

Love Spell 361

Chapter 361

Seeing Wanda in such a state, Carlisle finally understood why she hadn't contacted him last night.

He remembered the news report about two kidnappers carrying out a corpse, likely one of Shein's bodyguards. Wanda must have witnessed the murder, leaving her

traumatized.

Carlisle's heart ached. He yearned to hold and comfort her.

Noticing Carlisle, Queenie suddenly whispered to Wanda, "Look, Carlisle is waiting for you!"

Wanda blinked, then turned to look at Carlisle.

Her eyes instantly filled with tears. She broke away from Queenie's hand and ran toward him.

Carlisle's eyes also reddened as he opened his arms to embrace the approaching Wanda.

Just then, Zachary got out of the car and slammed the door shut, his face dark with

anger.

This was supposed to be a breakup? Now they weren't even trying to hide it!

Queenie quickly grabbed Zachary's wrist and whispered, "Zac, don't cause trouble. My friend said that in Wanda's condition, it's best if the person closest to her helps her recover."

Damn it!" Zachary punched the hood of the car, denting it instantly.

Without a doubt, the person closest to Wanda now was Carlisle.

Queenie sighed. "Leave them alone. At least until Wanda recovers, you shouldn't give her a hard time."

She suddenly felt some sympathy for Carlisle and Wanda.

When young love blooms at this age, they should enjoy a romance that changes

way atoms to wedding gowns.

Because when they would be happily enjoying youthful romance, there was Cardone to be shortlived due to their vastly different family backgrounds.

Zachary died & Carise before going back into the car and speeding away.

peggy

Wanda clung to Cedric, sobbing softly "Carlisle, I'm so scared. Every time I closed my eyes last night, I saw Uncle Mac being killed

Cercle gently stroked Wanda's head and whispered, "Don't be afraid, I'm here."

His soothing voice eased Wanda's anxiety, and she found solace in his embrace. She wanted to hold onto Cerise forever, never letting go

did

Queenie walked by, giving Carlisle a brief glance before heading into the school

Carlisle gently petted Wanda's back and asked softly, "Can you attend classes, or do you want to take a break?"

Wanda shook her head lightly. I don't want to take a break"

Carlisle let go of Wanda, taking her hand instead. Then let's go to class."

Wanda bit her red lip and nodded, following Carlisle onto campus.

The security guard saw the two students holding hands and was about to reprimand them, but he swallowed his words upon seeing that it was Wanda.

There was a bonfire party today, and students performing in the show were doing their final rehearsals, so there were hardly any classes.

As Carlisle and Wanda walked hand in hand, they attracted the attention of many students

"Wow, isn't that the freshman from our department? Does she have a boyfriend?"

"Oh my God, that's Wanda Thompson! She was kidnapped yesterday and is back at school today?"

"The heiress of Thompson Group, a real rich and beautiful girl. I wonder what kind of luck her boyfriend has"

"He's good-looking!"

"Looks mean nothing, what's the use?"

"Being good-looking gets you a rich and beautiful girlfriend. A life of endless luxury!"

A group of senior students gossiped amongst themselves.

Suddenly, a muscular guy in a basketball jersey bearing the number eight walked

over with a stern face. “What are you guys talking about?”

“Arthur, big news! The heiress of Thompson Group is in a relationship!”

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A male student quickly handed over his unopened bottle of soda to Arthur, who pushed it away with a frown. He asked, “So what?”

The male student chuckled and said, “So we were wondering who her boyfriend is.

Arthur growled, “His name is Carlisle, and I answer to him!”

The crowd froze. They never imagined Arthur, who refused to answer to even the most popular kids on campus, would openly acknowledge someone as his superior.

He had made it clear that he didn’t want to be part of any club or society during his university years, for all he wanted was to focus on his academics.

“I’d watch my mouth around Carlisle if I were you,” Arthur warned, raising his large fist menacingly. “Don’t say I didn’t warn you.”

At once, the other students nodded. They would be fools to cross a hunk of muscle like Arthur.

Arthur returned to the basketball court to resume the game, but that was when a fashionably dressed student came up to him. “Hey, Arthur.”

“What?” Arthur asked.

The student, Gavin Schmidt, was the son of a contractor who had made good money in the last couple of years.

Gavin said somberly, “There’s something I’ve been debating telling you.”

Arthur rolled his eyes. “Cut to the case, will you? I’ve got stuff to do.”

Gavin let out an awkward huff of laughter before saying, "Now that Prince Heath's reign is over, I figured it's time we disband."

He said this quietly, but there were a few students within earshot who caught the words and began eavesdropping in earnest. They wanted to hear Arthur's take on the matter.

Arthur gave Gavin a cursory glance before he turned to look at Jamie, who was

reading on the sidelines. "Jamie, get over here!"

Jamie set his book down and walked over at once. Arthur waved his hand and

beckoned the others over, saying, "You guys, too. Come here."

When everyone heard this, they did as they were told and formed a huddle around

Gavin and Arthur.

"Repeat what you just told me," Arthur ordered as he stared at Gavin evenly.

Gavin swallowed and lowered his head. "What I meant to say was, now that Prince

Heath's forces are a thing of the past, there's no need for us to exist anymore.

"Besides, do you guys really want to take orders from a freshman?"

A few students seemed persuaded by Gavin's line of argument. If they had wanted to take orders from someone, they would have followed any other capable figure on

campus.

Jamie countered gravely, "Prince Heath may no longer be here, but his brother, Benjamin, still is."

Gavin scoffed. "Benjamin's still wet behind the ears. He's not cut out to be a leader.

Trust me, some other gang will put him in his place within a month."

Jamie kept quiet when he heard this.

Arthur shot Jamie a disappointed look before saying, "Well, now that this has been

brought up, let's take a vote.

"Those who stand with Carlisle and me, come over to my side, those who don't can

go over to Gavin's."

Eight students went over to Gavin's side while the remaining 20 or so stood in place, exchanging dubious glances. Eventually, they cast their gaze upon Jamie

Arthur snapped, "Don't make your decision based on what others choose!"

At once, about seven or eight students came over to stand with Arthur Jamie took a

deep breath and chose to go over to Arthur's side too.

The remaining dozen students ran over to Arthur and ducked behind him.

Two students on Gavin's side looked like they were having second thoughts.

However, before they could switch sides, Arthur said, "You only get one chance. You

don't get to backtrack on your choice."

Gavin smiled smugly and said, “There’s no need to backtrack. Kudos to you guys for taking a stand and choosing the right side. Let them be Carlisle’s lapdogs if they

want!”

“What the hell did you just say, you asshole?” Arthur thundered, taking one long stride forward and grabbing Gavin by his collar. With a hard tug, he lifted Gavin off the ground.

Just then, the sound of a basketball hitting the backboard rang across the court.

Arthur turned around and saw a group of students with their hands in their pockets coming over. The person leading them was none other than Alex Holder,

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Alex sported wavy hair that curled at his neck, making him look like the lead actor from some early-noughties movie. He warned, “Arthur, Gavin’s with me.”

Arthur released Gavin at once and snorted. “So that’s what happened. You took him

in, huh?”

The eight students who had sided with Gavin were regretting their choice even more

now.

Gavin said loudly, “From now on, we’ll answer to Alex! He’s Jalen Holder’s nephew!”

The students behind Gavin couldn’t hide their surprise. They had guessed that Alex came from some formidable background, but they didn’t think his uncle was Jalen,

one of the Heroes of Riverland.

Alex shoved his hands into his pockets and smiled. “Those who want to hang out with me, you may do so free of charge. I’ll even throw in a welcoming pack of cigarettes and put your drinks on my tab.”

Gavin straightened his collar and eyed Arthur menacingly. “I’m Alex’s man from now on, so you might want to watch yourself if you run into me in the future.”

With that, he led the eight students over to Alex.

Alex gave one of his lackeys a look, prompting the latter to quickly produce a half- dozen packs of cigarettes and distribute them to the new recruits.

“Come on, Arthur. Join us and I’ll give you a thousand-dollar allowance every month,”

Alex said to Arthur.

This was not the first time he had tried to recruit Arthur. If he could have someone as strong and capable as Arthur in his gang, he could secure his position on campus.

Arthur sneered, “Forget it. I’m not the type to betray someone’s trust in me.”

What a shame that Alex couldn’t persuade someone with such admirable loyalty to join his gang.

A pause later, he chuckled and said, “It’s fine. I can keep waiting. Let me know once you’ve given my offer some thought. I’m ready to welcome you into my gang anytime. I’ll even let you become my right-hand man!”

With that, Alex turned on his heels and left with his lackeys.

Arthur watched them leave as scorn and disgust flashed across his eyes. He then looked at Jamie quizzically and asked, “Why didn’t you join Gavin and his group?”

Jamie smiled breezily. “Give me some credit, Arthur. I’m not disloyal.”

If he were frank, Gavin’s and Alex’s offers were tempting.

Everyone had heard about what happened to Heath. Even if Heath’s men were released, they would be no better than a leaderless pack with neither direction nor structure.

Besides, Jalen and Titan likely had their plans for Heath’s henchmen.

They were the Heroes of Riverland, and Benjamin might not even last until the end of the month if they were to come for Heath’s forces.

The only reason Jamie chose to stay on Carlisle’s side was because of the latter’s history with Heath.

Jamie heard that Heath had reported to Carlisle. In other words, Heath and his forces likely rose to power because they had help from Carlisle.

Although Heath’s rise to power had been as quick as his downfall, it was still impressive how his forces had gained traction in just half a month.

Jalen and Titan, on the other hand, had treaded the edge of a blade for over a decade to attain their infamous reputation.

There was no denying that Carlisle’s sharp judgment allowed him to aid Heath’s rise to power, though Heath’s capabilities played an important role as well.

Jamie thought Carlisle was a rather interesting figure, and he would like to see if

Carlisle could help Benjamin carry on Heath's legacy.

Meanwhile, Carlisle had escorted Wanda to her class.

Susan had only just come out of the office when she spotted Carlisle and Wanda holding hands.

She froze and quickly backed into the office once more.

Just then, Peter came out of his office and announced, "Ms. Lowe, Mr. Bennet, I'd

like to see both of you in my office."

Timothy Bennet was a middle-aged balding man who was the homeroom teacher of

Class 1.

Exchanging a look with Susan, Timothy quickly headed into the dean's office with Susan following closely behind.

In the privacy of the office, Peter adjusted his glasses and said, "I assume you've both heard of Wanda's kidnapping incident yesterday?"

Timothy and Susan nodded in unison. Timothy said, "I'll have the female students in

my class reach out to her with empathy and compassion."

Peter shook his head. "Here's the thing, Wanda's kidnapper killed one of the

Thompsons' bodyguards in front of her.

“She’s been traumatized since, and our resident psychology professor suggested that we have Wanda stay with someone she’s close with.”

Susan’s eyes lit up at this. “So you’re saying that Wanda will be transferred back to my class?”

Peter nodded and said, “That’s t

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Susan quirked her lips in thought. She supposed there were no issues with Wanda’s transfer of classes. Since Wanda and Carlisle were going steady, she would likely be more than happy to be in the same class as him.

Susan was the youngest lecturer on campus, and having studied abroad, she was more progressive than her colleagues.

She believed anyone who was a legal adult should have the right to love and date, whoever they wanted. After all, one could only get to know a person’s true colors

over time.

Besides, going into marriage only after dating somebody for a while might lower the chances of divorce.

She was secretly rooting for Carlisle and Wanda, but she made a mental note to advise them as necessary—as a responsible teacher would.

She wouldn’t want them to abandon their studies completely in favor of love.

Peter said sternly, “While there are no rules against dating on campus, Wanda and

Carlisle are far too young to navigate a romantic relationship on their own.

“As their homeroom teacher, I would expect you to provide them with the necessary guidance, Ms. Lowe.”

It was rare for someone below the age of 30 to be appointed as a form teacher at Riverland University. Susan had her father’s friendship with Peter to thank for her career on campus.

Nonetheless, Peter was rather displeased by Susan’s flippant remark on Wanda’s and Carlisle’s relationship. He only let it go on account of his friendship with Susan’s father.

“That’s where you’re wrong, Mr. Smith,” Susan said with a grin. “Putting Wanda in the same class as Carlisle while she’s at her most vulnerable will only intensify the sparks of their relationship!”

Peter’s lips curled in annoyance as he stared at Susan incredulously. “What other option is there? Can you think of anyone else who could help Wanda cope with her trauma aside from Carlisle?”

Susan shook her head. “No. Carlisle’s the only one who can do that.”

“Enough of this,” Peter said, waving his hand. “You’re both dismissed.”

Susan nodded politely and turned to leave Peter's office. Timothy followed suit.

Outside the classroom, Carlisle let go of Wanda's hand and said with a gentle smile,"

Go in, Wanda. I'll see you after class."

Wanda pursed her lips as tears sprang to her eyes.

Carlisle was reluctant to leave her as well, especially after seeing her eyes turn red with tears. But there was only so much he could do when they weren't in the same class.

At that moment, Susan and Timothy came up to them. "Ms. Lowe," Carlisle greeted nervously, his stomach turning leaden.

He had gotten caught holding hands with Wanda by not one, but two teachers. He might have been reborn, but his heart was still racing as if he was facing death.

Susan said calmly, "We've heard about Wanda's situation, and the dean has decided that it would be in her best interests to transfer to Class 2."

Carlisle froze at first. A second later, he nearly burst out cheering. He and Wanda could be seatmates again, which meant there was no need for them to hide their relationship on campus anymore.

Timothy walked up to the entrance of Class 1 where Daniel was leaning against the doorframe and said, “Daniel, help Wanda pack up her textbooks and drop them off at Class 2, please.”

Daniel had already seen Carlisle holding hands with Wanda. His jaw nearly hit the floor as words failed to escape him.

He felt like his mind had just imploded. Was the university endorsing love affairs as extra credit?

“Daniel, did you hear me?” Timothy asked, rapping his knuckles against the door.

Daniel finally snapped out of his daze. “What did you say?”

Timothy repeated his instruction sullenly, and Daniel hurried to help Wanda pack up her things.

Ruby’s seat was behind Wanda’s, and she was perplexed when she saw Daniel packing up Wanda’s textbooks. “Daniel, what are you doing?”

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Daniel explained while bundling up Wanda’s textbooks, “Mr. Bennet wants me to move Wanda’s stuff to Class 2.”

Ruby was the daughter of the richest man in Riverland. Daniel couldn’t afford to cross her by refusing to answer her question.

Frowning at this, Ruby asked, “Wanda’s being moved back to Class 2?”

Carlisle was in Class 2! If Wanda moved to his class, she would have every means possible to get close to him!

Ruby couldn't let that happen. As such, she made up her mind to transfer to Class 2 as well.

She had asked Sarah about Carlisle's dating history.

While Carlisle and Wanda were an item before, they had broken up for unknown reasons after they started university.

If that were the case, Ruby would do everything in her power to stop them from rekindling old sparks.

At the thought of this, she took out her phone and gave Yuriel a call.

Yuriel spoiled Ruby beyond reason, and he did not hesitate before agreeing to her request to transfer classes. He even called up Peter personally to make the

necessary arrangements.

Naturally, Peter wouldn't dare offend the richest man in Riverland, especially since Yuriel had donated plenty of educational supplies to the campus.

The university even had Yuriel's name engraved on the sponsor plaque to

commemorate his generous contributions over the years.

Presently, Carlisle and Wanda had entered the classroom.

It took a lot of gentle coaxing on Susan's part before Wanda let go of Carlisle's hand. The last thing Susan wanted was for the class to burst into an uproar at the public display of affection.

When Wanda returned to her seat, she slumped over her desk and turned to look at

Carlisle. Seeing him made her feel safe.

"Wanda, are you... alright?" Phoebe asked cautiously from behind Wanda.

After learning of Wanda's abduction, Phoebe did not take her eyes off the television

in hopes of getting live updates on the situation.

It wasn't until she saw Wanda appear well and alive on camera that she let out a

breath of relief.

Overnight, word of the incident had broken out on campus.

It seemed Wanda hadn't heard Phoebe at all. Her gaze was fixed on Carlisle and

nothing else.

Phoebe glanced at Carlisle helplessly. "Is Wanda okay, Carlisle?"

Carlisle sighed and said quietly, "She's probably still in shock."

Tears sprang to Phoebe's eyes. "Did she forget who I am?"

Just then, Wanda replied in a voice barely louder than a whisper, "I didn't lose my

memories.”

Phoebe sobbed with relief when she heard this. “Wanda, you responded! Oh, thank goodness you’re okay!”

She wiped her tears away as she said this. With all the time they had spent together, Phoebe had long since considered Wanda her best friend.

When Daniel popped into the class with Wanda’s textbooks and backpack, Carlisle helped Wanda store the books in her desk drawer.

At that moment, Daniel leaned close to him and whispered, “Hey, Carlisle, are you and Ruby close?”

“Not really. Why?” Carlisle asked.

“She’s transferring to Class 2, that’s why!” Daniel said.

He had overheard Ruby’s phone conversation with Yuriel earlier and indulged in some wild guessing, only to conclude that Ruby was moving classes for Carlisle.

“And?” Carlisle countered coolly.

Ruby obviously had feelings for him. If she was so adamant about moving to Class 2, he wouldn’t mind making her seethe with jealousy by flaunting his relationship with

Wanda.

Daniel narrowed his eyes and mused, “Were you and Ruby...”

Carlisle shot Daniel a dark look.

Shifting his gaze to Wanda, Daniel did the wise thing and shut up. He left the

classroom without so much as a backward glance after dropping off Wanda’s books.

When he passed by Christine’s table by the door, he dropped her a note he had

written in advance.

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Christine opened the note and read the hasty scrawl on it: “O’ beautiful Lady Christine, will you do me the honor of having tea with me? If yes, please meet me at Papplewick Tea Shop this afternoon once classes end.”

She crumpled up the note and tossed it into her desk drawer.

Since giving up on her one-sided affection for Carlisle, she had decided to pour all her energy into her studies and making money.

Not long after Daniel left, Susan received a call from Peter. When she heard that.

Ruby was transferring to her class, she couldn’t help glancing at Carlisle.

With classes having yet to formally commence, she hadn’t gotten to know any of her

students yet. She didn’t even know most of their names.

However, after a week or so of observation, she realized that there were only a

handful of talented male students in this year's freshman intake.

Among them, Carlisle had impressed her the most. He was better-looking and more

well-behaved than most of his peers, and he had fortitude far beyond his years.

Susan could only think of one reason why Ruby might want to transfer to Class 2 so quickly after Wanda's transfer.

"You know who Ruby's father is, don't you? His generous donations to the university over the years have greatly enhanced the quality of our education and teaching

environment.

"His name is on the sponsor plaque too. It would be in our best interests to give his daughter what she wants," Peter reminded.

A wry smile curled on Susan's lips. "I understand."

So it was true that money made an excellent servant. It had taken Ruby only one phone call to switch classes. She hardly had to lift a finger.

Ten minutes later, Timothy showed up at the entrance of Class 2 with Ruby in tow.

Susan walked over to the door and personally ushered Ruby in.

The whole class fell silent when they saw Ruby.

She was stunning in her own right. She sported delicately chiseled features and alabaster skin, which was set off by her long hair and even bangs.

She looked clean and well-dressed, but there was a hint of arrogance in her

countenance.

eyes and

Susan rapped her knuckles on the teacher's desk and said, "Quiet, everyone. This is Ruby Gust, our new student who just transferred from Class 1. Let's give her a warm

welcome."

Ruby Gust. Almost everyone in the classroom had heard of her name. She was the daughter of the richest man in Riverland. In other words, an heiress.

The students burst into applause save for Carlisle and Wanda.

Carlisle did not even so much as glance at Ruby. He kept his eyes on Wanda, who was still staring at him. There was no light in her eyes even as she fixed her gaze on

him.

Carlisle's heart broke at the sight of this. He wasn't sure what he could do to help Wanda recover from the trauma and return to her old self.

Ruby cleared her throat as she introduced herself, "Good day, everyone. I'm Ruby, and I look forward to getting to know each of you better."

The students clapped once more.

Ruby's gaze slid over to Carlisle and Wanda. The sight of them staring at each other

irked her to no end.

Just then, Susan asked, "Anyone in the front row wants to relinquish their seat for

Ruby?”

At once, a few male students in the front row stood up, and so did a few girls in the middle section of the classroom.

Susan turned to smile at Ruby as she asked, “Where would you like to sit?”

Ruby pointed at the seat directly behind Wanda. “I prefer seats by the windows.”

“I’m not giving up my seat,” Phoebe protested immediately.

Ruby’s brows furrowed. She knew she couldn’t throw a fit here, so she sighed and said in resignation, “Ms. Lowe, why don’t you pick out a seat for me?”

In other words, she had picked out the seat she wanted, and it was up to Susan to make the arrangements.

Susan sighed inwardly. She couldn’t cross Yuriel’s daughter, not unless she wanted to be summoned to the dean’s office for a talking-to.

If Susan got into trouble with Yuriel, her father’s business could be in jeopardy too.

A moment of thought later, Susan walked over to Phoebe’s seat and said softly, “Phoebe, could you choose a seat offered by any of the students who stood up and let Ruby have your seat?”

Phoebe saw the exasperation in Susan’s eyes. Pouting, she began to gather her books.

Just like that, Ruby had successfully planted herself in the seat behind Wanda.

She had only just sat down when she feigned concern for Wanda’s well-being. “Wanda, I heard about the kidnapping incident yesterday. I hope you weren’t hurt!”

Images from yesterday's incident surfaced in Wanda's mind when she heard Ruby's question.

When she remembered how Mac had been killed before her, she trembled and quickly slithered to the ground.

Her heartbreaking sobs filled the air as she buried her face in the crook of her arms. "Can't you just shut the hell up?" came a deep voice.

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Carlisle glowered at Ruby menacingly before crouching down next to Wanda's

trembling frame. Stroking her hair, he murmured, "There, there. Everything's all right.

I'm here."

"I'm scared, Carlisle..." Wanda whimpered, tears glistening in her eyes as she stared

at Carlisle. She looked broken.

Carlisle wrapped his arms around her and gently rubbed her back. He sounded like he was coaxing a wounded animal as he cooed, "Don't be scared. As long as I'm here, I won't let anybody hurt you."

Ruby froze at this. She never expected Carlisle to snap at her, and her annoyance

only intensified at the sight of Carlisle holding Wanda in his arms.

She had switched classes to keep Carlisle and Wanda from rekindling their old flame, but it appeared she was too late!

The sudden development left the rest of the class stumped as well.

"What the hell? What's going on? Is Wanda okay?" someone asked.

“She’s probably still in shock after the kidnapping incident yesterday.”

“Damn it, why isn’t Ms. Lowe doing anything about Carlisle and Wanda openly hugging in class?”

“I suppose special circumstances call for special measures.”

Susan frowned. She knew Ruby had come here with ulterior motives—and she was

right. It had taken Ruby mere minutes since entering class to trigger Wanda’s post-traumatic distress.

When Susan heard the other students gossiping among themselves, she rapped her

knuckles on the desk and said, “Quiet down, everyone. I’m sure all of you have heard about the unfortunate incident that befell Wanda yesterday.

“Those of you who haven’t, please do not ask about it. Those of you who are talking about it now, please refrain from bringing this topic up again in the future!”

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Having taken her new seat next to Christine, Phoebe quirked her lips and said, “Ruby did that on purpose. That bitch...”

Christine urged in hushed tones, “Keep it down. You don’t want to get on Ruby’s bad side.”

Phoebe scrunched her nose in dismay but said nothing else.

Ruby hailed from a more powerful family than Wanda. Phoebe wouldn't want to cross Ruby and end up getting Wanda in trouble with her.

Wanda finally calmed down after Carlisle's soothing. She had gotten off the floor but remained slumped over her desk while she sobbed.

Carlisle glared at Ruby and snapped, "I don't care who you are, Ruby, but I'll make your wish you were dead if you ever pick on Wanda again!"

Ruby gaped at Carlisle, registering the icy look in his eyes. No one had ever spoken to

her like this in her entire life.

She was about to explain herself, but Carlisle's menacing gaze made her feel like all

the air had been sucked out of her lungs.

A chill raced down her spine. She couldn't understand how an 18-year-old university

freshman could look so intimidating.

Ruby looked down and felt her palms breaking into cold sweat.

Carlisle was domineering; and while Ruby was normally into that sort of thing, she thought it was a shame that he was using it to protect Wanda.

Jealousy filled her just as Susan came over and looked at Carlisle. "Of the entire class, only you and Wanda signed up to perform at the bonfire party tonight. Would you both like to go and rehearse?"

Carlisle shook his head. "Wanda won't be able to attend the bonfire party in her

current state. Could you help us cancel our acts?"

Susan pointed out, "I could cancel Wanda's, but I'd advise you to keep your performance slot. Perhaps your performance could cheer Wanda up."

In the e

e-commerce department, none of the students from Class 1 signed up

to perform at the bonfire party

Wanda and Carlisle were slated to be the only performers from Class 2, and if Susan canceled both their acts, the e-commerce department would have no performance to offer at all.

After a moment of thought, Carlisle saw the sense in Susan's suggestion. He nodded and said, "Very well, then. I'll perform tonight as scheduled."

Susan grinned. "Would you like to rehearse then?"

Carlisle shook his head. "No."

Susan glanced at Wanda before turning to leave the classroom.

When lunchtime rolled around, Carlisle led Wanda by the hand to the cafeteria.

Ruby was practically seething with jealousy when she saw them holding hands. She was starting to regret switching to Class 2.

If she had to watch Carlisle and Wanda's loving interaction for a second longer, she might just throw up.

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Ruby had lost her appetite for lunch.

It was just as well that Sarah called her and invited her for tea.

Having had enough of Carlisle and Wanda holding hands around her, Ruby invited a few other students from Class 1 to join her for tea.

At the cafeteria, Carlisle led Wanda to an empty table and smiled as he said, “Stay here. I’ll go get you some food.”

Wanda shook her head vehemently, refusing to let go of his hand.

Carlisle gave her an amused look. “Well, then, you’ll have to get in line with me.”

Just like that, he took her hand and led her to the line at the food counter.

A few of the upperclassmen couldn’t help gritting their teeth at the sight of Carlisle holding Wanda’s hand.

“Seriously? Damn it, even the freshmen are dating. We’re on the verge of graduation and we still haven’t held hands with a girl!”

“It just pisses me off that the younger ones are getting a head start.”

“Do we know whose scion he is?”

“I don’t know if he is a scion, but the young lady is definitely an heiress. She’s from the Thompson family!”

Queenie was having lunch with a couple of friends at a nearby table.

When one of her friends saw Wanda and Carlisle holding hands, she asked Queenie quietly, “Hey, Queenie... How did that happen?”

Queenie sighed and briefly told them about Wanda’s unfortunate encounter

yesterday that led to her tortured disposition.

When she was done explaining, her friends looked at her with inscrutable

expressions. One of them said, “So Carlisle’s like a temporary cure for Wanda? Does that mean they’ll break up after she recovers from her trauma?”

Queenie nodded silently.

Another one of her friends mused enviously, “But they look so good together! And they’re so sweet with each other too. Don’t rain on their parade so soon, you guys.”

Queenie took a deep breath. “You guys won’t understand the complexity that comes from dating an heiress, even if only temporarily.”

After getting their food, Carlisle led Wanda to an empty table. They were just about to eat when Arthur, Jamie, and Daniel joined them.

Wanda stared at her food blankly, not feeling hungry at all.

Seeing this, Carlisle prompted gently, “If you don’t like any of the dishes, I can go and get something else for you. What would you like?”

Wanda pursed her lips and said quietly, “I don’t think I feel hungry.”

Carlisle coaxed patiently, “You still need sustenance. We can’t have you starve, can we?”

Daniel chuckled as he joked, “Do you want Carlisle to spoon-feed you?”

Arthur grinned fiendishly as he joined in on the teasing. “Yeah, I bet food tastes

better when Carlisle spoon-feeds you, huh?”

Carlisle speared a slice of roast beef with his fork and brought it to Wanda's mouth.

Daniel interjected, "Dude, you've got to bite off the fatty rind before feeding it to her."

This earned him a dirty look from Carlisle. "Must you butt in?"

Carlisle bit off the fatty rind and brought the roast beef to Wanda's mouth again,

cajoling, "Here comes the beef, Wanda. Say "ahh..."

Wanda opened her mouth obediently and he fed her the roast beef slice. She

chewed it a couple of times and swallowed, only to realize she hadn't tasted it at all.

The roast beef was so bland, she might as well have eaten flour.

She began to wonder if there was something wrong with her tastebuds, which was shocking because she was perfectly fine last night.

Carlisle continued feeding her. When he noticed her little frown every time she chewed on her food, he couldn't help asking, "Is there something wrong with the flavor?"

Tears glistened in Wanda's eyes as she answered in a quivering voice, "I think I lost my sense of taste..."

"I'll take you to the hospital after this," Carlisle said at once, frowning. It seemed Wanda's condition was worse than he imagined. The emotional trauma she suffered must be manifesting itself physically.

At that moment, Queenie came over with her friends.

One of them who was a psychology major observed, "She might be showing signs of a nervous breakdown. It has nothing to do with her physical well-being."

“Did something happen this morning to stress her out?”

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Carlisle answered, “Yeah, Ruby transferred to our class today and stupidly brought up some things that she shouldn’t have. Wanda broke down on the spot.”

He clenched his fists at the memory as guilt coursed through him. He couldn’t forgive himself for letting Wanda get picked on and triggered by Ruby even when he was right next to her.

Luna frowned slightly as she said, “That explains it. Wanda’s central nervous system is in a delicate state right now. Even the tiniest bit of stress and isolation could cause her to break down. You’ll have to stay by her side 24/7 from now on.”

Daniel asked curiously, “Even when she’s using the restroom?”

His question earned him several dark looks from those around him. Bathroom talk was inappropriate during lunchtime, after all.

Queenie interjected, “So you’re saying that he should be with her even at night?”

“Yes.” Luna nodded. “Wanda was behaving normally when she came home yesterday, wasn’t she?”

“She was—until the evening. She blanked out during dinner,” Queenie said as she cast a sympathetic look at Wanda.

Queenie added, “Last night, she woke up in a fright and couldn’t go back to sleep, so I stayed up with her until the morning.”

Luna considered this for a moment before suggesting, “So we should let Carlisle stay with her tonight. She might sleep better with him around.”

One side of Queenie’s mouth twitched in faint amusement. “As in, we let them sleep together?”

“They don’t have to be in the same bed,” Luna countered wryly. “But they must be in the same room so that he’ll be the first person she sees when she wakes up.”

A breath of relief escaped Queenie as she addressed Carlisle, “You and Wanda can move in with me for the next few days. I can help you take care of her.”

Carlisle was just about to nod when Luna said, “No, they have to stay together in a place where no one else is around.”

Queenie stared at Luna inquisitively. “Did Carlisle bribe you into suggesting this?”

Luna relied her eyes. “Do I look like I need the money?”

Her friends shook their heads.

Luna came from an affluent family, and though they weren’t as wealthy as the Thompsons, they still owned a fortune worth hundreds of millions.

More importantly, Luna’s family doted on her and gave her enough monthly allowance to buy two small apartments in the county.

Queenie flashed Luna a smile. “I was only joking. Don’t get your panties in a twist.”

Luna did not take personal offense, of course, and simply elaborated, “Like I said, given Wanda’s tendencies to break down at the slightest trigger, a tried-and-true treatment is for her to be completely relaxed.

“Letting her stay at your place will only make her feel caged and scrutinized, which might burden her central nervous system even more. This could worsen her

condition.”

Queenie clenched her jaw. “Carlisle, do you have a place outside campus?”

Nodding, Carlisle answered, “I rent an apartment across the university.”

“In that case, you can bring Wanda over tonight,” Queenie said. “But I’m warning you, don’t even think about touching her. Abstain for your sake and hers.”

“Don’t worry, I won’t take advantage of her while she’s at her most vulnerable,” Carlisle promised solemnly.

Besides, he doubted he could have any wicked thoughts about Wanda while she was in such a delicate state.

Queenie reached out and stroked Wanda’s hair. She said with an affectionate smile, “Don’t think about anything else, Wanda. All you have to do is show up on campus with Carlisle and go home with him. Leave the rest to me.”

Wanda turned her hollow gaze to Queenie and forced out a tight smile, “Thank you Queenie.”

Queenie

swallowed when she saw the odd and humorless smile Wanda gave her. She whispered to Luna, “Why do I feel like Wanda’s been possessed?”

Luna chuckled as she explained, “Back in the day, people used to think of hysterics for psychiatric illnesses as spiritual possession, but it’s really caused by issues with the nervous system.

“Some patients who were on the verge of a nervous breakdown often mumbled

about seeing ghosts and behaved strangely, which led many to think they were possessed.”

She glanced at Wanda’s pretty eyes, sighing as she said, “Poor thing. She can’t even focus on what she’s seeing anymore, so we’re all just blurry silhouettes to her.

“She might fall a lot more than usual, so pay attention to where and how she walks, Carlisle!

Carlisle finally understood why Wanda refused to let go of his hand. How was she supposed to attend her classes on campus in this state?

Just as he was contemplating applying for days off on Wanda’s behalf, Luna seemed to have read his mind and said, “There’s no need for her to sit out of classes.

“She should be made to feel like a student going about her daily activities. Having her peers around would help her relax too.”

What the hell? Carlisle stared at Luna and demanded incredulously, “Do you know how to read minds or something?”

Chapter 370

Lune earl with a mile, Im not so much a mind reader as I am an observant

psychology major.

Tve met experts who can deduce your thoughts just by looking at the slightest shift in your expression and gaze. These are the experts who work with investigative detectives.”

Carlisle had been a homebody in his past life, so he never came across any such expert. As such, he found Luna’s keen observation and sharp deduction skills.

shocking.

He went on to ask Luna if there was anything about Wanda's condition he needed to pay special attention to.

Luna answered his questions patiently, telling him everything she knew about post-traumatic stress.

After lunch, Carlisle brought Wanda back to his apartment to rest. He even bought a slice of cake with pink frosting from the bakery just around the corner.

As far as he knew, young ladies like Wanda often indulged in desserts.

Luna did say sugar could help boost one's spirits, and desserts in moderate amounts might cheer Wanda up.

Upon returning to the apartment, Carlisle led Wanda to the couch and pulled up a chair next to her. He then cut a small bite of cake with a teaspoon and brought it to her mouth.

"Here you go, sweetheart. Say 'ahh...'"

Wanda opened her mouth obediently and ate the cake. Her eyes lit up at the sugary taste of it as she exclaimed, "It's sweet!"

Carlisle brightened up. "You can taste that?"

"Yes," she replied. "Can I have some more?"

She parted her lips, and Carlisle continued feeding her the cake. She was about as ductured mat she was full

Carlisle wiped the freaky from the corners of Wanda's mouth "Get

me, I bet you're tired staying up all night" he said.

nuk her head. You not sleepy"

He didn't want to fall asleep for fear of dreaming about the horrific scene from

Carlisle sat on the couch and pulled her into his arms. "I'll hold you while you sleep. I won't leave you," he murmured in her ear.

Wanda pursed her lips and wrapped her arms around him. She burrowed into his embrace and closed her eyes.

A while later, she fell into a deep sleep.

Carlisle turned his phone to silent mode. He had only just done so when Benjamin gave him a call.

Glancing at Wanda's sleeping profile, Carlisle declined the call.

Meanwhile, Francis was on his way to Rainville. There were two vans and a sedan

tailing him as he sped down the road.

Benjamin's lips pressed into a thin line. "Carlisle didn't pick up. Isn't it lunch hour on campus?"

Francis chuckled as he replied, "Send him a text then."

Benjamin wrote a text and sent it to Carlisle: "We've sold our assets to Titan for 801 million dollars."

*I've taken five million dollars for myself, and I'll wire you the rest of the money tomorrow. Francis and I are on our way to Rainville now."

When Carlisle read the text, he replied with one hand, "I only need 15 million dollars. The rest of the money is yours and Heath's.

"Once Heath wakes up, that money will come in handy if you both want to rebuild

your empire."