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I smiled and shook my head. "I'm not sure but let's stop gossiping about them. At her age, if

Aunt Sally manages to find someone suitable for her and have a partner for her remaining

years, that's a good thing."

"That's right!" Hannah nodded and continued seriously, "I suddenly believe that destiny really

exists. We all have our own predetermined paths to walk. Some people get to enjoy a

smooth life with fame and riches but die young. There are others who have it rougher but

remain in good health until they die of old age. There are also some who have a difficult

start in life but work hard and ultimately get to enjoy the fruits of their labor. It's the same

when it comes to relationships. True love might only come to some at a later stage after

experiencing trials and tribulations."

I nodded, agreeing with her views. Chandler ordered a few of Hannah's favorite dishes and

said, "What about us? It was also not easy for us to be together, right?" Hannah looked at the man and replied, "We just met each other at the right time."

Seeing that they are showing off their love again, I looked down at my phone. Hailey texted

again. It's difficult to explain over the phone. Let's find some time to meet up!

She was right. That issue was too complicated to be properly communicated over the

phone.

Just then, I saw an incoming call from Ashton and answered it at once. "Has your meeting

ended?"

He replied in a hoarse voice, "Yup, just ended. Where are you now?" "I'm in town having dinner with Hannah and Chandler right now. Do you want to join us?"

"Sure!"

After I hung up, Hannah looked at me and asked, "Is that Ashton?" I nodded and she asked worriedly, "Have you been resting well these days? I already noticed

that you looked quite pale when I saw you this morning. Are you losing sleep feeling

troubled over Summer?"

I froze for a moment and let out a bitter smile before replying, "She's Macy's only child. I... "

I sighed and did not finish my sentence. Not wanting to discuss that topic, I looked at

Hannah and said, "Ashton will be coming later. I should go say hi to Aunt Sally first."

Talking about Summer's situation was pointless. I could only hope that a suitable kidney for

her would be available soon.

Hannah understood that I did not want to continue talking about it and nodded. "Sure, go

ahead. There should be still a while before our food is served," she said. Sally and Jim were sitting by the window. The middle-aged couple was behaving just like

teenagers in love. One of them was talking animatedly while the other listened quietly and

responded with smiles intermittently. One could tell from the look in their eyes how much

they adored each other.

I must have arrived at an inopportune moment. When Sally saw me, she was obviously

startled and had an awkward expression on her face. "Scarlett, why... why are you here?"

"I just happened to be having dinner with my friends at this restaurant and I saw you. I

thought I should come over and say hi. Aunt Sally, who's this gentleman?" I asked, beaming.

A blush of embarrassment spread across Sally's cheeks. Jim, who had seen much in life,

remained composed and answered instead. "Hi, I'm Jim. Sally and I are dating. I guess you

must be her niece? Please have a seat."

His candidness surprised me. I joined them at their table and introduced myself to Jim. I

could not help but smile when I saw the blush on Sally's face. "Aunt Sally, Ashton and I are

quite busy lately. Are you angry that we haven't had time to visit you?" Still feeling a little awkward, Sally smiled at me and replied, "I've heard about Fuller

Corporation's situation and understand that Ashton is occupied with work. Anyway, you

youngsters have your own matters to attend to. I'm already feeling bad that I can't be of any

help to you. The only thing I can do is not to be a burden and worry you guys."

I nodded and thought about Summer. I realized Aunt Sally was still unaware of that. With a

smile, I replied, "Aunt Sally, we should have a gathering after this busy period. You have to

bring Uncle Jim along, yeah?

Sally nodded. I could see that her cheeks were still in a shade of pink. Since I had already

greeted her, I should get going in order not to disrupt their date.

Just when I stood up and was about to leave, I saw Ashton walking towards us. I was rather

stunned at how speedily he arrived.

"Oh, Ashton is here too," Sally said as she noticed Ashton as well. I walked towards him and asked, "How did you reach so quickly?" He pulled me closer towards him and frowned. "Why is your hand so cold?" He asked, while

at the same time holding my hand in his, warming it. "The office is quite nearby and the

traffic was smooth. That's how I'm here so fast!"

"Oh," I simply replied before whispering into his ear, "I forgot to tell you just now. Aunt Sally

is here too."

While we were talking, Jim had already stood up and approached Ashton. After the two men

exchanged greetings, Ashton asked me, "Aren't you with Hannah?"

I nodded and we said goodbye to Sally before joining Hannah and Chandler again. The

dishes were served the same time we arrived back at the table.

When Hannah saw Ashton and I, she smiled and said, "I was just about to go over and get

you." Then, she introduced Chandler to Ashton and all of us sat down.

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I looked at Ashton and Chandler; one is reserved and arrogant, the latter kind and

down-to-earth. It was not surprising that the two of them had very little in common to talk

about. Hannah and I, on the other hand, were busy chattering away.

Hannah looked at the shrimps Ashton peeled for me and said, "You know what, I'm actually

quite jealous of the way you two interact with each other. It's not sickeningly sweet, but one

that seems very natural."

I smiled in return and watched quietly as Chandler carefully fed a shrimp to Hannah. "I'm the

one who's envious of you. Look at how thoughtful and gentle Mr.

Coleman is to you. You

must cherish him."

She nodded in assent. "That's for sure. I wish the best for you and Ashton too."

It was already quite late by the time we finished dinner and returned to the villa.

Back to our bedroom, Ashton seemed already tuckered out, so I decided to keep the

questions I had to myself. After taking a shower and finally lying in bed together, Ashton's

voice was a little croaky when he asked, "Is John going to do anything now that Hannah is

getting married?"

I was mildly surprised by his sudden interest in this matter and shook my head. "I'm not

sure. All I know is that he also plans to marry Yvonne. God knows what's going on in his

head."

Now that he brought up this matter, I asked curiously, "Ashton, what would you do if I

married another person?"

The man opened his eyes and fixed steadily at mine. His voice was low and solemn when he replied, "Will you?"

I rolled my eyes at him and said, "Why not? Life is so unpredictable, anything is possible.

Case in point, years ago, John wouldn't have thought that Hannah was going to bear his

child. And now, when John finally falls in love with Hannah, she has decided to become

someone else's bride. We can't bet on things to remain the same forever."

Instead of answering my hypothetical question, his dark eyes continued to glare at me

intently. I grew impatient and started to pester him, "Why are you looking at me like this?

Just answer my question!"

"I will never let you go, or allow you to fall in love with another person, much less letting you

marrying someone else other than me. So, your question is invalid." His demeanor was so

overbearing I had to forego all other follow-up questions at the back of my mind.

I sighed. "It's just an innocent question. I don't understand why you are taking it so

seriously." Feeling a little stirred up, I turned my back against him.

Ashton then moved closer to me, his chest was so close against my back I could feel his

strong heartbeats. His big hand rested on my belly as he assumed a dulcet tone, "Scarlett, I

believe that many things in life are achievable when you put your minds to it. I can't predict

my future, but one thing I know for sure is that, as long as I live, I will not let you go. I never

buy the saying that if you love someone you should set her free. I'm just an ordinary guy

who wants to be with my wife and can't bear to see you live with anyone else. So, don't you

ever think of such a thing again, okay?"

I wasn't sure if it was his bold profession of love or his steady heartbeat against my body,

the fog in my mind suddenly lifted and I could see things clearly as they were. I finally

conceded, "Alright, I won't ask such a stupid question again." My head rested on his

shoulder and my fingers intertwined with his. "Ashton, when Summer gets better, we will

start afresh as a family." The man then held me tightly in his arms.

All my life, I was never able to fully grasp the concept of happiness. But at that moment, I

finally understood that happiness could just be as simple as spending the night holding

onto someone you love who also loved you back.

"Ashton, you..." Realizing what he was about to do, my eyes widened in the next instant.

"What are you doing? I'm pregnant, we can't do that!"

He turned me around so that I was now facing him. Our eyes locked and he said in a coarse

voice, "Scarlett, it's been a while since we..."

I hesitated for a brief moment before I replied in a soft voice, "But, but it's inconvenient now

that I'm pregnant."

Ashton leaned his head against mine and I could feel his humid and heavy breaths inches

away. I held my breath and dared not utter another word.

After a few seconds, the man took a deep breath and finally said, "Alright, let's go to sleep."

Ashton still held onto me, but his hands finally stopped moving around. I stole a sigh of

relief and recalled what happened during the day. "By the way, are you not allowed to bring a

phone during meetings lately?"

"No, why is that?"

"Oh, it's nothing. Just that I've tried calling you a few times and they all went to voicemail.

So, I was wondering if there was a no-phone rule instated in your office." "My office is very close to the conference room. So, sometimes I'll leave my phone in my

office during meetings. It won't happen again."

I let out a faint smile. "Okay."

Maybe it was just a coincident that Stella picked up his phone today.

The next day, I rushed to the hospital after being informed that Summer and Jared's bone

marrows were not compatible. I arrived at the hospital and met with Cameron and Zachary,

who looked like they hadn't slept all night.

There was discernible sorrow in Cameron's voice as she spoke, "My dear, the doctor has

confirmed that their bone marrows do not match. We're going to have to search for one

that's compatible with Summer's."