

Go After 1431

Chapter 1431

Raeleigh went in and stood quietly at the side. As usual, Paige-the person with the most severe superiority complex in the room-did not spare Raeleigh a glance.

However, nobody told Raeleigh to sit down. Even Jepherson himself was left standing, without anyone having invited him to take a seat.

Although it was his own home, his parents were handling Paige with care. It seemed a bit inappropriate for him, as a son and a grandson, to take a seat on his own accord.

Thus, he decided to stand with Raeleigh.

Raeleigh looked at him with curiosity in her dark eyes. She lowered her gaze slightly and stayed quiet.

Jepherson's hand had been holding Raeleigh's since the start. In fact, he had been using both hands to hold hers, and put their hands behind his back.

The way others saw it, Jepherson was trying to show Paige respect. At least he wasn't being blatant about it. On the contrary, the way Paige saw it, her terrible grandson Jepherson was giving her pointed looks on purpose.

However, Paige did not spare Jepherson and Raeleigh any pride either. After all, Paige's Book of Life dictated that an attitude be given to those who did the same to her.

Despite that, Paige also did not want to sour her relationship with Hudson. Although she had lost and finally promised not to meddle in the family affairs, she self-proclaimed herself the winner.

Hudson had once mentioned that without their consent, no one would be able to enter the door to the Harvey Group Manor, much less Raeleigh. To put it bluntly, even though there was no problem with her getting together with Jepherson, that did not necessarily mean she had the right to set foot in the Harvey Group Manor.

His words were music to her ears. After all, it essentially meant that it would not be that easy for Raeleigh to traverse into the Harvey Group Manor as long as they were alive.

She thought that Raeleigh was definitely in it for the money. Otherwise, there would be no reason for her to stay so long.

She had given Raeleigh her fair share of hints, yet she still refused to leave. Why? To put it bluntly, she was doing it for money, a gold digger who wanted to rely on a cash cow like Jepherson for a materialistic life. Paige had seen countless women like that in her lifetime.

Those B-grade celebrities, who relied on their good looks, were all seductive foxes that were good-for-nothing. They couldn't help their husbands with anything besides eating, drinking and playing around.

At first, they would put on a show in order to marry into a wealthy family, but as time went by, they would reveal their true colors.

As she thought about it, she figured she didn't have to worry about Raeleigh too much. If she could live to ninety-nine years old, she still had a long path ahead of her.

As the saying went, you can't judge a book by its cover. As time went by, she would simply wait for Raeleigh to let slip her cunning nature.

"Enough is enough, people. I'm not that petty. Look at you two. Didn't you promise him that you'd take good care of me? Look at me, I'm finer than ever. Never mind, just call Santiago. I'd really rather not see him, but his grandfather cares about him and wanted me to give him some money. I can't come for nothing, can I?"

Paige had already thought it through. It was useless to make things difficult for Raeleigh. Just as Hudson had said, it would upset Jepherson and Belle, making them think that Paige was a tough, fussy mother-in-law. Why don't she, she thought, take it slow, one foot in front of the other?

It was not the end of the story. The winner had yet to be decided.

Belle knew that Hudson had already talked to Paige, so she was also very clear that whatever went on that day was just a formality, which meant that she no longer cared about those things.

"Raeleigh, you can go and make the call," suggested Belle. Raeleigh raised her head and froze for a moment. She did not expect that Belle would make that decision, and Paige did not speak up to put her in a tough position either.

"I'm on it," Raeleigh agreed. She turned around and took a few steps outside. Then, she took out her cell phone and called Santiago.

The moment her hands left Jepherson's, his mood went straight down the dumps. With his hands behind his back, he turned around and gazed at Raeleigh with what looked like a smile.

When Paige saw that, she felt a wave of nausea surging in her. He had been bewitched, body and soul. She was just a woman. What was so good about her? Thinking of how close they used to be, Paige still felt petulant.

However, she could no longer keep her "Resting B*tch Face". Since she had made a promise, she would go with what Hudson had said and treat this like a tough nut to crack in business. Only in that way could she win the battle.

Only then did she truly realize that no matter how unhappy she was, it was useless to employ all means possible to break Jepherson and Raeleigh apart. After all, his soul had already been spellbound. If she really wanted to get it back, she would have to use a select few methods.

With that in mind, Paige looked at Jepherson, who had turned around, and said, "Jerry."

He was stunned for a moment before turning to look at her. "Yes, Grandma?"

Paige rolled her eyes at him. "You are not going to tell me that your girlfriend is the only one in your eyes, right?"

"Of course not. There are still many other things." Jepherson's lips curled up, albeit not into a smile. The light in his eyes was ambiguous. Paige was confused, wondering what had been going on with him as of

late. Why did she feel that he was acting a little off the wall? The more she looked into his eyes, the more on edge she felt. He was clearly smiling, but she couldn't see through him. It felt like he was scheming something.

He was much too complicated and was made up of pure strategy.

She took a deep breath and stated, "I don't care what's going on with you right now, but put aside your thoughts for now. I know that you are very displeased with me because I can't bring myself to like your girlfriend.

I'm cutting you some slack, but you have to understand that it isn't because I can't control you. I'm just putting you aside for now. Your grandfather's health has not been as good as before. I have to stay at home to take care of him. I don't have much power in Capital City, and all of you are working together to deceive me.

Even so, I'm not dead yet. You also have to remember not to go too far.

Be together all you want, but if something goes wrong, don't blame me for being cruel. When the time comes, you won't be the one to decide whether you break up or not."

Paige's words were essentially giving Jepherson a chance, but he did not get carried away. On the contrary, he replied respectfully, "You're right, Grandma. I will guide Raeleigh not to do anything to make you unhappy, lest you feel uncomfortable."

"I wouldn't say that I'm unhappy, it's just that our family can't accept an improper woman. I won't care about the past, but as for the future, not so easy, I'm afraid. You'd better think it through."

"I've already thought it through, Grandma." Jepherson grinned, to which she reluctantly grunted in response.

Right then, Raeleigh had come back as well. Paige saw her and added, "Goodness gracious, would you stop walking like a duck? It gives people the impression of being unreliable."

Raeleigh paused for a moment. Had she been clumsy?

It was obvious that Paige was trying to nitpick.

Raeleigh glanced over to Jepherson. Without refuting, she looked at Belle and Calvin.

If this were any other time, she wouldn't have dealt with it and would have left immediately. However, she thought, not today.

For herself, for Jepherson, and also for Belle.

She still had to put on a show.

Raeleigh did not show much of a change. She still looked the same as before, as she had heard a lot about how the rich and powerful behaved themselves. Although it was not the first time, she did not express the fact that she was upset whatsoever. She stopped and said to Paige, "Thank you for your advice, Grandma. I will keep it in mind."

Paige had not expected Raeleigh to agree so obediently either. It might have been a tad bit surprising, but since Raeleigh had already spared her pride, there was no need for her to go on with the show.

She could only say that Raeleigh was not your ordinary girl. At least she knew when to advance and when to back off.

Chapter 1432

She considered their first encounter to have been a draw. As always, Raeleigh didn't have a proper seat in the room. Standing beside her, Jepherson didn't sit either; they were a tableau of modern-day star-crossed lovers.

Paige simply averted her eyes to prevent a headache from coming on.

"Belle, your father wants you to have this, and this is from me." Paige took a gift and handed it to Belle, who quickly received it and thanked her.

"Thank you, Mom."

Calvin stood to one side, his hands clasped behind his back, as if it had nothing to do with him.

Raeleigh lowered her gaze slightly. It was better not to look around if she didn't have to, so as to avoid meeting a gaze that she shouldn't and end up making things awkward.

However, the way Calvin was standing with his hands laced behind his back still made her feel like he was a carbon copy of Jepherson.

Their posture and disposition were the same, not to mention their appearance.

And especially when they were standing. If it were anyone else, it would have been strange for them to hold such posture. After all, he was already middle-aged, with his young son present in the same room. The fact that he had been forced to stand as well was truly embarrassing.

However, neither Jepherson nor Calvin showed any kind of embarrassment. Not only that, but what was even stranger was that they looked like royalty standing in the hall, making the room shine.

Raeleigh didn't know if it was because the way she thought was strange, or maybe that was really the way they came off. Either way, that was how she saw it.

After Belle put away the gift, Paige looked at Jepherson and said, "Jerry, this is from your grandfather and I."

She took out a cheque and placed it on the table. Jepherson glanced at it and walked over to take it, then handed it to Raeleigh. He then thanked her, saying, "Thank you, Grandma."

Raeleigh raised her dark eyes and took a look at Jepherson before shifting her gaze to Paige and repeating, "Thank you, Grandma."

Naturally, Paige was having none of it. She had not prepared a gift for Raeleigh to let her know that she had no position in this house. However, Jepherson had given his gift to her, which meant that Raeleigh was more important in his heart.

Paige was offended, but she held back in order to maintain the harmonious atmosphere of the dinner that day.

"Why isn't Santiago here yet?" Paige settled on asking. Belle then looked at Raeleigh and asked, "Raeleigh, what did Santiago say just now?"

Raeleigh thought for a moment. "He said he wasn't sure when he would come back, but that he would. He also said that he had something to do, and that we didn't have to wait for him."

Belle grumbled, "Wait for him, my foot. He had the nerve to think that Grandma would wait for him at her age. Blast him with calls and ask him to get back home."

Raeleigh called again. The moment it went through, she stated, "Disclaimer-I can't do anything if you don't come back. Aunt Belle's angry."

"I heard Grandma's back. Did she make things difficult for you?" Santiago asked. Raeleigh was really in awe towards him. Why was he so unreliable? He had already said that he would come back, but right then, he refused to bring it up at all.

"I'm not getting bullied or anything. When are you coming back?"

"I'm already here. I'll come and find you wherever you are." As soon as Santiago got out of the car that Jacky had driven him over in, he waved his hand and made his way into the Harvey Group Manor. Raeleigh looked around with a curious expression. Had he just said he was already back?

"Where are you?" Raeleigh took a look outside. As if he was bragging, Santiago responded, "What, you miss me or something?"

Angered, she snapped, "Are you here or not? I'm going to tell your brother..."

"Don't keep using my brother to put pressure on me. If you're actually that good, then you should come look for me and kick a*s the Raeleigh way." Santiago came in through the doorway and saw her standing in the ice and snow, on the phone with him. The first thing he saw was her slightly flushed face and red hands.

After putting away the phone, Santiago walked towards her, who was somewhat furious upon hearing the beeping sound on the phone. Had he just hung up on her?

She was about to call him again when she heard voices from behind her.

"Mr. Santiago."

"Mr. Santiago."

"All right, you can get back to work."

Raeleigh turned around and saw Santiago, who had already come in front of her. She really did not expect to see him.

He was wearing gRhys pants, a black hat, and a white shirt underneath a green sweater. His clothes were loose, and his boots made crunching sound as he walked. For a moment, Raeleigh's face turned pale. Did he have to go all minimalistic style in such a cold weather?

Raeleigh lowered her eyes to look at her thick red coat, which made her quite surprised.

He was wearing green all over, but he had given her a red coat. It was really strange.

Raeleigh could not put her finger on what exactly was strange about it. All she knew was that something was off.

"Why don't you wear some thicker clothing?"

Raeleigh asking him showed her subconscious care towards Santiago. He stepped in front of her and held her face in his hands, to which Raeleigh subconsciously tried to dodge.

Santiago suddenly spoke up, "Don't move. My hands are freezing."

Raeleigh stopped. "You..."

He cupped her face for a while before lowering his hands. "Are you cold?"

Raeleigh shook her head. "No."

"Don't make calls in a place like this next time, unless it's summer," Santiago said, expressionless. She simply stared at him in a daze.

Raeleigh tried to pull her hand back, but her numb fingers could not break free.

Santiago's hand was burning to the touch. Suddenly, she asked, "Why is your hand so hot?"

"That's how it is when you have a cold or a fever." Santiago made it sound like he was telling the truth, and Raeleigh took it seriously without even thinking about it.

"Let me check on you." She suddenly pulled her hand away, but Santiago did not. She put her hand on his forehead to lift his bangs.

Standing in front of her, he gave an evil smile.

Raeleigh touched Santiago's forehead, and then her own. Having realized that he was not actually sick and that she had been deceived, she pushed him away in rage.

Despite being pushed away, he was not angry and was laughing instead.

Raeleigh gave him a furious stare. "You are insane."

She turned around and walked inside, coincidentally knocking into someone.

Raeleigh raised her head and fixed her eyes on Jepherson, and her whole body went stiff. Jepherson then raised his hand and caressed her face, warming it up. She began to pout, her eyes darting around.

He passed by her and walked behind her.

"You have an itch or something?" Jepherson asked Santiago, who raised his hand and scratched his ear. "If I do, will you scratch it for me?"

As he spoke, he bypassed both Raeleigh and Jepherson. When he walked past them, he even bumped into her with his shoulder, making her throw herself into Jepherson's arms.

Raeleigh could not maintain her balance and put her hands around his waist. Jepherson looked back and held her hands in his, covering her hands with his clothes. Raeleigh raised her head slowly and looked at him, her cheeks flushed red.

“Don’t do things like this. People may see.”

“What are you so afraid of? We’re husband and wife.” He lowered his head to kiss Raeleigh. Then, he held her hand and walked into the house with her. Her hand was clenched. Nothing screamed “flirtatious... or not?” like the two. **Chapter 1433**

After going in, Santiago was standing on one side, waiting for Paige’s gift. She was not willing to give it to him, but he, ever the thick-skinned, instead reached out to take it for himself.

As Paige was telling him off, Belle was naturally in a bad mood as she stood at the side. No matter what, he was still her son. Why was it that Santiago received such treatment just because he was not the eldest? Even when it came to gifts, he had to ask for them on his own accord.

She really wished that Paige would take the initiative to give things to Santiago, but that was never the case.

She had given birth to two children, but Paige just didn’t like her youngest son, Santiago. Belle really felt helpless.

After taking the gift away from Paige, Santiago walked away from her and over to Raeleigh. He threw the gift, which was a stack of money, to her and said, “Take it. Go on a spree and buy some clothes for yourself.”

Raeleigh caught the gift with both hands on instinct.

As for Jepherson...

He was standing aside, looking elsewhere. However, he told Raeleigh, “Since he’s given it to you, then just hold onto it. Keep it for him.”

“Okay.” Raeleigh put the two gifts together. It was then that she realized that they were different. The gift that Santiago had received paled in comparison to Jepherson’s.

Raeleigh really wanted to count the money to clearly see the disparity between them.

They were both Belle’s children, so why the difference in treatment?

It seemed like something that would only happen back in the Victorian era.

Raeleigh held the gifts in her hand and swapped them, which everyone witnessed.

Santiago took a seat and sipped some water, asking Raeleigh, “Why aren’t you guys sitting down?”

Raeleigh didn’t answer, but she didn’t feel very good about it. All of a sudden, she understood why Santiago had a personality like that. If he’d been any different, how could he have survived in his family?

“Outrageous,” Calvin suddenly spoke up from the side. His voice carried a trace of displeasure, but he was not angry. Raeleigh found his gaze rather strange, as if he was doting on Santiago, yet it also seemed incredibly distant.

Perhaps Calvin was not very direct in expressing his feelings. Even when he did, he would deliberately cover it up.

“So many seats, but everyone’s standing. What’s the point of having seats, then?” Santiago stood up, patted his butt and walked towards Raeleigh. He stopped and asked her, “Have you eaten?”

“Not yet.”

“Is the food done?” he continued asking. Raeleigh looked at Belle, who didn’t know whether it was done yet either. At that hour, it likely wasn’t mealtime yet.

“Go have a look, Raeleigh. After we have lunch, then Grandma will be going back with the two of us. Grandpa can’t stay at home alone.” Belle walked to Raeleigh and gave her a look. She found her rather pitiful, having to stand around like that, so obedient.

However, Paige just didn’t like her.

“I understand.” Raeleigh then turned around and went to the kitchen. Santiago followed her, but Jepherson did not.

The moment Paige saw that, she got angry. What on earth was going on?

“I’m not hungry. Let’s go back.” On one hand, Paige was furious. However, she was also worried for Hudson.

If Hudson was healthy, she wouldn’t have to bother with him, but since he was ill, she couldn’t help but worry.

“Even if you’re not hungry, we can only leave after we eat. Otherwise, we’ll get hungry on the way there.

Besides, since we’re going to be driving a long way back, there won’t be anywhere to stop and eat,” Belle stated, trying to persuade her. Paige was actually rather obedient. After thinking for a while, she looked at Belle. “If she was half as thoughtful as you were, I wouldn’t make things hard for her.”

It was obvious that she was saying that for Jepherson to hear. However, he remained unmoved. He stared at her with his hands clasped behind his back as if he could not hear anything.

Belle was in admiration as well. She had raised two sons and both of them grew up to become like that. They would only listen to the things they wanted to hear. If you were to question them about it afterward, they would say “no idea”. However, they were the only ones who were aware of just how much they knew.

Paige went on and on, but essentially nobody paid attention to her, so she might as well not say a thing.

Instead, she turned to talk to Belle.

When they were speaking, Calvin strode outside, after which Jepherson followed.

After stepping out, Calvin walked for a while before asking, "What do you think about this?"

"Grandpa must be aware of what happened that year. He admitted that he was the one who told Grandma to do it, and even said that he would not allow Raeleigh to join our family."

Jepherson stood behind Calvin. If it weren't for their age, it would be almost impossible to tell the difference between them.

Calvin paused and turned to glance at him. "It would be troublesome if he was the one behind this."

"I know."

Jepherson had never been certain about it, mostly because it had been so many years since, not to mention the Harvey family's reputation. If it were to be exposed, it might drag the entire family through the dirt.

Even if Raeleigh's family had not investigated it, they could not shirk the responsibility. Public opinion could destroy the Harvey family too.

"Then what do you plan to do?" Calvin asked, to which Jepherson shook his head. They looked at each other for a few seconds before turning around and parting ways.

Their shadows grew longer and longer until they were far away.

Raeleigh went into the kitchen to prepare food, but the truth was that she had nothing to do. Santiago was beside her, so nobody would dare to order her around or disrespect her.

What's more, Raeleigh was already the favorite of both the sons of the Harvey family. Any servant would know that Jepherson and Santiago had both joined forces to shoo Paige away.

Raeleigh gave orders in the kitchen, then walked out of the room and stood outside the door.

It was not cold there, since it was a designated area for meals, but they had to go in circles a few times before being able to get away from Paige.

Raeleigh felt more comfortable. Without Paige pressuring her, she could breathe easily.

She returned the gift to Santiago, who was standing beside her. "I don't need to buy clothes."

"Didn't you say you'd help me keep it safe?"

"Take it. You need it too." Raeleigh gave it to him, who opened it and took a look inside before putting all the money into his pocket.

"Next time, let's go to Waverly Village and splurge on things."

She looked at him. "Do you ever plan for the future?"

"As long as my brother is here, I won't starve to death." Raeleigh was convinced by Santiago's confidence. She took back his money and kept it with her.

"Since you're thinking of hemorrhaging money, why don't you give it to me? At least you'll be able to use it when you want to."

Santiago stood aside and looked at the outdoors as if nothing had happened. It was better for her to take the money away from him.

After standing for a while, she turned to look at him, who was dressed up like a spring onion, and asked, "Don't you have any other clothes to wear? It's winter now, and the New Year has just passed. Is dressing like a Christmas tree the trend nowadays?"

"Says the Miss Not-My-Wife. Why do you care so much about me?"

Raeleigh said nothing. She simply clenched her fists and fought back her bubbling rage.

She considered herself to be a person with a good temper, but ever since she'd got to know Santiago, she had somehow met a nemesis who could disarm her. She was defeated again and again, and had never won a single time.

Chapter 1434

After the meal was ready, Paige came out of the room while Raeleigh stood aside. After she sat down, Raeleigh pulled Jepherson over to take a seat.

Over the entire course of the meal, Paige didn't spare either of them a single glance. Once she had eaten, she packed her luggage and took some necessities before getting in the car and leaving the Harvey Group Manor.

Belle then got in the car with her. Before doing so, she had been talking to Raeleigh. Of course, Paige would not bother about things like this, at least not in front of Raeleigh.

However, it was another matter after getting in the car.

Paige took a look at the person beside her and began to complain, "She's not as good as she seems. You're too innocent."

"They're all just children. Honestly, children are all the same. Although she isn't the best in some aspects, she will learn as she grows up."

Belle couldn't just decide whether children were inherently good or bad. However, she was having a hard time trying to search for any of Raeleigh's flaws.

Even so, she couldn't say anything that would upset Paige.

Paige looked outside impatiently. "You just dote on Jerry too much. He's always been like this, ever since he was young. This isn't the first time. If you had told him the truth, he wouldn't have become like this."

After all, she was not fond of Raeleigh. If she were replaced by Stella, then Paige would have had no complaints.

"Well, I think Jerry has a great personality. He's just like me."

Sitting on one side, Calvin, who had been resting with his eyes shut, slowly cracked his eyes open and said that.

Although Paige was reluctant, she could not say anything because she had no real power right then. Her words would not have much of an impact.

Belle glanced at Calvin. Luckily he was powerful, otherwise...

As the car sped away, Santiago watched as it got further and further away from the entrance. He stated, "I thought I'd struck gold, but it turns out I was too naive."

"Nonsense." Jepherson suddenly interrupted him. Raeleigh stood aside and looked at Santiago as she scolded, "You really have no verbal filter. There's nothing you won't say. You know your do's and don'ts, yet you would happily go for the don'ts."

Santiago turned and got into the car. He started it up and glanced at the two people standing at the door. "I got something to do. Ciao, folks."

Raeleigh and Jepherson did not say anything, waiting for him to leave. She turned to Jepherson and said, "Your grandmother has had a sudden change in personality."

"What can I say? People change. Considering how amazing you are, of course she would change." Jepherson held Raeleigh in his arms and wanted to go inside with her, but she raised her hand to stop him. "I'm going back. I've been out for so long."

"Oh, does 'long' even exist when you're with me?" Jepherson stopped and put his hands around Raeleigh's waist, to which she laughed. "Well, I'm not gonna start this with you. But it's true that I want to go back."

He loosened his grip and let her go.

Raeleigh looked at the car. "Are you sending me back?"

"Yeah."

Jepherson walked to the front of the car and opened the door to signal Raeleigh to get in.

The driver, who was coming back from the other side, was a little surprised to see the car driving away. He scuttled to the place where the car had stopped earlier, visibly anxious.

Someone came over and told the driver that Jepherson had driven away, who then quickly got into another car and followed him.

It was not the first time Raeleigh had sat in such a fast car, but she was not afraid at all.

Santiago was even rampant than Jepherson when he was driving, but he was not as steady. When Jepherson drove, the car would not shake even if it was drifting.

Raeleigh looked outside and found that the telephone poles seemed to be flying past. It was not long before she felt dizzy.

"Don't look at either side. Look ahead of you. Time is flying."

He held her hand and controlled the car with the other. She withdrew her gaze and looked at the smiling Jepherson, who was staring forward.

Their surroundings on both sides were like stars, zooming past them, as if they were soaring in the vast starry sky. The feeling of flying was amazing.

When the car stopped, Raeleigh seemed to slow down in tandem with the reducing velocity.

She blankly looked at her surroundings, then at Jepherson. He had already opened the door and gotten out.

After a few steps, he stood on the bridge. The wind was blowing. He opened his arms out wide and stood there. Raeleigh couldn't get out of the car because her legs had turned to jelly.

He stood for a while before turning around to look at Raeleigh, who was sitting in the car and staring at him.

Waving his hand, he signaled her to get off. She shook her head and took a look down at her feet. Then, Jepherson walked towards her and opened the door to see her. Raeleigh patted her legs, to which he bent down to unfasten her seat belt and carry her out of the car.

As the wind blew, the sensation in Raeleigh's legs came back.

Jepherson set her down on the bridge and let her face the surging river under the bridge. She felt the cold breeze on her face, that seemed to engulf the entire world.

However, Raeleigh did not shrink back. She turned to look at Jepherson, who looked back at her. "Close your eyes. I'll make you fly."

Raeleigh closed her eyes while he flipped her around. His hands held onto her waist, then slowly crept up to her armpits and spread her arms out. Then, he held her hands and opened them up.

She opened her eyes slowly, looking at the iciness and the whistling wind in front of her.

Jepherson said, "Close your eyes."

She then closed her eyes again. He put his face next to hers. The wind cut past them like a knife, but Raeleigh didn't open her eyes.

After waiting for a while, he slowly took his hands away and put one hand on Raeleigh's back. She frowned.

"Raeleigh, I'm going to push you down."

Jepherson's voice was low and hoarse. Raeleigh responded, "There's a bottomless abyss below."

"There sure is."

"I don't believe you."

He remained silent.

He was still standing behind her, but he didn't push her. He held Raeleigh in his arms. After a while, she opened her eyes.

She looked at Jepherson's profile and asked him, "Why do you have to keep testing me?"

"If I'm ever in danger and someone tells you that I've done something that I shouldn't have, you have to be smart. Don't trust anyone. You shouldn't trust a single person."

"I only trust myself."

Raeleigh turned around, her back facing him. Jepherson pulled her away, one hand holding hers as he shoved their interlocked fingers into his pocket, the other hand on the railing of the bridge. She walked while looking at the whistling, frosty wind. Raeleigh was actually freezing, but she didn't want to leave.

Perhaps it was because Jepherson had never been so free and easy that she found it hard to part.

Jepherson, who had already walked half of the way, asked her, "Are you cold?"

She shook her head. He said, "It's not the end yet, so no one knows what will happen. But if you don't go on with me, we'll end up with nothing."

"I will be by your side, no matter what the result is, even if it is the worst." After experiencing so much, Raeleigh was no longer in doubt.

Even if someone told them that they were the biological siblings of the same parents, Raeleigh didn't care. Just being with him was enough for her.

Chapter 1435

Raeleigh felt that she was a fool who rushed in where angels fear to tread. Be that as it may, even fools had a world of their own. Even if she were to be trapped in an abyss, she would not find it dark.

After all, someone had already lit up the road ahead of her. Insofar as she followed where the lights guided her, she would surely be able to reach the place she wanted to go.

Jepherson looked at her and cupped her face. "Well, aren't you stupid!"

"At least better than a certain someone."

Raeleigh scoffed at him, the only difference being that there was a smile on her lips. When she turned around, she took in the scene in front of her.

The truth was, she was very clear that the Jepherson she wanted was like the raging waves in front of her. Not everyone could conquer him, but she wanted to give it a try anyway.

He held her from behind, waiting for her to say something. However, she kept silent the whole time, as if she had already detached her soul from her body and was far away from the noise of the world.

The two of them were hugging each other as they walked forward. Someone was waiting for them at the end of the road. It was the driver, who had already got out of the car and opened the door. Jepherson glanced at the person in his arms and sent her into the car first before getting in himself.

Pushing the door open, he put his hand in Raeleigh's lap, and she covered her hand over his. Jepherson flipped their hands around, interlocking their fingers gently.

The driver got in the car. He was simply too ancient to understand how the young lovebirds worked their minds. Why had they come out in such cold weather?

Not to mention how satisfied they seemed.

“Let’s go,” Jepherson ordered, holding Raeleigh’s hands tightly. He looked outside inadvertently and put her hands on his body with his mouth curling into a smile.

The driver drove the car and safely sent her home.

She got out of the car, then turned around and looked at Jepherson, who was still inside. “Are you getting off?”

He replied, “Nah, I don’t think so. Tasks are waiting for me. You should go back and have a good rest.”

“Be careful on your way there.”

Jepherson grinned. The driver opened the door and got in through the other side of the car.

After it sped away, Raeleigh stood where she was and watched for a while. When she turned around, Xanthus was standing at the door. She subconsciously froze, then asked, “Were you waiting for me?”

“What else could I be doing?” Xanthus turned around and went inside. Waiting for Raeleigh was a habit to him. After all, he was her brother. After so many years of expecting, how could he not wait for her?

Being a parent was very tiring, and he was not much better as a brother.

In the past, Xanthus had never waited for any woman. However, right then, waiting for a woman had become a habit of his.

After they went in, Xanthus asked if Raeleigh had eaten yet. She followed him to the kitchen, where he had already made preparations.

“Dinner not yet, but lunch, yes.”

Raeleigh saw the ingredients in the kitchen and found that he had already prepared everything.

“You’re making pizza?” Raeleigh immediately took off her clothes and was ready to go help. Xanthus took the ingredients inside while she washed her hands, and the both of them began making the pizza.

Raeleigh didn’t say much but focused on kneading the dough. Xanthus would say something occasionally, but he never asked her about what happened with Jepherson.

The pizza was pretty much done when the doorbell rang. Xanthus went to open the door and soon brought Santiago in.

Seeing him there, Raeleigh couldn’t help but find it weird and asked, “Why are you here?”

“I’m craving for some pizza.”

Santiago took off his jacket and washed his hands, then went to watch TV as if he was totally making himself at home. Raeleigh stood aside, and found it rather funny, despite herself. “You are really making yourself at home, aren’t you?”

“If this isn’t my home, then where is?”

Santiago made it sound like she was the one in the wrong. She stood in the room, staring at him, who was watching TV without so much as looking back. She was about to say something, but suddenly hesitated.

She frowned. "Where did you go, Santiago? Where did you come from?"

He was watching a documentary on animals. He turned back to look at her. "Is anything wrong?"

"No, not at all. Follow me to my room for a sec."

Raeleigh turned around and went back to her room. Xanthus stood outside and watched, finding it all rather mysterious for some reason.

Santiago paused for a moment. He got up and glanced at Xanthus, then made his way towards the room upstairs where Raeleigh was.

When they got upstairs, he raised his hand and knocked on the door. Her voice came from inside, inviting him in.

Santiago pushed the door open and went in. She was making a call, but there was a first-aid kit on the bed.

He closed the door after coming in. Raeleigh turned to look at him and put her cell phone on the bedside table.

"Take off your clothes."

Santiago laughed. "Why? Deary me, is my brother that useless?"

"For Christ's sake, just cut the crap."

Raeleigh made a straight face, and Santiago had no choice but to strip obediently.

He only had a coat on, without anything else on the inside. Raeleigh remembered that his coat hadn't been that color back then. She didn't know when it had turned black.

Her heart thumped when she saw the wound on Santiago's slender back. However, she did not bet Rhys any emotions on her face. Instead, she said, "Didn't you notice anything?"

"I didn't feel any pain. If you hadn't told me, I really wouldn't have known."

Raeleigh maintained her poker face. She walked over, asking him to sit down. Santiago took two steps forward, sat on her chair, and leaned back.

She took a deep breath of cold air. "Can't you feel any pain, like, at all?"

She estimated that the wound was about a palm long. His flesh was already exposed.

"I guess so." Santiago closed his eyes as he gave a faint reply. It was not painful, nor was it itchy.

Raeleigh sat on the bed, took the first-aid kit and rummaged through it. Then, she grabbed a disinfectant and began to clean Santiago's wound.

While doing so, she told him, "Look, you don't have to put up with it. If it hurts, just say the word and I'll be more gentle."

Santiago didn't reply. She calmly used tweezers to help disinfect his wound. At first, he took a deep breath, but then went totally silent.

Raeleigh's movements stopped. "Does it hurt?"

He closed his eyes and didn't make any response. She doubted that he had fallen asleep. If he didn't answer, that meant it hurt, but he just didn't want to say anything.

Raeleigh went a little lighter on him. The cotton pads, which had been soaked in disinfectant, had traces of dark red blood on them and tiny patches of foams.

She put down the tweezers, carefully applied some powder on a gauze, then wrapped it around Santiago's back.

He lowered his head to look at the bandages on his chest. "Just stick it on the back."

"Is it really that hard for you to stay at home?" Raeleigh shot him a fierce look, tied up a few loose ends, then got up and went outside.

Xanthus was standing at the door. He had sensed that something was amiss and decided to come up to have a look, but the door was not soundproof. When he heard what Raeleigh had said, he chose not to go in.

She didn't look too good, but relaxed when she saw Xanthus. Then, she said, "He's injured and his clothes are dirty. I suppose he could use some of yours."

"I'll go get mine." He took a look before turning to get his clothes. Raeleigh went back to clean up without saying a word. She really brought new meaning to the term "terrifying" when she was livid.

Santiago's bandages made him look like a poor imitation of a mummy. He pulled Raeleigh to him, though she jerked back her hand and gritted, "Do not touch me."

He stood behind her, hands on his hips. "Et tu, Raeleigh? You just had a fill of your touchy-feely time with my body and you say no when it's my turn?"

She packed up her things, putting them under the bed and kicking it deep into the empty space. She raised her head and glared at him. "What's the deal with you, huh?"

The moment she looked up, a rare expression of rage surfaced on her petite face.

Santiago went all scarecrow mode.

Looking at Raeleigh's flickering eyes, he dared not meet her gaze.

She was so furious that her face had lost all blood color. She looked around and continued to clean up, squatting down and wiping the floor.

Santiago looked down at her. "It's common for boys to fight. This is just a minor injury. No lives were lost in that essential teenage rite of passage."

Slap!

Raeleigh threw the rag in her hand to the ground and got up suddenly. She turned around and scowled at his handsome face.

“If someone wants to die, no one can do anything about it or stop them, but would you be able to carry the weight of it?” Her menacing eyes were on Santiago, who frowned. He was speechless.

Xanthus pushed the door open and came in. The two of them looked at him. He put down the clothes and murmured, “Whoops, sorry, didn’t mean to disturb.”

Raeleigh stepped forward and threw the clothes towards Santiago. She jostled Xanthus away and went downstairs, took her keys and disappeared in the blink of an eye.

Afraid that something would happen to her, Xanthus turned around and followed her out.

“This temper of hers...”

Standing inside the room, Santiago looked down at the clothes thrown at him and put them on one by one. He leaned over the railing outside and looked at the door, but Raeleigh had already left.

Xanthus was trying his best to stop Raeleigh, but having failed, he had no choice but to follow her outside.

She did not have her driver’s license on her, but she didn’t hold back on the speed. When she arrived at her desNorahtion, Xanthus breathed a sigh of relief and followed her into the market.

Raeleigh had brought nothing but money.

“How much is this?” Raeleigh asked a butcher for the price of meat. After he told her the price, she was bewildered for a moment. “Sounds rather expensive to me.”

There was no other way. Raeleigh couldn’t ask her parents for money, although both her parents and Xanthus had given her some in advance. She didn’t need to earn money at all.

Even so, Raeleigh still hoped that she could make enough money to support herself.

The man smiled and said, “Nah, this is already considered cheap. I got this one at two in the morning. If you were to look for one that I got at four in the morning, it’d be even more expensive. Around twice the amount.”

“Is there any difference?” Raeleigh asked, and the seller kindly explained, “There’s bone marrow inside. If too much time passes, it goes bad. The fresher it is, the better it is for the body, especially for growing children.”

Raeleigh thought for a moment. “Aside from these, is there anything fresher?”

“They’d be even more expensive than this one. Are you sure?” he asked. She nodded after contemplating for a while.

Xanthus, who was standing at the side, lowered his head and laughed. She had thought the one she had gone for at first was too expensive, but her principle didn’t apply when it was something high quality.

The seller quickly brought over something fresher. Looking at it, she did think it looked that way.

“Then I’ll take one, two, three... I’ll take six.”

Raeleigh felt that six was enough, while the seller was quite amused. He then got six bones for Raeleigh, who then took them and walked in another direction. Xanthus reached out and grabbed the bones from her. “So, these aren’t expensive, huh?”

She glanced at him. “I’m so freaking annoyed.”

“He sure is annoying, but I’m sure he feels lucky that someone is so angry on his behalf.” Xanthus laughed.

She turned around. “I don’t even know when he’ll grow up.”

“That’s just his personality. In what way do you want him to grow up? Maybe he’s already grown up and is just playful anyway.”

Raeleigh pursed her lips, fixed her gaze somewhere and exhaled. “I think he’s lived enough already.”

“No one has. You’re the one who thinks too much. He’s young, yes, but he’s not simple-minded. You’re the one who takes everything seriously and cares too much.”

“Just like that old butcher over there. You see how his hands have gauzes, and how he’s wearing gloves, don’t you?”

“He’s already so old, yet he’s out here making a living. Do you seriously think he doesn’t want to go home and enjoy himself?”

“But then, a lone man he is, and all he can do is live like that.”

“Tell me, do you think his hands would be infected from butchering meat?”

Raeleigh frowned slightly. “No matter how fresh the environment is, it’s normal for him to get infected.”

“Since getting infected is a normal thing, then why don’t I see you getting anxious at all? Santiago’s wound might have been huge, but he’s already fine after your treatment. So why are you still blowing up? Why are you so worried?”

Raeleigh was speechless, staring at the injured butcher who still had to work.

Xanthus continued, “Caring too much about someone messes with your sanity. Santiago’s injury is not your fault, nor could you have done anything about it. Even if you worry yourself sick, nothing will change.”

“This is Capital City. You don’t fit in with the people here, and Santiago is no exception.”

“It’s a prey-predator world. The reason why you hope for Santiago to be the one to live is because his encounters have always been unfair. Don’t get me wrong.”

“Having met you, Santiago’s been going around fighting his heart out. However, even if he hadn’t met you, he’d be the same.”

“It’s the same as the migration of animals. Nobody can change the direction they’re heading, all you can do is experience it.”

Raeleigh looked at Xanthus. “Every time I hear your word vomit, I feel like my brain short circuits.”

He wanted to laugh. “Your brain has no problem, it’s the world.”

She said nothing in reply. She went somewhere else and bought some nutritious ingredients. Before leaving, she bought a piece of liver for Santiago.

On the way back, she ended up saying, “Even so, I can’t watch him fight every single day.”

“He doesn’t do that. Why didn’t you ask him where his wound came from? You have to make sure what the cause of it was.”

Starting up the car, Xanthus was genuinely scared of Raeleigh. He would be worried if she was the one driving.

She sat in the front passenger seat, kneading her forehead. “It’s not like he does any physical work. If not a fight, then what else could it have been?”

“You’re jumping to conclusions. Santiago’s being treated so unfairly. You know, Raeleigh, looking at you now, you’re acting as if you’re Santiago’s mother. You don’t know what happened to him at school, and just assumed that he must have been disobedient and gotten into a fight with someone.”

“You lost your temper at him just like that. There’s nothing wrong with caring about him, but you have to believe him, give him a chance to explain. If you don’t even do that, don’t you think there won’t be any communication and trust between the two of you?”

Raeleigh thought for a moment. “You’re right.”

She looked elsewhere and continued, “Maybe someone wanted to hurt him and he got injured trying to escape.”

Xanthus felt helpless listening to her. “Raeleigh, why are you always such a glass half empty person?”

“You don’t understand. He’s gotten on the bad side of too many people. I’m worried for Jepherson too, but not many people would dare to do anything to him. His strength is enough to stop the people watching from making any rash movements.”

“But Santiago is different. In order to teach Jepherson a lesson, they’d strike at Santiago first. Over the years, Santiago doesn’t know when to surrender either. He’s always so arrogant when he does things. It’s not surprising that someone would want to get revenge on him.”

Raeleigh massaged her temples. That was why she was so worried. Her mind always wandered off to the negative side of things.

Chapter 1436

Santiago’s bandages made him look like a poor imitation of a mummy. He pulled Raeleigh to him, though she jerked back her hand and gritted, “Do not touch me.”

He stood behind her, hands on his hips. "Et tu, Raeleigh? You just had a fill of your touchy-feely time with my body and you say no when it's my turn?"

She packed up her things, putting them under the bed and kicking it deep into the empty space. She raised her head and glared at him. "What's the deal with you, huh?"

The moment she looked up, a rare expression of rage surfaced on her petite face.

Santiago went all scarecrow mode.

Looking at Raeleigh's flickering eyes, he dared not meet her gaze.

She was so furious that her face had lost all blood color. She looked around and continued to clean up, squatting down and wiping the floor.

Santiago looked down at her. "It's common for boys to fight. This is just a minor injury. No lives were lost in that essential teenage rite of passage."

Slap!

Raeleigh threw the rag in her hand to the ground and got up suddenly. She turned around and scowled at his handsome face.

"If someone wants to die, no one can do anything about it or stop them, but would you be able to carry the weight of it?" Her menacing eyes were on Santiago, who frowned. He was speechless.

Xanthus pushed the door open and came in. The two of them looked at him. He put down the clothes and murmured, "Whoops, sorry, didn't mean to disturb."

Raeleigh stepped forward and threw the clothes towards Santiago. She jostled Xanthus away and went downstairs, took her keys and disappeared in the blink of an eye.

Afraid that something would happen to her, Xanthus turned around and followed her out.

"This temper of hers..."

Standing inside the room, Santiago looked down at the clothes thrown at him and put them on one by one. He leaned over the railing outside and looked at the door, but Raeleigh had already left.

Xanthus was trying his best to stop Raeleigh, but having failed, he had no choice but to follow her outside.

She did not have her driver's license on her, but she didn't hold back on the speed. When she arrived at her desNorahtion, Xanthus breathed a sigh of relief and followed her into the market.

Raeleigh had brought nothing but money.

"How much is this?" Raeleigh asked a butcher for the price of meat. After he told her the price, she was bewildered for a moment. "Sounds rather expensive to me."

There was no other way. Raeleigh couldn't ask her parents for money, although both her parents and Xanthus had given her some in advance. She didn't need to earn money at all.

Even so, Raeleigh still hoped that she could make enough money to support herself.

The man smiled and said, "Nah, this is already considered cheap. I got this one at two in the morning. If you were to look for one that I got at four in the morning, it'd be even more expensive. Around twice the amount."

"Is there any difference?" Raeleigh asked, and the seller kindly explained, "There's bone marrow inside. If too much time passes, it goes bad. The fresher it is, the better it is for the body, especially for growing children."

Raeleigh thought for a moment. "Aside from these, is there anything fresher?"

"They'd be even more expensive than this one. Are you sure?" he asked. She nodded after contemplating for a while.

Xanthus, who was standing at the side, lowered his head and laughed. She had thought the one she had gone for at first was too expensive, but her principle didn't apply when it was something high quality.

The seller quickly brought over something fresher. Looking at it, she did think it looked that way.

"Then I'll take one, two, three... I'll take six."

Raeleigh felt that six was enough, while the seller was quite amused. He then got six bones for Raeleigh, who then took them and walked in another direction. Xanthus reached out and grabbed the bones from her. "So, these isn't expensive, huh?"

She glanced at him. "I'm so freaking annoyed."

"He sure is annoying, but I'm sure he feels lucky that someone is so angry on his behalf." Xanthus laughed.

She turned around. "I don't even know when he'll grow up."

"That's just his personality. In what way do you want him to grow up? Maybe he's already grown up and is just playful anyway."

Raeleigh pursed her lips, fixed her gaze somewhere and exhaled. "I think he's lived enough already."

"No one has. You're the one who thinks too much. He's young, yes, but he's not simple-minded. You're the one who takes everything seriously and cares too much."

"Just like that old butcher over there. You see how his hands have gauzes, and how he's wearing gloves, don't you?"

"He's already so old, yet he's out here making a living. Do you seriously think he doesn't want to go home and enjoy himself?"

"But then, a lone man he is, and all he can do is live like that."

"Tell me, do you think his hands would be infected from butchering meat?"

Raeleigh frowned slightly. "No matter how fresh the environment is, it's normal for him to get infected."

“Since getting infected is a normal thing, then why don’t I see you getting anxious at all? Santiago’s wound might have been huge, but he’s already fine after your treatment. So why are you still blowing up? Why are you so worried?”

Raeleigh was speechless, staring at the injured butcher who still had to work.

Xanthus continued, “Caring too much about someone messes with your sanity. Santiago’s injury is not your fault, nor could you have done anything about it. Even if you worry yourself sick, nothing will change.”

“This is Capital City. You don’t fit in with the people here, and Santiago is no exception.”

“It’s a prey-predator world. The reason why you hope for Santiago to be the one to live is because his encounters have always been unfair. Don’t get me wrong.”

“Having met you, Santiago’s been going around fighting his heart out. However, even if he hadn’t met you, he’d be the same.”

“It’s the same as the migration of animals. Nobody can change the direction they’re heading, all you can do is experience it.”

Raeleigh looked at Xanthus. “Every time I hear your word vomit, I feel like my brain short circuits.”

He wanted to laugh. “Your brain has no problem, it’s the world.”

She said nothing in reply. She went somewhere else and bought some nutritious ingredients. Before leaving, she bought a piece of liver for Santiago.

On the way back, she ended up saying, “Even so, I can’t watch him fight every single day.”

“He doesn’t do that. Why didn’t you ask him where his wound came from? You have to make sure what the cause of it was.”

Starting up the car, Xanthus was genuinely scared of Raeleigh. He would be worried if she was the one driving.

She sat in the front passenger seat, kneading her forehead. “It’s not like he does any physical work. If not a fight, then what else could it have been?”

“You’re jumping to conclusions. Santiago’s being treated so unfairly. You know, Raeleigh, looking at you now, you’re acting as if you’re Santiago’s mother. You don’t know what happened to him at school, and just assumed that he must have been disobedient and gotten into a fight with someone.”

“You lost your temper at him just like that. There’s nothing wrong with caring about him, but you have to believe him, give him a chance to explain. If you don’t even do that, don’t you think there won’t be any communication and trust between the two of you?”

Raeleigh thought for a moment. “You’re right.”

She looked elsewhere and continued, “Maybe someone wanted to hurt him and he got injured trying to escape.”

Xanthus felt helpless listening to her. "Raeleigh, why are you always such a glass half empty person?"

"You don't understand. He's gotten on the bad side of too many people. I'm worried for Jepherson too, but not many people would dare to do anything to him. His strength is enough to stop the people watching from making any rash movements."

"But Santiago is different. In order to teach Jepherson a lesson, they'd strike at Santiago first. Over the years, Santiago doesn't know when to surrender either. He's always so arrogant when he does things. It's not surprising that someone would want to get revenge on him."

Raeleigh massaged her temples. That was why she was so worried. Her mind always wandered off to the negative side of things.

Chapter 1437

By the time Raeleigh got home, Santiago was in the kitchen, on a hunt for food. He did not find any beer, but did find a tomato and planned to first pacify his protesting stomach.

When she stepped through the door, she found him with his mouth wide open, about to chomp down on it. Immediately, she stated, "Put it down."

Taken by surprise, Santiago set the tomato down. She quietly shook off her shoes and went to the kitchen to make some sandwiches as a temporary snack for him.

"It's dinner time soon. I'll be watching over you for a while. You have to cut back on certain food. I decide what goes into your mouth and what doesn't."

Raeleigh counted the ingredients in the refrigerator carefully and found the things she needed, putting them aside in preparation.

Then, they had dinner, which consisted of quite a few dishes.

Santiago stood in the kitchen nibbling sandwiches, while Xanthus helped to cook. Raeleigh asked Santiago, "How did you get the wound on your back?"

"In a fight." Santiago finished eating the last of his sandwich. She hesitated for a while and didn't say anything.

Xanthus asked, "Did someone stab you in the back?"

"No."

Raeleigh looked at him. "Then what on earth happened?"

"I was on the way to Waverly Village. There was a pickup truck that was flipped over on the road. The hook of the truck scratched me."

"Is it possible to be that sharp?" She was withholding from giving him the benefit of the doubt.

"That was what I thought too. It scratched me, and voila, there you have it."

She gazed at Santiago. She couldn't tell whether he was telling the truth, but she didn't pry further.

After the food was done, Raeleigh told Santiago to wash his hands. The three of them had dinner together.

Sitting down, she served Santiago a bowl of soup. "Drink up, and eat more of the ribs."

He didn't like ribs, so he gave it back to Raeleigh, who in turn kept giving it back to him. In the end, he forced some down his throat.

After the meal, Xanthus went to watch some television. Raeleigh asked Santiago if he needed the wound dressing to be changed, to which he said no before going upstairs to take a bath and rest. Hearing that, Raeleigh followed him upstairs. The door was not locked, so she pushed it open and went in. Santiago was just about to rip off his gauze.

Raeleigh stood at the door without any expression and simply asked, "What are you doing?"

"Nothing, if you must know." He put down his hand and looked at her, who walked towards him and stopped a step away from him before teasing, "You've always wanted to sleep with me, right? So, who's ready to get between the sheets tonight?"

With that, Raeleigh turned around and left. Standing on the other side of the door, Santiago rubbed his smooth forehead, as if that three-pound mass of jelly inside his skull was throbbing in pain.

Thinking for a while, he walked to the door and locked it before continuing to take the gauze off. As a result, the lock clicked and the door creaked open.

When it was pushed open, he had already removed the gauze and stared at Raeleigh as she sashayed in.

She had changed into pajamas. She didn't have the compulsion of taking a bath every day. She was holding a mobile phone and a book about design.

After stepping in, she put the key on the table, closed the door, then held the book as she walked towards Santiago's bed. She tugged the quilt on one side open, then sat down and leaned against the head of the bed as she read her book.

Her phone was on the bedside.

Raeleigh was flipping through the book when Santiago turned around, grinning. "I still need to change my clothes, though."

"Oh yeah? Why don't you just change into your birthday suit and hit the sack already?" she replied without even raising her head.

Santiago was dumbstruck. With a helpless expression, he returned to the bed and said, "I can't sleep unless I take a bath."

"What else can't you do?" She raised her head to look at him. After thinking for a moment, he continued leaning against the bed. She said, "Sleep at 9 p. m. If you can't fall asleep, you might as well tell me what you were up to in the afternoon."

Santiago gazed at her as he whined, "Why are you being such a pain in the neck!"

He took his phone and called his brother: "Jepherson!"

Santiago shouted impatiently the moment the call went through. Jepherson was watching the television at that moment. "What seems to be the problem?"

"She wants to sleep with me. Do you mind?" Raeleigh almost laughed. She threw the book in her hand towards Santiago's head without hesitation, hitting him. He exclaimed, "Ouch! The hell is that for?"

"You need to quit whining."

"And what about you? Are you not sleeping beside me? Oh, I'm sorry, but this is my bed." Santiago was impatient.

On the other hand, she found it amusing. "Oh, I'm sorry, but this is my home."

"Okay, fine, I'll take that as the cue for me to leave."

Santiago rose to his feet and was about to leave. Raeleigh leafed through her book as she said, "Go ahead and try."

Santiago stood where he was without moving, but he said into the phone, "You should come over too. The three of us can sleep together."

Jepherson raised his eyebrows. "Are you positive 'bout that?"

Santiago's eyes twitched. "On second thought, no. Don't come."

He hung up the phone and said, "I could really use a shower."

"Well, I could really use a trip to the moon and back." Raeleigh replied without even looking up. Santiago had no choice but to go back and sit down compliantly.

At first, he was quiet, but a few minutes later, he completely changed.

He stretched his arms around Raeleigh's shoulders and leaned against her. "My brother isn't coming, so should we go to bed Tristany?"

"Come on, are you seriously trying to play that trick on me?" She didn't raise her head, as if she didn't care at all. Santiago lowered his head and blew in her ear, to which she raised her hand to push away his face and continued reading.

With a sheer dogged determination, he raised his hand and reached for her pajamas. "Why don't we try?"

"Feel free to, my dear sir."

Raeleigh was totally unbothered, as if she had total control over Santiago. He was annoyed to the point of helplessness, and could only roll onto his stomach.

Raeleigh asked, "Does it still hurt?"

Although it was just a simple question, the room suddenly became quiet.

She waited for a while, unsure whether Santiago had fallen asleep or if he was just pretending. When she went to drink water, he had fallen asleep.

Raeleigh took another blanket, laid it on the ground, put a pillow on it, and fell asleep there.

When Santiago woke up in the middle of the night, he felt around the bed and found that there was no one else there. He got up and sat up from the bed. The light was turned off in the room, but when he turned on the bedside lamp and looked around, he didn't see Raeleigh. He looked in the direction where he had heard breathing and saw that she was sleeping on the floor.

Seeing that, his eyebrows furrowed in displeasure, but he turned off the light and continued sleeping.

Raeleigh woke up Tristany the next day, while Santiago was still asleep on the bed. She parted the curtains inside the room, lighting it up instantly.

Santiago frowned and covered his head with his pillow. Raeleigh tidied up the pillows and put the folded blanket in the closet. Then, she turned and went to the door.

He opened his eyes and glanced at the closed door, then got up and went to the bathroom to take a shower. However, he soon came out and went straight to Raeleigh, intending to challenge her with a "Fight me outside, howbow that?"

She was making breakfast with Xanthus downstairs. In order to let Santiago eat better and recover faster, she had already prepped some fish the night before and was about to cook it.

Hearing incoming footsteps, she began saying, "Oh, I almost forgot to tell you: you can turn off the water valves in my house."

Santiago stood at the door of the kitchen, fuming but unable to vent his anger. "Hold your horses. What if I want to wash my face or brush my teeth?"

"For what it's worth, you clean yourself and all that, and you still leave a bad taste in my mouth half the time. Better that we save the water." Raeleigh put the fish in a steam cooker, then turned around and looked at Santiago, which made all the blood rush to his head in a roaring pain.

Chapter 1438

After eating breakfast, Santiago called Jacky, and the two of them made plans to meet up. While Santiago then stood up to leave, Raeleigh also put down her utensils and went to take the clothes that she had prepared beforehand. Only then did he realize that the clothes she had were rather casual ones. They were a black sweater and black pants, clothes that she could wear anywhere. As for the coat, it belonged to Xanthus. She had even prepared a hat and some woolen gloves.

Santiago saw her putting on those clothes and asked curiously, "What are you doing?"

"These are my brother's. You wear them first. Yours are already in the washing machine."

After she was done putting on her clothes, she gave some to Santiago. Santiago looked back at Xanthus, who was eating, but he did not respond at all.

"I'm gonna deal with something, why are you following me?"

"When did I say I was following you? I just happen to be going the same way," Raeleigh retorted, to which Santiago asked, "Okay, where to? I'll give you a ride."

“No, I’m good. I don’t have a destination in mind for the time being. I’ll sit for a while to think, then get a cab on my own.”

Raeleigh went out through the door to wait for Santiago, who followed her out. She stood outside the car.

Walking to the other side, he unlocked the car and she sat inside. She was in the driver’s seat, obviously intending to be the one driving.

Santiago’s car at that moment was an SUV, the huge kind. It was the Harvey Group’s. He didn’t quite like driving the original model in that season.

Raeleigh got in and studied the car: everything was automatic.

“You sure you want to be the one behind the wheels?” Santiago asked as he stood outside. She adjusted and tested the steering wheel. “Hop in.”

He skirted the car and got into the passenger seat. Raeleigh started the car and slowly drove it out.

On the way, she called Jepherson while at a red light. “Hey, I’m working on something today. Mm-hmm, I’m with Santiago. We’ll be coming home tonight.”

After hanging up the phone and seeing that the light had turned green, Raeleigh continued driving.

“Where to? Waverly Village?”

Naturally, Santiago leaned back on his seat, a sleeping eye mask covering his eyes.

“If it’s convenient for you, suit yourself.” He was not in a hurry.

She glanced at him. “Then Waverly Village it is.”

After leaving Capital City, she said, “Get up. See if the car behind us is one of your men’s.”

Santiago got up and took off the eye mask, turning his head to take a look at the car behind them.

“No, it’s not.”

Raeleigh explained, “It’s been following us for some time now, before we even left Capital City. At first I thought it was just a taxi, so I didn’t pay much attention, but it keeps showing up. Although the license plate has been changed, the driver has a weird habit. Every time we stopped at a red light, he would stretch out his arm out with the window open.”

Having found the car questionable the first time she saw that, Raeleigh had been keeping a careful watch. However, another time when she was at a red light, she saw him stretching his arm out of the car once again.

Santiago surveyed his surroundings. “We’re almost at Waverly Village. Let’s talk when we’re there.”

“Okay.”

Raeleigh drove the car leisurely, unconcerned about what might happen.

Lounging in the seat, Santiago looked at the car behind him, which quickly turned around and left after they drove onto the main road towards Waverly Village.

“Did he find out that we were watching him?” Raeleigh asked in confusion. Meanwhile, Santiago didn’t say anything.

Upon arriving, Raeleigh pushed the door open and stepped out. Then, she looked at Santiago, who was still sitting in the car.

Jacky’s ride had pulled over; there were four or five cars. Then, someone got out of one of the cars and looked at Raeleigh and Santiago. They walked up and asked Santiago, “There was someone following you. I don’t suppose it’s one of your people?”

Only then did Santiago get out of the car. He glanced at Jacky, who had already come out. “Did you see what our Luca Doe looked like?”

Raeleigh didn’t expect Jacky to be in one of the cars as well. She had thought that he was already waiting in the village.

“Not very clearly. Our guy was wearing a hat.” Jacky and the rest had followed him in a covert fashion in order to protect Raeleigh. When he arrived, he happened to be meeting up with someone else who was guarding Raeleigh as well.

Raeleigh stood aside. She had thought that they were protecting Santiago.

Santiago pushed the door open and told her, “Off you go. Get in his car.”

He jutted his chin in the direction of the car. She stared at Santiago and replied, “No, we must stay together, at all times.”

“Chop-chop.”

Sometimes, when Santiago became more aggressive, Raeleigh would genuinely think that he was a ruthless person who knew no camaraderie.

Jacky said, “It’s just a test of some sort. Nothing will happen. Get in the car.”

Raeleigh followed him to the car, whereas Santiago then circled around his own car and got in it. He ignited it and left Waverly Village, a whistling sound in its wake.

Raeleigh gasped in shock. “What in God’s name is he going to do?”

“Relax, everything’s cool.”

Jacky then started the car and drove into Capital City using another pathway. The whole way there, edginess was gnawing at Raeleigh.

She didn’t know who or what cars were around them, but she was constantly trying to spot the car that had been following her earlier. The problem was that it did not appear.

Raeleigh clenched her hands. “Is that person following Santiago?”

Jacky parked the car and got out of it, observing the traffic passing by. She wanted to get off as well, but Jacky pushed the door and ordered, "Don't leave the car."

Jacky was making a call outside. Soon, he received a call in turn. It wasn't Santiago. It was Jacky's underling.

"Jacky..."

"So, what are the results?"

While Jacky was asking, a black car sped by him. Raeleigh's eyes jerked wide open. "It's him."

He glanced at her and caught the license plate. There was a very ordinary number displayed on it. Jacky immediately called someone to check the license plate and then got in the car to tail it.

Other cars surrounded it one after another as well. When Santiago received the call, he, too, rushed over. However, when he arrived, Raeleigh was sitting in the car waiting for him.

Jacky stood outside, waiting for Santiago. Raeleigh saw Santiago knocking on the door. Jacky got out of the car, as did Raeleigh. The moment Santiago saw her, he scanned her up and down with a baleful gaze.

Having made sure that she was fine, he turned his eyes to Jacky. "How is it?"

Jacky raised his chin. "He fell in."

Santiago looked towards the depths of the sea. The water was at its coldest right then. He walked onto the bridge and peered down. A car had already sunken in completely. Someone was investigating the surroundings. A bunch of boats had also arrived to drag it out.

"What about the driver?" Santiago questioned. Jacky shook his head and replied, "Vanished. I had someone take a look the moment the car went down. There was no one inside the car. This place is so rural, I must say. There's only this bridge and the water below. I was chasing him all this while and I would definitely be able to see if he was above, but the car door below is closed. How in the actual f*ck did he escape?"

Jacky's expression was grave. He didn't know how long it had been since such a powerful person had followed them. If Raeleigh hadn't realized, what would that person have done?

Chapter 1439

"You don't have to look for him," Santiago stated before turning to Raeleigh and telling her, "Don't go anywhere for the next few days and stay close to me."

Raeleigh didn't answer. That was indeed the best course of action.

Santiago took out his phone and turned away to call Jepherson. "Let me ask you, is there anyone around Raeleigh aside from me?"

Jepherson had just got in a car. Looking drowsy, he responded, "No."

Santiago hung up the phone, glanced at Raeleigh, turned back to the car and asked her to get in.

She got into the car and started it up, heading to Waverly Village.

...

"Why were you so careless?" Jepherson was rather annoyed, but he was not angry.

The driver, who was exceptionally young, said, "I did change the license plate over and over again, and I didn't bump into anything. Even so, I was still found."

"That's because of your habit. In the future, don't open the window and stretch your arm out when you drive. Raeleigh is not your average individual. She notices even the smallest details."

The driver lowered his hat slightly and asked, "How about Mr. Santiago?"

"Continue to protect him."

"Got it."

...

Having reached Waverly Village, Raeleigh got out of the car followed by Santiago. He looked around, then he went inside the village with her.

When they had entered, Santiago called Jacky over.

"Okay, so he drove the car straight into the water and no one got out of it?" Santiago refused to believe that someone could disappear out of thin air. However, there was nothing to salvage, and since he had driven the car straight into the water, that meant he had had enough time to get out of it.

"I didn't see anyone get out, and we've already searched under the bridge."

Jacky was certain of that. Raeleigh simply stood on one side without saying anything.

Santiago sat down, pondering about it, but he couldn't figure out who the driver was and how he had managed to escape.

"Last time, Flynt didn't succeed, so he wouldn't do it a second time. If he could follow me for so long without being discovered, what can he do?" Santiago pointed out. Jacky asked, "Wasn't he following Raeleigh?"

Amused, Santiago raised his head to look at Jacky. "If he hadn't run away, then it would have been because of Raeleigh. However, since he did, it's not clear anymore."

"Maybe my father sent someone to protect me?" Raeleigh asked. Santiago immediately called Xanthus.

"Did your family send anyone to protect Raeleigh?"

Santiago went straight to the point. Xanthus, in the middle of grocery shopping, looked around. "There are indeed a few people following Raeleigh. Why?"

"How many?"

"Four."

Santiago elaborated, "Someone was following us, but Raeleigh noticed him. The guy drove his car into the water and disappeared. Can you make sure whether it's one of your people?"

“Okay, I’ll let you know once I’ve made it sure, but... it probably isn’t. The men working for us wouldn’t do that.”

He hung up the phone and called Lamar to explain.

Putting down the phone, Santiago looked at Raeleigh. “Fix me something to eat. I’m hungry.”

She stood up and turned to prepare food for him, calling Jepherson while she was at it.

He was sitting in his office looking at something when he received her call. He stopped and asked, “Did something happen?”

“If you’re asking me that, you must have something on your mind. Santiago’s already called you, so you must have known about it.”

Jepherson thought for a moment and questioned, “So, what about it?”

“I only have one question.”

“Shoot.”

“Yes or no?”

“Yes.” Jepherson’s lips twitched. He really could not hide it from her.

“I see. Go ahead with your work. He’s hungry, so I’ll make some food for him.”

“Is there nothing else?”

“Nope.”

“Raeleigh...”

“Yeah.”

“Are you angry?”

“I’m a little irked, but I can understand.”

“Stuart isn’t here, so I only have one person available. He used to protect me secretly as well. I could only choose one between you and Santiago.”

Jepherson rose to his feet and stopped in front of the floor-to-ceiling window, gazing outside.

Raeleigh said, “If it were me, I would have done the same, but there is no one around you...”

There was no one in the kitchen, so she was whispering. He responded, “Even if I were to stand right out in the open and give them a chance, there aren’t many daredevils who would lay a finger on me.

I haven’t used my trump card yet.”

“Neither have I,” Raeleigh replied.

She wore a smile. “Be careful.”

“I got you.”

...

Raeleigh hung up the phone and started throwing together a meal for Santiago.

...

“What do you plan on doing?” Jacky sat down. Santiago raised his head and narrowed his eyes as he contemplated it. “Other than my brother, no one else will send anyone to protect me. But Stuart isn’t around, so if it was my brother, he would definitely have sent someone he knows.”

“What I gather is that, your brother has no one around him?”

Jacky had already sent everyone else out, so no one else would know what they were talking about.

Santiago sat down and looked at him. “But that can’t be.”

“How are you so sure that person is following you, not Raeleigh?”

“That’s the thing, I’m not sure. Flynt hasn’t been discharged from the hospital yet. Even if he was, he can’t do anything right now. The Cole family has a lot of rules. They wouldn’t make trouble around the New Year.”

“If Stella wanted to take action, she would have done it long ago.”

“The only person who would follow me is my enemy, but they wouldn’t wait for so long, nor would they drag it out with Raeleigh.”

“If it’s not an enemy, then it has to be a friend, which is why my brother won’t admit that there’s someone at Raeleigh’s side.”

“It’s the most obvious loophole, but I’m not sure if that someone really is following me, or otherwise.”

“Okay, so what’s your plan B?” Jacky felt that the two brothers were really tiring.

Santiago turned an idea over and over in his mind. “Well, there are two choices: Kill either me or my brother.”

“Come again?”

“Do you want to kill me or my brother?”

Jacky was left in a complete state of helplessness. After a long time, he asked, “Can you use my people?”

Santiago shook his head. “I’m going to hire someone.”

“Hire someone?”

“You heard me.”

He stood up and poured himself a glass of water. “I can’t leave my brother to fend for himself.”

“How do you plan to carry out the test? Together?” Jacky looked at him. Santiago asked, “Together, then. It’ll be one-sided. We’ll find a loophole for my brother.”

Jacky stood up and poured himself some water as well, sighing, "Seriously, it's the New Years."

"We'll start tomorrow afternoon."

"Aye aye, captain."

...

When Raeleigh came in from the outside, Santiago and Jacky were sipping water facing each other. She put down the porridge. She was wondering how he was going to stomach it when he had just eaten not long ago.

"Food's ready."

Raeleigh stood aside. Though she didn't expose Santiago, her gaze was enough to remind him that he had bullied her.

He put down the cup and walked to her, sitting down to eat the porridge she had made for him. He wiped his mouth and said, "Can I have more?"

Raeleigh hadn't cooked much. She didn't answer him because she was worried that Santiago would be too full.

"Come on, let's go out for a walk. It's very lively here during the New Year," Santiago suggested as he got up and went to the door. Raeleigh got dressed and followed him outside.

Right then, the streets were decorated all over. Raeleigh seldom went shopping outside during the New Year.

On one hand, she didn't have extra money; on the other hand, she wasn't a fan of bustling places, so she chose to stay in.

However, it seemed that the air outside was always better than that of inside a room.

Raeleigh walked over to a souvenir store and held one in her hands, to which the owner asked if she wanted one. She shook her head immediately. "No, thanks."

Meanwhile, Santiago had already paid for it.

Chapter 1440

Raeleigh held onto the lantern while she walked and looked around. Though she didn't make it obvious, Santiago could tell that she liked it very much.

Every family in Waverly Village had a lantern like that. However, the ones they had weren't the ones being sold right then, but rather the leftovers after sales, which Raeleigh had managed to get for herself. Not to mention, there was a festival coming up soon.

She didn't have any intention of celebrating. She had felt envious when she saw other children having fun as a child.

She hadn't felt much since she had grown up, but she was very happy that someone had bought one for her.

Seeing Raeleigh gripping onto the lantern like a child, Santiago raised his hand and patted her cap. She looked up and asked, "What are you doing?"

"Look at you. You've been struck dumb." He took his hand back and pulled Raeleigh's sleeve, taking her back.

She didn't want to arrive so soon, so he slowed his pace. They wandered for a while more.

Noon came quickly. After lunch, Santiago told Raeleigh to take a nap. Raeleigh left Tristany, knowing that he and Jacky had something to discuss.

When she woke up, she saw Santiago sitting beside her with his legs crossed. He was staring at her. Santiago asked her if she had slept well. She got out of bed after laying down for a while.

"I forgot to change the bandages on your back. Let me do it for you."

"It's almost healed, there's no need to."

"Let me do it."

Raeleigh left to look for what she needed. She came back, ready to help change his bandages. Santiago took his clothes off.

She checked on his wound and found that there was a scab.

"In the olden days, people said there was this power that could cure anything. I don't believe it, but this is indeed pretty effective."

Santiago was amused. "I guess it works if you believe in it. If you dream about me getting better soon, then of course I will."

After she was done, Santiago put on his clothes while Raeleigh tidied up. "You don't take anything seriously. You're young now, but in a few years, you'll get old and lose all your teeth. You'll know what it's like to be in pain when you can't even chew on tofu."

Santiago was lying on the bed. "Don't even mention it. I can't even eat it now."

He raised his eyelids. She looked down and saw herself reflected in his eyes. She turned around and sat down.

"You don't believe anything I say. You always do things your own way. I don't care. You can do whatever you want. When you get old, you'll know how good I am."

Raeleigh turned around and went outside to prepare dinner for him.

After the door closed, Santiago stared at the wall across from him. He smiled and murmured to himself, "I already know how good you are, but what's the use?"

...

Raeleigh thought it was odd when she stepped out and didn't see Jacky. She asked the people downstairs, "Where's Jacky?"

“He isn’t here. He’s out for business. Is something the matter, Miss Anson?”

She shook her head. “I’m fine. I was just asking.”

She went to prepare dinner, but had a constant feeling that something was off. Why had Jacky left even though Santiago was still there?

When she was done, Raeleigh asked another person, “Is Jacky not coming back for dinner today?”

“I’m not sure.” It was even stranger that they wouldn’t tell her.

She sat down and sent a message to Jepherson which read, “Jacky isn’t here. Santiago might be wondering why too.”

Jepherson glanced at the text. “Got it. Stop all contact and delete your chat records.”

Raeleigh deleted the messages and downloaded an online game on her phone. She remembered that when she first played the game, she had really wanted to ask whether it was Jepherson.

When dinner was ready, she went to wake Santiago up to eat together. He woke up in a daze. He walked into the kitchen and asked the people who worked for Jacky, “When will Jacky be back?”

“We don’t know either.”

Santiago sat down and looked at the food that had been prepared and asked Raeleigh to sit down and eat. She sat down and called Xanthus. “I’m eating outside. In a moment, I’ll...”

“We’re going back tomorrow,” Santiago interrupted her suddenly. She gave him a blank stare. She said to Xanthus on the phone, “We’ll be coming back tomorrow.”

“Be careful.”

Xanthus said, “Give him the phone.”

She handed the phone to Santiago and started eating. Xanthus told him, “It’s not someone from my family.”

“Understood.” Santiago hung up the phone. Raeleigh gave him a stare. “How do you know that it’s not someone from my family?”

“Your brother just said everything, didn’t you hear?”

She kept silent. Since he didn’t want to tell her, she didn’t continue probing. Why bother asking if he was unwilling to tell her?

After she finished her meal and went back to rest, Santiago entered the room as well. He didn’t insist on taking a bath that day. He got up and laid down stomach-first on the bed to rest. She sat by the side and waited for him to fall asleep, then stood up and grabbed a blanket. However, as soon as she reached the door, he stopped her.

“You can’t sleep on the ground tonight.”

Raeleigh turned to Santiago who had gone back to sleep. She thought for a moment and walked back. She laid down and pulled the blanket aside. She glanced at Santiago, who was lying next to her. "Does your back hurt?"

He didn't say anything, but she had a feeling that was the case. If it was not, why did he have to lie down stomach-first?

Without a word, she reached out to cover him with the blanket. Santiago raised his hand to grasp hers and pressed it to the side.

Raeleigh turned around to look at her hand. He closed his eyes. "Sleep properly."

She tried to pull her hand away. "Let go."

Santiago let go of her hand. She sat up and covered herself with the blanket, then laid down and turned off the light.

"Take care of yourself. Don't become a burden to others when you get old," Raeleigh scolded with her eyes closed.

He chuckled. "If I die tomorrow, then I'll never grow old, will I?"

She froze for a moment. "You're talking nonsense again."

"Sure, of course I am." He did not say anything more. Raeleigh looked at Santiago. "I'm being serious."

"Yeah, I know. I have to take good care of myself and live till I'm 99 years old."

Raeleigh was speechless for a while, considering that was clearly not what she had meant, but she had nothing to say.

She pursed her lips and turned onto her other side. She was a little restless that night.

The next morning, she got up and made breakfast Tristany. Santiago got up as well and had his meal. He didn't say anything about going back. Raeleigh asked him when they were going to go back. He told her it would be a bit later. He wanted to enjoy the festival.

"It's not like the festival is today. If you want to do that before you go back, doesn't that mean we'll only be going back tomorrow?"

Santiago glanced at her. "Do you have to ask so much? I just want to go back a little later. Okay?"

"Fine!"

Raeleigh stood at the door, looking at the whole street with colorful decorations and streamers. She wore a childlike grin on her face.

"What are you smiling at?"

Raeleigh replied, "If I had the choice, I'd be willing to be born here. It doesn't matter if I'd be poor. Even if I were a beggar, I'd still be willing."