

Go After 1421

Chapter 1421

Rossie had never imagined that she'd be abducted by Jacky's men and even see Logan.

"Here, have something to eat." Logan came in from outside with some food for her and sat down. The room was warm, and Rossie looked at Logan, not knowing what to say.

He placed the food in front of her and gave her some cutlery.

"This must be a misunderstanding. I've already called Jacky, so..." Logan looked at Rossie. "Have you and Zorion broken up?"

Rossie pursed her lips and did not speak for a long time.

Zorion?

"I failed to protect you last time, but I won't let it happen again. As long as you're not willing to, I'll protect you."

Logan had been wanting to see Rossie since the last time they'd met, but he hadn't had the chance to. Later, when he heard that she'd left, his heart had stopped beating as well.

It was an accident that they'd abducted Rossie instead of the daughter of a high-ranking official. Although it was a mistake, it was a blessing in disguise to him.

Meeting her was the best gift he had received this year.

"Come on, eat." Logan passed the cutlery to Rossie, but she refused to accept it. He grabbed her and put the cutlery in her hand.

"I'm not hungry. Can you let me go?" Rossie wanted to get out of here. Her plan was to fly somewhere else, but the plane had gotten hijacked and she'd somehow ended up here. All she wanted was to leave this dangerous place.

"I'm afraid not. I have to wait for Jacky's instructions before doing anything. You can rest assured that I won't let anyone hurt you, though."

Logan reached out to hold her hand. She shrunk away from him and lowered her head. "I want to be alone."

He felt that it was a good idea as well. After all, things had happened so suddenly.

He got up and left, closing the door behind him. He stood there for a while before walking away.

A few people were standing outside when Zorion came. The moment Zorion's car appeared, someone informed Logan.

Logan had already walked out of another room when Zorion got out of the car.

Logan stopped Zorion from entering.

“Mr. Atkinson.” Logan smiled perfunctorily. Though Jacky was stuck in Capital City because of Zorion’s sister, Logan wasn’t fond of Zorion. After all, there was bad blood between them, and Rossie would be his if not for Zorion.

He knew the exact reason for Zorion’s appearance the moment Rossie was brought into the picture.

“Get out of the way.”

Zorion’s face darkened at the sight of Logan. Anyone else showing up would have put him in a better mood.

“This is Waverly Village. It’s not somewhere that any Tom, Dick, and Harry can just come and go as they like. You got off lucky the first time, but you won’t be as lucky each time.”

Since Jacky wasn’t around, Logan was in charge of Waverly Village. There was no way he would back down.

Zorion didn’t want to waste time with Logan. He called Jacky on the phone, and the moment the call was connected, Jacky asked, “What time will you be back?”

“Tell your men to step aside.”

Jacky wasn’t a fool. He knew that Zorion was already being as polite as he could be.

“Pass the phone to Logan.”

Logan took the phone from Zorion and walked a distance away. “Jacky, Rossie...”

“Let them see each other. If she doesn’t leave with him, I won’t interfere in anything else that happens between the three of you anymore, but you have to at least let them meet. Relationships aren’t about who came first.”

After that, Logan turned to look at Zorion. He handed the phone back to him and said, “I’ll back down this time, but don’t think you can pull it off next time. I won’t give in anymore.”

...

Zorion put his phone away and strode into the room, ignoring Logan. He closed the door behind him, looking at Rossie. She sat on the bed, her arms wrapped around herself. She looked a little plumper than before. It looked like she’d been getting on pretty well without him.

Before he could take another step, she said, “I want to be alone.”

He looked down at his feet and took his shoes off before heading towards her. She frowned. “I really want to be alone.”

He didn’t stop until he was right next to her, gazing at her.

Compared to when they’d first met, she’d gone from being spirited to indifferent, but he still liked her as she was.

Rossie felt that something was amiss and turned around, taken aback when she saw him standing there.

Zorion put his hands into his pockets. "Are you surprised?"

She slowly put her arms down and glanced at the door before looking back at Zorion. "What are you doing here?"

"Can't I be here?"

She did not know what to say.

For a few minutes, they remained in silence. One was curled up on the bed while the other stood there with his feet bared.

Zorion had been in such a rush to come here that he hadn't put any socks on before leaving the house.

They looked at each other. Rossie's gaze fell on Zorion's undershirt beneath his coat. It wasn't a proper shirt, which meant that he'd come over in a rush...

She pursed her lips and turned away. Where else could he be at a time like this?

Watching her turn away, Zorion gritted his teeth. "Isn't there anything you want to say to me?"

She turned to look at him indifferently. "What do you want me to say?"

He fell silent.

Zorion continued to grit his teeth. Because of this standstill, no one said a thing.

Rossie turned away again and looked out the window. A few seconds later, she said, "Thank you."

Zorion took a deep breath before kneeling on the bed and picking her up.

It was so sudden that Rossie was caught off guard. When she returned to her senses, he'd already started walking towards the door with her in his arms.

At the door, he put his shoes on and walked out, his face void of emotion.

When he opened the door, he paused, his gaze sweeping over their surroundings. At this juncture, no one would be able to stop him.

Rossie looked up at him, dazed. Wasn't he the last person she wanted to see?

Why wasn't she resisting at all?

Logan stood in their way the moment they were out of the room. Zorion's eyes shot daggers at him, and he spat out frostily, "Get out of my way!"

Chapter 1422

"You can't take Rossie away." Logan looked upset. His men quickly circled them.

Zorion didn't even flinch. He said indifferently, "If you don't want Jacky to die out there, you'd better step aside."

Logan was taken aback. He twitched a little before looking at his feet. He didn't want to let Zorion take Rossie away, but he had to give in for Jacky's sake.

He looked up and glanced at Rossie. "I'll send you off and come back when I'm sure that you're safe."

Stepping aside, Logan looked at his men. "Get in the car."

Dozens of men got into their cars and revved the engines.

Rossie looked at Logan. "Why bother?"

"I've told you this before. I want to marry you!"

After that, he turned and got into a car. He watched Zorion and Rossie, a smile forming on his lips as he took a trip down memory lane.

Rossie recalled how he'd accompanied her as she stumbled through Waverly Village. He knew that she had an ulterior motive, but he'd still stayed by her side.

"Let me go. I want to stay." Rossie wanted to break free of Zorion's embrace, but he just looked at her.

Without saying a word, he strode towards his car and got in. The driver started the car and got ready to leave.

He'd kept Rossie in his arms the whole time, and he didn't plan on letting her go, no matter what happened.

The driver glanced at the cars trailing them and sucked in a breath.

Who exactly was Jacky? Why were there so many people in a small place like this, and why were they on their guard even during the holidays?

How could a lackey be able to mobilise so many people? Wasn't Jacky afraid of a mutiny?

The driver drove leisurely from Waverly Village to Capital City. The number of cars caught the attention of the security bureau. The head of the bureau had initially planned on stopping them for questioning, but turned back when he heard that it was the Atkinson family's escort.

Zorion's car headed right into the Atkinson family manor. Logan got out of the car and stood at the entrance. Jacky called him on the phone, saying, "She'll be fine. I'll bring her back in a few days' time so you guys can meet."

Logan was in a bad mood. However, he'd known right from the beginning that falling in love with such a woman wouldn't be smooth sailing for him.

"Got it."

After hanging up, Logan left. Jacky glanced at Zorion, who still had Rossie in his arms, and said, "If you don't give me that 100 million, I have plenty of ways to take her away. If that happens, one hundred million won't be enough to solve the problem."

Zorion stopped and turned to look at Jacky. "Do you think I'm afraid of you?"

Jacky smirked. "You shouldn't be, but you should know that there's nothing that I can't do. I've already given you a discount because we got the wrong person. If not for that, it'd be 200 million. I won't say no to some extra money, though."

“We should keep things professional. If you pay up, you can have her. If not, I have my ways of taking her away.”

“You might have been able to leave Waverly Village the first time, but there’s no guaranteeing it the next time.”

Jacky didn’t say all this behind Rossie’s back, so she asked, “You abducted me for money?”

With his apron on, he smiled and answered, “Of course. Why else would I do it?”

“But I don’t have any money.”

“I wasn’t planning on abducting you, so it doesn’t matter. All of this is just a coincidence, but I have to tell you that not many people know about this. Why were you the one that was abducted?”

“My men have informed me that our actual target’s already gotten home safe and sound. Something must have happened for you to have been swapped with our target.”

Zorion looked down at Rossie, who was deep in thought, then looked back at Jacky. “Go on.”

“200 million.”

Zorion frowned at Jacky’s sudden price hike. “I can get rid of you right now, you know.”

“I’m your nephew’s father. You can kill me if you’re not worried about hurting your sister, and also...”

Seeing the ugly look on Zorion’s face, Jacky hesitated. “Since they have their eye on her, it means that she’s in danger. Without my intel, do you think you’ll be able to find out immediately who’s behind this?”

Zorion gave it some thought. “I don’t have 200 million. The Atkinson family’s fortune isn’t up to me to squander yet.”

“I’ll put it on your tab for now, as long as you agree to it.”

“Go ahead.”

Zorion didn’t plan on paying up, so the amount didn’t matter to him.

Jacky wasn’t a fool. Since he dared to allow Zorion to make this empty promise, he had ways to get him to pay up as well.

“I’ll get someone to send the information to you later.”

Jacky dusted his hands off and put the last pastry down before heading towards the kitchen.

Zorion turned around and took Rossie upstairs.

He put her down on the bed and turned to get her some clothes that he’d had prepared in advance. They had been specially designed for her.

“It’s cold outside. Do you want to take a bath?” he asked, looking at her. She shook her head.

She took the clothes and changed into them in the bathroom. When she came out, she looked at Zorion. "I want to leave. Please book me a flight."

"Not now. It's too dangerous out there, there's no way I'll let you leave. Once you're out of danger, I'll send you away."

Zorion headed into the bathroom for a hot bath.

Rossie looked in the direction of the bathroom, her heart in complete chaos. However, she was sure that she didn't want to stay in this room, where every single thing would bring up countless memories.

She headed downstairs. It was just about time for their meal. Santiago had just washed his hands, and he strode over to Rossie.

"What an honour it is, spending New Year's Eve with you, Miss Lautner." Santiago reached out a hand, not to shake hers, but to kiss it.

Rossie looked at him, bowing like a proper gentleman, and said, "I'm not used to that, sorry."

"That's fine, you just need some practice. Here..."

"Do you want me to throw you out?" Zorion asked as he walked down the stairs, rubbing his hair with a towel.

He stopped next to Rossie.

"Oh, I'm terrified!" Santiago turned and walked towards the dining table. Jacky walked out of the kitchen with a tRhyS of food.

He put it down on the table before heading back into the kitchen. Zorion glanced at Rossie. "Let's go."

Zorion walked ahead of her. Rossie realised that men weren't as serious and proper as they looked, and it was especially so in Santiago's case. She had a really bad impression of him.

Chapter 1423

Rossie trailed Zorion to avoid coming into contact with Santiago. Despite her outright repulsion of him, Santiago continued to tease her throughout their meal.

"You've grown a lot prettier, you know. Sexier, too." Santiago ran his eyes over Rossie's body as he spoke. She frowned, her face turning red as she discreetly looked down at her chest to see whether she'd accidentally exposed herself.

"Do you have a death wish?" Zorion suddenly asked. Santiago merely laughed rather lecherously and took a bite of his food.

"Look, women are all capricious. She's probably already found someone else without you by her side."

"Anyway, it's better to let me have a go with her instead of allowing someone else to have her, right? I don't even mind."

"F*ck off!"

Zorion's complexion looked better than ever, his face flushing in anger.

He glared daggers at Santiago.

Santiago took a bite of one of the pastries they'd made, then frowned. He took a look at it.

"Is this still raw?" He looked at Jacky, who laughed. "I wouldn't know."

"How fortunate." Santiago went into the kitchen to rinse his mouth before returning to the table and continuing to tease Rossie. Zorion's face darkened.

"If you feel lonely at night, I'm always up for a chat." He put one of the pastries on her plate. "You should have some more, you've barely eaten."

Rossie's face was beet red. She didn't know why he was picking on her.

Zorion picked up her plate and threw the food into the dustbin before getting her some more. "Ignore him."

"That's fine with me, but I can't guarantee that I won't walk into the wrong room after having too much to drink."

Santiago continued to provoke Zorion, who was looking absolutely murderous. "Give it a try if you have the guts to."

It wasn't a pleasant meal, especially for Rossie. She excused herself after having a few bites.

However, one would get hungry easily if one was in a bad mood. She got up to get herself some food.

She'd asked for a room of her own, and Zorion hadn't turned her down.

In the kitchen, she had some leftover food that was still warm. As she was walking out, she saw Santiago coming downstairs. He said, "I warmed some food up. Do you want to join me, pretty little lady?"

Rossie immediately felt utterly embarrassed. She'd thought that Zorion had kept the food for her.

"No, thanks."

She walked up the stairs, planning on dodging Santiago on her way up. However, he suddenly grabbed her.

She was so stunned that she stopped in her tracks.

He pulled her into his arms and leaned down to kiss her. Rossie was so scared that she widened her eyes and let out an earsplitting scream.

At that, Zorion shot out of his room. When he saw Santiago about to kiss Rossie, he flew downstairs and roared, "Santiago Harvey!"

Only then did Santiago stop. His lips were mere centimetres away from Rossie's lips. If only she hadn't screamed...

He smiled sinisterly before letting her go. Rossie immediately ran towards Zorion.

She hid behind Zorion, biting her lip. She was so terrified that she couldn't think straight.

Santiago turned to look at Zorion. "I was just joking. I didn't know she'd take it so seriously."

He laughed as if nothing had happened. Jacky had come out of his room as well, watching things play out.

"F*ck off! If I catch you trying something funny again, I'll kill you!" After that, Zorion pulled Rossie into his room and shut the door with a slam.

Jacky leaned on the stairs. "Are you acting up again?"

Santiago smiled. "Come on, have some leftovers."

Jacky came down and they walked into the kitchen. As Santiago ate, Jacky asked, "Should I thank you for leaving Deanna alone?"

At that moment, Santiago had just scooped up a mouthful of food.

He looked up and swallowed his food before saying, "I just like a little bit of fun. I'm not out of my mind!"

Jacky scooped up some food as well. Santiago got them both some wine.

Once they were done, Santiago turned to head back upstairs, Jacky following him. He suddenly asked Santiago, "Do you miss her?"

Santiago paused. "I've never forgotten about her. How am I supposed to answer that?"

He headed into his room to wash up and sleep.

Jacky stood on the stairs for a little while before walking over to Santiago's room and knocking on the door. "Come on, let's go have some fun."

The bathroom door was wide open, but Santiago didn't hear Jacky.

After knocking for a while, Jacky turned around and left.

Santiago came out of the bathroom and flopped onto the bed. He lit up a cigarette and played some music...

...

"You can sleep here for the night. Santiago just wanted you to come close to me. He didn't really mean anything by that." As Zorion spoke, he made up the bed for Rossie.

Rossie's heart was still racing as she sat down. She was still dazed when Zorion spoke, but returned to her senses when he sat down. "I don't think he was joking."

"You don't understand Santiago, but I do."

Zorion knew for a fact that Santiago would never steal his woman.

“You really trust him that much?” Rossie felt like Santiago hadn’t been joking. It was hard to tell with someone like him.

Zorion spread a quilt out on the floor. “I’m not the type to sleep on the floor, but I’m doing it anyway.”

He sat down and looked up at her. “Don’t worry, he won’t come in here with me around. Get some rest.”

After that, he lay down and covered himself with a blanket before closing his eyes.

Rossie still felt uneasy. Regardless, she lay down on the bed.

She slipped under the covers and said, “I got the scholarship.”

She didn’t know why, but she couldn’t stop herself from blurting it out the moment she’d closed her eyes.

After that, she opened her eyes and quickly shut them again.

Zorion opened his eyes and looked at the bed for a while, but didn’t respond.

Chapter 1424

Five days passed in the blink of an eye. Raeleigh felt a little uneasy.

Jepherson would be leaving on this day. He’d already booked his plane ticket.

Someone knocked on the door. Raeleigh looked up and opened the door to see Jepherson standing there, dressed in his grey coat and black thermal wear. He held an overnight bag.

She gazed at him, a little dazed. “You came looking like this, and you’re leaving like this. It’s so strange.”

“What’s strange about it? I’m still the same person.” Before she could answer, he leaned in for a kiss. She held his face and kissed him back.

They kissed for a few seconds before parting, Raeleigh looking a little drunk. “I think this is the first time.”

“And what does that mean?” he asked her. She shook her head. “I don’t know.”

“It means that a certain someone has already allowed me into her heart and won’t abandon me from now on.” Jepherson wrapped his free arm around her waist and leaned in to give her a passionate kiss.

Both of them were breathless. They weren’t kissing anymore, but they continued to gaze at each other, reluctant to part.

Hearing the sound of footsteps behind him, Jepherson slowly let go of Raeleigh and turned around to see who it was.

“Did I disturb you?” Xanthus stood behind them, looking like his usual gentle self.

Raeleigh blushed and said, “No.”

“That’s good. The car’s ready, I’ll send you off.” Xanthus turned to head downstairs. Jepherson didn’t want to leave, but he didn’t have a choice.

“I’ll call you.”

“I know.”

“Take care of yourself.”

He kissed Raeleigh once more before turning to leave. She followed him downstairs and watched him get into the car, then watched as the car left the manor.

She didn’t go back into the house even after the car was out of sight. Lamar came over and stood next to her.

“Dad.”

Raeleigh felt a little embarrassed to see her father. “I…”

“I know that no one can change the way they feel about someone. I’m not asking you to do anything, but you need to know that the Harvey family is a lion’s den.”

“They won’t allow a mistake they made years ago to tarnish their spotless reputation, even if it’s barely visible.”

Raeleigh knew what he meant, so she said, “I need time to work around all of this. Maybe I’ll be able to find a way around it.”

“I know I’m putting you in a hard spot, but this is the only thing we can do to ensure your safety.”

As a father, Lamar had to consider his daughter’s safety. She was already twenty years old, and he hadn’t had the chance to play his role as a father before this. There was no way he would allow those people to harm her again.

Raeleigh nodded. “I know.”

From that day on, she could only speak to Jepherson on the phone. She couldn’t step out of the manor, both for her own safety and for her family.

Jepherson headed straight to the Harvey family home when he arrived in A City and went to see his grandfather.

Only the two of them were in the study.

Standing across from Hudson, Jepherson cut to the chase and asked, “I want to know who’s behind this and whether or not the Harvey family has been set up.”

Hudson had never expected things to be so coincidental. Raeleigh was the child from that incident.

He looked at Jepherson, finally speaking after a long silence. “I was the one who told your grandmother to do it. Now that it’s out in the open, I hope that you’ll hide the truth from her. I can leave Raeleigh alone, but I can’t guarantee that your grandmother will do the same. As for your relationship, it’s best to give it up.”

Hudson stood and headed towards the door of the study. Jepherson turned to look at him. "I love Raeleigh, and I won't give up on her."

Hudson paused, but he did not turn around. He opened the door and walked out.

When the door was closed, Jepherson turned to look around. He loosened his tie and walked further into the study, choosing a random book and sitting down with it.

From that day on, he stayed in Hudson's study for five days, refusing to leave. He didn't even eat or drink.

"Dad, what's going on?" Belle was worried for her son, so she had to ask.

Hudson was playing chess with Calvin while Belle watched them.

He glanced at her and said, "I'm not sure. I can't do anything if he refuses to come out."

What else could Belle say? She couldn't exactly force it out of him.

She glanced at Calvin, who was focused on the chessboard. She wanted to ask Jepherson, but she knew he wouldn't tell her.

Out of ideas, she called Raeleigh.

Raeleigh was reading when Belle called her. She was stunned to hear Belle say that Jepherson had locked himself up.

She found it hard to believe that he'd even gone on a hunger strike.

"Aunt Belle..."

"Raeleigh..."

"Mom."

"There you go."

Raeleigh felt helpless. She had a feeling that Belle was merely putting on a show.

Strangely, she did not hate Belle.

"I wasn't even aware of this. We spoke this morning but he didn't even bring this up. Don't worry, I'll call him and ask him what's going on."

"I just knew that you were a good girl. I'll leave this up to you, then. Jerry hasn't eaten or drank anything in five days, and I'm really pulling my hair out at this point."

Raeleigh said, "Got it. I'll get him to eat."

It was only then that Belle hung up. Raeleigh called Jepherson after some thought.

When he saw her calling, he put the book down, a smile forming on his lips. "What did I do to deserve this? Is it because you miss me?"

Raeleigh frowned. "Aunt Belle called me and said that you've been on a hunger strike for the past five days. Why didn't you tell me?"

Jepherson hesitated for a moment. "Because you didn't ask?"

Raeleigh was speechless. "Do you expect me to know that you are on a hunger strike without telling me?"

Jepherson knocked on the table. Raeleigh heard it clearly.

"What happened?" Raeleigh asked him anxiously. He hesitated before saying, "My grandfather admitted it."

She did not know what to say for a moment.

Then, she asked, "And?"

"That's all."

He wasn't acting like that was all!

"Whatever it is, you still have to eat. You can't go on like this, you know. You can't change what happened even if you starve to death."

"Whoever told you that I wanted to starve to death?" Jepherson asked innocently.

Hearing his words, Raeleigh was rendered speechless.

"If you don't want to starve to death, why aren't you having your meals?"

"I'm just thinking. I'm trying to scare my grandfather."

Raeleigh was really lost for words. If not for this incident, she probably wouldn't have ever learned that Jepherson's mind worked this way.

"Go eat. Aunt Belle called to say that she's worried sick about you."

"What about you? Aren't you worried?"

Raeleigh didn't answer.

At her silence, his smile widened. "If it's just my mother that's worried, then I won't eat."

"Fine, I'm worried too. I'm worried to death!"

She hung up abruptly, feeling exasperated.

Jepherson looked at his phone before putting it down. He propped his feet up on the table, smiling triumphantly.

Chapter 1425

Belle prepared some food and waited for Jepherson to come down. She'd just turned around to see him watching her from the door.

“Jerry...”

“Mom, I’m hungry. Is there anything to eat?” Jepherson entered the kitchen and hugged Belle, moving her to bits.

“Yes, of course. Wait a minute, I’ll bring it to you. Go wash your hands and we’ll eat in the hall.”

Belle hurried off to get some food for him and he obediently sat down next to Calvin.

He took a look at the chess game.

When he sat down, Calvin asked, “Why didn’t you come down to eat?”

“I’ve gained some weight, and Raeleigh has been complaining about it.” Jepherson implied that he was trying to lose weight.

Calvin turned to look at Jepherson with a chess piece in hand. He had, in fact, lost some weight after going hungry for five days.

“Are girls so bothered by guys’ appearances nowadays? Your mother and I never experienced this during our time.” Calvin wasn’t bothered by his father’s presence and spoke without worrying about being heard.

Jepherson said, “Times are different.”

Belle placed some oats in front of him. “You should have something easy to digest for now.”

“Thanks, Mom.”

“Don’t mention it. Go ahead.”

Belle was satisfied. With Raeleigh around, she wouldn’t have to worry about Jepherson throwing a tantrum or being disobedient anymore.

As expected, men changed once they had partners.

Belle sat down next to Jepherson as Calvin said, “Since there’s nothing for you to do anymore, you should go back to Capital City.”

“I don’t plan on going back there just yet.” Calvin glanced at him. “Your mother and I are going to be staying here for some time. Your grandfather’s health isn’t what it used to be and we can’t leave him here alone.”

“I can stay,” Jepherson said.

“Your mission is to have kids. Taking care of your grandfather isn’t something that you need to worry about for now.”

Calvin was urging Jepherson to drop everything and start having children.

Hudson looked up. “How can he have children if he’s not married yet?”

“Indeed.” Calvin turned around and looked at Jepherson. “You already have a girlfriend, don’t you? Why didn’t you bring her home?”

“Raeleigh is spending the holidays at home. I’ll pick her up in a few days.”

“The sooner, the better.”

Calvin’s tone was a commanding one. As Jepherson ate, he said, “There’s no need to rush. I’m looking into Raeleigh’s background and I’m not sure when I’ll get answers.”

Calvin scoffed. “What nonsense are you spouting when you’ve already had your way with her and almost got her pregnant?”

He shot Jepherson a look. Jepherson put the bowl down indifferently once he was done eating.

“Get it settled as soon as possible. I want to have grandchildren.”

Hudson’s brows were tightly furrowed. What was going on?

“I’ll try.” Jepherson rose to his feet and went back to his room.

After he left, Belle returned to her room as well, leaving Calvin and Hudson alone. Calvin dismissed the maids and the two of them continued with their chess match.

“I’ll be looking into that matter personally. After all, Jepherson’s marriage is at stake, and I don’t want what happened between me and Belle to happen to him.”

“If Mom is the one at fault and the mistake is within reason, Belle and I will personally apologise and try to make amends.”

“After all, it is a parent’s responsibility to be responsible for mistakes made in the past.”

“However, if there’s something else at play, I won’t sit by idly. It’s best that you watch Mom closely during this period of time, or else it won’t be that easy to let her off the hook.”

“Are you threatening me?” Hudson was old, but he wasn’t going to fall for Calvin’s tricks.

After all, he was his father.

A trace of impatience flashed in Calvin’s eyes. “If you insist on covering up for Mom, I won’t say anything, but you need to seriously consider whether you want to take the fall on her behalf.”

After that, he got up and went upstairs. Once the door was closed, Hudson threw the chess piece he was holding onto the chessboard and leaned back against the sofa.

Paige came downstairs and saw him sitting there. She asked, “What are you doing here all by yourself?”

“They’ve all gone upstairs. I thought you weren’t feeling well? Why’d you come down?” They’d been married for many years and were closest to each other.

Paige was wrapped up in a blue shawl. When she saw the utensils on the table, she picked them up and took them to the kitchen. At the same time, she asked Hudson whether he’d eaten and decided to personally cook him something.

Hudson got up to watch her. He dismissed everyone in the kitchen and wrapped his arms around her from behind once they were alone. It made Paige jump.

She turned back to look at him. "What's wrong with you today?"

"Nothing. I just wanted to hold you." He lowered his head to give her a kiss on the cheek. It scared her a little, and she put her hand to his head. "Do you have a cold?"

He then pecked her on the lips. They'd been married for so long, and it had been many years since Paige last experienced this. She couldn't help blushing, quickly averting her gaze in case the maids caught them.

"Stop it, you. Let me go. It'll be embarrassing if someone were to see us like this." In her youth, Paige had been a charming woman, but many things had changed with the passage of time. She was still beautiful, but there was no way to hide the wrinkles on her face.

Hudson left the kitchen after having his hands forcibly removed from Paige's body.

While Paige cooked, she kept glancing outside. Even when she was done and brought the food to the table, she saw that Hudson was standing by the window with his hands behind his back.

She put the oats down on the table and walked over to him. "Hudson, what's wrong?"

Hudson didn't move. "Paige..."

"Has something happened?" Paige really wasn't used to him acting like this. Something was definitely wrong.

"It's been many years since I last asked you for something, and I just don't know where to start." Hudson's voice was grim. Paige asked, "Is it about Raeleigh?"

"Not entirely." He sat down by the window and looked up at Paige before pulling her to sit next to him. She said, "I just can't stand her attitude. It drives me nuts."

"I know. In your eyes, someone like her who has no social status isn't worthy of joining the Harvey family and isn't worthy of Jerry."

"However, love isn't the same as a product or good. It can't be measured in terms of price or worthiness. It's all about willingness."

"It's exactly like how we used to be. Would you have been willing to go through everything you went through for some other person?"

Paige thought about it carefully and shook her head.

A lot had happened over the years, but she'd never regretted a single second.

"Marrying the wrong person is the worst thing that can happen in a person's life. Jerry has to take responsibility for all the decisions that he makes, whether right or wrong, and we don't need to interfere. We don't have much time left, so let's just spend the rest of our lives together. What do you say?"

Paige thought things over for a long time, finally nodding. "Okay!"

Raeleigh was a little taken aback when she saw who was calling her. She hadn't expected that Scarlett had already gone back.

"You went back?" Raeleigh was sitting on the sofa. She'd barely left the house recently, mostly cooping herself up in her room. She wasn't sure whether it was because of the matter with the Harvey family or the weather.

She was quite surprised to receive a call from Scarlett through a local number. She'd never called Scarlett herself, despite wanting to know what was going on with her. It was partly because she herself was in a dilemma, and partly because she didn't want to interrupt Scarlett and Hadrian's time together.

"Yeah." Scarlett was sitting on the bed. The house was the one that previously belonged to Raeleigh. It currently belonged to her and Hadrian, though, thanks to Santiago.

Initially, Scarlett had felt bad about accepting it. After all, the house belonged to Raeleigh, not Santiago.

However, Santiago said that if she didn't accept it, he'd just give it to Hadrian. He was only offering it to her first.

Only a fool would give up such a great offer.

With that in mind, Scarlett immediately accepted the house.

Aside from that, Santiago had also given her a brand new SUV. She wasn't sure what its exact price was, but she did know that it cost around 4 million dollars.

In addition to the house and the car, he'd also sent some other things. All in all, Santiago had basically prepared everything that they needed.

At first, Scarlett felt like she was dreaming, but she gradually accepted it was real.

The amount of money that she had in her bank account alone was shocking enough.

She didn't even dare to ask why Santiago was being so generous. It was as if he was going to sell her off at any time.

She wasn't worth anything, though. After all, she was paralysed.

However, Santiago had told her to just accept whatever he was giving them because it was a once-in-a-lifetime sort of thing. He wouldn't allow someone from the Harvey family to live a substandard life.

At that moment, Scarlett wished that she could kick Hadrian out of the picture so that she could have everything to herself. Either way, she had come to be rich.

It wasn't every day one would come across a 20-year-old with as much money as her!

As for Hadrian, Scarlett told Raeleigh completely guiltlessly that he was treating her like she was a queen.

"So you guys made up already?" Raeleigh was happy for her. The fact that Scarlett was able to go back there with Hadrian meant that things were fine with them.

Scarlette hesitated. "He insisted on marrying me."

Raeleigh said nothing as she knew that Hadrian had to be listening.

In her current state, Scarlette couldn't possibly be left alone. Hadrian wouldn't bear to leave her on her own either.

Though they'd lost their child, it was fortunate that they were able to reconcile. Raeleigh was truly happy for them.

"I'm getting married," said Scarlette.

Raeleigh froze.

"Can you go out for a while instead of listening to me talk on the phone? I'm not going anywhere. Not like I could, anyway." Scarlette was annoyed at Hadrian, but he didn't get angry. It was good that she was throwing a tantrum instead of bottling it all up.

Hadrian left. Once the door was closed, Scarlette said, "Hadrian bought me a huge diamond ring, so I said yes."

Raeleigh was silent for a moment. "Are you calling to show off?"

Scarlette scoffed. "What's there to show off? We're just getting married."

"Then why did you call me?"

"Raeleigh, I don't have any friends. I only know you and Deanna. Can you come to my wedding?"

Raeleigh looked at Xanthus, who was reading a magazine. He knew that she was watching him.

She didn't answer immediately and instead asked, "Have you already set a date?"

It was such a sudden decision that Raeleigh couldn't help thinking about other things. Then again, if Jepherson was the one behind this, he would've let her know in advance.

Since he hadn't mentioned anything, it probably wasn't something he'd decided on.

"I don't want to get married, but Mr. Santiago gave me so many things in preparation for the wedding. I couldn't bear giving all of this up if I decided not to get married. You know that I come from a poor background. I'm worried that if I don't have the money in my pocket, it'll be taken away."

"You know how sly Mr. Santiago is. I'd probably die of exasperation if he were to just change his mind and take everything back."

Raeleigh said, "Let me think about it. When is the wedding?"

"I haven't decided on the specific date yet. I was thinking of waiting for you to come and help me renovate the house. I also have something to tell you."

"What's the matter?"

After hesitating for a while, Scarlette decided to say it.

“You gave your previous house to Mr. Santiago, right? He gave it to me as our marital home. I wanted to reject him, but he said he’d give it to Hadrian instead. I know he would’ve taken it even if I didn’t, so...”

“I know about that. That house doesn’t really mean anything to me anymore, and I can just stay anywhere else. Santiago did that for your benefit, so you should really thank him.”

Raeleigh knew Santiago well enough to know that he had his reasons for doing things that way.

With Scarlett’s current situation, she had to have a stable and safe home, or else she’d feel insecure and be more prone to doing something wrong.

There were many memories there that could calm her down too.

“Raeleigh, have you forgiven me?” This was what Scarlett was the most worried about. She felt a lot better listening to Raeleigh’s words.

“As I said, the house is not important to me anymore. It’s a little strange giving it to others, but there’s no issue now.”

Scarlett pursed her lips. “Raeleigh, can you be my bridesmaid?”

Raeleigh thought for a long time. “I don’t know when you will get married. How am I going to go?”

“You still have a job here, don’t you? Don’t tell me you’re never coming back. That’s why I came back in the first place! If you’re not coming back here, maybe I’ll have the wedding where you are so that you can be my bridesmaid. I don’t know any other people, and I can’t possibly have a man as my bridesmaid.”

Scarlett was making herself out to be as pitiful as possible, and Raeleigh knew that she wouldn’t be helping someone else to trick her to go back.

“Scarlett, I took a month off of work for the holidays. I will be going back, but how do I know when I need to go over there if you don’t set a date?” Scarlett was right. She didn’t have many friends, and she couldn’t have a man as her bridesmaid.

Knowing that Raeleigh had agreed, Scarlett felt happy.

“I really haven’t decided on a date, but I do still need to clean up the house and take my wedding photos. It’s going to take some time, but you can just come back if you don’t have anything to do.”

Scarlett missed Raeleigh and felt uneasy, not being able to see her. She’d been disappointed at Raeleigh’s absence upon her return.

“I don’t get to come home that often, you know. If I were to go back so soon...”

Raeleigh wanted to say that her parents would miss her, but she changed her mind. “I need to let my family know first.”

Scarlett frowned. “Raeleigh, I don’t mean to nag, but you can’t be so hard-hearted. Even if Mr. Jepherson did something mean to you, you can’t bully him like this.”

Bully him?

Raeleigh wanted to laugh. Who could bully Jepherson?

Chapter 1426

Raeleigh was a little taken aback when she saw who was calling her. She hadn't expected that Scarlett had already gone back.

"You went back?" Raeleigh was sitting on the sofa. She'd barely left the house recently, mostly cooping herself up in her room. She wasn't sure whether it was because of the matter with the Harvey family or the weather.

She was quite surprised to receive a call from Scarlett through a local number. She'd never called Scarlett herself, despite wanting to know what was going on with her. It was partly because she herself was in a dilemma, and partly because she didn't want to interrupt Scarlett and Hadrian's time together.

"Yeah." Scarlett was sitting on the bed. The house was the one that previously belonged to Raeleigh. It currently belonged to her and Hadrian, though, thanks to Santiago.

Initially, Scarlett had felt bad about accepting it. After all, the house belonged to Raeleigh, not Santiago.

However, Santiago said that if she didn't accept it, he'd just give it to Hadrian. He was only offering it to her first.

Only a fool would give up such a great offer.

With that in mind, Scarlett immediately accepted the house.

Aside from that, Santiago had also given her a brand new SUV. She wasn't sure what its exact price was, but she did know that it cost around 4 million dollars.

In addition to the house and the car, he'd also sent some other things. All in all, Santiago had basically prepared everything that they needed.

At first, Scarlett felt like she was dreaming, but she gradually accepted it was real.

The amount of money that she had in her bank account alone was shocking enough.

She didn't even dare to ask why Santiago was being so generous. It was as if he was going to sell her off at any time.

She wasn't worth anything, though. After all, she was paralysed.

However, Santiago had told her to just accept whatever he was giving them because it was a once-in-a-lifetime sort of thing. He wouldn't allow someone from the Harvey family to live a substandard life.

At that moment, Scarlett wished that she could kick Hadrian out of the picture so that she could have everything to herself. Either way, she had come to be rich.

It wasn't every day one would come across a 20-year-old with as much money as her!

As for Hadrian, Scarlett told Raeleigh completely guiltlessly that he was treating her like she was a queen.

“So you guys made up already?” Raeleigh was happy for her. The fact that Scarlett was able to go back there with Hadrian meant that things were fine with them.

Scarlett hesitated. “He insisted on marrying me.”

Raeleigh said nothing as she knew that Hadrian had to be listening.

In her current state, Scarlett couldn’t possibly be left alone. Hadrian wouldn’t bear to leave her on her own either.

Though they’d lost their child, it was fortunate that they were able to reconcile. Raeleigh was truly happy for them.

“I’m getting married,” said Scarlett.

Raeleigh froze.

“Can you go out for a while instead of listening to me talk on the phone? I’m not going anywhere. Not like I could, anyway.” Scarlett was annoyed at Hadrian, but he didn’t get angry. It was good that she was throwing a tantrum instead of bottling it all up.

Hadrian left. Once the door was closed, Scarlett said, “Hadrian bought me a huge diamond ring, so I said yes.”

Raeleigh was silent for a moment. “Are you calling to show off?”

Scarlett scoffed. “What’s there to show off? We’re just getting married.”

“Then why did you call me?”

“Raeleigh, I don’t have any friends. I only know you and Deanna. Can you come to my wedding?”

Raeleigh looked at Xanthus, who was reading a magazine. He knew that she was watching him.

She didn’t answer immediately and instead asked, “Have you already set a date?”

It was such a sudden decision that Raeleigh couldn’t help thinking about other things. Then again, if Jepherson was the one behind this, he would’ve let her know in advance.

Since he hadn’t mentioned anything, it probably wasn’t something he’d decided on.

“I don’t want to get married, but Mr. Santiago gave me so many things in preparation for the wedding. I couldn’t bear giving all of this up if I decided not to get married. You know that I come from a poor background. I’m worried that if I don’t have the money in my pocket, it’ll be taken away.”

“You know how sly Mr. Santiago is. I’d probably die of exasperation if he were to just change his mind and take everything back.”

Raeleigh said, “Let me think about it. When is the wedding?”

“I haven’t decided on the specific date yet. I was thinking of waiting for you to come and help me renovate the house. I also have something to tell you.”

“What’s the matter?”

After hesitating for a while, Scarlett decided to say it.

“You gave your previous house to Mr. Santiago, right? He gave it to me as our marital home. I wanted to reject him, but he said he’d give it to Hadrian instead. I know he would’ve taken it even if I didn’t, so...”

“I know about that. That house doesn’t really mean anything to me anymore, and I can just stay anywhere else. Santiago did that for your benefit, so you should really thank him.”

Raeleigh knew Santiago well enough to know that he had his reasons for doing things that way.

With Scarlett’s current situation, she had to have a stable and safe home, or else she’d feel insecure and be more prone to doing something wrong.

There were many memories there that could calm her down too.

“Raeleigh, have you forgiven me?” This was what Scarlett was the most worried about. She felt a lot better listening to Raeleigh’s words.

“As I said, the house is not important to me anymore. It’s a little strange giving it to others, but there’s no issue now.”

Scarlett pursed her lips. “Raeleigh, can you be my bridesmaid?”

Raeleigh thought for a long time. “I don’t know when you will get married. How am I going to go?”

“You still have a job here, don’t you? Don’t tell me you’re never coming back. That’s why I came back in the first place! If you’re not coming back here, maybe I’ll have the wedding where you are so that you can be my bridesmaid. I don’t know any other people, and I can’t possibly have a man as my bridesmaid.”

Scarlett was making herself out to be as pitiful as possible, and Raeleigh knew that she wouldn’t be helping someone else to trick her to go back.

“Scarlett, I took a month off of work for the holidays. I will be going back, but how do I know when I need to go over there if you don’t set a date?” Scarlett was right. She didn’t have many friends, and she couldn’t have a man as her bridesmaid.

Knowing that Raeleigh had agreed, Scarlett felt happy.

“I really haven’t decided on a date, but I do still need to clean up the house and take my wedding photos. It’s going to take some time, but you can just come back if you don’t have anything to do.”

Scarlett missed Raeleigh and felt uneasy, not being able to see her. She’d been disappointed at Raeleigh’s absence upon her return.

“I don’t get to come home that often, you know. If I were to go back so soon...”

Raeleigh wanted to say that her parents would miss her, but she changed her mind. “I need to let my family know first.”

Scarlett frowned. “Raeleigh, I don’t mean to nag, but you can’t be so hard-hearted. Even if Mr. Jepherson did something mean to you, you can’t bully him like this.”

Bully him?

Raeleigh wanted to laugh. Who could bully Jepherson?

Chapter 1427

After a long conversation, Scarlett talked bad about Xanthus in a roundabout way. Raeleigh ended the phone call when she'd heard enough. If she allowed Scarlett to continue, she'd probably make Xanthus out to be some wicked villain.

She put down the phone and looked at him. "Scarlett bears no ill intention."

There were only the two of them in the living room, so it was quiet. He must have heard their conversation.

He put down the magazine and looked at her. "I know that, but when are you going to stop hiding things from her?"

"Let's wait a little longer. Perhaps I'll tell them in the future, but it would be better that they don't know about it for now."

Raeleigh was a little blue. This wasn't the toughest part. The hardest part was how she was supposed to ask for permission to go to the wedding.

"Xanthus..."

She hesitated for a long time before she spoke. How could Xanthus not know what she was thinking?

"She's your friend, so it's natural for you to agree. But what if you encounter danger there?"

"I will be careful." She couldn't possibly ask Scarlett to hold her wedding here because she was in danger.

Xanthus stood up and got them both some fruits before sitting down again. He sniffed at the fruits. "You can go, but as my fiancée."

Raeleigh fixed her eyes on him. "What are you going to do if someone misunderstands?"

"If you're not afraid, what am I afraid of?"

He laughed and turned to tell their parents about this. She lay on the sofa and watched him go back upstairs, feeling like an excited child who was waiting for permission. Her heart was in turmoil, and she did not know if her parents would agree.

She didn't know what he'd told their parents, but after more than an hour, he came back downstairs and nodded at her, letting her know that they'd agreed.

Raeleigh flipped onto her back and leaned against the sofa while Xanthus walked over to look at her. "Any questions?"

"Yeah, a lot. How'd you get them to agree?" She felt confused.

He patted her on the head. "They would've agreed even if you were the one asking. They're not as rigid as you think. They just want someone to guarantee that you'll be safe and sound and back in one piece."

"I can't guarantee my own safety, though. Since you were the one making the guarantee, you're going back with me?" Raeleigh understood what was happening. She wouldn't be going back there on her own.

He put his hands on his hips. "Looks like my little sister isn't that stupid after all."

"I'm not stupid at all. It just seems that way in comparison with you."

"So am I smart, or are you just pretending to be stupid?"

Raeleigh didn't respond. She suddenly thought of something and went upstairs to see Novalie.

Seeing that it was Raeleigh, Novalie knew that she had something to ask, so she turned off the TV. She couldn't really understand the programs anyway, as they were all in a foreign language. This was the worst part about being in another country. If it weren't for the internet, Novalie would probably be bored out of her mind.

"What's wrong? Are you leaving?" Novalie asked. Raeleigh felt a little embarrassed and asked, "How'd you know?"

"Well, I know everything. Now that your heart isn't here, how can you leave your body here for long?"

"It's good for you to go, anyway. No matter what happened in the past, it doesn't have anything to do with him. It hasn't been easy for you two to get to where you are, so you should really appreciate what you have."

"Grandma, how are you able to take everything so lightly? Aren't you worried about me?"

"I am, of course, but there's no use in worrying, is there? I could tie you down, but you're bound to fly away someday. It's better for me to set you free and learn how to fly properly. Perhaps you'll reach heights that are greater than expected."

"Grandma..."

Novalie smiled gently as Raeleigh held her hand. They had endless topics to talk about.

Raeleigh spent the night in Novalie's room. The next day, after breakfast, she and Xanthus left the Osteen family manor.

"Is she really leaving?" Jazelle stood by the window and watched as Raeleigh's figure slowly disappeared from sight. She couldn't bear to watch her leave, but she knew that Novalie was right. Raeleigh's heart wasn't here, and she would eventually leave.

Lamar wrapped an arm around her. "Don't worry. She'll be back."

"I'm afraid that something's going to happen to her. That Paige James is terrifying, sending someone to kidnap Raeleigh. Are you sure it's her?" Jazelle had already asked Lamar this several times, but the evidence clearly pointed to Paige being behind this.

She refused to accept it, though. She hoped that it wasn't true so that Raeleigh could marry Jepherson and have her happy-ever-after. After all, it was clear that he truly loved her.

Lamar looked at her. "Don't ask anymore."

Jazelle leaned into Lamar's embrace and fell silent.

Raeleigh got out of the car. When the driver left, Xanthus reached out an arm to her and she linked it with hers. They even had matching outfits on.

Before boarding, Xanthus ran into some acquaintances. They came up to greet him, their eyes falling on Raeleigh.

"This is Raeleigh, my fiancée." Xanthus introduced her to them. They greeted her politely and were pleasantly surprised by her fluency in their language.

After that, they started to board the plane. As they walked, Xanthus said, "Everyone's watching my beautiful sister."

Raeleigh didn't respond, only turning back to take a look. Indeed, there were people whispering about them.

She turned back around and said, "I'm worried that this is going to be an issue for your future girlfriend."

A small smile formed on Xanthus's lips. "It's fine."

She glanced at him. "Are you really going to look for Cynthia?"

He wrapped an arm around her and remained silent until they sat down.

Raeleigh kept looking at her bracelet. When she touched it, she could feel the diamonds, but they didn't hurt her.

Xanthus asked a few times, "Did he force you to wear it?"

Raeleigh didn't answer. She wanted to laugh at the memory of Jepherson putting it on for her.

She didn't know whether it was a coincidence, but after they'd gotten to know each other, he'd told her that he'd just had it made. This meant that he hadn't made it for someone else, eventually giving it to her.

Wasn't it strange?

Raeleigh smiled. Xanthus didn't miss this.

Women were silly when they were in love. He'd seen it in his mother, and he was currently seeing it in his sister.

When the plane landed, Raeleigh was so exhausted that she felt like she had gone through a long journey.

They had planned on going to Xanthus's residence, but they saw Santiago the moment they got off the plane.

Raeleigh stood at the entrance to the airport. It didn't matter whether it was a coincidence, what mattered was that they'd met.

Chapter 1428

Santiago ushered Xanthus and Raeleigh into his car and put their luggage into the trunk.

Then, he brought them for some food.

Raeleigh hadn't intended on going because she was feeling lethargic, but Santiago didn't even ask what their plans were. He drove them straight to a restaurant.

She was almost asleep when they reached their destination. She opened her eyes and looked around blearily. Once they were in the restaurant, she sat down and started nodding off again.

Santiago touched her hand, but she did not react at all.

"Why are you so sleepy? Have you not slept for days?"

Raeleigh opened her eyes groggily and watched as Santiago put his hand back on his thigh. She looked around and saw that they weren't in a private room like usual, but were instead in the main dining hall.

"I ordered steak. What would you like to eat?" Santiago asked Raeleigh. She took the menu and ordered something similar to what Santiago had ordered.

Raeleigh didn't speak much through the meal. After eating, she rested while Santiago watched her as he ate. He flirted with her occasionally, but Raeleigh seemed not to have heard it. She had already gotten used to Santiago's bad habits.

After eating, Raeleigh wanted to go home, so he drove them back.

Raeleigh got out of the car and asked Santiago, "How did you know I was coming back today?"

After thinking about all the possibilities, she concluded that this did not seem to be a coincidence.

"I can find out anything if I put my mind to it. I have something else to do, take this." Santiago took a bag out from the car and put it on top of her luggage before leaving.

Once he was gone, Xanthus walked over to the bag and opened it up.

The bag fell to the ground, revealing a red fur coat. Raeleigh frowned as Xanthus draped it over her. "It looks good."

Raeleigh touched it. Indeed, it was warm and beautiful, but it was too red!

"It's too red." Raeleigh wanted to take it off, but Xanthus asked, "How old do you think you are? It's a beautiful colour, and everyone's dressed like this for the holidays."

Raeleigh said nothing and took off the coat. "Why'd he get me this all of a sudden?"

"A New Year's present, perhaps."

Raeleigh didn't respond. She'd just leave it at that.

She turned and walked into the house with the fur coat in her arms while Xanthus dragged their luggage along.

She went back to her room and scrutinised the fur coat. Should she wear it?

Speaking of New Year's presents, it seemed that she had not sent any yet.

Raeleigh called Jepherson, and he answered it within two rings.

"Miss me?" Jepherson didn't know about Raeleigh and Xanthus's return, so he flirted with her.

Raeleigh hesitated for a moment. "I do miss you a little."

Jepherson raised an eyebrow. "That's a surprise."

He put his work aside and walked over to the French window.

Raeleigh hummed. "But..."

"But what?" Jepherson's curiosity was piqued. It seemed that this was a special day.

"Aren't you going to send me a gift for New Year?" Raeleigh said directly. Jepherson thought for a moment. "What do you want?"

"I want to see you," Raeleigh answered. Jepherson held the phone away from his ear and looked at it suspiciously. The called ID showed that the number wasn't a local one.

He held the phone to his ear again and said, "I'll fly over there right now."

"No, forget it. You might not even be able to see me if you were to come here. Anyway, maybe I'll lose the desire to see you once you're here."

In truth, Raeleigh was exhausted. She wanted nothing more than to get some much deserved sleep.

"It won't take long." Jepherson's mind raced over gift ideas.

He narrowed his eyes and placed his free hand under the other one as he pondered.

Raeleigh yawned. "I'm going to sleep."

After that, she hung up. Jepherson pushed all his work aside and arranged for several top jewellery designers to help him design a pair of rings.

"How long will they take?" Jepherson hoped it wouldn't be long.

After discussion, he was told that it would take three days.

Jepherson immediately booked a ticket, ready to leave at a moment's notice.

These jewellery designers were all under Jepherson as he had some involvement in the industry. After all, the Harvey family had several jewellery stores in Capital City, and it was easy for him to design something special.

It was just that others would take a few months to get it done, while his people would have to finish it in a matter of days.

Even so, Jepherson was still worried. He wanted to supervise the workers himself.

When Raeleigh finally got enough sleep, she called Jepherson, but his phone was off. In fact, he was closely overseeing the creation of their rings.

After eating, Raeleigh continued to call Jepherson, but his phone remained off.

“Do you miss him that much?” Xanthus asked jokingly. She merely glanced at him. “I want to see him.”

Xanthus glanced outside. “Now?”

Seeing that it was already dark outside, Raeleigh changed her mind.

“I’ll go see him tomorrow, then.” She headed back upstairs. The next day, she was just about to call Jepherson when Scarlette called and asked whether she was back. Raeleigh answered, “Yeah.”

“Why didn’t you come and see me, then? I’ve already got food ready, and bring Dr. Osteen along with you. Mr. Santiago said that he might have a way of curing me.”

Scarlette was a little embarrassed, but she definitely wanted to be able to walk again.

After that, Scarlette hung up. Thinking about how Scarlette was, Raeleigh looked at Xanthus and asked, “Xanthus, can you help Scarlette?”

In truth, Xanthus didn’t know about Scarlette’s condition. He was absent when Raeleigh met her the last time.

“I won’t know until I see her.” Raeleigh had brought it up to him before, but it hadn’t left much of an impression. Anyway, he wasn’t the type to proactively help those in need.

Since Raeleigh was asking him, there was no doubt that he’d agree to help, of course.

“Let’s go have a look, then.” Since she was going to see Scarlette, she’d have to forget about Jepherson for the time being. The two of them headed over to Scarlette’s.

The two girls had plenty to catch up on, so Hadrian sat with Xanthus. However, he wasn’t much of a talker, so they spent most of their time in silence.

After the meal, Raeleigh asked Xanthus, “Can you take a look at Scarlette and see whether you can do anything about her legs?”

“Carry her over to the sofa and I’ll take a look.” Xanthus had come prepared, bringing his gloves and medical equipment along. After putting on his gloves, he pushed Scarlette’s top up and pressed each vertebrae of her backbone.

She didn’t show much response at all. After checking, Xanthus started to clean up. Hadrian asked, “How is it?”

Xanthus said, “It’s not completely hopeless, but I need to think about it.”

“What do you mean?” Hadrian asked in confusion.

Xanthus answered without hesitation, "It's a difficult surgery and I need to think about whether it's feasible. The success rate is less than 1 per cent, and if it fails, she'll lose all hope of ever standing again."

Chapter 1429

Raeleigh was completely dazed. Hadrian's mind went blank for a short while before he asked, "Will it hurt?"

Xanthus replied, "All surgeries will hurt, but this one is especially so."

"We won't do it." Hadrian hesitated for a while before turning Xanthus down.

Raeleigh stood to one side. "You should let Scarlette think about it."

"There's no need to think about it. I'm the one making the decisions," Hadrian said. Scarlette rolled her eyes at him. "Are you sure about that? What right do you have to decide for me? Go away."

Scarlette pulled Hadrian aside and his face darkened. "I have the final say in this."

"No, you don't." Scarlette refused, but Hadrian did not succumb to her either.

Raeleigh did not know what to say, but Xanthus said, "No matter what you think, it's not the right time to quarrel. Even if you guys decide to do the operation, she is not in the right state. She will need to be treated for at least six months before she can undergo surgery, so you have plenty of time to think. Also, I charge a high fee."

"We need to pay?" When Scarlette heard that, her face fell. They had to pay for the surgery even after he'd eaten their food?

"Xanthus?" Scarlette was truly upset. She looked at Xanthus like he was a monster.

Before Xanthus could speak, Scarlette said, "Raeleigh is your girlfriend now, right?"

Xanthus glanced at Hadrian. It looked like he hadn't mentioned anything.

"So what?" Xanthus asked.

"I'm sure you know that we're good friends. Of course, we'll still pay you for doing the surgery, but you can't just straight out tell us that it's going to be expensive. Am I going to need some kind of super expensive medication or machine? Why do you sound like you're trying to extort us?"

Scarlette was getting so agitated that Raeleigh couldn't stand it anymore.

"Scarlette, Xanthus isn't like that."

"Raeleigh, don't be fooled. Money is all he sees," Scarlette retorted. She refused to allow him to get away with something like this. Perhaps it would even make Raeleigh go back to Jepherson!

Scarlette suddenly felt a little confused and looked at Raeleigh like something had occurred to her. "Raeleigh, I remember you and Mr. Jepherson came to see me together. Didn't you guys make up already? Why are you with Dr. Osteen now?"

Even Raeleigh was getting confused by Scarlette's thoughts.

“I don’t even know where to start, so don’t ask. Look, we’ve had our meal, and you and I got to catch up. I’ll discuss the surgery over with Xanthus, so you guys talk about your wedding. I’ll help you out wherever I can.”

Raeleigh looked outside. The day had passed by so quickly.

“I’m leaving.”

If they were to continue on this topic, Scarlette would probably start a fight. Raeleigh decided that it was time to leave in order to avoid conflict.

Scarlette pursed her lips and wanted to say something, but Hadrian had already said goodbye.

When they left, Scarlette threw a tantrum at Hadrian, saying that it was the latter’s fault.

Hadrian had a good temperament and didn’t get mad at her. He picked her up and headed upstairs.

Scarlette suddenly quieted down, and she stared at the stairs, depressed.

She wanted to live downstairs, but Hadrian wanted her to live upstairs. He said that the masters of the house had to live upstairs.

However, with Scarlette’s current state, Hadrian would have to carry her up and down.

Serra didn’t have the strength to carry her, and the wheelchair couldn’t make it up the stairs. There was no way she could crawl up either.

Scarlette never said a word whenever Hadrian carried her up and down the stairs, and neither did Hadrian. It wasn’t a big deal, after all. He was more than strong enough to carry her.

She’d never thought that way, though. He could carry her around because he was still young, but what would they do when they were old? His own mobility would be a problem, so how was he going to carry her around?

When they returned to their room, he put her on the bed and tidied up the quilt.

“You should get some rest.”

Hadrian was about to take a break as well.

Scarlette looked up at Hadrian. “I won’t give up until I’ve tried.”

He stood in front of her. “There are plenty of things that you’ve refused to give up on. Does giving up on this one matter?”

“Yes, it does.”

“I care about you more than your legs. You’re in poor health, and there’s no need for you to take risks. Even the doctor said that there’s no way a miracle will happen.”

Hadrian firmly believed that the doctor was right. They had done countless examinations, and the results were always negative.

"I trust Xanthus. Stuart's fine now!" Even if there was only a sliver of a chance, Scarlett still refused to give up. Judging from the way Xanthus had acted, there was definitely still hope.

Hadrian sat down. "There's a few more months for us to think this over. If your health permits and we've come to a decision by then, I'll go with whatever you want. Before we get married, you have to listen to me. Once we're married, I'll listen to everything you say."

He wouldn't give her a single chance to go back on their engagement. After all, he had zero trust in her when it came to such matters.

Scarlett lay down and covered herself with the blanket, feeling helpless. Was it fortunate for her to have found someone like him?

Hadrian placed his hands on either side of her and looked down at her. "Are you starting to feel depressed again?"

Scarlett rolled her eyes. "Can't I be depressed?"

"The doctor said that this negativity isn't good for your health," Hadrian reminded. Scarlett sighed and put an arm over her eyes. "I want to be alone for a while, and I don't want to see you."

Hadrian left and began to unbutton his shirt. There was something odd about him. It was too abnormal for him to leave just like that.

A few seconds later, Scarlett removed her arm and looked at Hadrian. He'd already taken off his shirt and pants and was clambering into bed. She asked, "It's not time for bed yet. What are you up to?"

"Exercise. It's good for your blood circulation. Otherwise, you might suffer from necrosis."

She was speechless that he was able to come up with such a rotten excuse.

He pressed his lips to hers and started running his hands over her body, undressing her along the way. The night had just begun...

Raeleigh got into the car. She asked Xanthus, "Can Scarlett really undergo surgery?"

Xanthus started the car. "If I'd been there when this happened to her, she would already be walking by now. The doctor made the wrong call and claimed that it wasn't due to medical negligence, but that's exactly what it was."

Xanthus was the authority on orthopaedics. If he couldn't even tell what had happened then something really was amiss.

"So you're saying that Scarlett's like this because she didn't receive prompt treatment?" Raeleigh started to feel a little mad that she'd forgotten about doing a checkup while they'd been overseas.

"Not entirely. Only a few people would be able to know what is wrong."

Raeleigh looked at Xanthus for a long time and said, "I'm glad you're here."

Xanthus did not answer. The car sped along the streets, bringing them home.

Raeleigh tried to call Jepherson again, but his phone was still turned off.

She didn't know how long more she'd have to call him. Perhaps it'd be better for her to personally head over there and see what he was up to?

Chapter 1430

Raeleigh didn't manage to get the call through after going back either. She didn't rest well that evening. Tristany in the morning, she received a call from Jepherson, who had just taken a bath at home and was ready to go to bed.

Raeleigh was worried out of her mind. Over the phone, she couldn't help but ask, "Why didn't you answer the phone? Where have you been?"

Jepherson searched his mind for an answer. Sitting on the bed in the room and looking at the velvet box in front of him, his answer would become a defining moment for him.

"I was always around, I just didn't have time to answer the phone. I had something to do, so I've booked a flight and I'll have to catch it later. I'm just about to take a bath and change my clothes..."

"Where are you going?"

"To give you a gift, Raeleigh." Jepherson was in a good mood. It was undoubtedly the best thing in the world to be cared for by her.

Since he would have time in the next few days, he had better seize the opportunity to do something meaningful.

"You don't have to do that. I have a friend who's looking for you, she wants your help. Don't come over for now. She might go to the manor this afternoon."

"A friend?" As far as Jepherson knew, Raeleigh did not really have any friends.

"Yeah."

"Then when should I go catch my flight?"

"Just wait." Raeleigh thought for a moment. "I mean, what on earth are you going there for?"

Jepherson still didn't answer. Raeleigh continued speaking for a while before hanging up the phone. After setting down the phone, she changed her clothes. She got downstairs and went out with her shoes. Xanthus asked her what she was going to do, to which Raeleigh simply waved her hand. She had already gone to the garage before she could even say anything.

Xanthus went out to check on her. She was in a rush and at total unease.

As she drove, all Xanthus could do was escort her over to the Harvey family from behind. When they arrived, Raeleigh got out of the car. He was relieved to see her walk into the mansion.

Jepherson was a little surprised when they saw each other, a real surprise.

No one had told him about Raeleigh's return.

She was wearing a red coat. Fine snowflakes drifted down from the sky and surrounded her, making her look like an ethereal being emerging from the snow.

“Are you that surprised?” Raeleigh had thought about what to say over and over, but the straightforward words she chose in the end amused Jepherson. What she said almost ruined the beautiful atmosphere.

However, when she was there, it didn’t matter if the atmosphere was ruined or not. After all, her presence was a breath of fresh air to him.

The corners of Jepherson’s mouth twitched and he couldn’t help laughing. He was still holding a red, velvet box in his hand.

Seeing that he did not say anything, Raeleigh fixed her eyes on the box in his hand. Then, she took off her shoes and walked in, taking the box from him. “What is it?”

“You’ll know once you see it.” Jepherson walked in front of her in thick pajamas, shaping his already sturdy physique into the next level buff.

Raeleigh did not refuse his hug. She simply lowered her head and opened the box to have a look.

The two gleaming rings were truly gorgeous. Raeleigh took out one of them and scrutinized the diamond attached to it. Jefferson suggested, “Put it on and let me see.”

Raeleigh replied, “For the record, no one puts the ring on their own.”

She didn’t have to be direct for him to know what she meant. Even on television, couples always exchanged their wedding rings.

With his eyes curving into crescents, Jepherson pulled Raeleigh’s left hand over and slid the ring onto her finger. She stared at the ring on for a long time before saying, “Jepherson Harvey, do you take Raeleigh Anson as your wife, for richer, for poorer, and in sickness and health?”

“I do.”

Jepherson knelt down on one knee, staring at her. “Raeleigh Anson, do you take Jepherson Harvey as your husband, for richer, for poorer, and in sickness and health?”

“I do.”

Raeleigh took the other ring and put it on Jepherson’s left hand. Then, he stood up before bending down to pick her up in his arms.

Back on the bed, Jepherson put Raeleigh down, undid her clothes, then lowered his head and kissed her on the forehead. His hand gently caressed hers all the way until they became one with each other.

Xanthus checked the time and found that Raeleigh had not come back yet even though it was ten o’clock. He closed the door and windows before going back to rest.

Raeleigh stayed by Jepherson’s side all night without falling asleep, until the next morning.

When Xanthus called, Jepherson immediately turned off her phone. Then he sent Xanthus a short message with his own phone, letting him know that she was resting at his place.

...

Raeleigh felt as if she had slept for centuries. When she opened her eyes, she was so tired that she closed them again and continued to sleep. She slept just like that, without knowing how many days had passed. Finally, Raeleigh opened her eyes and couldn't fall back asleep, not because she didn't want to, but because Jepherson wouldn't let her. If she continued to sleep, she might actually turn into Sleeping Beauty.

On top of that, Jepherson had received a phone call saying that his parents and Paige would be coming back that day.

They hadn't told him the reason why. All he knew was that they would be back that day for sure.

Raeleigh sat up from inside the blanket, which slipped off her body. She then pulled it back up and wrapped herself up in it. Jepherson had seen her like that more than once, but every time she saw him face to face, she still blushed.

Jepherson knew her sensitive nature and pretended not to see anything.

"Get up, hmm? Grandma will be back later, as will my parents." He got up, took his clothes, and went to the bathroom with Raeleigh in his arms. Before he put on his clothes, he enjoyed a make out session with her once again.

Raeleigh went out to change her clothes, then dried her hair. She was still pretty even without makeup. As Jepherson said, a natural look was the best.

She went with him to get breakfast, feeling much more refreshed. Then, she followed Jepherson to wait for Marisson and the others to return.

For Raeleigh, it was somewhat stressful for her to meet Paige after the New Year, but she could do nothing about it.

She figured that as long as Paige did not make things difficult for her, she could bear it.

Hearing the servants report that they were back, Jepherson stood up and held Raeleigh's hand, walking outside. The moment they stepped out the door, she saw Calvin and Belle. Then, the car door opened and Paige got out.

When Paige got out of the car, she saw Raeleigh at first glance. However, she kept a straight face and did not do anything else.

Raeleigh found it strange. Normally, Paige would not be too happy to see her.

However, it was different right then.

Paige didn't like Raeleigh, but when she thought of the promise she'd made to Hudson, she turned a blind eye.

"Mom, I'll help you." Belle helped Paige out of the car, who responded, "I got quite tired from the trip, so no lunch for me. Come get me when it's dinner."

"Understood."

Belle hurried to answer her. Seeing Raeleigh, she put on a smile. "You're here, Raeleigh."

“Aunt, Grandma...”

“Yeah, yeah.” It was rare for Paige to give her a response. Although she was strongly displeased, she did not give Raeleigh any dirty looks before she went inside. Raeleigh watched them go, after experiencing firsthand the what-science-can’t-explain phenomenon.

Jepherson found it odd as well. He whispered to Raeleigh, “Careful now, it might be a trap.”

Raeleigh was totally speechless. What did he mean by that?

“Aren’t you one of them?” Raeleigh whispered. The people working for the Harvey Group Manor saw Jepherson and Raeleigh murmuring sweet nothings to each other, with their hands tightly interlocked as well.