

Go After 1481

Chapter 1481

Raeleigh listened to Xanthus and stayed in Waverly Village. That afternoon, Raeleigh followed Jepherson to Jack Town Hotel. Jacky immediately arranged a room for her as soon as she arrived at the hotel.

However, Xanthus didn't like the houses in the back of Waverly Village, so he decided to go house hunting that day.

Raeleigh also had no idea what Xanthus wanted. Perhaps it was because he didn't want to stay with Jacky and the rest, so that was why he went to look for houses.

In the afternoon, Raeleigh went house hunting with Xanthus. After looking around the entire village, they finally stumbled upon a house with a for sale sign in the front.

When Xanthus saw the sign, he immediately walked towards it. Raeleigh followed him into the house and asked him why he didn't want to rent it instead of buying it since they were only here for a few days.

Xanthus replied, "Why not? It's a good investment anyway. I'll put our house in Capital City on the market and move here instead. The air is so much fresher and cleaner here. Not to mention the people, they are so friendly."

"This village is two hours away from Capital City. If we sell our house in Capital City, you would have to spend two hours traveling! Are you sure about that?"

"Yes, I'm sure."

Xanthus was adamant on buying a house here. After entering the house, he walked around and realised that the house only needed a minor renovation.

Raeleigh asked the owner about the price. The houses here were more reasonable compared to the houses in Capital City.

The house only cost about 100,000 dollars and it was about 100 square metres. It was considered quite spacious for the two of them.

However, Xanthus felt that it was too small, so he went into the next house and talked to the owner. When the owner heard that Xanthus was willing to buy his house at a price that was higher than the market price, he immediately agreed to sell the house.

"Where would you live if you sold your house to us?"

Raeleigh was a little concerned, but Xanthus quickly said, "I'm in no rush to move in. You can continue to stay here even after we sign the agreement. When the weather gets a little warmer, then you can start looking for a place to stay. It's not good to leave the house empty at this time."

The owner was very grateful. Raeleigh followed Xanthus to sign the agreement and left.

Raeleigh couldn't help but wonder why Xanthus wanted to stay in Waverly Village?

They had dinner at Jack Town Hotel. After dinner, Raeleigh went out for a walk with Jepherson. They talked about the days' events and he mentioned that this village had everything except for a modern and well-equipped hospital.

After hearing that, Raeleigh immediately understood Xanthus' intentions.

"Can a small village like this afford to hire my brother?"

Don't even mention the others. Even Raeleigh herself could not believe it.

Xanthus was a well known orthopedic physician. Not everyone could afford to hire him, plus he did not lack money.

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Raeleigh lowered her eyes and thought to herself, "Perhaps Xanthus is a happy go lucky kind of person and would be content with anything."

"The hospital here is a little too small," Raeleigh pointed out. However, Jepherson said, "They can always expand it. Besides, having a small hospital here is good."

"Waverly Village is relatively populated, but the equipments in the hospital are a little outdated. Your brother has an aptitude for business. He just wants to gain a foothold here, but he has to rely on Jacky for this. I wonder whether there is a chance for them to cooperate?"

"Are you saying that Jacky will be one of the investors?" Raeleigh looked over. The corners of Jepherson's lips curled. "You can say that."

Raeleigh did not say nothing. As it was a bit cold outside, Raeleigh decided to call it a night and returned to her room in Jack Town Hotel.

Her room had already been prepared, so Raeleigh went back to her room immediately after coming back. Jepherson intended to follow her but as soon as she opened the door, she found Xanthus already lying on the bed. It caught her by surprise.

Raeleigh stood at the door and looked at Xanthus, who was fiddling with his phone. When his sister entered the room, he quickly put down his phone and sat up. There was only one bed in the room, but two people?

Jepherson stood behind Raeleigh and did not move. She asked awkwardly, "Am I in the wrong room?"

"No, you're in the right room. I'm a little worried about you sleeping alone, so I decided to bunk with you tonight." Xanthus had already changed into his pyjamas. As he spoke, he came down from the bed and went to the door to look at Jepherson. "Thank you, Mr. Harvey for bringing my sister back safely."

Jepherson remained quiet as he stared at Raeleigh.

"Do you mind coming out for a second? I want to talk to you." Jepherson turned around and walked outside. Xanthus looked at Raeleigh before going outside and closing the door behind him. They talked in the corridor.

"Mr. Harvey, what do you want to talk about? I'm a little tired, I want to sleep Tristany."

Xanthus stood at one side and urged Jepherson.

“Raeleigh is not young anymore. She knows what she’s doing. I’m sure she knows whether she’s happy with what she has.”

Jepherson turned around, a cold glint flashing in his eyes.

Xanthus frowned. “I am Raeleigh’s brother. I think I have the right to protect her.”

“If you want to protect her, you should have done that long ago! Why are you only doing this now? Raeleigh and I are in a relationship. I want her to make her own decisions, not you!

Xanthus, I respect you because I regard you as my brother. I don’t want you to come between us, but if you insist, I will take you down.”

Jepherson’s expression was cold. Santiago was about to enter his room when he saw Jepherson and Xanthus glaring at each other. Santiago quickly walked towards Jepherson, but by then, Jepherson had already stepped to one side.

Jepherson told Santiago, “Bring him to your room.”

“Ok.” Santiago turned around and looked at Xanthus. He took a few steps forward and reached out to grab Xanthus’s wrist. Then, he pulled Xanthus to his room. He opened the door and pushed Xanthus in. Xanthus wanted to leave but Santiago stopped him. He closed the door and tilted his head. “With me around, you can forget about leaving this room.”

Xanthus laughed. “Do you know what you’re doing?”

“That’s my own business. You are going to bunk with me tonight.” Santiago leaned against the door and blocked the door. There were only two of them in the room. Santiago didn’t budge and Xanthus had no way out.

When Xanthus realised that he wasn’t going to be able to leave this room, he turned around, lifted the quilt, and lay on the bed. He stared straight at the ceiling until Santiago got into bed with him.

Xanthus laughed. “You love her too. Why aren’t you willing to fight for her?”

“He is my brother.”

“But he’s not willing to let you have her.” Xanthus looked at Santiago. Santiago pulled the quilt and closed his eyes. “You won’t understand.”

“I’m also an older brother. I will give Raeleigh the best.”

Santiago laughed. “My brother has given me nothing but the best.”

“Since he has already given you nothing but the best, why not give you Raeleigh as well?”

Santiago smirked.

Santiago opened his eyes and looked at Xanthus. “What I have is the best, but in your eyes, there is no end to it. Don’t use your thoughts to measure our feelings, just like how you’re not giving Raeleigh a chance to find happiness.”

"I've never done that." Xanthus couldn't help but feel sad when he heard what Santiago said. Raeleigh was his sister. Of course he only wanted her to have the best.

Chapter 1482

"If you want the best for Raeleigh, then you should let her figure out who she loves. Just like Raeleigh and I. If Raeleigh loves me, I'm sure my brother would respect her decision and not come between us. You didn't even give her a chance to decide.

Raeleigh has great respect for you, but instead of allowing her to make her own decisions, you make use of this and take control of her life.

Let me warn you. If you dare to cause trouble, I will make sure you regret it for the rest of your life."

After saying that, Santiago lied down on the bed and went to sleep. Xanthus watched Santiago for a while before he closed his eyes.

It was already ten o'clock, but Xanthus had not returned to his room. On the other hand, Raeleigh stood up and intended to look for Xanthus. However, as soon as she stepped outside the door, she saw Jepherson walking towards her room with a glass of water in his hand.

Jepherson handed the glass of water to Raeleigh and followed her into the room.

"Why are you alone? Where is my brother?" Raeleigh wanted to open the door but was pulled back by Jepherson.

Jepherson then took off his coat and she realized that he was wearing purple pajamas underneath. She found it strange and wondered what he and Xanthus talked about outside. Before she could figure it out, Jepherson was already lying on the bed.

Raeleigh stared at Jepherson with a helpless look on her face. She sometimes felt that Jepherson was like a stubborn child, who refused to listen to anything she said and did things as he wished.

Thus, Raeleigh asked, "I just want to know where's my brother. Is he alright?"

Jepherson lifted the quilt and patted the bed. "Come to bed and I'll tell you."

Raeleigh took a look at the bed, then at the door behind her. In the end, she chose to go to bed.

As soon as Raeleigh lied down, Jepherson immediately pulled her into his arms.

"What are you doing?" Jepherson started taking off her clothes. Raeleigh immediately grabbed his hands and stopped him. "Xanthus is going to come back any minute!"

"He's bunking with Santiago. He will not come back tonight." Jepherson turned over and pressed Raeleigh down on the bed. Then, he leaned closer and kissed her.

Raeleigh tried to avoid his kiss, but it was a vain attempt. In the end, she had no choice but gave in to his affectionate kiss. However, she realised that she excelled in everything she did, except for kissing.

“Why did you kick my brother out of the room?” Immediately, Raeleigh turned her face away and asked. Jepherson lowered his head and kissed her. “I don’t like the idea of you and your brother sleeping on the same bed. I know you are siblings and all but, it’s still inappropriate.”

Raeleigh was speechless. “We’ve shared a bed before.”

“Yes, but that was when we weren’t together. Now, we are a couple.” Jepherson said possessively as he held her in his arms. In an instant, Raeleigh felt heavy in her chest. She placed her hands on Jepherson and wanted to shove him away, but he wouldn’t budge. Instead, he tightened his embrace around her.

As Raeleigh couldn’t breathe, she struggled for a while before he eventually let her go. He laid on his side and looked at Raeleigh. “I never knew you would get jealous.”

Raeleigh did not agree with his statement. After all, there was still Santiago.

“Why wouldn’t I be jealous? Remember, Raeleigh, you’re not allowed to be with other men.” Jepherson said seriously. Raeleigh thought for a while and said, “You should tell yourself that.”

Jepherson slightly raised his eyebrows. “Of course, I know what to do.”

“I don’t think so.” Raeleigh gave him a shove, but Jepherson did not get out of bed, instead he turned off the lights...

Raeleigh had trouble sleeping, but she still got up Tristany the next morning. After she washed up and got dressed, she left the room in search of Xanthus. She was aware that it was only seven in the morning, but she still knocked on Santiago’s door.

With that, Santiago woke up and went to open the door. However, he was not surprised to see Raeleigh, so he let her in.

Xanthus awoke and immediately got up from the floor when he saw Raeleigh.

“Why are you sleeping on the floor?” Raeleigh felt that it wasn’t nice of Santiago to make Xanthus sleep on the floor.

“He moves a lot when he sleeps. I think sleeping on the floor is a better option.” Xanthus pulled Raeleigh out of Santiago’s room and made their way back to her room.

Raeleigh had intended to take Xanthus somewhere else and wait for Jepherson to leave before heading back to her room. However, Xanthus was wearing his pajamas, so it was inappropriate to walk around in the hotel. They had no choice but to go back to her room.

After entering the door, Raeleigh was a little regretful. When they entered the room, Jepherson had just woken up and was sitting on the bed, waiting for her. The ventilation in the room was fine, as it was not stuffy as it was winter. Besides, the smell had dispersed after one night. Raeleigh had left the bathroom door opened when she washed up. So, some of the heat also dispersed the smell in the room.

Xanthus stood at the door and paused for a moment. Then, he entered the room to grab a fresh set of clothes and went to the bathroom to change. Raeleigh wanted to ask Jepherson to leave first, but Jepherson got up and went to the bathroom. He said, “Raeleigh, can you please go to my room and help me get a change of clothes?”

Then, Jepherson entered the bathroom. Raeleigh stood outside the door for a few seconds before rummaging through his clothes for his room key. After she found it, she went to his room to help get his clothes.

At this time, Jepherson and Xanthus had both emerged from the bathroom.

Raeleigh felt a little awkward when she saw them both standing in the room in their bathrobes. Raeleigh could not imagine what it was like for two men to shower in a tiny bathroom.

“Raeleigh...” Jepherson’s face darkened, but his eyes were soft and tender. Raeleigh handed the clothes to him. “Here you go. I’ll wait for you outside. I’ll have a look at what’s for breakfast.”

Then, Raeleigh turned around and went out. At this time, Santiago came out of his room. When he saw Raeleigh, he quickly followed her to see what was for breakfast.

Xanthus, Raeleigh, Jepherson, Santiago and Jacky had breakfast together.

After breakfast, Xanthus decided to go and check out another house. In fact, he had actually bought several houses.

Now, it was quite clear to Raeleigh what Xanthus’s intentions were.

After lunch, Raeleigh asked Xanthus, “Are you really planning to stay here for the long run?”

Xanthus asked, “Of course! Can’t I do that?”

“Of course, you can. I was just wondering, why must you buy so many houses? I mean, I never thought you would want to stay here for the long term.”

In fact, Raeleigh felt that Xanthus was just fooling around.

“You’re such a fool. You can basically make a living anywhere. Besides, I like it here. It’s a perfect place to rejuvenate.”

Xanthus said a bunch of words, but Raeleigh was silent. Since he had already made up his mind, she could do nothing to change it.

They went to check out several more houses in the afternoon. In the evening, Raeleigh calculated and realized that Xanthus had bought a total of 16 houses, all of which were next to each other.

At dinner, Raeleigh was no longer concerned about Xanthus spending spree here in Waverly Village. Instead, she asked Santiago about the car and whether he had pre-arranged or called the person.

Needless to say, he really did!

Chapter 1483

When Raeleigh heard that her car was well received in the market, she was naturally in a good mood. Thus, she decided to prepare dinner for everyone the next day.

Just as they began eating, one of Jacky’s men entered and whispered a few words into Jacky’s ear. Jacky then looked at Jepherson and said, “There’s someone looking for you.”

“Wait, someone’s looking for me?” Jepherson, who was currently peeling a prawn for Raeleigh, asked in surprise when he heard Jacky’s words.

Raeleigh took the prawn from Jepherson and took a bite. Then, Jepherson wiped his hand with a piece of tissue, looking in the direction of the door.

“They came all the way here?”

“Yes, it’s up to you whether you want to meet the person. My men just came to inform me.” Jacky did not like meddling in others’ business. However, since Jepherson was his guest, he had to inform him as a courtesy.

Jepherson briefly glanced over at Raeleigh and said, “I’ll go out and have a look.”

With that, Raeleigh had no objection and began peeling some prawns for Xanthus.

Everyone else at the table remained seated as Jepherson stood up. He pushed the door open and went outside, wanting to know who had come all the way here to find him. He was told that the person was waiting for him at the entrance of the village. It was quite far, so it took some time for him to walk over.

Jepherson greeted the villagers as he walked towards the entrance. It took about half an hour for him to get there.

When Jepherson finally arrived, he saw a black car waiting for him, and there were a few people sitting in the car. The person in front was obviously the driver. Besides, he also noticed that the number plate of the car was from Capital City.

As Jepherson paused and looked at the car, two people alighted the car. One went to the trunk of the car to get the wheelchair. The other opened the door and carried Stella out of the car before placing her in the wheelchair.

Then, one man retrieved a quilt from the car and draped it over her lap.

Stella was wearing a hat to cover her face.

After that, the two men retreated. Stella looked at Jepherson and said, “Are you surprised to see me here?”

Jepherson did not say anything and just stared at the people around him. Stella did not bring an entourage this time. Instead, she and her bodyguards came in one car.

At this time, Stella was sitting alone in a wheelchair, while the others were waiting for her in the car.

Jepherson then looked at Stella and said, “Yes, I was surprised, but then again, not really.”

“Is it because I like doing unexpected things since I was young?” Stella asked him jokingly. With that, Jepherson was deep in his thoughts. “It’s so cold out and you’re not in good health. What are you doing all the way here?”

“You never came to see me. I tried calling you but all of my calls went unanswered. I had no choice but to come and find you.”

Stella said and held her hands. Her blood looked like it was frozen in her veins. She sat in the wheelchair, looking deathly pale.

Hence, Jepherson could not bear it and took off his jacket and draped it over Stella's shoulders. He said, "You know that there is no possibility between us, but you keep on persisting. Why bother?"

Stella pursed her lips as tears began to roll down her cheeks. "I am not asking for much, it's just that...."

Stella could not help but burst into tears. Perhaps, it was because she was used to crying in front of Jepherson, so he was immune to that. There was no point talking to her.

Furthermore, Stella had her own plans.

Even though she knew she could not have Jepherson, she was not planning on going easy on Raeleigh.

Jepherson stared at Stella as she cried. "Stella, you know that I have always regarded you as my sister. Why do you persist?"

"When have you ever regarded me as your sister?" Stella asked loudly, sounding somewhat impatient.

Only then did Jepherson say, "Have you eaten?"

"No, I haven't."

With pursed lips, Jepherson to the back of Stella's wheelchair and pushed her into Waverly Village.

Raeleigh stood as she watched Jepherson drape his coat around Stella's shoulders. Although from where Raeleigh was standing, she noticed that they only exchanged a few words, but it did not stop her from turning around and leaving.

Raeleigh was not in a hurry nor did she walk slow. She walked calmly as she usually did, but her mind was in a mess.

She knew that she was letting her imagination run wild.

Everything was an illusion as she knew Jepherson had his reasons.

However, she still could not accept it nor face it.

Raeleigh only stood out in the cold for a while, yet her face turned bright red because of the cold wind. Thinking about it, there was nothing she could do.

As Raeleigh made her way back to the house, she felt her body gradually heat up.

By the time Raeleigh came back, the rest were nTristany done with their food. However, Raeleigh and Jepherson barely ate anything.

"Are you going to eat?" Xanthus immediately asked Raeleigh when he saw her. He noticed that her face was bright red, but he wasn't sure whether it was because of the cold or whether it was because she had taken a walk. He was a little distressed when he saw his sister's appearance.

“Come here.” Xanthus raised his hand and touched her face, hoping to warm her up. Raeleigh fixed her eyes on Xanthus and suddenly felt a deep feeling of sadness washed over her. She wanted to cry but she couldn’t bring herself to.

She opened her mouth and felt wronged. However, she still couldn’t help but yell out, “I feel miserable!”

Xanthus was caught off guard by Raeleigh’s screams. Santiago’s face, too, turned pale.

Everyone in the room was baffled. Besides, Jacky could see very clearly that Santiago was watching Raeleigh’s every move.

As long as Raeleigh was a little off, Santiago would start to get worried about her.

At this time, Raeleigh was obviously wronged and Santiago’s face was extremely pale.

As the door opened with a creak, everyone in the room looked towards the door. Jepherson had a little trouble pushing Stella into the room. For a moment, the whole room was silent.

Stella smiled faintly as she looked at the occupants in the room with rAI Diarnt eyes.

Soon, her smile gradually disappeared as she greeted the people in the room.

“Hello, everyone. Sorry to disturb you.”

Although Stella was sitting in a wheelchair, she still greeted everyone in the room.

With that, Raeleigh gradually calmed down, knowing that she was in it to win it. She was going to show Stella how strong she was and not let Stella laugh at her behind her back.

Raeleigh composed herself and said, “I didn’t expect you to come. I doubt you’ve eaten. Come join us.”

Raeleigh took a look at Xanthus and asked him to move over one seat. She sat between Santiago and Xanthus, leaving her original seat to Stella.

Jacky found it interesting. He got someone to set an extra place at the table before he continued eating.

However, Raeleigh did not finish her food. She initially did not have the appetite, but now she was forced to eat.

Santiago then gave a bowl of soup to Raeleigh. She thanked him and began drinking it.

Everyone else at the table was staring at Raeleigh, keeping silent. There was an indescribable awkwardness at the table.

Chapter 1484

Raeleigh was halfway through her bowl of soup when she heard Stella say, “A bowl of soup is perfect for warming up our bodies, especially when it’s freezing outside. ”

Raeleigh did not look up and merely continued drinking her soup. She pretended as if she did not hear anything.

After finishing her soup, she looked over at Santiago and asked, “Is there any more soup?”

Everyone in the room was wondering whether she was asking it for herself or for Stella.

In the end...

When Santiago brought her another bowl of soup, she picked up her spoon and started drinking it.

It made Santiago happy to find that she was feisty.

Xanthus' lips curved upward in the slightest hint of a smile as he was eager to see what Raeleigh would do.

He doubted that Jepherson would dare to do anything with him around.

Stella actually wanted some soup, but no one gave her any. Jepherson got up and went to get a bowl for her, only to realize that there was none left.

By then, Raeleigh had already finished her soup and was about to leave.

When she saw Jepherson holding a bowl, she asked, "Did you want some soup?"

Jepherson looked at her with a questioning look, unable to figure out what her intentions were.

Raeleigh reached for his bowl and said, "I'll go and check whether there's any more soup in the kitchen. If there isn't, then I'll have to make some more."

Then, she turned around and went into the kitchen. Jepherson thought that she was behaving rather strangely.

He was surprised that she was willing to make another pot of soup.

Jepherson sat down and cast a quick glance around the table. No one moved. He then looked at Stella. "Why don't you eat something else first? There might be some soup left."

"All right." Stella picked up her fork and began to eat, but she did not eat much. She was looking forward to the bowl of soup.

Not long after, Raeleigh emerged from the kitchen with a bowl of soup and placed it in front of Jepherson. "There was only one bowl left."

Jepherson stared at Raeleigh distractedly.

"I already drank some just now. Perhaps Stella would like some," Jepherson explained, but Raeleigh did not say anything.

"Thank you, Raeleigh." Stella did not stand on ceremony and helped herself. She took one sip before complimenting how delicious it was.

However, Raeleigh stared at Stella indifferently.

"I'm tired. I think I'll head back to my room. You guys can continue without me." Raeleigh excused herself and made her way back to her room. However, a few moments later, she came back out.

"I feel like going out for a walk. Xanthus, Santiago, why don't you come with me?"

With that, she walked toward the door. Santiago was more than happy to oblige, so he quickly got up and followed her. Xanthus did not want to stay either, so he put on his jacket and followed them.

After they left, Jacky also decided to leave. He did not want to disturb Jepherson.

Soon, only Stella and Jepherson were left seated at the dining table. Stella put down her spoon and looked at Jepherson. "Did I cause another misunderstanding?"

"Since you're aware of it, why do you still have to do this?" Jepherson asked calmly. In fact, he had already seen through her intentions. Stella might not care about all these, but he was different.

"I want to witness your breakup," Stella replied, pursing her lips. "Before you met her, you would come to visit me at least twice a year, and you would even call to wish me happy birthday. But ever since you two got together, you've changed!"

As if to prove her point, Stella picked up the bowl of soup and drank it all.

Jepherson, who was sitting beside her, said nothing. Although he looked at her quietly, he was thinking about Raeleigh.

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"Are you mad at Jepherson?" Santiago asked as they walked through Waverly Village. It was always crowded, even Tristany in the mornings.

Santiago had on a green coat, and he put his hands in his pockets to keep it warm as he walked, observing the surroundings.

Meanwhile, Raeleigh was silent.

She was surprised when she spotted an old lady selling some freshly caught fish. She approached her and asked curiously, "Excuse me, since it's such a cold day, I was wondering where these fish are from."

The old lady smiled and said, "There's a small lake here in this village. Although the lake is frozen, we managed to fish through a hole cut into the ice on the lake. It's very fresh! Would you like to buy some? These wild-caught fish are very delicious."

Actually, Raeleigh was just interested to know where they were from, but after hearing the old lady's words, she decided to buy a couple of them. Then, she handed the bag to Santiago. "Here, help me hold this. I'll make a fish dish for you when we get back."

Santiago asked, "Why me?"

Raeleigh was amused by his question. "What's the matter? Do you want me to hold it then?"

Santiago glanced at Xanthus, who was looking around as he walked. "What about him?"

"He's my brother. I'm not going to ask him to hold it for me. Besides, you're much stronger. I've got to make use of you while I still can."

Santiago had no choice but to take the fish. "Okay, fine. I'll hold it for you."

Not about to give up, he asked again. "Are you mad at Jepherson?"

Raeleigh looked around and said in a calm voice, "I have to keep calm and weather the storm. Even if we have a tragic ending, I must maintain my dignity and not let her have her satisfaction."

Santiago was surprised. "Wow, that's very generous of you to leave the two of them alone at home together."

Santiago was looking much happier now. Raeleigh thought for a while and asked, "How do you know it isn't a trap?"

"A trap?" Santiago raised his eyebrows. Raeleigh turned around and said with a smile, "Never offend women. Women are actually quite petty. They can be both good and bad!"

Raeleigh raised her hand and patted Santiago's cheek.

Santiago fell silent suddenly. He lowered his head and looked at Raeleigh. "What are you up to?"

"You'll know when you get back."

Raeleigh turned onto another street, "But, I don't want to go home just yet. Isn't there like a walled house here in Waverly Village? I want to have a look. Why don't we cook up these fish there?"

"You want to check out the walled house?" Santiago asked curiously. Raeleigh was already walking in the direction of the walled house while humming a song.

When they arrived, Raeleigh took out the fish. Santiago had to ask the neighbours for some ingredients while Xanthus collected some firewood to build a fire. Then, Raeleigh cooked the fish over the fire along with some rice.

As they were eating, Jepherson called Raeleigh's phone. However, her phone was with Xanthus.

Disregarding it, Xanthus let the phone keep on ringing. One could imagine how he felt about Jepherson.

In the end, he did not answer Jepherson's call.

Raeleigh and the others enjoyed their meal thoroughly. After tidying up, the three of them decided to spend the night there.

The walled house actually belonged to Jacky. It was warm and cozy. As night closed in, Jacky brought them some barbecued meat and a few bottles of beer. Then, they had a wonderful dinner together.

By the time they finished eating, it was already late at night. Raeleigh decided to turn in. She could not care less about returning Jepherson's call.

That night, she had a good night's sleep.

Chapter 1485

Raeleigh woke up the next morning and looked around the walled house for something they could eat for breakfast. Unfortunately, she could not find any as they had devoured all the food last night. If they did not leave soon, they would starve to death.

Thus, the four of them left the house in search of food. The journey back took about two hours. By the time they finally arrived on the main street, Raeleigh could barely walk anymore. So, they decided to stop by a restaurant to have breakfast.

They were not in a rush, so they took their time to eat. By the time they returned, it was already ten o'clock.

When they arrived, they saw a group of people standing at the door along with several paramedics.

Raeleigh walked in and saw Jepherson sitting inside with Stella. Stella was gripping Jepherson's hand as she sat up in bed while vomiting.

When Jepherson raised his head and saw them, Raeleigh asked, "What happened?"

Jepherson did not answer, and Stella burst into tears.

Santiago was amused by Raeleigh's question. He could not believe that she was still concerned about Stella after what she had done to her.

Although Xanthus was a doctor, he refused to treat Stella. So, he turned around and went back to his room. Not wanting Raeleigh to get infected by whatever Stella had, he asked Raeleigh to follow him back to his room as a safety precaution.

Raeleigh said, "Please call me if you need anything. I'll be in my brother's room."

After that, she turned around and left without looking at Jepherson.

On the other hand, Santiago was in no hurry to leave. He stood on one side and looked at Stella. "Not used to the environment, huh?"

Stella shook her head. "No, it's not that."

Stella gritted her teeth when she thought of the embarrassing situation where she dirtied her pants. At the same time, she cried pitifully.

Santiago glanced at Jepherson. "I feel like I don't know you anymore."

After saying that, he left the room and went to look for Raeleigh. He knocked on Xanthus' door, but Raeleigh said she was too tired to entertain him. However, when Santiago said that he was there to look for Xanthus, she opened the door to let him in.

But it turned out that Santiago had lied to her. He entered the room and smiled at her, then asked her how she could have pretended to be concerned about Stella.

Exhausted, Raeleigh did not answer him and went to lie on her bed.

As for Xanthus, he felt insecure whenever he saw Stella. He would never forget the day when Stella forced him to take drugs, and he nTristany died of an overdose.

Stella was a wolf in sheep's clothing. She was a dangerous woman.

When he thought of how Raeleigh's safety was in jeopardy, Xanthus had the urge to leave with Raeleigh immediately.

However, Xanthus did not want to let Raeleigh know about that. So, he made his plans quietly. Not only that, he needed Santiago's help as well.

"Raeleigh, can you come here for a second? Can you please help me wash my clothes later?"

Xanthus took off his coat and put on a new one. He knew very well that Raeleigh would not refuse his request. She even asked him to change out of the clothes he was wearing so that she could wash them as well.

However, Xanthus refused.

After he left, Raeleigh went to do the laundry before returning to bed and scrolled through her phone.

The day passed in the blink of an eye. Raeleigh realized that ever since she met Jepherson, her world had turned upside down. However, she knew that things would only get worse from here.

After a while, Raeleigh drifted off to sleep. By the time Xanthus came back, Raeleigh was already sound asleep.

When Xanthus saw her sleeping soundly, he could not bear to wake her up. However, for the sake of her safety, he did so reluctantly.

Upon opening her eyes, Raeleigh saw Xanthus standing in front of her. Without giving her the chance to speak, he quickly motioned for her to get dressed. As she got dressed, Xanthus told her that they had to leave Jack Town Hotel as soon as possible. She put on her clothes in a daze and only came back to her senses when she walked out of the room.

Xanthus brought Raeleigh to Jacky's walled house, and it was late at night when they finally arrived. Santiago and Jacky had already dropped by earlier in the day to clean up the place and make it warm and cozy. After Raeleigh arrived, she immediately climbed up to the attic and covered herself with a quilt before falling asleep.

The wind howled in the middle of the night, waking Raeleigh up. Unable to fall back asleep, she decided to scroll through her phone messages. As she looked at them, she felt as if a knife was stabbing her in the chest.

Raeleigh did not like deceiving herself, but whenever she was around Jepherson, she felt as if she was deceiving everyone, including herself.

However, he did not admit it, and Raeleigh was starting to feel torn. What on earth did Jepherson want? Raeleigh thought to herself.

The Doyle family was no ordinary family, but was there no other way to deal with them?

She sat moping. Soon, she realized that she felt cold. It felt as if she was running a fever.

She touched her forehead but found that it was not so. She was only feeling a little chilly because of the cold weather.

Raeleigh tucked the quilt around her and wondered what Jepherson was doing at that moment. Was he with Stella?

Even in her sleep, she sighed. Her heart was in sixes and sevens. Even she could not make sense of her thoughts, let alone someone else.

She wrapped the quilt tightly around herself and let out a long breath. Jepherson did not mean much to her, but at the same time, it would be a pity to lose him.

“Why aren’t you asleep?” Santiago had also been awake for a while. He did not expect that Raeleigh would be up either. He felt that he would go crazy if he had to continue to remain silent.

Raeleigh looked at Santiago. “Leave me alone. Go back to sleep.”

“You’re getting better at talking back, aren’t you?” Santiago slid one foot under Raeleigh’s quilt, but she was quick to react. She kicked his foot, and he pulled it back immediately. “Can’t sleep?” he asked.

“I don’t feel like talking about it.” Raeleigh turned her back to him. Santiago’s voice came from behind her, saying, “Since you’re worried, then why are you still here?”

Raeleigh still said nothing. After a long while, Santiago said, “He has his reasons. I trust him.”

Instantly, the room fell deathly silent. Raeleigh could only hear the sound of the wind outside the window.

She closed her eyes after a while. “It’s late. You should get some rest.”

After saying that, Raeleigh ignored him. Santiago continued speaking for a while, but Raeleigh pretended to sleep. Finally, he stopped talking.

At that moment, Jepherson was in his room and looking out the window. The wind was howling, and it blew the snow against the window. In Waverly Village, Jack Town Hotel was the best place to be at such a time since it was equipped with a heater. If he were somewhere else, he would have probably frozen to death.

Jepherson had tried calling Raeleigh several times, but she did not answer her phone at all. He worried whether she was wearing enough layers to keep herself warm.

After staring out the window for a while, Jepherson heard a movement behind him. He turned around and saw Stella. She looked outside and said, “Are you still worried about them?”

“Of course. One of them is the love of my life, and the other is my brother. Furthermore, there’s a snowstorm raging outside.”

He should not have let them leave.

Stella got up from the bed and looked at him. “Do you really have no feelings for me?”

Jepherson turned his back to her. “I told you, I only regard you as my sister, just like Deanna. It has been that way since the very beginning. Why don’t you understand?”

“I don’t want there to be any complications between us, but you can’t seem to accept our relationship.”

Jepherson refused to look back, and Stella let out a scornful laugh, “Why did I fall in love with someone like you?”

“That was a mistake from the start. Love needs to be mutual,” Jepherson replied.

“You may not love me, but you have no reason to stop me from loving you. Compared to her love for you, mine is greater, stronger, and more persistent. Nothing can cause it to waver. It’s as sturdy as a rock.”

Hearing that, Jepherson turned to look at Stella with some amusement, “Are you sure you love me?”

“A hundred percent.” Stella had placed everything on the line, and there was no way she would back down. However, Jepherson did not respond and only gave her a meaningful look.

They looked at each other. Finally, Stella asked, “Don’t you believe me?”

He turned around, answering lightly, “I don’t have the right to ask for the truth from someone I had never thought of loving.

“Raeleigh is hesitant with her love because she had too many concerns, but you’re different. You can act arbitrarily. However, when compared to your love, hers is more honest. I can see through her feelings.”

“Then can’t you see through my feelings?” Stella’s eyes glinted, her expression darkening slightly. If she did not do something about Raeleigh, things would get out of hand. As long as she could get rid of Raeleigh once and for all, she did not care if Jepherson ended up hating her. She would make him hers.

She would wait for him. She had plenty of time.

Jepherson did not turn around. “Stella, I see you in the same way as to how I see Scarlett and Deanna. You can also think of me as an elder brother. That will benefit us both. Anyway, you should rest. You’ll be fine since you’ve taken the medicine. Your guards are around too. I’ll go out and take a look.”

“In such heavy snow?” Stella asked in disbelief.

Jepherson took his jacket. “It’s fine.”

Once he was outside, he saw that it was snowing rather heavily indeed. However, it was not going to stop him from going to Raeleigh.

Raeleigh woke up from her sleep in a daze. She had heard something downstairs. It sounded like someone was knocking on the door.

She peeked out the window groggily from under her quilt. Santiago was fast asleep next to her, so she shoved him lightly. “Get up. Is there someone outside?”

Santiago rolled his eyes. “What’s wrong with you? Are you hearing things in the middle of the night?”

Raeleigh ignored Santiago and listened carefully once again, her eyes darting to the windowpane, which was covered with snow. Then, she got out of bed and walked toward the stairs. Santiago got up as well.

“You’re so troublesome!” he muttered.

Xanthus opened his eyes. “What’s wrong?”

"I need to go to the bathroom, so I'll go and take a look." With that, Raeleigh went downstairs. Santiago followed her. She pricked up her ears, listening for any sound. After all, in this weather, the sound of gusting wind could be similar to someone knocking on the door.

Once she was downstairs, Raeleigh hesitated a little at the door. The weather was so terrible that opening the door would dispel what little warmth was inside the house. If what she heard was only the noise from the wind, then she would make the whole place chilly for nothing, so she could not help being cautious.

"Is anyone there?" Raeleigh called out near the door. After a few seconds, she heard Jepherson's deep voice. "It's me."

She was startled, then she hurriedly opened the door without thinking a second thought.

As expected, the howling wind gushed in, blasting her in the face and effectively waking her. Raeleigh shuddered, then widened her eyes at the sight of Jepherson. He was covered in snow and looked like a snowman. He could barely move a muscle.

He stood at the door. Even his eyelashes were frozen. When Santiago saw him, he yanked him inside without a word and began vigorously dusting the snow off him.

Raeleigh quickly shut the door and turned to look at Jepherson.

Jepherson looked like a human-sized snowman after trudging in the snowstorm. His skin was frostbitten and red.

"What on earth were you thinking?"

Raeleigh suddenly shouted at him, the rims of her eyes reddening. He was hardly in a state to respond. Every part of his body was stiff and a bright, angry red.

"Santiago, get me some hot water," Jepherson managed to choke out, his voice a little hoarse. Santiago immediately turned around to get the water.

Fortunately, there was no need to boil water there. She thought that the water heater had been installed long ago, but it was only installed recently. Jacky specially prepared it for Deanna, and now they were the ones to benefit from it.

"It's ready," Santiago said.

Jepherson turned and walked into the bathroom, then took off his clothes. Raeleigh stood unmoving. Jepherson walked to the door of the bathroom and said to Santiago, "Go on upstairs and sleep. Raeleigh can stay."

Santiago had intended to stay with him, but after hearing that, he shrugged. After glancing at Raeleigh, he went upstairs.

Raeleigh paused, then stood at the bathroom door.

The door was open, and she could see that Jepherson's whole body was red. She felt like ignoring him to teach him a lesson. Was Jepherson mad to walk in a snowstorm? What if something happened to him? Raeleigh fumed.

Nonetheless, she swallowed her words and did not say them.

Raeleigh walked in with reddened eyes. She closed the door, took off her clothes, then joined Jepherson in the bathtub.

He was leaning back, resting his head against the edge of the bath. Raeleigh stepped into the bathtub and sat right on top of him. She lifted her hands to cup his red and swollen cheeks. "How are you going to go out tomorrow like this?"

"I don't even care about my pride, so what's stopping me from going out like this?" Jepherson snorted in retort, not showing any signs of retreating.

Raeleigh's hands trembled a little, suddenly having the impulse to draw them away. However, she shook her head and cupped his icy cheeks even more firmly.

Jepherson slowly opened his eyes and looked at her. He raised one of his red and swollen hands and held Raeleigh's hand, saying in a gentle tone, "I was worried about you. I was wondering whether you were eating well and whether you were warm enough."

Raeleigh had not intended to cry, but when she heard what Jepherson said, her eyes stung once again.

Gently rubbing Raeleigh's hand, he said, "I can bear you going through hardships and grievances with me. It pains me, but I can take that. What I can't take are the things I can't see. Don't suffer behind my back. I can't bear it when you're not with me."

Raeleigh swallowed, her lips quivering slightly. She fought to hold back her tears, but she found that it was useless. Soon, her tears flowed like a broken dam.

Seeing Raeleigh cry, Jepherson immediately held her in his arms without saying a word. She tensed up as soon as his body touched hers. Even though they were soaking in the warm water, she could still feel the chill from his body.

She leaned against his chest, murmuring softly. "I don't like you being with other women, especially Stella. I can't pretend it doesn't bother me, you know."

"Hah..."

Jepherson chuckled in her ear. "If you weren't jealous, I would've been worried."

She pursed her lips and said nothing. Jepherson washed Raeleigh's body, his huge palm caressing her smooth back. "There's chaos everywhere in Capital City now. Both my father and Mr. Atkinson have gone out to try and settle things. It's both an opportunity and also a disaster. If I can't suppress it, the Harvey family will not be able to survive.

"If one is born into a family like mine, there'll be a price to pay. The fact that I can hold my beloved woman in my arms and take a bath like this makes me content."

Raeleigh sat up and looked at Jepherson. "If I'm the one you need to sacrifice for the Harvey family, will you do it?"

He answered without any hesitation, "If that day really comes, I'll choose the Harvey family."

She had already guessed it. She looked at him, her clear eyes full of indescribable emotions. Under normal circumstances, she would have been upset and thrown a fit. Instead, she only felt a little regretful.

She clung onto Jepherson, hugging his broad shoulders even tighter, no longer saying anything.

Or maybe some things just could not be said.

Chapter 1486

Jepherson refused to look back, and Stella let out a scornful laugh, "Why did I fall in love with someone like you?"

"That was a mistake from the start. Love needs to be mutual," Jepherson replied.

"You may not love me, but you have no reason to stop me from loving you. Compared to her love for you, mine is greater, stronger, and more persistent. Nothing can cause it to waver. It's as sturdy as a rock."

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Or maybe some things just could not be said.

Chapter 1487

After the bath, Raeleigh helped find some of Xanthus' clothes for Jepherson to put on first. Then, they went up to the attic.

As they walked up the stairs, Raeleigh pondered how she should explain Jepherson's presence to Xanthus.

But when she arrived, Xanthus and the others were sleeping peacefully. No one seemed to notice them.

Raeleigh led Jepherson to where she had been sleeping, then motioned for him to lie down next to her. There was only one quilt, so they had to share.

Santiago had been sleeping next to Raeleigh before Jepherson came. But now, Jepherson lay down between them, separating the two of them with ease.

After lying down, Raeleigh whispered, "Let's sleep."

Jepherson turned over and hugged her from behind, then fell asleep not long after.

On the contrary, Raeleigh had a fitful night's sleep. Raeleigh was worried that Jepherson would fall ill after trudging all that way through the thick snow, and she woke up to check on him several times.

The next morning, Raeleigh and Jepherson continued sleeping after everyone else had woken up.

Xanthus sat and watched them for a while. Then, he got up and went to the window to look at the snow outside. It could well have been the heaviest snowfall they had had that year, with the snow already knee-deep.

However, it stopped snowing soon after Jepherson arrived. Xanthus went to the door and stared in the direction Jepherson came from the previous night. He could still see the trail Jepherson left, leading from the door to far away in the distance.

“Look at all that snow!” Jacky exclaimed as he came and joined Xanthus, all bundled up. Standing at the door, he could not help but sigh. “Heavy snow indicates a good harvest for the coming year.”

Xanthus looked at him. “You know about farming as well?”

Jacky replied, “I was born in Waverly Village and grew up here, so why wouldn’t I know? I was a teen when I first started farming with a bunch of people. The produce here is as profitable as it is popular. Although we’re just a poor and rural village, many people from Capital City sign contracts to buy our produce every year. The Cole family is one of them. However, they go through appointed agents as they usually buy in bulk, so we only know the agents but have never seen the family members.

“My family also has a manor where they’ve cultivated a large area of land just for farming. My parents are also particularly fond of planting.”

Xanthus looked around. “If my parents saw such beautiful snow, I don’t know what they’d think. Would they want to have a piece of land here?”

“No way. You can buy real estate here, but you can’t have the land here. There is and will never be any trading of land here,” Jacky replied.

“Why? Have you monopolized it?” Xanthus joked. Jacky merely said, “The farmers depend on the land to make a living. Although they’d make a lot of money if they sold their land, a stable and continuous income will still be a better option.”

Jacky continued, “If they run out of money, I’ll think of something to help them. They can become easily swayed by money at times, but I can’t be like that.”

After putting on a pair of gloves and a hat, Jacky took out a shovel and began to clear the snow at the door.

Xanthus also wrapped himself up warmly and went to help. Santiago took much longer to get ready in the mornings. By the time he came out, there were already many people hard at work clearing the snow. They did not clear all the snow in front of the door, only clearing a path for walking. According to Jacky, when the sun came out and melted the snow, the water would seep into the ground and contribute to the soil’s moisture.

When Raeleigh woke up, she was alone in the attic. She even touched the spot beside her on purpose. If it were not for the lingering warmth under the quilt, she would have thought everything that happened the previous night had been a dream.

Since Jepherson was not in the attic, Raeleigh climbed down the attic stairs. Halfway down, she saw the boys through a window making their way back to the house.

When they saw Raeleigh, they took off their coats and went to wash their hands. Someone had brought breakfast for them. Raeleigh glanced at Jepherson, then went to set the table.

After they sat down at the table, Santiago asked Jepherson, “Did you send someone away last night?”

Raeleigh froze for a moment. She raised her head to look at Jepherson and saw his expression change. Santiago had deliberately asked that question to provoke him.

“Can’t you shut your mouth?” Jepherson snapped in annoyance, shoving a heaped serving of bacon into Santiago’s bowl. Santiago lowered his head and continued eating, but he still persisted.

“How did you get here without sending her away?”

“I think you’ve been getting too comfortable recently,” Jepherson retorted.

He glanced at Raeleigh, then added, “I don’t know whether she left or not.”

His reply seemed to explain something. Raeleigh paused slightly, then turned her attention back to her breakfast.

While Raeleigh was clearing the table after breakfast, Jacky announced that he was going into the village to visit Logan and the others. He wanted to see if they were okay after the snowstorm.

Thus, Jacky presumably would be very busy for the next few days.

Xanthus did not want to leave for the time being. He intended to stay in the village long term.

The rest of them, including Santiago and Jepherson, had to leave for Capital City.

As for Raeleigh...

She finally decided to stay on with Xanthus. Although Waverly Village was far from Capital City, she still had a few days before classes started. She did not need to return to the office immediately either.

Although Stella was very powerful, Raeleigh felt safe in Waverly Village. Stella would not be able to do anything to them there.

“Since you don’t want to go back, then stay here. I’ll come to see you,” Jepherson said before he left, holding Raeleigh’s hand. She looked up at him. “Don’t come at night, and please don’t expose yourself to the snow or rain,” she reminded him.

“I know.”

Jepherson turned to look at Stella, who was sitting in her car. Things were still complicated between them, but he was determined to resolve it without delay.

“When I go back, I’ll settle things with Stella. I’ll try my best to send her away, but I still need a bit of time,” he said.

Raeleigh thought for a moment. Finally, she replied, “Have a safe journey.”

Then, she turned around and went into the house. Jepherson frowned as he watched her turn away, then strode toward the car.

Stella sat in the car, blinking as she watched Jepherson and Raeleigh. In the end, they still had to separate. That was a good thing for her.

Jepherson got into his car. Santiago was leaning back in his seat with narrowed eyes. Neither of them spoke. Jepherson shut the door, and the driver drove off. Then, Santiago broke the silence. His tone was casual as ever as he said, "If she gets up to no good again, don't blame me for being ruthless."

Jepherson glanced at him but did not reply. Instead, he turned to look in the rearview mirror, looking at the house reflected in the mirror.

It might actually not be a bad thing for Raeleigh to stay. At the very least, Jepherson could feel at ease while he settled things. Jepherson thought to himself.

Chapter 1488

Raeleigh breathed a sigh of relief after Jepherson was gone. She preferred not knowing what he did. That way, she could feel more at ease. It was better than living with the fear of losing him to somebody else at any moment whenever they meet. Besides, Raeleigh much preferred to do what she liked on her own.

Although Waverly Village could not compare to the hustle and bustle of Capital City, she preferred its peacefulness and serenity.

There was no doubt that Capital City was a bustling city. However, to someone like her, it felt more like an empty dream filled with vanity. Although it was vibrant, everything about it felt like a fragile illusion that could be easily destroyed.

"I don't plan on staying here for the long term, but it's better than staying in Capital City. Jepherson will have his hands full. The Cole family is getting ready, and the Doyle family is raring to go. Since we can't leave, it may be a good thing to stay in this small village."

Xanthus was sitting in a corner, observing the people going to and fro on the street. Raeleigh smiled and asked, "Admit it. You like him, don't you?"

Xanthus laughed. "Anyone my sister likes must be someone extraordinary indeed, so how can I not like him?"

"But you still want to go against him?" she pressed.

"He's in the wrong, so I have to when it's still not too late. If I don't remind him now, do you think he'll care what I say in the future?"

Xanthus smiled, then continued, "Since Jepherson insists on going ahead with his plan, there must be something that his family has hidden in the past. Dad has also looked into this matter, and we can't leave either. We can only do what we can and hope for a miracle."

Raeleigh looked at him. "If I say that I'm not worried about those things now, would you believe me? What would you think of me?"

Xanthus's gaze deepened. "I'll still treat you as my sister, nothing more nor less. One thing is clear, and that is the fact that the past can't hinder you now. Your only and biggest challenge is Stella."

Raeleigh grinned in relief. "Although we don't spend much time together, you're still the one who knows me the best."

“Bygones are bygones, and I don’t want to keep living in the past. But for now, I’m worried about Stella’s sudden appearance.”

“If it was really for Jepherson, I think Stella would have taken action a long time ago. After all, Deanna is not as bad as Stella. Stella was not around before but appeared out of the blue. I’m sure her sudden appearance is also what Jepherson is most worried about,” Xanthus said.

Raeleigh also shared the same thought. That was why she was feeling so anxious.

“You know everything,” Raeleigh remarked as she turned and took a few steps forward. His words had made her see him in a new light. She had known long ago that he was no ordinary person. He did not become a doctor because of his talents, but for their family’s sake.

In truth, Xanthus’s real strength lay in doing business. That was because he had a shrewd mind and a keen eye.

The siblings continued walking and chatting. They even passed by the houses Xanthus had bought. The sun rose and melted the snow on the ground. The air felt fresh and clean, and even the houses looked cleaner. Everything seemed to have been reborn.

Xanthus came to a stop, and Raeleigh followed suit. He said to her, “I want to set up a private practice here and hire a few employees. We can organize a physical examination every year to benefit the people here.”

“Are you really going to open up a private practice? Here?” Raeleigh asked curiously. Xanthus replied, “Do I look like I’m joking?”

Raeleigh shook her head. “No, you look serious, but I don’t think it’s true.”

“Although I have built a name for myself and become rather well-known, that’s not what I want. I have always wanted to find somewhere that I belong and do something I want to do.”

If Xanthus opened a private practice in the village, he would be able to make living while doing what he liked. It was not a bad idea at all.

He said, “I’ll continue to work as a doctor at Elkton University. I can work there during the daytime and come here at night to treat patients. That’s what I want.

“If I don’t really want to work or stay here, or if I feel tired, I’ll fly back to visit our parents.”

One more place to settle down meant one more place to call home. That would be nice.

He added, “I’m not getting any younger either. It’s time for me to start a family of my own.”

Noticing the seriousness in his tone, Raeleigh was all ears. Without meaning to, she suddenly thought of Cynthia.

“Since that’s what you want, I’m all for it. If you need any help, I can help you,” she replied.

Actually, Raeleigh could barely be of any help. After all, she did not have any professional medical qualifications. She really could not figure out how she could help.

“Well, there is something you could do. Since you still have time, why don’t you stay and help me?” Xanthus went into one of the houses. Raeleigh followed him, feeling curious. She really had no idea what she could do to help.

After entering the empty building, Xanthus took a pen and a blueprint out, then handed them to Raeleigh.

“Take a look,” he said.

Raeleigh unfolded the paper and stared at the words on it. “Acuity Hospital?” she read.

She raised her head and looked at him. “I don’t quite understand.”

“Who else is better at designing than my sister? Why would I ask another designer to do it if I have you?” He stared at her pointedly.

Raeleigh looked at Xanthus in silence and suddenly grinned. “I design cars. Aren’t you afraid that I’ll design your hospital into a luxury car?”

“If so, I believe the hospital will attract a lot of attention, or at least add to the view.”

Raeleigh thought for a moment. “Give me some time then. I’ll try. If I can’t do it, you can ask someone else for help. After all, this is a serious matter..”

“Sure,” he replied.

...—

Raeleigh walked around the outside of the empty building, holding the pen and paper. She would need to do some research so that she could come up with a design that blended with the rest of the village.

Xanthus immediately filled in an application form to hand in to Capital City’s medical department. Xanthus knew the procedures better than anyone else. A private practice was different for sure, but they were still very strict about it.

Meanwhile, Raeleigh took advantage of the time she had to do a lot more wandering around, studying the building structures around the village. Although she designed cars, designing a building was a different ballgame entirely. So, she had to figure out all the details.

For the next few weeks, Raeleigh and Xanthus lived and breathed everything related to the hospital. They spent every waking hour discussing it. Raeleigh was so engrossed that she almost forgot to eat.

Jepherson called her a few times, but Raeleigh was either on a work call or meeting the locals. She wanted to familiarize herself with how things were done in the village so that she would not make a fool of herself and humiliate Xanthus. After searching high and low, she finally managed to get a few architects and engineers to help her. They all arrived at the village in a few days. Upon their arrival, Raeleigh had a long talk with them about her thoughts and ideas. They were supportive and gave great suggestions, which led to several more meetings and discussions. Soon, they reached a consensus and decided to go ahead and build the first clinic in the village.

She was so busy that even if she wanted to call Jepherson, her time was limited.

Chapter 1489

While Raeleigh was on the phone, the designer in front of her asked, "Do you think it's all right to place the exits here?"

She took a look at the floor plan and raised her eyebrows, then mouthed to the guy, "Hold on a second."

She turned around and said to Jepherson over the phone, "Something just came up. Let's talk some other time."

After she hung up, Raeleigh continued with the discussion, and she soon forgot all about her conversation with Jepherson just a few moments ago.

At the other end, Jepherson put down his cell phone and pursed his lips. After rubbing the space between his eyebrows, he stood up.

"Cancel the meeting this afternoon. I have something to do," he said to his secretary curtly. After leaving the office, he drove straight to where Raeleigh was.

When Raeleigh saw him, she was wearing the red coat Santiago had bought for her. She was standing in front of the site holding the site's blueprint and surrounded by a group of young men of about 25 years old. Jepherson stopped the car and got out. He had driven the company's convertible from the batch manufactured the previous year. In order to increase the company's sales, he would drive the cars occasionally as a form of advertising.

Raeleigh did notice an expensive sports car driving in, but she did not pay any attention to it.

Turning around, Raeleigh gave a casual flick of her hair back then continue to study the blueprint.

As Jepherson stood next to Raeleigh, he did not say anything. The other designers saw him, but they all thought that he was another designer. After all, they did not all come to the village at the same time, but separately. They had dived straight into the work, and no one was given any special treatment.

All of them had gathered from all over the country, and some of them even flew in from overseas. One of the designers who flew in was a playful lad who liked to hang around Raeleigh, and everyone jokingly nicknamed him McDreamy.

They nicknamed him that because he was fair and had startlingly blue eyes. His complexion was smooth and flawless. Several times, someone on Raeleigh's team joked that they really wanted to bite him.

Somehow, everyone started calling him McDreamy after that.

"Raeleigh, are you cold?" McDreamy was a local who migrated overseas, so he was able to pick up the language quickly. He was more flirty than the others and was closer to her compared to the rest.

Not used to such friendliness, Raeleigh had told him several times to keep things professional, but it did not seem like her advice actually worked. As long as he did not go too far, she would usually just ignore him.

While they were talking, McDreamy's stopped mid-sentence and let out a yelp of surprise. He had been shoved aside by someone, who then wrapped a heavy coat around Raeleigh's shoulder.

Raeleigh looked down subconsciously. It was a black coat that was obviously too big for her. The shoulders of the coat were very wide.

Raeleigh froze for a moment, then raised her head and looked right at Jepherson's face. She had not seen him in a long time. "What are you doing her-"

Before she could finish her sentence, Jepherson lowered his head to press his lips against hers, his thick arms wrapping around her waist to bring her closer. She had no choice but to put her hands around his shoulders. The kiss was so sudden that she could not help but respond. However, he refused to stop after one kiss. He pressed her waist even closer against him, throwing her off balance. She was afraid that she would fall because she could not stand steadily on her feet. Her hands clutched around his neck tightly, and he was reluctant to break the kiss as well.

"Ahem!" Xanthus coughed loudly as he walked over. Flustered, Raeleigh pushed Jepherson away. He resisted and held her tightly in his arms, then turned to look at Xanthus.

Raeleigh blushed and lowered her head, not daring to look up.

Xanthus said, "Park the car elsewhere."

Jepherson followed his gaze, then let Raeleigh go. He walked toward the car, got in, and reparked it somewhere else.

In fact, the original spot was fine, but Xanthus deliberately said so to get him away from his sister.

Since Xanthus was his fiancée's brother, Jepherson had to listen to him.

After parking the car, Jepherson came back with something in his hand.

"What's that?" Raeleigh asked. Jepherson looked at her and answered, "Some food."

"Why didn't you tell me that you were coming?" Raeleigh did not remember what had happened during their last call, and Jepherson did not explain either. He glanced at the people around them and estimated that there were six or seven of them. He said smoothly, "I'm Raeleigh's fiancé. Nice to meet you."

Switching the bag to his left hand, he shook hands with them one by one with his right hand.

Raeleigh stood to one side awkwardly. It was clear that he had come to exert his dominance.

After shaking hands, McDreamy looked dispirited. It was as if reality had just given him a huge slap.

He considered himself to be quite attractive. But as he looked at Jepherson, he realized that he did not hold a candle to Jepherson. In terms of temperament and appearance, they were incomparable. He suddenly felt downcast.

"Raeleigh, I suddenly remembered that my cousin called me and asked me to go back for a blind date. I can't stay to help you. I have to go now."

With that, McDreamy turned around and hurried back to his living quarters without looking back. He did not even wait for Raeleigh's reply. He packed up his bags, then left the village that afternoon.

Perplexed, Raeleigh called after him. However, he did not stop, and he did not answer her calls later either. It was as if he was suddenly an entirely different person. After meeting Jepherson, he ditched the project without a second thought.

Raeleigh was annoyed, wondering what his problem was. There were some situations where one could come and go as one pleased. Moreover, one should not take things for granted. If everyone acted like him, the world would descend into chaos.

Nonetheless, when Raeleigh turned around and saw Jepherson, she thought that McDreamy was still better than him.

He had shown up so suddenly, which made her wonder what his motive was.

She seemed to have thought of something. She took out her cellphone and scrolled through it, realizing that they had not had a proper conversation in days.

"I have something to do today, so we'll continue this discussion later. I'll treat you guys to dinner tonight," Raeleigh said to the others.

Since Jepherson had come all the way to visit her, she did not want to leave him hanging.

He was a busy person too, so he probably had to leave in a day.

The others grinned and nodded. They were an easygoing bunch, and after hearing that, they went off to have their leisure time.

Raeleigh turned to see what Jepherson had brought. When she saw the nourishing soups and herbs in the bag, she could not help feeling touched. She showed him around the house Xanthus had bought, which was where she was staying for now.

The villagers were delighted that Xanthus was planning to build a hospital. Some of them gladly sold their land or houses to him to use for his hospital, while others refused, thinking that it would become even more profitable in the future. Even those that had received money from Xanthus still went back on their word.

However, Xanthus did not get mad, nor did he force them to hand over the land. He merely requested that they return the money.

When Jacky found out about that, he brought his men and went to ask the villagers about it. The matter was settled the very next day, but Xanthus had to pay double the amount of money to the owner as compensation.

As locals, it was clear they were bullying an outsider like Xanthus.

However, Xanthus was loaded, and the money was nothing to him. He paid them what they wanted, thus resolving the matter. Therefore, it was not a bad thing at all!

Chapter 1490

While Raeleigh went to whip up a meal, Jepherson sat in her room and studied her drafts. In addition to her two notebooks and phone, pens, piles of papers, and drafts littered her desk.

He stared at the design and thought of the other designers he had met earlier. He placed his coat aside, unbuttoned the top two buttons of his shirt, rolled up his sleeves, and picked up a pen to help. When Raeleigh came out of the kitchen, Xanthus was drinking water while Jepherson was editing the drafts. Perhaps due to the small space, Jepherson had some difficulty focusing, but he persisted.

Raeleigh put the dishes on the table and walked to Jepherson's side, staring intently at his drafts. Even though he only made some changes to the design, she could not help but admit that he had an innate talent for designing.

She had struggled to come up with a solution for the design for days, but it only took him an hour to come up with a design that exceeded her expectations,

She fixed her eyes on the drawing, sighing. "I couldn't come up with anything for days, but you produced something gorgeous with just a few casual strokes. I'm so jealous."

As she spoke, Jepherson looked up from the desk, but he did not say anything. He then turned back to continue editing the drafts.

Raeleigh watched attentively. Jepherson said, "Compared to your talent, I'm the one who should be jealous.

"No matter what happens, your mind is always so clear and calm.

"Your draw inspiration from everywhere and everything around you.

"But I can't do that. I can only concentrate on the specifics to get inspired.

"When I see the design, I can tell what is coherent and what needs to be changed. However, producing an original design from scratch is impossible for me.

"As a designer, that is one of my failures. Do you still envy me?"

Jepherson put down the pen. Raeleigh looked at him in surprise, appearing not to have heard him.

"What did you say?"

The corners of his lips curved upwards. Smiling helplessly, he said, "An innate talent is something that comes naturally. Otherwise, it wouldn't be called that."

After saying that, Jepherson went to wash his hands. Raeleigh looked at the drawing, her eyes sparkling with excitement. She followed Jepherson to the bathroom like a child, impatient for answers.

While washing his hands, Jepherson looked at Raeleigh in the mirror and explained, "I can't concentrate when I don't have a direction. I can't think of anything innovative.

"My mom said that I gave all of my patience to that sister of mine. I'm restless, and I need time to learn to ground myself.

"Although my designs have been very popular in recent years, I don't think they're perfect. I know what's wrong with them, but I don't want to make changes unless I have to.

“Instead, I prefer people like you, and I envy you.”

After washing his hands, Jepherson turned and kissed Raeleigh. She ducked backward, then raised her head and continued to look at him. “You’re lying, aren’t you?”

“No.” Jepherson lowered his head and sealed her lips with his again. She raised her hands to push him away as he held onto her waist with his arms, trying not to let his wet hands touch her clothes. It was a while before he let her go.

She stared at him dubiously, feeling like there was more to what he said.

“I can’t tell what you’re thinking. I can’t even tell whether what you told me is true or not.”

Feeling quite helpless, Raeleigh left.

She liked him, but she could not read him.

She felt like such a failure!

Jepherson followed Raeleigh out of the bathroom and they sat down to eat.

After eating, she calmly asked Jepherson if he was leaving later that day, to which he retorted by asking her whether he should.

Raeleigh was amused. “I’m just asking. What did you have in mind?”

“Nothing.” Jepherson stood outside the door and looked around for a while. Then, he took Raeleigh’s hand and put it into his coat pocket.

She looked at him for a while, then led him out of the house. “Let’s go to the restaurant. I’m treating the others to dinner tonight. If you don’t want to leave, you can join us.”

Raeleigh actually liked such a simple life. If they could stay like that forever, she was willing to grow older and raise a bunch of children there.

Jepherson could visit whenever he had time.

Jepherson did not say anything, leaving everything up to her. They headed to the restaurant together. The restaurant’s owner and Raeleigh already knew each other well, and they were met with a warm welcome when they entered. Raeleigh told the owner that she had more than ten people coming for dinner that night, and she wanted to make a reservation.

The owner’s wife handed the menu to Raeleigh, chattering good-naturedly. Noticing that Jepherson and Raeleigh held hands the whole time, she asked what their relationship was with a cheeky grin.

Raeleigh wanted to explain that he was a friend, but Jepherson beat her to it. “I’m her fiancé.”

“Fiancé? No wonder you look so well-matched,” the lady exclaimed. Jepherson grinned, his mood brightening. He did not hesitate to book the most luxurious dinner set the restaurant offered.

After that, he requested to add on a lobster.

The boss replied sheepishly, “Sorry, we’re just a small village. We don’t have that.”

“If you want to eat it, I’ll make it for you,” Raeleigh piped up, trying to smooth things over.

“All right. Make it tonight then,” Jepherson said immediately, rendering her speechless.

Raeleigh was just saying that to be polite. Why did Jepherson take it seriously? Raeleigh thought to herself.

Would they have to eat another round after having dinner at the restaurant?

The boss chatted with them enthusiastically, promising to prepare a feast fit for a king. Raeleigh looked at the time. Since it was still Tristany, she took Jepherson for a walk around the village. Whenever they came across an interesting building, she would tell him all she knew about it. She truly was interested in architecture.

Raeleigh said, “These buildings should be preserved, but the locals don’t seem to care about them as much. I plan to take some photos and document the buildings here when I have the time.

“I can take the photos out to look at them again next time. I’m sure it’ll bring back many good memories.”

“In that case, what is going to happen to me then?” he asked.

Raeleigh looked at him. “What do you mean?”

“The company has spent so much money and time on you. Will my efforts be wasted?” Jepherson held Raeleigh tightly, hugging her close.

“I didn’t say I wouldn’t go back. It’s just that so much has happened lately. I can’t help it.” Raeleigh had her own reasons, and the corner of Jepherson’s mouth twitched. “What you mean is that if I don’t get rid of the trouble in front of us, you won’t return?” he said.

“I didn’t say that. I just want to stay and help Xanthus.”

“But don’t you still have to work?” he pressed.

“All you want are my designs. Well, all my designs are with Harvey Group. I don’t really understand about the company’s matters, so I’d be useless even if I went back.”

“Who said you’re useless?” Jepherson frowned.

“No one. They won’t say it to me directly, but I can’t pretend to be ignorant.”

Jepherson gave her a long look. Finally, she sighed in defeat and admitted quietly, “Okay, fine. I want to set up my own company.”

Jepherson was speechless.

Humph! Raeleigh finally revealed the truth! Jepherson fumed.

He raised his eyebrows and pursed his lips. He was not pleased!