

Go After 851

Chapter 851

Raeleigh was in great pain after having fallen to the ground. She only managed to get up with Scarlett's help. Then, Quirina rested on one of her girlfriend's outstretched hands in a rather unbecoming pose.

"If you want to leave, then you can crawl out from under my crotch. Then, I'll let go of the fact that you have just insulted me."

Raeleigh fixed her eyes on Quirina's posture. Quirina was wearing a royal blue pleated skirt. The way she raised her legs was a very indecent gesture.

When Raeleigh was about to stand up from the ground, a guy came up and gave her a push, causing her to fall down again.

Raeleigh did not get up after that, but Quirina was waiting for her proudly.

"Isn't it lively here?" Zorion came up from behind. His voice was low and elegant. Everyone was shocked when he came over. "Isn't that Mr. Atkinson?"

Quirina quickly put her foot back down and turned to bat her eyelids coyly at Zorion. "Mr. Atkinson?"

Zorion didn't even take a look at Quirina, as if that just one more glance could smudge and taint his eyes.

Raeleigh also looked at the source of the voice that had just spoken, Zorion. She didn't expect that it would've been his voice. She looked at Zorion, and her eyes fell on the school uniform he was wearing.

Elkton University's uniform was royal blue. Girls wore royal blue skirts and white shirts, while boys wore royal blue shirts and black pants.

This colour and design had been in season for two years at Elkton University. It would be modified every year, though the changes were minimal.

That day, there was an official event. So, Zorion had changed into his school uniform to accompany Deanna to attend it. Normally, the dress code was not this strict.

Seeing Zorion, Raeleigh got up from the ground and pulled Scarlett up as well.

Zorion glanced at Raeleigh coldly and distantly. Then, he turned to Quirina and said, "The Cole family's style is really eye-opening. Miss Cole, it's really surprising."

"Young Master Atkinson, no, it's not like that. I was just showing her a pose for gymnastics exercises. Raeleigh didn't understand it, so I had to demonstrate it. Ask her if you don't believe me." Quirina looked at Raeleigh. Then, Zorion turned to Raeleigh and asked, "Was that really it?"

Raeleigh did not answer. Everyone knew that Quirina was bullying her. It had not been only for a day or two.

She endured it many times, but Quirina didn't let go of her. She had been begging for compromise, but what she got in return was just more bullying.

Raeleigh shook her head.

Zorion's gaze was frozen for a while. His gaze, that was like the stars and the moon, slowly left Raeleigh, and finally fell on Quirina. Zorion did not say anything, but just walked away.

Quirina was about to catch up with Zorion to explain herself when he said, "What are you both still doing there? Keep up with me, don't you have a class to attend?"

Raeleigh tugged at Scarlette and they both went to class together with Zorion.

Quirian stomped her feet in anger and shouted from behind, "It's not like that. Mr. Atkinson, you have to believe me."

Zorion paid no attention to her. He had encountered such a situation on his first day of school...

"Thank you so much for what you did just now." Raeleigh went up to the empty space beside him and thanked him.

Zorion merely turned back and looked at her with a gloomy expression. He was cold and distant. Raeleigh certainly knew that he had not done that because he fancied her, rather it was simply because he could not stand to see Quirina's underhanded bullying methods.

Turning around, Zorion walked away. Raeleigh did not look at him as he left. Instead, she dragged Scarlette towards their class.

On the way, she asked Raeleigh, "That Mr. Atkinson sure looks devilishly good. Don't you like him?"

Raeleigh did not even look at her and replied, "Why, do you like him?"

"Anybody would be attracted to anyone who looks good. But you have no reaction at all to such people. You seem to lack interest in this matter."

Raeleigh did not answer her question. When she arrived at the door of the classroom, it was time for class. Raeleigh knocked on the door. The teacher asked them to come in and asked them to take a seat without saying anything else.

"Zorion, you're back?" Deanna saw Zorion coming back and ran over to him. She had just finished her class.

Zorion agreed and raised his hand to rub Deanna's hair.

"How is she? Is she alright?" Deanna's mind was racing. It was she who had asked Zorion to help Raeleigh.

When they arrived, they had both seen Quirina bullying Raeleigh, but Deanna really didn't like Quirina, so she hadn't gone over. Instead, she took Zorion's hand and asked him for help.

"They're alright now," Zorion answered and went into the classroom. As soon as he sat down, the others all went out. As per usual, Zorion's face had an expression that warned strangers against approaching him. So, whenever people saw him, they would avoid him at all costs unless they were attending class.

Deanna sat by her brother's side, as they were deskmates.

They had always been deskmates since they were little.

“Zorion, do you think that Raeleigh is a good person?” Deanna had never seen a girl with such a good temperament. She neither liked to gossip about others, nor did she have problems with anyone. It was only people like Quirina who would pick on people like Raeleigh to bully.

Zorion looked at his sister. “I can’t tell.”

Deanna’s heart was trembling as she asked, “How do you think she looks?”

Zorion thought for a moment before replying, “Just so-so.”

Deanna’s heart trembled as she asked, “What about her results?”

Zorion didn’t say anything that time. She was a well-rounded student and was indeed quite good.

Deanna thought it was not bad, so she held her brother’s arm and said, “Brother, between you and her, who do you think is better?”

Zorion glanced at his sister. “Me.”

Zorion had such confidence. He was not modest at all. Deanna was stunned. She stared at her brother and said, “Brother, can’t you be a little modest?”

“No.” Zorion smiled and looked at the window. Thinking of Raeleigh’s indifferent eyes, he wondered what had happened to make a 19-year-old girl such as her so aloof.

Raeleigh didn’t have her design drawings with her. When she had realized it, she had looked all over the place for it. It was not in the room, so she wondered if she had accidentally misplaced it somewhere else or if they had simply gone missing.

Scarlette stepped in from outside and when she saw Raeleigh hunting high and low for something, she asked her, “What are you looking for?”

“Aren’t we supposed to hand in the design drawings tomorrow? I’ve put my drawings on the table together with yours, but now mine’s missing.”

Raeleigh and Scarlette were very very close. Despite not having known each other for the longest of times, Raeleigh trusted her personal view of people, and Scarlette was a friend to be trusted and was dependable as well.

So, Raeleigh had put her work together with Scarlette’s since they had agreed to go to the event together, but right then, Raeleigh’s work was missing.

She frowned and said, “No way, your drawing was on the right side of my drawing. Are you sure you’ve looked carefully?”

Scarlette was not at ease. She pulled open the drawer and searched for a long time. There was indeed only her blueprint left in it. She stood on one side and said, “That’s strange. Why is mine still here while yours is missing?”

“Scarlette, have you written your name on yours?”

Scarlette looked at Raeleigh and replied, "Yes I had, had you not?"

Raeleigh did not answer her question. Raeleigh was in for a big loss that time. She had not written her name on her work.

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"Then, draw another one, write down your name, and hand it in."

Raeleigh shook her head. "Forget it. I'm not going to do it."

"How can you do that? It's your work. Someone stole it. We have to tell the lecturer." Scarlette was so excited that Raeleigh had to hold her in place and said, "Don't go. Leave this matter to me. I'll go and hand in the drawings with you tomorrow."

"Raeleigh, you are too unassertive. This is exactly why they pick on you."

"I have no evidence to clarify this matter. No matter who took my blueprints, once a similar one is submitted, then the school will clamp down hard on both for plagiarism." Raeleigh insisted and Scarlette found herself speechless. In the end, the matter amounted to nothing.

In the evening, Scarlette said to Raeleigh, "If you're not attending the event, then there is little meaning for me to go, so I'll skip it too."

"Go and do your thing," Raeleigh said to Scarlette, who simply shook her head. It was meaningless for her because the drawings belonged to someone else.

The next day, while Raeleigh was in class, a teacher dropped by and said, "Raeleigh, could you please come out for a moment?"

Raeleigh followed the teacher outside. She left the classroom and asked Raeleigh, "Did you sign up for the car design competition?"

"Yes, I did sign up for it," Raeleigh replied honestly.

The teacher was puzzled and asked, "Today is the day to submit the blueprints. Where is yours?"

A teacher was put in charge of collecting the blueprints, or else it could allow students to hand it in as they pleased of their own accord. The university had a special department to deal with such matters.

Raeleigh's teacher had received a call from the principal, who said that all the students' blueprints who had registered for the competition had been submitted, all except Raeleigh and Scarlette. Then, the principal went to great lengths to inquire about Raeleigh and why she hadn't submitted it. The emphasis on Raeleigh and the lack of further mention of Scarlette implied that this was a matter of urgency and that there will be consequences for Raeleigh's future.

Her teacher's temperament was also very mild, but the fact that Raeleigh didn't have a blueprint still shocked her teacher.

"I didn't draw my blueprint. I am forfeiting from the competition."

The teacher was in a state of shock and could not come back to his senses. After a long time, he asked, "Raeleigh, I think the school highly values your work. I'll work something out with the school, so how about you go back now and concentrate on drawing out your blueprint?"

Raeleigh shook her head. "Time is too limited. I can't prepare it in time."

"Raeleigh, if you don't try, then how do you know whether it will work or not?" The bell rang and the students of the other classes came out, talking about the blueprints they had handed in that day.

"The results will come out in three days. I heard that at that time, there were lots of competing talents. Those who can enter the top three may win a lot of rewards."

The sound of these discussions were heard by Raeleigh as the students who said them passed by her. She did not say anything but just fixed her eyes on her teacher.

The teacher seemed helpless. How was he going to explain this to the higher-ups?

"Raeleigh, go back and think about it. I will try and communicate with the school to see if they can extend the submission deadline for you." After the teacher spoke, he left.

Scarlette stepped out of class and went to Raeleigh asking her, "What's happened, why did the teacher come round looking for you?"

"It's about the blueprints."

"What did you say then?"

"I said that I am no longer participating, and that I am forfeiting."

...

Scarlette was speechless as she thought to herself, "What a stubborn person!"

After lunch, Raeleigh and Scarlette went to class and the teacher came round looking for her again. However, Raeleigh simply said that there was not enough time and so she did not hand in the blueprint in the end.

At six o'clock in the evening.

In the principal's office at Elkton University.

Jepherson raised his hand to look at the time. He put down his wrist and tapped on the table. "Let's call it a day."

The principal stood opposite him and bowed politely.

In the university principal's office, the top ten blueprints were selected overnight. Those selected were indeed innovative pieces.

At three o'clock in the morning, the drawings were delivered to Jepherson, who was in the middle of his break. Jepherson personally took a look at it.

The principal was by Jepherson's side as he looked at them one by one. Finally, he picked out three blueprints from them that would allow them to enter the top three.

One of them was from Quirina Cole, one was from Deanna Atkinson, and the other was from a male student in the university.

The names were covered, so no one could cheat.

However, when Jepherson saw Raeleigh's blueprint, he smiled a very strange smile.

Stuart breathed in sharply. Jepherson's smile had sent shivers down his spine.

Even the headmaster felt cold sweat on his back. He was in his sixties, but he had been on edge for the entire night. He didn't know what the result was.

"The school will pay attention to the people who made it to the top ten. The Harvey Group will sponsor a part of the scholarship, and request them to fill out the form within a week and hand it in.

The top three participants will be invited to the Harvey Group's third quarter ball. The corporation would invite them to the party, and prepare some extra rewards for them.

"Tomorrow morning, the university will hold a press conference to announce the results. At that time, please invite the top ten and their parents to join the award ceremony."

Jepherson got up and handed the blueprints to Stuart. Then, he walked towards the door. The president wiped his sweat and immediately agreed.

The next day, the university announced a full day's holiday. They started preparing for the awards ceremony at six in the morning.

"I heard it was personally reviewed by Young Master Harvey this time. The speed of the review is really remarkable. Initially, it would take three days to produce the results. But someone saw that Young Master Harvey brought more than a dozen people to review the blueprints in the president's office overnight. In the end, Young Master Harvey selected the first, second, and third placers from the ten finalists. Now, the only thing we don't know is who the first place drawing belongs to."

Raeleigh had just sat down on the ground with Scarlett when they heard this being discussed. Scarlett looked unconcerned and Raeleigh too could not be bothered about this competition.

She was not sure where her blueprint had gone, but she just wanted to have a look.

Soon, some distinguished people appeared in Raeleigh's line of sight. Those people were either the wealthy or nobles. They were all invited to the school to attend the event.

The principal had already called and told the parents of these students that their children had been in the top ten, hoping to participate in the publishing of the results in person.

This kind of thing was very public in Capital City, so the students' parents also cooperated with each other.

The seats in the front were for the winners and the parents, while Raeleigh and the others sat in the back. There were a lot of car design related decorations around them.

Raeleigh had been staring at the surrounding arrangements. She had also contributed to the decoration, so she just wanted to have a look around to see if there was anything inappropriate. Other than that, she didn't pay much attention to anything else.

Quirina soon appeared in Raeleigh's field of vision, accompanied by her mother, as she wore a light pink dress. After Meica arrived, she started greeting several acquaintances, and then sat down in the seat in front of her. Meica wore a plain white dress that day, as she sat in front of Quirina, looking elegant.

The last few people to enter Raeleigh's line of sight were the Atkinson siblings and a woman who bore much resemblance to Deanna.

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Lottie was dressed rather plainly. She wore a skirt suit, with plain and inexpensive accessories. Sitting next to Deanna, people couldn't help but to admire her. Many people thought that Lottie was Deanna's older sister, but after she addressed her as mother, everyone understood.

Lottie had preserved her looks well. No one could tell her actual age from her face.

"Mom, I haven't seen Raeleigh yet. Let me introduce her to you later." It was expected that Deanna's design would be selected. Deanna and Zorion had had been previously trained overseas in car designing. Then, they ended up studying in Elkton University, simply because Deanna liked Jepherson. Otherwise, with Rhys's financial capabilities, it was inconceivable that he would have them graduate from a local university.

Lottie patted her daughter's hand and said, "Don't talk nonsense again. If your brother is not happy when he goes back, then he will ignore you."

In fact, there was no need for Lottie to attend the event, but her daughter said that her brother had someone he liked, so she had come.

Lottie knew that the likelihood of her son taking fancy of someone was slim to none as he was extremely picky. The only reason she had come that day was because her daughter had made it into the top ten finalists for the car design competition. Whilst this was all within their expectations and would've happened sooner or later, as her parent, she had to show up, to support for her daughter. Otherwise, she would've felt guilty for letting her down.

The mother and daughter continued to talk innocuously whilst Zorion stared straight ahead, not caring for what the people around him had to say and maintained his silence.

It seemed that he was out of tune with this world. He faced everything in front of him with a sort of detachment.

He was only 19 years old, but he seemed to have a heart with centuries of experience.

Raeleigh saw Zorion seated in front of her. It was not that she was purposely looking for him. It just so happened that he was smack in the center of her field of vision from where she sat, such that it was impossible not to see him when she looked up straight ahead.

Without further ado to the guests present, the awards ceremony began.

The principal of Elkton University stepped forward on the stage and gave a short speech.

The principal started off with a few pleasantries to the parents in attendance. Then, he moved on to talk about the design competition in question.

The applause continued in waves, coming one after another. Finally, the principal looked to one side and said, "We want to invite the competition organizer, the vice president of Harvey Group, Mr. Jepherson Harvey, to come on stage and announce the results. Welcome."

Jepherson walked to the stage from the side and paused on the stage. He took out a card in his hand and politely nodded to everyone present with a smile.

Lottie was full of praise. The children of her good friends were just different. They were so distinctly outstanding that as soon as he went on stage, he had instantly made everyone fall silent. Who else could compete with him?

At the thought of this, Lottie instinctively glanced at her son, Zorion. Actually, her son was not bad either.

Zorion seemed to know what his mother was thinking. When Lottie looked at him, he also looked at his mother. Although it was just a casual action, a look from him was enough to make the girls around squeal in delight.

At that time, Zorion smiled casually and then he looked up at the podium again.

Jepherson was the main focus that day, with a gRhys body-fitting suit. He looked infinitely capable and every movement he made had an aura of maturity.

Jepherson glanced at the cue card in his hand, put his hands behind his back, and spoke into the microphone. "I would like to thank each and every parent in attendance today for coming today, and I would also like to thank all the participants for all the hard work and time put into your submissions during your term to participate in our annual Harvey Group car designing competition. I am extremely honored to have been part of the organizing team as the chairman, and now, let us announce the outstanding top ten finalists."

Jepherson took out the cue card from behind him and announced the list of names placing from the fourth to the tenth.

At the same time, they went on stage, one by one, to receive their rewards. Deanna sat quietly and waited.

Quirina wore a smile and turned around to look at Raeleigh's side. She met Raeleigh's eyes and showed out a defiant look.

Raeleigh did not pay her any attention but continued to look forward.

At that time, Zorion looked thoughtfully in Quirina's direction. He then followed her gaze and turned slightly to look behind him.

Raeleigh was looking forward, their sights directly opposite.

“Next, the second runner up goes to...” Jepherson started with the third placed award first. It went to a male student. He received the certificate with excitement on the stage. Without having the chance to take a photo with Jepherson, he came down from the stage.

Then, Jepherson went on to announce the names of the participants in the first and second places.

“In second place is Deanna Atkinson.” Jepherson put down the card in his hand and clapped his hands and smiled politely as his gaze shifted to Deanna. In an instant, she became the focus of everyone’s attention.

“Mom, I’m going up.” Deanna stood up, kissed Lottie, and hugged Zorion. Then, she turned and walked to the stage. Although she was in second place, she was still very happy as she thought that Deanna had definitely secured first place. The only thing she did not understand was why she was seated at the back.

“Jepherson.” Deanna leisurely walked towards Jepherson on the stage and called after him with a warm smile.

Instead of being distant as he had been with the third place winner, Jepherson took two steps forward and wrapped her in his arms. He patted her on the back. “Congratulations, Deanna,” he said.

“Thank you.”

After they parted, Deanna accepted the award certificate. Jepherson smiled at her and then she stepped off the stage.

When she got off the stage, she was surrounded by envious murmurs.

“I heard that the relationship between the Harvey family and the Atkinson family is unlike the others. They have been close childhood sweethearts. As soon as Miss Deanna graduates, they will get married.”

“Isn’t that supposed to be Raeleigh?”

“Raeleigh is just a fling. Do you think he takes it seriously? Is she even worthy of him?”

Scarlette tugged at Raeleigh, who remained unaffected. Instead, she simply said, “Let’s not meddle in other people’s affairs. Just watch the ceremony.”

Raeleigh could not control what other people said. People would say what they wanted to say and she can only ensure that she played her part appropriately and well, and that would have been enough.

“How can there be a woman such as you in this world?” Scarlette said as she shook her head. She really did not understand what Jepherson saw in her friend.

Raeleigh fixed her eyes forwards. It was the last name to be announced and Quirina was so excited that she almost leapt and rushed up to the stage. But she couldn’t do that, so she waited as patiently as she could.

Jepherson raised his hand and looked at the card in his hand, saying, “The first place...”

Just as Jepherson was about to speak, a person’s voice came from the big screen behind him, “Scarlette, what are you doing? Stop recording me. If you continue, then I’ll be really angry.”

Everyone's eyes were on the big screen. On the big screen, there was a scene of Raeleigh drawing her blueprint. The person in the video was clearly Raeleigh, and the video also featured the blueprint she had been drawing.

For a moment, everyone present was deep in thought, even Raeleigh.

Chapter 854

Jepherson's expression was of total indifference. He turned back to see what was being displayed on the screen without a word.

"Scarlette." Raeleigh turned to look at her friend. Scarlet yanked her hand out from under Raeleigh's, stood up, and nudged her to go forward. Everybody noticed this little incident and all eyes turned to look at Scarlette.

At that time, Raeleigh could only sit back quietly. No matter what she did then, it would only make people assume that she had a part to play in this whole video incident. So, she could only sit still and do nothing to avoid being further talked about.

Raeleigh did not move, but just watched as Scarlette walked onto the stage.

Seeing Jepherson, she bowed politely. "I'm sorry for disturbing the last part of the award announcement, but this is the only way. My friend there is too cowardly. She would rather be bullied than to stand up and accuse someone."

Jepherson looked at Scarlette and said, "Tell us then what it is that you have to say, but I hope that you're not trying to make a fool out of us."

"Thank you." After saying that, she walked to the principal with the remote in her hand and bowed. "I'm sorry, for swapping your advertisement video."

The principal neither replied, nor did he say anything.

Scarlette stepped up to the microphone and said, "I apologize to all of you for taking up your precious time. I am Scarlette of Room 302 and my roommate is Raeleigh. I am furious over her blueprint for this competition that went mysteriously missing. If I say anything today that upsets you all, then I hope that you can look at how I am trying to stand up for my friend and find the compassion within yourselves to forgive me and not have me expelled from Elkton University."

"When Raeleigh had been drawing her car design blueprint, as a joke, I had taken a video of her. She had refused to be filmed, so I did it secretly. As you all have seen just now, that video features Raeleigh clearly making that drawing, and her drawn blueprint was also clearly captured in that video. I am the eye witness, and here is the physical evidence of the claims I just made. But then, just a day before submissions of the blueprint were open, her work mysteriously went missing."

Everyone present was in an uproar, but Raeleigh sat still and didn't move.

Zorion looked back at Raeleigh casually. Raeleigh had lowered her head and said nothing.

“The strange thing was, if we had accidentally misplaced our work, then the missing piece would not only have been hers, but mine too. However, mine was still intact. We had stored our work together in the desk, but in the end, only Raeleigh’s went missing.”

“I think it’s probably because mine was not good enough, or maybe it was because I had written my name down.”

“Perhaps, maybe whoever took it was in such a hurry that they didn’t manage to take everything.”

“Raeleigh was unable to produce her work, so she forfeited in the end, but I believe that the person who took her blueprint wouldn’t have just thrown it away. Instead, I suspect that the person must have used it as a submission piece for the competition.”

“So, I came here because I wanted to know if there is any one among all these drawings that belongs to Raeleigh.”

“You see, the top nine blueprints are on the big screen, and now there is only one left. I want to confirm if this drawing that won the grand prize is in any way related to Raeleigh’s missing blueprint.”

As soon as Scarlett said these words, Quirina suddenly stood up and pointed at Scarlett, and said, “You’re full of sh*t. The blueprint is obviously mine.”

Meica’s face turned pale all of a sudden. She had been pulling on her daughter’s arm, trying to hold her in place but she failed. Right then, it was so embarrassing.

“Quirina,” Meica called out to her daughter. Quirina did not listen. Instead, she was staring angrily at Scarlett, wanting to tear her mouth apart. Scarlett looked at Quirina and narrowed her eyes with disdain. She looked at Jepherson and said, “Mr. Harvey, please announce the name of the winner of the first prize. Otherwise, this is not enough to convince the public.”

Jepherson pondered a bit, looked at other people, took a look at the card in his hand, picked it up, and said, “The first prize winner is Quirina.”

After that, Jepherson inadvertently glanced at the principal and turned to leave.

Right then, Quirina’s winning blueprint was displayed on the big screen. Other people couldn’t help but to exclaim. Meica couldn’t stay there any longer. Although she was extremely reluctant to do so, she still raised her hand and gave her daughter a slap. “You have disappointed me too much. Is this how I raised you?”

“Mom...” Quirina had never been beaten by Meica and almost cried. She felt wronged and held back her tears, just short of spilling forth from her eyes. Holding onto her slapped cheek, she called after her mother.

“Don’t call me that. I’m not your mother. How can I have a daughter like you? Do you want to kill me?” Meica looked so infuriated that it was almost as if she would combust on the spot and die. Then, she thumped her chest hard and said, “Come, kill me.”

Seeing Meica in this state, nobody could say anything and nobody rational dared to say anything either. Only some foolhardy people dared to mutter some unsavory comments.

“Mr. Horacio.” Meica walked towards the principal and bowed to him. She almost knelt down to the principal and held his hand, crying.

“This whole matter is my fault for not educating my daughter properly, and for the lack of supervision. I apologize to you.” Then, Meica grovelled at the president several times in a row. The principal did not make a sound from the start and even then. His silence was because of the rather vulnerable position that he found himself in on both sides. It looked like Scarlett too was on Young Master Harvey’s side since he had a lot of influence there.

Meica then apologized to the students and parents under the stage. That time, she had been truly and utterly embarrassed.

Then, finally after all that apologetic theatrics to every else present, Meica walked up to Raeleigh and apologized deeply. “Raeleigh, I’m sorry. I’ve spoiled Quirina, can you please give her another chance?”

Raeleigh looked at the people around her. What could she say? She had even bowed to her.

“I forgive her,” Raeleigh said, looking around. She then walked to the stage, pulling Scarlett. “Let’s go. Don’t you think it’s quite enough already?”

After that, Raeleigh dragged Scarlett and left. The other students dispersed as well, having lost interest in the concluded matter.

In the end, there was no match for those wealthy nobles who got away with everything. Mr. Harvey did not take any action against Quirina. This indicated how much immunity the Cole family had in Capital City and their relationship with the Harvey family, such that even in a situation such as this, Jepherson was inclined to show a degree of respect and leniency to them.

Long after Raeleigh had left, Lottie was pulled by her daughter, who said, “That was Raeleigh.”

Lottie hadn’t seen her quite clearly, but one thing she learnt from this whole debacle was that the daughter of the Cole family was really something.

Fortunately, other than that one time, the name Yousif was never mentioned again. Otherwise, it would really be worrying.

“I still have something to do. Remember to study hard, alright? I have an appointment with someone and need to get going.” Lottie had seen all there was to see and left.

The Atkinson siblings sent Lottie off and then went home.

Raeleigh didn’t say anything when she went back to her bedroom. She knew that Scarlett had done all these things for her sake but she was worried that after causing a scene like this, there would be more trouble awaiting them in the future.

“Are you angry?” Scarlett sat for a while before asking, with her eyes staring at Raeleigh.

“What do I have to be angry about?” Raeleigh sat on the bed, indifferent. She only had one question, which was how Scarlett had managed to pull this off.

Scarlette leaned in towards Raeleigh and said, "I did this all for your sake. People like Quirina have to be taught a good lesson. The more you submit to her, the more shameless she will be and bully you to no end. You'll lose anyway, so you might as well go down with a fight."

Raeleigh turned her head slowly and looked at Scarlette for a while, but did not say anything.

Chapter 855

"Why aren't you saying anything?" Raeleigh replied in amusement, "I don't know what to say."

"You must have something to say."

"Don't be so impulsive in the future. You're too unruly."

Scarlette fixed her eyes on Raeleigh. "Seriously, that's your reaction?"

"What else can I do?" Raeleigh picked up a book next to her hand, opened it and looked at the exercises inside. She was not interested in anything, not even in the exercises.

Finally, the day had quietened down. Raeleigh planned to go home to see her grandmother over the weekend, so Raeleigh began to prepare for it on Friday afternoon.

"Raeleigh, why do you need to pack up your things?" Scarlette asked. She did not know why, since she had no class on Friday afternoon. So, she went back to her bedroom, intending to sit down for a good gaming session with Raeleigh, only to find her packing up as if she was ready to run away.

Raeleigh bowed her head and continued to pack her belongings. "I need to go home to take a look."

That week, Raeleigh's scholarship allowance had been transferred to her account. She hadn't expected it to be that fast. That, together with the money she had won from gaming with Scarlette, she could buy some health supplements for her grandmother.

Raeleigh felt guilty when she thought of her elderly grandmother, who still worried about her daily.

"Go home? You're going home, too?" She knew Raeleigh had a grandmother, but other than that, she didn't know much about her family.

Raeleigh raised her head and looked at Scarlette. "Can't I go home?"

"Of course you can. It's just that I didn't expect your family to be in Capital City as well." Scarlette sat at the side, feeling bored. "There'll be nothing for me to do after you leave. Why don't you bring me along?"

Raeleigh hesitated for a moment. "If you have nothing else to do, then you can go back with me and let my Grandma see you."

"OK, then I will prepare for it." Upon hearing Raeleigh agree to let her come along, Scarlette rushed to pack her things up and was ready shortly after. Then, they both set off, leaving the university and reaching her Grandma's place before it got dark.

Raeleigh's grandmother was a commoner and it was she who had brought Raeleigh up ever since she had been a kid. The two of them lived together, and depended on no one other than each other and although life was tough, they were content and happy.

Raeleigh didn't have any unrealistic dreams. She just hoped that her Grandma would be able to live a happy life after Raeleigh started earning a comfortable living.

How much money would she earn apart from recycling clothes? Back then, they barely managed to get by that way.

When they arrived at the gate, Raeleigh got out of the car, followed by Scarlett. The both of them walked in a single file and entered the small walkway.

"Raeleigh, is your house a bungalow?" She didn't expect that there were bungalows on the outskirts of Capital City.

"This house doesn't belong to Grandma. We used to live in a rented house. Before that, we lived in the countryside. Later, it was because of my studies that we moved here to Capital City. We tried to rent an apartment but they were simply too expensive, so we ended up here."

"Why did you live in the countryside? Is your family from the countryside?" Scarlett asked as she walked. Raeleigh had already reached the door of her home. She didn't answer but just said, "The rental house in the countryside was my grandmother's. We live there well. If it weren't for my studies, then perhaps we would have lived there forever."

Scarlett stopped questioning her. Raeleigh raised her hand and knocked on the door. "My Grandma's health is generally alright. However, over the past few years, her leg is often swelling up and in a lot of pain. It is because she spent so much of her youth outside in freezing temperatures without proper insulation."

"Your grandmother really lived quite a harsh life." Scarlett shook her head, pitifully.

It was not easy for an old lady to take care of her granddaughter alone.

Raeleigh knocked on the door for a while but no one answered. Raeleigh took out the key and unlocked the door, leading Scarlett into the house. When they entered the room, there was no one in the room, but it was clean and had been tidied up, although there were no furnishings in the house.

"Come on in first, she must've gone out." Raeleigh invited Scarlett in as the latter put down her backpack and walked around the house, stopping here and there to take a peek.

Raeleigh put down her backpack and went to the front door.

After watching for a while, she finally saw an old lady dragging her heavy body as she trudged back home.

Seeing Raeleigh, the old lady smiled immediately. In her hand was a small packet of meat.

"Grandma, why did you go out?" Raeleigh hurried to support the old lady. The old lady smiled kindly and said, "I've gone out to see if you've arrived. I passed by the meat stall along the road and so I decided to buy a piece, so that I can broil it for you tonight."

The old lady was very polite when she spoke and when she looked at Raeleigh, her gaze was kind.

Raeleigh's Grandma was no ordinary person. Although she used to pick old torn clothes for a living in her youth, she had amassed a lot of life experience and encountered all sorts of people. Not only was she tough, she was also tenacious.

Raeleigh had learnt all the valuable lessons from her grandmother, such as how to be calm even in the midst of a crisis and not to be easily triggered.

"If you want meat, then I can go and buy it. Didn't I give you a phone? Just call me if you need anything. It's not inconvenient for me to come back." Raeleigh was normally a person of few words, but with her Grandma, she was unusually chatty.

The old madam chuckled. "How can it be the same? The meat you buy is for my consumption, as for the meat I buy, it is for you."

"Isn't that the same thing?" Raeleigh was quite exasperated. Sometimes, there was just nothing she could do about her grandmother.

The grandmother and granddaughter duo talked all the way until they reached home. When they entered the house, only then did the grandmother notice another person present in her house. She smiled and asked, "Raeleigh, is this your classmate?"

Scarlette was looking at Raeleigh's photographs in the house, as well as some of the awards Raeleigh had won as a child.

Raeleigh's trophies and medals adorned the walls. In the old lady's words, other people kept money in their safe boxes, but in their house, it was Raeleigh's trophies.

The old lady said that she wouldn't feel at ease even if she put them somewhere else, so she felt comfortable when she put them on the wall.

Raeleigh had hung the medals on the wall according to her grandmother's wishes.

Scarlette, who had never seen that many trophies and medals in her life, was shocked.

"Scarlette, this is my grandmother. Grandma, Scarlette is my dorm mate. There's only me and Scarlette in our dormitory. I've brought her along for you to meet her," Raeleigh explained. The old lady was shrewd. Her granddaughter's words hinted at something else hidden away.

"Why didn't you tell me earlier? I'll buy some more food." The old madam chuckled and Scarlette said hurriedly, "I'm fine with anything. You don't have to make any special preparations for me. Otherwise, I'll be embarrassed to come again next time."

The old lady smiled and said, "That won't do either. This is your first time here. How about this? Scarlette, stay here and help me watch the house. Raeleigh and I'll buy some more food. What do you like to eat, Scarlette?"

She felt embarrassed and said with a smile, "Why don't I go shopping with Raeleigh? You can stay at home."

“That’s not good. Scarlett, please stay. Raeleigh and I will go and buy the food. It’s not far away from here.” The old lady insisted. Scarlett did not argue any further with her. Raeleigh saw that her grandmother had something she wanted to say to her alone. So, she placed the packet of meat on the table and she then held her grandmother’s arms to support her as they walked out.

A short distance away from the house, the old lady asked Raeleigh, “Raeleigh, tell me, how did you meet Scarlett?”

Her grandmother was her closest relative, so Raeleigh had never kept anything from her. Thus, she told her everything there was to know about how she and Scarlett met. After hearing this, the old lady sighed. “Raeleigh, I know that you are unwilling to go to that place. But I’ve always felt that you are not an ordinary girl. You must know that I’m not capable and so I have only you to rely upon.”

“People like us are easy targets to be bullied in society. You’ve had your fair share of troubles since childhood.”

“It is not a new thing for rich people to bully the poor.”

“But I still have to tell you that it’s not a big deal for them to bully us, but we can’t lose our dignity. I don’t expect you to rebel against them, but a person cannot live without dignity, so no matter what they do to you, you must remember that you are a person with dignity.”

“Grandma, I know that and I will deal with the school affairs accordingly. Don’t worry about me.” Raeleigh didn’t want her Grandma to worry too much, but she still told her about the people who bullied her in class.

The old lady was a reasonable woman and she understood the struggles. Her granddaughter was very dignified and beautiful, and was also outstanding in her studies. Not to mention in such an expensive school, even if it was an ordinary school, there would be a lot of bullies who picked on poor people.

“But society is like this. There are too many frauds and scammers out there. If you don’t learn to protect yourself and get along well with this society, then you can’t establish a foothold in this society.”

The old lady sighed, because she did not have the ability to protect her granddaughter.

Raeleigh held her grandmother’s arm and smiled without saying anything.

The old lady didn’t forget Scarlett. She said, “Scarlett doesn’t look like an ordinary person. You have to be careful when she’s by your side. I am never wrong when it comes to people, this child...”

The old lady hesitated for a while and said, “The human heart is deep and deceitful, you should be more vigilant.”

“Alright, Grandma.” Raeleigh did not say anything more. She helped the old lady get to the nearest vegetable market.

The place was not very large, and the food market near her grandmother’s house was very small. So, she and her Grandma went in and began to choose the raw ingredients they needed to cook dinner that day. Raeleigh bought a fish specially for her. Throughout her life, the old lady didn’t like many things, with the exception of fish. She loved fish.

Raeleigh had known that her grandmother liked eating fish since she was a child. However, she would always hold back, giving the fish meat to Raeleigh while she ate only the bones. Her grandmother would always say that Raeleigh should eat the meat, as it was nutritious, and would help in her growth and development. She always said that she would not let her granddaughter have stunted growth due to the lack of nutrients.

When she grew up, she couldn't eat any more. Raeleigh still had 100 dollars that she had saved from her game earnings. She bought some vegetables and fish that day. The old lady did not stop her as they had a guest.

When they returned home, they found that Scarlette had laid down to sleep. Raeleigh helped her grandmother inside to take a seat. Seeing that Scarlette was still asleep, she went to prepare dinner on her own. The old lady thought to herself about Scarlette, "This child is so careless."

She had fallen asleep while looking after the house.

After Raeleigh finished preparing the dishes, the old lady woke Scarlette up to eat. She was still groggy when she opened her eyes and saw the two people in front of her. She remembered Raeleigh but the old lady...

It took her quite a while to remember who the old lady was.

"Come, eat, I don't know what you like to eat. What do you like to eat? I'll have Raeleigh cook it for you in the future when you visit here." The old lady cut her a piece of fish and Scarlette immediately handed her bowl and received it. No matter what was served, she would love it.

The old lady had a good impression of Scarlette. On the way to the market earlier, Raeleigh had mentioned that Scarlette did not have a family as she was an orphan.

Regardless of whether it was true or not, the child seemed alright.

After dinner, the old lady went to watch TV. Raeleigh showed Scarlette around the place. When they were about to go to bed, the two of them took out their laptop and connected it to the wi-fi hotspot from their cell phones and started gaming.

"It's late. Why don't you rest?" The old lady had slept Tristany. She didn't know what Raeleigh was doing, only that she wasn't sleeping, so she enquired about it out of concern.

"There is this game online where we can make money. I have played it with Scarlette for quite some time now. Although it's not much, it is enough to cover my living expenses. Grandma, you can go to sleep first and don't worry about us."

The old lady was not worried when she heard that. She knew that the child she raised was not someone who was addicted to games. If it weren't for those little living expenses, then she wouldn't have been bothered.

"Go on and play, but don't stay up too late." The old lady went back to her room to sleep. There were two rooms in the house. One of them was the old lady's, and the other one was where Scarlette and Raeleigh slept in.

Raeleigh's room was not spacious, and it had been used to store some sundries.

Normally, Raeleigh would not stay here. Even when she came back for a visit, she would just sleep together with her grandmother in her room. Raeleigh had told her grandmother that they did not need to have such a big place. Just a room and a dining area would suffice. Her grandmother, who was frugal, had managed to hash it out with the landlord and rent a two-bedroom place.

The old lady said that Raeleigh was a grown woman and that she can't stay with the old lady for the rest of her life. Besides, this was the age where she should have a boyfriend. So, what if the boyfriend dropped by? He would need a place to stay too, hence the two rooms instead of one.

In fact, the old lady also understood their condition. It was not easy for Raeleigh to find a boyfriend as long as she didn't have to work and was still studying.

It was not due to the old lady's greed or vanity. It was because the old lady thought that Raeleigh was not the kind of person who would find a boyfriend casually. If the family's conditions were poor, to put it bluntly, then the old lady would not be willing. Consequently, if the family's conditions were too good, the old lady was worried that Raeleigh would be bullied.

In other people's eyes, Raeleigh might be an ordinary child, but the old lady always thought the opposite. So, when it came to finding a boyfriend, let alone one that had no money, even if he was rich and had a high status, the old lady might not be willing to let her marry him.

The old lady was not going to hide the fact that she was a trash collector either. She neither stole nor did she rob, and had raised a child to adulthood depending only on the work of her own hands. She would think that she was better and stronger than those who made a living out of selling one's body.

If Raeleigh's future boyfriend could not see this point of hers, then based on that alone, the old lady will not be willing to have any further discussion on the continuation of his and Raeleigh's relationship.

"What does a person want to live for? It is for this speck of stubbornness. To put it plainly, one needs to grow and have a backbone!"

It didn't matter if he or she was poor. As long as they did not steal or rob, then they would still have a spine and preserve their dignity.

It was alright if only one person slept in Raeleigh's room, but two people was a tight squeeze. After dinner, the old lady had asked one of them to sleep in the empty room, but Raeleigh declined, saying that she never liked sleeping in other people's rooms, and that there would be a moldy smell. Instead, she asked Scarlette to go over. Scarlette refused as well. She said that she had stayed in all kinds of rooms before, once even in one that had rats. So, at that moment, she didn't have a problem with squeezing a little tighter to sleep with another person.

After the old lady left, Raeleigh and Scarlett began to play the game. As they played, Scarlett said to Raeleigh, "Why don't you find someone to take you with them? When will you become an expert if you keep playing like this?"

"I'm fine now. You can find Shadowless Hadrian. I'm good here." Raeleigh was quite a natural. She snorted with disdain and left quickly.

Raeleigh was the only one left. She found a treasure box in the game that she could open. She opened one that had 200 dollars and was satisfied.

“Why have you stopped playing?” With a look of surprise on her face, Scarlett asked as Raeleigh packed up the computer and put it aside. “I opened a Treasure Box just now and sold it for 220 dollars. I will buy an outfit for Grandma tomorrow.”

Scarlett was speechless. “What logic is this? It isn’t even eight o’clock yet and you’re already calling it a day? Just because of the two hundred dollar treasure chest, what if you open a two thousand dollar one?”

Raeleigh did not listen to her words. She tidied herself and lay on the bed. “To begin with, one is already guaranteed to lose at least half the time when it comes to gambling. Don’t be fooled by the ‘logic’ that seems obvious before your eyes. You can rest, store your money and energy, and if you have good fortune, then the two thousand dollar option will still be there for the taking.”

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...

Raeleigh and Scarlett got up Tristany the next day and went out Tristany. They bought some things from the morning market and went out again after breakfast. They bought some stuff for the old lady to wear and use.

Chapter 856

“Grandma, I know that and I will deal with the school affairs accordingly. Don’t worry about me.” Raeleigh didn’t want her Grandma to worry too much, but she still told her about the people who bullied her in class.

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Chapter 857

"Raeleigh, you should keep this extra money and spend it on yourself. You shouldn't spend it all on me. I don't even like these things," the old lady said. In actuality, it was not that she didn't like it, but that she didn't want the money to be wasted on her. To put it bluntly, even if she had the best clothes to wear then or the best things to use, she didn't have it in her youth when she could've really used and enjoyed it. So, what was the point of having it, now that she was already so old.

"It was quite cheap, so I bought it. Grandma, we're going back today. Call me if you need anything."

Raeleigh reminded her again and again, and so did the old lady. After walking for a while with Scarlette, they saw a cab and was about to hail it to get back to the university.

"Let's take a bus," Scarlette said as she pulled Raeleigh towards the bus station instead. Scarlette had spotted a bus card in Raeleigh's bag and inferred that Raeleigh normally couldn't bear to spend extra money on a cab. So, Scarlette thought there was no need to hail a cab just to accompany her when this was what Raeleigh preferred.

When they arrived at the bus station, they waited in line when a sleek black car arrived and stopped ahead. It was too striking, which caught everybody's attention.

Raeleigh saw the car logo and knew that it was Jepherson's car.

Stuart quickly got out of the car, after which he walked to Raeleigh and said politely, "Miss Anson, please."

Raeleigh took a look at the people around her, who were looking on, and then she walked over.

The door was opened and Stuart invited Raeleigh to get into the car. Raeleigh turned around and took a look at Scarlett. Bending over, she got into the car.

Scarlett initially intended to get into the same car as well, but before she could step closer, the man outside the car, Stuart, said, "Sorry, Young Master Harvey is getting changed. Miss Scarlett, please take the other car."

She raised her head and narrowed her eyes at Stuart. Alright!

She turned around and strode over to the other car, which was coming over to her. Then, she bent down and got into the car.

Stuart then got into the car. By that time, Jepherson was done changing his clothes and was sitting in the car and reading from a notebook.

Closing the book, Jepherson raised his head and asked, "Is there any other special arrangement for today?"

"There are none."

"Tell the Old Madam that I have something to do and cannot go back for dinner today. I'll be back tomorrow," Jepherson immediately ordered. Raeleigh looked at Jepherson with her dark eyes thoughtfully for a while.

"Where are you going to take me?" Raeleigh had to go back to school the next day, which was why she had to leave one day earlier, as the travelling distance was very far. Even by car, it would take two hours.

Why would Jepherson appear?

"I need to go out for a bit today. I don't have a female companion. Since you have nothing to do, keep me company for a while and I'll have you back by tomorrow morning and it won't affect your plans." Jepherson's tone was calm, as if they were an old couple who had been together for many years. Raeleigh frowned. What was Jepherson's intention?

All of a sudden, the car was silent. Raeleigh lowered her head and subconsciously fixed her eyes on the bracelet on her wrist. "What did Jepherson want to do?"

"I still have something to do at eight o'clock tomorrow. Are you sure you can send me back by eight o'clock tomorrow morning?" Raeleigh finally compromised. On one hand, she couldn't argue with Jepherson. On the other hand, even if she had tried to argue her way out of this, she wouldn't be able to win over him, and this really was the key factor.

Jepherson smiled thinly and said, "Alright." Then, he turned his face to the side and elegantly crossed his legs and affixed his hands on his thighs, his gaze focusing on the road outside the window. He looked relaxed and free from all desire, that Raeleigh, who had been staring, had him go into a little daze.

Raeleigh had seen a lot of elegant men, but it was the first time she'd seen someone of Jepherson's age being able to achieve such natural elegance.

A book was placed beside Jepherson. Raeleigh was slightly stunned when she saw the signature on it. It was the signature of one of Germany's top car designers and it was an artistic collectible item. It had been said that there were only ten of such copies in the whole world and that its price was invaluable.

Raeleigh sat there for a while, her eyes fixed on the diary.

"Can I have a look?" Raeleigh finally decided to break the silence and requested.

The corners of Jepherson's lips curled into a smile. From the clean and elegant side of his face, he seemed to be a beautiful sculpture, reflecting the beauty of the contours of his features.

Jepherson slowly turned around and glanced at the book next to him. "It's a gift for you!"

Raeleigh froze for a moment. "You're gifting it to me?"

"What's wrong? You don't want it?" Jepherson's thin lips moved. The love in his eyes caused the temperature in the car to rise.

Raeleigh was speechless for a moment. Raeleigh might not care for other things, but she had been dreaming about this design book for a long time. She had thought about it more than once. If she could become a famous car designer before the age of 40, then the first thing she would do was to visit Germany and go to this deceased designer's grave to pay her respects and offer her thanks for his contribution.

However, dreams were always too far away. They were so distant that she didn't dare to dream about them. Perhaps, it was a dream that would never be realized.

So, she told herself, "It's okay, don't worry. If I can't do it in 40 years, then I'll spend the rest of my life trying to achieve it!"

But she hadn't expected that such a dream would come true. In an instant, the diary was in front of her, giving her a chance to take a look at it.

Raeleigh thought for a moment and said, "Let me have a look. I will give it back to you afterwards."

"Take it." Jepherson suddenly picked up the book and put it in Raeleigh's hand. The book seemed to have claws and firmly grabbed at Raeleigh's heart.

She looked at Jepherson and said, "Let me have a look. I'll return it to you after I finish."

Jepherson turned his face away, crossed his legs, and calmly looked outside. This stone was hard enough. It seemed that he had to prepare well for a long battle.

Thinking about this, Jepherson lowered his eyes and smiled.

Raeleigh did not notice this. Stuart however did and it scared him as he thought, "What was their young master doing? What was he fantasizing about? About it?"

Sensing that someone was spying on him, Jepherson turned his head languidly and caught Stuart peeping at him. Stuart was so scared that his face turned pale, and he quickly turned back to the front, redirecting his attention to the traffic ahead.

“Get off,” Jepherson suddenly said. The driver stopped the car steadily by the side of the road. Stuart pushed the door open and got off. He closed the door and the chauffeur drove away.

Raeleigh had been looking at the book when the car stopped. She raised her head and saw Stuart getting out of the car. When Raeleigh realized what had happened, the car had already left.

Raeleigh looked back in a hurry. Meanwhile, Stuart stood rooted to the spot, his eyes fixed on their car. He stood there like that until the other car behind stopped for him and picked him up.

Raeleigh was at a loss, and looked at Jepherson in a strange way. However, Jepherson had already turned his face to look at the outside of the car, which further confused Raeleigh.

After looking at him for a while, Raeleigh lowered her head and continued to look at the book in her hand, not wanting to meddle with his affairs.

Raeleigh liked the book very much and looked at it all the way. When the car stopped, she was still looking at it. Time had passed by without her noticing it.

Raeleigh stopped and took a look outside the car but she did not stir. But then, she looked at the people zooming in and out, the cars passing by, as well as the huge billboards, and she knew that they had arrived at the airport.

“Where are we going?” When Raeleigh asked, Stuart had opened the door from the outside. Jepherson then got out of the car. He did not leave with Raeleigh, but walked into the airport first.

Chapter 858

The car pulled away and a person appeared and stood in front of Raeleigh. She said politely, “Miss Anson, if you please.”

Raeleigh felt a little strange, but she had gotten out of the car anyway and went outside.

When she went into the airport, Raeleigh only saw Scarlett and two other people. She did not see Jepherson.

Scarlett rushed to Raeleigh and stood in front of her asking, “What’s going on?”

“You don’t have to worry. We’ll be fine.” Raeleigh could only say so then. She had no idea what exactly Jepherson planned to do.

Soon, someone brought over plane tickets for Raeleigh and Scarlett. They were assigned to sit next to each other. Raeleigh and Scarlett were escorted to the plane, and then the other people left, one after another.

Halfway through, someone invited Scarlett to another seat. Shortly after, Jepherson came from the first class cabin and sat beside Raeleigh.

Raeleigh was reading the book. She raised her head to have a look. She was not surprised to see Jepherson sitting beside her. If it were someone else, then she would have been surprised.

Raeleigh had been looking at the book for quite some time then, but she was still absorbed in it.

Jepherson did not disturb her. Instead, he was focused more on Raeleigh's expression.

After a short break, the plane started its descent and Jepherson pressed his hands against Raeleigh's ears, covering them as she looked up at him. It was Raeleigh's first time on a plane. She didn't know anything and didn't pay attention to the noise. Jepherson's action was a little sudden. When she looked up, she saw that Jepherson was smiling at her. She wanted to push Jepherson's hand away, but she didn't. Instead, she quietened down.

After the plane landed, the sound disappeared. Jepherson took his hands away from Raeleigh's ears and he then smiled.

She didn't like the fact that he smiled at her. When a man smiled at her, she wouldn't like it. Since it was Jepherson, she disliked it even more.

Jepherson got up from his seat and simply packed up Raeleigh's stuff. Then, he took Raeleigh's hand and left the plane.

When they got off the plane, Raeleigh heard the people around her talking about one thing, how handsome Jepherson looked and how elegant his movements were.

Looking at the people around her, Raeleigh wanted to ignore them, but she couldn't do anything since they kept talking about her.

Outside the airport, there was a car waiting for them. Raeleigh followed Jepherson out of the airport and went straight into the car. The chauffeur drove them away. Raeleigh then knew that this was a small town next to the coast. Although the town was not big, it was already considered as a first-class city, so it was still very prosperous.

Inside the car, Jepherson began to read the information. It was said that he was going to an orphanage to find someone.

"What has the other party said?" Jepherson was then acting like a bossy president. He had a cold and unpredictable expression, deep and quiet eyes, and his whole body was emitting a serious aura. Even Raeleigh, who wasn't paying much attention to him, could feel that his aura was different from before.

"I have already contacted him and the director has called." Stuart, who was in the front seat, answered quickly.

Jepherson turned his face away. The calm on his handsome face was swept away and replaced with coldness. Raeleigh stared at Jepherson's eyes with the light of the setting sun outside the window. She saw a touch of pain in his eyes.

Raeleigh didn't know if it was an illusion. She looked down for a while to check the bracelet in her hand. At that time, the car passed by several busy streets and finally stopped in front of a very remote suburban agency.

When Raeleigh got out of the car and saw the sign in front of the door, she froze for a moment. "Isn't this an orphanage?"

At that time, some people stood in front of the gate of the orphanage. The old dean, who had seen Jepherson, rushed out to greet him. Jepherson said, "Madam Bennett, there's no need for the pleasantries."

Madam Bennett?

Raeleigh looked at the person opposite her. The director of her orphanage also had the family name of Bennett.

What a coincidence!

"Mr. Harvey, welcome. With the money you have donated to our orphanage, we believe that it will help more children improve their lives. It really is us who should thank you. And to think that we had to trouble you to come all the way here to see us, we really don't know how to thank you for all this."

"No, madam, you are too polite. Charity has always been something that my parents are keen on. We also hope that there will be more children who will get well taken care of and have access to better logistics."

"But this time, I have a favor to ask, and I hope you can help me."

"Are you referring to the person you were looking for?" The dean had already been notified, so she had already prepared the relevant information.

"Yes."

"Mr. Harvey, please come with me." The director led them and soon, Raeleigh and Jepherson found themselves inside the orphanage.

As they walked in, Raeleigh stared blankly at the things in the orphanage, which reminded her of many things.

"Here is the list of all the children who have been here at this orphanage since I took over its management. Here it is. Mr. Harvey, please have a look." The director took out two heavy books and put them on the table in the dean's office, inviting Jepherson to have a look.

There were not many people in the director's office at that time. There were only the director and assistant director, Jepherson, Raeleigh, and Stuart.

Jepherson sat at one side. He opened the book and read it from the beginning to the end. He finished the whole book.

Rubbing his eyes, Jepherson began to read the second book.

When Jepherson finished reading the second book, there was a trace of loss in his eyes, and then he hid it.

"Sorry to have troubled you, but the person I am looking for is not here." Jepherson handed the book to the director. The director nodded and said, "If there is anything we can help with, then please let us know and we will try our best to help you. There's one other thing. Today, the children in our orphanage

prepared a performance for you. They hope you can stay to watch them perform and leave after having dinner.”

By that time, it was already dusk. If they were to leave then, then they would have to waste quite a bit of time.

Jepherson glanced outside. “In that case, I’m sorry I’ll have to trouble you, Madam Bennett.

“No trouble at all. Let’s go.”

The director went to the door and invited Jepherson and Raeleigh to watch the children’s performance.

The show was performed in the courtyard of the orphanage. The place was decorated with lanterns and streamers. Raeleigh accompanied Jepherson at the front seats. There were two children who gave them flower wreaths. It was a very lively scene.

After the show ended, they had dinner in the yard. The children were all waiting in an orderly fashion for dinner. Raeleigh looked at the children and thought of herself when she was a child.

After dinner, Raeleigh and Jepherson went to take a rest. The dean arranged two rooms, but Jepherson still stayed over in Raeleigh’s room.

The room itself was not spacious, and the conditions in the orphanage were limited. It was impossible for everyone to have a big room.

The rooms that were allocated to Raeleigh and Jepherson were specially prepared for donors to have a short rest. So, it was not spacious. It was just a room to rest in.

But that day...

Raeleigh stood in the room and looked around. In such a small room, it was a good place for one person, but it would be crowded if there was one more person. Besides, it was not appropriate for them, being unmarried, if they were to stay in a room together.

Chapter 859

“Aren’t there two rooms?” Raeleigh asked him, standing by the bed, when she saw that Jepherson had no intention of leaving at all.

“The weather seems downcast. The orphanage is located in a cold, damp place with thick trees surrounding it. It may be cold when we sleep at night. I’m not used to it,” Jepherson said. He then sat on the bed. He took off his shoes and lay on the bed without taking off his clothes.

Raeleigh didn’t understand. Jepherson’s response didn’t answer her question. She said there were two rooms. He said that he couldn’t sleep well, and he would feel cold at night.

“If you’re really cold, then you can cover yourself with more blankets. It’s still summer, so it’s not going to be all that cold.”

“There are rats here,” Jepherson added.

“I’m not afraid of rats.”

"I'm scared!" Jepherson looked at Raeleigh. He spoke carelessly. It didn't sound like he was afraid, but his eyes were focused and serious.

Raeleigh was speechless for a moment.

Was there a man who was afraid of rats?

He had said it in such a frank tone.

"If you want company, then get Stuart to come in here."

"Do you think that is appropriate?" Jepherson asked. Raeleigh was left speechless by his question.

So, it was inappropriate for Stuart to sleep with him in the same room but not her?

Thinking of this, there were only the two of them. Raeleigh also knew that it was going to be impossible to refuse Jepherson. Since he had brought her here, it meant that he would have a way to make her give in finally.

Raeleigh hesitated for a moment and went to the bathroom. After she came out, she went to get some rest.

"We must set a boundary. Nobody is allowed to touch the other person," Raeleigh said and lay down. They were both dressed. It was not like they had never been alone, so there shouldn't be a problem.

Jepherson closed his eyes and didn't say anything. Raeleigh regarded it as a tacit agreement.

After turning off the lights, the floor was bathed in the moonlight. Raeleigh did not cover herself with the quilt, so Jepherson did it for her instead and she felt tensed all over her body. Though she knew that he wouldn't do anything, she was still nervous.

"Do you have any sports that you like in particular?" With his eyes closed, Jepherson asked in a soft voice. Raeleigh didn't relax until she thought that he was about to fall asleep.

"I neither have any sports that I like, nor do I like exercising." Raeleigh did not lie. She was telling the truth.

"I like sports."

Raeleigh glanced at Jepherson. She didn't ask, so why did he offer an answer?

"I have many interests, like running, basketball, swimming, and so on." Raeleigh did not ask, but Jepherson once again volunteered this personal information.

...

At first, Raeleigh couldn't fall asleep, but she became sleepy as she listened. It was not because she wasn't interested in it, but because she didn't want to hear it.

Raeleigh intended to close her eyes and listen, but then she fell asleep.

In the morning, a Rhys of sunshine woke Raeleigh up. She did not know if she had slept in too late or if it was too warm. When she was fully awake, it was already past six o'clock.

Opening her eyes, Raeleigh froze.

This was...

Raeleigh looked down. She was actually holding Jepherson, who was lying down flat on his back. Although Jepherson too was holding her hand, the position was in such a way that it was her who was holding him in her arms.

Raeleigh didn't dare to move. She withdrew her hands away gently, blushed, got out of bed, put on her shoes, and left the room first.

Closing the door, Jepherson slowly opened his eyes. She was truly like a rock.

With a smile, the haze of Jepherson's sleepless night was finally lifted. He closed his eyes and was about to rest. However, because of his promise the day before, he got up and sat up.

Raeleigh stood in the orphanage, watching the children who were washing up in the morning. They lined up and stood at the edge of the sink. Then, the running tap brought back a scene from a memory ten years ago.

"Miss Anson, are you up?" the director said to Raeleigh, but Raeleigh didn't hear her. The director saw that she was in a daze and did not go forward to disturb her. Jepherson came out of the room and the director went to talk to him instead.

"Miss Anson seems to like children very much."

"Right, all women like children." Jepherson talked with the dean for a while. When Raeleigh came to her senses, she did not know what had happened. She walked over and stopped in front of Jepherson.

"We agreed to go back today." Raeleigh knew that Jepherson came here because he had something to do, but she also had her own things to deal with as well.

"I know." Jepherson looked at the director and said, "When I go back, I will discuss it further with my parents, to donate another sum for buying more books and some entertainment facilities, so that the children can live here without worry and they don't need to worry about having to leave the orphanage so soon."

"We are really grateful for your help." The director's gratitude was beyond words. After all, everyone liked to go to the auctions to donate to charity. Who still remembered to give the money directly to the orphanage?

From the way Jepherson did this, it was obvious that he was a happy and kind person.

It was eight o'clock by the time Raeleigh and the entourage had breakfast, and only then did Jepherson take Raeleigh out of the orphanage. Then, just as they arrived at the airport, before they could enter the airport, there was lightning and thunder outside. Soon, heavy rain poured down from the skies. It was difficult to get out of the car, let alone get on the plane to fly back.

Raeleigh kept her eyes fixed outside, showing no anxiety on her face, but she was actually slightly worried in her heart. It wasn't a big problem even if they couldn't go back at that time, since even if she

got back, there wouldn't be time for her to do anything. Besides, buying the tickets would take some time too and even after that, it was not guaranteed that the planes would be allowed to take off.

Even if they could get on a plane, it would take time for the plane to reach the destination, and from the airport, they needed time to commute to the university as well. Calculating all these factors in, by the time they got back, it would already be dark.

But the car had closed circulation system, and there were four people in the car then. If they continued on just waiting about here, then there would soon be a lack of oxygen in the car.

Raeleigh looked outside the car. It was raining heavily, so they could barely see anything outside, let alone get out of the car.

"Let's see how the weather is." Jepherson glanced at the time. He still did not want to break his promise.

He hoped that she knew that he was not a person who did not keep to his promises.

Stuart took a look at the weather on the flat screen display and turned to look at Jepherson. "We may not be able to go back today. The rainfall today is estimated at an average of more than 80 millimeters."

Raeleigh fixed her eyes on Stuart. She thought to herself, "There lies the difference in classy goods. They possessed all sorts of detailed information such as this."

"Let's go to the hotel." Jepherson knew that it was impossible for the rain to stop so soon. Since it would not stop, then they might as well not waste any more time.

The driver took a look outside and made sure that he could drive away. Then, he started the car and drove to the front.

Not long after, the car stopped at the entrance of a hotel. The man got out of the car and went out in the rain. He took out the raincoats and opened the door to ask Jepherson to get off.

Stuart had thoughtfully prepared two umbrellas, one which he used for himself, and the other he used to cover Jepherson. Before getting out of the car, Jepherson had already taken off his outer coat. He took the umbrella and Stuart stepped aside, continuing to shield him. Jepherson bent over and looked into the car where Raeleigh was still seated. Raeleigh on the other hand, had clutched the book tightly to her chest. She didn't mind getting drenched, but she was worried about the book getting wet.

Stuart didn't know what to say. He was willing to hold the umbrella and shield Jepherson because he was employed to serve and watch after Jepherson. Jepherson was willing to give his umbrella to Raeleigh because he cared for her and loved her. But Raeleigh, she only cared about the book. Stuart pitied Jepherson because the girl he had been pursuing for such a long time remained unmoved.

Even if her heart was made of stone, shouldn't it have been melted or even warmed up by then? How was it that her icy heart could not turn mellow?

Chapter 860

When Raeleigh got out of the car, Jepherson immediately held her in his arms. He undid his coat that he had taken off and wrapped Raeleigh in his arms. She raised her head and looked at him, but Jepherson could not be bothered. He held Raeleigh in his arms and walked into the hotel. Except for her feet,

Raeleigh was not wet at all when they walked into the hotel. On the contrary, it was Jepherson himself, whose shoulders were totally covered in rain water. The rest of his body too was drenched.

“Master Harvey, don’t catch a cold. Let’s go to the room first.” Stuart couldn’t afford it if Jepherson were to fall ill. Stuart rushed Jepherson to the hotel room. Jepherson held Raeleigh in his arms and walked to the door of the elevator. Stuart had already arranged for someone to come over. He had already obtained the room card. At the door of the elevator, someone was waiting for Jepherson.

When he reached the door, Stuart quickly took the room card and followed him into the elevator.

It wasn’t until he stepped into the elevator that he let Raeleigh go. He didn’t care about the dampness on his shoulder. Instead, he lowered his head and found that Raeleigh had taken out her hand to check the book. She didn’t soak the book in her hand and felt relieved.

With a smile, Jepherson looked at the door of the elevator. Maybe marriage was a tomb, but as someone said, it was better than the dead bodies in the wilderness that did not even have a tomb.

Stuart didn’t know what had happened to the young master. His temperament was getting weirder and weirder recently, and he was often smiling without thinking.

However, after having learnt his lesson previously, Stuart didn’t dare to look at them again that time.

After coming out of the elevator, Jepherson stepped out first. Raeleigh then followed him out, holding the book in her hand, as if it was a priceless treasure.

Stuart led the way and went to the door of the room which he had booked for Jepherson and Raeleigh. He opened the door and pushed it open.

“Young Master, Miss Anson, please.” Stuart stood at the door. Jepherson raised his hand and took the room card. Then, he followed Raeleigh into the room.

When they entered the door, Jepherson took off her coat and put it aside. Her shirt was clean.

Jepherson took off his shoes and put on the hotel slippers, after which he went straight into the bathroom.

Not long after, Raeleigh heard the sound of running water coming from the bathroom. Raeleigh looked at herself and found that she was not wet at all.

Raeleigh put down the book and changed her shoes. Then, she picked up the book and walked into the room. She sat there, leaning against the couch. Feeling the coldness of her feet, she folded her feet up under her on the couch and huddled up.

Raeleigh couldn’t remember when it happened. The temperature of her hands and feet was different. Her hands were warmer than her feet, but they were not very hot.

However, with poor circulation at her feet, when winter came and the weather dropped to freezing temperatures, her feet would be ice-cold to the touch. This was especially so on those winter days when no matter how many layers one wore, one would still feel a bit chilly.

Raeleigh curled up. When Jepherson came out of the bathroom, he saw Raeleigh reading on the couch. He did not disturb her. He made a phone call and called for room service. After he hung up the phone, Jepherson, who was wearing a bathrobe, walked over to Raeleigh's side and sat quietly beside her.

Raeleigh forgot where she was and was used to folding her legs against herself tightly.

Jepherson looked at Raeleigh's small feet. They were pale and clean like lotus roots. They were very thin and did not look big enough to be held in one's palms.

The bathrobe worn by Jepherson was specially prepared by the hotel for the guests. In such a hotel where only rich people could stay, anything prepared was carefully selected and strictly supervised.

Although Jepherson had a fear for germs, he didn't reject the bathrobe in this hotel. He didn't like to expose his bare back in front of anybody, unlike those exhibitionists who enjoyed putting their bodies on display. Even when he was swimming in an outdoor pool, he could only swim smoothly when there was no one around.

Jepherson looked at Raeleigh's tight little feet, which looked very cold.

Jepherson raised his hand and took off his bathrobe. He held Raeleigh's foot and withdrew his hand. He hesitated for a moment and he then looked at Raeleigh, as if he was scared.

Raeleigh blushed and withdrew her foot. "What are you doing?"

"Why are your feet so cold?" This a strange question, coming from Jepherson.

Raeleigh pursed her lips and said nothing. She was like a woman who wanted to take advantage of others but had not succeeded. However, she had to find a legitimate excuse to say something. What else could she have said?

Raeleigh thought for a moment. "My feet have been like this since I was a kid."

Jepherson frowned deeply. "The weather now is not very warm but it's not cold enough to justify the temperature of your feet. Why don't you have it checked out?"

Raeleigh remained silent as she felt a little helpless. Only rich people could ask such a question.

It used to be that even having a meal would break the bank, what more going to the doctors? Besides, this sort of problem was not unheard of. Many women's bodies are like that and her grandmother had told her that it was common for women's hands and feet to freeze easily. However, her grandmother had also mentioned that Raeleigh should get it checked out. It was just that Raeleigh was unwilling to spend money on something minor like this.

"I'm fine. You don't have to worry about me." Raeleigh didn't want to say more, and continued to resist.

Jepherson touched Raeleigh's hand and tried to feel her body temperature. Raeleigh wanted to take it back but he held it tightly. She didn't budge and her face turned a little red.

"You can read while I will warm you up." When Jepherson spoke, Raeleigh didn't say anything. He had already held her cold feet and put them in his arms.

When Raeleigh's feet touched Jepherson's warm chest, she couldn't help shrinking. However, Jepherson held her feet tightly and pressed them to his chest instead of letting them go.

Raeleigh blushed suddenly. How could a woman put her foot in a man's arms?

"Don't be like this, I don't..." When Raeleigh spoke, Jepherson held her other foot and put it in his arms. Since he was in a bathrobe, she looked like a baby, with both her feet in Jepherson's arms.

Raeleigh's face turned redder. "Doesn't he dislike being dirty?"

Looking at Jepherson, he clearly looked like a person who had a phobia of anything unclean.

Raeleigh pursed her lips, and her face turned as red as fire and she could not read the book anymore.

Jepherson breathed heavily again and again, and his chest began to rise and fall.

Raeleigh put down the book and tried to pull Jepherson away, but he said, "Read your book. I'll be alright in a moment. I'm in the middle of something here. Don't disturb me and be a good girl. Otherwise, you'll have to bear the consequences."

Raeleigh went rigid for a moment and did not respond. It was also the first time that she had encountered such a situation. She did not know how to deal with it.

Jepherson made it sound like she was being naughty, like she was torturing him, but she had done nothing.

Raeleigh gradually calmed down and watched her feet that were placed in his arms. Maybe in this world, there were people with abnormal personalities who liked to do some incredibly weird things. If one blindly entangled oneself with them, then one's life would be difficult for.

Raeleigh calmed herself down and she then picked up her book, concentrating as hard as she could on it, not caring about her feet that were apparently not her concern anymore.

Jepherson put Raeleigh's feet in his arms and wrapped them with his clothes. Then, he reached out for his phone with his free arm and gave Paige a call.