

Go After 1491

Chapter 1491

Raeleigh knew that Jepherson would be annoyed with her, but the displeasure would only be temporary.

Raeleigh did not probe further to testify that. Although she could tell that Jepherson was sulky during dinner, he still drank on her behalf. Every time her teammates poured her a glass and urged her to drink, he would take the glass.

For the first time, Raeleigh found out that Jepherson could hold his liquor very well indeed. He must have downed two bottles already, but he did not seem to have any reaction.

At Waverly Village, there was no such thing as low-alcohol liquor. They had their own brewery, and the people in the village much preferred it over others. The boss also did not import or stock any other alcohol, not even red wine. Even if he did, a person of Jepherson's status was unlikely to consider it.

As for beer, it would only be cracked open during the hot summer. No one liked drinking beer in such cold weather.

Left without much choice, Jepherson could only follow the local customs and join them in drinking the liquor produced in the village.

It was exceptionally strong. Raeleigh could manage a few sips, but most people would get knocked out after a few shots.

Its taste was out of this world, but it was strong enough to knock one out.

Raeleigh looked at the others who were sprawled on the table in a drunken stupor. Then, she looked at Jepherson beside her. She unbuttoned the top buttons of his shirt and asked with concern, "Are you sure you're still sober?"

Jepherson looked down at her without saying anything.

Because he did not speak, Raeleigh did not know whether he was drunk or not.

She said in an amused yet resigned tone, "Since you can't drink that much, why did you force yourself?"

Jepherson was silent. Instead, he glanced at Xanthus, who could also hold his liquor. However, as a doctor, he controlled his intake and did not drink as much, declining drinks a few times during dinner.

They looked at each other without speaking. Finally, Xanthus said, "The two of you should head back first. I'll take care of the others."

With that, Raeleigh helped Jepherson up, and they left the restaurant. Meanwhile, Xanthus stayed to make arrangements for those who were drunk. Out of professional obligation, he briefly checked on them and gave them some medicine to ease the hangover.

Raeleigh placed Jepherson's arm around her shoulders so that she could support him as they walked. While walking, she could not help but nag him for drinking too much.

Jepherson did not say a word. Raeleigh knew that he was angry that she had chosen to stay in the village over going back to the city. However, she avoided mentioning it. If she did not bring it up, he could not say anything about it either.

When they got back to the house, Raeleigh began to undress him to change his clothes. He was wearing his usual white turtleneck. He wore the same style all the time, be it in winter or summer. While Raeleigh undressed him clumsily, she said, "You even wear the same outfit in the summer. Won't you feel hot?"

Jepherson stared at her. He did not answer, but his gaze gradually became unfocused.

Raeleigh guessed that he was feeling tipsy as well. Well, he did drink so much that even Dionysus would be drunk.

After taking a shower, he changed into his pajamas and went to bed. After blow-drying her hair, she went to check on him. His eyes were closed, so did not know whether he had fallen asleep or not.

Raeleigh sat down, careful not to make too much noise in case she disturbed his rest. As soon as she reached out a hand, a strong arm pulled her to lie down on the bed, and the lights dimmed. She could feel Jepherson's grin as he lowered his head to kiss her, first softly and slowly, then more urgently. His hands moved to unbutton her shirt.

When Raeleigh got up in the morning, her whole body ached whenever she moved.

She winced a little, then frowned at the person who looked even fresher and more energetic than yesterday.

Although he drank buckets the night before, he had not seemed drunk at all. On the contrary, he had been full of vigor. But he still did not say a word. They had been busy rolling between the sheets, their bodies slick with sweat. When Raeleigh woke up in a daze, she still had no idea if he had been drunk or not the previous night.

Jepherson had already gotten up and climbed out of bed. He began looking for clothes to wear.

He did not bring any clothes with him, so he went to look for some of Xanthus' clothes.

Raeleigh wondered what Xanthus would have left to wear once Jepherson wore all his new clothes.

It did not take long for Jepherson to come back into the room holding Xanthus' new clothes that still had their tags on.

Raeleigh got up from the bed and stared at him.

He smirked. He went to close the curtains, then took off his pajamas and put on Xanthus' clothes.

Jepherson changed while Raeleigh looked on leisurely. He took off his pajama bottoms and put on one of Xanthus' briefs, followed by a pair of long Lucas. Then, he put on a pair of pants. Taking off his pajama top, he put on a thermal top. Raeleigh stared as if bewitched. The corners of her lips curved upward, but she did not say anything.

He went to the bathroom to wash up, then came out and put on a shirt swiftly.

The final touch was a coat.

But since they were indoors, he did not put it on just yet.

Raeleigh wriggled out of the quilt and went to wash up, then began to change. While she was changing, Jepherson immediately hugged her from behind.

"I'll wash the clothes for you. Take some clothes with you the next time you come. If you borrow my brother's clothes again, he won't have any new ones for himself," she said.

Raeleigh pulled his hand away and continued to get ready. Then, she turned to look at him.

"You don't want to go back with me?" Jepherson was still holding out hope.

She shook her head. "No. I'll only go when Stella leaves. I don't want to see her. Anyway, I have something to do here, and you have your stuff to deal with.

"I know that you came because you're lonely, but I can stand the loneliness and wait for you. As long as you're still single without a wife or kids, I'll be here."

Jepherson's gaze fell. He could not help feeling a little aggrieved. "What if I get married and have children? What will you do then?"

"I don't think about things that haven't happened. Maybe I'll get even with you," Raeleigh replied mischievously. Everyone had their own world, and she could not force anything. The only thing that she could change was herself. She was also ready to give him more time.

Jepherson thought for a moment and nodded. "I'll get things settled as soon as possible."

"I know you will."

After Raeleigh got changed, she gathered the clothes that they had worn yesterday. She changed the bedding as well. Jepherson raised his eyebrows and asked, "You're washing everything?"

"Of course." Raeleigh dumped them into the washing machine and pressed a few buttons.

Jepherson turned around and went out, planning to hire a housekeeper for her.

Raeleigh went out to buy breakfast since the laundry would take some time. She asked Jepherson when he planned to leave, but he did not give any answer. In the end, he stayed with her all day and did not even want to leave when night fell. Instead, he had someone send him some of his things.

Chapter 1492

Raeleigh knew that as long as Jepherson did not leave, she would have no peace at Waverly Village. True to her expectations, Jepherson was awakened late at night by his phone ringing.

On the other hand, Raeleigh had just fallen asleep. But when she heard the sound of his phone, she opened her eyes and saw Jepherson sitting up to answer the phone.

She could hear a woman's voice on the other end of the line. It sounded like Stella's voice.

Raeleigh did not pay close attention to his phone call. Instead, she got out of the bed and poured a glass of water for him. After he ended the call, she gave it to him.

Jepherson raised his head and hesitated for a moment before taking the water.

He held the cup with one hand and Raeleigh's hand with the other, pulling her to sit on his lap.

At that moment, Raeleigh sensed that something must have happened.

Jepherson kissed Raeleigh's ears and said, "Someone from the Doyle family came."

She turned to look at Jepherson, who had a grim expression on his face. She did not quite understand what he meant.

Jepherson put down the cup and placed his hands around Raeleigh's waist. "Before I came, Stella told me that she wanted me to marry her and that she'd propose to me. I thought she was only saying it casually. I had no idea she meant it."

"You agreed?" Raeleigh knew that Jepherson would not do that, but she still could not help asking. She wanted to know his real answer.

Shaking his head, he kissed Raeleigh. "Come back with me. I need you by my side."

Raeleigh looked at him. "What do you plan to do if I go back with you?"

"I'll tell the Doyle family that you're my wife."

"What?"

"We'll get the marriage certificate today," he said, shocking her. She felt like it was all a big joke. It was too hasty!

For a moment, Raeleigh was silent as she gave it some thought.

"Raeleigh..."

"I need to discuss this with Xanthus and get the approval of my parents. I can't decide on my own. I..."

Her voice trailed off. Hugging her, he said, "Do you think I'm not worthy to be your husband?"

"No, it's just..."

Raeleigh did not know what to say. Marriage was not a game. Even so, she knew that she did not want to marry anyone other than Jepherson.

The problem was the relationship between their two families. There were still many things that were unresolved. There was no way that she could pretend that she knew nothing about it. If she could, she would have gotten married as soon as possible. In fact, Raeleigh would have gotten married a long time ago and would not have waited until now.

Jepherson held Raeleigh's hand. "Are you afraid that I'll let you down?"

Raeleigh shook her head. "I accepted you. I'm an adult, so I have to be responsible for my own choices."

But I can't forget about my parents."

Raeleigh was really in a dilemma.

After a long while, Jepherson pulled Raeleigh close and said, "Then we'll put the marriage certificate on hold first, but you have to come with me to put on a good show. I have to go to A city.

"The Doyle family should be on their way to my home. On the phone, Stella seemed confident that my parents would agree to our marriage, so I must go back at once."

Jepherson looked at Raeleigh, who was indecisive. After a long time, she said, "Then I'll discuss it with Xanthus."

"Okay. I'll wait for you."

He released her hand she went to put on her clothes. Then, she went to Xanthus.

At the same time, Jepherson was also making arrangements for someone to pick him up. He called Santiago and informed him of the situation.

Raeleigh knocked on Xanthus' door. After a brief moment, he turned on the light and opened the door.

Standing at the door, she said, "I want to go back with him. He said something happened back at home."

Xanthus was silent for a while. "I'll go with you."

However, Raeleigh shook her head. "He'll protect me. I don't want you to go this time. I don't want Stella to stab you again. Stella is only nice to him. Even if she wants to take me down, she won't do anything to me for now. At least not brazenly."

Xanthus thought for a moment. "I'll send someone to follow you secretly. Be careful and text every day during dinner time, between six to seven o'clock. If I don't get your text, I'll go over immediately."

"All right," Raeleigh replied and hugged Xanthus. He returned the hug. After a long time, he said, "I'll be here waiting for you. If something happens, you have to remain calm. You're very smart, but your emotional intelligence is low. You've become more naive after meeting Jepherson."

Raeleigh stepped away slowly. "So, in my brother's eyes, I'm such a person."

"The higher the IQ, the lower the EQ. How much energy can a person have? Since they use it all on their IQ, other aspects will definitely suffer," he explained.

However, Raeleigh could not laugh at that. "But I think highly of my emotional intelligence."

"That's what you think. You're far inferior to Jepherson. Even ten of you would still be incomparable to Jepherson."

"What about after adding you?" Raeleigh asked. Xanthus laughed, "If you did, you'd be invincible."

Raeleigh was at a loss for words. "I didn't realize I was so passive."

Xanthus patted Raeleigh's shoulder gently and said, "I'll put on my clothes and see you out."

"Okay."

With that, Raeleigh turned back and told Jepherson that she would be going with him. She then started to pack her clothes and clean up. After a while, Xanthus joined her.

"I'll take you to the entrance of the village." Although Xanthus felt uneasy, he also felt that Stella was not mad.

Xanthus drove them to the entrance of the village and watched them leave before driving away.

However, Xanthus did not stay in the village. He was uneasy about Raeleigh following Jepherson to A city. Thus, he packed up his things and planned to follow them. However, when the car reached the village's entrance, it was stopped by Jacky's men.

Xanthus looked out from the inside of the car. Jacky got out of his car and stood looking at him. "I can't help it. Someone asked me to do this. Please get down from the car."

Therefore, Xanthus could not leave.

Xanthus thought that Jepherson was the one behind it and called Jepherson. After Jepherson hung up the phone, he looked at Raeleigh.

"I didn't expect you to be so vicious," he said. He was determined to take the blame.

"I can't let anything happen to him," she replied after a moment's pause.

If Raeleigh had to fight Stella to the death, she would be prepared.

Jepherson was silent, but the corners of his lips curled upward.

The driver felt that it was really strange.

It seemed that a tiger had met a fox. Whether the cunning fox would win or the fierce tiger, that remained to be seen.

When the car arrived at the airport, it was already late at night. As Jepherson was in a hurry, Raeleigh rushed down from the car as fast as she could. They passed through the security checks quickly and boarded the plane together.

Even so, they were too late. By the time they arrived, the Doyle family's representatives had already met with the Harvey family, and the marriage had been discussed.

Chapter 1493

When Raeleigh and Jepherson arrived at the Harvey Family, there were two luxury cars parked at the door. They did not have local car plate numbers, but the cars belonged to the Harvey family.

Jepherson explained to Raeleigh, "This car was designed by our family, so it's a limited edition model. After production, the first few cars were gifted to some families."

"They had to be someone who had a good relationship with your family. Otherwise, you wouldn't be so generous, right?"

Raeleigh had already guessed that the car was given to the Doyle family.

Jepherson did not answer, indicating a silent admission.

Raeleigh followed Jepherson in. Lennox was shocked when he saw Jepherson. Then, he walked to Jepherson and greeted, "Mr. Jepherson."

Jepherson's gaze was cold as he asked, "Who's here?"

Lennox glanced at Raeleigh, who was standing next to Jepherson. With his hands tightly grasped together, he said hesitantly, "Some members of the Doyle family came to discuss your marriage."

Raeleigh could tell that Lennox was uneasy.

However, she deliberately did not look at him and turned her gaze away.

It was Tristany in the morning. The mornings in City A were warmer than those in Capital City, so Raeleigh did not feel cold. Maybe because of the plants around them, there was a soft, white mist and the air was fresh.

"Is that so? Why did they come to discuss my marriage when I'm not here?" A cold glint flashed in Jepherson's eyes. Lennox lowered his head slightly and replied, "Thank goodness you came back in time. I was just about to call you."

Raeleigh turned around and glanced at Lennox. He was still a smooth liar despite his old age. Raeleigh could tell that he had not intended to call Jepherson, but he could still lie about it as if it was real.

Jepherson snorted and said, "I'll go and see the worthless piece of sh*t that came all the way just to propose."

Raeleigh was speechless. Jepherson really did like to show his arrogant side to exert dominance.

Why did Jepherson have to make Lennox uncomfortable? He had not done anything to displease Jepherson. Raeleigh thought to herself.

Jepherson pulled her after him, placing her luggage on the ground. Lennox quickly called someone to take the luggage into the house.

Walking forward, Jepherson asked, "Where are they?"

Lennox followed behind them. "They're with Madam Paige in the Ink Garden."

"Okay."

Jepherson took Raeleigh's hand and strode forward. When they arrived at the Ink Garden, the servants came out one after another. When they caught sight of Jepherson and his fierce expression, they were too scared to approach him.

"Mr. Jepherson," they greeted politely.

...

Jepherson ignored them. His temper was even worse than Santiago's. Raeleigh realized why Santiago was afraid of him. If he behaved like that, who would not be afraid of him?

After entering, Jepherson changed to a pair of indoor shoes and took Raeleigh inside. The servants were so scared that their faces turned pale. They hurried after him.

“Didn’t the Doyle family come to discuss the marriage? Who’s this? He’s not even from the Doyle family.”

Jepherson walked in while holding Raeleigh’s hand. As soon as they entered, the living room fell silent.

Raeleigh looked around and saw about eight people sitting in the living room. They included Old Master Harvey, Mrs. Harvey, Belle, and Calvin.

One of the visitors was Stella’s grandmother, who was dressed expensively from head to toe. The other visitors seemed to be either rich or distinguished people. A woman sat next to the old lady. The rest, who were all men, were seated to one side.

When Raeleigh and Jepherson walked in, Geraldine looked a little unhappy, but she did not say anything.

The others also looked at Raeleigh. At that instant, Belle felt a little embarrassed. Usually, she would get up to approach Raeleigh, but now, she did not.

Raeleigh stood beside Jepherson, observing the situation in the living room. It seemed that the Doyle family had something on the Harvey family. They were not here to propose a marriage but to force it.

With Belle’s personality, there must be some reason why even she who doted on Raeleigh did not stand up to greet her.

Although Raeleigh was not sure, she felt that they were not there to discuss the marriage. In actual fact, they were there to force the Harvey family into agreeing to the marriage.

“Jepherson, didn’t you break up with her? Why did you bring her here?” Everyone was silent except Paige, who looked face.

Raeleigh did not refute. Anything she said would be wrong. Thus, it was better to say nothing and let Jepherson resolve the matter.

Jepherson asked, “I came back to tell my family something, but I didn’t expect so many people to be here.”

Jepherson turned around and asked Raeleigh, “Where is it?”

Despondent, Raeleigh asked, “What?”

“I gave it to you yesterday. Where is it?” Jepherson asked. Raeleigh thought for a moment. Except for tens of thousands of something else, he had not given her anything else. The things he gave her were all inside her body. How could they be taken out?

“I’ve kept it,” Raeleigh answered.

Jepherson said, “Take it out.”

Raeleigh was rendered speechless.

She could not take it out.

Jepherson then asked, "Where's our luggage?"

"Here they are," the housekeeper answered hurriedly. Jepherson turned around and walked over to the luggage. He opened it and rummaged around, finally taking out two small, red books. He walked over to where Paige and the others were seated, then bent down and placed the books on the table.

Paige stared at them, her hands trembling slightly.

"You two?"

Belle's expression showed that she was relieved. She had been worried about Jepherson because everything had happened so quickly. Belle wanted to tell him, but she did not even have the time. Unexpectedly, he was quick to act. She had not seen him for about ten days only, yet he managed to get the marriage certificates.

"We actually got the marriage certificate a long time ago, but we didn't tell you."

"No, but before New Year—" Paige began. Jepherson interrupted her, saying, "We went to get our marriage certificate one week after New Year's Day."

Paige was speechless.

Hudson said, "Raeleigh is not a suitable choice. Furthermore, you're the heir of the family. Your marriage should be decided by your family. We won't recognize this, so it's better that you get a divorce."

Jepherson narrowed his eyes. "I have already signed an agreement with Raeleigh. If we divorce, I'll have to divide half of the Harvey family's assets and give it to Raeleigh."

"What did you say?" Paige was so angry with Jepherson that she almost fainted. She could not believe it.

Rage surged within Paige as she pointed at Jepherson and asked, "Do you think of the Harvey family as a joke?"

Instead of answering, Jepherson asked, "Why can't I be in charge of my own marriage?"

Paige was so angry that her face turned pale.

Hudson looked at Raeleigh, "Come here for a moment."

Hudson got up and went upstairs. Raeleigh looked at Jepherson and said, "I'll go."

Raeleigh was not a coward. She decided that it was time to figure out what was going on.

Thus, Raeleigh followed Hudson upstairs to his study.

Jepherson looked up the stairs as the study's door closed, then glanced at Calvin. He who was sitting silently.

Jepherson's gaze swept across the room and fell on Geraldine. With a cold expression, he sat down and did not greet her at all.

Chapter 1494

Raeleigh stood by the door, wondering where Jepherson got the marriage certificate from and when he obtained it. Why did she not know anything about it?

“Is this how you treat your elders?” Hudson asked. He had been waiting for Raeleigh to say something. She had stood at the door thinking about other things since she entered the door. It did not seem as if she cared about what he wanted to say. He did not know whether he should feel thankful or helpless.

Seeing that Raeleigh did not say anything for such a long time, Hudson took the initiative to talk to Raeleigh.

Raeleigh raised her head and looked at Hudson. She was not frightened. Instead, she asked calmly, “Did you bring me here just to question me?”

Hudson was slightly stunned. He did not expect that Raeleigh would have the guts to ask such a question in front of him. Even his daughter-in-law, Belle, did not dare to do so.

Hudson recovered from his shock and looked at Raeleigh closely.

When he saw that she still looked as calm as ever, he was slightly disconcerted. It seemed to him that she resembled someone.

Hudson recovered from his daze and stared at Raeleigh. “I’m not interrogating you. I just feel that a youngster like you should not be rude to others. Do you think it’s appropriate for you to keep an elder like me waiting for you?”

“I was a little distracted just now as there was something I couldn’t figure out. I’m honored to be here. I’m sorry, it’s my fault. I’ve disappointed you,” said Raeleigh.

She nodded her head respectfully at Hudson. He had not expected her to behave that way. She had a way of doing everything with ease, much like Paige.

As he thought of how Paige was when she was young, Hudson’s gaze softened.

Unlike Stella, Hudson did not like Geraldine, especially after what happened that day.

So naturally, Hudson was impressed with Raeleigh.

He smiled, “It seems that your grandmother raised you well and taught you many things.”

“Yes, she did,” Raeleigh replied politely. Hudson found himself liking Raeleigh even more.

Anyone else would have been a little more humble on this aspect without giving it much thought.

After all, instead of complimenting Raeleigh directly, he had praised her grandmother. If Raeleigh had been modest, it would have been disappointing.

Hudson smiled. He looked at Raeleigh and asked, “From what you said, does that mean you’re clear about what I called you up here for?”

Raeleigh thought for a moment. “I can’t be sure, but I have a hunch. It concerns me and Jepherson, right?”

“People who are smart will often make people jealous. So, people like you should be careful,” Hudson said, reminding Raeleigh not to call get ahead of herself.

Raeleigh replied, “I can be quite foolish at times, but after being with Jepherson for some time, I actually picked up a thing or two from him. Maybe his influence has made me so straightforward with certain things that I don’t know how to cover it up.

“Jepherson says that he doesn’t like to wear a mask, so I thought you would prefer someone to be honest.”

Raeleigh spoke slowly.

Hudson’s brows furrowed slightly. “Since you’re a smart child, I won’t hide it anymore. Your words are honest and forceful. If I’m not honest, you’ll tell Jerry about what I did wrong later.”

Raeleigh smiled. “I won’t do that. Don’t worry.”

“Don’t judge a book by its cover, just like what I did in the past,” Hudson said as he walked to the side and looked at the chair. “Have a seat. I haven’t spoken to anyone for a long time. I have a son and a grandson who don’t care about me. I wonder if I’ll be blessed to have a great-granddaughter.”

“One of your two grandsons will surely give you a great-granddaughter,” Raeleigh said as she walked to the chair. She only sat down after Hudson was seated.

Then, Hudson said, “It all began when I was young, back when you were just born. In fact, I’m not that young.”

Raeleigh looked at Hudson. She knew that he must have been hiding something.

She said nothing but listened in silence.

Hudson was silent for a while, then started talking about the past.

“Back then, I took a fancy to some things at a charity event abroad and wanted to bring them back to the country. But since those things already had an owner, I had to drop the matter.

“However, before I left, I received an invitation to go to his house.

“I was very surprised that he would actually invite me. After all, we did not know each other well.

“However, as I was still hoping to get my hands on those things, I went anyway.

“There, they entertained me and invited me to admire those things.

“I was young and was not vulgar.

“However, once one has fame and wealth, one is bound to be a bit vulgar. One will like things that normal people could never attain.

“At that time, I was very fond of those things.

“But I know that a gentleman does not take advantage of others. After admiring them, I returned to the country directly.

“After I returned, I told my wife about it. My wife told me that they seemed nice, and they had a good reputation all over the world.

“After that, I would bring gifts for them when I went abroad, and occasionally took my wife there. In less than a year, our relationship changed drastically.

“A few months later, I received a gift and opened it to see that it contained the things that I liked.

“I was a little surprised. I was going to return it, but it was rejected.

“After that, we contacted more frequently.

“If I saw something they would like, I would get it for them. They would also pick things I liked for me.

“However...

“If one is with a bandit for a long time, sooner or later, one will lose some things.

“One time when I was abroad, they told me that one of their children had been kidnapped.

“I was very anxious at that time and asked them how much ransom they needed. At that time, it was not a problem for me to use my money to help them. They told me that it was not a matter of money. The kidnappers wanted an item in exchange for the child’s life.

“Since I had known them for some time, I believed them and wanted to help them save their child. At that time, I suggested that they go to the police. However, they said that it was not the first time something like that had happened. If they angered the kidnappers, their child would be killed.

“At that time, Calvin and Belle were also going through some trouble of their own. Calvin was having a hard time handling it, and it would’ve been pointless to ask him for help. As a result, I could only ask them what the kidnappers were looking for. They told me that it was an ancient bronze goblet. I believed them and decided to help them.

“They also put in a lot of effort and searched for it for two days. Finally, I found it.

“I informed them, and they rushed over. We went to see the owner of the relic. We wanted to know if the owner would be willing to sell it to us. We even offered to pay a higher price.

“After all, a life is more important than anything else.”

Hudson paused. It was as if the events of the past were like a knife in his heart. For a moment, he felt a deep pain in his heart.

Chapter 1495

Raeleigh asked Hudson, “Did something happen to you when you went there?”

Hudson snapped back to reality and looked at Raeleigh. “Things went very well when we went to get the goblet. Nothing happened. Moreover, the other party was a very open-minded person. After what I said, he was willing to let us have it.

“In the end, we got the bronze goblet at a relatively reasonable price.

“Then, I gave it to my friend, who promised to go and save the child tomorrow.

“Unfortunately, he suddenly fell ill that night and was hospitalized for appendicitis.

“My friend had arranged to meet the kidnappers the next day, so I had to go in his stead.

“At that time, I didn’t think much about it. All I thought about was saving his child. That was the most important thing.

“However, I didn’t expect that the kidnappers would grab me when I got there. They even smashed the bronze goblet I brought, telling me that it was a fake.

“Back then, I was still in that field so I knew a little about the bronze wares from that time.

“I didn’t believe them when they told me it was a fake. I argued with them, but they insisted that I lied to them and wanted to kill me.

“I was worried that something would happen to my friend’s child. I wanted the kidnappers to stay calm. They told me that I could leave as long as I handed over the real bronze goblet.

“But I didn’t have anything else with me. I only had the goblet I brought.

“They weren’t willing to let the child go, nor did they want money. They only wanted the bronze ware.

“Suddenly, my wife called me. They took my phone away and spoke to her.

“As a result, my wife immediately took action and asked them what they wanted. They said that they wanted the real bronze goblet. My wife first went to look for my friend to find out everything that had happened. Then, she called me again, but this time it wasn’t me that answered the phone.

“My wife has always been shrewd. When she spoke to them on the phone, she asked them what would happen if she found the real goblet but they insisted that it was a fake.”

“They said they needed to get it appraised by someone. She asked who would appraise it.

“They said they wanted the best, which were Lamar Osteen and his wife.”

Hudson closed his eyes and exhaled slowly. Raeleigh suddenly asked, “Was it...”

“Let me finish.” Hudson did not want to be interrupted. He continued, “My wife agreed, but she wanted to take back the goblet I had brought. They didn’t agree at first. After a long negotiation, she finally managed to get it back.

“By then, my friend was very upset because he didn’t know whether it was fake or not.

“My friend racked his brains and finally decided to take a risk. He got a batch of fake bronze wares and put them together. Then, he asked the Osteen couple to identify which of those were the fake ones.

“My friend also vowed not to trouble my family anymore about that matter. They would hunt for it personally.

“However, they didn’t succeed. My wife was anxious to save me, so she finally targeted Lamar’s wife, Jazelle’s, baby.

“After Jazelle gave birth, the kidnappers wanted Paige to give them the baby in exchange for me. When the Osteen couple signed the appraiser’s report, the baby would be returned.

“My wife is someone eager for quick success and benefits, and she does not care about others’ feelings. But being married for more than ten years, I knew very well that my wife was not a heartless person. The baby was still so little, so she would not harm her.

“It’s just that she had to take risks for my sake.

“However, not long after she took the baby, my wife met a group of people who snatched the baby from my wife’s arms.

“My wife was also stunned, and she was also injured.

“As my wife was afraid of being found out, she didn’t dare to call the police.

“And at that time, the Osteen couple still were not cooperative. My friend searched all over the world and finally spent a large amount of money on a rare treasure. He sent it to the kidnappers, and only then did they let me and his son go.

“Although it seemed as if there were not many casualties, we all knew that my wife had made a mistake, and this would become our Achilles’ heel.

“We were also overwhelmed with guilt. It was the darkest moment, and it made us fully aware of the pain of losing someone we love.

“Although the Doyle family did not mention it, my wife and I knew that sooner or later, this matter would spread to other ears.

“In recent years, because of my son’s sensibility and filial piety, as well as my indulgence, my wife has become more and more arrogant. Although she looks approachable, she has changed.

“Now that I’m older, I couldn’t care less about these things. No matter how much I think about it, I don’t have many years left. I’d be contented just to live a safe and peaceful life with her.

“It’s just that...

“The Doyle family’s appearance and the debt we owe to the Osteen couple are both things that I can never forget.”

Hudson looked at Raeleigh, “Do you know who my friend is?”

She thought for a moment. “Is it Stella’s grandfather?”

“Yes, it’s him.” Hudson looked at Raeleigh calmly. “The more we experience in life, the more that we understand. We have many friends, and we have encountered many unexpected events together.”

To the Harvey family, it was impossible that the Doyle family would ignore what had happened.

“This matter of kidnapping a child, even though it isn’t a matter of taking one’s life, it’s a matter of reputation. If our reputation is gone, the Harvey family won’t have a foothold in this world.”

“So the Doyle family came this time to force a marriage?” Raeleigh asked. Hudson nodded and said, “You can say that.”

The Doyle family did not mention what happened in the past. However, they mentioned that Stella was injured and that Stella had liked Jerry for a long time, so they wanted the two families to join together.

“If Stella had been fine, I might have been able to refuse. But now that she’s in such a state, the Harvey family cannot refuse,” said Hudson.

That was the key point. Raeleigh finally understood what was going on.

After thinking for a while, Raeleigh asked, “But I have got my marriage certificate. How can I divorce? Besides, I can’t make the decision on this matter. It’s all based on Jepherson’s decision.”

“Even so, there is something that can be done. I don’t want you to divorce. I want you to pacify the Doyle family first. Let’s talk about this after I think of a solution,” he replied.

Hudson’s words were sincere and Raeleigh understood them clearly.

Now that the truth of what happened twenty years ago had come to light, Raeleigh was relieved. She also believed that there was more to it.

The Doyle family must have had set up a trap.

After giving it some thought, Raeleigh said, “Can you please tell me the truth? Do you roughly know what is going on?”

Hudson looked at Raeleigh and said, “When the first step is wrong, every subsequent step will be wrong. I was involved that time, so I have no choice.”

Raeleigh looked at Hudson. “You already knew?”

Hudson laughed. “Why wouldn’t I remember the losses I suffered? I’ll remember them for the rest of my life.

“However, there are some things that are pointless to be said out loud.”

Raeleigh sat for a while and said, “Do you mean...”

Chapter 1496

“It’s great that you two are married. I never wanted Stella to be my granddaughter-in-law anyway. Even if she isn’t crippled, she’s a descendant of a family of bandits. Others may be happy to have her, but I wouldn’t.”

“However, there will always be someone better than you. They’re in the dark, and we’re in the open. Plus, they have something on me. From what I see, unless your grandmother and I die, this matter cannot be made public.”

“After we’ve passed, we will write a letter of self-judgment for you to announce it to the public.”

“The Doyle family’s threat is only temporary; they can’t threaten us forever.”

Raeleigh thought for a moment. "So you want me to pretend to put up with everything and leave the rest to you?"

With that, Hudson broke into a smile and said, "You are very smart. However, there is something that's best done soon."

Raeleigh frowned. "What's that?"

"The priority is to get the marriage certificate done. Otherwise, it will be too late to regret if we give it away."

Hudson's words got Raeleigh stumped for a moment. She asked, "How did you know?"

Hudson walked to the table, took out the key, opened the drawer, and took out a booklet. "I won't say I'm giving you this, but take it as a meeting gift from me."

Raeleigh looked at the household register booklet, kept it away, and bowed to Hudson. "Thank you, Grandpa."

Hudson nodded.

With that, Raeleigh left the study, feeling inexplicably relaxed.

Initially, Raeleigh was worried about the feud between the two families, but now, she was most worried about the Doyle family. As for the previous matters, she could explain after she went back.

"I'll take my leave then," Raeleigh said and was about to leave when Hudson reminded her, "Don't forget what I said; it's only temporary."

Raeleigh turned to look at Hudson, smiling. "I know."

With that, she headed downstairs. As she walked, she kept her eyes on the scene, planning on how to act it well in a moment.

When she arrived downstairs, Raeleigh looked at Paige, but she did not say anything. Now Paige and Hudson were on one side while she was on Jepherson's.

No one talked to her when she arrived downstairs. Raeleigh looked at Jepherson, and he said to her, "Come here."

She walked to him but didn't sit, standing next to Jepherson the whole time.

Belle wanted to urge Raeleigh to take a seat, but knowing she couldn't make the call, she didn't dare speak up. After all, she had to respect Paige.

And looking at Geraldine, she didn't seem to want to make others feel at ease either.

A thought came after another for Belle, but barely any of them were good.

"C'mon, sit down. Why are you standing?" Jepherson said, but Raeleigh remained standing and said, "I'd better go. I'll come over after you made it clear to your family. I still have some money on me; it's enough for me to stay in a hotel for now."

Raeleigh had to think of a way to turn the situation around. Of course, she wouldn't keep standing.

Jepherson took a casual look and thought something was strange but judging from Raeleigh's face, it didn't seem so.

At this time, Hudson came down, and Raeleigh directed her gaze at him. The rest of the family also looked up.

On seeing that Hudson looked unhappy, everybody knew what was going on. It was obvious that he had not reached an agreement with Raeleigh.

Hudson descended from the stairs and immediately said, "I've already said my piece, but since you're still not willing to be a concubine, then this is no longer a place for you to stay. You may go."

At that moment, Raeleigh's eyelids twitched. As she had expected, Stella must be married to Jepherson. Though there was a reason, it was sure she would be a part of the family, even if it were an honorary one.

But the pressing matter was that Raeleigh wasn't willing to be a concubine. Even if it was just an act, she had to be the legal wife; after all, she was the one with a marriage certificate.

"I wouldn't even share, let alone be a concubine. Look at the times we're at. Why are men still entitled to have more than a wife? I won't belittle myself just to satisfy you. I might as well get a divorce." Raeleigh said with a long face. "But let me tell you, don't think I'm an easy target just because I'm all alone. Jepherson and I had a child, although I lost it because of him. And now, we're legally married. If you insist that we get a divorce, I want half of the Harvey family fortune."

"I don't believe no one can take charge of this matter. If no one here can, I'll bring it to the Capital City. If Capital City doesn't want to help, I'll go to the TV station. Let's see who gets the last laugh."

With that, Paige retorted, "How outrageous. Consider yourself already lucky to be able to marry into our family. You even want to push your luck and threaten us? Who do you think you are?"

Paige's face grew gimmer by the second, glaring at Raeleigh only for her to ask, "I didn't marry into the Harvey family but to Jepherson. Since he chose me, I don't see a reason for me to leave."

Raeleigh's gaze was as calm as still water. Hudson glanced at her and said, "I've said it before. There's an engagement between Jepherson and the Doyle family. Though Jepherson didn't know about this, the two families had already discussed it when they were still children. Besides, I've also given you a chance. We can meet halfway and reserve your status in the family; you just can't be the first wife. Our family has always had a rule that men in the family can have more than one wife."

"Do you think it's your turn to argue when the Doyle family hasn't said anything yet?"

"I disagree with what you said. Men having several wives was the shortcoming of feudal society. Barely anywhere in this world still keeps this tradition, but you still do. It is against the law."

"We know very well whether it's illegal or not; we don't need you to tell us."

Hudson's gaze was cold, but Raeleigh wasn't going to back down. "Even if I agree, I was here first. I have a marriage certificate; I'm subjected to the law. Why should I be someone's concubine? No way."

Raeleigh turned to Jepherson. "Tell me, who do you want? Me or someone else?"

Jepherson stood up and said firmly. "You, of course."

With that, she turned her gaze to everyone else. Paige's anger was off the roof; slamming the table, she roared, "How dare you?!"

"Paige..." Hudson looked at Paige, who in turn pursed her lips angrily and said, "This is outrageous."

Hudson said, "If you leave, never come back. Don't forget you're not the only member of the Harvey family."

Jepherson looked at his grandfather. "Fine, you're the one who wants me to leave."

With that, he held Raeleigh's hand, wanting to leave the place, but she paused for a moment, went back to grab the marriage certificate, and was about to leave with Jepherson with her luggage in the other hand.

At that moment, Geraldine said, "Hold on."

Raeleigh stopped, and so did Jepherson; they looked back in unison. Geraldine smiled. "We can still negotiate this further, don't you think?"

Chapter 1497

Jepherson and Raeleigh exchanged glances, but neither of them spoke. Geraldine looked at Raeleigh and said, "You look like a smart girl, my child, and this is not something we should drag on. On the one hand, you have the marriage certificate, so you're his legitimate wife; on the other, he likes you. This is not something anyone can change."

"The question is whether you like him or not and if you're willing to sacrifice a little for him."

Raeleigh thought for a moment and said with a smile, "No, not at all."

Jepherson raised his eyebrows and looked at the woman beside him. She sure had it in her!

"Look at you, look what kind of a wife you got yourself. She's not willing to do anything for you. To put it bluntly, she married you for your money. And you, you're still following her wholeheartedly. How stupid are you?" Paige was furious; she couldn't care less if the matter wasn't urgent.

Jepherson clasped his hands behind his back and followed behind like a married man. Afraid that Paige would flip, Belle hurriedly sat next to her and eased her. "Mom, take a breath. We'll see what they have to say later."

Paige held Belle's hand. "Belle, I know you're obedient and sensible, but you must have a stand."

Belle looked down at her held hand and said, "I know."

Relieved, Paige turned to look at Jepherson and Raeleigh.

Raeleigh looked at Geraldine, who then smiled and said, "Let me ask you, why would you marry him when you don't love him?"

"I know very well if I love him or not; I don't think there's a need for me to answer you. We will always be there for each other. It's that simple."

"To put it simply, I have the talent, intelligence, and appearance. Even if I don't look for Jepherson or people like the Harvey family, I think I won't fall too far behind."

"Do you still want..."

"Grandma, don't talk about Raeleigh like that." Jepherson immediately cut her off before Paige could finish her words. Paige's face turned pale from anger, and Belle was busy consoling her.

Then, Raeleigh said, "I've already put my heart into this relationship. If any of you told me he was engaged earlier or announced it to the public before even I appeared, or that your granddaughter was already in a relationship with him, I wouldn't be so shameless as to become his mistress."

"But you're obviously here after we had started a relationship and even have the audacity to wreck our relationship outright. Not only that, you brought your family to bully me. Let me ask you this then, do you really think that with some money and status you can be above the law and be unreasonable?"

"If your answer is yes, would it mean that even if he and I have started a family, you would still poke your noses into our life? Does it mean that even after ten, twenty years, as long as somebody in your family fancies him, I would have to give him to you on a silver platter?"

"What do you think I am? What do you think Jepherson is?"

"What do you think the Harvey family is?"

"Don't you think you've gone too far?"

Raeleigh said all the words Hudson did not say. Indirectly, she scolded the Doyle family for being shameless.

Actually, there was more, but Raeleigh just hadn't said it out.

Deep down, Geraldine was boiling with rage, but she did not let it show and smiled, all peaceful instead. "We, the Doyle family, are never like that. Paige and I thought alike; we've long wanted for our children to be together. However, because they are young, and we're not in a rush, but who would have thought you'd come into the picture?"

"I know very well that every young one will experience puppy love, but at this age, it's better to be practical."

"I also understand the anger you have of being robbed of the relationship you've poured your heart and soul into. But..."

"Look at how Stella is now. Alas..."

Geraldine sighed. "Stella saw Jerry as her older brother growing up. Of course, she didn't dare express her feelings for him despite her love for him."

"However, ever since she lost her legs, she had felt extremely inferior. She would often weep, and now, all she wants is to marry Jerry."

"It pains us, adults, to see her like this, but there's nothing we can do."

"If there's anything that can bring Stella back to life, I believe it will be Jerry."

"I don't have any other intentions coming here today but only to negotiate for Stella to marry into the family, even if she is given a measly status."

"All I'm asking is for Stella to be able to see Jerry so that she has the will to get better."

"Could you pity me, an old woman, who already has one foot in her grave, my child?"

"Stella is now handicapped. Can she give the Harvey family even a child? No, don't you think?"

"Even if she wants to, I would disagree. Don't you understand?"

"What do you say?" Geraldine asked Raeleigh.

She questioned back, "Then why do you still ask Jepherson to marry her?"

"How rude of you! How can you treat our guests like this?!" As soon as Raeleigh finished her words, Paige immediately flew into a rage and picked a bone with her. However, Raeleigh didn't talk back, nor would she start a fight with Paige. Hudson was very pleased with this at the very least.

Raeleigh turned back to Geraldine, waiting for her answer. After a while, Geraldine said, "See it as finding Stella a good home. Actually, I don't think Stella is suitable for Jerry, but I trust Jerry's character; he wouldn't treat her ill. All I ask for is that Stella will still live a comfortable life after I die."

Raeleigh looked at Geraldine. Easier said than done. Why should she believe her words?

"So?"

Raeleigh pressed on. Although she could ignore Paige, she looked at others with disdain, the kind that was even more enraging.

Geraldine was unhappy about Raeleigh from the bottom of her heart, but she could do nothing but endure it.

The more so, the more she wanted Stella to marry Jepherson. Only then will there be a day she could see Raeleigh miserable.

"Pity us, will you? Let Stella be a mistress. If she does any wrong in the future, I hope you can forgive her and take good care of her."

Seeing that Geraldine had put things that way, Paige added, "No way, we can't mistreat Stella like this."

"Oh, everybody knows Stella's hell-bent on this; we're just playing along with her. We're not here to discuss marriage, don't you understand? We only want to stop Stella from having suicidal thoughts."

Geraldine held Paige's hand tightly, and Paige did the same. "I've failed you and Stella."

"What are you talking about? It is our family's fault in this matter; we wouldn't have come to you if there was any other way." Paige was utterly moved and looked at Raeleigh. "Are you still going to refuse?"

Raeleigh thought for a moment and said, "Let's make it clear. If she does something she shouldn't have, I won't let the matter slide easily. Also, since she's only coming to the Harvey family for refuge, the two of us can't live under the same roof."

"You're being outrageous." Paige came at her in anger, thinking this girl was already rebelling before she was married into the family; wouldn't it only be worse if she did?

Seeing Paige was furious, Jepherson immediately said, "Raeleigh's timid. Don't scare her."

Paige was so angry that she couldn't breathe.

Hudson snorted coldly and said, "I don't think there's anyone more courageous than her. Any more timid, she's going to turn the house upside down."

Chapter 1498

Raeleigh glanced at the people in the room subtly. With Hudson's support, she wasn't afraid of anything; she could do whatever she wanted.

Seeing Hudson walking toward the sofa, Belle moved over for him to sit next to Paige. Holding her hand, he said, "Give it a rest; you're in no good shape. No one will pity us even if we're angered to death."

With that, he looked over at Jepherson and Raeleigh. "It's decided. Your parents and us will stay here in A City; we won't be going back to Capital City for the time being. We have the Ink Garden and Fragrance Garden in the Harvey Group Manor. Since you're not willing to live under the same roof as Stella, then you'll stay in Fragrance Garden while she lives in Ink Garden. Even if we go back, we won't be in your way and stay in Ink Garden."

Hudson only said so because he didn't intend to go to Capital City at all anyway.

Raeleigh thought for a moment. "Alright. But I am Jepherson's wife, after all. I want to take charge of the matters in the Harvey Group Manor in Capital City; no one is allowed to interfere."

Geraldine frowned; knowing Raeleigh wasn't easy to deal with, she would just listen for now.

Paige wanted to say something, but Hudson interrupted, "I can allow that, but we have our conditions. If you don't get pregnant within a year, you will have to return the manor to us voluntarily. Also..."

Hudson hesitated, but he still said, "If you don't get pregnant within a year, then give up your role as the matriarch of the family and let Stella take charge."

Raeleigh thought for a moment and turned to look at Jepherson, who looked nonchalant, then pondered for a moment longer. "All I have to do is get pregnant?"

"Of course, you have to give birth," Paige added.

Belle added, "But she needs nine months of pregnancy to give birth; it won't be fair to only give her a year."

Paige looked at Belle and almost started accusing her for switching sides, but she still swallowed it back.

Hudson said, "It counts even if you're pregnant."

“One year it is then. If I don’t have a child, you can take everything back.”

Raeleigh thought one year was enough. If he still couldn’t get the issue with Stella solved within a year, she would really look down on Jepherson.

Therefore, she had never considered getting pregnant.

Moreover, it was also a way to reassure Geraldine.

As for Geraldine, she had already thought of a plan to deal with Raeleigh.

“Oh, alright, I’m tired. Since you’ve already agreed to our request, I’m leaving. Today...”

“Oh, please stay. We have rooms to spare, and you haven’t eaten yet.” Paige took Geraldine’s hand and stopped her from leaving, leading the two to stand on ceremony.

Belle judged the situation and said to Raeleigh, “Raeleigh, why don’t you stay in Fragrance Garden for now. Have the servants bring your luggage over and get your room ready.”

With that, she turned her gaze to Paige and Geraldine. Immediately, Geraldine understood. No matter what, her granddaughter was crippled, and Belle also had her thoughts.

However, it didn’t matter. They were playing the long game; as long as Stella could marry into the family, she could become the first wife one day.

“Have your dinner over there then. Jepherson, come here, lest she upsets me.” Paige was hell-bent on not giving the respect Raeleigh deserved, leaving Belle in a difficult position. She had been trying to make up for it, but no matter how, Paige was rude.

Belle was reminded of the past and grew somewhat uncomfortable.

“Go on, Raeleigh.” Belle glanced at Raeleigh and comforted her with her gaze.

Raeleigh nodded and followed Lennox to Fragrance Garden, with Jepherson behind her, not caring what the others in the room thought. Before Paige knew it, they were long gone.

Even if she wanted to call him back, she couldn’t.

After leaving the Ink Garden, Raeleigh looked around as she walked. As the manor in the Capital City was an exact duplicate of this place, it wasn’t foreign to her, and she found where Jepherson lived with ease.

Raeleigh asked Jepherson, “Since you live here, why do you and Santiago have rooms in both the Ink Garden and Fragrance Garden?”

“I liked to stay at my grandma’s place when I was young, but at the same time, I had to look after Santiago. However, he wasn’t willing to stay there. Over time, he would suddenly want to switch places to stay at, so my dad later arranged rooms for us at both places.”

Jepherson’s explanation humored Raeleigh, and she asked, “Why do you like to live with your grandma?”

“Things happened when I was five, and after my mom survived, my dad protected her like she’s a priceless treasure; he’d even be jealous of me. Whenever I spend too long with my mom, he’d think I’m stealing all her affection from him.”

“Later, when Santiago was born, she adored him and would want to cling to him nTristany every minute, leading her to neglect my dad and me at times. So my dad would always think Santiago and I affected their relationship.”

“He would always tell me from time to time not to rely on my mother and have my own world.”

“I’m well aware my mom is his whole world.”

“Because of this, I would spend my time with my grandmother, but Santiago was a rebellious one. Sometimes, after promising my dad he would stay over at Ink Garden, he would run back to Fragrance Garden in the middle of the night, leading everyone to search for him late at night.”

“With that, he arranged rooms for both places so that we wouldn’t disturb everyone’s rest. If Santiago decided to go back to Fragrance Garden in the middle of the night, he could go straight back into his room, saving everyone the trouble.”

“Do you really look after him every night?” Raelaigh commented in amusement, thinking it seemed to be the case.

“I’m his older brother; am I supposed to leave him be?”

“No.”

After entering the house and taking off her coat, she took off her shoes and went straight to bed, exhausted.

Jepherson sat next to her in bed, holding her hand with a gaze full of adoration as he asked, “You’ve performed exceptionally well today. Did something happen?”

Raelaigh squinted her eyes slightly, “That reminds me, what do you think, having two wives at one go?”

Jepherson raised an eyebrow. “Deeply troubled.”

Raelaigh nTristany burst into laughter; fortunately, she was able to hold it back. Jepherson grazed her nose and ridiculed, “How can you still laugh at a time like this?”

“Am I supposed to cry then?” Raelaigh took off her jacket and put it aside. “Be nicer to me. At any rate, I’m also considered part of the family now.”

Jepherson lowered his head and kissed her. “Do you really care about this?”

Raelaigh twitched her lips. “I can’t do anything about it even if I don’t care, can I?”

Now that things had come to this, she could only take one step at a time. Looking at Jepherson, she asked, “When did you have the marriage certificate made?”

"I just had it done simply." He may have said so, but it was convincing. Raeleigh thought for a moment and took the household register booklet out and presented it to him. Stumped, he took a look at it. "How?"

Jepherson's eyes flashed. "No wonder."

With a smile, Raeleigh said, "Don't be too complacent. I didn't bring mine."

Jepherson's eyes darkened. "I'll have to go and check then."

With that, he got out of bed to search for her booklet in her luggage. Raeleigh tried to stop him, but he still found it.

Sitting down, she thought, "So what if he could find it?"

Chapter 1499

Staring blankly at the marriage certificate in her hand, Raeleigh was at a loss. How was she married just like that?

While Raeleigh spaced out on a chair, Jepherson was handing out wedding favors to everyone. Not just couples, but everyone on the scene.

Raeleigh and Jepherson went to the registry at four in the morning. There was already a line when they got there, but they were lucky that day. Soon after, a few of the couples in front of them suddenly had other matters to attend to, so by the time the office opened, there were barely any couples lining up before them. Hence, they were the first to go in.

After entering, Jepherson answered all the questions, took a picture, and then went to the side.

While Raeleigh was spacing out after getting the actual certificate, Jepherson had someone bring over the wedding favors and hand them out to spread the joy.

Meanwhile, Raeleigh wondered how she should explain it to her parents.

When Jepherson returned and sat down next to her, she looked at him with a baffled gaze. "We're really married?"

"Not really, not until we hold a wedding." Jepherson was overjoyed that day. It was the first time she had ever seen him grinning from ear to ear the moment he woke up. That kind of joy came from deep within.

He looked like a worry-free buffoon.

"We came way too Tristany, and I'm really sleepy. Let's go home." Raeleigh put the marriage certificate away as she stood up, planning to go home.

"Let's get some food," Jepherson suggested, not intending to go back so soon. He wanted to show her the streets of A City as this was his hometown after all.

Although Raeleigh was a little tired, she still followed Jepherson around. When they went to have a meal, she simply slept in his arms. Jepherson put her head on his lap while he leaned against the window and looked at the beautiful scenery outside.

Spring had finally come.

When Raeleigh woke up, she was already in Jepherson's car, and the two were on their way back to the Harvey Group Manor.

She looked out blearily.

She had become Jepherson's wife just like that?

There was a hint of reluctance within her. She had already become a married woman when she hadn't had enough of being a young woman.

"I thought we were going to eat?" Raeleigh sat up as she asked Jepherson. Amused, he replied, "You're already asleep, and you still want to eat?"

With that, she fell silent, fixing her eyes on the outside world. She couldn't believe she had slept for nTristany an entire day; she sure was a sloth.

Moments later, she turned to Jepherson, who was driving. "It's probably way past dinner now; we won't have anything to eat going back now."

"Is it?" The corner of Jepherson's mouth curled into a smile. She thought her brain was playing tricks with her. Not only was Jepherson happy, but he was also not his usual self that day.

It seemed that his role as her husband had done wonders.

Raeleigh shook her head, looking somewhat helpless. Miracles happen every second in this world. She had never thought of actually getting married; after all, they were trouble-filled, but she couldn't change anything. However, she had become his legal wife just like that on this trip.

Out of all the impermanence, this was the most shocking one. How should she tell her parents or explain it to her brother?

After they arrived at the manor, Jepherson unfastened his seat belt, got out of the car, and moved to Raeleigh's side to open the door and carry her out. She had wanted to refuse, thinking it was ridiculous of him, but a few servants came out from Ink Garden, so she wrapped her arms around his neck, letting him do as he pleased.

Taken aback, Jepherson looked at the girl in his arms and wondered why she had suddenly become so obedient.

It wasn't until he carried her out of the car and looked up that he understood why.

Looking down at her, he put on a villainous grin, and he looked more unperturbed, carrying her in his arms.

With that, he walked toward Fragrance Garden leisurely, but the servants hurriedly went to them, seeing that they had finally returned after spending an entire day outside.

“Mr. Jepherson, Miss Raeleigh, Madam Paige has been waiting for a long time. Please go to Ink Garden.”

The servant didn't dare to look up as it was evident Paige wanted to reproach them. Although Jepherson had a good temper and was easy-going, everyone knew he hated evil-doers. If he knew they brought him over to his grandmother to settle some scores, who knew what he would do later.

Jepherson took a glance at the servant and strode to Ink Garden while Raeleigh remained in his arms, not requesting to walk on her own.

Since the battle had begun, and she had someone to back her up, she didn't need to be afraid.

As they soon approached Paige's room, Raeleigh was still in Jepherson's arms. Seeing so, Belle went to them and retorted, “Come down this instant. Where do you think you're at?”

Jepherson stopped, and Raeleigh looked over, slightly blushed.

Only then did Jepherson put her down. She glanced at her disobedient son before turning to Raeleigh, “Don't go too far; It won't do you any good to burn your boats. Although the situation is somewhat suspicious, we still have to live our lives after they leave. We're family, after all; no matter how some people treat you, they're still one of us. Let the past stay in the past; we still have to sit down and have dinner together, no?”

As Belle was getting on in age, she could see the bigger picture better. How could she not know her son's thoughts? But it was precisely that that she couldn't leave things be.

“You're right, Mom.” Raeleigh had always respected Belle. On seeing that Raeleigh was so sensible, Belle was relieved.

Holding Raeleigh's hand, Belle said, “Don't rush love. As long as you two love each other, no one can change your future.”

“Don't be impulsive as it's the only way your relationship can grow into something beautiful.”

“It's only natural for Grandma to be upset when you two have been out the whole day. When you go in later, talk less, and it won't turn into a fight.”

“Even if someone does start a fight, Jerry wouldn't allow it.” Belle patted Raeleigh.

Raeleigh said after thinking for a while, “I understand.”

“Good. I regret most losing a daughter; you're more sensible and considerate than she was. Now that you're one of us, I have no more regrets.”

Belle said with a soft gaze, and Raeleigh regarded her as her mother at once.

With that, Belle looked over at Paige's room. “I won't be going in, lest I'll be stuck in a difficult position when you're lectured, feeling sorry for you but unable to do anything.”

“Good night, Mom,” Raeleigh said hurriedly.

Belle wore a smile, “I can finally be at ease having you around. There's finally someone to boss him around.”

With that, Belle went to one side. Jepherson's mouth twitched. "What do you mean?"

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Humored, Raeleigh said, "What else do you think? She constantly has to worry, having a son like you. Now that you have a wife, she can finally relax and let me worry."

Jepherson found it hard to accept the fact that Raeleigh would get into the role so quickly. Or perhaps, he hadn't expected it, so he was both surprised and delighted.

Seeing Jepherson was silent, Raeleigh headed for Paige's room, and he followed suit, asking from behind, "Scared?"

Raeleigh shook her head. "No!"

"Why not?"

"As my grandmother would say, no one's life would be without failures; there will always be hardships along the way."

"I've only met a hurdle. Besides, which woman wouldn't have to move on from their old life after marrying? This is why people always say women start their second life after marriage."

"So why shouldn't I fight for my second life?"

Raeleigh said and entered the door. Jepherson paused for a moment at the doorway and then followed her in. After entering, all he had eyes for was Raeleigh. He was lost in thought at one point, looking at his beautiful, intelligent wife.

Meanwhile, Paige just so happened to see the two of them showing affection in front of her.

And just like that, she hit the roof, lashing out at Raeleigh, "Why are you only home now? Do you know what time it is?"

To that, Raeleigh explained, "I didn't sleep last night, and I got up too Tristany this morning, so I fell asleep outside. Jepherson didn't wake me up, so I overslept."

Humored, he thought her retaliation was brilliant. Well-structured and fluent. Absolutely brilliant!

He couldn't wait to see how his grandmother would react.

With amusement, Jepherson looked at Paige, who was already long pale with anger. If it went on, she would die of anger because of the couple.

Paige rubbed her head then pointed at Raeleigh. "How did I get a granddaughter-in-law like you? Seeing you already gives me a headache. How can you say something like that?!"

"Please enlighten me, Grandma. What have I said wrong? I'm just speaking the truth."

In other words, would Paige prefer if she lied?

Raeleigh's words got her even more enraged. Looking up, she questioned, "This is how you're raised?"

Raeleigh kept quiet this time. When someone criticized your upbringing, don't argue nor refute but only listen.

Everyone knew the accuser was the actual uneducated scum.

Paige was taking advantage of her seniority, but Raeleigh couldn't argue with her.

Raeleigh's silence got Paige at a loss for words. Even she herself thought she had crossed the line by criticizing her upbringing.

Only then did she calm herself down, then turned to Jepherson and said, "And you. You're well aware we still have guests at home, yet you still listened to her and stayed out so late. Are you deliberately going against me?"

Jepherson thought for a moment. "Grandma, you know I never go against anyone."

Livid, Paige retorted, "So you're saying I'm deliberately finding fault in you two?"

Jepherson did not answer, but his eyes had said it all, leaving Paige suffocating in anger.

On seeing Paige was feeling awful, Raeleigh said, "It's getting late, Grandma, do rest Tristany. The old need to rest Tristany. Jepherson and I did wrong today; we shouldn't have come back so late."

"You're also worried about us. Rules are rules; if even I don't follow them, then it'll be difficult to punish the servants if they make mistakes."

"I'm willing to receive my punishment."

Paige didn't know what to say anymore now that Raeleigh had put it like that. That was the initial plan, but seeing Raeleigh's attitude right then...

Paige frowned slightly. Raeleigh was no ordinary person; she was much more challenging than her daughter-in-law.

She had set traps, but Raeleigh could retaliate, and with ease at that.

Seeing so, she said, "Good that you know what your mistake is. But you are in the wrong after all. If I don't punish you today, people will complain. So kneel and reflect on your mistakes. Leave when you know what to do."

Paige stood up and was ready to leave. Jepherson immediately said, "But Raeleigh's body..."

With that, Paige turned around and glared daggers at him. Just as she was about to speak, Hudson walked out and said, "Go and get some sleep. Raeleigh's grounded for a day."

Looking over, Raeleigh breathed a sigh of relief.

Paige looked at her husband. "Hudson."

"How can you be angry when you're still in poor health? I'll only enrage you more to see her kneeling here." Hudson looked at Raeleigh unhappily. "Why are you still here?"

Raeleigh hurriedly said, "Good night, Grandpa, Grandma."

With that, she left, leaving Jepherson alone in the room. On seeing that his grandfather was consoling his grandmother, Jepherson walked out.

Out the door, it took Jepherson a while to find Raeleigh. After seeing she was heading toward Fragrance Garden, he caught up to her but did not say anything.

Raeleigh said, "I'm afraid it'll be difficult for me to adapt to this place. If we really have to live here someday, I hope we can stay in the manor in Capital City."

"Although there's also lies and deceits there, I can live with it but not this family war."

Raeleigh stopped and turned to Jepherson, touching his handsome face as she said, "This is the price of being born into an imperial family. You don't get to choose, not even love."

"I finally understand why Santiago would be so unrestrained. I know he doesn't want to, but if he is asked to live like any normal man in this environment, it would be difficult."

"You're already regretting so soon?"

Jepherson held Raeleigh's hands, pulled her into his arms as he held her chin, forcing her to look at him. She thought for a moment and said, "No. Since I've already chosen you, I naturally wouldn't regret. I just think there's no warmth to this place. If my child is born and raised here..."

"It'd still be fine if it's a boy, but wouldn't our daughter be as wild as a monkey?"

"It would be a relief if she doesn't scare her partner away, let alone expect someone to marry her."

"Nonsense, my daughter will be the most eligible woman in the world. Hmph! Who would dare to scorn her?"

Speechless, she retorted. "So you're saying even if your daughter is a wild monkey, there will still be people scrambling for her?"

As Jepherson knew Raeleigh was mocking, he didn't answer.

Amused, Raeleigh said, "With a father like you, what kind of daughter will we have? Honestly... If they're even willing to settle with a wild monkey, then they wouldn't be pursuing her because of who she is."

"They dare?"

Jepherson's face darkened. "Hmph, my daughter will be a natural beauty, both talented and beautiful!"

He let go of her and strode ahead. Looking over, Raeleigh couldn't believe he was angry over the matter.