

Heiress 1261

Chapter 1261

Bella had gone missing.

"Fuck! We have a big problem on our hands. How did she disappear out of thin air?" Axel put his hands over his head, his heart in his throat.

Noticing the rummaging mess on the bed and the closet, Asher and Declan ran to the balcony.

The brothers gasped sharply.

At least a dozen dresses were tied together to form a rope, then secured to the railing for a descent.

"Ash, Bella has gone mad. This is the fifth floor!"

"Bella is insane! She's digging her own grave."

Fear washed over Asher. His heart raced, and veins popped out of his head. "She would've fallen to her death if any of the fabric was torn.

"Don't say that, Ash. I can't take it." Axel put his hand over his chest as his vision grew fuzzy.

Scared stiff, Quentin did not know what to do. "Ms. Bella... Please be safe, or I'll never be able to forgive myself."

"Does Dad know about this?" Asher asked desperately.

"Chairman Thompson is worried about Ms. Amelia. I didn't want to add to his troubles."

"Keep it from him. Dad is doing poorly. We can't put any strain on him."

Asher clutched his aching chest. "Don't startle anyone at home. We'll initiate a search party right away."

"There's a bad storm now. Ms. Bella doesn't have her phone or anything on her. How is she going to survive out there?" Quentin stamped his foot anxiously. "It's all my fault. I should've kept watch over her the whole time."

"I don't think she has gotten far. We can still catch up to her."

Asher looked out the window. "Is Justin still out there?"

"Mr. Salvador has been gone for a while," Quentin replied.

Axel cursed, "Fuck! Jerkface couldn't have left at a worse time. Bella must have gone after him. They will miss each other." Declan's heart skipped a beat.

He was filled with regret.

If only he had not been so rude to Bella. Things were spiraling toward Asher's worst nightmare.

"If Bella is following Justin, she will be heading toward Savrow. We'll eventually get to her along the way."

Asher ran out and instructed Axel solemnly, "Call Drew. Tell him to come back to search for Bella together." Axel nodded. "That's right. Drew always has a way."

A bolt of blue and purple lightning streaked across the sky as rain poured.

Bella was drenched from head to toe. She shivered. Her teeth clattered when the rush of biting wind blew against her skin.

Her phone was confiscated, and she had no money. Bella even lost her slippers while fleeing. Her bare feet, now bleeding and covered in mud, were vulnerable to the sharp pebbles beneath them. She had never felt so exposed and disheveled.

However, the solitary journey, laced with struggles and obstacles, could not stop her from breaking free from her cage and running toward love.

All she wanted to do was love someone.

Yet, it was challenging to this day.

Bella believed her family would quickly realize she was gone. Her brothers would not leave any stone unturned to find her.

Instead of taking the wide and bustling routes, Bella opted for the longer, winding, and less trodden course to Savrow.

She found herself in a dark, desolate area with no stores along the way.

Bella walked in the cold rain for a long time. Her head felt heavy, and she experienced bouts of shivers and fever. She was drained.

Suddenly, her eyes lit up when she saw two shimmers of light in the distance.

Overjoyed, she pulled herself together and sprinted to the light source.

Upon closer inspection, she realized it was an auto repair shop that had not closed for business.

With the cold getting to her, Bella entered the shop without hesitation.

Inside, four men played poker while joking and laughing.

Chapter 1262

With a visitor at the door, the men looked over.

The sight of Bella took their breath away.

Tonight must be their lucky day.

The rainy storm brought them a beautiful woman. It was their chance to get lucky.

"What can we do for you, gorgeous?" One of the men checked her out lewdly.

Their eyes were drawn to Bella, whose wet clothes clung to her skin.

"I'm sorry to bother you."

Bella panted heavily as chills shook her to the core. "Can I borrow a phone? I'll make it worthwhile."

"Make it worthwhile? Haha. How do you plan on doing so?"

The four men licked their lips and closed in on Bella with vulgar smiles. "How about letting us touch, kiss, and screw you? You can make all the phone calls you want. Hehehe." Bella burned with rage.

Today was hard enough for her. She was barely surviving the long walk, and now she had come across four hooligans.

One of the perverts eagerly reached for her well-endowed chest.

Bella struck back by seizing his arm and wrenching it back.

She then kicked him on the back of his knees, making the man kneel. The man howled, "Argh! Ow! That hurts!"

"Didn't you say you wanted to screw?"

Crack!

Bella fractured the man's arm. The bloodthirst was reflected in her eyes. "Well, I'll screw with you!"

Nigel was rushed to the hospital due to another stroke. Fortunately, Matt was there to get him timely treatment. Nigel was expected to make a full recovery.

However, Nigel was too worried about Bella to eat or sleep. He looked haggard and exhausted.

Gregory was not in Savrow. Since the stroke happened too suddenly, only Justin and Matt were by Nigel's side.

Justin carried a bowl of oats and fed a spoonful to Nigel.

Nigel did not have any appetite. Justin's bruised face and low spirits gave Nigel everything he needed to know. Though Nigel felt sorry for Justin, his tone was harsh. "What did you get yourself into? Did you go to Anna?"

Justin's breath hitched. "Yeah."

"Did the Thompson boys beat you up?"

Justin pursed his lips tightly.

Reading Justin's mind, Nigel raised his brow. "Don't tell me that your former father-in-law hit you."

The answer was in Justin's silence.

"Hmph! You deserved it! If I were Wyatt, I would break your legs. You should be grateful they let you go without any broken limbs." Nigel did not take his grandson's side at all.

"Grandpa..."

Looking broken, Justin looked up and whimpered dryly, "Can you tell me what I should do? What do I need to do to get back together with Bella?"

Nigel shook his head helplessly. "You're not the only one who did wrong by her. I don't know how to face her either. She's a good kid. She could've lived a carefree life without getting involved with our family. We destroyed her."

A deafening silence befell the ward.

"Maybe you should stop figuring out a way. Start with a sincere heart and take things one step at a time to make things right."

Nigel put his hand on Justin's shoulder. It felt heavy. "From now on, instead of thinking about how to get back together with her, you should think about how to protect her."

"I don't want to let her go, Grandpa."

Hanging his head low in dejection, Justin fought back the urge to cry. "But I know I don't deserve her."

His phone vibrated.

Chapter 1263

Justin stared at the unfamiliar number on the mobile screen in a daze.

Not many knew of his private number. In the past, he would never take a call from an unknown number.

However, for some reason, his heart raced.

Justin accepted the call and placed the phone close to his ear. "Who is this?"

It was noisy on the other end of the line, with rain in the background.

"Hello? Who is this?"

Justin would have hung up a long time ago, but he stayed patient for once and waited for an answer.

"It's me... Justin..."

Bella's weak and soft voice sounded broken in the howling wind.

Her voice cut through Justin like a knife.

"Bella?"

Justin's eyes flickered in joy and surprise. He jolted to his feet, his breathing heavy and shaking. A call from Bella was the last thing he expected.

"Justin... I want to see you... I'm so tired..." Bella's voice trailed off.

"Where are you, Bella? I'll go to you now." Justin teared up as a whirlwind of emotions overtook him.

"I-I don't know where I am..."

On the other end of the line, Bella could not keep her emotions at bay and sobbed. "I walked a long way... I can't go on anymore... My head is spinning... I just want to take a little nap..." "Don't sleep, Bella! Listen to me! Don't fall asleep!"

Justin felt a flip in his gut. "Don't hang up. I'll lock down your location now. I'll find you."

Listening in a corner, Nigel tensed up. His heart was in his throat.

"Grandpa, I'm sorry. I—"

"You don't have to say anything, Justin." Nigel waved his arm understandingly. "Go on. Nothing is more important than finding Anna."

Justin clutched his phone and sprinted out of the ward.

"You must find Anna and keep her from harm's way," Nigel shouted with tears.

Justin paused before giving a solemn nod.

Justin took the wheel and sped to Hatchbay in the rain, with Ian in tow.

He swiftly assembled a team, and a dozen black sedans had a hard time catching up to Justin's ride at 180 miles per hour.

His team believed Justin was driving a jet instead.

The rain caused a slippery road and low visibility. Justin was risking his life to travel at such a speed.

Ian gripped the door handle, his face as white as a sheet. His heart could jump out of his chest.

"Mr. Salvador, p-please calm down. I know it's imperative to find the young madam, but you should ensure your own safety too."

"Things aren't looking good for Bella. She might be in danger."

Justin's eyes were bloodshot as he trembled in fear under his power suit. "Every second counts. Bella could be in far greater danger if I were one second later. How am I supposed to stay calm?!" Ian stopped talking and closed his eyes to pray.

"Have you pinpointed her location?" Justin's head was drenched in sweat. His voice was raspy.

"I have her on GPS. We are two kilometers away from her."

Suddenly, the GPS tracking went missing on the iPad. Ian exclaimed in a fluster. "Oh, no! We lost the signal on the young madam."

Justin's heart sank.

He could only pray that Bella's phone was out of battery. He hoped Bella did not encounter something horrifying.

"Bella... Wait for me. I'll be there soon."

The car finally arrived at the last known GPS location.

Chapter 1264

Justin's subordinates arrived at the scene soon after. They carried flashlights and spread out to search for Bella.

Though his leather shoes and pants were covered in mud from running into the rain, Justin could not care less. His red-rimmed eyes were laced with anxiety and worry. "Slow down, Mr. Salvador. Be careful!" Ian tried to keep up with him. He was dumbfounded.

What happened?

Why was Bella alone in a shithole?

Bella sorted out the four perverts and whacked them to the ground.

However, the fight drained her completely, and it took everything in her not to collapse.

She snatched the phone from one of them and headed straight into the rain in the dark again.

Not wanting to be tracked down by the persistent perverts, Bella did not stop once to rest, as she had no more energy to fend off another danger.

Bella numbly walked ahead, unable to feel her legs.

Finally, she could not move another step anymore and went limp in a run-down gazebo. She took a quick break before contacting Justin.

Above all, she feared Justin could not find her.

Time passed.

Bella hugged her knees and curled up into a ball, burying her face into her legs and drifting off. However, she clung tightly to the phone. Her dream brought her back to three years ago.

Bleeding profusely from the car crash, she gripped the doctor's arm and pleaded in tears.

"Please save my baby..."

"Bella!"

Lost in her dreams, Bella heard Justin calling out to her, but she lost the strength to answer him.

A warm embrace and firm chest enveloped her shivering body.

"Justin... Is that you?" Bella murmured, her eyes flickering with tears.

Justin pulled his arms closer together, pressing her against his chest. His voice was muffled and hoarse. "It's me... Bella, I'm here."

His breath hitched when he saw her curled up in a ball from afar. He felt like his heart had been ripped into half.

Tears rolled down his cheeks and dripped on Bella's shoulders.

He could cry a river.

Not in the right headspace, Bella mumbled, "Justin... Our child... We lost our child! Please save our baby!"

Her words hit him hard.

His shaky palm reached for Bella's forehead, and the scorching temperature shocked him.

"You're burning up, Bella! I'm taking you to the hospital now." Justin took off his jacket, covered her with it, and picked her up.

Bella's cheeks were flushed as she rambled, "Our baby..."

"It's okay, Bella. We'll be fine even without a child."

With teardrop-stained lashes, Justin bent over to kiss her burning forehead. "You are my baby. I will spoil you, love you, and protect you. You are all I need."

Justin carried Bella through the storm while Ian teared up and grinned from the overwhelming emotions.

After getting into the car, Justin threw away his soaked jacket and covered Bella with the blanket from the hospital. He hugged her tightly, his eyes red. "Take us to the hospital now, Ian."

"Yes, sir."

"No..."

Chapter 1265

Bella narrowed her eyes and helplessly clutched Justin's sweaty hand. "My brothers will find me in no time if we head to the hospital. They will take me home. "I don't want to go home, Justin... I want to be with you."

Heartbroken, Justin choked with sobs. "But you're burning up."

"It's okay. I can just take some pills."

Bella then closed her eyes and passed out.

During the wee hours of the morning, Carrie slept tight in the quiet villa.

Instead of going to the study, Ryan moved his files into the bedroom. That way, he could stay by his girlfriend's side without missing out on work.

Ryan found himself thrust into the heart of the Hoffman Group's operations, buried knee-deep in work. Liam tasked him with several projects, transforming him from an idle, wealthy heir into a busy man.

Before, Ryan did not understand why Justin was always busy because all Justin had to do was put his signatures on documents.

Now, Ryan kneeled between his brows and sighed. He wanted to take back everything he said before.

Following a knock on the door, Yasmin's voice came through.

"Could you come out for a minute, Mr. Hoffman?"

Ryan put down the file and went to open the door.

Yasmin looked at him anxiously. "Mr. Salvador is here, Mr. Hoffman."

"Who? Justin? At this ungodly hour?" Ryan's eyes widened in disbelief.

"Not just Mr. Salvador, but Ms. Thompson too."

Sensing something amiss, Ryan sprinted downstairs.

In the living room, Justin held Bella in his arms while sitting on the sofa. Despite his discolored face, Justin stared intently at Bella, who was conscious. "What's going on, Justin?"

Ryan ran over in shock. He knew something was wrong when Bella lay limp in Justin's arms.

"What's wrong with Bella?"

"I'm sorry to bother you this late, Ryan."

Justin said in a struggle, his lips quivering, "But I didn't know where else I could take her undetected, so I came to you. I'm sorry."

"Don't say that. We're buddies. I will always welcome you. You can count on me at any time of the day."

Ryan knew something big must have happened. Though worried, Ryan did not pry into it.

"Bella is having a fever. Do you have anything to reduce her fever?" Justin asked in a raspy voice.

"I'll get you the medicine right now." Yasmin got right down to it.

"I don't think the medicine alone can help Bella."

Ryan instructed, "Contact my private doctor, Yasmin. Tell him to come and check on Ms. Thompson now." Yasmin took Ryan's orders.

"I'm cold... It's freezing..." Bella groaned, muddled-headed.

Justin drew a deep breath to fight back the tears. He wished he could transfer his warmth to her.

"No offense, but life has been nothing but trouble when Bella is with you, Justin."

Ryan stood before them and shook his head bitterly. "The Thompson brothers must be looking for Bella everywhere. Their sister is their world. I doubt they will stop until they find her.

"The last incident hasn't blown over, and now you took Bella away. Things aren't looking good for you."

"That's for sure, but they can't get any worse either." Justin curled his lips in despair.

Ryan gritted his teeth angrily. "Fuck! You're better off eloping."

Chapter 1266

Elope...

Justin stared intently at Bella's pale face, his emotions getting the better of him.

"I want to grow old with Bella, but I can't be selfish. Bella's family isn't like mine. I can leave everything behind for her, but I can't forgive myself if she leaves her family for me. She won't be happy without the blessings and company of her family."

Justin shook his head in agony, his voice raspy. "I have taken too many things away from her. I nearly destroyed her. Ryan, I can't hurt her anymore. I don't want her to lose anything ever." "That's your assumption. Have you asked Bella what she wanted?"

Ryan caught on and furrowed his brows. "It's stormy tonight. It must have taken a toll on Bella to go to you. Family is important, but Bella cares more about you. She wants to be with you. If you tell yourself to move on, supposedly for her sake, a greater danger than tonight's could unfold, leading to tragedy. I hope you won't regret your choice, Justin."

The words shattered him.

Justin's mind wandered back to Bella's pleas to save their baby.

The fever brought about Bella's ramblings, but beneath her smile lurked unspoken trauma, a silent cry for help.

'How did you do it, Bella? How could you smile when you see my damn face? How could you be so kind to me?' Justin thought to himself.

Justin let the tears flow and slapped himself right in front of his best buddy.

"What are you doing, Justin?"

Ryan grabbed Justin's arm. "Be a man and snap out of it! If you want to hurt yourself, I can provide you with all my kitchen knives. You can stab yourself to your heart's content."

The private doctor quickly arrived and examined Bella.

Sitting by the bed, Justin did not take his eyes away from Bella's discolored face. He held her hand to his lips and kissed it.

"Her temperature is 41 degrees Celsius. It's bad."

The doctor gave Bella a jab and put her on drips. "She could've gotten an infection if treatment was delayed.

"But Mr. Salvador, I'd suggest taking Ms. Thompson to the hospital at dawn. I don't have the right equipment to give her a comprehensive examination. The best I can do is alleviate her fever. If she keeps burning, she will have to be admitted to the hospital."

Justin put his shaky palm on Bella's sweaty head.

Bella was still hot to the touch. Justin hoped everything would be better at the break of dawn.

"That reminds me, Mr. Salvador. Has Ms. Thompson injured her hands in any way? Did she break them?" The doctor suddenly asked in shock.

Justin was taken aback. "Fractured? What do you mean?"

"Look at her left pinky. From my experience, she must have broken her finger and torn her ligament, which didn't heal completely."

Justin's heart pounded violently.

"Huh? How did that happen?" Ryan was shocked.

"It's an old injury, as far as I can tell. She likely didn't receive timely treatment after she was injured."

Ryan was surprised. "Bella is precious to the Thompson family. They would call the ambulance even for the tiniest cut on her. I doubt she would leave a broken bone untreated." "Even though the pinky may not have much use in everyday life, a broken pinky is considered a disability."

A disability?

Justin's breath hitched as he clutched Bella's hand.

He had asked Bella about her pinky, but she changed the subject and refused to give him a straight answer.

What on earth happened that she would deflect from talking about it?

After the private doctor left, Yasmin delivered a pair of clean pajamas and left the room with Ryan.

Justin put Bella in some clean clothes and brought a basin of water over. Getting down on one knee, he used a wet towel to wipe her muddy feet.

He could not ever get enough of her beautiful feet.

Chapter 1267

It broke Justin's heart to see Bella's feet covered in injuries, blood stains, and dried dirt.

"Bella... I want to make you happy, but happiness is the one thing I didn't give you."

Justin closed his eyes and breathed heavily, his throat hiding a whimper.

His phone vibrated. It was a call from Matt.

Justin rubbed his eyes and got up to take the call near the window. "How is Grandpa doing, Matt?"

"Old Master Nigel is doing well. He was up worrying about Ms. Thompson and slept late. Did you find Ms. Thompson, sir? The Old Master asked about her before he went to bed." Matt sounded concerned. "I found her. Tell Grandpa when he wakes up not to worry. I will keep her company."

The question was how long he could stay with her.

"I'm sorry, sir..." Feeling bad, Matt spoke in a hoarse voice, "It's all my fault. If I had told you Ms. Thompson lost the baby, things wouldn't have come to this."

"You have nothing to do with it. I caused this."

Justin fell silent before a thought struck him.

He remembered Christmas three years ago. Justin was away in Meridan, visiting a project site.

Due to the time zone difference, he could not possibly have taken her call during the day when the car crash happened.

"Did you mention before that Bella tried to call me, but I didn't pick up, Matt?" Justin tensed up.

"Yeah. Ms. Thompson contacted you right away."

Matt sighed. "It's in the past now. You're okay. Don't beat yourself up. You were away often, too busy to even eat, as you tried to establish yourself in the company. You didn't mean to miss her call." Suddenly, Justin froze.

It was all coming back to him.

That day, Justin was working in the Meridan branch when Rosalind came over and dragged him to some event.

Justin turned Rosalind down to rush to a meeting, but she threw a fit and dumped his phone in the fish tank.

Bella's call for help must have come at that time.

Justin's head spun.

"Sir? Sir? Are you there? Are you alright?" Matt asked worriedly.

Justin held onto the windowsill as his body sank to the ground. He was on the verge of a breakdown.

The next morning, Justin was relieved that Bella's fever had subsided.

Bella opened her eyes, and the first thing she saw was the love of her life. She slipped into his arms emotionally, and they locked in an embrace. "Justin? Am I dreaming?"

Bella raised her swollen eyes and pinched Justin's gaunt face red.

She should be pinching herself to see if she was dreaming.

However, Justin did not feel the pain. Pleased, he ran his fingers down her hair. "You're not dreaming, Bella. It's me. Touch me if you don't believe me." "This is wonderful."

Bella threw herself into his arms. Swept by a whirlwind of emotions, she burst out crying.

She pinched hard and wailed out loud. At least it looked like she had regained her strength.

After snuggling up for a moment, Justin drew close to her and murmured in her ear, "Bella, I'm so, so sorry. Once you're all better, you can hit me all you want."

"Why should I hit you?" Bella blinked. "Do you have someone else in your life? Did you get lonely when I wasn't there?!"

Chapter 1268

Justin grimaced. "Bella..."

"I'm just kidding. Look at you." Bella gave his cheek a little squeeze, but she was upset because his cheeks had sunken. "You look haggard. Are you trying to make me feel sorry for you?" Justin interlocked his fingers with hers and fell silent, the tear stains from last night still evident on his face.

After much consideration, he decided not to talk about it. Instead, he sealed her lips and engaged in a lingering kiss.

He would remember the hurt and pain for her and make it up to her for the rest of his life.

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Carrie woke up to learn Justin and Bella were there. Her face lit up with joy.

She wanted to check on Bella, but Ryan held her from behind. "Give Bella and Justin some time alone, my dear wife. They had it rough."

"Uh... But I miss Bella." Carrie's eyes sparkled with anticipation.

"Don't you miss me?"

Ryan turned his wife around to face him and gave her a sad look. "I didn't sleep a wink last night. Don't you miss me?"

"Uh... I see you every day." Carrie looked confused.

Ryan pouted.

Oh, no.

Ryan was still in the honeymoon phase of the relationship, but Carrie acted like they were an old couple now.

Panicking, Ryan wrapped his arm around Carrie's waist and locked tongues with her. Carrie melted in his arms.

Carrie drew back after a moment, a sliver of saliva trailing from her lips.

"Be good and see Justin and Bella later, okay?" Ryan's fingers rubbed against her moist lips. He was pleased with her bashful and intimate response. "Alright then."

With the kiss taking her breath away, Carrie said meekly, "I'll make Bella a cake. She has a sweet tooth. I'll deliver the cake to her later."

Since Carrie wanted to show off her baking skills, Ryan would make sure everything was in order.

Once Yasmin prepared the ingredients and tools, Carrie rolled up her sleeves, put on an apron, and worked like a busy bee in the kitchen. Ryan could not get enough of her.

"I want some, babe. Feed me." Ryan tilted his bottom on the kitchen counter while leaning toward Carrie with an open mouth.

Having a playful moment, Carrie swiped a lick of butter and wiped it on his chin. She held her belly and burst out laughing.

"Oh, my. Someone's naughty. I'm going to eat you up."

As the couple fooled around, the doorbell rang.

"Huh? Are you expecting a guest, Ryan?" Carrie blinked in surprise in Ryan's embrace.

Ryan furrowed his brows.

First of all, Ryan rarely met guests at home. Secondly, only a handful knew where his home was.

"Yasmin, go and see who it is," Ryan instructed solemnly.

"Sure thing, Mr. Hoffman."

Yasmin went to check it out.

However, she was not back for a long while.

The sudden thud in the hallway scared them.

"Wait here, Carrie. I'll go and check it out."

Ryan walked into the living room and gasped sharply at the visitor.

Yasmin, who was trained professionally, was pinned down against the wall by a handsome man.

"This place is pretty sweet. I like it."

Drew narrowed his eyes and looked around. When his gaze finally fell on Ryan's puzzled face, he curled his lips. "Maybe I should get a property here, and we can be neighbors."

Chapter 1269

Ryan's hair stood the moment Bella's brother showed up.

Though highly revered in the underworld, Ryan became small in the face of Drew. Plus, Drew was Bella's brother. There was no way Ryan would want to hurt him.

"I'm sorry... Mr. Hoffman. Yasmin heaved heavily and looked at Ryan, blaming herself for losing control of the situation.

Ryan swallowed hard and shouted urgently, "Don't do anything rash. I'm sure the young heir of the Thompsons won't hit a woman."

"So I should just stand here, take a beating like a man, and let her kill me?" Drew yawned nonchalantly. "Am I that stupid?"

Ryan had nothing to say.

He knew Yasmin's loyalty lay with him. Yasmin would take drastic actions to punish those who were against Ryan.

"But you're right. I don't hit women."

Drew released his hold on Yasmin and looked up. "You should thank your lucky stars that you're a woman. Otherwise, I would've broken your arms." "Bastard!" A proud individual like Yasmin could not take the humiliation lying down. With a menacing look, she pulled a punch, but Ryan stopped her.

"Stop it, Yasmin! He's Ms. Thompson's brother."

Yasmin paused and pulled herself back.

Brother?

The untamed man turned out to be Bella's brother and an heir of the Thompson family.

Drew cheekily stuck his tongue out at a dazed Yasmin before turning to Ryan. His gaze was piercing.

"Bella and Justin are here, right?"

The room was a haven of tranquility.

Noticing the bruise on Justin's face, Bella cupped his face angrily and heart-wrenchingly. "Who did this to you? Tell me."

"I fell when I was on my way to you." Justin smiled bitterly while putting his hands over hers. He caressed her hands gently. "As if you fell flat on your face. Are you that silly?"

Bella was flushed with rage. "Did Wyatt and my brothers beat you up when you came to my place two days ago?" Justin explained, "No. Not at all..."

"It was them! You served in the army. You would tie with Drew in a fight. I doubt they could harm you unless you stood there and just took it."

As her eyes welled up, Bella reached for his face but was afraid to hurt him. "Of all the places to hit you, why your face? They're so mean." Justin's eyes reflected tenderness. The pain was the last thing on his mind.

However, Justin teared up with joy, sadness, and remorse because Bella cared so much about him. He grabbed her hand and refused to let her go. "That's not important, Bella. Nothing matters more than you being here with me."

Justin felt a lump in his throat.

Bella tearfully plunged headfirst into his arms and held him tight. "I'm back, Justin. I don't ever want to leave you again."

A flurry of hurried knocks erupted at the door.

"Justin! Bella! Open the door!"

Bella and Justin exchanged glances. "Carrie?"

Justin picked Bella up from bed and helped her to the door. They swung the door open.

Panicked, Carrie still had buttercream on her cheek. "Justin! Bella! A bad guy has come to catch you."

"A bad guy?" The couple was taken aback.

Drew emerged behind Carrie, his eyes exuding aloofness.

"Bella."

"D-Drew..."

Bella turned white and shouted, "Close the door, Justin!"

Even though Justin prided himself on his composure, his mind went black at the sight of Drew.

Carrie snapped out of her trance and closed the door in a hurry.

Chapter 1270

Carrie could not close the door fast enough to block Drew out. Drew stuck his hand on the door frame. Try as she may, Carrie could not shut the door.

Drew sighed and smiled wryly with a frown as his once-close sister feared and resisted him.

"Don't hide away from me, Bella. I'm not here to bring you home."

Justin and Bella were surprised. "Huh? Drew..."

"It has never been my intention to break you up."

Drew looked at the couple, who went through a lot. Fate seemed to have other things in mind. He felt bad. "I only sought you to make sure you were safe and sound. Don't be scared."

His words hit a nerve in Bella.

Feeling a lump in his throat, Justin pursed his lips.

He did not expect that from Drew.

Someone in Bella's family was willing to take his side and believe him.

"Drew!"

Bella went up and hugged Drew, and the latter embraced her warmly and ran his fingers along her hair. "You're a silly girl. You jumped from the fifth floor just to get out. If anything were to happen to you, how are we supposed to live? We'll be monks and dedicate our lives to God."

"What? Bella..." Justin froze in shock, his eyes widening.

"I'm fine, aren't I? It's just five floors down." Bella wiped her snot on Drew's black shirt.

"I know you. No one can stop you from doing what you want. You even jumped off the plane in the South Island the last time." Drew wiped her snot with his tie.

There was only one woman Drew would spoil.

"Can you cut the crap?"

Bella sniffled. "Why would you become a monk if I were gone? It makes sense if Justin becomes one."

Ryan nervously arrived on the scene.

As things were not as tense as he thought, Ryan heaved a sigh of relief and pulled Carrie into his arms.

"Um... Ryan, did I get the wrong idea about that man?"

Feeling bad, Carrie lifted her innocent-looking face. "I thought he was one of the bad guys."

"Yeah, he's not a bad guy."

Ryan thought to himself, 'He's just a devil.'

After consoling Bella, Drew looked up callously and approached Justin.

"Thank you, Drew, for giving me a chance," Justin said hoarsely.

Suddenly, Justin caught a fleeting shadow.

Drew swung his fist at Justin's face.

"Justin!"

"No, Drew!" It was too late for Bella to stop him.

Justin braced himself to take the hit.

Nevertheless, Drew stopped right before his fist touched his nose and scoffed. "Don't flatter yourself. I just don't want Bella to be sad because you're the only one for her. Do you really think I will let the past go?"

Justin's chest tightened. "I'm sorry. I know I deserve to die, but thank you for not taking Bella away, even if it's just temporary. Every extra second I get to spend with her is a gift."

Surprised, Drew slowly withdrew his arm.

Bella eagerly returned to Justin's side and locked fingers with him.

"Let me share a piece of good news."

Feeling bad for his sister, Drew did not want to stay the bad guy and softened his tone. "I found the hideout of the woman who highly resembles you, Bella."

The news was a godsend for Bella and Justin.