

Healing 831

Chapter 831 Performing a Lifeless Act

Knight's Mansion

Since her last scolding from her brother, Beata had become incredibly obedient. Recently, she hadn't caused any trouble by going to see Averı and instead spent all her time at home preparing for school.

Of course, there was also her novel writing. While school was still out, Beata dedicated herself to writing more drafts so that when school started again, she wouldn't have to worry about having enough material.

When it came to updating her work, Beata didn't take any shortcuts. Finally, after a month of writing and editing drafts, Beata mustered up the courage to venture into River's study.

"River," she said tentatively as she poked her head in the door. "Don't you think I've been cooped up at home for too long?"

River looked up from his book and met Beata's expectant gaze with a raised eyebrow.

"I haven't stopped you from going out," he replied simply.

Beata felt a pang of frustration and instantly became unhappy with his response. She pouted and sat across from him with a sulky expression on her face but didn't say anything. She just stared at him intently.

River found himself confused by his sister's behavior but put down his book nonetheless.

"What do you want then?" he asked finally. "Do you want me to take you out somewhere?"

Beata was now truly infuriated. How could he be so dense? She thought that what she wanted would be obvious!

But apparently not...

He still pretended to be innocent. Who was he trying to piss off?

Beata said, "I haven't seen Averı in a long time."

"Well, go see her then. I'm not stopping you," River replied.

Beata hesitated for a moment before realizing that her brother was trying to get under her skin.

She rolled her eyes and said, "What I meant was, it's been a while since you've seen Averı too, right?"

River smirked and replied, "Not really. I saw her last night."

Beata was shocked beyond words. She jumped out of her chair and pointed at River with wide eyes and an open mouth.

After enjoying Beata's reaction for a while longer, River finally spoke up.

But even after finding her voice again, Beata still trembled as she spoke.

“River, are you saying that... you and Averi...” Beata couldn’t contain her excitement.

She didn’t know how to explain her reaction. She wanted to calm down because her brother was so terrible that maybe he was just saying this to upset her and there was nothing between him and Averi.

But as soon as she thought about it, Beata felt like she wanted to fight this terrible guy with all her might.

However, Beata couldn’t help but feel a little hopeful in her heart. Maybe she could think about it for a moment. It wouldn’t hurt anything.

Beata looked at River, hoping that his answer wouldn’t disappoint her.

But in this world, things never go the way they want them to. The more they want something, the less likely they are to get it.

After half-heartedly getting excited over Beata’s reaction for a while, River finally discouraged her by saying, “Put away your fantasies. Averi and I just happened to meet.”

Beata deflated instantly. All of the energy drained from her body. She knew better than to have any expectations of such a lousy brother like hers.

She had been foolishly dreaming that they were secretly making great progress somewhere unknown to herself.

Beata had never felt so miserable before.

It was like being hit in the head with a bat. Now, she had no energy left at all.

Beata came out of River’s room looking completely dejected. She even forgot that she had come to see River in the first place, hoping he would take her to find Averi.

But now, what was the point of finding Averi?

All she wanted was to lie down on her own bed and play the part of someone who had given up on life.

Chapter 832 A Bit Unhappy

River knew without looking what kind of expression Beata had on her face right now.

He grabbed his phone and searched Averi’s Facebook, sending her a message.

At that moment, Averi was giving four cats a makeover.

When she received River’s message, she was momentarily taken aback. River never contacted her unless there was something important going on.

But when Averi opened the message and read its contents, she couldn’t help but laugh. River said, “Beata misses you.”

It was a simple sentence that wouldn’t have meant much to Averi under normal circumstances. But after their confusing meeting last night, seeing this message from River made things more complicated for her.

Averi held onto her phone for a while longer before finally putting it away in her pocket. She wasn't sure how to respond just yet.

Luckily, all of the cats were done with their makeovers by then so Averi loaded them into the car and headed home. She would think about how to reply to River's message later.

However, what Averi didn't expect was that as she drove into the parking garage, she saw a familiar car.

She even rubbed her eyes in uncertainty, wondering if the car she saw was really the one she knew.

But just to prove to her that she wasn't mistaken, the car flashed its hazard lights.

Averi got out of her own car and for a moment didn't know what to do – whether to walk over or pretend like she hadn't seen anything.

But before she could make up her mind, River had already gotten out of his car and was striding towards her with purposeful steps.

Averi's nerves instantly tightened as she watched him approach. Her mind raced as she tried to figure out how to explain herself – that it wasn't intentional when it came to not responding to his message.

It surprised Averi just how intimidated River made her feel at this moment. What was going on? Why did he have such an effect on her?

River stopped in front of Averi and without needing any further explanation from her, he quirked an eyebrow and said teasingly, "Looks like you were ignoring my message on purpose."

Caught red-handed, Averi felt embarrassed. She took a deep breath before saying defensively, "Don't be ridiculous! How could I possibly ignore your message? Don't accuse me falsely."

"Are you sure you're innocent?" River smirked playfully. His expression made it clear that he knew exactly what was going through Averi's head at this moment.

Feeling powerless against him, Averi couldn't help but feel like he had complete control over their interaction.

Averi decided to stay silent and turned around to open the backseat door, ready to take out the cats. River noticed her actions and furrowed his eyebrows slightly before letting out a low chuckle.

"Looks like someone's got a bit of a temper. Is this your way of protesting?" he asked, walking over to stand beside Averi.

Averi looked up at him with a hint of amusement in her eyes. "Angry? Why would I be angry? There's nothing worth getting angry about," she replied, but there was something off in her tone that made it clear she wasn't entirely happy.

No matter how he listened, there was an underlying sense of discontent in her voice.

Chapter 833 How Will He Prove It?

Averi grabbed her cat carriers from the car and turned around to see River standing behind her. Her cat carriers bumped into River.

Averi was startled, but then she breathed a sigh of relief. Luckily, the cat carriers protected her from hitting River. Otherwise, she would have been the one who got hurt.

River noticed Averi's relieved expression and chuckled, "What? Do you dislike me that much?"

Averi was confused by his conclusion. It seemed strange to her.

River continued teasingly, "If you don't dislike me, why are you so relaxed?"

Averi choked for a moment before looking up at River with a serious expression and saying, "I'm afraid of hitting you."

She spoke earnestly as if it were really true.

River laughed lightly at Averi's response and leaned in closer to her with interest. He said playfully, "Actually, I wouldn't mind if you did hit me."

Averi was speechless at River's words. If she wasn't holding onto the cat carriers tightly in her hand right now, she would have punched him for being so weird.

This guy... she couldn't figure out what was wrong with him. He always seemed strange no matter what he did or said.

Soon, Averi had an idea and held out the cat bags in her arms to River, saying, "Are you not afraid of cats now?"

River looked down at the little things in her arms and suddenly laughed. "Who told you I'm afraid of cats?"

This made Averi a little confused. Did she really need someone to tell her that? She could see for herself that he clearly didn't like cats.

Seemingly sensing Averi's thoughts, River chuckled softly and said, "I just don't like their shedding fur. But that doesn't mean I'm afraid of them."

Averi had no problem accepting this explanation. However, she couldn't resist teasing River a bit.

"But you give off the impression that you're scared of them," she said.

Otherwise, why would he always make sure to lock up the cats whenever he came over?

For this reason alone, Averi was very protective of her furry babies.

River was left speechless by Averi's words and his eyes grew deeper with amusement.

"Looks like you want me to prove I'm not scared of cats," he said with a smile.

Averi didn't have any such intention but before she knew it, River had reached over and taken the cat bags from her arms.

Through the bags' mesh window and because these particular felines had just been groomed recently, they weren't shedding as much as usual and looking better than ever before!

Averi tilted her head and suddenly thought of something, smiled and said, "Is this how you prove that you're not afraid of cats?"

River couldn't possibly miss the meaning behind her words.

He chuckled lightly and said, "Then let's go upstairs and I'll show you."

Originally, there was nothing wrong with what he said.

But somehow Averi heard a hint of flirtation in his words.

Her face unconsciously blushed, looking particularly good under the sun.

This wasn't the first time River had seen Averi blush, but he still couldn't take his eyes off her.

For a moment, neither of them spoke.

Finally Averi realized what was going on and turned to say, "Okay."

Without waiting for River or caring about him holding onto her cat bags, she lifted her feet towards the door. Her footsteps were not as steady as usual, as if both feet were soft and weak.

River watched Averi's back as his lips involuntarily curved upwards.

How could she be so cute?

Realizing what he was thinking about made River's gaze suddenly become more profound.

He seemed to be becoming more out of sorts by the minute.

Averi wasn't sure what River was thinking as they approached the elevator. When she turned to look at him, he didn't come over and instead stayed back a distance. Despite this, Averi could still see River's gaze clearly.

In that moment, Averi felt a bit stunned. She couldn't quite describe it, but when she met River's eyes, it felt like something was hitting her heart.

Averi panicked for a moment before turning away from River and pressing the elevator button. She decided that if he didn't come over, she would just go up by herself anyway. After all, River knew where her apartment was located.

Just as the elevator arrived on the first floor, River walked over to join her. Averi glanced at him and let out a light snort through her nose as if to complain about how long he took.

River found himself both laughing and crying at her reaction. He couldn't help but reach up and rub his hand on top of Averi's head while saying, "You're so dissatisfied with me."

A sudden movement from him startled Averi who looked up only to see that he seemed perfectly relaxed despite his actions towards her just now, which confused her even more about what exactly was going on with him.

The two of them stepped into the elevator without speaking and waited quietly for it to ascend upward.

Averi stared at the numbers going up, but in reality, she didn't see anything clearly. The elevator doors opened and without thinking, Averi rushed out.

River pulled her back with a hint of helplessness in his voice. "Don't even recognize your own home?"

Averi blushed as she looked at the floor number and realized they hadn't arrived yet. She felt embarrassed for making such a low-level mistake in front of River.

But soon enough, Averi noticed something else. Her gaze drifted down to her arm and saw that River was holding it tightly with his dry and warm palm wrapped around her small arm seamlessly without any gaps.

It was then that Averi realized how big River's hand actually was. It felt like he was holding onto a chicken claw instead of her arm!

"You're too skinny," River suddenly said.

Averi snapped out of her thoughts and looked up to meet River's gaze. He seemed like he wanted to explain the meaning behind his words, as he tightened his grip on her arm slightly and continued, "You have no meat on your bones. How did you get so thin?"

Averi had never thought of herself as being too skinny before. Her figure had always played a crucial role in boosting her confidence.

Now, she was being criticized by River for being too thin. Although Averi wasn't completely devastated by his comment, she wasn't exactly thrilled either.

She didn't know if she was trying to refute River or comfort herself when she muttered under her breath, "I don't know how many girls envy my figure."

Her limbs were slender while her chest and hips were full. Her waist was so slim that it could be considered a perfect hourglass shape – the kind of body that could be used for modeling.

Whenever other girls saw Averi's figure, they would come to her for advice on how they could achieve such a perfect physique themselves.

This was the first time anyone had ever criticized Averi's body – especially someone like River.

The mere thought of this scared Averi more than anything else. What kind of woman would care so much about what one man thought about them?

There was no logical explanation other than the fact that she liked him – which made everything even more complicated.

Averi didn't know how to describe her current feelings. Although she had some understanding of it before, this was the first time she confirmed it so clearly.

Unfortunately, it was in this situation when River was criticizing her body shape.

Averi felt a little heartache. She twisted her arm and tried to break free from River's grip on her small arm.

However, River tightened his grip even more.

Averi looked at River with annoyance. He sensed her emotions but still didn't let go of her hand. Instead, he held onto it tighter.

The elevator arrived and Averi walked out with River holding onto her hand tightly. When they reached the front door of Averi's house, she suddenly didn't want to let River in anymore.

She hesitated to enter the password for a while and couldn't hide any emotions from him at that moment. Naturally, River could see through all of Averi's thoughts – some were funny while others were helpless – but he wasn't upset about it either way.

He simply held onto Averi's finger and used her fingerprint to unlock the door without saying anything else as they entered together silently.

"He is really rough," Averi thought to herself. She almost forgot that this man was not a good person.

As she walked into the room, an evil feeling surged from deep within her. This guy wanted to prove he wasn't afraid of cats? Fine, she'd see how he would do it.

Averi opened the cat carriers and let the cats out. The cats seemed to have a connection with Averi and immediately ran over to River's leg.

Chapter 834 Don't Smoke Inside Anymore

River reached out to close the door when suddenly a furry thing darted past his feet, causing him to instinctively jump to the side.

The next moment, he heard Averi's unreserved laughter.

Looking up, he saw Averi holding her arms and staring at him brazenly without any attempt to hide her amusement.

"I thought you were not afraid of cats. What are you hiding from?" Averi asked in a deliberately sarcastic tone.

River raised an eyebrow and looked at Averi with a mixture of amusement and resignation. This woman intentionally let the cats out in an attempt to scare him.

Without saying much, River bent down and scooped up a cat with his long arm effortlessly. The usually arrogant cat did not even struggle when River picked it up, perfectly demonstrating what it meant by being "well-behaved."

Averi widened her eyes in disbelief as she watched this scene unfold before her eyes.

River walked towards Averi while carrying the cat and stopped one step away from her. He raised his eyebrows slightly and said, "What? Do you want me to show you how I hold a cat?"

For some reason, Averi felt threatened by his words.

She quickly shook her head and reached for the cat back into her arms again. She now fully believed that River was not afraid of cats. Rather, it was cats who were afraid of him.

But still... he really didn't seem like someone who loved cats. Cat lovers wouldn't carry them around like that!

Even if no one else said it, Beata would definitely feel heartbroken seeing River carrying the cat in that way. She would call it her little sweetheart and worry about the cat.

Averi stroked the cat and placed it on the ground, saying, "You've proven your point. You can leave now."

River chuckled again, a bit mischievously. "What do you think I'm here for?"

Averi was taken aback but quickly remembered what River had told her: Beata misses her.

She felt a mix of emotions – amused and confused at the same time. After hesitating for a moment, Averi tentatively asked, "So you're telling me that you're here to take me to your place?"

River raised an eyebrow but didn't confirm or deny anything.

Averi was even more confused now. "Actually, Beata can just arrange to meet with me alone without going to your place."

"Why? Are you saying you don't want to see me?" River narrowed his eyes dangerously.

Averi didn't understand how he came up with that conclusion but she couldn't deny that she hadn't sorted out her own feelings yet. She wasn't sure about his intentions either so rushing into things would be embarrassing if she assumed too much.

River saw Averi purse her lips and knew exactly what she was thinking, even though she didn't say anything.

Feeling a bit out of control, River bit inside his cheek and suppressed the urge to press her against the wall and kiss her fiercely.

"You really know how to piss people off," River said.

Averi pouted innocently. She hadn't said anything, so how could she have pissed him off?

Pursing her lips again, Averi asked, "So you mean you want me to come over to your place?"

River couldn't help but laugh at her. He turned his gaze away from hers and pulled out a cigarette box from his pocket. He shook one out and put it in his mouth.

Averi watched him intently as he lit up the cigarette. Inwardly, she sighed at how sexy he looked with a cigarette between his teeth.

At the same time, Averi spoiled the moment by saying disapprovingly, "Don't smoke inside."

Chapter 835 It's Difficult To Make Me Happy

This was the first time Averi had spoken to River with such a firm attitude.

As soon as the words left her mouth, not only did River hesitate for a moment, but Averi herself also felt stunned.

Instantly, an unnatural expression appeared on her face.

Averi even felt a bit too scared to look into River's eyes. She opened her mouth but couldn't say anything for quite some time.

River looked at her with amusement and said, "I find you really interesting."

Averi was sure that when River said something like this at this moment, it wasn't going to be anything good.

She obediently chose not to pay attention and turned around to tidy up her things.

Seeing this, River didn't get angry. Instead, he put the cigarette in his mouth without lighting it and sat on the sofa.

As soon as Averi turned around again, she saw this scene before her eyes.

She was somewhat stunned and couldn't take her eyes off of him completely.

Clearly, River wasn't smoking. He just held the cigarette in his mouth. But for some reason or another, it made him look especially sexy in Averi's eyes.

When he saw that Averi was staring straight at him with wide-eyed fascination, River squinted his eyes and said, "It seems like you like men who smoke."

Upon hearing these words from him, Averi actually thought about it carefully before coming up with an answer – no, she didn't like men who smoke. She liked only one man -River himself!

Only when he held a cigarette in his mouth did she feel that he exuded such sexiness.

But Averi naturally wouldn't say that.

However, River suddenly laughed, as if he had already seen through everything.

Just when Averi was trying to find a reason to brush this off, she saw River abruptly stand up from the sofa.

He reached out his long arm and grabbed Averi's arm. With a little force, he brought her in front of him.

They had never been this close before. The closest they had been was separated by the cat carriers.

Averi was startled and her pupils dilated. For a moment, she didn't know how to react.

The pressure that River brought upon her was so strong that she couldn't ignore it at all.

Averi wanted to dodge away but before she could even make a sound, she felt something dark attacking her.

The next second, warm lips pressed against hers with forceful intensity.

River's powerful presence overwhelmed Averi and made her panic-stricken yet unable to resist or control herself at the same time.

This kiss was passionate and fiery like an erupting volcano which corroded Averí's world without any resistance from her side whatsoever.

She couldn't withstand it at all. In an instant, her body went limp as if about to collapse on the ground. If not for River's sturdy arms holding onto her waist tightly enough for support, otherwise, she would have fallen down completely helpless under his spell of passion.

The kiss lasted for who knew how long.

Averí was left feeling a bit dizzy from the kiss, and when she opened her eyes again, she was momentarily disoriented and thought it had turned dark outside.

Her legs were trembling, and River held onto her waist tightly.

After a while, Averí finally regained her senses and looked at River. "Why did you kiss me?" she asked.

Averí never considered herself to be a conservative woman, but River's uncommitted kiss made her feel uncomfortable nonetheless. Of course, the root of this discomfort was that she liked him.

She yearned for a more reasonable relationship with him. After she achieved that kind of relationship with him, these kinds of kisses would make her happy. Otherwise, it would be difficult for her to find joy in them.

Chapter 836 Maintain This

River could sense that something was off with Averí's emotions. It wasn't anger or sadness, but rather a complex mix of feelings that made his heart clench for a moment.

The question Averí had asked him was both easy and difficult to answer. Instead of responding immediately, River remained silent and watched her for a while.

As time passed without any response from him, Averí's emotions became even more complicated. There was something off in her eyes as she looked at River, and her entire demeanor seemed to slump in despair.

Seeing Averí like this broke River's heart. He reached out and placed his hand on top of her head, not bothering to ruffle her hair but simply letting the warmth of his palm seep into her scalp.

This gesture was intimate and teasing all at once, especially since Averí still had feelings for River after their recent kiss. She couldn't help but shiver under his touch as the aftershocks from their previous encounter left her legs weak and unsteady.

In this ambiguous moment, Averí stubbornly held onto the hope that she would get an answer from River soon enough.

However, as time ticked by second by second, Averí suddenly felt like maybe she wouldn't get an answer after all. This made her even more upset.

She lowered her eyelashes and stopped looking into River's eyes. She was afraid that she would see an expression that she couldn't accept. If that happened, she might go crazy.

Unfortunately, it seemed like River was intentionally making things difficult for her today. The more Averi didn't want to do something, the more he wanted her to do it.

His hand landed on Averi's chin and gently lifted it up so that she was looking at him again. Because of this action from River, Averi's eyes instantly turned red. She had never felt so wronged before.

This feeling was very complicated and overwhelming for her. Averi really wanted to just kick River out of the room without any hesitation because there was no way she could stay in the same room with him anymore.

If things continued like this, he might drive her insane eventually.

Just when Averi thought that she couldn't take it anymore, River finally spoke up, "Averi, I really hate wasting time."

As soon as those words were spoken, Averi's heart sank even further.

The meaning behind them was clear: River was telling her not to hold onto any false hopes about him.

"But I feel like I've been pretty patient with you," River continued. "And that's not really like me."

Averi didn't quite understand what he meant by that. What did he mean by being patient with her? She had never experienced anything like it before.

"I think you've probably heard a lot of rumors about me," River said. "When I set my mind to something, I don't hesitate. I go after it with everything I have."

Averi didn't say anything in response. She had heard plenty of rumors about River, but they didn't really have anything to do with her.

She lowered her head and stayed quiet for a while before finally asking, "What are you trying to tell me?"

River tried his best to be gentle as he spoke, "I don't want to scare you, Averi."

He was attempting something new – a softer approach than his usual style of getting things done quickly and efficiently.

In that moment, he felt like there was no point to anything.

Why play games like boiling a frog in warm water?

He knew that Averi had feelings for him, even if she didn't say it outright.

He gently touched her face and said, "Let's talk about our relationship."

Averi fell silent. She didn't really want to discuss this topic.

She had some guesses, but she wasn't sure.

Averi had to admit that she was scared. She had no backbone when it came to this matter.

She was angry with herself for not being able to handle the situation better. Why wasn't she acting like herself?

For the first time ever, Averi wanted to run away from something.

Just as Averi was about to tell River that she didn't want to talk about this anymore, he seemed to understand her thoughts and said, "I wouldn't kiss a woman I don't like. I'm not a bad guy."

Hearing River say this caused Averi's mind to wander off in an unexpected direction.

She couldn't understand why her thoughts were so scattered at this moment and why they couldn't be brought back into focus.

Averi couldn't help but laugh out loud.

This made River a little confused.

He looked at Averi helplessly, and suddenly felt a little deflated.

Perhaps this was really the retribution for his years of reckless behavior.

Many women had thrown themselves at him before. When he was in a good mood, he could let them leave with some dignity. But when he was in a bad mood, these women probably didn't even have the face to continue living in this country.

Now, for the first time, he confessed to this woman. But he didn't know which funny bone of hers he had hit that made her laugh so hard that her shoulders were shaking.

However, River did not try to stop Averi's laughter with his usual dominant attitude like before. He surprisingly had great patience and didn't make any unnecessary movements as he quietly watched Averi finish laughing.

But if people carefully looked into River's eyes, they could easily see danger rising within them gradually.

Averi completely failed to notice this and continued laughing recklessly.

It wasn't really fair to blame Averi though. It was just too strange hearing those words come from River's mouth considering all the rumors about him being such an awful person spread around town.

At this moment though, River spoke seriously and claimed that he wasn't such a bad guy after all. It was difficult for Averi to accept these words.

Finally, Averi couldn't control her laughter anymore. Her cheeks hurt and her stomach ached so much that she couldn't even stand up straight. She managed to stifle her laughter, but then let out a small hiccup.

River's eyes glinted dangerously at the sight of this woman who dared to laugh so freely in front of him. If it were anyone else, they would have been scared off long ago.

At this moment, Averi finally noticed the dangerous gleam in River's eyes and felt a twinge of fear.

For a moment, she didn't know what to say.

River looked at her and lightly touched inside his cheek with his tongue before saying in a dangerous tone, "Done laughing?"

Averi didn't dare speak up. She just looked at him with soft eyes full of tenderness.

River had wanted to scare her a little bit but seeing how soft she was being made him hesitate. He said instead, "Good job. Daring to be so bold in front of me, Averi."

Averi adjusted her breathing secretly and still felt somewhat lost for words.

As soon as River finished speaking, she felt like the situation had become even more dangerous.

Chapter 837 Should We Also Cut These?

Averi unconsciously twisted her body, trying to wriggle out of River's embrace. However, this action only seemed to ignite a fire within River's arms.

River was at a loss for words. Did this woman not know that there were certain actions that should not be done casually with men?

River had already wrapped his arms tightly around Averi's waist, and now he tightened his grip even more.

Averi was caught off guard by his sudden movement and almost felt like her waist was being crushed. She let out a moan, which ignited an inexplicable flame in the room.

The sound was too suggestive.

River's body stiffened and his Adam's apple involuntarily bobbed up and down as he looked down at Averi. His gaze fell on her rosy lips where traces of their previous kiss still lingered, making them even more tempting.

Feeling River's intense gaze on her, Averi instinctively wanted to dodge it. But before she could make any move, she felt a dark shadow descending upon her once again – just like before – as River kissed her unexpectedly.

This time though, it was much gentler than before; something completely different from what Averi knew or had experienced with him thus far.

It left Averi feeling dizzy and confused about the man who held her so tightly in his arms.

To Averi, River should have been dominant and oppressive, giving off a strong sense of pressure. However, at this moment, being so gentle with her was even more torturous. Averi couldn't take it anymore, felt her legs give way and couldn't stand steady.

Finally, Averi couldn't help but push River away to make him let go of her. But River's chest was as hard as a rock. Instead of pushing him away, it made Averi's fingers hurt.

Averi couldn't help but hiss in pain. How could this man be so hard? Finally letting go of Averi, River looked down at her fingers and wondered how she had poked him that caused her nails to split.

River was speechless and held onto Averi's finger saying, "If other people know it, they'll think I commit domestic violence."

Astonished by what he said about domestic violence which seemed like he had just labeled their relationship for them both. "What's wrong?" asked River when he saw that Averi was staring at him intently.

Shaking her head in disbelief, Averi replied, "Can you please let me go first?"

They were still tightly pressed together which made Averi feel very uncomfortable. River then turned around quickly and pinned Averi down on the sofa before asking, "Where is the nail clipper?"

"It's in that drawer over there," answered Averi.

Soon, River brought over the nail clipper and squatted down in front of Averi, taking her hand and clipping off the split nail.

Averi watched his actions, unsure how to react. No one had ever done something like this for her before. And it was River – kneeling in front of her and doing such a simple act.

It felt strange but wonderful at the same time. Something she never would have imagined happening to her.

After clipping off the broken nail, River looked at the other nails with a strange feeling inside him. He asked, "Do you want me to clip these too?"

Chapter 838 Do You Like Me?

Upon hearing River's words, Averi immediately shook her head and said, "You better not touch my nails."

Her nails were precious to her and she had taken great care of them. The nail polish on them was also specially matched by her.

Now that River had cut off one of them like this, it looked so ugly.

Averi looked at her hand and felt that it was somewhat out of place. It seemed that she needed to cut it off and reapply the nail polish.

She instantly became unhappy. She had just finished doing her nails two days ago, but now this guy ruined them.

River saw Averi's changing expression and asked suspiciously, "What's wrong? Why do you look so unhappy?"

Averi didn't think she could explain this matter clearly to him. For a straight man like him, he couldn't understand how important her nails were to her.

Unable to bear the ugliness of her own nails any longer, Averi picked up the nail clipper and prepared to trim them herself.

River's gaze wandered between Averi's hand and face before he suddenly tugged at the corner of his mouth with a hint of amusement in his eyes.

Was this woman really criticizing him for cutting her nail poorly?

This was quite a blow for River. He didn't think he did such a bad job after all.

"Are you sure you don't want me to help?" River asked.

Averi didn't even lift her eyelids as she said, "No need, I can do it myself." She slowly trimmed her nails and polished them meticulously. The nail polish wasn't washed off, but Averi inexplicably felt that it was okay like this. It was barely within her acceptable range.

Averi had originally planned to redo the nail polish herself. However, with River here, there were many inconveniences. She couldn't just leave River here while she spent several hours redoing her nails. Nor could she simply ask River to help her apply the polish.

After putting away the nail clipper, Averi finally looked at River and asked, "Aren't you going back?"

River almost got angry when he heard this woman's words. Was she trying to kick him out?

"What did I come here for? Did you forget?" River replied.

Averi adjusted her expression and said, "You said you came to pick me up, but I didn't agree to go back with you."

River wasn't surprised by what she said and wasn't in a rush to take her home either. After all, once they got back home and Beata started clinging onto Averi like a leech again, their relationship would become even more complicated than before.

"Okay, then don't come home with me," River said.

Averi was a little surprised and didn't understand when River had become so easy to talk to. She always felt like there was some kind of conspiracy going on.

Averi stared at River for a while, but couldn't tell that he wanted to leave. This made Averi even more confused.

"What is this guy up to?" she thought.

Suddenly, River chuckled and said, "Looking at me like that, did you figure something out?"

His gaze met Averi's and he caught her slight panic perfectly.

Averi instinctively tried to look away but was firmly held by the chin by River. She couldn't move and could only be held by him as their gazes intertwined.

This feeling was very strange and made Averi inexplicably sad.

After much hesitation, Averi finally seemed to have made a big decision and asked River, "River, do you like me?"

Chapter 839 Why Are You So Domineering?

River didn't speak for a while, and his gaze fixed on Averi as if to say, "Are you trying to tease me?" Averi understood what he meant and knew that by saying this, she had angered River. But she just wanted a clear answer – a straightforward response from River.

River met her gaze and understood her stubbornness. Suddenly, he smiled and said, “Yes, I like you.” He was not the type of person who beat around the bush. He always gave straight answers. He hadn’t said it before or made it clear because he didn’t think it was necessary.

But now that Averi wanted an answer like this one, he wouldn’t hesitate to give it to her. River’s smile faded as he continued speaking, “I’m not someone who beats around the bush. Since you asked me directly, I’ll be honest with you. I like you and want to take things further with you just like how you want them too. There’s no point in denying it. I know exactly how you feel about me.”

Averi was stunned by what River had said. His words weren’t explicit but still conveyed everything clearly enough for her to understand what “further” meant in this context. It was very much in line with River’s personality – straightforward and direct without any unnecessary drama or games being played between them.

Averi burst into laughter for no apparent reason, turning away and leaving River with a view of the back of her head. She laughed so hard that her body was bent like a shrimp.

She leaned on her knees, unable to stop laughing.

River was somewhat speechless by her laughter, but he didn’t seem annoyed at all. Instead, he patiently watched Averi’s antics until she finished laughing.

She wiped away the tears from laughing at the corners of her eyes and straightened up before turning to look at River. “Do you speak so candidly to every woman?” she asked frankly.

“I’m just being honest,” River replied calmly.

Averi shrank back slightly and gave him a knowing look instead of answering him directly.

River was almost provoked by her behavior but didn’t say anything. Instead, he grabbed Averi’s head from behind and pulled it towards his own face without warning.

Averi’s pupils dilated instantly as she looked up at River in confusion. Could this guy be...

As Averi had suspected, River pressed down on the back of her head and fiercely captured her lips in his own kiss.

Averi couldn’t help feeling that this guy seemed addicted to kissing.

She had never noticed before how passionate he was about this particular thing.

The feeling was really strange.

Of course, for Averi, the more frustrating part was that River’s eagerness to kiss her always left her unable to think clearly.

She felt helpless about it all.

When River finally let go of Averi, she licked her sore lips and couldn’t help but scold him with a glare. “Don’t do that. You always come out of nowhere to kiss me and we’re not even in a relationship.”

River raised an eyebrow at her words and looked at Averi with a smirk on his face. "I like you, you like me. I don't see any reason why we can't be together."

Averi furrowed her brows and stared at River as she asked him, "Why are you so domineering?"

Chapter 840 Why Do We Have To Get a Marriage Certificate Now?

River was amused by Averi's huffing tone. After laughing, he became serious and straightened his body, as well as Averi's, so that they were facing each other.

River said, "Alright then, I'll give you a choice. Do you want to be with me or not?"

Averi asked, "Which kind of being together are you talking about?"

River narrowed his eyes and suddenly burst out laughing. He said, "How about we get married right now?"

This really scared Averi. No matter how she thought about it, she never expected River to be so direct. It was one thing to be together but getting married was too impulsive.

Without waiting for Averi's answer, River chuckled and said, "What? Are you scared?"

Averi replied, "..."

She knew that the last thing she should do at this moment was to let River provoke her. However, she couldn't help herself and raised her chin directly saying, "Who do you think I am? What am I scared of?"

"Okay then let's go." River lightly pulled the corner of his mouth and didn't give Averi a chance to back down. He had already stood up from the sofa.

He pulled Averi up and asked, "Where is your document? Do you need me to help you find it?"

Averi remained silent.

River let go of her hand and Averi turned to walk towards the bedroom. In just a minute, she came back with the needed document in hand.

She waved it in front of River and said, "I don't need your help."

River's smile deepened in his eyes. He felt a little helpless but he wasn't going to change his mind. Since he had already expressed his feelings for Averi, getting married was only a matter of time.

He didn't think that anything would change now that he knew he liked Averi. Since there wouldn't be any changes, the process didn't really matter either. They were just moving faster than others towards the same goal.

River took the document from Averi's hand and said, "Go change into something else. We're leaving."

Averi was taken aback for a moment before realizing that her outfit today was too flashy if they were going to get married at city hall. It wasn't formal enough.

Without hesitation, she turned around and headed back into the room again.

Halfway there, she stopped in her tracks and turned around to face River, asking him, “How do you know so much about this? Do you have experience?”

River even said it on purpose, with a slight raise of her eyebrows, saying, “Averi, I don’t mind doing something else first before making it legal.”

Averi was at a loss for words.

Her face instantly turned red.

Averi felt like there was something wrong with herself for thinking that she could gain some advantage by just talking.

To avoid what River had in mind from happening, Averi obediently went to change her clothes.

After coming out again, Averi said, “I’ve changed my clothes. What about you? Can’t wear the black shirt?”

River replied, “Don’t worry. I had someone send it over. It won’t delay us.”

Averi was speechless once again.

It seemed as if she was so impatient or something when in reality she wasn’t at all.

However, regardless of whether or not she understood what was going on, River had already taken her out and into the car with a clear destination – the marriage registry.

Averi couldn’t quite grasp why they were getting their marriage certificate so soon.