

Go After 891

Chapter 891

Jepherson left the Cole family and returned to the Harvey Group Manor. The first thing he did on the way was to call Raeleigh.

Raeleigh froze instinctively when she answered the phone, nipping to the bathroom. After that, Jepherson sent a text message to Raeleigh.

The content was very simple: "Everything is in order."

Raeleigh did not reply. She felt that there was no need for her to reply him. Holding the phone, Jepherson looked out of the window with satisfaction, the expression of a young man who did not know worry.

Stuart sat in front of him and asked, "Mr. Jepherson, are you sure we don't need to tell anyone about this?"

"Stop meddling." Jepherson glanced at Stuart, his eyes full of contempt and impatience. He shifted his gaze away and continued to stare out of the window.

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Raeleigh came out of the bathroom and noticed that Scarlettte was standing outside the door, waiting for her turn. When she saw Raeleigh coming out, she hurried in.

Raeleigh could only shake her head, then went to the other side of the bed, lifted the quilt, and sat down on the bed.

Raeleigh was an introvert. When others did not speak, Raeleigh could remain silent all the time. Even if others did, Raeleigh would make still her appearance inconspicuous.

This was different from other girls. Scarlettte loved to mess around with Deanna. On the other hand, Raeleigh was not like them, as she spent most of her time reading. It was as if there was a treasure in her book. When Raeleigh read, she could be immersed in it for a long time. If no one disturbed her, she would be able to read without a care for the world.

Zorion was not a person who liked to mess around, and Deanna's character was just the polar opposite of his. There were very few people they had come into contact with since childhood. As Deanna liked to play, Zorion would accompany her. Deanna now had a new friend, Scarlettte. Hence, she had long ignored Zorion.

Zorion leaned on the bed, looking at Raeleigh. Raeleigh also felt that he was looking at her, and very intently at that. Nonetheless, she did not want to pay attention to it because she could not do much about it.

It was time for dinner. Someone knocked on the door of the ward. Zorion stood up and walked toward the door. When he opened the door, Raeleigh also looked up.

Zorion moved a little. The maid pushed the multi-layered cart into the room from the door. Raeleigh put down the book in her hand and got out of the quilt. When she got down from the bed and took a look at it, she helped out.

“Let me do it,” Raeleigh said, as she was going to push the cart. Then, Zorion chimed in, “It’s ok. You stay put. You shouldn’t be using your hand much.”

Raeleigh took a look at her bandaged hand. “It’s all right now. My hand has begun to recover these two days. It’s a little itchy inside.”

The purpose of Raeleigh’s words was to make Zorion feel assured. On the contrary, Zorion’s handsome face showed a trace of worry. He let go of the cart in his hand, took Raeleigh’s wrist, and examined it. Then, he knitted his eyebrows tightly. “Does it hurt?”

Raeleigh shook her head. “It’s ok. It might be lipoma.”

“Lipoma?”

Zorion did not understand the correlation between lipoma and it being itchy. He looked down at Raeleigh’s mummified hand, with the bandages and all, then turned around and ordered, “Call the doctor.”

Raeleigh froze for a while and followed him to the door. “Let’s have our meal first. There’s no need for us to go. My hand is fine.”

“We’ll be more at ease if we check it out. We can eat later.” Zorion was not very hungry. He turned to Raeleigh and asked, “Are you hungry?”

Raeleigh shook her head. She did not do anything all day. How could she be hungry?

Their breakfast was at seven o’clock. It seemed that all she did was eat, and she could have gained two pounds in the past two days.

Raeleigh knew that Zorion’s family background was good. However, she did not expect that it was so good that several chefs would prepare their meals every day.

Raeleigh could not imagine how Zorion and Deanna would react when they saw her life with Novalie. Moreover, she could not imagine what their world would be like.

“Zorion, is the food here?” Deanna had just gone to the bathroom with Scarlett. After washing her hands, she saw a cart and hurried over. She had been messing around with Scarlett the whole day, so she was hungry. Sometimes, she would feel hungry again after eating, unlike Raeleigh, who always sat quietly reading books. It would be strange if she did not gain any weight.

“It’s not just food. It’s a proper meal,” Zorion corrected Deanna. He thought that the way she said it makes it sounds inelegant..

Deanna stuck out her tongue and wanted to start eating.

“Why are the both of you standing at the door?” Seeing that Zorion and Raeleigh were walking out, Deanna was full of curiosity.

“It’s nothing. You both can eat first. You can go too.” Zorion pointed in the direction of the dining cart with his chin, indicating that Raeleigh and Deanna were going to have dinner together. Raeleigh stood at the door without moving.

Although Zorion was the same age as Raeleigh, as an elder brother, he had a glorious mannerism like an adult. In fact, Raeleigh appreciated people like Zorion very much. He was responsible and reliable.

“I’ll wait with you, or you can accompany me there.” It was time for their meal. Zorion stood at the door of the ward waiting for doctors, which made Raeleigh feel sorry for Deanna.

They were neither relatives nor friends, so there was no need to.

“Where are you going?” Whenever Deanna heard anything, she would ask for clarification.

Raeleigh turned around and looked at Deanna. “My hand itches a little. It seems to be a lipoma. I want to visit the doctor to have it checked.”

“Can’t you eat first?” Deanna looked at Raeleigh with her big watery eyes. There was no doubt that she was innocent.

Raeleigh felt happy and wanted to laugh whenever she saw Deanna. She did not know why, but she would always be in a good mood when she saw her. Perhaps it was because Deanna was harmless by nature. People whom Raeleigh had met since her childhood were so calculative and scheming. It seemed that as long as they were human, and as long as she knew them, everyone would approach her with a purpose. As such, Raeleigh would rather know no one. That was why she did not have any friends. As for those people, she kept a respectful distance from them.

Zorion glanced at the two people in the room. “Wait for us. We’ll be back soon.”

“Okay, let’s leave some food. We won’t eat too much,” Deanna answered obediently, but she was famished.

“No, just eat. I’ll take Raeleigh out to eat.” On the one hand, Zorion was worried that Deanna was reluctant to eat; on the other hand, he wanted to go out for a walk.

He was always cooped up in the hospital, and it was taking a toll on his mental health even though he felt fine physically.

Raeleigh’s character was different from Deanna and Scarlett’s: She was too quiet.

Zorion intended to take Raeleigh out for a walk.

Deanna replied with an understanding expression, and her big eyes rolled around.

If it were during normal times, Deanna would make a fuss and tag along. After all, the Atkinson family’s siblings were like conjoined twins: They would definitely be together as they walked in and out.

This time around, Deanna sat down and uttered, “I’m a little sleepy. I’ll go to bed after the meal. You both can go ahead. By the way, send two more people to protect me.”

“Then, I’ll go with Raeleigh.” Scarlett could see through Deanna’s mind, which was all the more reason why she could not give Zorion the chance.

Chapter 892

Jepherson was not there, so Scarlettte could not allow Zorion to succeed especially when she had not yet been punished for Raeleigh getting injured. If anything bad happened again, she would definitely be in big trouble.

“There’s no need for that. We’ll come back right after we’ve seen the doctor.” Raeleigh did not intend to eat out. She did not take Zorion up on his offer. The fact of the matter was, she really did not want to eat out with him.

Facing Zorion, Raeleigh was stressed out. She really did not want to go.

Zorion did not press on the matter, and turned around to walk away. While striding away, he ordered, “Call me if there’s trouble. Take good care of Miss Deanna. She is not to leave the ward. Keep your guard up against anyone nearby.”

“Yes, Mr. Zorion.”

That attitude was nothing new. If Zorion was not by Deanna’s side, he will fret particularly about anything happening to her.

Raeleigh trailed behind Zorion. She could not care less about going out for food. Neither was she nervous that anything would happen to Deanna.

First, they went to the doctors, who had gathered around to deal with Zorion. After all, the sum of money involved was huge, and Zorion had brought so many people with him. It seemed to them that he was using his wealth to pressure them.

The hospital was still extremely concerned and afraid of people like him!

When Zorion pushed the door open, the doctors got up one after another. They felt anxious for some reason when they saw him. Even though their country once colonized Tamberland, and most citizens looked down on Tamberland citizens, an imposing air radiated from that young man, subconsciously humbling them,

Zorion entered and stood inside the room. One by one, all the doctors stood up.

The doctor facing Zorion immediately asked, “Mr. Atkinson, is there anything we can do for you?”

“Didn’t my subordinates show up?” Zorion questioned, standing face-to-face with the doctor.

Raeleigh stood behind him. She saw the terror in the doctors’ eyes. It was evident that they were scared of Zorion.

“Yes, they did. We are currently making preparations,” answered the doctor immediately. Zorion took a look at him and curtly replied, “There’s no need for preparations. I’ve brought her here, so you guys check her out. Let me know if you need our cooperation on any issue.”

Raeleigh raised her head and looked at the handsome Zorion. He exuded the charm of a natural-born leader. It was as though he was royalty, and wherever he went, people should kneel at his feet.

The doctors glanced around. One of them stepped forward to Raeleigh and asked politely, "Excuse me, is there any discomfort in your hand?"

The doctor was a little distressed. Raeleigh's condition was easy to deal with under normal circumstances. They just needed to restore it back to usual. However, at present, Raeleigh's hand could not be operated on again. If anything occurred to her hand, they could do nothing.

"I'm fine. It's just that the area that was operated on feels a little itchy, so we came over to ask what's going on," Raeleigh spoke fluently in the country's native language. It elicited a smile from the doctor, as though he was just granted amnesty. He told her, "That's a normal symptom. The itchy feeling indicates that the area is healing. If it continues that way, we can remove the stitches in a few days."

"Is that so?" Raeleigh asked.

"Yes."

"Mr. Atkinson, you can rest assured that Miss Anson's hand will make a full recovery soon." The doctor went to explain to Zorion, who then glanced at Raeleigh. Zorion asked, "Is there anything that we need to observe?"

"As long as she follows our advice to avoid certain foods, that will be all."

"I see. Let's go then." Turning around, Zorion left the doctors' office and went out with his lackeys.

After leaving the room, Zorion walked towards the elevator. Raeleigh's ward was in the opposite direction from the elevator. Zorion obviously did not intend to go back there. Following behind him, Raeleigh asked, "Do you really want to eat out?"

"I've made arrangements. You don't want to?" Zorion turned around and asked. His eyes were long and almond-shaped, accentuated with thick, black lashes. When he looked downwards, his lashes lidded his eyes perfectly. When he looked upwards, they formed a striking, deep accent to his eyes, making them look even more beautiful.

Raeleigh stared at Zorion. In fact, she did not want to go at all. She replied, "I want to go back to the ward and eat. With that amount of food, Deanna and Scarlett can't finish it. Besides, you brought along so many people just to have a meal. It's really unnecessary. This place is also really far from any eatery. It will take some time to go there and back here again. We should eat here."

After Raeleigh finished what she had to say, she turned around and went back. Her words were not to negotiate with Zorion. They were to inform him that it did not matter to her if she ate in the hospital or at an eatery outside.

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Scarlette was a glutton. When Zorion was around, she certainly could not eat as much as she wanted. However, after Zorion left, Deanna ate without a care in the world. Hence, Scarlette also joined in to eat to her heart's content. In the end, both of them finished the food.

Deanna had just exited the bathroom. Looking at Zorion and Raeleigh, her expression was bewildered. "Why are you back? Have you eaten?"

Zorion did not speak. His gaze landed on Raeleigh. Raeleigh knew that he was doing it on purpose, but it did not ruffle her.

"We didn't eat. We wanted to come back and eat with you, but you didn't wait for us. You even finished the food." Raeleigh glanced at the cart pointedly.

Deanna did not feel the slightest bit embarrassed. After all, if one was hungry, they had to eat their fill.

"Then you should go and eat out with Zorion. We're resting now. Zorion, I want some fruit, so get some for me," Deanna said. Zorion smiled and agreed amiably. Deanna pushed the cart towards the door, waiting for Raeleigh and Zorion to leave.

Raeleigh thought for a moment and took her mobile phone and wallet. Zorion waited a while at the door before they went out for dinner.

When they stepped out of the hospital, the car designated for Zorion had already arrived at the doorstep. A man in black opened the door. Raeleigh bent down and got in first, followed by Zorion.

Upon entering the car, Zorion ordered, "Go downtown."

"Yes, Mr. Zorion." Raeleigh noticed that the driver and the car were both the same as before.

Raeleigh frowned. It seemed that they had sent their own local car abroad.

Just how rich was Zorion's family?

The car drove smoothly to the location requested by Zorion. When it arrived, the car door was opened for them. Zorion walked out and looked at Raeleigh. Upon getting off, Raeleigh realized that they were already downtown. She just wanted to eat. She did not want to spend too much time there on it.

They were led to a restaurant. Zorion walked straight into the premises, toting Raeleigh along. Besides the waiters, the place was empty.

Raeleigh stood at the door and stepped in after a long time.

It was just a meal. Why was the restaurant that grand? Did Zorion have nowhere else to spend his money?

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“Come in.” After Zorion put on his pants, he spoke from the bathroom once more. Deanna pushed the door open and went in.

Scarlette wondered if anything interesting was going on inside. She went over to try and peek, but the door was closed. No one could tell what they were discussing either, as there was no sound coming from inside.

When she heard footsteps heading towards the bathroom door, Scarlette walked back to Raeleigh’s side and sat down. Raeleigh raised her head to eye Scarlette. There was nothing that piqued her interest.

“Raeleigh, we’re going to the mall. Do you want to join us?” Deanna went out of the restroom and invited Raeleigh, who shook her head. “You guys have fun. I’ll stay in the hospital and read.”

“That can’t do. If we go out and leave you alone in the hospital, there’s no point. We might only return at night. If you come, you can roam around. Have you been here before? This city is lovely, especially at night. People fill the streets. We can share our joy with them. Unless you have none.” Deanna went on and on. Raeleigh gave it a serious thought while sitting on the bed. Evidently, Deanna wanted her to go out.

"I'm not going. I don't have anywhere I want to go to. You guys can go without me." Raeleigh vehemently refused.

Deanna shook her head and started persuading her again, "Raeleigh, you have to expand your horizons and see the world outside of Tamberland. Only then will you come up with better designs. This country is really amazing, you know."

"As I am right now, it isn't convenient for me anyway. Just go without me." Raeleigh staunchly made up her mind not to go, but Scarlett on the hand was very eager to visit the shopping mall. She wanted to get a laptop to game on as she had nothing to do. Accompanying Deanna everyday got on her nerves.

"Raeleigh, why don't we go and have a look? I want to go too," Scarlett urged Raeleigh. Raeleigh glanced at her and answered, "You should join them, Scarlett. I can take care of myself. If we all stayed here, there's nothing much we could do too, right?"

Scarlett was speechless. Whenever she proposed something to do with Raeleigh, Raeleigh would always have a retort to it.

If Raeleigh did not go, Scarlett would not dare tag along.

"Deanna, you guys go. I'll stay here and accompany Raeleigh," Scarlett murmured as she waved, looking as though she was taking the high ground.

A sense of unease twisted Raeleigh's heart. She couldn't let Scarlett stay with a clear conscience.

"Since it's come to that, I'll go too." Raeleigh got out of bed. Deanna immediately cheered up. She had been waiting for Raeleigh to agree.

Deanna held onto Raeleigh's arm. Her wide smile made her face flush red.

Raeleigh glanced at Scarlett and said, "I'll go get dressed."

"We'll wait for you," Scarlett replied. Raeleigh loosened her arm from Deanna's grip and took a change of clothes into the bathroom. It was the same outfit as the one she wore when she arrived there.

After she went out of the bathroom, Raeleigh set the hospital attire down. Zorion took a look at her. Her appearance was nothing special. Beautiful women came in hordes; Raeleigh was not the only one. Raeleigh's most striking feature was her indifferent, calm eyes.

Her eyes were akin to a quiet pool of water, seemingly bottomless. They contained multitudes.

Turning around, Zorion walked towards the door. Deanna, carrying her bag, tugged on Raeleigh's arm and pulled her in the same direction.

Raeleigh followed Zorion and Deanna out. They got in the car and headed straight to the local city center skyscraper.

Raeleigh got out of the car and looked around. She did not like places that were too flashy, but occasionally she would stop and observe the architectural style of the area.

Standing there, Raeleigh tipped her head back to take a better look. Zorion began walking ahead of them. Deanna tugged Raeleigh along, with Scarlette trailing behind. Some men in black blended into the crowd, trying not to arouse suspicion.

When they entered the mall, Raeleigh chose to tag along with Scarlette. However, Scarlette was an avid shopper. There was nothing that she wasn't interested in. At first, Raeleigh was following along by Scarlette's side, but later on she had to look around to find her.

Deanna pointedly dragged Scarlette away from Raeleigh. Soon, Raeleigh was left alone.

She was not the only one left behind. Zorion was there with her.

Zorion followed Raeleigh all the time. Raeleigh was slightly disappointed at being left behind. She gave a helpless look at Scarlette.

Well, who was actually in charge of protecting the other?

"Do you want Scarlette to watch over you all the time?" Zorion walked beside Raeleigh. He noticed every expression contorting Raeleigh's face.

"I just want to be with Scarlette." Raeleigh thought over it and pursed her lips.

"If you lie, you'll be punished." Zorion's reminder was a little odd. Raeleigh glanced at him, but his face was expressionless as though he was dead serious.

Raeleigh did not reply. She remained quiet.

"What's your relationship with Jepherson?" Zorion asked as he walked, his hands behind his back. His handsome face attracted the attention of countless people.

It never occurred to Raeleigh that Zorion would ask her that so bluntly, but she replied in the same blunt manner, "It's not a real relationship."

"I can get my mind around the fact that he is pursuing you, since you guys are not in a real relationship. But you didn't agree to it, nor do you have the intention to agree. So you had no choice but to compromise?" Zorion's view was very objective. Raeleigh could not decline it outright. However, she did not have to reply. It was a private matter, regarding her relationship. There was no need to tell anything to a third party.

Raeleigh's silence left Zorion aloof. He stopped in front of a store selling teddy bears and picked one. He bought it and gave it to Raeleigh, saying, "Hold it."

Raeleigh looked down at the bear in her arms, thinking it was for her.

"I don't want it. You..."

"You're thinking too highly of yourself. This is for Deanna. Hold it for me." After saying that, Zorion put away his wallet and left the store. Raeleigh thought that it made her a silly spectacle. It was even more foolish that she kept holding onto it dutifully without passing it to Zorion.

Raeleigh followed Zorion all the way to the third floor.

Electronic products were sold everywhere on the third floor. Deanna was looking at a bunch of mobile phones, most of which were pink.

“Zorion, come and have a look. Which one looks best? I want to buy three. One for Raeleigh and one for Scarlett. Scarlett said she doesn’t need anything. Can’t you help me persuade her?” Deanna had actually intended to buy it for Raeleigh, which was what she and Zorion discussed in the bathroom earlier.

Raeleigh also rejected the offer. “I don’t need it.”

“Why don’t you need it? Do you think my phone isn’t good?” Deanna’s face was overcome with bitterness. She looked pitiful.

Zorion raised his hand to pinch her cheeks. “That’s enough. If you like it, then get it.”

Zorion would always let Deanna have her way. As long as she liked it, she could have it. If it were within his ability, he would fulfill any request.

Scarlette shot a glance at Raeleigh. “Raeleigh, do you want one?”

Raeleigh walked over and answered, “My phone is still usable. It will be waste to buy one for me. Deanna, don’t. Friendship is not something you buy with money.”

“Are you saying that I’m buying our friendship?” Deanna, who had looked cheerful earlier, now looked gloomy, miserable and pitiful.

“Zorion ...”

Zorion looked at Raeleigh, “Money can’t buy friendship, but it can test it.”

After he said that, Zorion glanced at the phones on the counter and selected three. “Pack them up.”

The staff nodded right away and requested Zorion to wait aside. Deanna was finally happy again. She took Raeleigh to the side as well.

“Raeleigh, we mean no harm,” Deanna explained as she walked. Raeleigh certainly knew that there was no malice in her words, but she dared not accept such an expensive thing.

“This is Scarlett’s.” Deanna gave the phone to Scarlett, who refused to accept it. She looked at Scarlett and suggested, “How about this? We’ll play rock-paper-scissors, and you take it if I win. If I lose, we’ll return it.”

Raeleigh was taken aback at how stubborn and forceful Deanna could be.

Scarlette thought for a moment, then asked, “You’ll honor your bet?”

“I never go back on my words. If you don’t believe me, just ask Zorion. Every time we bet, I always keep my promise. Zorion, you can testify to that for me.” Deanna looked at Zorion, who nodded and said, “Yes.”

Raeleigh eyed Deanna. To Deanna, perhaps Jepherson was not the most important person. It was Zorion. If she had to make a choice, Deanna would definitely choose Zorion.

“Let’s do it.” Scarlett doubted that she would lose.

Raeleigh did not say anything. She turned her attention to Scarlett’s hand. Deanna walked towards Scarlett without a care in the world. She put her little hand behind her and then declared, “Let’s get ready first. I’ll count to three and then we’ll show our hand. If you lose, you take the phone. If I lose, I will return it.”

“I don’t trust you to count. Raeleigh should be the one to do it.” Scarlett glanced at Raeleigh.

Raeleigh looked around. “Aren’t you guys not embarrassed at all for doing this in front of such a big crowd?”

“Not at all.” Deanna could not care less about appearances when she was abroad.

“You count, Raeleigh,” Scarlett urged. Raeleigh gave another glance around them. “All right, you guys get ready.”

Raeleigh was not hopeful at all. Deanna’s countenance told Raeleigh how confident she was.

“One, two, three.” Raeleigh counted steadily. Her unhurried manner made Scarlett feel that she should have let Deanna count. There was no purpose to playing like that.

As a result, Scarlett lost.

“I won. The phone is yours.” Deanna took the phone and handed it to Scarlett. Scarlett was a prideful person, so she took it.

She would honor their bet too!

“Raeleigh, it’s your turn!” Deanna turned to Raeleigh. Raeleigh stood there for a while, then gave in. She told Deanna, “It’s okay. It’s my loss. Give it to me.” Raeleigh extended her hands. Deanna’s big eyes were glimmering. They formed a crescent squint when she smiled.

“Raeleigh, you know me too well. I can boldly tell you that I have never lost since I was a child. My mother said that I would lose one day.

However, I haven’t lost yet. I defeated both Zorion and Jepherson.” Deanna took Raeleigh’s arm proudly. Raeleigh stared at Deanna, without saying anything. She had known it all along.

People always had their unique strengths or points. Maybe Deanna had the ability to perceive what other people would show during a rock-paper-scissors?

It was hard to say.

“Where are we going?” Raeleigh asked, holding her new phone. Deanna looked up and answered, “Let’s shop around upstairs. Since we are all here, we should get a meal before going back.”

Outside the store, Deanna was like a wild little pony, running all the way furiously upstairs as she dragged Scarlett along with her. Raeleigh and Zorion were left behind once again.

By the time Raeleigh arrived upstairs, Deanna had been standing in the jewelry area for a while, studying a pair of earrings with Scarlett.

Raeleigh went with Zorion, but she did not look at the items. She had never been interested in these things. Even if she was interested, she could not afford it.

“Raeleigh, do you like it? I can get it for you,” Deanna implored as she tugged on Raeleigh. Raeleigh shook her head and told her, “My ears are not pierced.”

“What?” Deanna immediately looked at Raeleigh’s ears and saw that her ears were really not pierced.

“Zorion, Raeleigh’s ears are not pierced.” Deanna was so shocked, but Raeleigh did not think it was out of the ordinary at all.

Zorion had also just realized that Raeleigh’s ears were unpierced. Her pale ears were unmarred.

“Let me see.” Zorion put his hands close to Raeleigh’s ears and brushed Raeleigh’s hair back, taking a close look. Raeleigh blushed immediately as she was not accustomed to anyone touching her ears.

“There is nothing to look at.” Raeleigh reached upwards to remove Zorion’s hand. Zorion smiled and teased her, “Are you shy?”

“Zorion, why do you ask in that...” Deanna glanced at Zorion and cut herself off.

Zorion let go. He turned around to peruse the items on display, but he was left displeased. Thus, he walked around the counter and peered at the other items inside.

“This.” Raising his hand, Zorion knocked on the counter. The sales assistant immediately took some bracelets out and set on the counter to show it to Zorion. Zorion picked one of the bracelets inside and walked to Raeleigh. He raised his hand to take Raeleigh’s. Raeleigh put her hand behind her back and refused, “No, I don’t want such a valuable thing.”

“How valuable is it? Is it more precious than a kiss?” With those words, Zorion took Raeleigh’s hand. What was Zorion talking about? Was he threatening her?

“You’ve misunderstood me.” It was obvious from Raeleigh’s expression that she was ticked off. What happened that night was an accident. She had tried to forget it, but Zorion had gone and brought it up again then. Raeleigh was at a loss for words.

“I didn’t mean anything by that. If you don’t like it, forget it.” Zorion put down the bracelet. He turned around, sweeping his gaze over everyone. “Deanna, if you aren’t going to buy anything, let’s go out first and get something to eat.”

“Okay.” Deanna rushed to Zorion’s side and held his hand. “Zorion, I want to eat your favorite foods.”

“All right.”

Deanna had always been perceptive of a person’s speech and expression. Knowing that Zorion was not feeling his best, she went to coax him.

The siblings went downstairs first, and Raeleigh followed behind.

“Raeleigh, what’s wrong with you?” Scarlette asked. Although it struck her that something was off, it was not her place to pry. However, Raeleigh really seemed quite upset.

“Nothing, let’s go.” It took them some time to go downstairs. Raeleigh went for a toilet break midway, and Scarlett accompanied her to the restroom. Hence, they were quite late when they met up with Zorion and Deanna again.

Zorion was sitting on a chair with his legs crossed, with Deanna sitting beside him. They had not started eating as they were waiting for Raeleigh.

Seeing Raeleigh, Zorion subconsciously uncrossed his legs.

After that, he picked up the menu, and started ordering. As Raeleigh was not very hungry, Scarlett only ordered one dish for her.

Before their meal, Deanna told Raeleigh, “There are very few girls without pierced ears. I think you should do it. You’d look even more beautiful if you did.”

“That doesn’t matter.” Raeleigh just smiled. The orphanage did not allow the children to pierce their ears. Novalie wanted to take her, but she had been afraid of pain since she was young. Through all that, they ended up not going.

“How does it not matter? Men prefer women to doll themselves up. Without earrings to accessorize, it looks awkward.” Deanna was very serious. Her face was tense.

Raeleigh fixed her gaze on Deanna and answered, “Many earrings can be worn without piercings.”

“Then, are you saying that you don’t want to pierce your ears?” Deanna’s expression was stiff. She had never met a girl that did not prioritize her beauty. Raeleigh was a very strange beauty.

“Zorion, do you like girls without pierced ears?” Deanna’s childish appearance tickled Raeleigh’s funny bone. Her mood was slightly improved, but when she looked at Zorion, Raeleigh still felt displeased.

She had not expected that Zorion would threaten her.

Chapter 896

Scarlett thought for a moment, then asked, “You’ll honor your bet?”

“I never go back on my words. If you don’t believe me, just ask Zorion. Every time we bet, I always keep my promise. Zorion, you can testify to that for me.” Deanna looked at Zorion, who nodded and said, “Yes.”

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Chapter 897

The waiter served the food and politely greeted them before leaving.

Deanna tugged on Zorion. "Zorion, do you like that?"

"I do." Zorion's gaze was fixated on Raeleigh when he spoke. He thought that would elicit some reaction out of Raeleigh, but she just lowered her head and began to eat.

Scarlett also tucked into the food. Matters seemed to be getting more and more complicated. Scarlett was of the mind to report the matter to Jepherson.

"Raeleigh, Zorion likes it that way," Deanna informed her proudly. Raeleigh did not answer. After eating, she took in their surroundings. She liked observing. Without observation, one would never notice anything. Only with observation could one find inspiration.

Zorion did not eat much. He took a trip to the restroom after he was done eating. When he came back, Raeleigh was hanging around at the spiral staircase, looking at the crowd below. Scarlett and Deanna were examining their phones.

Zorion walked toward Raeleigh, mimicking her posture, and looked down. "What are you looking at?"

"Nothing much."

"You say it's nothing much, but you're looking so attentively. What would you look like if it was really something?"

Raeleigh gave Zorion a glance and turned to look at Deanna and Scarlett. She then said, "What happened that night was a misunderstanding. If you misunderstood something, can I clarify it to you?"

Zorion let out a sudden bark of laughter. "It's not a misunderstanding to me. If you think that a man's first kiss is a misunderstanding, then I can only shrug at how unlucky I am."

First kiss?

Raeleigh looked at Zorion in surprise. Did he say that it was his first kiss?

Zorion turned to face Raeleigh. "If you're afraid of pain, it's better if you don't pierce your ears."

After he said that, Zorion swiveled around and walked back to Deanna and Scarlett. He sat beside Deanna and watched her fool around with her phone. Raeleigh was a little stunned. It was Zorion's first kiss?

Raeleigh faced away from them. She wanted to escape somewhere, but her feet remained planted to the ground there the whole time.

Deanna finally got a handle on how to use her new phone. She walked to Raeleigh's side and said, "Let's go back."

Raeleigh was caught off guard. Her face drained of color, as if she had been caught stealing.

"Raeleigh, are you okay?" Deanna asked hurriedly. Raeleigh shook her head and replied, "I'm fine."

"That's good. You must have been frightened by me. You're too timid. I won't be that brash next time." Deanna felt a pang of sadness in her heart.

"I'm fine. I'm just dizzy after standing for too long. It's too high up here. Come on, let's go back."

Raeleigh stepped forward. Deanna hurried to chase after her, hugging the teddy bear that Zorion had bought for her. Raeleigh was particularly quiet on the way back. Her mind was occupied with the incident that night. The mess was only getting messier.

After returning to the hospital, Raeleigh went to lie down first. As her hand could not come in contact with water, she did not intend to shower. Even if Scarlett offered to help, she would not do it.

"Aren't you going to shower?" Scarlett asked, seeing that Raeleigh was lying down.

"No. You guys can go ahead." Raeleigh was feeling downcast. When she thought of the fact that it was Zorion's first kiss, her emotions went into turmoil. She put the quilt over her head to go to sleep.

Deanna asked, "Raeleigh... what's up?"

When Deanna talked, she would drawl like a child. Raeleigh would ordinarily answer her, but she could not do it that day.

Raeleigh lay under the quilt and said, "The light is too bright. I want to rest. You guys should rest too."

"You'll suffocate inside there. Be careful," Deanna reminded her. Then, she walked away, taking off her clothes for a good rest.

After the light in the ward was turned off, Raeleigh uncovered her face and stared at the moonlight outside the window in a daze. She knew that it was a misunderstanding, but she was still unable to rest well. In the end, she went sleepless the whole night.

Raeleigh was obviously in a bad mood in the morning. When Deanna brought her food, she questioned, "Raeleigh, you didn't sleep well last night?"

"Yeah... I'm feeling slightly homesick. I wonder when we can return." Raeleigh ate without looking up. Zorion, opposite her, kept staring at her. Raeleigh could feel Zorion's gaze on her even if she did not look up.

"How about I go ask the doctors when you can be discharged?" Deanna quickly finished her meal and got up. She went to inquire about Raeleigh's discharge date with the doctors, and soon returned.

"Raeleigh, I have good news for you. We can leave the hospital today," Deanna told her, her eyes wide open.

"We can?" Raeleigh had to admit that it was a piece of good news which excited her, but in the next moment...

"However, there is a condition," Deanna immediately followed up the good news with that.

"What is it?"

"We have to return this time next week to remove the stitches." Deanna had quizzed the doctors thoroughly.

Raeleigh's gaze fixed itself on Deanna. What kind of good news was that?

It would take 24 hours for them to return. Furthermore, she would have to deal with jet lag due to the timezones. Then, she would need to spend another 24 hours to go back to that hospital. Raeleigh could not envision any benefit to that torment.

Raeleigh sat down. When she was completely worn out, she said, "Then we'd better not go back to Tamberland. Let's wait until the stitches are removed."

She had already informed Novalie that she would not be back that week. There was no need to rush to return the week after.

Since Raeleigh was already there, she might as well stay and make the best out of it. There was no challenge that was insurmountable.

Raeleigh cheered up when she thought of it that way.

Deanna responded with an 'oh' and sat down. Perhaps it was in her head, but Zorion had reacted poorly, as if he did not want Raeleigh to return to Tamberland.

The ward was quiet for a time. When she got out of the bathroom, Scarlettte felt that something was off with the atmosphere, but she felt at ease as she had already informed Jepherson about the situation there.

"Raeleigh, I bought a laptop. Why don't we play some games?" Scarlettte took it out, but Raeleigh showed no interest in it. She said, "I don't want to play. I want to go downstairs for a walk."

"Is there anything to see downstairs?" Although Scarlettte was not in the mood to go out, she put the laptop down when she saw Raeleigh's expression. "I'll go with you."

"It's fine. I want to walk alone." Raeleigh stood up and put on her shoes. Scarlett followed worriedly. Deanna also stood up, ready to go out with them.

Since so many people wanted to tag along, Raeleigh stopped in her tracks.

"All right, we'll stay here." Scarlett realized that Raeleigh felt a little uncomfortable. She had just wanted to go for a walk but she would have that many people hovering around her. Thus, Scarlett allowed Raeleigh to go alone. Anyway, there were people around downstairs.

Raeleigh then left out the door. There was nowhere in particular that she had in mind. She trotted downstairs towards the yard, finding a bench to sit on, in a stupor.

Someone passed by and kicked a football toward Raeleigh. Raeleigh looked at it and picked up the ball to give it to the kid.

The child smiled innocently. Raeleigh stared at the child. Suddenly, she recalled something from her childhood. It was the fire.

When she thought of it, her face became pale. Too many people had died, too many people. If Novalie did not save her from that place while she was passing by, she would have been like those children, burned to death.

Raeleigh did not want to find out about her past. She just wanted to live quietly without anyone bothering her.

However, one could not erase what had happened. The sudden fire was like a nightmare that Raeleigh could not escape from.

Chapter 898

Raeleigh did not know when Zorion had sat down beside her. She had been off with her thoughts alone for quite a while. She did not know how long Zorion had been there. He was just there when she came to her senses.

Raeleigh raised her head, seeing Zorion there. It caught her by surprise and she did not react for a while. By the time she regained her composure enough to react, Zorion had already turned to look elsewhere.

Raeleigh was engrossed in her stupor for so long, it was as if she had lost her mind!

After staring agape for quite some time, Raeleigh finally asked, "Why are you sitting in silence?"

"Should I be in high spirits?" Zorion retorted immediately. Raeleigh had never offended him, yet Zorion made it a point to antagonize her from the start.

Raeleigh looked away and decided not to speak further. Otherwise, he would say something that would make her want to crawl into a hole somewhere.

"Let's date." What Zorion said caught Raeleigh off guard. At first, she did not hear it clearly. After she grasped what he said, she turned to Zorion and asked dumbfoundedly, "What?"

Raeleigh thought she had misheard.

Zorion did not say anything. He looked around and turned to kiss Raeleigh on the lips. Raeleigh stood up subconsciously. She was not angry. She was frightened.

Zorion pursed his lips after that kiss. He faced away, looking at the other side as he sat there gracefully.

Raeleigh raised her hand to wipe her mouth then walked away.

When Zorion looked back, he noticed Raeleigh escaping in a hurry. He suddenly laughed and covered his mouth. Then, he shouted at Raeleigh. His loud and powerful voice filled the area, echoing within the vast expanse.

Raeleigh stopped and faced Zorion, who was then standing opposite the bench. Zorion was smiling. He blinked, then looked around and walked towards Raeleigh. Raeleigh stood there and stared at him. She asked, "What do you want to do?"

"I want to love you!" Zorion answered very frankly. His reply flustered Raeleigh. She could not help but yell, "What nonsense are you talking about?"

"I'm not talking nonsense. It doesn't matter if you don't accept it. I want to love you."

"Don't love me then." As Raeleigh was about to leave, Zorion raised his hand to take Raeleigh's arm. Raeleigh lifted her hand to hit him, but Zorion grasped her hand, not allowing her to do so.

Zorion did not do anything further. He merely held Raeleigh's hand and dropped his gaze. "I mean no harm. I don't want to force you into anything. Since you aren't receptive, you can turn a blind eye to it. However, I won't let you escape easily."

Zorion released his grip and stepped around Raeleigh. Raeleigh followed him. Zorion suddenly halted, but he did not look back. He put his hands in his pockets and said, "If you love Jepherson, and he loves you back, if your feelings are mutual. I can stop. It's a gentleman's choice.

However..."

Zorion turned around and stopped in front of Raeleigh. "If you don't love Jepherson, or if Jepherson doesn't love you enough, I am your 'however'."

Zorion returned to the hospital. Raeleigh watched his retreating figure as he left. She did not go back as it would make her feel uneasy. She found a seat nearby with less people around and went back to her thoughts.

Raeleigh's mind was thrown into a whirl. She was not sure what had happened.

It was nightfall when Raeleigh got up from the bench and walked back. When she arrived at the ward, Deanna was waiting for her at the door. She looked at Raeleigh strangely and asked, "Raeleigh, what's up with you? Why did you come back so late? Is there something wrong?"

Raeleigh shook her head and answered, "I just wanted to breathe in some fresh air. The hospital smells awfully of disinfectant..."

Hearing what Raeleigh had to say, Deanna raised her hand and sniffed at herself. "Hmm, I guess you're right, but we have to persist for another week. Just one more week."

Raeleigh was dragged into the room by Deanna. When she entered the room, Raeleigh took a look inside the ward. Zorion was not there, so it put her at ease.

Back on her bed, Raeleigh asked, "Where's Zorion?"

"Zorion went out to ask the doctors if there are any special precautions we have to observe. If not, we're going to the hot springs. I heard that hot springs promote one's blood circulation. There is a natural hot spring here. Zorion and I used to go there often. This time, we'll go together, and Scarlett too."

"Hot springs?"

"The hot springs here have the effect of healing and relaxing the nerves. Many people from all over the world come here for them. Zorion and I have come here once a year since we were ten years old. You see, Zorion and I have good skin. My mom said that hot springs are good for one's beauty." Deanna was saying astounding things. Raeleigh certainly did not believe it, but she did not say anything.

"I won't go. The wound hasn't healed. It won't be good for me if it comes into contact with water." Raeleigh rejected her directly.

Deanna began to look at Raeleigh bitterly. Raeleigh continued, "You're an adult. Could you not treat me like this? I won't go. The surgery is expensive. I don't know when I can pay it back to you. Do you want me to owe you one more favor? How about I go and watch you guys instead?"

"Raeleigh, we aren't even sure if we can go or not. Zorion has to find that out from the doctors. If they say no, then you can't go, and we won't go either. When you're well, we'll go together." Deanna was determined to go to the hot springs. Scarlett realized that the girl had ulterior motives.

Scarlett sent a text message to Jepherson, informing him about the situation there.

"Don't wait for me. I'm fine alone. I don't like to the hot springs either." Raeleigh explained again and again. Deanna had her own point to make in reply.

"Raeleigh, you only don't like it because you haven't been before. You will know after you give it a try." Deanna vouched for it. Raeleigh firmly decided not to go, but she did not continue refuting.

The door opened and Zorion walked in. Deanna saw Zorion and ran over. She took Zorion's hand and asked, "Zorion, what did the doctor say?"

"Not now. We need to wait until she removes the stitches." As Zorion spoke, he glanced at Raeleigh, who was reading a book. She had no interest in looking at Zorion.

"Let's wait until then." Deanna let go of Zorion, turned around, walked to Raeleigh, and read her book after seeing that Raeleigh was reading too.

Over the next few days, Raeleigh's hand continued making a smooth recovery, but on occasion it felt itchy and prevented her from sleeping.

The others were all sleeping. She was the only one in a daze.

It was really a burden. Why did she get injured? She went to Elkton University with a scholarship to study. Why did it feel like she went there to fight with her classmates?

Raeleigh was a quiet sort of girl, but what really left her speechless was seeing that Zorion was still not asleep at midnight. Zorion saw Raeleigh looking at her hand. He got out of bed and poured her some water to drink.

“It will be better if you drink some water.” Zorion handed the cup to Raeleigh. Raeleigh raised her head and looked at Zorion, who appeared in his pajamas in the darkness. It did not take her by surprise, it was more accurate to say that it was terrifying.

Chapter 899

Raeleigh got up from the bed and put her phone under the pillow. Although Deanna had given her a new phone, she did not use it and kept it aside. She continued using her own phone.

For the past few days, every night, Jepherson would send her a text message. It was the weekend. Jepherson had mentioned that he went to visit Novalie. Raeleigh was waiting for a text back.

Raeleigh put down her phone and sat up, taking the water. “Thank you.”

“You’re welcome.” Zorion pulled a chair and sat face to face with her.

There were four people in the ward. The other two seemed to be asleep, but in fact, they were all feigning it. No one was sleeping. They were just pretending to be asleep.

Holding the cup, Raeleigh drank the water. Zorion leaned against the wall and asked, “You get text messages every day. Who is it?”

“A friend.” Raeleigh took a look at Deanna, who seemed to be sleeping. She would have to turn her phone off, or Deanna would find out about it the next day.

Raeleigh was in a dilemma. Even though she knew that Deanna liked Jepherson, she was still entangled with him. She did not know whether Deanna would hate her if such a thing were exposed.

For Raeleigh, it was torture.

Was Zorion reminding her about a certain thing, by mentioning it deliberately at that time?

“Your hand will be fine in two days. Let’s go to the hot springs,” said Zorion.

Raeleigh held onto the cup of water. She knew that it was not a malicious invitation from Zorion, but it was not offered out of kindness either. Since she was threatened in that fashion, it was definitely not goodwill.

“Okay.” Raeleigh had no choice. It was impossible for her to refuse.

After drinking, Raeleigh set the cup aside. Then, she lay on the bed. Zorion stood upright and bent down to cover Raeleigh with the quilt. The words which left Raeleigh were unnatural for her. “I don’t need your help. My hand has almost recovered. Thank you for your care.”

"I hope you get it in your head that I regard you as someone special." Zorion snatched his hand away and went back to his bed. He got out his phone and looked at it while lying on the bed. He sent a text message to Raeleigh. Raeleigh's cell phone rang, and she got out her phone too. Although she thought it was Jepherson, she could not rule out the possibility that it was Zorion. She opened the phone and found that it was indeed a text from Zorion.

"Stop texting Jepherson every night. I don't like it." Though it was just a text message, Zorion's overbearing tone betrayed what he was about to do. Raeleigh thought about it for a while and replied to the text, "It's not what you think. Jepherson and I will clear things up, but it's not because of you."

"Do you want me to get up from the bed now?" Zorion replied. Raeleigh looked at him. He was also looking at her. Although it was dark in the ward, there was moonlight outside the window, bright enough for her to see his expression.

Raeleigh read the text and typed, "You're pushing it. I didn't offend you. I told you it was a misunderstanding."

Zorion received the text. He then got up and walked towards Raeleigh. He lowered his head to kiss her, making her tense up with fear. Her phone nTristany fell to the ground.

Zorion left her bedside and watched her. Raeleigh stared at him wide-eyed, as if she could not process what had just happened.

"Are you... insane? How could you do that to me?" Raeleigh muttered in a trembling voice. Deanna opened her eyes wide and turned around, looking at Zorion.

Scarlette was scared out of her wits. If Jepherson knew about this later, would he kill her?

Scarlette shifted in her bed. Raeleigh turned slowly to look at the two who were eavesdropping, then faced Zorion and raised her hands to hit him. Zorion gripped her hands and warned, "Don't do it again. If you don't listen to me, the outcome will only worsen. I can't control what I'll do. You should cooperate with me."

"Lunatic." Raeleigh pushed Zorion away forcefully, got up and went to the bathroom with her phone. She squatted down inside.

Zorion walked to the door of the washroom and waited for her. He knocked on the door and asked, "Are you not feeling well? I'm going in."

Zorion twisted the door lock. It was then that Scarlette turned on the light in the room. She rubbed her eyes as she got out of the bed and walked toward the bathroom, looking at Zorion there. "Are you going to the bathroom, too?"

Zorion laughed out loud. "No, I'm waiting for Raeleigh. She's inside."

Scarlette's heart was pounding wildly in her chest. She did not even dare to look directly into Zorion's eyes. His eyes were even more terrifying than Jepherson's.

"Raeleigh is inside?" Scarlette looked back at Raeleigh's bed. Then she turned back and said, while looking at Zorion, "Raeleigh."

"I'm coming out." Raeleigh opened the door from the inside. Seeing Raeleigh walk out, Scarlette immediately rushed in and mumbled, "Me first."

The door closed, and Scarlette hurriedly patted her chest. It was too terrifying!

Raeleigh took a look at Zorion. It was obvious that he had already washed his face.

"It's getting late. Give me your phone." Zorion reached out. Raeleigh put the phone behind her and raised her head to stare at him. "I'm waiting for my grandmother's call. Don't be like this."

Zorion retracted his hand and said, "Rest Tristany."

Zorion went back to his bed to lie down. When Scarlette came out of the bathroom, Raeleigh was already lying down. Deanna was facing elsewhere, not daring to interrupt Zorion's pursuit of Raeleigh.

Even though it was a bit hard to understand, Deanna was still quite happy. After all, there was some progress.

Scarlette returned to her bed and lay down. "Raeleigh, my heartbeat is erratic. Do you think that there's a problem with my heart?"

Raeleigh had shut her eyes and was about to fall asleep. She pried her eyes open and turned to Scarlette. "Are you really not feeling well?"

Raeleigh was about to get up as she saw Scarlette nodding. Then, Scarlette added, "I'm just a little bit scared. Why don't you come over and sleep with me?"

Raeleigh sat up, got out of the bed, walked toward Scarlette's bed.

That time, Scarlette held onto Raeleigh's waist as they lay down. As they were both rather slim girls, the bed was enough to accommodate both of them. It was not a tight squeeze at all.

Raeleigh knew that Scarlette was helping her, so she turned to hug Scarlette. Scarlette placed her arms around Raeleigh, so Raeleigh was in her embrace. That way, no one would notice that she was texting on her phone.

Deanna sat up in a daze. She rubbed her eyes, turned back and looked at Zorion pitifully. "Zorion..."

Her tone was soft. It seemed that Deanna was very aggrieved.

Zorion looked at Deanna. "Yes?"

"Look at Scarlette. What is she doing? I also want to sleep with Raeleigh." Deanna was secretly sulking. It was unfair that Scarlette was able to hug Raeleigh to sleep. It should be Zorion instead!

Scarlette chimed in, "I'm scared I can't sleep."

"Go to sleep." Zorion got out of bed too. He tucked Deanna back in, covering her with the quilt. He patted her through the quilt. Deanna looked at her Zorion with sufferance. Zorion continued patting her and coaxed, "Go to sleep."

Deanna held Zorion's other hand and closed her eyes to sleep.

Scarlette let out a weak breath. God! Save her!

Chapter 900

Zorion only left Deanna's side when she had fallen asleep. He went back to his bed and lay down. He sent a text to Raeleigh, which read, "Sleep Tristany."

Raeleigh took a look at the message, but she did not reply. She was worried that it would land her in trouble.

At three o'clock in the morning, Raeleigh's phone suddenly rang. Raeleigh picked it up right away and sat up under the quilt.

From the other end of the line came Jepherson's elegant and deep voice. "Your grandmother has something to say to you."

Then, Novalie's voice chimed in from over the line, "Raeleigh, is your hand better? Why didn't you tell me the truth? When will you change your habit of keeping silent about major matters, even though you willingly admit to minor issues? Always reporting good news but not the bad news. Do you want me to worry about you?"

"Grandma, it's late. Why are you still awake?" Raeleigh was ticked off, but she did not blame Jepherson for it. She had actually wanted to tell Novalie about her hand, but she decided to tell her when she returned. However, Jepherson told her in advance. It seemed that Jepherson had his own thoughts on the matter.

"It's already evening here. Are you confused? It should be three o'clock there, right?" Novalie laughed from the other end. She was also sizing up the person drinking water in front of her, the one who had been hanging around her the whole day, Jepherson.

When Novalie went out in the morning, she met Jepherson. He was driving a very luxurious car. As Raeleigh was taking a car design course, there were some books about cars in her house. Novalie did not know where the books came from, but she would still flip through them when she had nothing to do.

That kind of car was expensive. It could accommodate a lot of people. A chauffeur would drive it while his boss lounged in the backseat.

Jepherson was dressed up, and had impeccable manners. He was not an ordinary person. Novalie could tell at a glance that he was not just anyone.

However, where she lived, there were no rich people. To put it bluntly, it was not much better than a slum.

Novalie had intended to buy two buns and a bowl of soup. Before she could go far, she was stopped by Jepherson, who went up to her.

Jepherson explained that he was there to meet someone as per a friend's request. He wanted to ask Novalie about the person.

Novalie naturally asked who he was looking for. Jepherson answered that he was looking for Raeleigh's grandmother. He also said that he was a friend of Raeleigh.

Novalie thought about it for a moment and admitted that she was Raeleigh's grandmother. She asked who Jepherson was, and Jepherson mentioned that he was just a person who came over to see her. Then, the chauffeur brought some fruits out of the car.

He did not bring anything else except the fruit. Jepherson even told Novalie that he was there since the Tristany hours of the morning, as Tristany as four o'clock, but he had not been able to find her so he kept asking around.

Novalie certainly did not believe it fully, but Jepherson added that he had yet eaten anything. Novalie had not eaten yet either, so she went to buy breakfast with Jepherson in town. Novalie informed him that she was going to buy buns and soup. Jepherson disclosed that he had never eaten those before and wanted to try them.

Novalie returned, hobbling with a cane that was evidently not the best. Jepherson did not say anything then. He carried the food back to Novalie's house. After entering, he did not act like a rich young master at all, and served the food for her. He acted perfectly, without a single misstep.

Jepherson was not picky with his food either. He ate two buns and a bowl of soup.

Novalie was used to a plain and simple lifestyle. She did not know anything else but that type of food.

As for Jepherson, he finished eating and commented, "It'd be even better if there was some salt in it."

Novalie understood that the soup as it was was plain and tasteless. It was already a miracle that he ate it, something that wasn't easily faked. Furthermore, he had even commented on the food.

Novalie did not ask any questions. If they were just friends, Jepherson would not have come to her place. The fact that he was so calm after he came meant that Jepherson already knew Raeleigh's family background.

Novalie did not ask why he came or what he was going to do during the visit. Jepherson was frugal with his words too, until after they were done eating, when he asked Novalie whether she was used to living at that place. He even asked if she had the habit of walking around the neighbourhood.

Jepherson came from a rich family, but he was very gentle when he spoke. It was like listening to a charming Lexie which soothed the heart.

He did not put on airs and even helped with the house chores. He cleaned up some parts of the house and he also tidied the master bedroom.

At noon, Novalie wanted to make lunch. Jepherson accompanied her to the nearby vegetable market. They bought some meat, vegetables and eggs.

When they were preparing lunch, Jepherson cracked the eggs with the flair of a professional chef. Novalie was a little dumbfounded. Was he a renowned chef?

He made seafood chowder, grilled some meat, roasted some vegetables, and fried eggs.

The main dishes were all prepared by Jepherson. Novalie only prepared the pasta.

While they were eating, Novalie looked at the dishes on the table and asked, "Does your family run a restaurant?"

Jepherson answered that his family was in the automotive design industry.

Novalie thought that it was because of Raeleigh's good grades that the automotive company wanted to sign an agreement to work with her in advance. That was how she understood it at first.

However, Jepherson informed that he did not come there for work. Simply put, it was because he was Raeleigh's friend.

Jepherson had even read a lot of Raeleigh's books. Novalie realized that he really was not there for work purposes.

At around three o'clock in the afternoon, Jepherson left the house. Novalie thought he left for good, but not long after, he came back. He took some woodworking tools and got off the car. His chauffeur carried a piece of wood.

At first, Novalie did not know what was going on. Later, she noticed that he was actually making a crutch for her, all by himself.

Novalie did not know what kind of wood was he using. According to Jepherson, he had spent fifty dollars on it at the market. To Novalie, it was not a cheap purchase. However, it was definitely not an expensive purchase for Jepherson.

The old lady could not give 50 dollars to Jepherson.

Jepherson busied himself with making the crutch for Novalie the whole afternoon, and stayed for dinner.

They did not cook anything new up for dinner. They heated up the leftovers from lunch to eat.

Novalie was embarrassed, but Jepherson assured her that he was the same when he was at home. He also told her that his mother was very frugal, and she had told them that if they did not finish the food, it would go bad the next day.

After eating and tidying up, Jepherson did not intend to leave. It seemed that he wanted to stay there with her. Novalie took out Raeleigh's quilt and told him that Raeleigh rarely stayed there. But it turned out that Jepherson just wanted to stay by her side, regardless.

Jepherson only went to Raeleigh's room when Novalie mentioned that she rarely stayed at that house.

That was not the end of the matter.

Jepherson told Novalie about Raeleigh's situation. He did not explain the details but told her that Raeleigh's hand was hurt. It was no big deal, but she needed the surgery.

As Raeleigh was an excellent student, a subsidy from the school covered her surgery abroad.

That was what was going on. To reassure Novalie, Jepherson made a call to Raeleigh. Hence, Raeleigh received a call from Novalie then.

