

Go After 901

Chapter 901

"It's already the evening," Raeleigh said, giggling like a child. "I forgot."

"Is there something else that you've forgotten? How's your hand?" Novalie looked at Jepherson, then focused on chatting with Raeleigh. As usual, Raeleigh only told her the good news while leaving out the bad news.

Of course, Novalie did not believe it for a second. However, since matters had already transpired, what she said wouldn't change anything. She will only be able to find out what really happened after Raeleigh returns. For now, she could only ask cursorily over the phone.

"My hand is fine now. I'll be back in a few days."

"You're abroad now, so I can't help you with anything. You have to take care of yourself, don't put yourself down. I know how you are. You're now an adult, and I trust you a lot. I'm just worried because you always avoid the important matters and only face the trivial ones. Patience is a virtue, but there is also a limit to that."

Novalie was the one who brought Raeleigh up. She knew Raeleigh's character inside and out. Raeleigh was someone who could endure any hardship.

Because of that, Novalie felt that sometimes it was extremely difficult for Raeleigh. Her heart ached at the thought of it.

"I'm fine. I can look after myself. Grandma, I think you've forgotten that I'm an amazing person."

"Yes, you are."

"Grandma, how are you feeling? Have you been eating properly?"

"Yes, of course." Novalie didn't mention Jepherson. Raeleigh was currently abroad with an injured hand. Instead of going to Raeleigh, this stranger in front of her had come here. Since Raeleigh didn't bring it up, she must have her reasons. Novalie was not anxious to uncover them. She knew that the truth would be revealed to her sooner or later.

They continued chatting for a while before hanging up. Raeleigh put the phone down and leaned against the headboard. She couldn't sleep.

Scarlette was sitting up in bed, and Deanna and Zorion were also awake.

Raeleigh glanced at them. She was neither a coward nor a weak person. The world was ruthless. Even if you were weak, no one would pity you. So, she couldn't be weak.

Raeleigh continued sitting in bed for a while. When she saw that it was still the Tristany hours of the morning, she lay down and shut her eyes.

Deanna got down from her bed and walked to Raeleigh. She lowered her head and looked at Raeleigh for a while. "Are you okay, Raeleigh?" asked Deanna.

"I miss my grandmother." Raeleigh opened her eyes and looked at Deanna. Deanna mulled over how to respond and finally said, "I miss my mother too."

"It's all my fault. If it wasn't for me, Zorion and you wouldn't have come here; if we hadn't come here, we wouldn't be feeling this way." Raeleigh felt quite guilty.

"Don't say that. We're doing it willingly. It's true. I'm thrilled to have you as my friend. I never had any friends since I was a child. Those who got close to me always had ulterior motives. If it wasn't to curry favor with me, it was to curry favor with my parents. They all approached me with hidden agendas. They played with me and always let me have my way. Raeleigh, I don't like such friends. I like friends like you, someone who knows how to respect boundaries and isn't interested in climbing the social ladder."

Raeleigh was chagrined when she heard what Deanna had to say. She felt bad and quickly sat up. Scarlett didn't lie back down either.

Scarlette had her own thoughts on the matter. Raeleigh was too soft-hearted. If things went on that way, she would end up giving Jepherson to Deanna sooner or later. Deanna was too good at playing mind games.

Scarlette was well aware that this kind of harmless person was the most lethal, because men and women alike would feel sorry for them.

Although she saw through it all, she couldn't do anything about it. After all, Deanna was not doing it intentionally. Deanna really liked Raeleigh.

"Deanna, I know that you treat me as a true friend, and I also know that you want me to ask you for help when I'm in need of it. I understand all this.

Actually, I didn't have friends while growing up either. The people around me all antagonize me. They got close to me just to bully me. Only you are different. You have no ulterior motive in befriending me either. I can't help but feel guilty because you're so kind to me.

Deanna, I know that you see things in a very innocent and sincere light. I truly want to be friends with you, but could you please give me some time, and just let me be a sincere friend too?"

"Raeleigh, you're already a sincere friend, truly."

"No." Raeleigh shook her head and forced a smile. She was afraid that Deanna would be sad. She wanted the best for Deanna, but she couldn't give her that now. She wanted to sort out her affairs first and then be friends with Deanna.

Zorion knew from Raeleigh's words that she cared about them.

"Raeleigh, I don't understand what you're saying. Did you befriend me because of some hidden agenda?" Deanna turned around and looked at Zorion, disappointed etched across her face.

"Deanna, I don't know how to explain it to you, but that thought never crossed my mind. It's just that I need to conceal certain things from you for now because I don't know how to explain them to you. I'm worried you'll be hurt. So, please give me some time. When I've settled everything, we'll be friends." Raeleigh knew that what she was saying sounded absolutely ridiculous and laughable.

Jepherson was Deanna's weakness. She liked him so much that she wanted to be with him all the time, even in her dreams. Then there was Raeleigh dating Jepherson behind her back. Even though Raeleigh was an unwilling party, even if she broke off the relationship, would Deanna really forgive her? The answer was a simple 'no'.

How laughable.

"Raeleigh, what are you hiding from me?" A little scared, Deanna took Raeleigh's hand.

Raeleigh knew that Deanna was starting to suspect her.

"Deanna, I'm..." Raeleigh wanted to tell her the truth, but she felt Scarlette nudging her and her voice trailed off. "Nothing."

Deanna glanced at Scarlette. "Did the both of you get close to me deliberately?"

"No," Scarlette answered immediately. Deanna shook her head, left them, and went to Zorion. "Zorion."

"There's nothing wrong with them, and Raeleigh didn't lie to you. I did some investigating and found that Raeleigh was referring to something else. Jepherson is Raeleigh's boyfriend in name, and you like Jepherson. Raeleigh was talking about that." Zorion gave Deanna a comforting pat on the shoulder so that she wouldn't feel sad about it. Deanna looked up at Zorion and asked, "Is that true?"

Zorion nodded, his gaze flitting to Raeleigh. Raeleigh felt powerless. Now that Zorion had put it that way, it was even more difficult for her to clarify things.

Raeleigh said nothing. Deanna faked a smile and walked to Raeleigh's side, holding Raeleigh's hand as she sat down. Her mood changed as fast as the weather.

"Raeleigh, if it was because of that, I should apologize to you. Think about it. Quirina hates you because she knows that Jepherson likes you. She always causes trouble for you. In this case, if Quirina found out that the one Jepherson likes is me, wouldn't the person she hates be me instead? Then, even if Quirina is afraid of Zorion and doesn't dare to do anything to me, who knows if she will do something behind my back? Right?"

Raeleigh didn't answer. She looked at Zorion. Her mind was getting more and more confused. It was all a mess. Who knew that she would feel so sad?

Chapter 902

Raeleigh finally nodded. Pleased, Deanna smiled and said, "So, it's me who owes you, Raeleigh. We'll be good friends. I'll make it up to you and treat you well. Okay?"

"All right."

"Then, let's rest." Deanna was about to hop onto Raeleigh's bed when Scarlette stopped her. "Don't. I don't like you coming here. It's already a tight squeeze for both of us, so don't even think about joining in."

"Raeleigh, why don't you just sleep in my bed?" Deanna said, tugging on Raeleigh's arm.

Raeleigh couldn't refuse Deanna, so she said, "How about I sleep in my own bed? Scarlette, it's dawn already, so you should be able to sleep now."

Raeleigh wrested her quilt from Deanna and she went to lie down on her own bed.

At first, Deanna remained silent, but her eyes glittered with a calculative look. Raeleigh lay down on her bed. Scarlette thought that Raeleigh would get some rest since she stayed up all night. Anyone would feel tired after staying up all night. Scarlette decided not to go over and bother her.

However, once Deanna saw Raeleigh lying down, she immediately grabbed her quilt and went to lie by Raeleigh's side.

Raeleigh opened her eyes and looked at Deanna, who was hugging her like a pillow, just like how Scarlette was just now.

Deanna was slightly thinner than Scarlette, which is a result of her being pampered since young. Deanna had been born with a silver spoon in her mouth; she didn't even need to lift a finger to do anything.

In Novalie's words, Deanna was frail and weak.

"Deanna," Raeleigh called out, nudging Deanna. However, Deanna gave no response. She laid there obstinately, unwilling to go.

Amused, Raeleigh asked, "Do you want to strangle me?"

It was only then that Deanna loosened her grip. Furious, Scarlette raised her hand and smacked her own forehead twice. Was Deanna trying to torment her? Scarlette thought to herself.

Was Deanna sent by the gods to punish her?

The gods must have sent Deanna to make her life harder!

Plopping back on her bed, Scarlette pulled her quilt up over her head and let out a frustrated scream.

Raeleigh turned towards Scarlette, wondering if she had gone crazy.

Zorion hadn't rested all night either. After giving some instructions, he lay on his bed right away.

The four of them slept the entire morning. After lunch, Raeleigh would be getting the stitches on her hand removed.

The doctors filed into the room. Raeleigh was ready.

Unexpectedly, she wasn't nervous. As a doctor began removing the stitches from Raeleigh's hand, Deanna started to get nervous. She held Zorion's hand tightly, staring at Raeleigh's hand all the while.

Raeleigh's eyes lit up and she looked up at the doctor in front of her with amazement. Zorion watched her closely and didn't miss any of her expressions. Raeleigh was pleasantly surprised. She hadn't expected the back of her hand to recover that quickly.

When it was done, the doctors congratulated Raeleigh and themselves in succession. They had lived up to Zorion's expectations. They couldn't bear to imagine how Zorion would have treated them if they had failed.

"Thank you all," Raeleigh said gratefully as she looked at her hand.

The doctors left. There were only a few people left in the ward. Deanna hugged Raeleigh, jumping up and down in delight.

Raeleigh didn't display any response of delight. She smiled, but she didn't laugh as high-spiritedly as Deanna did.

Scarlette rubbed her temples in irritation. Having to put up with the cheerful Deanna must be torture for Raeleigh.

To celebrate, Deanna suggested, "Let's go to the hot springs."

Raeleigh glanced at Zorion and agreed helplessly, "Sure."

"Let's go." Deanna was overjoyed that Raeleigh had agreed to it. Deanna pulled Raeleigh behind her as she led the way, impatient as ever to go to the hot springs.

Raeleigh had never been to the hot springs and Deanna had to guide her on what to do. Meanwhile, Zorion trailed quietly behind them.

They had to take a shower first. After the shower, Raeleigh put on the loose clothing provided and followed Deanna out. Zorion had also changed into loose clothing after his shower.

They met at the entrance to the changing rooms. Raeleigh's clothes were white with a watercolor pattern on it. They revealed her pale calves and legs.

They had removed their shoes before entering the hot springs. Raeleigh's feet were thin and pale, and her calves were smooth and delicate.

The oversized clothes emphasized Raeleigh's slight figure. Her forearms were exposed, showing her fair skin and delicate hands. Her face had just been washed and her hair was held back with a claw clip. Overall, it gave her the look of an elegant woman, one that would easily win a man's heart.

When Zorion saw Raeleigh, she was with Deanna. However, she kept her head lowered. Her reluctance to look up and her flushed face meant she was probably embarrassed. She was not as calm and indifferent as Scarlette, nor was she as cheerful and bubbly as Deanna.

When Deanna saw Zorion, she immediately ran over and grabbed his arm. "Zorion, look at Raeleigh. Doesn't she look good?"

Zorion looked at Deanna first, then he turned to Raeleigh, not saying a word. His bottomless dark eyes betrayed his thoughts, even without him doing anything.

Zorion took a step towards Raeleigh. Raeleigh looked to the side. She didn't know why Zorion's presence made her uncomfortable. Was she afraid or was it something else? Raeleigh wondered.

If it was because she was being coerced, well, Jepherson was more of a master at that. However, she didn't fear Jepherson at all.

Zorion was different. Even the thought of him caused her to tense up.

"Look at me." Zorion didn't like it when Raeleigh avoided his gaze. He loved looking at Raeleigh's eyes. They were bright and clear, yet unfathomable.

Raeleigh turned and looked up at Zorion. Before she could say anything, Zorion had already raised his hand to grab her chin, angling her face upwards. He fixed his gaze on her flawless countenance, wanting to examine it carefully, but Raeleigh pushed his hand away.

"Weren't we supposed to go soak in the hot springs? Let's go." Raeleigh made her way towards one side of the hot springs, but Deanna hurried to catch up with her and said, "Raeleigh, we're not going here. We're going to the other side. Zorion has booked the pool over there. Come, let's go for a soak together."

"Together?" Raeleigh's head snapped around and she stared at Deanna. Deanna nodded and replied, "Yes, all four of us."

"Four of us? It's a mixed bath?" Raeleigh thought she had misheard.

Deanna nodded. "That's right!"

Terrified, Raeleigh stared at Deanna and Zorion in disbelief. "Are you kidding me?"

"Do I scare you that much?" Zorion asked, looming over Raeleigh. Raeleigh took a step back hurriedly. "Don't come any closer."

"What if I insist?" Zorion stepped forward again, forcing Raeleigh into a corner. Raeleigh nTristany tripped from fear.

If Zorion hadn't caught her in time, she would have definitely fallen to the ground.

Raeleigh was about to push him away when he bent over and picked her up. Then, he turned around and walked towards the bathing pool with Raeleigh in his arms.

Chapter 903

"Zorion, what are you doing?" Raeleigh's face was drained of color from the shock and she grabbed at Zorion's clothes, demanding an answer from him. However, he didn't even have time to answer her because his clothes were of such a loose fit that they were practically being pulled off him under her tight grip.

Raeleigh caught a glimpse of Zorion's body under his clothes and let go immediately, as if she had been scalded.

Zorion lowered his head to look at Raeleigh and pinched her hard. He didn't answer Raeleigh's question. Instead, he looked down at his clothes, which were nTristany falling off.

"Aren't you taking things too quickly?" The moment Zorion said this, Raeleigh blushed with exasperation and said hotly, "Put me down. I can walk by myself."

“If I do that, you’ll walk right out of here.” Zorion chuckled and raised his eyebrows at her questioningly, then he looked ahead and walked straight through the door towards the hot springs.

Hot steam swirled up from the baths and gently enveloped them. Raeleigh was taken aback by how misty it was. She couldn’t see anything.

Zorion lowered his head to look at Raeleigh. “Although it’s a mixed bath, there is a screen in the middle. We can choose to keep it up or down when we get into the water.

When I was a child, my family bathed openly. As we grew older, the screen was only removed after we got into the water.

The steam here is so thick that no one can see anything, even if you’re naked.”

Zorion placed Raeleigh back on her feet and Raeleigh took several steps back hastily. At the same time, Scarlett and Deanna came rushing up to them.

Deanna was the first to reach Raeleigh and she couldn’t help laughing. Raeleigh blushed and turned to look elsewhere, saying, “It’s too hot. I don’t want to be here...”

“Come on. It’s just for a little while.” Deanna pulled Raeleigh towards the bath and forcefully removed Raeleigh’s clothing. Scarlett was rendered speechless by this. Underneath the loose fitting clothes, Raeleigh had a bath towel wrapped around her, but she still felt as though she was stark naked.

Deanna was used to that kind of thing. Moreover, Zorion was her brother, so it didn’t bother her in the least. She took Raeleigh’s clothes and handed them to Zorion, “Zorion, put these over there. Raeleigh’s too shy.”

Raeleigh didn’t say a word. She lowered herself into the hot spring bath, her hands over her chest. What else could she do? Let others see her in her birthday suit?

Zorion gazed at Raeleigh, smiling happily.

Deanna raised her hand to nudge Zorion. “Zorion, you won’t stop doting on me in the future, right? You’re smiling like a fool!”

“I won’t. Go on, then.” Zorion turned around and placed Raeleigh’s clothes inside the locker. He closed the door and took off his clothes. Then, he put them into a locker too.

Zorion had a bath towel around his waist, so he wasn’t fully exposing himself.

Scarlett followed Deanna over to the lockers. They also removed their clothes and placed them in the lockers. The bath towels they were wearing underneath covered them nicely.

The two of them went into the hot springs together. Scarlett sighed to herself. Zorion was really something else. She worried about Jepherson’s reaction if he found out about this little incident. Would he kill her?

Scarlett felt that the only thing she had gotten out of this trip abroad so far was a constant fear for her life.

Raleigh huddled in a corner of the bath after getting in. She wasn't a good swimmer. She had learned to swim in junior high, but her swimming skills were barely passable. It would be an exaggeration to say that she could swim well.

Raleigh leaned against the rocky wall of the bath, surrounded by white steam. There was a partition on the other side.

Zorion walked past Raleigh and the others. Seeing Zorion, Raleigh turned her face away. Deanna and Scarlett went over to Raleigh.

Deanna got into the water and asked, "Raleigh, why are you still wearing your towel while soaking?"

"This is fine for me. If you want to take yours off, please go ahead." There was no way that Raleigh would take off the bath towel, even if she were to be beaten to death. To take it off would be the same as taking her life itself.

Deanna looked down at herself for a while before saying, "Then I'll wear mine as well. I won't let you see anything."

Scarlett was dumbfounded. What sort of person was Deanna? Who had said they wanted to see 'anything'?

Raleigh didn't remove her bath towel, and neither did the others. With the press of a button, the partition in the middle was lowered after Zorion had gotten into the water.

The white steam obscured Raleigh's field of vision that she could barely see Deanna and Scarlett. Her vision was limited to three meters ahead of her. Based on her hearing, Raleigh estimated that Zorion was at least ten meters away.

Raleigh finally felt relieved, but she was still afraid that Zorion would suddenly come over.

Then...

The water rippled. Raleigh knew that Zorion was heading for them. She had an overwhelming urge to find a place to hide.

Raleigh turned around, intending to leave, but was stopped by Deanna.

"Raleigh, are you afraid of Zorion? Why are you running away when he's coming over?" Deanna held Raleigh's hand, not wanting her to leave. Raleigh's other hand was covering her chest. She couldn't go any further, but she didn't turn back either.

Scarlett blocked Zorion's path. She would rather Zorion see her than Raleigh. However, it was no use.

Zorion went directly to Raleigh's side, blocking her path so that she couldn't run.

"Leaving as soon as you see me, am I that horrible?" Zorion asked with his head turned to the side. Raleigh breathed a sigh of relief. She looked around, pulled her hand away from Deanna, and leaned against the rocky wall of the bath.

Zorion approached Raleigh and lowered his head to look at her. Gazing at her from the shoulders upwards, he asked, "Are you that afraid of me?"

"I'm not afraid of you." Raeleigh answered, annoyance written all over her face. It was the first time Scarlette had seen Raeleigh angry. It wasn't a pretty sight.

"Rae-" Scarlette opened her mouth to speak and was about to go over when Deanna stopped her. "Shall we go over there? Zorion will take care of Raeleigh," said Deanna.

Deanna pulled Scarlette's hand, intending to move to the other end of the bath.

Scarlette was amused. How was Zorion going to take care of Raeleigh?

"Raeleigh, we're going over there. Come along, won't you?" Scarlette called out to Raeleigh. Raeleigh was about to join them, but Zorion stopped her. She leaned back again in defeat.

"You guys go ahead. I'll rest here for a while."

"See, I told you Raeleigh wouldn't come, so stop asking her." Deanna was in high spirits as she dragged Scarlette by the hand and moved about ten meters away from Zorion and Raeleigh.

Scarlette leaned against the rocks with a frustrated expression. This was going to be the death of her.

"If you aren't afraid of me, then what's the issue?" Zorion had prevented Raeleigh from leaving and he wouldn't give up until he got what he wanted. Raeleigh was exasperated at first, but she soon calmed down. Was she feeling this way because she was really angry? She wondered to herself.

"I hate you." Raeleigh showed no kindness to people like Zorion. He had bullied her first.

Even the most gentle person would retaliate when provoked to their limit. Raeleigh was obviously no different.

Zorion laughed and asked, "Which part of me?"

"Every single part." Raeleigh turned around and leaned further away from him. She didn't want to talk to Zorion; she wished he would go away right there and then.

Zorion leaned against the rocks as well, mimicking Raeleigh. The smile on his handsome face was as bright as the sun.

Raeleigh couldn't understand why the two siblings had completely different personalities. Were they both twisted?

Chapter 904

Raeleigh remained silent and Zorion also gradually said no more. The water temperature was kept at a constant high heat and Raeleigh quickly started feeling a little dizzy, but she knew that she couldn't fall asleep while in the bath.

Soon, Deanna called out to Zorion from the other end of the bath. "Zorion, my head is spinning a little." Zorion immediately went over to Deanna, but before he went, he urged Raeleigh to go with him.

"I don't think I'll go over. You can go and take a look. I'll get out of the water in a bit." Raeleigh really didn't want to dawdle in the hot springs much longer.

Raeleigh's calm reply put Zorion at ease. She didn't seem like she was going to run away. Nonetheless, he said, "Don't leave. If you're dizzy, just wait outside the water."

"I know," Raeleigh replied and Zorion left. Raeleigh was about to get out, but then she felt a ripple in the water. Something was approaching her.

Raeleigh looked at the water around her. A small boat made of white paper was floating on the water with a candle on it. It drifted slowly towards Raeleigh.

Raeleigh took the paper boat and blew out the candle. Then, she took a closer look at it.

The boat was a letter. A sentence was written on it.

"I'll wait for you outside," it said. Raeleigh recognized Jepherson's writing.

She stood up immediately to get out of the bath. If she didn't do so immediately, Jepherson might storm in the next moment, inciting even more chaos.

After putting on her loose fitting clothes, Raeleigh left the hot spring baths, changed into her own outfit, and blow-dried her hair. Then, she walked out of the hot spring resort. A green taxi was stopped out front. Raeleigh looked around and walked towards it. As soon as she leaned in to take a closer look, the door opened and she got in.

The door closed and the taxi drove off immediately.

Raeleigh breathed a sigh of relief when she ascertained that it was really Jepherson inside. Jepherson sat with his legs crossed. One hand was resting on the seat while the other held a book that belonged to Raeleigh. Raeleigh knew that he must have taken it from her house; otherwise, how could it be in his possession? He could've bought the book himself as it was easily available since it wasn't rare or valuable, but this one obviously had her name written on it in her handwriting.

Jepherson continued reading it as he asked, "Have you recovered?"

Raeleigh knew that he was referring to her hand. "It's healed," she replied.

"Since it's healed, does that mean you can now go to the hot springs with another guy?" Jepherson's offhand tone made Stuart break out in a cold sweat.

Jepherson had rushed over as soon as he received the call. He hadn't rested for an entire day and night; he had simply read Raeleigh's book all the while.

Jepherson brought up this topic as soon as they were reunited, which meant that he must be very angry.

Raeleigh didn't answer his question; she didn't know what to say. She pursed her lips and turned away, gazing at the scenery outside the car window.

The car crossed a bridge that stretched over the sea. Raeleigh was entranced as she had never seen such beautiful scenery.

Jepherson turned around slowly to look at Raeleigh, putting down the book in his hand. He reached over and grabbed Raeleigh's hand. He examined her hand carefully to confirm for himself that the injury was healing well. However, there was a faint scar from the stitches.

Jepherson frowned. He raised his head and stared at Raeleigh, who met his gaze. "What's up with these marks?" he asked.

"It's nothing. They said that they'll fade eventually, in two years at most." Raeleigh was at a loss as to what to say. She wanted to retract her hand, but Jepherson pulled her into her arms and hugged her.

Raeleigh had half a mind to struggle and push him away when she heard him say in a low, hoarse voice, "Don't move. I just want to comfort myself."

Raeleigh froze. She didn't make any more movements.

Jepherson patted Raeleigh's shoulder lightly, leaning against the car seat.

Soon after, Jepherson dozed off from his fatigue. When Raeleigh peeked at him, he was already fast asleep. She was about to push him away, but Stuart stopped her.

"Mr. Jepherson has not rested for three days in order to rush here. He went to meet someone in Ocean City two days ago and went to see Novalie immediately after he returned. Then, he rushed here in a day. So, he hasn't had a good rest in a long while."

Raeleigh glanced at Stuart. She rested her hand on Jepherson's shoulder. There was nothing she could do, then.

She didn't move. Jepherson was leaning on her, fast asleep, but his hand still gripped hers tightly. It seemed that this was the only way he could feel at ease and sleep soundly.

Stuart was also taken aback. Jepherson had seemed to be incensed, but he didn't unleash his fury.

Raeleigh sat silently in the car as Stuart drove around. After a short while, he drove back to the hot spring resort. "Miss Anson, Mr. Jepherson's flight is in an hour."

Raeleigh glanced at Stuart, surprised. Jepherson had come over even with such a tight schedule.

Raeleigh eased her hand out of Jepherson's grip, got out of the car, and shut the door. Then, Stuart drove off right away.

Raeleigh stood outside the hot springs resort, staring in the direction the taxi was going until it disappeared from her sight.

Jepherson had woken up when Raeleigh got out of the car. He opened his eyes and asked Stuart, "What time is it?"

"It's past two o'clock."

...

Raeleigh turned around and saw that there were several people at the door. They seemed to be looking for her. Deanna spotted Raeleigh and shouted, "Zorion, Raeleigh is here!"

"Raeleigh, where have you been?" Deanna asked as she rushed over Raeleigh. Raeleigh gestured towards the road and said, "I went outside. Didn't you bring anyone with us? I thought your bodyguards were watching over me outside."

“No, I don’t like them following me around. I told them not to come,” Deanna explained.

Deanna must be Jepherson’s benefactor. Every time she made a decision, Jepherson would take advantage and benefit from it. Raeleigh thought to herself.

“Where have you been?” Zorion demanded as he came rushing out. Raeleigh pointed and replied, “Outside.”

“Don’t wander around next time, lest something bad happens.” Zorion had been looking for Raeleigh for an hour. He hadn’t brought any bodyguards with them. It never crossed his mind that Raeleigh would wander out.

Raeleigh didn’t answer him. Scarlett was the last to run out. She breathed a sigh of relief when she saw Raeleigh. Who knows what would have happened if she lost Raeleigh.

“Raeleigh, are you okay?” Scarlett was still worried. She went to Raeleigh with a questioning look, upon which Raeleigh shook her head and replied, “I felt dizzy after soaking in the water for a long time, so I came out to get some fresh air. I almost got lost.

“Then don’t wander around in the future. You could’ve really gotten lost.” If Raeleigh got lost, Scarlett had no idea how she would inform Jepherson about it.

Raeleigh nodded. Everything was settled.

Zorion looked at Raeleigh, who was indeed unharmed. Then, he raised his wrist to look at the time on his watch. “Let’s go.”

They left the hot spring resort and went to the hotel they had booked to rest for the night. After having breakfast at eight o’clock the next morning, they boarded the plane at the airport. One day later, they were back in Tamberland.

After getting off the plane, Zorion sent Raeleigh and Scarlett back to their university.

“Call me if anything happens. I’ll inquire about Quirina. If she comes looking for you again, call me. You know my phone number.” Zorion handed Raeleigh’s belongings to her and Scarlett took them hastily. Deanna hurried out of the car as well. “Raeleigh, why don’t you come home with us? I’ll get my mom to treat you well, okay?” she pressed.

“No, thanks. I’m afraid I’ll fall behind in my studies if I do that,” Raeleigh replied, declining her offer point-blank.

“Well, I’ll be heading back with Zorion. Call us if you need anything. Scarlett, you too.” Worried, Deanna kept pestering them.

“Don’t worry, I’ll take care of it,” Scarlett assured her. She wished that Zorion and Deanna would disappear instantly.

It wasn’t because she didn’t like them, but because she was really scared.

Zorion glanced at Deanna, then walked to Raeleigh. Lifting an arm, he put it over Raeleigh's shoulders and embracing her in his arms. Then, he patted her on the shoulder and told her, "Wait for me. I'll be back soon."

After saying that, Zorion went back to his car. Many members of the Atkinson family were waiting in cars outside as well. Raeleigh did not respond to what Zorion said. Neither did the other members of the Atkinson family. Deanna widened her eyes and ran back into the car, downcast. She waved as she gave Raeleigh a final glance. "Bye, Raeleigh."

Raeleigh didn't say anything. She merely watched Zorion, who didn't look her way.

The next day, the news of Zorion hugging Raeleigh spread like wildfire throughout the university.

Chapter 905

When the news finally reached Raeleigh's ears, it had already spread all over campus. Many people hated her for it.

Wherever she walked, rocks would be thrown at her.

As Raeleigh walked, someone threw a rock towards her from behind. The stone hit Raeleigh's back. Raeleigh spun around to look at the culprit, but there was no one around.

Scarlette was left speechless by the whole affair. "Raeleigh, if this continues, we will soon cause a riot on campus," she said worriedly.

Raeleigh glanced at Scarlette and replied, "What does this have to do with me? It's not my fault. Are you putting the blame on me?"

Scarlette was the only person left in Raeleigh's world, so Raeleigh could only vent her frustrations on her.

Scarlette appeared aggrieved. She shrugged and muttered, "Go ahead and rage at me as you wish."

Raeleigh gave Scarlette an apologetic look. "I'm sorry. I have a bad temper. I shouldn't vent my anger on you."

Scarlette raised her eyebrows and met Raeleigh's gaze. Then, she gave Raeleigh a hug and said comfortingly, "What's mine is yours and vice versa. You don't have to be so formal with me."

"I know, I know. You're amazing." Raeleigh forces a smile on her face, feeling lucky to have a friend like Scarlette.

In the afternoon, Raeleigh and Scarlette made their way back to their dorm room to do some revision. However, as soon as they arrived at the room, they were shocked by the scene in front of them.

The door was open and the room had been turned upside down. Their belongings were strewn about everywhere and the floor was covered with water. The quilts on the bed were also soaked, dripping water onto the floor.

"Who... Who did this?" As soon as Scarlette entered the room and took one look at the mess, she was all riled up and ready to settle the score with whoever did this. She couldn't suppress her blazing temper.

Raeleigh grabbed Scarlett's arm and said, "Forget it. Why are you so worked up over this?"

"Raeleigh, you're simply too nice. How can we stay in a room like this?" As Scarlett thought about all the water damage, she ran inside to check on her laptop, only to realize that there was no way her laptop could still be working. Water had been splashed everywhere. There was also a bucket of water in the middle of the room with both their two laptops in it as well as the phones Deanna had bought them. The laptop was still emitting bubbles from where the water had gotten inside.

Scarlett felt like she was about to lose her mind. She spun around, stormed outside, and pulled Raeleigh into the room.

"Forget it. It's useless for you to fight them. They'll still bully us next time anyway. Let's get the laptops out quickly and see if they're still usable." Raeleigh reached over to fish the laptops out; however, Scarlett remained rooted to the spot. The laptops were soaked through, how could they still be usable?

Scarlett took out her phone and sent a text message to Jepherson. Jepherson was in the midst of a meeting when the phone he used to contact Scarlett buzzed. Jepherson took the phone out and glanced at it. Raising his hand to signal for the meeting to stop, he got up and went over to the window to read the text.

Jepherson lowered the phone and held it behind his back, tapping his finger on it as he pondered for a moment. Then, he held it in front of him once again, lowering his head to reply to the text.

When Scarlett received his text message, her eyes widened and she laughed.

Putting her phone away, Scarlett walked over to Raeleigh and pulled her aside. Raeleigh stood to one side and said, "Let's take them out and see if they can be fixed."

"Leave it to me. I'll ask a good friend to do it. First, get a bag and put the laptops in it," said Scarlett. Raeleigh immediately went searching for a bag. Scarlett placed the two laptops and two phones into the bag that Raeleigh found. Then, she looked around at the other items in the room. They were all worthless now, all except for Jepherson's books. She heard that they were rather valuable.

Those idiots who were behind this definitely had no idea that those books were worth a lot; otherwise, they would have destroyed them. They still appeared to be in good condition at the moment.

When she saw the books, Raeleigh looked for a box to put them in. After wiping the books, she placed them inside the box and held it tightly. "Where did these books come from? Could you return them? I've finished all of them. Don't bring them here anymore. It's a good thing that nothing happened to them."

"I don't have anywhere to store them now. Why don't you bring them home first? I don't think the bullies will go all the way to your house." Scarlett handed the laptops to Raeleigh and took the box. Raeleigh didn't have much strength, so it was better for Scarlett to handle the heavy items.

Raeleigh wanted to protest and say that she was perfectly fine carrying the box, but Scarlett had already walked out, so she didn't say anything. She hurried out and tugged on Scarlett's arm. "Don't go, wait for me. I'll tidy up the clothes inside."

Raeleigh put down the laptops in her hands and walked back to pack up the clothes. Scarlett put down the box, went back inside, and dragged Raeleigh out the door again. "Let's go. Don't waste your effort. Those clothes can't be worn anymore."

Scarlett finally managed to get Raeleigh out of the room. Raeleigh stood helplessly at the door, looking at the mess. Whoever did this had gone too far. What was once a nice and proper dormitory had now been ruined.

Scarlett gave Raeleigh the bag with the laptops, then she bent down and took up the box of books. They left the dorm together.

Many students came out to gloat over their Raeleigh's and Scarlett's misfortune without any inkling of what was about to befall them.

Raeleigh and Scarlett made a beeline for the campus gate where Raeleigh hailed a taxi. Raeleigh's emotions were all over the place. She hadn't anticipated that there were so many in the school who hated her. It was just as Scarlett said, she had aroused the anger of the public.

Raeleigh only snapped back to reality when the taxi arrived at their destination. Scarlett had come with her to her house.

Raeleigh glanced at Scarlett. Since Scarlett was finally back in Tamberland, she should go home.

Carrying the bag with the laptops, Raeleigh went in to see Novalie.

Novalie was sitting on the bed when she heard the door open. She opened her eyes and got out of bed. The only person who could open that door right away was Raeleigh. Others had to knock before they could be let into the house.

When she spotted Raeleigh, Novalie immediately walked over to peer at her hand.

"Grandma, I'm all right. It's all good. I was supposed to come and see you earlier. but we've been unpacking and tidying up the dorm room for two days, that's why we didn't come back immediately." When Raeleigh mentioned this, she was once again dumbfounded by what had just transpired. They had just cleaned the dorm room only for it to end up in that state.

Novalie chatted with Scarlett for a while before she turned to talk to Raeleigh.

"Don't worry about me. It doesn't matter when you come back. How's your hand?" Novalie had examined it several times, but she was still worried and glanced at it ever so often.

Raeleigh held Novalie's hand. "It's all right now. Look."

Raeleigh showed her hand to Novalie again. Novalie felt reassured that it was healed.

"What happened?" Novalie began questioning Raeleigh about the matter.

Raeleigh didn't tell the truth. "I accidentally fell down and a classmate who was passing by stepped on me, hurting my hand. What a coincidence, right? That classmate was scared to the point of tears."

"Raeleigh, don't lie to me." Novalie wasn't having it. She has gone through many experiences in life, so she can tell when something's off.

"I'm not. You always doubt me, Grandma. You've gone to the university to ask so many times and there was not once where I wasn't perfectly fine." Raeleigh brought up the past to pressure Novalie, who then replied, "Fine, as long as you're not lying to me. Are you two staying over tonight? It's already this late."

"We still have something to do, so we'll be going back to the university in the evening. We won't be staying here tonight. By the way, Novalie, we lost a book." When it came to lying, Scarlett was far more convincing. She was a better actress than Raeleigh,

Novalie looked at Scarlett, pondering for a moment. "Lost a book?"

"Yes, here are the books I borrowed from a friend. Isn't it frustrating? That thief could have stolen anything, but he went and stole one of those books. It isn't about the cost of the book or anything like that, but as I said, I borrowed the book from a friend. She hasn't come back yet, so I can't return her book to her. I'm scared that the thief will come back and steal more books, so I thought of keeping them here first. I'll return the books to her when she's back. Is that okay, Novalie?"

Scarlett made a good point. After all, Novalie lived alone. Even though it wasn't a big house, there was still space for a few books.

"You can put them in Raeleigh's room and come back for them later. Don't get them mixed up with Raeleigh's books. Raeleigh likes reading, but we couldn't get her many books due to our limited resources, so she only has a few. If you're not going to return them soon, you can lend them to Raeleigh." As usual, Novalie always thinks of Raeleigh first.

"Grandma, I've finished reading all those books. When Scarlett's friend is back, we'll return them to her," Raeleigh replied. Novalie agreed.

"All right, set the box down. You should get going if you still have something to do. Don't dawdle here." Novalie was afraid that she would be taking up their time.

Raeleigh got up and slipped a little money into Novalie's hands. "I earned this money from gaming, please take it. I can make a little money now."

"Don't let your designing talent go to waste because of those games, especially not for such short-term benefits. Got it?" Novalie trusted that Raeleigh would focus on her studies, but she was worried for Scarlett. Scarlett didn't look like a studious person.

Raeleigh nodded. "I know. I'll only play for one hour a day. I look for items people no longer want, then I sell them to earn a little money."

"You still want to do that?" Novalie was shocked. She didn't want Raeleigh to do the same thing as her.

"It's not what you think. I meant that I find precious items in the game and sell them. Besides, other players don't know me."

Novalie relaxed a little when she heard this. After that, Raeleigh left with Scarlett, taking the laptops with her, and followed Scarlett to the computer repair shop.

Scarlett placed the laptops on the shop's counter. She had already made prior arrangements. The owner had never seen such badly-damaged laptops since starting his business, but against his conscience, he lied, "It's fine. There's no huge problem, they can be fixed. But I still think it's time to

upgrade, otherwise you'll fall behind, especially when it comes to gaming. It'll affect your earning potential."

The man had never told such a flat-out lie. Even if he tossed these two laptops onto the street, no one would want them. When he said that he could fix them, nothing could be further from the truth.

Scarlette grinned and asked, "How much can these two laptops sell for?"

"Not a lot. 3, 000 dollars for both." The man said through clenched teeth.

Scarlette looked at Raeleigh, who had dragged her outside the store. Raeleigh said, "I think we should sell them. You can buy a new laptop and two mobile phones for 3, 000 dollars. I'll buy a used one. Bubbles were still coming out from those laptops and they might not even be usable anymore. Even after the repairs, they probably won't function well."

Scarlette's heart ached. Raeleigh was too naive! Scarlette thought to herself.

"Why don't I ask if the phones can be sold for 2, 000 dollars?" Scarlette turned around and walked back into the store. Pointing at the phones, she said, "We haven't turned these phones on yet. They were bought abroad and were going for over 20, 000 dollars. How much can you give me for them?"

"3, 000 dollars." The man forced the words out of his mouth.

Raeleigh froze for a moment and glanced at Scarlette. That was good.

"I'll let them go for 4, 000 dollars. Together with the laptops, that will be a total of 7, 000 dollars. If you can accept that price, I'll sell for cash," Scarlette declared with a pompous wave of her hand.

After thinking it over, the man said, "I'll give you 6, 800 dollars, nothing more. If you can't accept that, you can go."

"6, 900 dollars."

"6, 850 dollars."

"Deal."

...

Raeleigh stood aside. It felt like she was dreaming. She had envisioned several different outcomes, but none like this.

After exiting the computer repair shop, they put the money away, hailed a taxi, and headed straight for Aeon Computer Center.

After Scarlette and Raeleigh left, Hadrian came out from behind the shop. The man turned around to look at him and immediately walked over, saying, "It's done."

"This is yours." Hadrian handed 20, 000 dollars to the man, took the laptops and mobile phones away, and left to report back.

After Hadrian left, the owner of the computer repair shop held the 20, 000 dollars in his hands and counted them carefully. It was not a small amount. He smiled. His pain had not been in vain.

Raeleigh and Scarlett soon arrived at Aeon Computer Center. They got out of the car and Scarlett immediately led Raeleigh inside. It was almost closing time. Like many other retail shops, Aeon Computer Center closed at nine o'clock at night. It was nTristany eight o'clock by the time Raeleigh and Scarlett reached.

After checking the time several times, Stuart whispered in Jepherson's ear, "It closes at nine o'clock."

Jepherson continued reading Raeleigh's book. He didn't even raise his head when he heard what Stuart had to say, and merely said calmly, "Call them and have them delay their closing time."

"Right away," Stuart replied and instantly went to make the call. Just as he was calling the computer center, Scarlett received a message. Then, she brought Raeleigh to the designated store.

"Here, it's here." Scarlett pointed at one of the stores, pulling Raeleigh along. Raeleigh followed obediently. Both of them went into the store, which specialized in laptops.

Before they had even entered, a salesperson was already beckoning them in. Scarlett walked in with Raeleigh and started asking about the features and specifications of the different laptops. Finally, she found one model that she was happy with and really good value for money.

"Is your manager here?" Scarlett asked. The salesperson immediately responded by asking, "Do you know our manager?"

"Yes. Tell him that Scarlett is looking for him." Scarlett was so convincing that even she herself thought that she should be a professional actress.

The salesperson immediately went to get the manager, who was a man in his thirties. When he saw Scarlett, he did a double take and asked, "You came here this late? Did you sneak out?"

Scarlett was secretly impressed! This man was a professional!

"No way. My laptop is broken, so I came here to buy two. Why don't you recommend some options so that I can see if there's anything suitable? However, please make sure that they're not too expensive. I don't have much money," Scarlett explained the situation clearly. Raeleigh gazed at her with admiration.

Scarlett seemed to know everyone.

The manager raised his hand and patted Scarlett's shoulder. "No problem. Are there any that you like so far?"

Without hesitation, Scarlett walked to the front of the counter and pointed to the model that Raeleigh and her had taken a liking to. Raeleigh guessed that it would be at least 10,000 dollars, but the price tag on it said 4,999 dollars.

Raeleigh even suspected that it was a used one.

The manager went over and showed Scarlett the price. "This model has the best performance in the market and it's a new model. The manufacturer is currently doing a promotion; otherwise, it would normally cost more than 8,000 dollars. If you want it, I'll even give you a 20% discount."

“Stop with all this talk of discounts. I don’t have that much money. Why don’t you sell us two for 7, 000 dollars?”

“I can’t do that,” the manager refused at once. Raeleigh made some quick calculations in her head. With the 20% discount, it would mean a discount of about 1, 000 dollars for two laptops. Although it was still a lot of money to spend, it wasn’t too bad if the laptops were new.

“Scarlette, come over for a while.” Raeleigh gestured at Scarlette to join her outside the store.

“What’s wrong?” Scarlette asked.

“I don’t have any money on me. Don’t you have less than 7, 000 dollars? You’re broke too, right? Hmm, 8, 000 dollars for two... All right, how about this? Can you get him to guarantee that those laptops are brand new? If you can, we’ll take him up on his offer. You’ll earn the money back with just one round of gaming.”

“Okay.” Scarlette went over to the manager to negotiate further and told him that she would reward him with some valuable items in the game. Feeling somewhat embarrassed, the manager sold the two laptops to them for 7, 800 dollars.

They were two brand new laptops. The manager asked someone to open the boxes up and handed the two laptops over to Raeleigh and Scarlette after they were done setting them up.

Scarlette also asked for two laptop bags. They had everything else they needed.

Raeleigh was very happy. She kept smiling as she held the laptop in her arms. Jepherson was watching Raeleigh from outside the store and he smiled with satisfaction.

After Raeleigh and Scarlette left, Stuart took some money out and handed it to the manager. The manager immediately thanked them. Then, Jepherson stood up and left through a different exit.

When Jepherson exited Aeon Computer Centre, he instructed his driver to stop the car in front of Scarlette and Raeleigh. They were both carrying their laptops as they waited for a taxi. It was already ten o’clock at night. However, since they had used up all their money, Scarlette was arguing that they should take the public transport back. While they were discussing how to get back to the dorm, Jepherson’s car pulled up.

Raeleigh froze and stared at the car window that was being wound down. Jepherson poked his head out of the window and asked, “What’s wrong with your laptop?”

“What are you talking about? It’s all because...” Scarlette wanted to spill the beans, but Raeleigh stopped her. Jepherson didn’t seem to catch what she said, but Raeleigh heard it clearly.

“We came here to buy laptop bags.” Raeleigh lowered her head and glanced at the laptop bag with the label still on it. Jepherson’s eyes followed her gaze and said, “You came to Aeon Computer Center just to buy a laptop bag at this hour? You could have easily bought it online.”

“I’ll do that next time,” Raeleigh answered.

“Get in. I’ll send you back.” Jepherson remained seated inside the car as the driver quickly got out of the car and opened the door for them. Stuart was standing to one side as well, waiting for Raeleigh to get into the car. “Miss Anson, this way,” said Stuart.

Raeleigh clutched her laptop in her arms. “No need. We’ll take a taxi home.”

“Get in.” Jepherson’s voice was calm, but his tone meant that she couldn’t reject the offer.

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Scarlette peeked at Jepherson, who remained silent. So, Scarlette quickly got into the car. It was rare for her to be driven around in Jepherson’s car.

Stuart closed the door. Jepherson looked at Raeleigh, who was still holding her laptop. When it came to her gaming setup, Scarlette was particularly good at striking bargains and getting something for cheap. She had deliberately chosen a 15.6-inch laptop and even asked for a laptop bag. Raeleigh appeared even smaller than usual with the huge laptop and bag.

The backseat was made to fit three people, but Raeleigh was pressed up against Jepherson. Jepherson occupied half of the backseat while Scarlette was used to taking up half of the space, leaving Raeleigh no choice but to sit close to Jepherson.

Raeleigh dared not lean closer to Jepherson. Her whole body was tense and she kept shooting glances at Scarlette, wanting Scarlette to move over slightly so that she would have more space.

However, Scarlette appeared not to notice her and kept her gaze fixed on her laptop.

Scarlette was over the moon. The laptop was actually worth 37,000 dollars and she was busy thinking of all the functions it offered.

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Raeleigh was about to get up, but Jepherson held onto her and said, “Here’s fine.”

Raeleigh gave up on it before she could even get up, but she was uneasy all the way.

When the car stopped, Raeleigh looked out the window at the university campus. Suddenly, Scarlette asked, “Why are we here? We can’t live here anymore.”

“Scarlette,” Raeleigh said in a low warning tone. She didn’t want Jepherson to interfere because it wasn’t the first time something like this had happened. Ever since she was a child, many classmates had disliked her and bullied her, but none of them had ever shown it to that extent. This time, she wouldn’t even be able to attend lectures.

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Chapter 906

Raeleigh and Scarlett soon arrived at Aeon Computer Center. They got out of the car and Scarlett immediately led Raeleigh inside. It was almost closing time. Like many other retail shops, Aeon Computer Center closed at nine o'clock at night. It was nTristany eight o'clock by the time Raeleigh and Scarlett reached.

After checking the time several times, Stuart whispered in Jepherson's ear, "It closes at nine o'clock."

Jepherson continued reading Raeleigh's book. He didn't even raise his head when he heard what Stuart had to say, and merely said calmly, "Call them and have them delay their closing time."

"Right away," Stuart replied and instantly went to make the call. Just as he was calling the computer center, Scarlett received a message. Then, she brought Raeleigh to the designated store.

"Here, it's here." Scarlett pointed at one of the stores, pulling Raeleigh along. Raeleigh followed obediently. Both of them went into the store, which specialized in laptops.

Before they had even entered, a salesperson was already beckoning them in. Scarlett walked in with Raeleigh and started asking about the features and specifications of the different laptops. Finally, she found one model that she was happy with and really good value for money.

"Is your manager here?" Scarlett asked. The salesperson immediately responded by asking, "Do you know our manager?"

"Yes. Tell him that Scarlett is looking for him." Scarlett was so convincing that even she herself thought that she should be a professional actress.

The salesperson immediately went to get the manager, who was a man in his thirties. When he saw Scarlett, he did a double take and asked, "You came here this late? Did you sneak out?"

Scarlette was secretly impressed! This man was a professional!

"No way. My laptop is broken, so I came here to buy two. Why don't you recommend some options so that I can see if there's anything suitable? However, please make sure that they're not too expensive. I don't have much money," Scarlett explained the situation clearly. Raeleigh gazed at her with admiration.

Scarlette seemed to know everyone.

The manager raised his hand and patted Scarlett's shoulder. "No problem. Are there any that you like so far?"

Without hesitation, Scarlett walked to the front of the counter and pointed to the model that Raeleigh and her had taken a liking to. Raeleigh guessed that it would be at least 10,000 dollars, but the price tag on it said 4,999 dollars.

Raeleigh even suspected that it was a used one.

The manager went over and showed Scarlett the price. "This model has the best performance in the market and it's a new model. The manufacturer is currently doing a promotion; otherwise, it would normally cost more than 8,000 dollars. If you want it, I'll even give you a 20% discount."

"Stop with all this talk of discounts. I don't have that much money. Why don't you sell us two for 7,000 dollars?"

"I can't do that," the manager refused at once. Raeleigh made some quick calculations in her head. With the 20% discount, it would mean a discount of about 1,000 dollars for two laptops. Although it was still a lot of money to spend, it wasn't too bad if the laptops were new.

"Scarlett, come over for a while." Raeleigh gestured at Scarlett to join her outside the store.

"What's wrong?" Scarlett asked.

"I don't have any money on me. Don't you have less than 7,000 dollars? You're broke too, right? Hmm, 8,000 dollars for two... All right, how about this? Can you get him to guarantee that those laptops are brand new? If you can, we'll take him up on his offer. You'll earn the money back with just one round of gaming."

"Okay." Scarlett went over to the manager to negotiate further and told him that she would reward him with some valuable items in the game. Feeling somewhat embarrassed, the manager sold the two laptops to them for 7,800 dollars.

They were two brand new laptops. The manager asked someone to open the boxes up and handed the two laptops over to Raeleigh and Scarlett after they were done setting them up.

Scarlett also asked for two laptop bags. They had everything else they needed.

Raeleigh was very happy. She kept smiling as she held the laptop in her arms. Jepherson was watching Raeleigh from outside the store and he smiled with satisfaction.

After Raeleigh and Scarlett left, Stuart took some money out and handed it to the manager. The manager immediately thanked them. Then, Jepherson stood up and left through a different exit.

When Jepherson exited Aeon Computer Centre, he instructed his driver to stop the car in front of Scarlett and Raeleigh. They were both carrying their laptops as they waited for a taxi. It was already ten o'clock at night. However, since they had used up all their money, Scarlett was arguing that they should take the public transport back. While they were discussing how to get back to the dorm, Jepherson's car pulled up.

Raeleigh froze and stared at the car window that was being wound down. Jepherson poked his head out of the window and asked, "What's wrong with your laptop?"

"What are you talking about? It's all because..." Scarlett wanted to spill the beans, but Raeleigh stopped her. Jepherson didn't seem to catch what she said, but Raeleigh heard it clearly.

"We came here to buy laptop bags." Raeleigh lowered her head and glanced at the laptop bag with the label still on it. Jepherson's eyes followed her gaze and said, "You came to Aeon Computer Center just to buy a laptop bag at this hour? You could have easily bought it online."

"I'll do that next time," Raeleigh answered.

"Get in. I'll send you back." Jepherson remained seated inside the car as the driver quickly got out of the car and opened the door for them. Stuart was standing to one side as well, waiting for Raeleigh to get into the car. "Miss Anson, this way," said Stuart.

Raeleigh clutched her laptop in her arms. "No need. We'll take a taxi home."

"Get in." Jepherson's voice was calm, but his tone meant that she couldn't reject the offer.

Scarlette lowered her head and whispered in Raeleigh's ear, "We don't have any money now and we'll need money to take the bus. Furthermore, we're not even sure if the busses are still running at this hour."

Raeleigh glanced at Scarlett. She was on Jepherson's side, so of course she would say that.

Raeleigh suspected that it was Scarlett who asked Jepherson to come.

Clutching her laptop firmly, Raeleigh got into the car. After Raeleigh got in, she quickly scooted closer towards Jepherson to make space for Scarlett, worried that Scarlett would be forced to take a separate car. Raeleigh looked pleadingly at Scarlett and said, "Scarlette, come in too."

Scarlette peeked at Jepherson, who remained silent. So, Scarlett quickly got into the car. It was rare for her to be driven around in Jepherson's car.

Stuart closed the door. Jepherson looked at Raeleigh, who was still holding her laptop. When it came to her gaming setup, Scarlett was particularly good at striking bargains and getting something for cheap. She had deliberately chosen a 15.6-inch laptop and even asked for a laptop bag. Raeleigh appeared even smaller than usual with the huge laptop and bag.

The backseat was made to fit three people, but Raeleigh was pressed up against Jepherson. Jepherson occupied half of the backseat while Scarlett was used to taking up half of the space, leaving Raeleigh no choice but to sit close to Jepherson.

Raeleigh dared not lean closer to Jepherson. Her whole body was tense and she kept shooting glances at Scarlett, wanting Scarlett to move over slightly so that she would have more space.

However, Scarlett appeared not to notice her and kept her gaze fixed on her laptop.

Scarlette was over the moon. The laptop was actually worth 37,000 dollars and she was busy thinking of all the functions it offered.

Raeleigh glanced to the side helplessly. Jepherson slipped his arm behind Raeleigh and gently wrapped it around Raeleigh's waist, pulling her even closer to him and holding her in his arms. Startled, Raeleigh trembled and turned to look at Jepherson. "I'll sit on the opposite side," she muttered.

Raeleigh was about to get up, but Jepherson held onto her and said, "Here's fine."

Raeleigh gave up on it before she could even get up, but she was uneasy all the way.

When the car stopped, Raeleigh looked out the window at the university campus. Suddenly, Scarlett asked, "Why are we here? We can't live here anymore."

"Scarlette," Raeleigh said in a low warning tone. She didn't want Jepherson to interfere because it wasn't the first time something like this had happened. Ever since she was a child, many classmates had disliked her and bullied her, but none of them had ever shown it to that extent. This time, she wouldn't even be able to attend lectures.

Chapter 908

Raeleigh didn't know when she fell asleep. However, when she woke up in the morning, she was in Jepherson's arms. They still had their pajamas on them. What's more, Jepherson was lying flat on his back, and she was the one hugging him.

Feeling a little bewildered, Raeleigh hurriedly disentangled herself from Jepherson's embrace, waking him up in the process.

When Jepherson awoke, he didn't say a word. He merely looked at Raeleigh as he lay in bed. If it was not because his phone started to ring, he wouldn't have gotten up.

Raeleigh had been in a daze for more than ten minutes when Jepherson got down from the bed to get his phone.

It was Horacio calling, the president of Elkton University. He had called specially to ask Jepherson about the incident at the school.

Jepherson gestured towards the curtains. Raeleigh noticed that the light outside the window was shining directly onto Jepherson's face. He probably found it blinding. They didn't close the curtains before going to bed last night.

Raeleigh went to the window and closed the curtains. Then, she turned to look at him.

Jepherson was sitting up on the bed, leaning against the headboard. Even though he was on the phone, he raised his hand and patted the bed, signaling for Raeleigh to join him in bed for a while.

Raeleigh shook her head. "There's no need for that. I slept well."

Raeleigh's words were just a polite rejection.

But the person on the other end of the phone broke out in a cold sweat. Horacio wondered if they were already living together.

"I'll leave it up to you," Jepherson said and hung up. Horacio stared at the lecturers in front of him.

“Expel them.” Horacio felt that that was the best way to go. Since he was working for Jepherson, he had to do his best to protect Jepherson.

The lecturers exchanged glances. So, it seemed that the relationship between Raeleigh and Jepherson was real.

“Understood.”

“Got it.”

“Now that you’re clear on that, go and make the necessary arrangements. Clean up Raeleigh’s dorm room without alerting the other students. Get everything in order and clear the room out. Let’s assign them to a new dorm room.”

“Mr. Horacio, Zorion is here.”

As Horacio was giving out his instructions, someone knocked on the office door. A lecturer came in and informed him of Zorion’s arrival.

“Show him in.”

It’s just been one thing after another. They couldn’t afford to offend any one of these people in the university.

“You all can leave first. I’ll inform you of any other arrangements. I don’t want such things to happen again.” With that, the lecturers left. Then, Zorion and Deanna walked in.

After the lecturers had all gone, Horacio closed the door and invited Zorion and Deanna to take a seat.

Zorion sat opposite Horacio. Deanna immediately went up to Horacio and asked, “Mr. Horacio, what’s going to happen to Raeleigh? They’re bullying Raeleigh, but you don’t care about it.”

“Deanna, I do care. I’ve already taken action. This time, it’s so serious that I’ve already expelled those who were involved. It stresses me out as well, but rest assured that our university will always put the safety of our students first,” Horacio explained as he poured a glass of water for Deanna. He was treating Deanna with utmost politeness.

The Atkinson family was different from the other influential families in Capital City. Although they aren’t involved in politics, Rhys was someone with a mysterious background, so Horacio couldn’t help feeling uneasy.

What’s more, the Atkinson family was loaded!

Horacio scrutinized Zorion’s expression. As long as Zorion didn’t say anything, he could handle this matter easily.

“But those people were still bullying Raeleigh. Why did they bully Raeleigh? Raeleigh is such a nice person.” Deanna looked unhappy, but Horacio could only gaze at her helplessly. He heard that it was Zorion who had hugged Raeleigh and caused all this trouble, yet here they were asking him to settle the matter.

"I'm not too clear about it either, but I heard that it was because Raeleigh got herself a good boyfriend who saw her off at the campus gate. The girls got jealous of her, so that's why this happened. However, I'm really not too sure about the details. We'll have to ask Raeleigh."

"Really?" Deanna turned to look at Zorion. "Zorion, isn't that..."

Before she could finish her sentence, Zorion had already stood up. Seeing this, Deanna stopped speaking.

"Deanna, let's go. Don't make things difficult for Mr. Horacio. We'll leave now. Sorry to bother you." Zorion gave Horacio a polite nod of the head. Horacio immediately nodded and replied, "It's no big deal. If there are any other problems, you can come to me at any time."

"Sorry to trouble you." With that, Zorion left Horacio's office with Deanna.

Once they were out the door, Deanna immediately asked, "Zorion, how could those girls be so annoying? Who you like doesn't have anything to do with them!"

"Jealousy can kill a person."

"But Raeleigh is innocent." Deanna frowned unhappily. So many things had happened in just one night. She was really worried about how Raeleigh would make it through the next few years at the university.

Deanna was suddenly struck with a brilliant idea. "Zorion, do you think I should move in and live with Raeleigh?"

Zorion paused for a moment and looked at Deanna. The siblings lived in a special apartment on campus. However, it wasn't entirely accurate to say that they lived there. They would only stay the night there occasionally as they usually went back home. They had only started staying at the apartment more frequently after Raeleigh came.

Zorion didn't agree to Deanna's suggestion immediately. Instead, he stood there pondering for a while.

When Raeleigh arrived back at the university, it was already the afternoon. She walked into the campus with the laptop in her arms. Jepherson had dropped her off at the campus gate and left.

Raeleigh was afraid of being seen, so after getting down from the car, she quickly walked off with Scarlett.

As they walked, Scarlett said, "Why are you so heartless? Aren't you grateful to Jepherson at all? If not for him, we would have spent the night on the street."

"We wouldn't have! He showed up on purpose." Raeleigh didn't expose Scarlett, but her tone was firm.

Scarlett didn't dare to rebut her. She sensed that Raeleigh had found out about the part she played.

"Raeleigh!" From afar, Deanna waved at Raeleigh. Raeleigh froze for a moment when she saw Deanna. She didn't even notice Zorion.

It was only when Scarlett and her got closer that she saw Zorion standing to the side. He was dressed in a white shirt and a pair of black slacks. His shirt was untucked, giving off a youthful vibe.

“Raeleigh, I know what happened.

Are you all right?” Deanna walked around Raeleigh in a circle, completely ignoring Scarlett.

Confused, Scarlett said, “Deanna, I’m here too.”

“Yeah, yeah.” Deanna waved her hand dismissively, as if she couldn’t care less.

Scarlett snorted. “Well, I’m never partnering up with you in the game again. You can forget about getting to the treasure chest.”

As soon as Scarlett mentioned gaming, Deanna immediately walked over to her and started to cajole her. “Scarlett, I didn’t mean that. To me, you’re so amazing that others won’t bully you, so you’ll be fine, won’t you? On the other hand, Raeleigh needs our help, right?”

“That’s more like it,” Scarlett said, forgiving Deanna.

“Raeleigh, you bought a laptop?” Deanna turned around and looked at the laptop in Raeleigh’s arms. “My old laptop was thrown into a bucket of water. Scarlett sold it off to someone she knows, as well as the phones you bought for us,” Raeleigh explained.

Scarlett gulped.

“The laptops were still worth something even though they were soaked? Is that true?” Deanna had a lot of mobile phones and computers at her house that were yet to be discarded.

“Scarlett, I have many computers and phones at home. Why don’t you sell them off for me?” Deanna suggested, holding Scarlett’s hand so tightly that it hurt.

“It depends on the devices themselves. You just bought us our phones and they’re still new, that’s why they’re worth more. The laptops weren’t worth much.”

“Is that so? Even a penny is fine too!”

Scarlett stared at Deanna, speechless.

Chapter 909

“You’re fine with just a penny?” Scarlett said disbelievingly.

“A penny is good enough. I’ll just take it as recycling.”

“I’ll help you ask about it when I get the chance then,” Scarlett answered helplessly. There was no way that she was going to fork out her own money for it.

Deanna grabbed Scarlett’s arm happily as she counted the number of electronic devices at home that she could sell. “Your family is so rich. Do you still lack that little bit of money?” Scarlett asked, confused.

“After I sell them, I can donate the money to those in need. Then, they can eat better.”

“You can do that with your allowance.”

“That’s different.”

...

While they were talking, Zorion took Raeleigh's laptop and opened it. "How many tens of thousands did you buy this for?"

Scarlette's jaw nTristany dropped when she heard this. Raeleigh just stared at Zorion.

"Less than 4, 000 dollars," Raeleigh replied.

"Oh?" Deanna's eyes lit up. "I want it! I want it too!"

Scarlette was getting a headache. God, please save me! Scarlette thought to herself.

"This is estimated to cost around 37, 000 dollars. Who sold it to you?" Zorion knew full well that Jepherson had given it to her, but he still examined it carefully. Raeleigh stood there without saying a word. Zorion handed the laptop bag to Raeleigh, turned on the computer, and looked at the programs inside. Shooting a glance at Raeleigh, he closed it.

"It's imported," Zorion remarked. Raeleigh turned to Scarlette and asked, "Could it be that we took the wrong ones?"

"It's possible."

After taking a look at Scarlette's laptop, Deanna cried out, "You're so lucky, you got such good laptops! Did you leave your phone number? You'll be held responsible if they find out."

"I know the seller," Scarlette replied. "I'll go back and ask."

"Don't ask. Maybe he doesn't know."

Raeleigh wasn't sure how to respond to Deanna's remark. The apple never falls far from the tree, and the Atkinson family were a family of business people. They were really very shrewd.

That might be the reason behind the saying that all businessmen are dishonest.

With Zorion's help, Raeleigh put the laptop away. She continued to hold it, refusing to let it go as she trailed behind the others.

As they walked, Deanna brought up the proposal of having them stay at their apartment, but Raeleigh refused.

Zorion had caused that whole debacle. If she moved there, who knew what would happen.

After all, those female students were so obsessed with Zorion that they didn't know what they were doing.

The only person Raeleigh was worried about was Quirina. She couldn't figure out what she should do if Quirina pestered her again.

Quirina was persistent.

Time and time again...

At the door to their dorm room, Scarlett saw that there were two people waiting for her, one of whom was the head lecturer for Raeleigh's course.

Seeing Raeleigh, the lecturer stepped forward and greeted her. "Raeleigh, it must've given you quite the scare. The university is deeply sorry for this. We have taken the necessary measures. You can continue staying here in peace in the future."

"Thank you," Raeleigh replied, clutching her laptop tightly.

"Let's go. I'll show you the new dorm room Scarlett and you will be staying in. Scarlett, are you all right?" The lecturer remembered to ask after Scarlett as well. If she didn't, Scarlett would think that she was being ignored yet again and that she was unimportant.

Raeleigh followed the lecturer to the new dorm room. It was much better than their original one.

"This incident has angered Mr. Horatio and all the lecturers. It was a unanimous decision to expel the students involved, so many rooms are now empty. This room is for you two. You can stay here without any worries this time," said the lecturer. Raeleigh looked around and thanked the lecturer again.

Before the lecturer could leave, Deanna hurriedly called out to her.

"What's the matter, Deanna?" The lecturer's attitude towards Deanna was even better than that of Mr. Horatio's. Even though she was a lecturer, it wouldn't hurt to curry favor with Deanna.

"May I stay with Raeleigh and the others? I want to stay here too." Deanna looked at the lecturer intently, who was more than happy to oblige.

"That's not a problem, but you're not a student in my class."

She was hinting that Deanna should join her class.

"Can't we just come over?" Zorian interjected.

Although he was still young, Zorian had an aura about him that gave off an invisible pressure, intimidating and indubitable.

The lecturer had just wanted to trick Deanna into joining her class. However, after hearing what Zorian said, she banished the idea from her mind.

"That's fine." As soon as the lecturer changed her mind, Deanna immediately clasped her hands together and thanked her fervently.

The lecturer gave an embarrassed smile. Deanna was much more likeable than Zorian.

"There are four beds here, so you can all stay here. You just need to go over to the campus housing office to sign some paperwork."

"We'll go and do that later. Sorry to trouble you," Zorian answered. Feeling uneasy, the lecturer made up an excuse that she had other matters to attend to and left hurriedly.

After she left, Deanna started picking which bed to sleep in. She pointed to the lower bunk, saying, "I'll stay here, and Raeleigh will sleep opp..."

Deanna thought for a moment and changed her mind. "Scarlette, you sleep opposite me. Raeleigh and my brother will sleep opposite each other."

Scarlette raised her eyebrows and asked, "Are you sure you're not having a fever?"

"I'm not," Deanna replied, touching her forehead. She walked to Zorion and said, "Zorion, can you check my temperature?"

Zorion placed his hand on her forehead. "You're not sick."

Scarlette was speechless. Was Deanna doing all this on purpose? Scarlette wondered.

Scarlette looked over at Raeleigh, but Raeleigh was silent. Raeleigh looked around at the room. It was indeed better than the one they were staying in.

Raeleigh put down her laptop and wandered around the room. She was quite pleased with it. Then, she sat on the bed.

A delighted Deanna hurried home to pack her belongings.

After the siblings left, Scarlette sat opposite Raeleigh and asked, "Do you not know what happened just now? Do you need me to explain it to you?"

"That's not necessary. Deanna said that she wants to live here." Raeleigh heard it herself. She knew that there were many things that she couldn't change, so she pretended that she didn't hear it.

Scarlette sighed sadly and said, "How did I ever cross paths with you? I feel so helpless."

"Why don't you leave then?" Raeleigh shot an angry look at Scarlette. Scarlette glared at Raeleigh and retorted, "If I wanted to leave, do you think I would stay?"

Raeleigh didn't take Scarlette's response to heart. She glanced at Scarlette and asked, "Do you like that man named Hadrian?"

"Hadrian?" Scarlette scratched her head. "I don't know."

Raeleigh didn't ask any more questions. She was thinking that Scarlette was actually quite innocent.

Scarlette thought of something suddenly. She looked at Raeleigh and asked, "How do you know Hadrian?"

"I heard you talking in your sleep." Raeleigh got up and began putting their things away. Scarlette got up and followed her, asking, "I don't talk in my sleep, so how could you have heard anything?"

"Oh, really?" Raeleigh answered Scarlette's question with another question. Scarlette raised her eyebrows. "You're so sly. I wonder if Mr. Jepherson would still like you if he knows about it."

"Who do you call him Mr. Jepherson? Are you his maid?" Raeleigh looked at Scarlette strangely. Scarlette stopped talking immediately. "I didn't say anything."

Amused, Raeleigh replied, "I didn't say that you said anything."

Scarlette stopped talking, but Raeleigh still thought that it was hilarious.

Chapter 910

After packing up her things, Deanna returned to Raeleigh's dorm room. She had so much stuff that they took up two beds. Her luggage alone was more than Raeleigh's and Scarlett's combined, but there was nothing they could do about that.

After putting away her things, Deanna said to Zorion, "Zorion, I want a laptop like Raeleigh's. Can you buy one for me too?"

"I'll get it for you in the afternoon," Zorion replied, patting Deanna on the head. He would promise her the world if he could. Pleased, Deanna took out the delicious snacks she had brought to share with Scarlett and Raeleigh.

Raeleigh didn't have any, but Scarlett tucked in without hesitation. She knew that Deanna's family were well off, so this was nothing to them. She might as well just eat the snacks and not let them go to waste.

Scarlett took a packet of beef jerky and began munching on it. Deanna found a packet of jelly and held it out to Raeleigh. "You should eat some too. There's no harm in eating these."

Raeleigh glanced at the jelly in her hand. "I don't eat snacks, it's just how I was raised. You eat it. I'll go and fetch some water. We don't have any hot water. We might need to use it at night."

Raeleigh stood up and went out on her own while holding two flasks.

Deanna had never done that before. She got up and asked, "What is Raeleigh doing?"

"Getting water. Sit down. I'll go and accompany her so that she won't be bullied." Scarlett was about to follow Raeleigh, but Zorion had already stood up.

"I'll go. You accompany Deanna." Zorion didn't give Scarlett any room for argument. He turned around and left the room.

Scarlett wanted to protest, but Deanna stopped her. "Don't be a third wheel. It's rare for Zorion to like a girl, so don't stop him. If it's because you like him, I'll tell you right now that he doesn't like you. Don't be fooled by his appearance, he's actually a bad-tempered person."

Deanna's words were a reminder for Scarlett to stay away from Zorion.

Scarlett was speechless. How self-absorbed could one person be? How could Deanna think that she had a crush on Zorion? Scarlett thought to herself.

Yes, Zorion was good-looking, but that was it.

"I don't like Zorion. No matter how good-looking he is, that's none of my business. It has nothing to do with me." Scarlett sat in a corner eating her beef jerky. Since there is no catch involved with eating the snacks, she should eat more.

Deanna gazed at Scarlett as she ate a packet of fruit jelly. "It's even more of a mistake to like Raeleigh. You're a woman. It's impossible for a woman to have a child with another woman."

Scarlette almost choked on the beef jerky. It was all so maddening that she felt like crying, but no tears came. "Just kill me now, won't you?" she muttered.

"Murder is illegal," Deanna replied righteously.

Scarlette turned away to avoid looking at Deanna and continued eating the beef jerky. Yes, she should just eat.

It was quite a distance to the water station. When Raeleigh finally arrived, there was a line of students.

Most of the students wouldn't fill up water from the water station, but there were still some who would do so. Some people chose not to drink purified water because they would need to pay for it. The students that used the water station were those who didn't have much money, just like Raeleigh.

There were a few boys in front of the water station. For some unknown reason, they were catcalling girls as they filled up their bottles. When Raeleigh joined the line, they were hooting while eyeing the girls' skirts.

Raeleigh had heard of them. They were the infamous delinquents of Elkton University who had a particular obsession for girls' underwear. Sometimes, they even bullied the girls into taking their panties off and fooling around with them.

Raeleigh had never met them before, but she had heard of the stories. She had not anticipated that she would see them as soon as she arrived at the water station.

Raeleigh was about to leave as she didn't want to cause any trouble. However, before she could even turn around, she was stopped by two people.

"Raeleigh?" A male student called out her name. Raeleigh raised her head and fixed her eyes on his face. She didn't answer him; she wasn't scared either. Her expression was calmness and serene. Being scared wouldn't help her; she could only face him bravely. Otherwise, she would be completely helpless.

"Are you Raeleigh?" He was about six feet tall and was wearing a black shirt with baggy pants. He stood with his hand in the pocket of his pants, obscuring Raeleigh's path.

Raeleigh still didn't answer him. She took a step forward, intending to go around him, but he shifted to block her way. Raeleigh wanted to leave, but she had no way out.

"I'm asking if you're Raeleigh." He quirked his lips into a smirk, his eyes cold and emotionless.

"What difference will it make if I answer your question? Since you've come to provoke me and stir up trouble, you must already know who I am."

"You're a smart girl. If the rest of you have no business here, then leave." The student waved his hand, signaling for the other students to leave.

Knowing that things weren't going to end well, Raeleigh slid her hand into her pocket, wanting to call for help. However, as soon as she did so, someone held her down and pulled her phone out of her grasp.

“What are you doing?” Raeleigh raised her hand, trying to grab the phone back, but that person threw it into the small fountain nearby. Raeleigh ran over and fished it out. She was afraid to turn it and could only shake the water off it and wipe it dry before putting it away.

A group of six people surrounded her, all of them looking menacing. Some of them had their hands in their pockets, some had their arms crossed, and some were playing with knives.

There were some people peeking around the doorway of the water station to see what was going on, but none of them intervened. It was clear to all that this was a precarious situation.

As Raeleigh stashed her phone away, she asked, “Why are you targeting me?”

“Why?” The leader of the group burst into sarcastic laughter. “Because of you, the university expelled my girlfriend. So, what do you think the reason could be?”

“I don’t know your girlfriend.” Raeleigh stood unmoving, the two flasks still in her hands.

“My girlfriend was the one who trashed your dorm room. You don’t know her, but she was expelled because of you. I’m going to show you the consequences of offending her. You have two choices—take off your clothes and dance for us or jump out the window and break your arms and legs.

Of course, I’m open to any other ideas you may have.”

The men began to grin lewdly.

Raeleigh’s face turned pale. “You’ve gone too far. Don’t you all have mothers or sisters?”

“What do you mean? So what if I do? How can that stop me from having my way with you?” Unable to tolerate his lewd words any longer, Raeleigh hurled one of the flasks in her hand at him.

The men dodged the flask and started bearing down on Raeleigh, ready to strip her.

“Help, help!” Raeleigh was frightened. There were so many people approaching her.

Just as they were about to pounce on Raeleigh, a shout came from the doorway followed by two loud cracking sounds.

The men who were about to defile Raeleigh turned around and looked towards the door. Everyone was stunned. Zorion was cracking a whip at the door, who knows where he had gotten it from. The sound of the whip hitting the door reverberated through the room.

The men exchanged glances and started walking towards Zorion.