

Go After 951

Chapter 951

Cole Family.

“Old Master, what do you think we should do?” Yousif’s wife, Elina, sat at the foot of Brooklyn’s bed and wept. Tears notwithstanding, she was an attractive woman despite getting on in years.

Brooklyn sat up carefully. His body may be old but his mind was still sharp as a tack. Things rarely slipped his notice. In this case, he knew that there must have been a reason behind the trouble the Cook family was stirring up.

This time however Jepherson had gone too far. He really should not have gone to the Cook family to take matters into his own hands.

He should have found out who the mastermind was before cutting the puppet strings.

Jepherson’s actions were not merely an affront to the Cook family, Rather, he had offended the entire Cole family.

In any case, if Jepherson was allowed to continue like this, the Cole family would have much to lose.

Brooklyn glanced over at Elina. He had always appreciated her usual self-assured and confident attitude.

She was down to earth, never harsh or rude to anyone. Even to those who probably deserved it. Even when Yousif wandered, she kept her wits about her and diligently stayed home and faithfully took care of the kids.

Brooklyn admired her greatly for that.

It was only the tragic deaths of MLexienna and Eloisa that prompted her to seek his counsel. Even then she did not ask for his direct help and involvement. Instead, she just asked him for advice on what she should do.

It was time to make a decision. He rarely cared about much. Since Elina had never asked him for anything before, he couldn’t just sit by and watch. No, he had to do something.

“Don’t cry. Why don’t you go and visit your parents? Tell your father that I’d visit if my health permitted. While it may seem like Jepherson is trying to find fault with the Cook family don’t forget what he does to them, affect us too. Anyone who touches the Cooks are touching the Coles.”

“Sorry for the Cook family!”

“I’ll ask Yousif to come home. That inconsiderate boy is really something else to ignore this situation.”

Elina dried her tears went to her parents’ home. Alone. She did not bother waiting for her husband, Yousif, to accompany her.

After all, theirs was a marriage of convenience, a business merger. There was no point in hoping for more from Yousif.

Elina approached Brooklyn because her father requested she do so.

As Elina left, Brooklyn asked his servant to call Yousif to tell him to return home immediately. He was going to get an earful and would be made to support Elina.

Thus for the next three days, Yousif and Elina spent time with the Cook family. They remained until MLexienna and Eloisa were buried.

It was time for Brooklyn to call a family meeting.

Yousif was not cut out to be the head of the family, Indeed Brooklyn needed to choose someone else.

He wasn't getting any younger, managing family affairs took more out of him than he'd like to admit.

Unfortunately, Brooklyn did not have much of a choice. None of his sons were capable or willing to take on the mantle. One had health issues and the other refused to come home.

Both sons however suggested that Jacqueline should assume the role of the head of the Cole family.

Brooklyn hesitated.

Truth be told, no matter how capable and remarkable a girl was, she would not be able to handle being the head of the family. Especially when marriage would divide her loyalty.

Brooklyn was still deliberating when Yousif returned home.

Yousif greeted his father and approached him.

Brooklyn glanced over at Yousif in annoyance. It seemed like he had no choice but Yousif. He just hoped the boy stepped up to the challenge.

"What has been going on in Capital City?" Brooklyn mused. If trouble could not be found within Harvey Group then perhaps it was time to stir something up.

A pity really, since He and Calvin used to be on such good terms. Yet now...

Yousif considered his father's words and suggested, "there's a project where we are planning to bid on, though it would probably be the Harvey who will win. Again."

Someone had to take them down a peg. If Yousif couldn't get hold of that project he'd do everything in his power to make sure they did not win it either.

Brooklyn contemplated his son, the plan forming in his mind.

"Start the bid. Just be cautious about exposing our family to political vultures. We would not want to be taken advantage of."

"Of course, I understand."

"And how is my granddaughter doing?" Brooklyn suddenly thought of Quirina.

"She's almost fully recovered, but she still needs to take it easy." Yousif was puzzled as to where Brooklyn's thoughts went. Why Brooklyn would suddenly ask about Quirina?

"Ask her to come home. After all, she is part of our family." A plan was taking shape in Brooklyn's mind, that girl...

He closed his eyes. "Find a wise person and teach him well and he will be of use in the future."

The implication was clear.

Jepherson's actions caused two deaths that will not go unpunished. A mole was what he needed, one that would wreck Jepherson.

His plan became clearer, Meica would have to lose her reputation.

Her daughter would take her place in the Cook family and become a tool to be wielded.

While Brooklyn obviously had a measure of regard for Elina, Meica and Quirina enjoyed no such affection. They were mere chess pieces to him.

Bitterness rose in Yousif towards his father. After all, Quirina was still his daughter. The thought of allowing his daughter to be used in such a way did not sit well with him. It could even be said that he would lose his pride.

For the family's sake, however, and his status in said family, he had no choice but to sacrifice his daughter. He could not wait for Brooklyn to die. Then, he would bring Meica and Quirina back into the family fold. At that point, there would be no one who can naysay him.

He vowed to make it up to them.

Brooklyn saw through his son but he kept it to himself.

After all, Yousif had more than one daughter.

Moreover, Yousif also had a son.

"You may leave now. Do as I say." Brooklyn dismissed with a careless wave of his hand but then stopped Elina from leaving.

Brooklyn looked at Elina. "You have been with me for many years. I know your character. You've done pretty well over the years and have taught the kids well."

"It's time for Flynt to come home and accompany his sisters. He hasn't been home in a while, has he? The house needs a livelier atmosphere. When I die, it will be easier for him to take over being head of the Cole family."

Elina bottled up her happiness and tried not to let her joy show on her face when she heard this. She deflected and said, "you're still strong. Don't worry too much about the future. The children are doing well and we still have Yousif to run things, don't we?"

"I'm afraid that Yousif will let you and your son down. It's just a matter of time. Ask Flynt to come home and take up his responsibilities towards the family. At least when I die, you and the kids have someone to rely on. Imagine what would happen if Yousif brought back his illegitimate child? I will spin in my grave."

Brooklyn's words made Elina very happy. She excused herself and left.

As Elina left, she smiled to herself, it was time to see who would come out on top,

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“What did you say?” Tears streamed down Meica’s face. She was completely at her wit’s end. Were the Coles really planning on using her daughter as a bargaining chip?

Yousif looked on helplessly. “You and Quirina have to suffer for now, but...”

Yousif carefully looked around to make sure they will not be overheard. “Patience my dear. We still have a long way to go. One day, I’m going to make you the lady of the house and nothing can stop us from proudly living together.”

“But what you ask of Quirina is too much.” Meica couldn’t stop her tears. The stakes were almost too high and yet there was no other way. After all, Yousif promised her. But if they lost this gamble, then she and Quirina would be left with nothing and nobody to rely on.

When Yousif saw Meica crying, he tried to console her. “Please don’t cry. There’s something else I need to tell you. It seems like Brooklyn is planning to remove me as the head of the family. He thinks I’m not cut out for the role. He’s requested for Flynt to come home. As you know, Flynt has been fond of me and we do not get along. Everyone knows why Brooklyn has asked him to come back. So, we must be prepared.”

That stopped Meica’s crying. She raised her head to stare at Yousif in horror. “They would act that ruthlessly?”

Yousif gently stroked her face, wiping away her tears, and nodded. “My family isn’t a place where affection and righteousness thrive. It’s every man for himself. Only you would believe that the world is filled with sunshine and rainbows.”

The Cook family.

The next morning, the family received a phone call. Flynt was coming home.

STristanas asked his son, Haesar, to pick Flynt up from the airport. Alas when Haesar arrived at the airport, Flynt was nowhere to be seen.

The Cook family immediately made a call to Elina, but Elina had no idea where he was either.

It was night when Flynt arrived at Brooklyn’s place.

Flynt ignored everyone else. He went directly to visit with Brooklyn and nobody knew where he went after that, not even Elina.

The atmosphere was tense at home, everyone was very anxious. Yousif did not try to help ease the situation and did not even make an effort to contact his son.

It seemed as if the Cook family had been dealt with another blow. An anonymous source had gathered evidence on the Cook family’s tax evasion practices, a delicate and extremely awkward situation to be in.

Syncere never would have imagined that no one from the Cole family was willing to lend a helping hand during such a dire time.

The day Eloisa and MLexienna died, he remembered seeing Yousif and Elina at the house. He wondered what happened to them.

“Have you gotten in touch with your cousin yet?” Syncere asked anxiously.

Haesar shook his head “I’ve tried to call, but he’s not answering. Even Aunt Elina’s calls went unanswered.”

“What should we do?” The fire in Syncere’s eyes was dim. He was so tired.

A police car stopped right in front of the entrance. Officials came in, presented their search warrant then took Lucius and STristanas into custody.

The family suffered a huge change in circumstance overnight.

Elina paced the length of her room. She knew what was happening in the Cook Family, but her hands were tied. She could not seek Brooklyn or Yousif’s help. Her only option was to wait for Flynt to come home. However, he was still nowhere to be found.

Elina was still pacing back and forth when her daughters, Cynthia and Yanora, entered the room.

“Mom.”

“Mom.”

Elina turned around and saw her two beautiful and dignified daughters entering the room. She hurried over to hug them.

“You guys are back!”

“Flynt couldn’t come with us because he had something to do. He wanted us to let you know.”

“Is that so? Your brother is becoming very independent. He doesn’t even answer my calls these days.” Elina sat down and grumbled. However, she had a feeling that her son was up to something.

“He wouldn’t dare leave you in the dark. He did ask us to let you know why he did not come home.” Cynthia and Yanora were studying abroad. Brilliant and attractive, they attended Elkton university to further their studies. Brooklyn arranged for nothing but the best for his granddaughters. Their future was mapped out and well thought of. Unlike Quirina’s, who had chosen to go to the Harvey family’s college.

Now that all of Elina’s children were back in the country and though she had yet to see hide nor hair of her son, her daughters’ explanation on Flynt’s behalf mollified her somewhat.

Her son must have his reasons and she would concede to him for now.

It was just that...

Elina frowned, “But the Cook family is my sister’s family after all. Are we really going to just sit by and do nothing to help them?”

Elina understood why her son acted thus, but her family was family after all.

Cynthia, Elina's second daughter, shook her head. "Mom, Uncle STristanas, and Grandpa Syncere just stood there and watch as Aunt Eloisa and MLexienna jumped to their deaths. In fact, it showed their true colours. There is no family affection. If they are willing to do that to them, I'm sure they would do the same to you."

"But we are different. We have to protect Flynt. At this rate, if we are not careful, we will be dragged into the muck too. I have to think this through."

"But..."

"Flynt standing on the sidelines does not mean that he is ruthless. He is angry. Mom, think about it. The fact that they are willing to sacrifice MLexienna is evidence that they are not the kind worth saving. They will never return the favour."

Elina understood her eldest daughter Yanora, meant well. However, she did not say anything. Her heart was too filled with sadness.

"Alright. You guys should go ahead and get some rest. I'll be fine. I need to rest." Elina did not want to discuss the matter anymore. She waved a dismissive hand, gesturing for them to leave.

Cynthia and Yanora looked at each other then got up and left.

Elina lay in bed and sighed. What a cruel world. She wondered how Syncere was doing. Would he blame his ruthlessness for how matters turned out? What a disappointment to his children. She wondered whether he would regret his actions.

When Elina thought of MLexienna, she could not help but feel sad. It was no wonder why Flynt did not care about Cook family. After all, it could have easily been him.

But if Jepherson could be forgiven, then what about them? Was hiding behind closed doors really more important than a life?

Elina silently contemplated her options. She felt every bit of her age then.

As the night wore on, the Cook family received yet another bad news. Syncere had passed away in the hospital. Elina hurried over but was not in time to see her father one last time.

When Elina found out that her father was dead, she fainted.

It was chaos!

After Syncere's death, the Cook family declared bankruptcy. Few attended Syncere's funeral. STristanas and Lucius were arrested and being investigated. They were accused of crimes involving tax evasions, corruption, and bribery.

Thus was the beginning of the end for the Cook family. Since their family properties were confiscated and were forced to declare bankruptcy, they had nothing left.

The family was a complete mess, their reputation utterly ruined.

As Elina was stood beside her father's coffin, her two daughters accompanied her. Yousif was present but he kept his distance.

With was dead and Lucius and STristanas were arrested, the only person left in the Cook family was Haesar. In Yousif's opinion, that family had no value left.

Appearances must be kept up though.

As Elina cried her heart out, a car stopped outside the house, depositing a man.

Nobody tried to disguise the fact that they were staring. He was well dressed in black and had a stern countenance. As he got closer, the whispers started. "Mr. Cole is here!"

It was an uproar! Nobody had anticipated his arrival.

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23-year-old Flynt Cole cut a striking figure as he solemnly walked in. The weight of many pairs of eyes on him did not seem to faze him one bit as he strode right up to Syncere's coffin. Someone immediately handed him a candle as soon as he reached.

"Mr. Flynt, here."

In the eyes of the crowd, even his father, Yousif, could not compare.

Flynt accepted the candle, lit it then said a pRhyser. Respects paid, he made his way over to his mother, Elina.

Elina was glad to see her son. However, with her father was dead and her brothers arrested, she couldn't summon the energy to smile at him in welcome.

She sighed and gestured for her son to join her outside. She held her son's hand as they sat in silence.

After Flynt's arrival, the Cook family began coming through the door one after the other, bringing along wreaths. Some paid their respects, and left while others decided to stay a little longer to get close to Flynt.

That evening, STristanas and Lucius were allowed to go home.

When Elina saw her brothers, her tears flowed unchecked. She did not expect them to show up and genuinely thought that they were going to miss their father's wake.

"Flynt, this was you, wasn't it?" Elina gripped her son's hand tightly. She knew that it was because of Flynt that her brothers were allowed to come home.

"It was the least I could do. I'm sorry to have made you upset." Flynt said gently. Elina shook her head as Flynt wiped away his mother's tears. He swept his eyes across the room and then took out his handkerchief to wipe his mother's tears.

He turned a blind eye towards his father. People would assume it was because of Meica. They did not know that even if Meica did not exist, Flynt still would not acknowledge his playboy father.

Flynt gathered his mother into his arms and gently stroked her back. Elina sighed, emotionally drained.

Syncere was buried the next day. Flynt stood by his mother as they watched the coffin lowered into the ground.

“Mom, why don’t you wait for me in the car? I have something to discuss with Uncle STristanas and Uncle Lucius.” Flynt’s eyes were calm and unreadable. How grown up her son was. She acquiesced, turned around, and made her way to the car.

After Elina left, Flynt said to his uncles, “Grandpa is dead and the Cook family has been torn apart. I’ve told the powers that be that you have been wronged. I promise I will solve this matter. However, you must leave Capital City immediately and never return. Your naive insistence on remaining in Capital City offended Jepherson and led to the deaths of Aunt Eloisa and MLexienna. There will no longer be a place for you here.”

“The Cook family’s assets have been confiscated to repay your debts I have prepared a cheque for you. It will be enough for you to start a new business elsewhere as long as you promise to never set foot back in Capital City.”

Flynt extended the cheque to Haesar. Once it was accepted he turned and left without another word.

STristanas and Lucius looked at each other, at a loss of what to do next.

Flynt made his way to the car and spoke gently to his mother.

“Mom, please forgive me as I may not return home. I’ve already informed Grandpa Brooklyn. Please take care of yourself, mom.”

Elina felt that her son was all grown up now after hearing his words.

In the past, she has always felt that it would be a long time before Flynt matured. His time abroad had truly changed him.

“You can do as you wish.”

Elina had no qualms.

Flynt dropped Elina off at the entrance of the Cole Family Manor, smiled goodbye and left while Elina saw him off.

She started when she turned and saw Yousif behind her. Before she could speak, he stepped closer and hissed. “Is that what you call a good son?”

Elina would not be riled up. “It’s not my fault that you and Flynt don’t get along well. It’s not as if he does not acknowledge you as his father. I played no part in your quarrels. There’s no point venting your frustrations on me.”

“Are you trying to teach me a lesson?” Yousif was angry that his son would ignore him in such a manner.

Elina brushed off his frustration. “I’m not.”

Stepping around him, she left him stewing. His expression dark he stared daggers at Elina’s retreating back. He itched to discipline her. A pity they were among the Coles.

Elina did not only have Brooklyn to back her up, she had Flynt as well now.

As she left Yousif at the door, Elina felt hopelessness wash over her. Men were so unreliable. She used to be an incomparable beauty with the world at her feet. Now, what did she have to show for years of marriage and loyalty? What did she get in return for being with Yousif all these years?

Now, they could not even behave civilly towards each other because of his concubine. In fact, Elina was sure that Yousif would be thrilled if she died today. That would solve his problems for sure.

Elina shook such depressing thoughts away. She was fortunate she had Flynt.

The moment Raeleigh came back from her grandmother's place, Scarlett pounced and informed her about what had happened to the Cook family.

Raeleigh stared at Scarlett in stunned silence.

"Wait, you're saying that MLexienna is dead and her family declared bankruptcy?" Raeleigh put her book down. Their class may be starting in a few minutes but reading was impossible then.

Fortunately, there was no one in the classroom with them. That was probably why Scarlett chose to tell her right at that moment.

Deanna did not seem to care about what Scarlett was saying. She acted as if it was old news.

Raeleigh may not be severely affected but she would imagine Deanna, with her young and naive personality would react more strongly. How could she be indifferent to such a massive event?

"MLexienna and her mother are dead and their family is bankrupt. The whole family is ruined." Scarlett corrected Raeleigh. What a horrid event!

Raeleigh thought quietly for a while. There wasn't much she could say about what had happened.

Deanna looked over at her. "It has nothing to do with Zorion. He said it was all Jepherson's doing. What I don't understand is why Jepherson would do that to help you. I wonder whether your parents will be mad if they found out?"

Raeleigh felt a prickle of unease as Deanna stared at her with big round eyes.

Scarlett snorted. "How would she know?"

Deanna looked at Scarlett derisively. "I didn't ask you either."

"In fact..."

"Deanna, what are you trying to say? Are you blaming Raeleigh?" Scarlett exclaimed unhappily. Deanna turned around, the picture of innocence. "I am just curious. I wasn't blaming Raeleigh. Actually, if I were to suspect anyone, it'd be you."

Scarlett heaved out a sigh at Deanna's words. Scarlett worried briefly at the look Raeleigh gave her. She looked like she had something else to say but thankfully she decided to keep whatever it was to herself.

Soon class began and the teacher introduced a new student.

"I would like to introduce a new student to the class. Everyone, this is Flynt Cole." The teacher moved aside and gestured for him to enter the classroom. Stunned, Raeleigh locked eyes with Flynt. He was tall and slender, wearing grey trousers and a white shirt.

The class greeted him with a cheer. Flynt's good looks could compete with Zorion.

Raeleigh glanced over at Zorion by her side. He was quiet, a slight frown on his face. It was Deanna who asked what they were thinking. "What is he doing here?"

Her question drew Raeleigh's attention. Deanna curled her lip and said, "He is a member of the Cole family. That is Quirina's half brother."

Raeleigh was astonished. Quirina's half-brother?

Quirina left, and here to take her place was Flynt?

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After his introduction, Flynt walked to the back of the room. Being tall, it made sense for him to sit at the back of the classroom.

It was just her luck that the only seat available in the class was the one next to Raeleigh.

Flynt took a seat and spared Raeleigh a glance. He brief flick of his dark eyes looked her up and down before he dismissed her and looked forward.

Raeleigh returned the favored. She already had hands full with Jepherson and Zorion. She did not need another complication.

Deanna sneered, "Miss, I would like to swap places with Raeleigh."

To be honest, Deanna wasn't interest in Flynt. It was just that she did not want anything in the way of her brother, Zorion and Raeleigh getting together.

The teacher did not know what to do. Did that mean that Deanna likes Flynt?

The teacher felt that there was no harm in doing that.

Of course, the teacher was willing to give a helping hand to others.

Just as the teacher was about to say something, Zorion said, "I'll swap places with Raeleigh."

While saying that, Zorion stood up before the teacher could say anything. When Raeleigh saw Zorion gathering his books, she had no choice but to follow suit. It was best to stay away from unnecessary troubles. She was just going to do whatever he wanted.

Deanna wore a satisfied smile when Zorion swapped places with Raeleigh.

Flynt did not mind that Zorion had changed places with Raeleigh. On the contrary, he glanced at Zorion and said, "Hey, long time no see."

Zorion was also very polite, "I heard that you've graduated from overseas university. What brings you to Elkton Univeristy?"

There was a sudden dead silence in the classroom. What did Zorion mean?

What was a man, who had just graduated university, doing in an undergraduate class? Why did he not choose to pursue his masters?

Flynt did not answer him and remained looking ahead.

The teacher had no idea what was going on.

There could never be two domineering man in one class.

Soon, the teacher began the lecture class. It was very quiet. The students were usually very serious during the lecture. Once the teacher was done, the students were given time to do the tutorials given.

Raeleigh managed to finished it relatively quickly. So, she used the extra time to read a book. Flynt then said, "Can I please borrow a pen?"

At first, Raeleigh did not respond, but everyone was staring at her. It was only when she lifted her head that she realised that Flynt was asking to borrow her pen.

Raeleigh took a look at her pen and said, "I don't have an extra pen."

"I'll just use that one on your table," Flynt said. Raeleigh thought for a moment and was about to hand him the pen when she heard Deanna say, "Raeleigh."

Raeleigh fixed her eyes on Deanna and asked, "What?"

"Don't be fooled." Deanna looked at Flynt unhappily. Flynt's expression was very calm. He did not say anything and patiently waited for Raeleigh to hand him the pen.

Scarlette immediately snatched Raeleigh's pen away and offered her own pen to Flynt as she said, "Here, use mine."

Flynt glanced at Scarlette and accepted the pen. He lowered his head and began drawing.

Raeleigh took a look at the people around her and realised that they were looking at her.

"I'm done with my tutorial, I'll excuse myself," Raeleigh stood up and went outside. Deanna and Scarlette followed suit.

After the girls left, Zorion looked at Flynt and said, "Just tell me what you need next time. You don't have to ask Raeleigh."

After saying that, Zorion stood up and exited the lecture hall.

Flynt raised his head and watched him leave. Then, he lowered his head and continued to draw.

"Raeleigh, how can you be so naive? In the future, if you see any boys talking to you, just ignore them. Please take into consideration my brother's feelings, alright?" Deanna immediately said when they exited the lecture hall. She exhorted Raeleigh not to talk to other boys.

Raeleigh did not answer, but Deanna kept going on and on about this matter.

Scarlette could tell that Deanna had already set her mind on Raeleigh being Zorion's girlfriend.

After dinner, they went back together. Zorion walked them to the girls' dormitory but did not leave immediately. He went in and sat for a while before leaving.

Raeleigh kept herself busy. It was as if she had a lot of things to do. She did not even notice that Zorion had been standing, waiting for her. Deanna had no choice but to kick Raeleigh to get her attention as she said, "Look, my brother is waiting for you."

Only then, Raeleigh lifted her head and looked at Zorion.

"Do you mind walking me out?" Zorion was perhaps afraid that Raeleigh would reject him, so he quickly turned around and made his way out the dormitory after saying that. Raeleigh, looking up from her work, stood up and followed him.

Raeleigh felt a little melancholy as she accompanied Zorion out.

This was a girl's dormitory. It was unprecedented for Zorion to come and go freely.

Raeleigh remained silent the whole time as she walked Zorion out. She treated it like it was her duty to walk him out.

However, as they walked, Raeleigh seemed to have noticed Flynt standing below the dormitory building. Zorion followed her eyes and realised that she was looking at Flynt.

Zorion then said to Raeleigh, "Why don't you head back to your dorm?"

Raeleigh did not protest and went straight back to her dormitory.

After Raeleigh left, Zorion then made his way to Flynt. The sky was a getting little dark as the sunset slowly set in the horizon.

Zorion stopped in front of Flynt and said, "I don't know what you're up to, but you're late."

"It's not too late, and it's not the end. If the Cole family is fine, she's fine. If the Cole family has trouble, so will she. I never liked fighting over a girl, but no one can stop me from getting the girl I want."

"I'd like to see you try. I am not as capable as you. I'd like to see how long the Cole family would be able to last in the Capital City."

After saying that, Zorion took a detour and walked straight to the apartment.

Flynt turned around and watched as Zorion walked away. Zorion quickly took out his phone and instructed, "Find out where the Cook family people are."

Flynt lowered his gaze and lifted his head to look at Zorion. Zorion turned to look at Flynt and said, "Don't threaten me with my people. You can't afford to play this kind of game."

"How would I know whether I can play this game if I don't try?" Flynt was amused. Zorion kept away his phone and walked towards Flynt. Zorion sized him up and said, "Don't think that just because you've asked your people to go into hiding, doesn't mean I cannot do anything to you. Don't forget that you are a human being, not a beast. It's easy to kill you."

Zorion turned around and left after he finished speaking. Flynt was not angry and was not ignorant. but he turned around and looked up at Raeleigh's dormitory.

"Raeleigh... I like you!"

Flynt suddenly shouted. His shout not only made Zorion stop and turn around, but also made the people in the girls' dormitory stick their heads out to look down.

When Flynt saw the girls coming out of their dorms, he smiled and waved.

Zorion stood in front of him. Flynt sized him up and said, "There are somethings we cannot predict. I want to see if you have the guts to make a deal with me."

"I can use the Cole family in exchange for Raeleigh or I can use her in exchange for the Cole family. The decision is in your hands. If you agree, then she is yours, or else, she belongs to me. Don't think that love is to find each other's congenial. As No one can stop me from getting the girl I want."

"I'd like to see how serious you are with her!"

"There is a tripartite confrontation now in Capital City. The Harvey family is in full swing. The Atkinson family is pursuing us closely. Although the Cole family is not as strong as before, but the old trees are rooted in their roots. Without any natural disasters, this tree will not die even if it is not destroyed."

"You want to join forces with me to defeat the Harvey family?" Zorion asked, his eyes deep and profound as he shoved his hands into his pockets.

Flynt smiled calmly and turned to look up at Raeleigh's dorm. "I'm not planning on defeating anyone. I just want these three families to have equal power. Now the Cole family is mixed with all kinds of people and is in a mess. It has lost its past glory."

"However, no matter how bad it is, they are my family. I cannot let the Cole family be destroyed like this."

"I don't want to hurt others, and I don't want others to hurt me."

"The Cook family is the my gift to the Atkinson and Harvey family. It's up to you whether you want to accept this gift. The Lee family and the other families have also paid a painful price. What else do you have to be dissatisfied with?"

"Why?"

"In my opinion, only us three families have the ability to control Capital City. Your Atkinson family is has a strong family background, which is equivalent to having a private law. The Harvey family has a lot of money and business dealings, while our Cole family is very influential in the officialdom."

"A new generation replaces the old one. There is no famine, no disputes here. We share everything. Capital City belongs to us. What's wrong with that? It's a win-win situation, everyone will be happy!"

Zorion sneered, "That's very naive of you to think like that. I didn't expect that I would hear such thing from you."

“So, do you agree?” Flynt looked at Zorion’s young and brilliant face. Zorion lowered his head and said, “This is a good idea, but I have to tell you that my woman can’t become my woman for external reasons. It was wrong of you to suggest this deal. I believe in myself and her.”

“You’re being ignorant,” Flynt walked forward. Zorion turned to look at Flynt and watched as he made his way back to the apartment.

Raeleigh stood by the window, feeling mentally tired.

Deanna leaned on one side and said, “I met Flynt when I was younger. My father told me that we should stay away from people like him. Raeleigh, you should stay away from him as well. Don’t be fooled by him. He is not as good as my brother.”

Deanna was about to go crazy. Even she herself felt the same way.

Raeleigh turned around and took a look at Deanna, “I know. I don’t like him either.”

Deanna smiled and said, “Raeleigh... I feel that you’re much more adorable than Scarlett.”

Scarlette rolled her eyes and said to Deanna, “I also think that Raeleigh is much more adorable than you.”

“I know, because I’m beautiful!” Deanna raised her eyebrows and said. Scarlette wanted to gag when she heard her words. Raeleigh could not hold back her laughter and began laughing out loud.

They talked for a while and decided to play some games before going to bed.

Today, Raeleigh talked to the man in red in the game, but realised that they had nothing much to talk about. She left right after she went to find Hadrian. Scarlette did not know where she was going. She kept on entering the wrong room. Deanna only entered the game when Scarlette came out, by then, the man in red had already left.

Raeleigh lay down on the bed for a while and realised that she could not sleep.

She wanted to go to bathroom, but she suddenly received a call from Jepherson.

“I’m downstairs. Can you please come out?” Jepherson immediately hung up the phone.

Raeleigh came out of the bathroom and hesitated for a while. Then, she decided to go and meet Jepherson.

Outside the dorm, under the shade of a tree, Jepherson held a book in his hand and stood with his back to Raeleigh. He only turned around when he felt Raeleigh approaching.

“What are you doing here so late?” Raeleigh wasn’t sure why she had asked such a question.

“Can’t your boyfriend come to visit you?” Jepherson teased. He turned around and walked forward. Raeleigh followed suit.

Chapter 955

Jepherson slowed his steps letting Raeleigh catch up to him then reached out and took her hand in his.

Raeleigh instinctively tried to pull her hand away. Laughing, Jepherson held on, "Come on, there's no one around."

Raeleigh narrowed her eyes at him Jepherson. What a bully!

But did she really want to tug her hand away? She continued walking. When Jepherson stopped walking did she finally ask what had been on her mind. "Why are you here?"

"I need your help. Remember that blue car you designed? I want to invest in that and name it after you. You do know that my company needs talented designers like you, right? I hope you will consider joining my company."

Raeleigh thought of her design. As proud as she is of her design, she had a feeling that Scarlett was behind this sudden request. This was not the first time after all.

"Jepherson, I..." Raeleigh was about to refuse, but before she could say more, Jepherson interrupted.

"Don't tell say that you want to focus on your studies. You need to plan for your future anyway. Promise you'll help me."

.....

Irritation welled up in Raeleigh at Jepherson's overbearing behaviour. He did not even give her a chance to refuse his offer.

"I don't want to make any rash decisions, but if you are truly fond of the design and want to put it into production, then I can give it to you."

"You're willing to give it to me?" A huge smile appeared and Raeleigh could not help but feel something was amiss. She couldn't put her finger on it but there seemed to be a hidden meaning behind his words. What was Jepherson up to again?

Slightly uneasy, she elaborated, "That's all I can give to you. I will not promise you anything else."

"What if you sold it to me?" Jepherson asked.

Raeleigh knew that it was a trap.

"That drawing is not a big deal. I did it on a whim so there's no value in keeping it. As for its name, I actually like the name Lanox. Of course, you don't have to use it if that name doesn't sound good."

"Sounds good. What do you currently value the drawing at?"

"I'm not sure yet."

"If I put it into production, I reckon you would receive at least 10 million dollars. Of course, that's just a rough figure. If you sign a contract with me, then you'll get more money in the future. Are you sure you want to just to give it to me?" Jepherson asked again. Raeleigh said, "It's just a piece of paper. If you think it's worth something, go ahead. It may not appeal to others anyway. Different people have different opinions. I know where I stand."

"What if it's your dowry?"

Raeleigh whipped her head up and gaped at Jepherson. Was he was crazy?

“I don’t have a dowry.”

“It’s not easy to marry into the Harvey family if you don’t.”

Raeleigh did not have a retort. Every time she talked to Jepherson, it felt as if there were hidden meanings behind his words. Like a spider spinning his web, drawing her in.

Raeleigh paced and looked at Jepherson every so often. At last, he said, “Lanox is a good name. I will produce a limited edition of 100 cars. That will be your dowry.”

“You...”

Raeleigh stalked off, heading back to her dorm, and did not look at Jepherson anymore. She walked off her frustration and made her way back to the dormitory.

When Raeleigh entered the dormitory, she looked for Scarlette, who turned out to be awake and smiling at her. Raeleigh asked, “Aren’t you afraid of having a nightmare by doing this?”

Scarlette avoided her gaze then, she had no choice either.

Raeleigh did not see Jepherson for the next few days, nor did she receive any calls. She felt like she was being ghosted. Rather than enjoying some peace and quiet, Flynt seized his chance to insinuate himself in her life. The guy she saw plenty of.

The class was noisier now with Flynt in their class.

Raeleigh preferred keeping to herself. If Deanna stopped bugging her, she would even forget about her existence.

As Raeleigh went out of the classroom, intending to go back to the dormitory for something she forgot, she bumped into someone.

And that person was none other than Flynt.

The notebook that Raeleigh was holding fell out of her hand onto the ground after they collided. As she reached down to pick it up, Flynt beat her to it, quickly picking it up and handing it back to her.

Raeleigh fixed her eyes on the notebook and said nothing. Quickly she turned away, hoping to avoid any further interactions.

Flynt stopped her in her tracks. “Don’t you want to know why I decided to study here?”

Raeleigh stopped, but she did not look back.

Raeleigh disliked meddling in other people’s affairs. She really did not want to know his purpose of coming here.

Flynt watched as Raeleigh started walking again, further and further away from him back to the dormitory. He let her go. Flynt knew he had to be patient and bide his time.

When Flynt turned around he realised Zorion was right behind him.

No words were spoken. They just stared each other down. After that, Flynt walked away while Zorion followed Raeleigh route to her dormitory.

Raeleigh came out of the room with a book in her hand, then handed it book to Zorion.

“Thanks for the book.”

Zorion accepted the book and asked, “What did Flynt say to you?”

“Nothing. He asked me whether I wanted to know the reason why he’s here.” Raeleigh did not think that Zprion had any harm in hiding the truth.

“So, did you want to know?”

Raeleigh shook her head. “What does other people’s business have to do with me?”

“He’s here to make a deal with me.” Zorion was very serious when he spoke. Alarm bells rang in her head.

“He wants my help in defeating Jepherson.”

Raeleigh froze then she forced a smile and said, “Is that so?”

She didn’t have time for this. Her class was starting in a few minutes and she needed to leave. Zorion reached out and grabbed her hand to stop her from leaving. She scowled at him.

She did not like his smile. “If I agree to his plan, you’ll be mine. Flynt is willing to give you up.”

Raeleigh asked in disbelief, “Are you that stupid?”

Zorion was stunned for a moment at her sharp words. Then he smiled brightly and said, “Of course not.”

When Zorion released her she quickly walked towards the classroom. Zorion followed and asked, “You do know that I will not turn against Jepherson, right?”

“Why would you turn against him?” Raeleigh really hated having this conversation. She wasn’t like Deanna, who spoke her mind all the time; neither was she like Scarlett, who did not filter her words.

Raeleigh was usually one who filtered her thoughts before speaking, weighing it before giving voice to them. However, today she spoke her mind.

Zorion contemplated her and said, “For you.”

That stopped her. “I don’t believe you.”

“Why not?”

“You are not the kind of person who would turn against someone for the sake of a woman.”

“How can you be so sure?” Zorion could feel Raeleigh’s confidence when she said it.

She would not understand the past he and Jepherson’s shared.

Though he probably would not bet Rhys Jepherson for even himself.

Raeleigh stared at Zorion for a while, but kept silent and continued walking. Then, "It's just like Deanna and I. We will not turn against each other for Jepherson."

Zorion frowned. "You can only speak for yourself. You can't speak on behalf of Deanna."

Exasperated, Raeleigh said, "I give up very easily. How about that?"

...

Zorion was speechless. He had no reply to that statement.

It was true that she could not speak on behalf of Deanna, but she could resolve this matter in her own way.

Zorion laughed, "But neither one of us are the kind of person who gives up easily."

Raeleigh shook her head, "You will."

"Why do you say that?"

"I just feel it."

Raeleigh left to attend her class. Thankfully, nothing much happened all day. Zorion would occasionally drop by to find Raeleigh focusing in class.

When classes were over in the evening, she found a quiet place to sit, flanked by Deanna and Scarlett.

Deanna asked, "Raeleigh, would you like to come over to my house this weekend?"

Raeleigh shook her head, "No thanks, I need to visit my grandmother."

"How about I accompany you then?" Deanna suggested. If Raeleigh did not want to go over to her house that weekend, then she would go over to Raeleigh's instead.

Scarlett's face was full of disdain. "Can you please grow up? Why must you follow Raeleigh? Also were you going to invite me over to your house?"

Deanna grunted. "Nope."

"Fine, I wouldn't go even if you did."

Raeleigh chuckled when she saw Deanna and Scarlett bickering.

At long last, it was the weekend. Raeleigh had already packed her for the weekend and was eager to leave. However, as she was about to head out the door, she was informed that someone was waiting for her downstairs.

Xanthus! Raeleigh was surprised to see him.

"What can I do for you?" She walked over and asked. Xanthus said instead, "Let's take a walk."

Since he had helped her before, she owed it to him to hear him out. Oddly enough he had questions for her.

“Do you remember where you were born? Your childhood?” Xanthus asked. She replied, “In the countryside. My grandmother is from there. I was born in the midst of a plague. Both of my parents are dead. My grandmother had to go around begging for food. She did whatever she could to make sure we have food to survive.”

“I couldn’t tell that you were an orphan. It seems like I was wrong,” Xanthus frowned.

“Are you looking for someone?” Raeleigh asked. Xanthus nodded, looking somewhat disappointed.

Raeleigh did not ask but Xanthus explained anyway. “About 19 years ago, my parents moved here and was unluckily encountered their enemies. They took my sister away. Til now, we are still looking for her.”

Raeleigh looked Xanthus in the eye. “What made you think that I might be your sister?”

“There is a sense of familiarity when I’m around you.” Xanthus said with a smile, “I’m sorry to have bothered you.”

Xanthus walked away, Raeleigh frowning as she watched him leave. She put the strange conversation out of her head and made her way back to the dormitory.

As soon as she entered the room, Deanna rushed over and asked, “Was it my brother? Did he come to ask you out on a date?”

Raeleigh laughed. “No.”

“Then who is it?” Deanna asked, feeling a little disappointed.

Raeleigh did not answer. She looked over at Scarlett and asked, “Are you really going home with Deanna?”

Stubbornness on her face, Scarlett said, “Yup.”

“Alright, have fun with Deanns then. I’m going,” Raeleigh picked up stuff, and they left the dorms together.

Zorion was waiting outside for them when they came out. Scarlett and Deanna waved goodbye to Raeleigh. She rode with Zorion who had offered to drop Raeleigh off at her grandmother’s place.

Raeleigh thanked Zorion for the lift and watched as he drove away before heading into her house. Before she can call out, heard someone talking to her grandmother, Novalie.

Curious, Raeleigh put her things down and she went in search of Novalie.

“What are you doing here?” Raeleigh blurted out when shesaw Jepherson. Surprise was an understatement since she did not see his car nor Stuart on the way in. There went her plans for a peaceful weekend. .

Raeleigh entered Novalie’s room and pulled a chair out to sit.

Jepherson glanced at her but continued his conversation with Novalie.

Raeleigh sat waiting quietly.

Novalie too felt that Raeleigh was behaving a little strangely that day.

As for Raeleigh herself, she sat still and silent in her chair the whole time. Woolgathering, she did not even hear her grandmother ask for a cup of water.

Alarmed at her behaviour, Novalie called her name.

“Raeleigh.” But she didn’t respond.

Novalie called out louder, “Raeleigh!”

Raeleigh jerked and came back to her senses. She blinked at her grandmother, as if she had just woken up from a dream. Novalie frowned and said, “Have you been very busy at school lately? You seem a little tired.”

Raeleigh shook her head. “No, I was thinking about a new design.”

Jepherson’s eyes lit up when he heard her words but when he carefully studied her expression he realised that Raeleigh was definitely not thinking about any design.

Novalie believed her though, so Jepherson did not contradict Raeleigh.

“It’s getting late. Dinner?” Novalie inquired.

Only then did Raeleigh realise that she hadn’t made dinner.

Raeleigh stood up. “I’ll go and make dinner. You can continue your chat.”

Raeleigh excused herself and made her way into the kitchen. The fridge was empty.

She popped back to inform her grandmother, “I need to go out and get some groceries.”

“I’ll come with you.” Jepherson offered. It was dark outside, Jepherson was worried about letting Raeleigh go out to buy groceries alone.

“I’ll be fine, you stay and talk to Grandma,” Raeleigh said as she made her way out the door. Novalie could tell that Jepherson was worried about Raeleigh.

She gave him a nudge. “I don’t need anyone to accompany me. Jepherson, go with her. Remember to bring a flashlight. It’s getting dark and who knows what dangers lurk on the road.”

Dismissing them, she rest her head back on the bed and closed her eyes. Raeleigh knew what she meant better than anyone else.

“Let’s go then,” Raeleigh said as she retrieved a flashlight from one of the drawers and led the way. Jepherson followed suit.

Raeleigh stepped out of the house and looked around for Stuart.

There! Raeleigh spotted Stuart standing not far away from them in the dark conversing with someone, she couldn’t see his face and he quickly left when they came out. However, Raeleigh knew that the man was Hadrian.

Raeleigh tripped slightly. She did not like walking in the dark. It made her a little uncomfortable.

Jepherson took her arm and said casually, "Are you alright? You seem uneasy."

Raeleigh looked at Jepherson wide-eyed. "What are you talking about? I'm just making sure to shine the light on your path."

At times Jepherson was like a very considerate husband. Considerate but somewhat ignorant and eager to please.

"Give it to me." Jepherson reached out and took the flashlight from her. He then drew her closer and held her more securely as they walked.

It was odd, the road was flat, but Raeleigh was unsteady on her feet.

Chapter 956

Raeleigh left to attend her class. Thankfully, nothing much happened all day. Zorion would occasionally drop by to find Raeleigh focusing in class.

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Chapter 957

They walked in companionable silence but once they arrived at the market, Raeleigh shook off his hand.

Jepherson stayed silent. He calmly turned off the flashlight and followed Raeleigh into the market. Most of the stalls still open were selling fruits.

Raeleigh walked around and bought some vegetables, then left. Jepherson faithfully behind her.

When they made their home, Jepherson took the grocery bag from Raeleigh and shifted it so that he could still hold her hand and shine the flashlight. It was awkward, to say the least.

Jepherson was amused with her squirming.

He was sure Raeleigh liked him. She just was not ready to admit it yet.

He looked forward to the day she stopped lying to herself and give in to her feelings for him.

When they arrived at the house, Raeleigh found Stuart still standing at the door. She chided Jepherson, “You should let them wait in the house next time.”

Raeleigh went in, not noticing that Jepherson stood outside, enjoying the gentle night wind. It was a beautiful night with the bright moon in the sky outshining the stars.

Raeleigh waited for Jepherson to bring in the groceries. When she saw no signs of him, she went back outside to call him in.

“What are you doing?” Raeleigh asked when she found him just standing outside. Jepherson went in then went to give Novalie some company while Raeleigh got started on dinner.

With all the extra people over, Raeleigh purposely made bigger portions. After she finished cooking, she called everyone to dinner.

“I’m going to invite Stuart and Hadrian to join us. I made extra portions.” Raeleigh said as she headed outside.

Stuart briefly looked over at Jepherson, joining only when he did not object.

Stuart and Hadrian hurriedly ate dinner then excused themselves. Their haste contrasted with Jepherson’s leisurely pace. He did not seem to plan on leaving anytime soon.

After dinner, Novalie felt a little tired, so she decided to call it an Tristany night. Raeleigh walked her back to her room, out of earshot, before asking Jepherson, “When do you plan on leaving?” Jepherson shrugged. “I don’t plan on leaving.”

Exasperated Raeleigh said, "And where are you planning on sleeping?"

Jepherson did not answer. He just looked in the direction of her room.

Raeleigh blushed, "No. No way. You can't sleep there."

Jepherson did not bother arguing. He stood up, entered her room, and lay back in her bed, making himself very comfortable.

"Stop doing that," Raeleigh grumbled.

"We can share the bed. I promise I will not touch you," Jepherson said seriously. Raeleigh sincerely doubted that.

"Fine. Sleep here. I'll bunk with grandma."

Novalie looked up when she came in. "Raeleigh, you don't have to accompany me." Novalie was shrewd. Raeleigh ignored her protests and lay down. She then looked at her grandmother and asked, "What did he say?"

"He didn't have to say anything. I know my granddaughter." Novalie could tell that Raeleigh was interested in Jepherson.

One doesn't get to her age and be blind to what was going on.

Raeleigh remained silent for a long time. Then she said, "Grandma, am I useless?"

Shocked, Novalie started. "Why would you such nonsense?"

"I'm not ready."

"No one is really ready. There are a lot of people who aren't ready to give birth, but don't they do it anyway?"

"You can never be prepared for everything. Especially not matter of the heart."

Novalie sighed. Her granddaughter was brilliant but can be so stubborn about her own feelings.

Raeleigh did not know how long she slept. By the time she woke up, Jepherson had been to the grocery store and back and was already busying himself in the kitchen.

When Raeleigh entered the kitchen to help, he shoed her away. "Go relax out there. It'll be done in a second."

"Let me help you."

"There's no need."

Raeleigh stubbornly refused to leave. But two can play this game. Eventually, she gave up and left. He was almost done anyway.

Jepherson followed with breakfast. Novalie sat down and smiled at the spread with satisfaction, immediately reaching for the food and digging in.

Raeleigh considered Jepherson then averted her gaze and served herself breakfast. She did not know what to say to him.

After the meal, Raeleigh asked Jepherson. "When are you leaving?"

"I think I will stay here for a while. It's the weekend so there's nothing much going on in the office." As he spoke, Jepherson settled down and showed no signs of leaving. Whenever Raeleigh wanted him to leave, he would say something to embarrass her.

That made Raeleigh so angry her face turned red. She stormed out of the room and Jepherson to his own devices.

The stand-off continued until after lunch. Not that Jepherson seemed to mind. He chatted with Novalie as if nothing happened. After lunch, when Jepherson finally stood up, Raeleigh cheered internally. Finally!

However, as soon as he got up, he sat back down again.

"You're not leaving?" Raeleigh asked unhappily as she looked at Jepherson. The bouncer had the cheek to stand up and sit back down again.

Raeleigh flopped onto the other side of the sofa and pursed her lips.

Jepherson looked into her eyes and fell for her even more.

At 2 p. m. Jepherson approached her. "Can I borrow your computer?"

Before she could agree. Or disagree for that matter, Jepherson reached out and took her laptop, bringing it back to her room and making himself comfortable on the bed.

Raeleigh thought he had an urgent work matter to do. Instead, he wanted to borrow it to watch the live broadcast of an ongoing auto-show.

When Raeleigh followed him in, Jepherson motioned her over.

When Raeleigh did not budge. Jepherson looked up from the screen and arched a brow. "Do you want me to carry you over?"

Raeleigh scowled. She sat down and looked at the cars on display in the auto-show.

"This why you want to borrow my laptop?"

"Yup." Jepherson quipped casually.. Raeleigh finally stopped talking and joined in watching the autoshow.

Raeleigh soon fell asleep.

Jepherson put aside the laptop and gently carried Raeleigh over to the bed.

If only he knew that Raeleigh did not get a good sleep the previous night because she dreamt of Jepherson. Every time she dreamt of him, she would wake up in shock.

After covering Raeleigh with the quilt, Jepherson lay back in bed next to Raeleigh. As a result...

When Raeleigh woke up, she was shocked to find herself in Jepherson's arms.

Raeleigh flushed red and her heart raced. She hurriedly pulled herself out of his arms and got out of bed. She watched as Jepherson slowly woke up.

Opening his eyes, Jepherson lay there for a moment and his eyes sought out Raeleigh's. He rubbed the sleep from his eyes and sat up.

"Why are you standing there?"

Raeleigh chose not to answer. Instead, she walked out of the room. It was late and time for Jepherson to leave. It was her house after all.

However, when she turned around and saw him coming out from the room, she could not bring herself to ask him to leave either.

Grabbing an apple, she sat down in the living room. Instead of eating, she just stared at the apple in her hand. Why is her life so chaotic?

Jepherson came out, briefly glanced her way, then went to the kitchen.

When Raeleigh heard the sounds of clanging pots, she went to investigate. Arriving, she realised that Jepherson was preparing to make dinner.

She stared at the scene uncomprehendingly.

It boggled the mind. Just what did Jepherson like about her?

Chapter 958

After dinner, Raeleigh watched TV with Jepherson while Novalie rested in her room.

It was quiet in the living with just the two of them. Raeleigh was stared at the screen, not really seeing anything. Jepherson decided to go into the kitchen to cut some fruits for her. He noticed that he had not seen her eating any junk food or fruits, which was a little strange.

Raeleigh looked at the fruit in front of her and made no move no take one. Jepherson reached out, snagged a slice of apple, and held it to her lips. However, she did not respond.

So, Jepherson placed the slice of apple in his mouth, then lowered his head to hers. Her eyes widened and she opened her mouth. What— Quick as a flash, Jepherson slipped the apple into her mouth.

Eyes wide, Raeleigh raised her hand to his chest, fully intending to push him away. However, Jepherson did not let her up. She tried to wriggle out of his arms but to no avail.

"Eat your apple," Jepherson said as he finally released her, his breathing heavy.

Flushing beet red, Raeleigh slowly chewed on the apple. Satisfied, Jepherson placed a gentle kiss on her cheek. Then, nodding to her laptop, he asked, "What were you thinking about just now?"

"Nothing."

Jepherson took a piece of apple and ate it. He did not buy it.

But he kept his scepticism to himself and just kept handing Raeleigh slices of apple.

"I can't eat anymore," Raeleigh eventually moaned, as she pushed his hand away.

So Jepherson ate it instead, his eyes on the screen.

At eight o'clock, Jepherson went back to Raeleigh's room and began undressing. Raeleigh did not bother following him and chose to bunk with her grandmother for another night.

Novalie stirred her eyes as Raeleigh entered the room. What a stubborn granddaughter she had.

Raeleigh lay down and stared at the door. She had locked it but wasn't sure if Jepherson would be eavesdropping on their conversation.

Probably not.

"Grandma," Raeleigh said in a low voice. Novalie was shrewdly stayed silent and allowed her granddaughter to gather her thoughts.

After a bit, she encouraged her. "You can tell me. He's not out there." Novalie had sharp ears after all.

Raeleigh turned her head to look her grandma fully in the eyes and said, "Someone asked me where I was born."

Stunned, Novalie didn't know what to answer. Raeleigh continued, "He thought that I might be his sister. He told me a story about how someone stole his sister right after she was born."

Raeleigh told Novalie what Xanthus had said.

Novalie was quiet for a while, before saying in a low voice, "If that is true, then they should have put up notices, or go to the authorities rather than trying to find her on their own."

"I know." Raeleigh thought so too. Xanthus's story seemed far-fetched.

Yet since Xanthus had come to her, it could mean that he knew something about her past.

"Raeleigh, do you still remember what I told you?" Novalie asked calmly. "Of course, I must not be confused by other people's words and I must not trust strangers."

"It's good that you remember. I'm sure you remember what your childhood was like. Why would your memories of it suddenly change?" Novalie closed her eyes and asked calmly, while anxiety churned her insides.

Her days were numbered and it was difficult for her to get around. When she died, Her granddaughter would be left all alone in this world.

Those vicious people would not let Raeleigh go.

Novalie did not sleep well. She got up Tristany the next day, planning to go for a walk to clear her head. It was a Monday and Raeleigh had to get to school Tristany. Novalie needed to speak to Jepherson soon before Raeleigh could suspect anything.

When Raeleigh realised that her grandmother was already up, she too hurriedly got out of bed.

“Go back to sleep. It’s only four o’clock. I’ll go check if Jepherson is awake. I’ll ask him to go with me to buy some breakfast,” It was odd for Novalie to be so robust, she usually walked very slowly.

Novalie quickly left the room and went to wake Jepherson up.

“Are you up?” She was not courteous to Jepherson, rapidly knocking on his door. It was indeed too Tristany for Jepherson to be awake.

The sky was still dark out with dawn hours away.

However, with the racket Novalie was making outside the door, Jepherson did not really have much choice.

He opened the door and greeted Novalie. She said, “Come with me to buy breakfast.”

“Alright, give me a moment to get dressed.” He was curious as to what Novalie wanted. He turned around and got dressed, then accompanied Novalie out the door.

By the time Raeleigh woke up, Novalie and Jepherson were already back from the store. Jepherson was helping Novalie with setting out breakfast. The breakfast was still warm and he hurriedly called Raeleigh over to eat.

Raeleigh had no idea what her grandmother and Jepherson talked about. But they looked thick as thieves. In fact, he looked more closer to Novalie than she was.

After breakfast, Raeleigh had to head back to the university.

Jepherson briefly exchanged some words with Novalie before he personally sent Raeleigh back to the university.

“What did the two of you talked about?” Raeleigh could not help but ask after getting in the car.

Jepherson casually answered, “She said that you were a smart kid when you were younger.”

Raeleigh was quiet for a while then said, “I’m sure all the kids were smart when they were younger.”

“I wasn’t,” Jepherson announced with a smile. He seemed proud of it too. Not elaborating, he kept his gaze front, something obviously on his mind.

Stuart knew he was lying, but it wasn’t his place to comment.

On the drive back to the university, Raeleigh listened to Jepherson with half an ear. As they approached the university, she immediately gathered her things, wanting to get out of the car right away. As soon as they arrived, Jepherson watched as Raeleigh hurriedly got out of the car. He bid her goodbye then he slowly drove off.

Raeleigh watched as he drove away. Then she turned around and walked into the campus with her laptop and bag. While she was walking, she could feel a car following her.

Picking up her pace, Raeleigh did not turn around to look, Just then her phone rang.

Raeleigh stopped to take her phone out. She answered and turned to look at the car that was following her.

A man's voice came from the phone. "Raeleigh, I'm sure you know that it was me. Why are you walking so quickly?"

Raeleigh stared at the car. Slowly she put away her phone and walked towards the car. Her grip tightened on her laptop.

She stopped next to the car, quickly scanning the area.

There weren't many people around at that time. Most of the students were already in class. That explained the driver's audacity in following her so closely.

Raeleigh stood outside the car for a while. The driver said without preamble, "You and Jepherson have been getting along pretty well lately. I don't like it."

Raeleigh frowned at him, her gaze direct. "I can't do what you've asked of me."

"Raeleigh, only the dead are capable of doing nothing."

Raeleigh did not answer. The person in the car pressed on, "My patience is running thin. Cease your contact with Jepherson. It's hard to say what will happen if you don't."

Raeleigh remained silent the whole time, and the car drove away from her quickly.

Raeleigh stood there for a second before she quickly went into the building. She didn't realise that Jepherson saw the exchange and decided to follow the car.

Jepherson's eyes were cold. Stuart looked back to confirm his intentions. "Mr, Jepherson, do we follow that car?"

"What else?"

Stuart hurriedly turned around and followed the car.

As expected, impulsiveness rarely spelled success.

"Someone is following us," said the driver. His passenger did not say a word. The driver immediately reacted, intending to shake off their tail.

However, just as he was about to shake off the car, he realised that there was a car that was stopped in the middle of the road.

The driver hurriedly looked at his passenger through the rearview mirror as he waited for further instructions. Only then did the passenger speak, "Go around the car."

Just as he was about to do that, five other cars appeared in front of him, blocking the entire road. The driver had no choice but to jerk the car to a stop. He turned around, helpless, and was met with an irritated face.

Chapter 959

"D*mn it!" The moment after he swore, there was dead silence in the car. Then, Zorion got out of the car to check on it.

Jepherson, too, got out of the car and walked towards the car.

Just as Zorion was about to approach the car, his phone suddenly rang.

He answered the phone. After he hung up the phone, he turned around and went back into his car.

Jepherson, too, received a phone call. He, too, turned back around and got into his car.

After getting in the car, Stuart turned around and asked, "Young Master?"

"Let's go." Jepherson turned his face away. He did not even get the chance to see who the person was before leaving.

Zorion's car had already left. Soon, the cars on both sides drove away and the car that was nlocked also left the road.

Raeleigh decided to head back to the dormitory to drop her things off before heading over to the lecture hall. However, she bumped into Flynt, just as she came down from the dormitory.

Raeleigh paused for a moment when she saw him. Flynt turned around to look at her.

"I saw you coming this way, so I decided to follow you." Flynt smiled, but Raeleigh did not say anything. However, she had a class to attend, so she started walking towards the lecture halls.

Flynt followed Raeleigh to the lecture halls. They were neither too close nor too far away from each other, so it seemed that they were walking together. In fact, Raeleigh kept a respectable distance from Flynt the whole way. It was just that Flynt closed that gap.

Raeleigh was someone who did not like to be around strangers, especially those with ulterior motives. So, she walked the entire way without looking at Flynt.

Just as they were about to arrive in front of the lecture hall, Flynt asked her, "What kind of person do you think I am? You don't seem to care about my presence at all."

Raeleigh neither answered his question nor did she look at him.

If meeting Jepherson was by chance and meeting Zorion was a coincidental, then meeting Flynt could only be regarded as inevitable. She wanted nothing to do with this stranger.

It was because in the Raeleigh's world, it was highly unusual for her to be friends with a boy. In fact, it was a miracle for her to be friends with two guys. There was no room for a third guy, regardless of his intentions.

Raeleigh did not pay attention to Flynt. She pretended as if she could not hear his words. She knocked on the door of the lecture hall. Then, she waited for permission to enter before she pushed the door open and walked in.

The attitude of the lecturer towards Raeleigh had already changed dramatically. She did not mind that Raeleigh was skipping classes, hence Raeleigh was not reprimanded for her behavior.

"Take your seat," the lecturer said and looked down at her book. She did not notice that there was someone behind Raeleigh.

Scarlette and Deanna stared at Raeleigh as she made her way to her seat.

As soon as Raeleigh took her seat, Deanna asked, "Raeleigh, where's my brother?"

Raeleigh froze for a while. How would she know?

Raeleigh shook her head, indicating that she had no clue where Zorion was. Deanna was disappointed. It was as if Raeleigh did not care about Zorion at all. She pulled a long face and said, "Raeleigh, I was so kind to create opportunities for you and Zorion. Why didn't you keep a close eye on him?"

Raeleigh was speechless. She realized that the entire class, as well as the lecturer, was looking at her. She was unable to come up with an explanation. So, she did not say anything. Deanna's words had made her become the target of public ridicule.

On the contrary, the lecturer thought highly of Raeleigh. She knew that Raeleigh had a bright future ahead of her, regardless of whether she chose to be with Zorion or Jepherson.

The lecturer smiled and prHyised that those men would treat her well.

On the other hand, the other students were looking at Raeleigh with fury in their eyes. Why was she so lucky?

What did those men see in her?

Just then, someone knocked on the door. The lecturer looked at the door and said, "Please come in."

Flynt walked in from the door. When the lecturer saw Flynt, she hurriedly said, "The class hasn't started yet. Please take your seat."

"Thank you." After saying that, Flynt went back to his seat and sat down, staring at the front.

Deanna's expression darkened when she saw Flynt. Her brows furrowed.

Just as the class was about to begin, there was another knock on the door. The lecturer looked at the door and wondered what was going on.

"Please come in."

Zorion came in from the door. However, he was not alone.

Zorion didn't need an introduction. He was handsome and dignified. As for the one behind him?

He was about 1.8 meters tall, which was comparable to Zorion's height. However, he was much more handsome than Zorion, especially with that attractive set of eyes. It could make any heart skip a beat at first sight.

But then again, everyone from the Harvey family was good-looking. Both the men and the women were. However, the most handsome one of them all had to be Santiago.

Santiago was only 17 years old. He was young and carefree. He always had a smile on his face.

He was much more kind-hearted compared to Jepherson. He could light up the world with his smile.

Deanna sat in her seat, depressed over the fact that Raeleigh did not seem to care about her brother. When she saw Santiago walking behind Zorion, her eyes widened in shock. "Santiago?"

Santiago shook his head and said, "It seems like the class is full."

When the lecturer observed the relationship between Santiago and Zorion, she quickly said, "Why don't you take a seat at the back first? I'll arrange it for you after class."

The lecturer did not want to miss the opportunity to retain these powerful and influential students in her class.

Santiago had a disapproving look on his face. He randomly found a chair and carried it to the back of the class. He did it so naturally that he captivated the whole class.

Even the lecturer was confused. She could not help thinking, "Which family is this kid from? He's extremely attractive."

Santiago had caused quite a bit of stir that day. However, he was brought here by Zorion and Jepherson.

The person who threatened Raeleigh that day was none other than Santiago Harvey.

Santiago was studying abroad and had graduated ahead of time. He felt bored, so he decided to come home. As a result, he ran into his elder brother, Jepherson. He was sneaking around with Raeleigh, and he found that interesting.

He had never seen his brother with any woman before. He intended to play along with them.

Then, he found out that Zorion had a thing for Raeleigh, which excited him even more. He was so excited that he couldn't fall asleep.

So, he bought a car and gathered several people. He did a quick research on Raeleigh's background and decided to play a prank on her.

However.....

Santiago was caught in the midst of his own prank.

He immediately admitted his mistake to Zorion and Jepherson in order to avoid any unnecessary trouble.

He was let go because of his sincere attitude.

However, people lived to suffer and punishment was inevitable. Jepherson immediately enrolled Santiago into the university.

Why didn't Santiago see through him? Why did he have to listen to him? But then again, with his frivolous attitude, he could not hang around and do nothing.

Santiago brought his chair and placed it beside Raeleigh. He put his elbow on the table and stared at her. She appeared to be uncomfortable and had no idea what was going on.

Raeleigh raised her head and stared at Zorion. Zorion stood up and shoved Santiago's head away, which caused him to nTristany hit his head on the table.

Santiago's expression was full of innocence. He said, "I think I'm going crazy!"

Zorion stared coldly at Santiago and asked, "Do you want me to bash you up?"

Santiago heaved a sigh and said, "Nope!"

"Behave yourself then." Zorion returned to his seat and sat down. Deanna grinned and turned back to her brother to give him a thumbs up. She said, "You're amazing!"

Zorion did not reply. However, Santiago felt as if he was about to lose his mind.

Chapter 960

All the students in the class were in a daze. This was what Raeleigh thought anyway. Their attention was focused on her because there was an attractive guy sitting right next to her. She found it ridiculous that he could still fall asleep under the watchful eyes of the crowd.

Santiago was wearing a loose green T-shirt, along with a pair of white jeans. The outfit looked particularly good on him because his skin was fair.

Therefore, he immediately captured the hearts of all the girls.

Santiago was easily more handsome than Zorion and Flynt.

Some of the girls were staring at the bracelet on Santiago's wrist. There was a sparkling sapphire and emerald gem on it. It was an incredibly amazing sight.

Some girls were staring at the diamond earring on one of his ears.

His outfit suited him perfectly.

Especially with his perfect slicked-back hair. All the girls wanted a piece of him.

Because of this, the girls were not in the mood to listen to what the lecturer had to teach that day. They had all submitted themselves to Santiago's charm.

When the bell rang, everyone waited in anticipation for Santiago to wake up. However...

Santiago did not wake up and continued sleeping.

When class was dismissed, no one moved either. Everyone was waiting for Santiago to wake up.

In the end, the lecturer had no choice but to leave.

Raeleigh stared at the person beside her. She was very curious about him!

That was the first time that Raeleigh was genuinely curious about what kind of person Santiago was.

"Raeleigh, stop looking at him. He is a devil. He's a master at seducing women. If you fall for him, then you're screwed!" Deanna hurriedly pulled Raeleigh out of her daze.

In fact, Raeleigh wasn't doing anything. She was just looking at Santiago.

Although Santiago was tall, Raeleigh could tell that he was relatively young.

“Nonsense, why did you call me a devil? I’m an angel!” Santiago immediately said, after being awakened. He glanced unhappily at Deanna before turning to Raeleigh and said, “I’m an angel!”

Raeleigh froze for a moment and did not know how to react.

She had never seen anyone as self-righteous as him.

“Shame on you!” Deanna said as she turned her face away. The group of people around her hated Deanna. If it weren’t for Zorion, then she would have been in trouble.

At that time, Raeleigh did not care about anything else. The atmosphere was a little weird. It seemed like everyone was looking at them.

Raeleigh gathered her things, and she then stood up.

“I’ll excuse myself for a moment,” Raeleigh said and immediately left the room.

Santiago stood up as well and wanted to make a beeline for the exit, in search of Raeleigh. Petite and beautiful, he found her to be very interesting.

Just as he was about to leave, he was pulled aside to take a seat next to Zorion. Zorion stood up and glanced at him with contempt. He said, “Sit down.”

Santiago raised his head to look at Zorion. He stared at Zorion and said, “Pfft!”

After Zorion left, Santiago looked at the person next to him. Santiago extended his hand and said, “Hi, my name is Santiago Harvey.”

Flynt lowered his head to look at the hand in front of him. Then, he said, “Flynt Cole.”

Flynt raised his hand to shake Santiago’s hand. Santiago withdrew his hand and smiled devilishly, “I was just teasing you!”

Flynt’s expression froze. He gave a sarcastic smile and withdrew his extended hand.

“I’ll keep it in mind.” With that, he stood up and left. Santiago watched as he walked out the door and smiled even more wickedly.

Raeleigh came out of the classroom and found a place to sit down. It took Zorion a long time before he found her. He took a seat right next to her.

Raeleigh cast a glance at him and asked, “Who was that guy?”

“Santiago Harvey,” Zorion answered directly, not wanting to hide the truth. Raeleigh froze for a moment before she said, “Is he Jepherson’s younger brother?”

“That’s him.”

Raeleigh nodded as if she knew it all along.

“He meant no harm,” Zorion explained.

“I know.”

...

They were quiet for a while, and then the class bell rang. Zorion stood up and said, "Are you heading back to class?"

Raeleigh raised her head and said, "Not yet, you can go ahead. I want to sit here for a little while longer."

"I'll accompany you then."

"There's no need for that."

Even if Raeleigh said that there was no need for him to remain with her, he insisted on accompanying her. He sat with her until lunchtime.

At noon, everyone went to have lunch. Raeleigh also got up and followed Zorion to the cafeteria. However, when they arrived, they found out that Santiago had reserved the private dining room. In fact, he had reserved it for the entire year.

Raeleigh followed Zorion into the cafeteria. Before she could take a seat, she heard Santiago shouting, "Hey, Raeleigh, my sister-in-law! Come and sit with me!"

Raeleigh fell silent for a moment!

Sister-in-law?!

She quickly looked at Deanna. Deanna then explained to her, "Raeleigh, Santiago is younger than my brother. He's just a little anxious."

Deanna blinked but Santiago paid no attention to her. He immediately pulled out a chair for Raeleigh.

Raeleigh felt embarrassed. She stood aside and said nothing.

"Don't listen to him. Just sit anywhere you like." Zorion looked at Santiago sternly, giving him a warning. Santiago knocked on the table and asked, "Won't you let me eat?"

"Who do you think you're talking to?"

Just as everyone was about to eat, they saw a person entering the cafeteria. Raeleigh turned around to have a look. She was met with Jepherson, along with Stuart, who was walking behind him.

"Miss Anson." Stuart greeted Raeleigh as soon as they arrived at her table. However, Raeleigh did not answer.

Jepherson turned around and glanced at Raeleigh. Then, he swept his eyes across the entire room. Deanna immediately stood up.

"Jepherson?"

Santiago raised his eyebrows and glanced at Jepherson. He then poured himself a glass of water and sat down to drink it.

Jepherson walked over to the table and sat down. He glanced at the empty seat beside him and said, "Miss Anson, you can sit here."

Raeleigh did not move. If she could not sit with Santiago, then that meant that she could not sit with Jepherson too, right?

At the thought of this, Raeleigh walked around the table and chose a seat right next to Scarlett.

Deanna said, "I don't mind if you sit opposite of him. I will not say anything."

Raeleigh wore a smile on her face and did not speak. Scarlett was overwhelmed by the people teasing Raeleigh. Wasn't this considered bullying?

Everyone seemed to be bullying Raeleigh.

Scarlett lowered her head and tried her best not to look up.

Zorion could only sit next to his sister. At that time, there was an empty seat on Santiago's other side. Raeleigh motioned for Scarlett to take a seat. Deanna was seated between Jepherson and Zorion.

Raeleigh wore a poker face and ate calmly. Then, she lowered her head and remained quiet the entire time.

"Miss Anson, don't you like fish?" Jepherson gave some fish to Raeleigh. He suddenly lost his appetite when he saw her eating salad.

Santiago rotated the lazy susan and personally scooped some fish into Raeleigh's plate. Then, he rotated the lazy susan again.

"It's not dirty. I changed my utensils," Santiago said as he peeled the shrimp. Once he was done, he placed it on Raeleigh's plate.

Scarlett initially assumed that he was peeling the shrimp for her.

Raeleigh did not eat much throughout the entire lunch. She just ate some food here and there. She genuinely did not feel like eating when she was faced with these four people.

After having some food, Raeleigh then excused herself and made her way to the restroom. When Scarlett saw her leaving, she quickly got up and chased after Raeleigh. She immediately locked the door when she entered.

Raeleigh washed her hands and looked at Scarlett through the mirror. Her face was full of anger. "What are you afraid of? Why don't you tell Deanna?"

Raeleigh blew her hands dry after she finished washing them. Then, she said calmly, "Deanna is innocent."

"She is innocent and you are silly. Do you know that?" Scarlett was furious. Raeleigh stared at her and did not say a word until they heard a knock on the door. It was Deanna. She asked, "Why did you lock the door? What are you two talking about?"

Deanna kept pounding on the door. Raeleigh had no choice but to unlock the door and exit the restroom.

As soon as she stepped out of the door, Jepherson came into sight. She had no choice but to turn a blind eye and retreated back into the restroom.