “Auntie Belle, you should stay. I’ll call my parents and ask where they are.”

With that, she took out her phone and called her parents, but their phones were switched off.

What should she do? She was put in a difficult position then.

They must have a reason for their action.

Just as she was thinking of how to resolve the situation, Xanthus and Jacky came in. Upon entering the house, Xanthus said directly, “My parents had left for a trip. Since you’re here, Uncle Calvin, Auntie Belle, why don’t you stay for a meal? Consider it an opportunity for us to fulfill our duties as the host.”

Belle was truly distraught. Were they really unwelcomed?

“It’s fine. Since your parents are not around, we should leave. Jepherson, come with us too.”

Calvin was relentless; although he wasn’t that indifferent, he didn’t show any hesitation as he walked out of the door with his beloved wife.

Jepherson held Raeleigh’s hand. “I’ll go see them off. Jacky, stay here.”

Jepherson then grabbed his coat and went out with his parents. Raeleigh followed him to the door and put on a coat.

On their walk back to the car, Belle held Raeleigh’s hand and talked a lot. However, Raeleigh was absent-minded the entire time; she hadn’t a clue what was going on.

When they got into the car, Raeleigh said, “Auntie Belle, I’m sorry.”

Raeleigh hadn’t intended to apologize, but it just came out after noticing how unhappy Belle looked in the car.

Belle was still touched. She rolled down the window and said, “Raeleigh, don’t worry. It’s our fault that we came unannounced. When you see your parents, please send them our apologies. We’ll ask for their permission before visiting next time; I promise I won’t do this again.”

Belle looked at her son. “Jerry, take good care of Raeleigh.”

As the car window rolled up, Belle looked at her husband. Calvin motioned for the driver to drive, and the car left.

After Calvin and Belle left, Raeleigh turned to Jepherson. “I don’t know what’s going on either.”

“No one’s blaming you. But we do have to figure it out. From what I know, your parents aren’t unreasonable people; there must be a reason behind their actions.”

With that, he turned to wrap her in his arms and gave her a kiss.

Raeleigh blushed. “Can you not?”

Bernardo was with them right then. He shied away, lowering his head; he should avoid seeing affectionate moments like that at his age.

As they walked back into the house, Xanthus stood at the door with Jacky by his side.

Seeing him, Raeleigh asked immediately, “Xanthus?”

“Mom and Dad have called me; I’ll talk to you about it later. Right now, you should head back in. I have something to say to him.”

Xanthus patted Raeleigh and motioned for her to go back inside. Raeleigh shook her head and said, “Just say it here.”

Raeleigh couldn’t leave at a time like that.

“Raeleigh, go ahead.”

Jepherson also motioned for her to go back inside. However, she stayed for a while before going back into the manor despite her worries.

After entering, she stood at the doorway and looked out. All she knew was that Xanthus told Jepherson something before they walked far away.

Raeleigh had waited inside for a long time, but no one came back. Growing impatient, she went out to look for them. She didn’t find Jepherson, but Xanthus was returning from afar. When he saw Raeleigh, he told her Jepherson had left.

With that, she looked behind him and found that Jepherson had indeed left.

“What did you say to him?” Raeleigh frowned. Xanthus put his arm around Raeleigh’s shoulder, “I told him our parents didn’t agree to your relationship.”

“Why?”

Raeleigh looked up. Although the thought had come to her, there had to be a reason.

“I can’t explain it clearly either. Let’s go inside.”

With that, he led her inside. She knew something was off the moment she came back. Whatever their reason was, they had to tell her at least. However, when she went to Novalie, she wouldn’t speak about it, and her parents weren’t there even if she wanted to ask them.

“Where have Mom and Dad gone?” Raeleigh stood downstairs. She wasn’t entirely anxious but not knowing what was going on wasn’t great either.

“They just boarded the plane; they may only come back after a while. Here is a letter from Mom.”

Xanthus handed the letter to Raeleigh. She stared at the envelope and knew it was her mother's handwriting.

After opening the letter, Raeleigh went aside to read it.

"Baby, there's something your dad and I need to verify ourselves, so we can't stay, but I want you to know, your dad and I could've done better. I hope you can reconsider your relationship with Jepherson. It's not that we don't like him, and it has nothing to do with his family background, but some things need the test of time."

"It's a blessing to meet the right person at the right time but a misfortune to meet the right person at the wrong time. However, it's a mistake if you meet the wrong person at the right time."

"I do hope that you are blessed, but before things reveal themselves, please give dad some time, and let me find a solution to prove all of this is not a misfortune or a mistake."

"I love you, my baby. You're my only girl. Please understand how I feel about having you back in my life."

"I can accept all that I've lost over the years, but I can't accept losing you again."

"Baby, please believe that we love you."

The letter didn't mention anything else, only these vague messages. Holding the letter in her hand, Raeleigh turned to Xanthus. "Did Mom and Dad tell you anything?"

"No, I was threatened to come back." Xanthus meant Jacky abducted him home.

Raeleigh felt awkward. What was there to say?

What was wrong was indeed wrong.