

Go After 1541

Chapter 1541

Raeleigh only planned to have one dance with Jepherson. However, after the first song ended, Jepherson handed her off to Santiago to continue dancing. As soon as Santiago stepped onto the dance floor, he became the topic of everyone's conversation.

"Why is she wearing Mr. Santiago's jacket?"

"Oh, you're right! It seems Mr. Santiago is captivated by her beauty."

Although Jepherson overheard the guests talking, he remained indifferent.

He even talked and laughed with the guests.

After the second dance ended, Raeleigh briefly glanced at her watch to check the time as Santiago led her off the dance floor where Jepherson was already waiting for her. They walked out of the banquet hall and straight to the car. Raeleigh was exhausted and had no idea what was happening inside.

Jepherson poked his head out of the car and instructed one of his men, "Go and take care of it."

"Yes, Mr. Jepherson."

Santiago got into the car as his men turned around and left. Raeleigh was sitting on one side of the car, so tired that she could barely keep her eyes open. She fell asleep even before they took off.

Jepherson pulled her into his arms so that she could lean on him instead. The driver started the car and drove straight to the Harvey Group Manor. On the way, Jepherson said, "I want you to tell Grandma about what happened tonight. I need to go to A city. You can't stay here alone. I'll call Zorion and ask him to help you."

"When will you come back?" In fact, Santiago didn't have anything to do in the Capital City. He felt that what happened with Stella needed to be dealt with as soon as possible, but it was not something that was up to him to decide.

"I should be back pretty soon. I will be back before Hadrian's wedding."

"Do I still need to head over to Hadrian's then?"

"There's no need."

The car pulled up to the Harvey Group Manor. Jepherson asked someone to get his passport, then made his way to the airport.

It was not until they arrived at the airport that Raeleigh woke up. She hastily changed out of her evening gown into something more comfortable.

Not long after they boarded the plane, Raeleigh fell asleep again. Santiago didn't leave until Jepherson and Raeleigh boarded the plane. By then, it was already dawn.

Santiago left the airport and returned to the Harvey Group Manor. The moment he stepped in, he saw the servants with luggage in hand.

“Whose are these?” Santiago asked the servant, to which he replied, “Miss Stella is back. She’s packing her things.”

Santiago took a glance in the direction of the Ink Garden before heading over to his place.

After entering his room, he took a short nap before making his way to Waverly Village.

.....

Raeleigh had been asleep ever since they boarded the plane.

Jepherson managed to take forty winks. Once the plane landed, they hopped into a car and went straight to the Harvey Group Manor in A City. As soon as they arrived, he led Raeleigh straight to their room.

One of the servants hurriedly informed Hudson of Jepherson and Raeleigh’s arrival.

“Mr. Jepherson is back?”

Paige was quite surprised since he had just left a few days ago. What was he doing back here so soon?

Paige turned to Hudson. “What is he doing back here so soon?”

Hudson was studying a chessboard. “How would I know?”

“Can you at least guess why?” Paige found it strange because Jepherson rarely came home. Something must be going on.

“Where is he?” Paige asked. The servant quickly replied, “He brought Miss Raeleigh back to their room. She seems very tired.”

Paige frowned. “Tired? Does she think she doesn’t have to come greet me because she’s tired?”

Paige’s face sank. She was disappointed with Jepherson. All her effort she had put in to raise him was done in vain. If she knew that Jepherson would turn out like this, she would have treated Santiago better.

“This...”

The servant didn’t know what to say. Hudson said, “If they are here this Tristany in the morning, it means they probably took a midnight flight. You should let them rest.”

“Your grandson has never played by the rules since he was a child. I have no idea why he’s back. Maybe he came to interrogate us.”

“Interrogate us?” Paige looked amused. “About what? Does he still think that I should’ve been dead by now?” Paige felt a flash of irritation and threw the bamboo fan onto the ground. Hudson looked at the fallen fan and said, “Paige, you’ve broken too many fans already. Why do you always have to do this whenever you get mad? Plus, the weather is fairly cool today, why are you still using a fan?”

“I thought it looked good, so I grabbed it. Why?” Paige looked at the fan she threw. Without waiting for Hudson to speak, she asked one of the servants to pick the fan up for fear of breaking it.

Paige racked her brain and asked aloud, "What could it be, I wonder?"

"I guess we'll find out tomorrow."

Hudson continued to play chess while Paige spent the rest of the day pondering about what brought Jepherson back so soon. She kept wondering until her grandson and Raeleigh finally showed up at their house.

When Paige saw Raeleigh, her expression immediately changed. If Hudson wasn't holding Paige's hand, she would most likely have let her anger get the best of her.

"Jerry, you're back!" Hudson glanced at Raeleigh and Jepherson. Jepherson then said, "Why wouldn't I be back?"

Paige looked over. "What are you talking about?"

"Why don't you ask Stella? I have something I want to show you."

Jepherson didn't feel the least bit ashamed as he took out all the photos and handed them to Paige. She was seething inwardly and almost scolded her grandson. However, when she saw the people in the photos, she immediately picked them up and took a closer look. She was at a loss for how to respond to this.

"This is?"

Hudson briefly glanced at the photos then at his grandson, "What is this?"

"Last night, I attended a banquet held by our Harvey Group and I brought Raeleigh as my date. I didn't expect Stella to show up, demanding to know what our relationship was before tossing this stack of photos into the crowd. All I can say is that everyone at the banquet had feasted their eyes on these."

Anger rushed through Jepherson's veins. Paige quickly picked up the photos on the ground and said, "That's too much!"

"Is this why you're here?" Hudson asked.

"Why else would I be here?" Jepherson snapped. Hudson said, "Yes, although Stella was part of our arrangement for you, it was all pretense. And although she crossed the line, you have yourself to blame. You should have dealt with it properly. This has nothing to do with us, so don't put this blame on us when you're the one who failed to clean up your own mess!"

"Come on, let's go." Jepherson turned around and pulled Raeleigh outside. Paige wanted to say something but could not. Stella had gone too far. What else could she say?

After Jepherson and Raeleigh left, Paige stood up in anger. She started pacing back and forth in the room. Hudson watched in anger as his grandson walked away. He wasn't mad because of Stella, but he was upset that Jepherson had come to find fault with them.

Paige was getting older and she wasn't as healthy as before. It was best to aggravate her.

With this thought in mind, Hudson immediately strode out of the room in search of Jepherson. He wanted to give him a piece of his mind.

Although no one else heard it, Raeleigh did.

Raeleigh only dared to come out of the room after Hudson left. She couldn't help but laugh when she saw Jepherson, though she remained silent.

Jepherson also started laughing with her. When Raeleigh walked over, he took her hand and said, "We'll go home in a couple of days."

Chapter 1542

Raeleigh stayed in A city for two days. After the dust settled, she went back with Jepherson.

When they arrived at Harvey Group, Jepherson got out of the car and brought Raeleigh inside. It wasn't until she had gone inside that she found out Stella had moved in.

Raeleigh couldn't help but be impressed. Despite all that had happened, Stella had still moved in.

It seemed that Raeleigh had some difficult times ahead.

Thinking of Stella, Raeleigh recalled what had happened to Xanthus. Drug poisoning was no small matter. She turned around and went inside, leaving Jepherson behind.

She didn't rest after entering the room even though she did say she was tired and sleepy. After all, she had been busy over the past couple of days.

But her drowsiness faded at the thought of living under the same roof as Stella.

She packed her belongings, took her suitcase and got ready to leave.

When she reached the door, Jepherson happened to arrive at the door too. One of them was standing inside, and the other outside.

Jepherson was amused. "What are you doing? Rebellious?"

Raeleigh was unfazed. She looked up and stared at him. "Although I married you, it doesn't mean that I have to always listen to you."

"Letting Stella stay in Harvey Group is your grandmother's idea, not mine. I won't fight with people living under the same roof. I'm not that type of person."

"I'll take this opportunity to be with my family. I'm going back to Waverly Village. You handle your own affairs. Also, your company project is coming to an end. You've earned a lot of money through the two cars at the end of last year."

"I'll design a car for you every season, but I have my university studies. I hope you won't stop me."

"Although we're married, I should have some freedom of my own."

"I won't live with the person who hurt my brother."

Raeleigh was about to leave with her luggage when Jepherson held her arm. "Raeleigh, I'll be all alone after you leave. Won't you worry about me?"

“Will you?” Raeleigh looked at him with a hurt expression. To her, Stella was someone who she wished had never existed. However, he was always lenient with her and let her off the hook.

Raeleigh could restrain herself from killing, but she couldn't bring herself not to bear a grudge.

She had already told Jepherson what kind of woman Stella was a long time ago. She was disappointed with the way he handled the issue.

She thought that Stella would leave this time round. Even though they hadn't said anything about it, Raeleigh had thought that that was what would happen.

To her dismay, she had come back just to find that Stella was here. She was at a loss for words.

Jepherson was too selfish. He was so selfish that she no longer wanted to argue with him.

When he dealt with Flynt, he had been so ruthless that the latter's entire arm was gone. But when it came to Stella, what had he done instead?

Was it just because Flynt was pursuing her?

...

Raeleigh pushed his arm away. “I'll go back first. Don't you have things to handle at the company? Don't go back with me. I want to be alone. Besides, Scarlett needs someone to help her, so I'll go.”

Then, Raeleigh walked away. She pulled her suitcase with her as she walked towards the entrance of the Harvey Group.

Jepherson turned to look in Raeleigh's direction. He stared at her until her silhouette disappeared.

Just as Raeleigh had walked to the entrance of Harvey Group, Stella showed up. Stella smiled when she bumped into Raeleigh. “You're leaving as soon as I get here?”

Raeleigh stared at Stella silently. What could she say to someone like her?

Stella's smile stretched even longer upon Raeleigh's silence.

“I don't like you. Obviously, you're an inborn b*tch, yet you pretend to be pitiful and helpless. Who do you intend to deceive? Those men? You've got so many around you. I bet you must have been busy satisfying their fleshly desires?”

“Raeleigh, our rivalry has just begun. I will make you beg me to let you go.”

Raeleigh then dragged her suitcase and walked past Stella without saying another word.

When Raeleigh was about to get into the car, Stella turned around and gave a warning. “You best take care out there. Don't get into an accident and have your face disfigured.”

Raeleigh got into the car and glared at Stella silently while the chauffeur closed the door and got into the car. Along the way, they were tailed and chased by an unknown car all the way to the intersection. They nTristany got into an accident.

Fortunately, the chauffeur was adept at driving, and Raeleigh was kept safe and sound.

The chauffeur got down and quickly took a look at Raeleigh. "My apologies, Miss Raeleigh."

"It's not your fault. Bring my suitcase down and don't tell Jepherson about this."

The chauffeur hesitated. "Why?"

"It's no use telling him."

Raeleigh took her luggage and walked into Waverly Village.

She thought this might be a safer place.

The chauffeur stood behind her for a moment before he turned and left.

Not long after Raeleigh had gone in, she received a call from Jepherson. She hesitated before picking up.

"I've arrived."

"Do you not want to answer my call?" Jepherson could tell that she sounded distant.

He didn't know what happened. She was just fine a while ago, but was suddenly upset as soon as he called her.

How unreasonable.

"Hmm."

Jepherson was silent. "I will deal with what happened with Stella as soon as possible. Give me some time."

"Sure!"

Raeleigh had nothing else to say. He wouldn't believe it even if she told him.

Jepherson didn't want to hang up, but Raeleigh was obviously in a bitter mood. She said, "The signal is unstable, I'm hanging up."

Once the call ended, Jepherson put his phone away and went outside. Stella came just as he was taking his leave.

"Alas, she still left," Stella mused.

Jepherson put his phone away. "So?"

"So, it proves that she doesn't love you that much."

"She doesn't need to love me. Loving her is enough for me." Jepherson wasn't in the most joyous of moods at the moment. His patience for Stella was growing rather thin.

"Send Miss Doyle back. Remember, no one is allowed to enter this yard except for Raeleigh."

Jepherson turned and went back to the room, leaving Stella with a smile on her face as she sat in her wheelchair.

“Miss Stella.” The servant was in a difficult spot but Stella didn’t bother. She simply kept her unwavering smile as she turned to leave.

...

Raeleigh hung up and pulled her suitcase along as she looked at the lanterns in the village. She didn’t expect to see so many of them; they practically lit up the entire street.

Raeleigh accidentally bumped into someone. When she looked up, she realized it was Santiago.

“You’re back?”

There was a coldness in his voice, as though he had a feud with her. Raeleigh stared blankly at Santiago without answering.

It might be because he was in a bad mood, or due to the conflict that they had earlier, or even the fact that Jepherson had asked Santiago to keep an eye on her each time anything happened.

Raeleigh pulled her suitcase and sidestepped Santiago, continuing to walk forward.

Santiago grabbed her suitcase, but she didn’t let it go, “I can do it myself.”

“Let me.” Santiago took a step forward. Raeleigh stared at him without saying a word. Under her penetrating gaze, he slowly released his grip. She turned around, pulled her luggage with her and walked through the village as she watched the changes in Waverly Village and the well-decorated wedding lanterns.

At least others had a wedding when they got married. She hadn’t gotten anything when she got married, not even a single stalk of flower.

Chapter 1543

Raeleigh walked down the street. It wasn’t that she had been traumatized, she just felt a little discouraged. She didn’t know what other women would do when they encountered such a situation, but she couldn’t bring herself to compete with someone else for a man.

She only wanted to live an ordinary life, even if it would be as tough as before.

She dragged her suitcase as she walked. Santiago had been following her, and she didn’t even notice that she had reached her home. Santiago stopped and looked at Raeleigh, who was walking forward in a daze. After a while, she stopped and turned around to find that she had already walked past her house.

Raeleigh dragged her suitcase all the way back while Santiago fixed his gaze on her. When she stopped in front of him, he said, “I thought you were going to fly?”

Raeleigh didn’t even look at him. She had no energy to argue with him.

Raeleigh walked into the house and gathered her energy. She shouted, “Mom, I’m back.”

No one answered her. She continued to ask, “Xanthus?”

There was still no response.

Raeleigh then called Xanthus, who told her that they were out shopping in the market.

Raeleigh put away her phone and pulled her luggage into the room. She put down her phone and began to tidy up her belongings. She was storing her clothes in the cabinet when Santiago pushed the door open and walked in.

Raeleigh turned around and looked at Santiago. Although the door was unlocked, she hadn't expected him to come in.

Then, the door closed. Raeleigh shot a glance at Santiago before she continued tidying up her clothes.

"You brought all your clothes. Does this mean you don't intend to go back?" Raeleigh didn't answer him and continued going about her own tasks. He walked to her side. "Who are you angry at?"

"I'm not angry at anyone, and I don't want to be angry with you. I'm tired. Please leave." After she finished tidying up her clothes, she turned around to look at Santiago.

She was exhausted and needed to rest.

"Let me ask you, why did you come back?"

"No reason."

"If that's the case, why are you behaving this way?"

Raeleigh stared at him. "Can't you leave me alone?"

She took Santiago's wrist, turned and walked to the door, pushing him out. Afterwards, she closed the door and locked it.

Raeleigh hesitated for a moment before going to her bed to lie down. She felt better some time later, though she wasn't exactly in a better mood; she felt like she was just more clear-headed.

She covered herself with the quilt and finally had a good sleep.

By the time Raeleigh stirred, Xanthus had already come back with their parents. As soon as she came out of her room, she saw her parents entering the house holding bags and bags of things. Raeleigh went over to see what their parents had brought back. "How can we eat such a small fish?"

"This kind of fish is specially used for making dried fish, but the fishmonger told me that it's also suitable to make fish sauce too, and that it'll be delicious. So, I'm planning to make fish sauce," Jazelle explained happily. She was delighted to see her daughter. However, her expression darkened the next moment as she looked at Raeleigh. She handed the fish to her son and asked, "Sweetheart, what happened to you?"

"What?" Raeleigh realized that her despondency might have been discovered, hence she started to feel a little nervous. Lamar took a look inside the room, and his gaze fell on Santiago before he asked, "Where is Jepherson?"

"He's got something going on at the company. I came back to help Scarlett. Has she come?"

Raeleigh purposely changed the topic to prevent her parents from inquiring about the matter between her and Jepherson.

She had married Jepherson without discussing it with her parents. With Jepherson letting Stella reside at their home, she could no longer stay by his side. However, she could not bring herself to tell her parents about this.

In her mind, as empty-headed as she was, she didn't think she deserved her parents' concern.

Lamar and Jazelle exchanged a look. Both of them knew what kind of person Raeleigh was. She must have her own reasons for not wanting to tell them. It wouldn't do anyone any good if they forced her to talk. Plus, she would be under a lot of stress.

Jazelle held Raeleigh's hand. "Are you referring to the garrulous kid?"

Raeleigh looked at her mother speechlessly, amazed by her mother's intelligence.

"We're the same age, you know," Raeleigh explained. As she pulled Raeleigh into the room, Jazelle replied, "I know."

Xanthus took the fish into the kitchen and started preparing for their meal. Lamar sat on the sofa and turned on the TV, completely ignoring Santiago.

Santiago leaned against the sofa as he watched TV. After Xanthus finished his prepping, Santiago got up to wash his hands. Things had been stressful for Raeleigh.

At times, Jepherson really crossed the line. When he was not around her, he would get someone to keep an eye on her. To her, even though she was not grounded, it meant no difference from being locked in a big cage.

Raeleigh sat and ate a mouthful of food. Jazelle passed her the small fish almost immediately.

"Sweetheart, eat more. Have you been too tired? Apart from taking care of Zo-that Zo-something guy, you have to help this Scarley little girl too."

"Mom, it's Scarlette. She's my age so she's not a little girl anymore." Sometimes, Raeleigh had no idea how to deal with her mother.

"I know, but you will always be my little sweetheart in my eyes, so if she's the same age as you, she will be a little girl too." Raeleigh didn't know what to say, so she continued to eat in silence.

Someone knocked on the door as they were eating. Raeleigh paused for a moment before looking up, worry gripping her heart.. What if it was Jepherson? With so many people in the house, how was she going to tell them?

She was planning to get up and open the door, but Xanthus beat her to it.

Raeleigh heaved a sigh of relief the moment the door opened. Though the visitor came as a surprise, any visitor was better than Jepherson.

Scarlette was sitting on a wheelchair with a warm bag in her hands. She was overjoyed when she saw Raeleigh, calling out to her excitedly. Raeleigh knew that Scarlette missed her, but Scarlette seemed slightly over-enthusiastic about seeing her.

Xanthus stepped aside while Hadrian pushed Scarlett in. Raeleigh asked if they had had their meals and when she was told that they hadn't, she got up and brought them two sets of bowl and cutlery. After washing their hands, they sat beside Raeleigh and had their meal together.

Since Scarlett arrived, there hadn't been a moment of silence around the dining table. She was talkative, which made Raeleigh feel dizzy. Even after the meal, Raeleigh couldn't remember a word Scarlett had said. However, nothing stopped Scarlett from continuing chatting away. Raeleigh had to force herself to remember what Scarlett was saying.

"Raeleigh, why are you so distracted? Is something wrong?" Scarlett looked at her curiously. Raeleigh shook her head, but she clearly knew what was wrong with her.

Chapter 1544

Raeleigh didn't want to answer, so Scarlett stopped asking in front of everyone. When she stayed at Raeleigh's that night, she asked Raeleigh what had happened that day.

At first, Raeleigh just laid there without saying anything. No matter how much Scarlett asked her about it, she refused to say anything. Later, she turned around, put her arms around Scarlett and said from behind her, "If it were you, could you tolerate Hadrian bringing another woman and letting her live under the same roof as you, even if he doesn't really love her?"

Scarlett was baffled for a second. She knew that there must be something going on. Sure enough, Mr. Jepherson was at it again!

Scarlett held Raeleigh's hand. "Raeleigh, did you tell Mr. Jepherson that you can't live with that b*tch?"

"I did but it didn't change anything."

"Mr. Jepherson is so selfish." Scarlett couldn't stand it anymore. If it were Hadrian, she would have gone over and slapped him, chopped him into pieces, wrapped them inside a bun, and fed it to dogs.

Raeleigh gave Scarlett a hug. "It's precisely because he's so selfish that I don't want to see him."

"This isn't good. I heard from Hadrian that you and Mr. Jepherson have gotten married?" Scarlett found it hard to accept the truth. She had only learned that Xanthus and Raeleigh were not a couple, but biological siblings just two days ago.

The world was so small that Xanthus was able to locate his long-lost sister. Scarlett wondered why no one came to find her.

She was envious of Raeleigh, but it turned out that...

No one was looking for her either.

"I was too impulsive. To think of it now, it was like a dream." Though Raeleigh didn't regret it, she realized she didn't think it through before getting married.

It was true – women should not be too reckless. The consequences of being reckless was a nightmare to deal with.

“What are you going to do? Are you going to divorce Mr. Jepherson?” Scarlett sighed internally. Marriage was not a game. Although it was just a piece of paper, it was still sacred, especially for women. A divorced woman was considered rather worthless.

Raeleigh smiled, “Not yet. It’ll be more foolish of me to divorce him. But things aren’t that much better now.”

“Scarlette, enough with the questions. The more you know, the more bothered you’ll become. If you remain unaware, your mind can be more at ease.”

“If it weren’t related to you, I wouldn’t have asked so much. Do you think I’m dying to know these things?” Scarlett’s heart went out to Raeleigh. Everything was fine at first, but she was suddenly treated so unfairly. Scarlett didn’t know what to make of this situation.

Raeleigh was silent for a while. “Actually, it isn’t a big deal.”

Silence fell between them.

Scarlette said, “You say that you’re fine, but who knows what’s really on your mind.”

“Let’s sleep.” Raeleigh didn’t want to say anything more. After all, there was nothing more she could say.

Scarlette mumbled, “What are you going to do next?”

“Your wedding is just around the corner. Aren’t we going to be busy, yet you still asked what I will be doing next? If you don’t need me to do anything for you, I can definitely be more relaxed. Moreover, we still have lectures to attend. It’s not like you don’t know that.”

“Wow, Raeleigh, I just realized how mentally strong you are. I’ve long known that you are not an ordinary person. Sure enough, I was right.”

No one knew when Scarlett fell asleep, though she had indeed talked a lot before that. Raeleigh could finally have some peace and quiet, but slumber was out of reach.

Raeleigh got out of bed and went outside to get some water. When she was getting ready to return to her room, Santiago happened to come out from Xanthus’s room. Raeleigh paused shortly when she reached the door. Then, she turned around and looked at Santiago, who was looking at her by the door. They exchanged a wordless glance.

Raeleigh then turned around and went back into her room. She sat on the bed and couldn’t help but feel depressed.

She held the glass of water in her hand. She just couldn’t fall asleep whenever she thought of the way Jepherson treated her.

She spent the whole night sitting in her dark room.

It was not until the sun rose that she got up from the chair and washed up.

She spent the next few days doing the same thing. She didn't care about anything and was unwilling to see anyone. Jepherson dropped by a few times, but she just looked at him without saying a thing. This made Belle so anxious that she found herself speechless at the situation.

"Jerry, what's going on?" When they left, Belle caught him with Jepherson and asked him.

"Stella's presence made Raeleigh uncomfortable. I will deal with it as soon as possible. Scarlett's wedding is tomorrow. Let's talk about it after that."

"Alright then." Belle had no choice but to watch her son leave.

"When will you behave maturely?" Santiago asked as he stood in the corner. Raeleigh didn't see Jepherson off, so he came to ask her.

Raeleigh turned to gaze at Santiago. "Are you speaking up for him?"

"Do the two of you need me to do so?"

Raeleigh turned around and left without saying anything.

Santiago followed her, but neither of them spoke until Raeleigh went back to see her parents. Santiago left after that.

After he did, Jazelle wanted to ask Raeleigh what was going on. But at the same time, she was worried about stressing Raeleigh with such questions. Later, she tactfully told Raeleigh that if she really liked Jepherson, she had to take the initiative in pursuing him.

In fact, Jazelle felt the urge to reveal to her daughter that they only meant to test him temporarily, but Jazelle couldn't bring herself to tell the truth.

Realizing how troubled her mother was, Raeleigh couldn't help but feel disheartened at everything.

Raeleigh felt that she couldn't go on like this, so she decided to snap out of it.

"Mom, what's going on between Jepherson and I isn't entirely because of you both, so don't worry. With Scarlett inviting you and Dad to host the wedding, you should be happy. I've already got it figured out. I shall go with the flow when it comes to relationships, and I won't be dispirited again, no matter what."

Raeleigh comforted her mother. She needed some more time, but she could not remain in low spirits anymore.

Jazelle hugged Raeleigh, her heart aching for her daughter. She also blamed herself for this. If it weren't for what had happened, if she had been able to be by her daughter's side, Raeleigh wouldn't turn out to be like this.

"I understand. I will be sure to attend their wedding joyfully tomorrow. You too, sweetheart."

They hugged for a little while longer before letting go of each other. Then, they began to prepare for Scarlett's wedding tomorrow.

Belle was also busily heading back to get her preparations done as well. Otherwise, she would regret it.

While everyone was preoccupied with wedding preparations, Deanna was sitting anxiously in the attic pondering if she should go to Scarlett's wedding.

If she did, people might laugh at her because of her belly. On the other hand, Scarlett had sent her an invitation while Jacky had also agreed to become Hadrian's groomsman.

She couldn't make up her mind!

"What should I do?" Deanna fixed her eyes on the gorgeously-designed invitation card. She heard that the artwork was done by Jepherson himself. Since this wedding was so important to Jepherson, it must be a rather grand one.

She would definitely regret it if she didn't make it!

Chapter 1545

The next day, Scarlett's wedding started splendidly. She and Hadrian came out from their residence and headed for Waverly Village.

They had bought a house there, and before going there, they had to go to the local church for their ceremony to exchange their marriage vows.

The whole wedding process seemed to be quite simple, but was also solemn. They had invited all the villagers. Lamar and Jazelle were the groom's witnesses whereas the bride's wedding witnesses were Calvin and Belle. It was a great surprise to see that even Stuart attended the wedding.

Scarlette was so thrilled that she drank a lot at the end of the wedding ceremony. Hadrian tried to stop her several times, but to no avail

He had no choice but to carry away forcefully.

After they left, two others came to the door.

Jepherson, Zorion and the others were eating, and so were Calvin and Rhys. They put their enmity aside for the time being. Even though Rhys's daughter was with Jacky, it was Scarlett's wedding. Since Scarlett had invited them, he didn't lose his temper.

"Sorry we're late." Deanna walked in and looked around. When she saw Raeligh and the others on the other side, she took the initiative to greet them. She walked next to Jacky, her belly so huge she looked as if she would be giving birth soon. As they turned up, they became the center of attraction. Everyone around started gaping at them.

Deanna had been in a dilemma as to whether she should come. It was only until the wedding had come to an end that she made up her mind to attend it. It was a good thing that Jacky hadn't gone anywhere. Although he had promised Scarlett he'd be the groomsman, he had told Hadrian earlier that he may not come.

Indeed, he did not make an appearance.

Lottie wanted to stand right up in excitement at the sight of her daughter. She was so exhilarated that she couldn't say a single word. However, Rhys, who was sitting next to her, immediately held her hand and forced her to sit down which was why she remained seated.

This did not go unnoticed by Jacky. When he saw Rhys and Lottie, he took Deanna's hand and walked over. He couldn't care less about how he managed to get Deanna over to the village, nor could he be any less concerned about the animosity between him and Rhys. Undeniably, Deanna was Rhys's daughter. He couldn't forgo the relationship between them.

Deanna held her belly with one hand while Jacky took the other – a heartbreaking sight for Lottie. After all, Deanna was her daughter. Dressed in plain clothing, Deanna was wearing a pair of ordinary black maternity shorts, a white sweater and Jacky's wide cotton-padded jacket.

Seeing that she had shown up at a wedding ceremony like this, Lottie felt like her heart was bleeding profusely on the inside of her chest.

Although this was an outfit she had prepared for her daughter, Deanna had worn them for a long time. How could Lottie feel good about this?

Zorion also looked at his parents. It wasn't until Jacky brought Deanna over that Zorion stood up and walked over to Rhys. Rossie was there as well that day, but she didn't go over to Rhys. Since he didn't like her, there was no need to make an appearance. Why should she go over and make others, including herself, uncomfortable?

"Mom, Dad." Deanna hadn't expected to see her parents here, so she was a little surprised when she saw them.

Lottie didn't get up nor did she reply. It was not that she did not want to do it, but her husband was gripping her hand so tightly that she wasn't able to do anything. One was her daughter while the other was her husband. She couldn't take sides.

Whatever it was, she believed that her husband was right. He would not hurt his own child.

Lottie was quiet, and so was Rhys. Deanna wondered if they were truly upset.

"Dad." Deanna walked over to Rhys, who pulled a long face. "I don't have a daughter like you. Since you're already with someone else, I'll consider myself a daughterless man."

As soon as Rhys said that, tears began to stream down Deanna's cheeks uncontrollably.

She looked down at her belly and then at Jacky. "What should we do?"

"Don't cry." Jacky raised his hand to wipe away her tears before he looked at Rhys and Lottie. "I tricked Deanna into coming to Waverly Village. She didn't want to come, but what's done is done. It's my fault, and it has nothing to do with her. I hope you can forgive her."

"Are you saying that I can take my daughter back, and that you won't contact her ever again?" Rhys wore a somber expression, which Deanna had never seen before. For a moment, she was a little scared. She held onto Jacky's hand tightly. She was afraid that he would say something along the lines of breaking up.

She didn't want to be estranged from her parents to such an extent, but she didn't want to be separated from Jacky either. Her tears welled up anxiously in her eyes.

Jacky hugged Deanna and wiped her tears one after the other, but she wouldn't stop crying.

She didn't understand why it was so difficult to love someone.

Lottie couldn't hold it in anymore. She asked, "Deanna, will you go back with me?"

Deanna sobbed while Jacky looked at Lottie. "Mom..."

"She is not your mother, and I won't acknowledge you either."

Rhys stood up and took Lottie's hand. "Enough. Let's go."

Rhys strode away with Lottie as the latter kept looking back at her daughter, only to find that Deanna didn't follow them out.

Lottie got into the car and threw herself into Rhys's arms, crying her heart out. Rhys did not want to stay a moment longer. He ordered the chauffeur to drive and they immediately left Waverly Village.

Lottie wept the entire journey while Rhys sat in silence.

Since Rhys and Lottie had already left, Zorion, as their son, couldn't stay either. He pulled Rossie aside and headed out. He didn't stay despite Deanna calling after him.

When they were outside, Rossie looked at Zorion and let out a sigh. He clearly wanted to stay, but he couldn't do so because of his parents. First, it was because of her, then it was because of his parents. How was he going to get through this?

Would he forever be tormented by feelings of guilt each day?

She had originally planned to study abroad, but how could she leave, knowing that things would be left like this?

When they reached the car, she tugged at Zorion. He stopped and turned to look at her, a look of bewilderment and bad mood painted across his face. "What is it?"

"I can't leave. I have to stay and take care of Logan." Rossie didn't have any other choice. Zorion would see through her lies if she used other excuses. He was a little clueless only when it came to Logan.

People would always panic when something happened to their loved ones.

Zorion's face fell when he heard Logan's name. He asked Rossie sternly, "You're still worried about him?"

"We're the reason why he's like this. Since I know about it, I can't just sit idly by and ignore it. When you were sick some time ago, I couldn't bear to leave you alone either. I'm relieved that you're fine now, but Logan still can't stand up. You've seen it too. He still has to rely on the wheelchair to move about and he can't even leave the house. I want to stay and take care of him."

"You want to take care of him, but what about me?"

Zorion's expression darkened, and there was a fierce look in his eyes. His parents blamed him, and Deanna had left the family. Was she going to leave him too?

Rossie thought about it. "You can come and visit me anytime. Anytime you want."

Hearing that caught Zorion slightly off guard. But he was a smart man. It didn't take long for him to realize that she actually wanted to stay for him!

Chapter 1546

Zorion's fury suddenly melted away as he gazed at Rossie. "Where are you going to live then?"

"It's a big village. I can live anywhere. You gave me so much money that I can afford to own half a street here. I've made up my mind. I wanted to study abroad, but I think I can do it in the country too. If possible, I will study domestically so that I won't get kidnapped and cause you trouble. Anyhow, everything is only temporary. My current concern is Logan. I'll be relieved if he is able to stand again."

Rossie had no choice but to mention Logan. Zorion's expression instantly changed.

"He brought this upon himself. It has nothing to do with us, so don't take care of him. I won't let you go."

"It's not about you letting me or not. When you go back, help me ask about Elkton University. I want to study there, but there might be some complications as I've just returned from abroad. I think I'd have to go through the transfer procedure at least. Try to inquire about it for me. Your status and identity should make it easy for you to get things done."

Rossie wanted to change the topic, but Zorion pulled a long face. "I don't have a problem with wherever you're going to study. Logan's the only thing I have a problem with. I told you I won't let you take care of him, and I meant it. If you dare go, then you'd better have a solution ready before I take my revenge on him."

"You're unreasonable. Are you wooing me?" Rossie asked him all of a sudden. Zorion thought for a bit before answering, "What else could it be? Does it look like I'm turning you down?"

Zorion asked angrily, but he just came off like a child who was trying to get his parents' attention.

It was so amusing that Rossie was barely able to hold back her laughter.

"You're not turning me down, but you're not very far from doing it. You're not exactly young anymore. You're a twenty-year-old man, yet you still don't know how to pursue girls. That's impressive in a way, I must say."

Rossie pouted like a duckling. Her disdainful gaze made Zorion feel abashed. The chauffeur was still behind them, waiting for them to get into the car. Zorion bit his lower lip. "What did you say?"

"I said you're not a man because you don't know how to pursue girls."

"Say that again." Zorion was infuriated and the chauffeur wanted to dig a hole and bury himself in it. He shouldn't be eavesdropping on this conversation.

However, Rossie felt that there were more buttons she could push on. She added, "Have you seen countries kill their envoys when they're at war?"

Zorion frowned and didn't reply.

"If you attack Logan, it suggests that you're not gentlemanly at all. Though you're pursuing me, you can't hurt Logan even if he tries to do the same. Romance rivals should be courteous with each other by competing equitably."

"If I lose you, why should I be chivalrous? I'll kill him the moment he harbors any romantic thoughts about you."

"Stop saying you want to kill people. Human lives are valuable. They're not like poultries' which you can take as you wish."

"Go back and think about it. I will be here. If you don't change the way you approach things, I may leave since your parents don't accept me either."

Zorion calmed down after hearing about his parents and took Rossie's hand. "I'll talk to my parents. You can relax."

"No, I can't. You have so many things to deal with. Don't worry about me, and don't tell your parents first. Let's take it step by step and let nature take its course."

Rossie was unsure whether she would stay. She simply wanted to help Zorion before she left, and that was why she said what she did. She just did not want to upset him since he had just recovered.

Jacky and Deanna then emerged from inside. Seeing that Zorion and Rossie were reluctant to part ways, Deanna held back her tears, sniffing as she said, "I'm not the only one being like this. Zorion's the same."

Jacky tugged at her a little and wiped away her tears. "Deanna, quiet."

Deanna sniffled. "Okay."

Zorion lifted his head to look at Jacky. "Take care of Deanna."

Zorion then turned around and got into the car. He glanced at Rossie. "Take care of yourself."

Once the door was closed, he ordered the chauffeur to start driving. As the car pulled away, he fixed his eyes on Rossie through the rear-view mirror before slowly turning his head away.

"Rossie, why don't you go back with my brother?" After Zorion left, Deanna's sorrow dissipated.

She thought that as long as nobody died, everything would be okay.

Rossie glanced at Jacky, who was standing aside. She was astounded by his attitude toward Deanna.

"Your brother is going home, and your parents don't like me. I don't want to go back with him, and it's really nice here. I'm planning to find somewhere to live here."

Deanna's eyes widened. "Rossie, are you staying to protect me?"

“You’ve got such a vivid imagination. Isn’t having him already enough? Do you still need me to stay and protect you?” Rossie always spoke in such a tone. At times, she could be even more straightforward and tactless.

Deanna wasn’t offended. She was used to Rossie’s way of speaking as Rossie had never spoken politely to her.

She would just have to suck it up.

She had long since heard that once she had a sister-in-law, she would have some tough times ahead of her; that seemed to be true.

Sister-in-laws were definitely something else.

However, Deanna was quick-witted. She went over and held Rossie’s arm. “If you aren’t staying to protect me, then why are you staying here? Are you trying to say that you’d like to have some fun with me?”

Rossie laughed, admiring Deanna’s optimism.

Rossie thought that Deanna was a much better person than the typical proud, young ladies of wealthy families who were easily led astray. On the contrary, Deanna was nothing like them and would not be easily influenced. Although they were all born with a silver spoon in their mouths, Deanna was excellent at adapting.

She could dress glamorously, but she could also sport simple and plain clothes. Delicacies were fine by her, as well as ordinary meals.

Notwithstanding her family influence, her natural personality might have played a role in this too.

Rossie shot a glance at Deanna. “I’m staying for Logan.”

“Why? Aren’t you together with my brother? Why are you doing this for Logan? Rossie, this doesn’t sound like a good idea. Fidelity is the most important thing to women. How can you be two-timing?”

As soon as Deanna heard that Rossie was staying for Logan, she immediately spoke up on behalf of her brother.

Indeed, Zorion and Deanna were twins. Rossie could see that they shared similar mindsets and that whenever their interests were involved, they would always get the wrong idea about things.

Like brother, like sister. Their characters couldn’t be changed.

Chapter 1547

Rossie removed Deanna’s arm from hers. “Didn’t you come to visit the bride? If there’s anything I need, I’ll reach out. You two go ahead.”

After that, Rossie turned and left, ignoring Deanna. With Jacky taking care of Deanna, Rossie felt no need to stay with Deanna.

At the mention of the bride, Deanna turned to look for Scarlett at once. By the time she realized she had been duped, Rossie had disappeared from sight.

She had an urge to look for Rossie, but at the thought of having many chances to meet her again later, she gave up trying to look for her.

“Jacky, get someone to protect Rossie. She’s my sister-in-law. We can’t afford to have anything happening to her,” Deanna said as she dragged Jacky to search for Scarlett. Jacky answered cheerfully, “Alright.”

“Good.”

Deanna and Jacky then came in from the outside. Sitting where she was, Raeleigh looked at them silently. She was Scarlett’s bridesmaid that day. Although the wedding was unique, she and Rossie both agreed to be Scarlett’s bridesmaids. The groomsmen for the wedding were no regular people. They were Jepherson, Santiago, and Zorion.

Scarlett must have felt a great sense of pride from this wedding.

Seeing Raeleigh, Deanna approached her and asked, “Where is the bride?”

“She’s drunk, so Hadrian brought her back.” Raeleigh got up and pulled a chair for Deanna. “Are you hungry? Do you want to have something to eat before you leave?”

“Okay.” Deanna forgot about Scarlett as soon as Raeleigh mentioned food.

Jepherson and Santiago sat with Raeleigh. They had kept two seats vacant for Jacky and Deanna since the start of the ceremony.

Along with Zorion, Rossie, and Xanthus, they made up a table of eight. Though each table could not accommodate too many people, it was spacious enough to fit ten guests without making the space feel too cramped. Since their table had not reached its maximum capacity, it appeared roomier.

Deanna gazed at Raeleigh with a smile, “I heard that your parents came. Could you take me to see them?”

Raeleigh paused briefly. Only then did she turn around to look at the table behind her. There were several people sitting there. Originally, Rhys and his wife were there, but they had left.

Only Calvin, Belle, Lamar, Jazelle, Aron, and Stuart remained at that table. There were initially eight people there.

Stuart had wanted to sit somewhere else, but Calvin asked him to sit with them instead.

Soon after, Raeleigh took Deanna to her parents. “Deanna, these are my parents.”

“Mom, Dad, this is Deanna.”

Raeleigh introduced them to each other. Deanna instantly cracked a smile and put on her charm. “I didn’t know Raeleigh had such a graceful mother and a dashing father. It’s a pleasure to meet you, I’m Deanna Atkinson.”

Jazelle was amazed at how lovely Deanna was. She had previously been under the impression that Deanna was a rebellious child because she had witnessed how she defied her parents before.

“You’re called Deanna?” Jazelle asked. Deanna grinned brightly. “Yes, feel free to call me Deanna.”

“It’s a beautiful name.”

“My mother said the same thing.”

“Have some food. You must be hungry, yes?” Jazelle was very fond of Deanna. The more she looked at Deanna, the more lovable Deanna seemed in her eyes.

Deanna then beamed at Belle and Calvin. “Hello, Aunt Belle, Uncle Calvin.”

“Dig in. You must be starving.” Belle was also fond of Deanna. After all, she had watched her grow up.

“Mr. Aron.”

Deanna greeted Aron, who wore a smile. “Miss Atkinson, it’s nice to see you here.”

As Deanna smiled, her eyes narrowed into a slit. She only followed Raeleigh back to their table for dinner after greeting all the elders around.

Deanna had not stopped talking since the moment they sat at their table while Jacky just continued sitting beside her, silently caring for her. No matter how talkative she was, he never lost his patience.

Compared to Deanna, Raeleigh’s peaceful nature made everyone feel bored.

Once Santiago finished his food, he stood up and sat beside Stuart for a chat. Stuart told Santiago that he had recuperated, and that he wouldn’t leave after coming back this time.

After dinner, Raeleigh got up to help clean up the place. When she went outside and was about to leave, Jepherson stopped her.

“Let’s go on a stroll. We haven’t done it together in a long while.” Without giving Raeleigh any chance to refuse, Jepherson immediately turned and walked away.

Raeleigh gazed after him. Although she intended to reject him, he had already gone far. Hence, she had no option but to catch up with him.

The weather was not as chilly as before, as the two of them walked in single file down the street. They saw pedestrians on the street every now and then. Some of them were still talking about Scarlett’s wedding.

Raeleigh would listen to parts of their conversation from time to time, but she took nothing to heart.

As she was walking, she bumped into someone, bringing her back to her senses. She raised her head to look at the person before her, and it was Jepherson. She was still thinking about the conversation of the passers-by. Thus, she had subconsciously pictured Jepherson in a suit on the day of their wedding.

The man before her was her husband-to-be, and they would have to share everything in life together. He would be with her her whole life.

For a moment, Stella came into her mind, diminishing the hope in her eyes. She turned away to shift her gaze somewhere else.

“Are you waiting for me?” Raeleigh remembered that he had been far ahead of her a short while ago, yet he had suddenly appeared right in front of her. He must have been waiting for her.

“Do I look like I’m waiting for anyone else?” Jepherson was vexed and amused simultaneously. “Pay attention when you’re with me. Stop thinking about other things.”

Raeleigh pondered for a while. “How do you know that I’m not thinking of you?”

“If you are, why would you wear such a doleful look?” Jepherson extended his hand, wanting to hold Raeleigh’s. Raeleigh moved her hand aside, sidestepped him, and strode forward. Jepherson paused before he turned around, stared after her then ran up to her. While walking, he tried to hold her hand again, but each time he tried, she would readily avert his advances.

However, she didn’t look upset at all. Instead, she appeared rather calm.

Raeleigh looked at him. “You can’t wait to hold my hand, but what about me? Do you think I can wait?”

Raeleigh didn’t want to say something too sentimental, but she valued respect for her partner. To her, there was no point in saying how much they loved each other if respect didn’t exist in their relationship.

Jepherson put his hand behind his back without stopping in his tracks. Raeleigh walked beside him until they stopped at the end of the street. Then, she turned around and headed in the direction where she had come from.

Jepherson finally realized that she was just keeping him company.

They walked back and forth along the street twice, but Raeleigh had nothing to say during both trips. Finally, she decided to walk him to the entrance of the village.

Standing at the village entrance, Jepherson looked around like a fool. At last, his gaze landed on Raeleigh. “What are you doing? Are you sending me off?”

“It’s getting late. I still have some errands to do here. I’ve got to go and help out, so I don’t have time to keep you company any longer.”

With that, she turned on her heel and left. Jepherson stared helplessly at her back as she walked further and further away.

Chapter 1548

At the Atkinson family house.

“Do you not care about Deanna anymore?” Lottie had been sobbing for more than two hours, and she was still crying.

Rhys’s heart ached for her.

“Everyone, leave.” Tried as he might, he failed to comfort Lottie and stop her from weeping while Zorion stood beside them.

Hearing Rhys's order, all the servants left. After that, Rhys sat down next to Lottie. "She is my daughter. How could I not want her? But Jacky has stolen her away. I will not let this matter slide."

Lottie looked up at him, her eyes red from the hours of crying. She couldn't believe this was the answer she had gotten. Upset, she threw a punch at Rhys's chest. "Are you trying to upset me to death?"

Zorion furrowed his brows. "It isn't Deanna's fault. She has always been naive. I'm to blame."

"You aren't any better either. Move out now. I never want to see you at my house ever again. I'm disowning you."

Rhys's words stunned Lottie. She had never expected him to do this.

However, Zorion did not leave as he knew they would not kick him out at this moment.

Rhys looked at Zorion. "I won't let a woman who hurt my daughter marry into our family. There are only two options left for you. Either you leave her or fend for yourself."

Zorion stood there for a moment without saying a word. After that, he headed towards the stairs. Before he could go up the stairs, Rhys said, "All that you have belongs to me, except for your body. Don't even think of taking anything else with you."

"Rhys, why are you doing this?"

Just as Lottie got up to approach Zorion, Rhys said, "Don't. No one is to stop him if he wants to leave. Now that he has hurt his sister, what's the point of him staying?"

Lottie slowly turned around, her eyes fixed on her husband. "Rhys, are you being serious right now?"

"Depends. I've never made such a mistake in my life. He bet Rhysed his sister for the sake of a woman with an unknown background. And now, he wants to sever ties with me for this woman. Why should I keep such a son by my side? Do I look like I'm willing to present him with another chance to irritate me?"

"Zorion is still young, he-"

"He is young, but he isn't a kid anymore. He has to be responsible for what he's done."

"Rhys."

"Mom." Zorion went up to Lottie, hugging her. Lottie looked up at her son's face, which was so much like her husband's. They were both stubborn people, especially when it came down to the woman they fancied.

"Don't worry. I can use this opportunity to learn to be independent and put my skills to the test."

"Are you sure you can do this alone?"

"It's okay. I won't starve to death. Don't you believe in my capabilities?" Zorion's eyes were filled steady composure. Rhys swept his eyes over his son unemotionally, but deep down, he was relieved.

He would be bothered if Zorion didn't have the guts to live on his own.

“Let me accompany you.”

“It’s alright. Stay with Dad. He needs you more than I do.”

Zorion bowed his head and kissed Lottie’s forehead before letting go of her. Then, he looked at Rhys. “I’m not leaving home, but rather, I’m going out to test my capacity. Please take care of yourself and Mom.”

Zorion turned and headed for the door. Rhys wore a smile, thinking, “This child has grown up. He’s ready to take over the family duties.”

“Maybe I should wait until he gets married.”

“It’ll be better if he comes home with a grandchild next time.”

At the thought of Rossie’s age, Rhys was a little worried that giving birth to a child at such a young age would be detrimental to her health.

Lottie was still perturbed about her son. She hurriedly followed him and called out to him.

“Zorion! Zorion!”

Zorion looked back at his mother, who had followed him out and came up to him. He was not downcast. Instead, his lips were curled upwards. “Mom, why did you come out?”

“Your father is not kicking you out,” Lottie said. Zorion then replied, “I’m aware of that. Now that I’ve decided to leave, I can’t go back. I’m a man. How can a man go back on his word? Rest assured that I will be fine.”

“My new semester will start next week, and I can stay at the dormitory. Everything will be alright. There are some clothes in my apartment too.”

“Do you really think so?” Lottie was surprised; she did not expect that her son was going to continue his studies.

“Of course, I haven’t graduated yet. Society needs competent people. I can’t lose to others at the starting line.”

Lottie stared at her son. “It’s great that you understand this, I’m afraid that you-”

“Don’t be afraid. I am you and Dad’s son. I’ll never leave this family.”

Zorion’s words made Lottie shed tears again.

When she was young, she had never thought of herself to be this vulnerable and would shed tears at the slightest matter.

Her son had really grown up.

“Alright then, I’m leaving. Mom, remember to call me if anything happens.”

“Okay, take good care of yourself.”

“I will. I have been taking care of Deanna for years – isn’t she doing just fine?”

Gazing at his son, Lottie finally nodded.

Zorion looked up at the villa before he turned and walked to the door.

He was no longer the young master of the Atkinson family, and he did not have a car. Thus, he got to the bus stop by foot. Then, he took a bus to the entrance of Elkton University.

Lottie turned around, only to see Rhys standing with his arms behind him at the door. Afterward, she returned to his side and let him hold her in his arms.

“They’re adults now. They have to learn to stand on their own two feet, Deanna included. If we always keep them under our protection, they won’t be able to survive in this world when we leave.”

“The upcoming difficulties are nothing. Only when they fall will they know their mistakes and learn their lesson.”

“We can’t teach them through our own experiences. They need to learn these things by themselves.”

Lottie gazed at her husband. “But Deanna is pregnant. She’s going to have a baby soon. She needs someone to look after her.”

“We’ll talk about that when she’s in labor.”

Rhys had to be cruel. He was her father, but he had pampered her for too many years. It was time for his daughter to grow up.

Despite the countless incidents, Deanna still continued to turn a blind eye to them, refusing to grow up. He hoped that she would be able to learn something from Jacky this time.

...

After seeing Jepherson off, Raeleigh went back to her parents. Entering the tiny living room, she saw Rosie sitting inside. At the sight of Raeleigh, she stood up from the sofa. Raeleigh was shocked to see Rossie. She had an inkling that something was going to happen as she walked over. “Why are you here? Why didn’t you leave with Zorion?”

Rossie shot a glance inside the house. “Could you let me stay the night?”

Raeleigh stood rooted to the spot, and her mind went blank.

Stay the night?

Chapter 1549

“Zorion’s parents don’t like me, so I can’t go back with him. I’m planning to stay here to take care of Logan, but I’ve got nowhere else to stay the night. I could have gone to Jacky’s place, but it’ll put Zorion in an awkward position. It’s getting late. Can’t I just stay the night here with you?”

Raeleigh casted a glance at Xanthus, who had just come out of the kitchen. After some thinking, she said, “You can sleep with me in my room tonight. But you have to find somewhere else to rent tomorrow. Although Waverly Village is a village, its development is on par with Capital City, minus the hustle and bustle. Still, the accommodations here are pretty satisfactory.”

“Thank you.”

After that, Rossie followed Raeleigh into her room and stayed the night.

After taking a shower at night, Raeleigh lent Rossie a set of pajamas she had not worn yet.

Rossie got changed and went to lay on the bed.

Just then, she brought something up. “I noticed that you’re constantly looking for Jacky today. Are you two in some agreement with each other?” Rossie liked to get straight to the point as she had always been a direct person.

The lights in the room were off, but Raeleigh lifted her hand to turn them on because she wanted to see Rossie’s expression.

When the lights were back on, Rossie knitted her brow and raised her hands to cover her eyes. Raeleigh sat up and focused her gaze on Rossie’s face, observing every part of her plain features.

Rossie then also sat up, letting Raeleigh watch her.

“Collaborating with Jacky should be your last resort. I’m the better choice. I have money, and I will sincerely cooperate with you.”

“Jacky doesn’t like doing business. A man who started his career as a kidnapper wouldn’t even pay your business any attention at all.”

Raeleigh stared at Rossie for a long time. “It would be impossible for me to build a factory in the village without Jacky. Some things must go through him.”

“I’m Rossie Lautner. As long as I’m here, Jacky will have to do me this favor.”

Raeleigh chewed over this momentarily. “What about the provision division?”

“Fifty-fifty, we will each invest half and the company will have two chairmen. You can be in charge of the factory and designs while I will be responsible for sales.”

Raeleigh lowered her gaze in thought. “That won’t do.”

“I will be doing a condom business. How are you going to promote it?”

Hearing her words, Rossie fell silent for a moment before saying, “Condom business?”

“That’s right. That’s why I sought Jacky’s help. How am I going to sell them without him?”

Rossie felt inclined to back out of such a business.

Condoms?

Rossie laid down and tugged at the quilt. “Let’s sleep.”

Raeleigh found this quite hilarious. Sure enough, no one would want to participate in this kind of business.

Raeleigh laid down as well, but she did not switch the lights off this time. She said, "I have another business in mind, but I'm not sure if it will work."

"What kind of business?"

"There isn't any factory ready for use in Waverly Village. Jacky has been strict in its management. He doesn't allow any potential contaminants and pollutants to be present in the village. I've promised him to use eco-friendly materials for the production of the condoms or to use decontaminating equipment. He didn't agree to it until I laid out these terms. I've been looking for him over the past two days because of this matter, but we still haven't reached a final agreement. It's because Jacky's having a hard time believing that I can make it pollution-free, apart from decontaminating it."

"So, he disagreed on going forward with it."

"But a few days ago, I saw that villagers were preparing some local snacks that they stored in transparent jars. They're pretty good. I've tasted them and I'm sure many would like them too."

"If we can find a way to launch them in the market and set up our brand, I'm sure it will receive great demand for some time."

"Besides, it won't pollute the environment, and we're alright to produce it on a large scale in the village."

"I'll think about it." Rossie didn't have much money at the moment, so she had to mull over it more thoroughly.

Realizing that it was already past two in the morning, Raeleigh switched the lights off and got ready to sleep. Before she dozed off, she asked Rossie, "How did you know that I would agree to cooperate with you?"

"Well, Deanna had come here for no reason, and the fact that Zorion had agreed to lure her here had been on my mind. I doubt that Jacky's the mastermind behind the plan to kidnap me, so someone must have proposed it to him, and I think it's you."

Raeleigh cracked a smile. "Wow, you saw through that, huh? Impressive."

"If you're with Zorion long enough, you will be on tenterhooks too. Picking up on all these is just a matter of time."

"You're just a natural schemer."

...

The two women chatted for a while longer until their eyelids refused to stay open.

The next morning, Raeleigh got up and went to see Jacky. She wanted to continue discussing the plans for the factory establishment. However, Jacky still turned her down.

"I've said that I won't agree until I am sure of it. Allowing your brother to build a hospital in the village is already going to lead to pollution. I've already made an exception, and I can't do it again."

Raeleigh stared at Jacky. "But you promised me before. Are you going back on your words?"

“I had no other options back then.”

Raeleigh finally understood – even an upright man would not give in to certain things and would renege on his promise to others.

Raeleigh didn’t complain as she exited Jacky’s place. She could only accept the fact that she had been deceived.

She found this laughable. It seemed like there were only two men who would not lie to her – her father and brother.

They wouldn’t ask her to do something she didn’t like, nor would they expect her to repay their kindness when they helped her.

Knowing that her plan had fallen through, Raeleigh gave up the idea of doing business. She decided to focus on her studies and to go back to her life of simplicity.

In the twinkling of an eye, a new semester was about to begin. Belle went to visit Raeleigh Tristany that day, telling her stories of her school days. Later, she wanted to personally send her to Elkton University.

Raeleigh didn’t want to cause her any inconvenience, so she told her she would be leaving with Rossie.

“That won’t do. I will bring the two of you there.” Belle wanted to take Raeleigh there in person, but she wimped out when she caught sight of her husband’s eyes.

Raeleigh packed her things up. “We are leaving.”

After putting the luggage into the car, Raeleigh, Xanthus, and Rossie departed to the university together.

Santiago did not come with them, nor did they ask if he would like to join.

When they arrived, Raeleigh got out of the car after Xanthus parked it. Rossie saw Zorion waiting for her on campus. She learned that his parents had kicked him out of the family over the call and she knew that he was currently living in the dormitory.

It meant that he couldn’t go back to his home.

After staring at him for some time, Rossie decided to walk over.

When she stopped in front of him, she asked, “Did you do it on purpose?”

Zorion lowered his head and held Rossie’s hand before he turned around and led her in without saying a word.

Chapter 1550

With them being back at the university, everything evoked different memories for Raeleigh.

Xanthus asked, “Are you uncomfortable?”

Raeleigh looked up at Xanthus and shook her head. “No, it just feels a little strange. Everything that happened in the past two months makes me feel like several years have passed. I could always remember the fire at the orphanage, and it struck terror in my heart every time I did. But those

memories seem distant and forgettable now. On the contrary, what has happened in the past two months has left some indelible memories in me.”

“I always thought that my world was a gRhyish color, but after these two months, I realized that it was black instead.”

He felt sorry for her. He raised his hand to caress her head. “If you don’t like this place, shall we leave?”

Gazing at him, she nodded.

“Let’s go. You have to go to class, and I’ll be busy with my work too.” Xanthus brought Raeleigh into the campus. She then went to report her attendance before putting her luggage in the dorm.

When Raeleigh arrived, Rossie had not returned yet. Her dormitory was the same, but Rossie would be joining her, instead of Scarlette.

After cleaning up, Raeleigh turned on her laptop and read some lecture notes. Then, she went to the first assembly of the new semester.

There was nothing to do on the first day. The lecturers came over and said a few words to the students and the rest of the students’ time was meant for them to get themselves settled and ready for the semester.

At around four in the afternoon, Raeleigh finally saw Rossie return. Following that, Zoron helped Rossie arrange her belongings. He stayed in the room for quite a while before leaving in the evening.

The day finally came to an end.

As soon as Raeleigh laid down in bed, she received a call from Jepherson, asking about her day.

“I’m fine.”

“I will pay you a visit tomorrow with Santiago. I’ve been so busy at the company these past couple of days that I didn’t even have free time to visit you.”

When Raeleigh entered the campus, Jepherson was outside, but he didn’t show himself. He knew that she didn’t want to see him, so he never got out of his car.

Raeleigh glanced at Rossie, who was about to sleep. “My roommate is about to sleep. I shouldn’t disturb her.”

“Alright.”

When Raeleigh ended the call, Jepherson stood up. He couldn’t fall asleep on such a night.

Jepherson put his phone away and left the room. The weather was neither too hot nor too cold, so there wasn’t a need for an additional coat.

After coming out of the room, Jepherson stood in the yard. Then, he followed the sound of the piano and headed for Ink Garden. When he reached there, he saw Stella in her wheelchair outside the house.

She had a tablet in her lap as she tapped away on the black and white keys, producing the sound of a playing piano.

Jepherson stopped in his tracks, watching her for a moment. He turned to leave when the song ended, but Stella stopped him. "What's wrong? You're leaving right after I finish playing?"

Jepherson paused and turned to look at Stella. "It was too loud."

With that, he left and a grin appeared on Stella's face. She knew that men were all stubborn, but it wouldn't last for long.

Alas, he still came to her.

Jepherson returned from Ink Garden and sat alone on the bed. He did not go to bed until late into the night.

He went to work the next day. Before he got into the car, he saw Stella in her wheelchair, getting pushed out of the house by someone.

"Jepherson." Seeing Jepherson, Stella called out to him while the man just stood there for a while before entering his car shortly after. Stella motioned to the person pushing her to bring her towards the car. The chauffeur was slightly hesitant when he saw her by the car. He knew that Jepherson did not want Stella to get in, but how could he leave her there like this?

"Open the door," Stella said as she waited beside the car. The chauffeur was put in a difficult spot, since he had to obey Jepherson's orders.

Seeing that Stella had no intention of leaving, Jepherson at last decided to let her get in the car. Nonetheless, he did not even look at her once after that.

After a tense and awkward drive, the chauffeur finally pulled into the office entrance. Once Jepherson got out of the car, he headed straight to the office building without waiting for Stella who only came down slightly later.

He and Santiago had wanted to visit Raeleigh at university. But when Jepherson was nowhere to be seen, Santiago gave him a call.

As he answered it, Jepherson entered the elevator lobby and asked, "Where are you?"

"I'm at home. Didn't you say you want to visit Raeleigh?" Santiago had his backpack on and was ready to leave, but he noticed Jepherson's car gone when he came out of the house. He went to Ink Garden in search of him. As he expected, Stella was gone as well.

Santiago knew that something fishy was going on. Hence, he called Jepherson to ask about the situation.

Jepherson chuckled. "Are you looking for a beating?"

He pressed the elevator button and stepped inside. Santiago must know that Stella was with him.

"I've been waiting. Raeleigh has been in a bad mood recently. If things go on like this, you will lose more than you gain."

After he finished speaking, Santiago hung up. He took his bag and yelled at the servant in the yard, "Open the garage."

The weather was getting warmer, so Santiago decided to take something other than his car.

The servant casted a glance in his direction and replied, "Mr. Jepherson said you can't ride the motorcycle."

"Come again?"

Santiago's face fell. Displeasure was written all over it.

The servant shrank his neck in fear.

Santiago had been waiting in the yard, but the servant did not open the garage for him. He then raised his hand and pointed at the servant. "You sure have the guts, I must say."

The servant was too scared to look up. Santiago then walked to the garage. There was a remote control there, but it did nothing to open the garage door. He went around the yard and came back with an axe in his hand to break the garage open.

The servant watched Santiago go to the town with the garage door. As Santiago was breaking the door, the alarm sounded, filling the Harvey Group with noise.

Soon, the police arrived. When they learned that it wasn't a thief who was trying to break into the garage but rather, someone from the family itself, they turned to leave the residence.

As they did, they saw a black motorcycle exiting the Harvey Residence.

"Was that Mr. Santiago?" Someone asked.

"I think so."

...

Everyone turned a blind eye to this from fear of the Harvey family power.

Raeleigh had a headache when she got up in the morning for her lecture. Perhaps it was because she didn't sleep well the previous night. She wanted to see Xanthus after her lecture. As she was on her way, a black motorcycle rushed towards her like a lightning bolt.