

Go After 1521

Chapter 1521

After Raeleigh and the others left, Calvin said right away, "We are here to apologize for what had happened in the past."

Lamar's expression darkened slightly, but he did not lose his temper. He simply stared at Calvin, who gave Belle a look. Following that, Belle stood up in an instant and went to the kitchen to pour some tea for Lamar and Jazelle.

"I have never capitulated in my lifetime, except for the sake of my wife. Now, I want to apologize to you on behalf of my parents."

Calvin held the cup of tea and handed it to Lamar, who just stared back at him. There was a starlike sparkle in Lamar's eyes. He did not accept it, nor did he reject it. Consequently, Calvin held the cup of tea in air for a long time while waiting for Lamar to receive it. However, Lamar did not do so.

"It was your mother who stole Raeleigh away back then. I'm afraid that I can't accept it. Other matters are negotiable, but for this one, I'm sorry."

You are parents too. You understand how precious children are to us. My daughter had been taken away when she was born, and I had been looking for her since then. Thank goodness that my effort was not in vain. But I could have spent much more time with her in the past as a parent. It was just that I had been deprived of the right to do so. Who's going to make up for all the lost time to me? You, your mother, or your son?

Try to put yourself in my shoes. Originally, we could have put a lid on this matter. I could forgive you and your mother if you let Raeleigh go back with us and promised not to disturb us again. But you turned a blind eye to your son's behavior, which in turn led to their marriage.

Marriage is one of the most important events in life. Although we're in a modern era, we value the traditions one has to go through before the wedding, like the meeting of both families and the planning of the wedding.

I only have a daughter and a son. I won't let my son marry a person who I have no clear understanding of, let alone my daughter.

Since this marriage took place without my consent. No matter what's going on with it, there's only one ending for it, which is divorce."

"Mr. Osteen..." Belle wanted to speak something, but Calvin held her hand. "We're not here to discuss this. It's about my mother, who took Raeleigh away."

"They're the same, to me at least. I am against Raeleigh marrying your son, and I don't acknowledge this marriage. I won't tell anyone about what had happened back in the day. Regarding the evidence, I will destroy them as well. However, I won't allow this marriage.

No matter whether you came for your parents, or your son, my answer is the same, no."

“Mr. Osteen, why do you have to be so determined? They are in love with each other, but you insist on breaking this marriage apart. Doing this won’t do good for anyone.

When it comes to a relationship, we can’t judge it for them. Only the ones involved can understand their own relationship.”

“Mr. Harvey is right. Outsiders can’t tell the story of their relationship clearly. Nevertheless, I believe that it’s just a temporary suffering to be separated. A few years later, each of them will find their own happiness.

I think it is worthwhile to use years of suffering in exchange for a lifetime of peace.”

“Mr. Osteen, I can tell that you and your wife are in love with each other. That’s why you should be aware that the feelings for someone you love are irreplaceable. I, too, made some mistakes when I was young. No matter how much time has passed, I couldn’t forget about her nor let her go. As long as she is still alive, she will stay in my heart forever. A lifetime isn’t that long. I believe that if they truly love each other, their feelings will last a lifetime.

Mr. Osteen, for something as unforeseeable as this, are you willing to bet on it? Using Raeleigh’s lifetime as an ante?”

“You can rest assured that I’m confident. Although Raeleigh loves him, as long as they are separated, I have a way to help her get over it and move on.”

“There is no need to make the children pay for the adults’ mistakes. They are innocent.”

As Calvin spoke, he put down the cup of tea from his hand.

Lamar said, “It might seem to be the case on the surface, but in reality, it will be a disaster for Raelight in the future if I let her stay by your mother’s side. There’s definitely no way that I will do so. You should know your mother’s character. If she knows that Raeleigh is the child she stole in the past, God knows how she will treat Raeleigh.

I haven’t gotten to the bottom of what had happened that year, but I’m sure that it wasn’t coincident. So many lives were lost for the sole purpose of murdering Raeleigh. Isn’t this a well-grounded reason for me to separate Raeleigh from your son?”

“But the two of them have already become husband and wife. Why do you have to tear their marriage apart? What’s the point of doing that?”

Calvin was irritated, but he still stifled his fury.

Lamar replied, “If it poses a threat to Raeleigh, I will break this marriage apart no matter what.

I won’t let my daughter be with a man whose grandmother wanted to kill her in the past.”

“You are too stubborn, just like how you were back then.” Calvin stood up as he could not continue this conversation.

Seeing her husband getting up, Belle held him down at once and looked at Lamar while asking, “Mr. Osteen, if you feel disinclined to accept our proposal, we can discuss it further. In fact, there should be a

reason for what happened in the past. We are investigating too. It's just that my father-in-law hasn't told the truth so far, and we can't ask my mother-in-law about it. If she knows, Raeleigh may be in danger.

Thus, we're making slow progress, but anyway, there should be a cause for this matter. Can you tell us the cause?"

"The cause was our identity as renowned archaeologists back then. We were the arbiters when it came to the appraisal of artifacts.

Some people came to us and gave us a large batch of antiques. If one of them were to be genuine, it might be worth more than ten million dollars. If they went on sale in the market, it would be a devastating blow to us.

After appraising them, we confirmed that they were all counterfeits, so we refused to certify them as authentic antiques.

As a result, those people harbored a grudge against us and threatened us. If we refused to help them, they would take measures to coerce us into obeying them.

We didn't yield in the end, but we were trapped in the country. Besides, my wife was close to labor at that time, and I was perturbed that something would happen on the way. Therefore, we decided to stay until the child was born.

We had made an appointment with a top-notch hospital after careful consideration.

However, little did we expect that the baby would be taken away right after she was born. Before that, the doctor told us that she was gone.

I didn't believe it. I went to find the baby, but she was gone.

We had been looking for the child for a long time, but to no avail.

It turned out that Mr. Harvey's mother was the one who took the child away. Why did she do so? It remains a mystery even until today.

The people who came to us back in the day were neither a member from the Harvey family nor people with fame. They were a bunch of monstrous robbers who committed all sorts of crimes. Why Mr. Harvey's mother had dealings with such people was beyond us."

Chapter 1522

"You've misunderstood. My mother-in-law isn't a bad person. She's not the sort of person who will harm others. There must be a reason for her to take Raeleigh away. It should be related to this batch of antiques you mentioned. We'll find a way to look into it. Just give us some time. As for the two children, I think it's better to wait a little longer. Raeleigh is kind. Despite Jerry's uncaring exterior, he is true-hearted toward Raeleigh.

You lost your daughter and had been looking for her for many years. However, you managed to find her at last.

On the contrary, something had happened to me in the past. I could have had a daughter, but when I was going to give birth, I fell from height and lost my child.

Back then, Jerry was only five years old. He thought that the baby was born and had survived. He had been seeking this child ever since he grew up. You might not believe me, but you can investigate it. In the past few years, he had gone to many places to search for this non-existent little sister. He didn't come across with many girls. He has only seen a few girls since he was young, and he always treats them as his sister.

Raeleigh is the exception. He does like her.

Separation is too cruel to him. I hope you can give us some time and an opportunity to uncover the truth in the past and resolve the misunderstanding."

"I don't care about the misunderstanding anymore. Regarding the matter in the past, I hope that others will regard Raeleigh as a dead child. The past is the past for a reason. Why should we bring it up again?"

Notwithstanding a lot of persuasions, Lamar still didn't approve of Raeleigh's marriage. He even made it clear by saying, "We're going to take the relevant measures regarding their divorce as soon as possible. If you don't agree, I can uphold my rights as a father through legal means. I believe that Raeleigh will comply and stand by my side."

The negotiation had reached an impasse, as neither side would budge. Calvin pulled a long face. "Try it then. Raeleigh is the daughter-in-law of my family. Without my consent, the divorce can't proceed."

Belle had lost for words. Her husband's way of handling problems had always been like this. Now that the soft approach was ineffective, he could only go rough.

It was just that Belle didn't think there was any effective method for this matter.

On the other side, Jazelle was very calm. She had not spoken much throughout the conversation, but this was what disconcerted Belle since she couldn't grasp what Jazelle was thinking.

Without seeing eye to eye, Belle said, "Let's put this matter aside first. You see, we haven't had breakfast yet. Would you like to have breakfast with us?"

"You haven't had breakfast yet?" It wasn't until now that Jazelle began to speak. Belle looked at Jazelle as if she had seen Deanna of the Atkinson family.

"Give me a few minutes. I'll prepare some food for you." Jazelle got up and walked to the kitchen. It was the first time Belle visited them. How could she stay and let the host serve them? What was more, she just wanted to smooth things through by changing the subject. Since they couldn't reach an agreement, she had to leave.

"No need to go to the trouble of cooking. Let's have lunch together at noon. We can have some toast first. Jacky is a thoughtful child. We stayed at his side last night and promised him to have breakfast with him this morning. We'll go back now.

If there is anything else, we will come again."

Belle went to bid Jazelle a farewell at the kitchen before coming back to pull Calvin up from the sofa. Only then did the two of them leave the house.

After they had left, Jazelle came from the kitchen and sat down beside her husband. "Lamar, what do you think?"

"We still need to get to the bottom of it. From what we can tell now is that there are still many suspicions.

That said, we can't trust all their words blindly, especially Calvin. Just by looking at his two sons, I can tell what kind of astute businessman he is. He acted so civilly as soon as he came here. That show of apology-and-contrition of his was impressive, I must say. I was almost moved by it. If it hadn't been for the pull you gave me at the critical moment to remind me, I would have forgotten our aim.

It seems that my willpower isn't as strong as yours."

Jazelle grinned. "I didn't say anything just now. Hadn't we agreed that I would only be watching from the sidelines and remind you if anything went wrong?"

"There was no other options left for us. They are not ordinary people. Not everyone can develop such a big business up to international level. Their two sons aren't simple either. If we weren't careful, we might be screwed. What have I done wrong in my life? Why do I have to deal with such a hard nut to crack?"

"Quite the reverse. You must have been practicing good deeds that two children and I are vouchsafed to you. Even if we had lost our daughter, didn't we find her back? Isn't heaven good for us? There is no such thing as an unimpeded journey in life. Now that we are all healthy and that our children have grown up into considerate individuals, what more could we ask for?"

"What an silver tongue you've gotten." Lama cuddled his wife and patted her on the back, narrowing his eyes and mulling over this issue.

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Outside the door, Calvin, who was leaving, wore a darkened expression. It was a tricky affair for him to solve.

Belle pulled him and said, "Calvin, why were you so hasty? You scared the daylights out of me."

Calvin laughed. "As the saying goes, the apple never falls far from a tree. Lamar isn't the most difficult to deal with. After all, he is a man who cares about image and courtesy. He will still concede on the surface."

"Jazelle, who was sitting behind him, shouldn't be underestimated."

"What did you say?" Belle didn't quite comprehend. "I think Jazelle is similar to Deanna. She seems naive and amiable."

"She might seem amiable, but I'm afraid she's more calculative than us. When I was speaking, Jazelle gave Lamar a pull when he hesitated for a moment. It seems that they don't want to let it go just like this."

“Are you saying that Jazelle is unwilling to let Raeleigh marry into our family?”

“She is already a member of our family. To divorce is easier said than done. Even if she wants to remarry Jerry after divorce, I won’t allow it. Moreover, Jerry won’t divorce.

He is heedful of Raeleigh’s matter. I think he has long since known that his grandmother was the one who took Raeleigh away in the past.

Dad must be worried that Lamar would not allow Raeleigh to marry Jerry easily due to what happened back then that he still helped Jerry.

Clever as he is, Jerry is indeed my son.”

Not only did Calvin not appear glum, but he was also laughing more cheerfully than anyone else. Discerning his smugness and joyfulness, Belle couldn’t help but say to him, “You weren’t like this just now. Why are you so happy now?”

Calvin beamed at her. “Why shouldn’t I be happy? The marriage has been established, and the parents of the two families have met. And they want to propose a divorce just because of a little conflict? Seriously? The children haven’t even expressed any intention to divorce, so we have no rights to do so either.”

Belle considered for a while after hearing Calvin’s words. “Why were they so serious back then?”

“How were they going to test us if they weren’t serious?” Calvin took his wife into his arms. The weather was still cold. To prevent freezing, they walked faster. Belle asked, “So, you mean that they were trying to test us because they approve the marriage between Raeleigh and Jerry?”

Belle was still confused.

“Since they approved, could it be that...” she thought about this.

Soon, Calvin gave her the answer.

Chapter 1523

“Regarding Raeleigh’s matter, they are pretty passive. They can’t just force them apart since Raeleigh and Jerry are already together. They have spent so many years searching for her. They wouldn’t turn their daughter down at this moment. Jerry did things in such a swift manner that they didn’t see it coming. Therefore, they wouldn’t approve Raeleigh’s marriage when we visited them this time.

They have yet to hold their wedding and are not in a hurry to, so let’s put this aside.”

No one had ever been able to change Calvin’s decision, including Belle. Furthermore, Belle had always been supportive to him.

The couple walked for a bit and arrived at Jacky’s house, who had already bought breakfast. There were some pastries and toast. Belle praised him before the three of them sat down to have breakfast together.

After that, Belle felt drowsy and went to catch some sleep at nine o’clock, intending to have lunch with Lamar and Jazelle at noon.

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Concurrently, Deanna had disembarked from the plane. She was so worn out that she had gotten sore bones all over.

Arriving at the airport, she glanced at her parents before leaving separately with them, afraid someone would recognize her. However, with her fleshy appearance, nobody recognized her. There was also a person who impersonated her and left with her parents.

In the car, Deanna called Zorion. She didn't take the same car as her parents as her desNorahtion was another house purchased by the Atkinson family. Hence, they went on different routes. It could be seen that the protective measures were well established.

While Deanna was making the call, a car stopped at the fork on the road ahead. Being blocked, the chauffeur had to stop. Deanna said, "Someone's car stopped at the intersection. We can't get through it. Zorion, I'm going to take a look. I'll get back to you later."

"Deanna..."

Zorion wanted to tell her not to get out of the car, but Deanna's speed was beyond his expectation. She had already hung up before he could say anything.

"Miss Deanna, Mr. Rhys instructed me not to let you off before we reach the desNorahtion."

The chauffeur couldn't bear the consequences if something happened.

The car stopped in front of them looked so familiar to her, as though she had seen it somewhere else before. She couldn't sit still, especially after the person inside that car had come into her sight. It seemed to be Jacky.

When the bodyguards of the Atkinson family saw that someone was in their way, they instantly went forward, preparing to chase that car away. They were in the Atkinson family's territory, and no one was allowed to be presumptuous.

However, nobody emerged from the car in front of them, which made the chauffeur keyed up. He immediately called Rhys.

Receiving the call, Rhys gave an order to stop the car. He didn't approach that car directly since he had made the arrangements for his men to take action.

"Get down." The bodyguards of the Atkinson family tapped the window twice. Jacky rolled down the window and stared at the person knocking on the window. When the person knocking on the window saw that it was Jacky, he stepped back right away. Rhys stretched his neck and looked outside to find that it was none other than Jacky.

"Jacky?"

Deanna blinked twice, pushed open the door and got out of the car.

The chauffeur also got out to stop her, and it irked Deanna. "Get out of my way!"

Deanna tilted her head angrily. She looked just like a starved tiger, ready to pounce on its prey at any time and place. Sitting inside the car and holding the steering wheel tightly, Jacky did not see her. As he detected the displeasing note in her voice, he started the engine and slammed the accelerator twice.

It attracted Deanna's attention. Looking over in nervousness, she lifted her hand and pushed the chauffeur, who dared not resist, speak, nor stop her.

It might be risky for her and her baby if he did anything.

The chauffeur said, "If anything happens to you, Miss, Mr. Rhys won't spare me."

"I'm fine. I'm going to look for Jacky. Get out of my way, or something will be happening to me right now." Deanna wore a livid expression. The chauffeur looked backward and told the people behind, "Inform Mr. Zorion fast."

Someone notified Zorion of what happened. Deanna pushed the chauffeur away and casually sashayed over toward Jacky's car. She was round in shape and wore quite a few layers of clothes. With the coat, she looked even more chubby. At first glance, Jacky almost couldn't recognize her, but her voice indicated her identity. In addition, he couldn't forget her beautiful eyes.

"Get in." Jacky opened the back door while Deanna pushed away the bunch of people in front of her and got onto the car. There was some stuff in the car, including a teddy bear and the woolen mat on the seat. It seemed like Jacky had prepared these for Deanna a day ago.

Jacky shot a glance at Deanna, who was pouting but did not cry. As the door had been closed, he drove off.

The people left behind were dumbfounded, wondering what they should do.

Sitting at the back seat, Deanna gazed at Jacky, frowned, and pouted. She sized up Jacky and then looked at herself. "Why are you so thin?"

Jacky didn't know whether to laugh or cry, "I'm a man. Why should I be fat?"

"But I've gained weight. You don't match me when you're beside me."

Jacky was speechless.

He almost burst into laughter, but he repressed it and said, "You're pregnant. You'll start losing weight when you start breastfeeding."

"Is that so?"

Deanna pondered for a moment before leaning through the front seat to plant a kiss on Jacky's cheek. Soon after, she returned.

Jacky was stunned and frightened momentarily, but he was filled with contentment right after that.

Through the rear-view mirror, he saw that she was holding the teddy bear and that she had decked out in loose fancy clothes. It was just that her big belly was a burden for her.

"Is it twins?" With that enormous belly of hers, Jacky couldn't help but suspect so.

He didn't mind having twins, but he was worried that it would be riskier.

Deanna shook her head. "The doctor said it isn't."

"Is it a boy or a girl?"

"A boy, but the doctor wasn't very certain." Deanna carefully darted a glance at Jacky, who wasn't disappointed. He said, "I thought it would be a girl, but it's good that it's a boy. We wouldn't have to worry much."

"Don't you like girls?"

Deanna was loquacious along the way, but she was exhausted after the flight. It didn't take long for her to fall asleep in the back seat. She only woke up when they reached Waverly Village.

She opened her eyes and rubbed them. "Is this Waverly Village?"

At this moment, they were near the attic. Jacky emerged from the car, opened the car rear door, bent over and began kissing her.

Deanna wrapped her hands around his neck. The sound of having her lips bitten was so loud, and she almost went out of breath.

Even Jacky himself was having shortness of breath due to the deep kiss. Then, he let go of her, stared at her face, and planted a kiss on her forehead. Subsequently, he bent down, stepped back, and signaled her to get off.

After she got out of the car, he bent and carried her into his arms.

"What are you doing? I'm too heavy." Deanna felt a little embarrassed.

"I might need to carry you when you're going into labor. I need to practice now." With her in his arms, Jacky went straight to the top of the attic. Deanna leaned against his chest without caring whether her family was brooding over her or not. Looking at Jacky's face, she hugged him tightly on impulse, "Jacky, let's live here without separating. Is that okay?"

Jacky's body slightly trembled as he was touched. "Of course. Why not?"

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When Raeleigh and the others were having lunch, they heard that someone had arrived at Waverly Village. Only then did Raeleigh know that Rhys had come for Deanna.

Chapter 1524

"Is Rhys here?" Belle was having lunch when she heard the news from her youngest son, Santiago. She stood up, feeling interested in the turns in events. However, Calvin's face fell in an instant. He cast a glance at his beloved wife and said, "Is Lottie here as well?"

"Aunt Lottie is here too. They're all at the entrance of the village and want to come in." Santiago got up and left while Jazelle asked, "Is Rhys the man who appeared on the Billionaires List some time ago?"

"Yes." Calvin was sitting opposite Jazelle and Lamar. As Jazelle inquired, he gave her the answer.

Jazelle asked again, "Is their daughter here too?"

Belle was also unclear about this matter. She looked inquiringly at her son, who sat beside her. Jepherson then replied, "I've no clue. Santiago went to take a look."

"Let's continue our lunch then," Belle said, still a little concerned. Didn't they say that Deanna was abroad? Why the sudden appearance?

Worried, she stood up after eating some food. Although it was somewhat rude to leave halfway through lunch, she still said, "Rhys's wife, Lottie, is my good friend. Now that she's here, I can't just sit here. She had been staying abroad, and I don't know why she is here. I'm going to have a look. Calvin will keep you company."

Raeleigh glanced at Jepherson, who then got up and said, "I'll also go and have a look."

The mother and son turned around and went outside, whereas Calvin remained motionless. Raeleigh cogitated for a moment before she spoke a few words in Jazelle's ear. After that, Jazelle gazed at her and said, "Really? Go ahead then. Xanthus, you go too."

As Jazelle spoke, Raeleigh stood up, but she didn't let Xanthus accompany her.

"Xanthus, you'd better stay here to keep them company."

As Raeleigh finished her words, she turned and went outside. Coming out of the door, she headed for the entrance of the village right away. At this time, many villagers had assembled here and were looking in that direction. Following the crowd, Raeleigh also did the same. Some people were standing at the entrance of the village, which was swamped with numerous cars. Jepherson and the others were there too. Afterward, Raeleigh approached them and saw Rhys, Lottie, and Zorion, who had just gotten out of their car.

After a brief pause, she walked toward Jepherson.

"Lottie." Seeing Lottie, Belle walked over without delay. Lottie was like a cat on a hot tin roof. When she saw Belle, she took Belle's hand right away and held it tightly while saying, "Deanna has been kidnapped. She's in the village."

Surprised, Belle turned around and looked at Raeleigh, who was beside her. She couldn't react in time to the news. Seeing that Lottie was about to cry out in trepidation, she believed that this was not a scam.

"Rhys?"

Rhys's expression didn't look good either. "Jacky has kidnapped Deanna. I won't let him off. Tell Jacky that if I don't see Deanna in an hour, I'll destroy this freaking village."

"Mr. Atkinson, perhaps you've mistaken?" Santiago asked from the side. Rhys then snorted, "I know very well what this is all about. If Jacky doesn't hand over Deanna, he will have to bear the consequences."

Turning around, Rhys returned to the car. Lottie followed suit and sat inside it dazedly.

“Has this Jacky gone mad?” Lottie was confused by Jacky’s action. To her, he had gone too far. They had already given him many chances. They had always complied when he requested to see their daughter. How was he still not satisfied?

If they didn’t want to let him live, he would have died long ago.

In the end, he still abducted their daughter.

Leaning in Rhys’s arms, she said, “I don’t know if Deanna is fine. She’s so heavily pregnant. Did she sleep and eat well?”

He threw a glance at his wife. “I think she must be in a better state than you. You’ve been fretting about her, but I doubt if she’s doing the same for you.”

Even though he pulled a long face and had brought his men to the entrance of Waverly Village, Jacky’s courage did gain his recognition. If it were someone else, they would have begged for mercy a long time ago. Jacky dared to kidnap his daughter without giving a damn who he was. There were very few young people nowadays who didn’t prioritize worldly possessions.

Rhys was aware of what was going on. He was only here to put on an act and let the people in Capital City know that someone had dared to lay a finger on his daughter.

He was a big shot in Capital City, whereas Jacky was a nobody from Waverly Village. How dare he kidnap his daughter!

All this was Rhys’s countermove.

Lottie was sad, but he couldn’t tell her the truth. He could only hold and comfort her softly.

Seeing that both of them had gone into the car, Belle looked strangely at Zorion, who was standing opposite to her, and asked, “Zorion, wasn’t Deanna abroad? Why did she come back?”

“It’s a long story. I will explain it to you later.” Zorion had no choice but to answer so at the moment. He could not go back to see his parents because it was he who betRhysed his sister.

Rubbing his forehead, he felt a little uncomfortable and coughed twice.

“Mr. Zorion, Mr. Rhys wants you in his car now. He seems to have something to say to you,” said the chauffeur after getting off the car. Only then did Zorion turn and go back.

The Atkinson family’s vehicle was a luxurious van. Rhys and his wife sat inside and gazed at their son. Even if Rhys did not say it, Lottie knew that this matter had something to do with her son.

For a moment, Lottie was disappointed. The two children of hers had a strong sibling bond since childhood. She had never thought that it was her son who betRhysed her daughter in the end.

Rhys summoned Zorion into the car. He then looked at his son, who was sick and had a pallid complexion. How could he not worry about his son?

Rhys ordered the chauffeur to get off. Thus, there were only the three of them in the car. He then asked his son, “Does this have anything to do with you?”

Zorion coughed. Lottie was heartbroken that she no longer wanted to know the truth. Both Zorion and Deanna were her children, and she would be content as long as they were fine. She had a rough idea about what was going on. If it hadn't been for Jacky, Zorion wouldn't have done this. Since this was the case, there was no need to pressure him into admitting it.

However, Rhys held his wife tightly and did not allow her to be soft-hearted at this moment. If she could not bear it, his plan would be messed up. He wouldn't allow that to happen.

Sure enough, Zorion admitted it.

Zorion said, "Rossie has been kidnapped by Jacky. He threatened to let his man marry her unless I deceived Deanna into coming back."

"How dare you bet Rhys your sister!"

Rhys snorted. Zorion had indeed let him down, but he was his son after all. Rhys didn't beat him, nor did he let him off. "You don't have to do anything else hereafter. I have a piece of land in the countryside. Go and farm it."

Lottie looked at her husband. "The land is full of ice and snow. What do you want him to farm?"

Rhys remained silent with a darkened expression.

"Zorion is always coughing. The doctor said that he is not as healthy as before due to the broken relationship. With his weak body, I don't think it's a good idea to let him farm in the countryside.."

"If he had seen this coming, he wouldn't have bet Rhys his sister for a woman," Rhys said. Lottie's heart skipped a beat, and she did not dare to speak up for Zorion anymore.

Chapter 1525

There was silence in the car. Lottie stared at Zorion for a long time before she said, "Your father is angry. You'd better go to the countryside. I will visit..."

"Don't visit him. Let him fend for himself," said Rhys before Lottie could finish her words. Lottie's heart missed a beat, and she looked up at her husband. "How can you do this?"

"How did he treat Deanna? I've already been lenient with him. If I were to be crueler, I would have thrown him into the sea to feed the fishes."

Zorion didn't say a word as he sat opposite Rhys. He had a glazed look in his eyes as his mind was in a state of chaos.

He knew that he was wrong, but he did not expect the consequences to be this serious. But what was done could not be undone as he had made a horrible mistake.

Just then, he collapsed while he was looking at the ground.

In response to this, Lottie let out an exclamation. Belle, who was standing outside, heard it and walked over at once. The car door swung open, and she saw Lottie trembling while holding Zorion's head.

Rhys asked the chauffeur to get in and send them to the hospital. Belle got on without hesitation and followed them.

Raeleigh and the Harvey brothers also got on. Only then did the people around the entrance of the village leave. For a moment, the village regained its tranquility.

...

"I'm sorry to see your current condition. I thought the one who had the incident that day was someone else. In fact, I was there at that time." Standing beside Logan, Rossie gave him some medicine and water and waited for him to take it.

In these few days, Rossie's task was to take care of Logan. Due to this, Logan had been recuperating much faster than before. He was able to stand up and walk a few steps that day.

In a wheelchair, Logan took it from her and drank some water.

"Hasn't Zorion come to look for you yet?" Logan did have a crush on Rossie. He had been looking forward to meeting her this time, but he didn't behave the same as before. He would never forget how he had bet Rhysed Jacky to retaliate against Zorion. Similarly, he would never make the same mistake again.

Anyhow, he was pleased to see Rossie. When it comes to love, the unattainable one would be the most desirable. It was good enough for him to see her and talk to her.

"He will come to find me sooner or later. But this time, you guys have used me to coerce him into handing over his sister and deceiving his parents. He must have been upset. He regards his sister as someone more important than his own life. There's no way he could accept it willingly."

Sitting aside, Rossie fixed her eyes on Logan. She was aware of the current situation, and she knew that Zorion must be having a tough time.

"In the past, I used to think that I hated Zorion, but now, I don't want him to die."

As Logan spoke, he looked at the door. Rossie cracked a smile. "The two of you have gotten even."

None of them spoke.

Little did Rossie expect that the next time she saw Zorion, his appearance had already changed, and she almost couldn't recognize him.

It wasn't until Rossie had had her dinner that she met Jacky. Entering the room, he glanced at the two of them. "Say your farewell. Rossie, I'll bring you out later. I've promised Zorion to send you back once Deanne has arrived."

Rossie turned around and looked at Logan. "Keep this number in mind. I've been using this phone number. I'll call you whenever I'm free."

"No need for that, and you don't have to call me. A person like me—"

"I'll come and visit you."

When Rossie left, she didn't take another look at Logan, neither did she show reluctance. She just said that she would come and visit him.

Jacky stood inside the village without stepping out of the entrance of the village as he said, "I can't go out right now because a dozen of guns are waiting for me out there. You're Zorion's woman. They won't shoot you."

Rossie looked at Jacky. "Goodbye."

"I'm sorry for what I've done."

As he finished his words, Jacky turned around and returned to the village. Rossie, on the other hand, turned and walked out. The car of the Atkinson family was parked not too far away. She got into it and went to the hospital. By the time she arrived at the hospital, Zorion was undergoing first aid.

Rossie had been asking about who had been hospitalized along the way. The person who brought her here was Zorion's exclusive chauffeur. If it were someone else, Rossie would not have gotten onto the car she saw outside Waverly Village.

The chauffeur didn't dare to tell her the truth. He wasn't certain as to what had happened to Zorion. All he knew was that Zorion suddenly passed out inside the car. After being sent to the hospital for a check-up, the doctor told them that his body displayed symptoms of pneumonia. What was more, he might develop complications. At this time, the medical personnel was still giving emergency treatment to him.

However, the surgery had lasted for a few hours already. Therefore, the chauffeur dared not to draw a conclusion.

Getting near to the emergency room and seeing that the lights in it were on, Rossie felt jittery all of a sudden. Rhys and Lottie had seen her before, but this was the first time for the three of them to have an official face-to-face meeting.

There were Rossie's photos in Deanna's phone, and of course, Rhys would investigate the background of the woman his son had taken a fancy to.

Compared to the photos on Deanna's phone and his investigation, Rhys admitted that Rossie was more eye-catching in real life.

It was no wonder that his son could not resist the charm of an angel like her.

Raeleigh and the Harvey brothers were also with them. Santiago leaned against a chair. He did not think that Zorion's life would be in jeopardy. To put it bluntly, he thought Zorion was only having a cold.

Since his mother was here, he had to stay.

Raeleigh sat down beside Belle, whereas Jepherson sat opposite to them. As soon as Rossie arrived, she had gone directly to the door of the emergency room, taking no notice of these people.

Raeleigh was not surprised to see Rossie. She even knew where Rossie had been staying in the Waverly Village.

Now that so many troubles had transpired, Raeleigh did feel a little guilty. Although she planned to kill two birds with one stone, the outcome wasn't gratifying.

Hence, she reminded herself that she'd better not do bad things, even if she had a good intention.

Raeleigh and the others didn't say anything. At present, Belle was reeling in amazement. She didn't expect Rossie to be so pretty and have strikingly fair skin.

Still, Raeleigh was better than Rossie in Belle's eyes.

Rhys shot a glance at Rossie, who wore a red knee-length coat and a casual ponytail. She looked reserved and elegant. She didn't wear make-up, nor did she put on nail polish. In this era, not many girls were like her. Either they had extraordinary confidence, or they didn't care what people thought about them. In short, they were non-materialistic.

Rhys was no ordinary man. He could tell a person's character at first glance.

Rossie had met with his approval.

Closing his eyes, Rhys held his wife's hand. Lottie had cried her eyes out. She couldn't think of anything else. Even though Rossie was here, Lottie was in no mood to talk to her. She just sat there absentmindedly, as though she had gone dumb.

Chapter 1526

They had devoted most of their time to taking care of their daughter, thereby leading to the neglect of their son. Otherwise, how would he have suffered from such disease?

The heartbroken Lottie was in profound regret-so much so that her heart wasn't in anything else.

"Ma'am, Miss Lautner is here," the chauffeur reminded her. After that, Lottie slowly raised her head, but she did not say a word at the sight of Rossie. On the other hand, Rossie looked in the direction of Lottie and Rhys and took the initiative to approach them, bending down to speak.

"Uncle, Aunt."

Originally, Lottie intended to reply to something. However, before she could do so, she heard her husband say, "So, you're the Rossie Lautner who's harmed Zorion and Deanna?"

Rossie was flummoxed for a second, on reflex.

Raeleigh and the others also fixed their eyes on Rossie and Rhys. This matter didn't seem to be simple.

Raeleigh darted a glance at Jepherson from across her. His eyes were lowering slightly, an indication that he would not meddle in this matter.

Then, she glanced at Santiago, who was yawning blatantly.

Her curiosity sparked, Belle stared at both the father-in-law and daughter-in-law.

She wondered which episode from Keeping Up With The Atkinsons this was.

Lottie gradually stopped crying and looked at the Rhys next to her. "Rhys?"

"I won't forgive a woman who hurt my son and daughter, let alone allow her to marry into our family. Such a woman is-shall I say-out of our league."

Rossie could hear the condescension directed at her background in Rhys's words.

"Uncle, this is a misunderstanding. Zorion and I are just friends. I have no intention of marrying him."

Rossie wasn't a fool, nor was she weak-willed. It was just that she had come across a headstrong and willful man like Zorion. That was why she hadn't been able to do anything to fend him off.

"We'll see if it's a misunderstanding. Zorion ends up in this hellhole courtesy of you. Oh well, I'll alter my will. In the event that he marries you, I won't give him a single cent."

"By all means, bequeath all your property to him, because you won't see him marry me in your lifetime."

Rossie pivoted on her heels and walked to the door of the emergency room. She looked at the sign to the emergency room, waiting for Zorion to come out.

Only then did Lottie sense that something was amiss and look at her husband. "Rhys, you..."

"For a woman, he harmed his own sister. Won't he harm me in the future?"

Rhys deliberately spoke within Rossie's earshot. The chauffeur stood by the side with his head lowered slightly whereas Rossie gazed at Rhys and said, "You can rest assured that Deanna is fine. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about her."

Rossie walked up to Rhys and Lottie, exuding a doughty demeanor. Lottie cast a glance at her husband, who didn't think that he had gone too far at all.

"Deanna is my daughter. How I'll act is my own business, and I don't need you to tell me. What do you think?" Rhys opened his eyes and stared at Rossie. The sharpness and coldness in his eyes could be seen.

Rossie did not back down. She had experienced far more than this. After what she had been through in her family and with Zorion, over her dead body would she yield to anyone.

"Deanna is your daughter, yes, but she is an entity of her own. If you gave birth to her just to let her be your daughter, then I have nothing to say. I also have a father just like you. He wanted me to marry the man he had chosen for me, hoping that I could bring him a considerable amount of wealth, even if that man was an infirm old geezer. Regardless of the man I were to marry, whether it was the one I liked, or the one he chose for me, it made no difference to him. In his eyes, they were all men, and all of them could eat, sleep, and spread their seeds.

He took it for granted that I should repay him in return for his kindness of bringing me up.

Of course, as his child, I ought to perform my filial duty, just like you think that Deanna's future husband should be determined by you so that she would be leading a worthwhile lie."

Rhys's eyes grew sharper as he said, "If it wasn't for me worrying that Zorion will blame me after he wakes up, I would have wiped you off the face of earth by now."

“You know, you don’t have to tell him that you’ve killed me. Just let him live in the hope that I’m still alive, provided that you don’t feel guilty.

As for Deanna, I think in this world, nobody other than Jacky will make a perfect couple with her. He’s the only one who can give her what she needs.”

With that, Rossie turned away and continued to observe the light above the door of the emergency room.

Raeleigh looked at Rossie in amazement. In fact, what she said was the truth known by everyone. It was just that no one dared say it aloud. She did not expect Rossie to be so bold.

It seemed to Raeleigh that Rossie was burning her bridges.

Belle liked Rossie very much that she even smiled. If Zorion hadn’t met this girl, she would have fixed Rossie and her son up.

She thought, “What a pity...”

Santiago leaned against the seat and waited for the result whereas Jepherson remained wordless.

When someone came out of the emergency room, Rossie asked, “How is the patient?”

“It’s an acute pneumonia. He’s fine now,” the doctor said as he came out of the room. Not long after that, Zorion had been brought out too.

Seeing him, Rossie walked over and looked down at his pasty face. “Zorion, Zorion...”

Lottie also got up and walked over. When she heard that her son was all right, she fixed her eyes on Rossie.

Concurrently, Rhys gave a snort. “Hmph.”

Rhys turned around and left while Lottie turned to look at him before chasing after him.

The chauffeur failed to grasp what was happening. He was in two minds whether to leave. At last, he stayed for the sake of Zorion.

Lottie caught up with her husband. “Rhys, what are you doing?”

Rhys got into the car and gazed at his wife as the anger on his face was fading away. “Let them be alone. Even if we stay, there’s nothing we can do to help. We still need to deal with Deanna’s matter.”

“Then what about Zorion? He is still in there.”

“He’s not a child, and the chauffeur is there, not to mention that girl. Didn’t you see that? She isn’t an easy touch. Who dares to do anything to her? Is there anything she can’t do?”

Rhys grinned. “It’s good to have her. If something really happens in the future, I’m afraid that we can’t count on Deanna.”

“Don’t we have Jacky?” Lottie actually liked Jacky quite a bit. However, there were times when things did not develop in accordance with her wishes. Therefore, she could only stand on the other side and disagree with her daughter.

“Although Jacky can be a helper, it doesn’t mean that he can do anything himself. At the end of the day, brothers aren’t as close as spouses.”

Lottie felt the same. Just like Belle and her, they might have been each other’s ride and die, but they still had to separate. They couldn’t really ask each other all kinds of favors. On the contrary, a married couple was different. They would be together every day, and he or she would know even if the partner had lost a hair.

With this idea, Lottie was relieved.

“Then what are we going to do now?”

“Let’s go to Waverly Village.”

Chapter 1527

As a result, Lottie went to Waverly Village again. Meanwhile, Belle, who was in the hospital, stood up after deliberating for a while. “Raeleigh, Santiago and I will go back first. There must be someone to stay and take care of them. Why don’t you stay and keep Miss Lautner company?”

“I got it.” Raeleigh concurred with Belle. Jepherson got up. “Mom, let Santiago stay, I’ll go back with you. As for here, if there’s nothing else, I’ll come back to change shifts with Santiago and Raeleigh at night.”

Raeleigh threw a glance at Jepherson. Since he had made such an arrangement, then so be it.

After Belle and Jepherson left, Raeleigh made a phone call.

“Mom, something happened to Zorion. Rossie is also here. I have to stay and help taking care of them, I probably won’t go back today.”

“Sweetheart, why are you taking care of them?” Jazelle didn’t quite understand. Was this Zorion on good terms with her daughter? She pondered on this.

Raeleigh considered momentarily. “There is no one here. I can’t really explain it. It has something to do with Deanna and Jacky. Ask Xanthus if you want to know more.”

“I see. Be careful.”

Hanging up, Jazelle instantly went to ask her son what had happened. There were no other people in the house. Calvin had gone to other places, thus it was convenient for them to talk.

It wasn’t until Xanthus had explained the general situation to Jazelle that she finally apprehended what was going on.

However, other people’s family issues was not her bailiwick. She still focused on her own affairs.

After Belle and Jepherson left, Raeleigh went to Zorion’s ward, but didn’t enter. Instead, she stood outside and looked into the ward to find that there was nothing for her to help. In fact, the reason why

she was left here was that she had nothing to do at home, and that it was not easy for her to get out after she went back.

However, Raeleigh felt a little guilty when she sat aside. It was rare for her parents to pay her a visit, and it seemed too unfilial of her to take care of others.

“A penny for your thoughts?” Seeing that Raeleigh was staring into space, Santiago sat beside her and crossed his long legs. Raeleigh gazed at the wall. “The university break will be over in a few days. I think this winter break is the longest break of my life, like, years just whizzed by.”

“Whoa, aren’t you quite the drama queen.” Santiago was amused. Raeleigh looked at him. “You’re all smiley faces, twenty-four-seven. Won’t you get tired?”

“Why will I feel tired when I smile?”

“Your face is full of wrinkles when you smile.”

Raeleigh squinted and leaned against the wall, intending to have a rest. She was worn out.

Santiago glanced at her and lifted his arm to pull her over. He used one hand to hold Raeleigh’s head while she was struggling to break free. Santiago told her, “Take a nap. When things are stabilized, I’ll take you to rest outside. This hospital is a total spook house.”

“Ha!” Raeleigh wanted to laugh. “Is there a time when you are not a nonsense-monger?”

“I love you!” Santiago said suddenly, which made Raeleigh dumbfounded. She wanted to raise her head and look at him, but Santiago held her head down with his big hand. “Gosh, you’re too ugly for me to even believe my own words.”

Raeleigh tried to sit up straight while Santiago was looking at her. “Not only your face is ugly, but your temper as well.”

“Ugly temper?”

It was the first time for Raeleigh to hear someone supplanting “nasty” with “ugly”.

“Sleep.” Santiago held Raeleigh in his arms. After struggling briefly, she pinched him right under his ribs. He then let go of her due to the pain.

Raeleigh stood up and sat on the other side, closing her eyes to have a rest.

Santiago looked up at Raeleigh, his gaze fixed on her, and the smile on his face gradually turned into a serene expression. As Raeleigh closed her eyes, he lifted his hand and stared at it. It took him a long time before he put it down, raised his head and closed his eyes to rest.

Hearing the even sound of his breathing, Raeleigh was pretty sure that he had fallen asleep, yet she still opened her eyes to check on him.

Raeleigh was uncertain of her own intention. She believed that Santiago had fallen asleep, but she failed to put her mind at ease and sleep well.

She got up and gazed into the ward. Both the people in the ward were asleep. Zorion was not awake. The injection had put him in deep slumber whereas Rossie rested motionlessly beside him.

Raeleigh took a look around. Under the current weather, the corridor of the hospital wasn't warm either. She took off her coat and covered it on Santiago, trying not to disturb him.

Seeing that Santiago did not wake up, she went to the washroom. Then, she did a number one, came out and washed her hands. Leaving the washroom, she shot a glance at Santiago, who was still resting in the corridor.

Devoid of any sign of sleepiness, she wanted to walk around in the hospital, and maybe to buy some food at the cafeteria downstairs. She took out her purse and checked it. There was enough money inside for a meal.

She walked to the staircase and descended. Afterward, she reached downstairs and found that there was an empty floor in between the floor where they were in and the floor where the cafeteria was located. There was a variety of food offered.

Raeleigh headed for one of the counters, intending to buy something to eat together with Santiago later.

As she was walking down, two men stalked her from behind and wanted to surround her from the left and right side. Raeleigh sensed that something was wrong, hence she immediately turned around to have a look. As soon as the men saw that Raeleigh had noticed them, they quickly approached her, intending to catch her. Raeleigh ran toward the crowd while reaching for her phone to call Santiago. However, one of the men had caught up with her and threw a kick at her hand. Consequently, the phone fell from her hand onto the ground. Raeleigh stepped back a pace while the other man quickly kicked her. Taking this opportunity, the first man had already jumped and blocked Raeleigh's route of escaping. Being driven into a corner, a trace of fury appeared in Raeleigh's eyes. "Help!"

As Raeleigh shouted loudly, the people around all looked over. Some of them were coming near to her, but one of the men had taken out a knife while the other one, a gun.

Raeleigh retreated. "It's not a real gun."

Hearing Raeleigh's words, the people around hurriedly walked forward. The man with the gun turned to those people. "Y'all better don't come over. It's none of your concern. This woman stole another woman's husband. We are here to look for her, not to kill her. Don't stick your nose into this."

Once he spoke so, the people around stopped in their tracks. As "homewrecker" and "detestable" go hand in hand, no one would care about this, never mind call the police.

Raeleigh retorted, "Funny you should say that, 'cause I don't even have a boyfriend. Don't think that they will buy your words."

"Yeah, how can the words of bad guys be taken seriously?"

"Yes, let's call the police."

As someone had spoken of calling the police-bang!-and the man with the gun fired a shot.

The people around covered in fear right away. Nobody dared to approach such a madman.

Raeleigh realized that the gunshot had given these people the fright of their lives. She turned around and was about to leap down the stairs, but before she could do it, someone stopped her by shouting, "Don't jump."

Raeleigh stumped for a moment and turned around to find that Flynt had come down from above and was sporting a knee-length grey coat. His most conspicuous trait was that he had lost an arm. All of a sudden, she recollected the matter of Santiago's arm. Staring blankly at Flynt, she did not speak. She even suspected that he was the brain behind all this.

Chapter 1528

Standing by the stairs, Raeleigh watched as Flynt hurried down with a worried look on his face. He came alone and unarmed.

"Don't you jump."

Flynt looked at the two attackers. "Who are you people? What are you doing here? This is a hospital. You can't escape now. I've already called the police and they are on their way."

Flynt said as he walked down, his gait hesitant. The two men traded glances. Then, gun-holding man pointed his gun at Flynt. "You screwed up our plan! Our boss isn't gonna like us botching up anyway, we might as well kill you. R. I. P., you sucker."

As the man spoke, he pulled the trigger and fired his gun at Flynt. However, Flynt managed to dodge the bullet and it struck the wall. Flynt shouted, "Why are you still standing there!"

Raeleigh disregarded everything else, turned around and ran into the crowd.

When the attackers saw Raeleigh leave, they immediately turned to look at Flynt; however, Flynt was nowhere to be seen.

Afraid of being caught, the two attackers fled the hospital in a hurry. At this time, the police had also arrived at the door.

Raeleigh hid in a dark corner and watched as the two attackers ran past her. She came out once they were out of sight.

Before the police came to them, Flynt walked over to Raeleigh and asked, "Are you alright?"

Raeleigh froze for a moment, then slowly turned around to look at Flynt. However, his breathing was still ragged. Raeleigh was lost in thought when she saw him. "How is it you?"

"Why can't it be me? Why can't I be the hero for once?" After saying that, Flynt stepped towards the stairs. Raeleigh felt puzzled. Had she hit a nerve in him?

When Raeleigh saw Flynt leaving, and since he was the one who saved her, she quickly followed him and called out, "Flynt."

Flynt quickened his footsteps. If it wasn't because of the police officer who stopped him at the door, he would definitely not stop.

“You are not allowed to leave. There was an incident that happened earlier, so I need you to stay here and cooperate with us.” The policeman was dressed in plain clothes but armed. It was only when Flynt stopped that Raeleigh managed to catch up to him.

When Raeleigh saw the police officer, she informed him, “There were two people who wanted to kill me just now. I don’t know them. One was armed with a gun while the other had a knife...”

Raeleigh explained to the police officer. The police officer asked Raeleigh, “Who are you? What’s your name?”

“My name is Raeleigh Anson. I came to the hospital to visit a friend. I did not expect such a thing to happen. I’m sorry to have caused you trouble. It’s obvious that those people were coming for me.”

After Raeleigh finished her words, the police officer looked around and waved his hand, indicating to his men that it was safe to enter the building.

Then, the police officer looked at Flynt, who remained quiet. “You look familiar. Who are you?”

“I was just passing by and saw that she was being chased. So, I came out to help her.” Flynt’s face was tensed up. He did not want to show his face.

Raeleigh thought of Cole family’s strict rules and explained to the police, “Is it alright if we don’t want this incident to be made public? We don’t want our family to find out about this.”

“We are also worried that it will cause panic, so you can rest assured.” The police officer took out his walkie-talkie and asked, “Did you guys manage to find anything?”

Raeleigh took a look at Flynt and said, “They’ll probably need us to give a statement. Let’s wait at the side.”

Raeleigh turned around and walked over to a nearby bench. She was still a little shaken up by the incident.

After a while, Flynt walked up to the bench and took the seat beside her, not saying a word. Raeleigh quietly looked over at his coat sleeve and realised that he had lost an arm.

Raeleigh asked him, “Was it Jepherson who did this?”

Flynt scoffed. “Need you ask?”

Raeleigh froze for a moment. In fact, she knew it, but she couldn’t change anything. After all, Flynt had done something he shouldn’t have done. This was to teach him a lesson.

However, no one had expected Flynt to be exiled to the countryside after he had lost his position in the Cole family.

Raeleigh was silent for a while before changing topics. “How have you been these days?”

“I just came over yesterday for a check up,” Flynt said without looking at Raeleigh.

Raeleigh felt wronged as well. Flynt seemed to be taking out his dissatisfaction on her, but this was not her fault. If he had not acted on his own and wanted to harm Santiago, Jepherson would not have sought a tit-for-tat in the form of his arm.

Jepherson and Santiago had already showed clemency.

Raeleigh lowered her eyes. "Thank you for earlier."

"Don't mention it. If it happens again, I will not turn around and help you," Flynt said without hesitation, his face cold.

Raeleigh looked at Flynt. "There won't be a next time."

Raeleigh was too lazy to talk, so she sat there and did not speak. After a long time, Flynt said, "I'm sorry."

Raeleigh turned to Flynt. "For what?"

"Nothing. It's just that I can't seem to control my temper."

Raeleigh looked at Flynt's no-arm arm and said, "The technology is very advanced these days. You should consider replacing it with prosthetics. And then you'll have the ability to manage daily activities and stay independent. In fact, disabled people could still lead a normal life. Don't be discouraged because of this."

Raeleigh did not know what else to say. Flynt pretended to be pitiful in front of her, time and again. Even if she knew that it was Flynt who deliberately lied to her, she still could not bring herself to be indifferent.

Raeleigh fixed her eyes on Flynt. He shook his head and said, "I'm fine this way. We don't have to fight against each other in the future."

Raeleigh said nothing and sat still. After sitting for a while Flynt asked, "Who are you visiting?"

"Zorion was diagnosed with pneumonia and has been hospitalised. I came to visit him."

"I can't believe that you're willing to visit him but not me. Am I such a pathetic excuse for a human in your eyes?" Flynt lowered his voice, morose.

Raeleigh thought for a moment. "Speak for yourself-I, for one, have never thought that way."

"But every time something happened to me, you never seemed to spare me so much as a glance. I always hoped that you would at least come and visit, but that was just wishful thinking on my part."

"..."

Raeleigh did not think about it, nor did she intend to visit him, so she kept quiet.

While she did not answer Flynt, someone filled in for her.

"So what if she didn't visit you? Excusez-moi, but why does she have to?" Raeleigh heard Santiago's voice from a distance. She looked up and saw Santiago swaggering towards them, his face frosting over.

Raeleigh sat there. She felt that something was going to happen, so she did not move. She sat there quietly and watched the devil's spawn Santiago walk towards her.

Santiago did not even look at Raeleigh. He asked Flynt with a cold face, "Have you not learned your lesson? What do you want? Courting death? There's a special section in hell reserved for a pretentious diva like you and I can arrange that."

Chapter 1529

Flynt rose to his feet. "Santiago, although your brother made me lose an arm, I don't hate you guys as much as you hate me."

Raeleigh could smell the hostility in the air, so she immediately stood up from her seat. She reached out to stop Santiago, who then pushed her. She lost her balance and landed heavily onto the chair.

She felt as if she was thrown harshly into the chair as her face suddenly turned pale.

Flynt immediately reached out to help Raeleigh up. "You okay?"

Santiago yanked Flynt away and yelled, "Stay the hell away from her!"

Flynt only had one arm. He stumbled backwards when Santiago manhandled him, almost falling to the ground.

Flynt steadied himself and looked towards Raeleigh. He took a deep breath and looked at Santiago. "Santiago, you've gone too far. I did not provoke you."

"Yes, you did not, but I know you're fixated with her," Santiago taunted. Raeleigh's ability to respond had been hijacked by anger, her face ashen.

Flynt was amused. "What about you then? Don't forget that she's your brother's woman."

When Flynt said this, his voice was a borderline scream. Santiago gritted his teeth and said, "That's none of your business. Flynt Cole, you asked for it!"

Santiago rushed up to Flynt, then kicked and punched him, knocking him to the ground. Flynt was at a disadvantage since he only had one arm. He fell to the ground, his body trembling.

When the police officers arrived and saw that it was Santiago, they did not dare to intervene and shoed the surrounding people away.

After they left, Santiago walked up to Flynt and gave him a hard kick. "Do not ever do it again, or you'll be sorry."

Raeleigh was sitting on the chair and did not get up. She was in so much pain that her forehead started to bead with sweat.

Santiago walked over to Raeleigh, bent down to pick her up, and strode out of the hospital.

However, moments later, he turned around and carried her to Zorion's ward instead. When he arrived outside of his ward, he threw Raeleigh onto one of the chairs. Raeleigh was in great pain and could no

longer endure the pain. She let out a scream when she was tossed into the chair. She felt as if her entire body was about to break into pieces.

Tears welled up in her eyes but she could not mutter a single word.

Raeleigh sat in the chair as the pain shot through her entire body. Santiago took a seat opposite of her. He clenched his teeth and stared at her sweaty face.

Raeleigh's hair was a little damp because of her sweat. However, Santiago ignored it and just stared at her.

Zorion had already regained consciousness after receiving treatment. When he woke up and saw Rossie still asleep, he did not want to interrupt her. However, a loud bang at the door startled Rossie awake.

As soon as she woke up, Zorion immediately raised his hand to hold her down. Only then did Rossie slowly look up at him. She looked at him for a few minutes. During these few minutes, Raeleigh felt as if she was going to die because of the pain in her body.

By the time Rossie wanted to come out and see what had happened, Raeleigh had already fainted.

Rossie stood at the door for a moment. Santiago reached out and shook Raeleigh's hand, but she did not respond. His initial thought was that Raeleigh was pranking him.

Rossie rushed over to Raeleigh and gathered her into her arms. "Raeleigh, Raeleigh..."

Raeleigh did not respond at all. She lay limply in Rossie's arms. Rossie looked at Santiago. "What did you do? Get up!"

Only then did Santiago slowly stand up and walk towards Raeleigh.

"Don't think that I don't know you're just trying to scare me."

Rossie raised her head to look at Santiago, her eyes full of disbelief. "She has fainted. What the hell are you talking about?"

Santiago then bent down to look at Raeleigh and realised that she wasn't faking it.

"Someone please get the doctor..."

Santiago shouted with Raeleigh in his arms. Rossie was also a little frightened. She turned around and went in search of a doctor. The driver thought that something had happened to Zorion. He was so scared that his legs went soft. It was only later that he found out that it was Raeleigh.

By the time the doctor came to examine Raeleigh, she had slowly regained consciousness.

Raeleigh had no strength when she opened her eyes. She opened her mouth and said, "I'm fine. I was just in a lot of pain."

The doctor wasn't sure whether she was telling the truth or not without examining her.

Rossie did not want to leave Zorion's side, so she could only allow Santiago to accompany Raeleigh to go for an examination. However, Raeleigh insisted that she was fine, so she just lay on the bed.

"I won't go anywhere. I'll just stay here." Raeleigh did not want to leave. She shook her head and lay on the bed. She did not feel comfortable looking at Santiago.

Sometimes, people were a little stubborn and would not listen to whatever others said. This was Raeleigh now.

Santiago stood aside, holding Raeleigh's hand. "What are you fussing about?"

Raeleigh looked at Santiago in disbelief.

Raeleigh narrowed her eyes. "Rossie, can you please call Xanthus? And... I lost my cellphone downstairs. I think the police might have found it. Can you please help me get it back? I'm just going to rest here and wait for Xanthus to come over."

Raeleigh wanted to wrench free from Santiago's hold, but he tightened his grip around her hand.

Zorion said, "Please don't hurt her hand. She's a designer, she needs her hand."

Only then did Santiago release her hand. He glanced at Zorion. "Why don't you keep your nosiness out of this, huh?"

Rossie could not stand it anymore. She walked up to Santiago and forcefully pulled his hand away. She scolded him, "What were you doing when she fell down?"

Rossie pulled Santiago away from Raeleigh and looked down at her. "Raeleigh, tell me, where are you hurt?"

"I just can't stand seeing him. Ask him to go out." Raeleigh found it hard to speak. She felt heavy in the chest.

Santiago stood on one side with a long face. Resentment blossomed within him.

Zorion said, "Rossie, why don't you accompany Raeleigh for an examination? Santiago can stay with me here." Then, he said to his driver, "And I want you to accompany Rossie and arrange more people to monitor the whole floor. No accident should occur at this time."

Zorion made arrangements immediately. Even if he had no real power, he was the young master of the Atkinson family after all, so his driver had to execute his orders.

"Yes, Mr. Zorion. Miss Lautner, shall we?" The driver walked over to the gurney where Raeleigh was lying on. Only then, Raeleigh agreed to go for an examination.

After leaving the ward, Raeleigh closed her eyes and had no strength in her hands. She was catching her breath and was in a lot of discomfort.

Rossie loosened her grip and lowered her head to look at Raeleigh's hand. Her arms were hanging limply. She looked as if she wasn't going to make it.

"Zorion, Zorion..." Rossie was so frightened that she turned around and ran back to Zorion's ward, with tears running down her face.

Zorion lifted the blanket and got off the bed. He pulled the cannula off the back of his hand and walked towards the door. When the door opened, Zorion was stunned by Rossie's melodramatic crying.

At this time, Santiago had also arrived outside. He was stupefied to see Raeleigh lying unresponsive on the gurney.

Chapter 1530

"Why are you guys moving at a glacial pace? Are you waiting for her to die?" Zorion glared at the doctor and nurses. They were all scared out of their wits when they heard Zorion scream and hurriedly wheeled Raeleigh into the emergency room.

Santiago waited until everyone left before following them, dragging his leg behind himself. It was as if he couldn't move.

Soon after the doctor gave Raeleigh emergency treatment, she regained consciousness. When she opened her eyes, she realised that she was in Zorion's ward. It was easier for Rossie to take care of her that way. It was not that Rossie wanted to give Santiago a hard time, but Raeleigh did not want to see him at all. What if she passed out again after seeing him?

Rossie had not had a good impression of Santiago from the start, and now it had gone on a downward slope.

The first person Raeleigh saw when she opened her eyes was Santiago. At that time, she remained expressionless. When she turned her head to the side and saw Rossie and Zorion, she was in a much better mood.

She was not angry. She couldn't afford to, because she doubted anyone would care about her if she died.

When Rossie saw that Raeleigh had woken up, she immediately walked over. At this time, Santiago was holding Raeleigh's hand. When he saw her open her eyes, he gradually pulled his hand away. He was afraid she would pass out again. The doctor had warned him that fainting would strain her heart, and she was only a few times away from being a patient with heart failure.

Raeleigh had blacked out twice today. Although this happened rarely, it did a number to the body.

Santiago was afraid that she would pass out again, so he hurriedly let go of her hand.

Rossie had urged him to let her go a few times before, but he'd refused and kept holding her hand. Even when his cellphone rang, he refused to answer.

Raeleigh took her hand back and looked at Rossie. "Thank you."

Raeleigh's energy was draining along with the words.

Rossie smiled. "No worries. You should be fine. The doctor did an examination on you and found nothing wrong. I'll grab you some food later. And, oh, I found your phone, the police gave it to me. Your phone's still not dead. It's a tough one, I must say."

Rossie joked, to which Raeleigh pantomimed a smile.

“Yikes, ain’t that ugly!” Santiago added.

Raeleigh did not look at him but stared at Rossie. “I want to call my brother. Can you please look for Xanthus’s number in my phone?”

Rossie did as Raeleigh said. Then, she pressed the phone onto her ear.

“Xanthus!” Raeleigh called out to her brother when he answered the phone. She talked to him in her usual tone, not wanting him to know that she was in the hospital.

When Xanthus received Raeleigh’s call, he was in the middle of cooking. He asked, with his cell phone between his ear and shoulder, “You coming back for dinner?”

“No, I’m not. Deanna’s alone at home, so I’m going to stay and help. As you know, Santiago doesn’t know anything.”

“Have you eaten?”

“Not yet. I’m so hungry that I don’t have the strength to speak.”

“Oh... then go and get something to eat. Don’t starve yourself.”

“Alright. Can you please tell Mom and Dad that I’ll try to make it home in the next two days?”

“Don’t worry, Mom and Dad said they are planning to extend their stay. They like it here.” Xanthus was about to serve the food.

“Hey, sorry, but my dish’s all done now.”

“I’m hanging up then.”

Raeleigh hung up the phone.

“Thanks.”

After Raeleigh said this to Rossie, she took a deep breath. She had no strength at all.

Rossie pursed her lips. “I’m gonna get you something to eat.”

“Alright.”

Raeleigh was not hungry, but she knew she had to eat.

After Rossie left, Raeleigh closed her eyes. She pretended to fall asleep and did not respond at all.

Santiago sat by the side and waited until Rossie returned. He did not move from his seat.

When Rossie came back into the room, she handed Zorion a bowl of porridge. “Are you able to feed yourself?”

Zorion wanted to say he couldn’t, but when he saw Raeleigh, he wouldn’t put it past her to starve to death than to let Santiago feed her.

“Of course.” Zorion accepted the bowl of porridge. He had been in and out of the hospital many times enough that he knew how to insert the cannula back into his hand.

Zorion picked up the porridge and ate slowly. Rossie walked over to Raeleigh and asked, "Do you think you can sit up?"

Raeleigh felt fine, but Santiago was her mood breaker.

The fall had nTristany killed her. Pretending that she was all cheered up would only come out so wrong.

"I'm fine, I can manage myself. Can you please help me up?"

Raeleigh said and was about to sit up in bed. Santiago hurriedly stood up to help Raeleigh, but she pushed him without looking at him. She did not lose her temper. She just did not want to talk to Santiago nor did she want to see him.

Santiago was not angry even though he was pushed away. He stared at Raeleigh, fearing that she would pass out again.

"Can you please leave? I don't want to see you."

Raeleigh did not want to see Santiago. She did not know what was going on. It was as if someone had stabbed her in the chest and she was in so much pain.

Her body hurt, but her heart hurt even more.

Santiago did not say a word or leave and just sat down.

He watched Raeleigh eat.

Raeleigh did not feel like eating when she saw Santiago staring at her. It took her a long time before she started eating. She tried to stuff her mouth with food, but her appetite said no.

Rossie could not bear to see Raeleigh forcing herself to eat.

"If you're not hungry, I'll ask someone to prepare some quick minestrone for you."

That said, the "someone" in question was but a word filler. She was going to ask the driver to get some ingredients for her and then she herself would make it.

Though that was quite a hassle.

However, for Raeleigh's sake, Rossie was willing to give it a try.

It wasn't as though they were besties for life, but Rossie always felt that they had met each other too late.

Raeleigh really couldn't eat anymore, but it was a waste to throw it away.

"Don't throw it away. I might get hungry later. The weather is so cold, the food will not get bad."

Raeleigh handed over the porridge in her hand to Rossie and the latter was stunned for a moment. She reached out for the bowl of porridge and said, "You sure know how to live your life to the fullest."

Raeleigh was a little tired. After handing the porridge over to Rossie, she wanted to lie down. However, she was still hurting. Her face turned pale immediately, and beads of sweat rolled down from her head.

Raeleigh gritted her teeth, cursing herself inwardly. She wondered what was wrong with her. She passed out twice already and was now sweating profusely.

But the pain was so intense that Raeleigh dared not move.

Santiago immediately stood up. "Can someone please get the doctor?"

The driver went to call the doctor. Raeleigh leaned against the head of the bed, not daring to move. Santiago walked over to her. "Where are you hurting?"

Raeleigh looked at him, not wanting to talk to him.

Santiago was fuming with anger and hatred. "Where the hell are you hurting?"

"Her ribs! Can't you see?" Rossie was angry. "What's wrong with you? Why do you still want to get on her nerves?"

Santiago immediately sat down. "So, what now?"

Rossie had no idea what to do. She stood to the side and shook her head. "I don't know."

Santiago looked at Raeleigh with pain in his eyes. "Any idea?"

Raeleigh shook her head. She would not be in so much pain if she knew what to do.

Just then, the doctor rushed into the door. When he saw Raeleigh in great pain, he stepped towards her and was about to hold her when Santiago stood up and pushed him away.