

My Billionaire Ex-Husband Chase Me Back - Chapter 421 – 452

Chapter 421: Suspicious With The Guard

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“My daughter, it’s okay. Forget what I said earlier...” Natalie said softly. She didn’t want to trouble Bella again about Henry.

Bella couldn’t help but smile when she saw her mother’s worried expression. She could feel her mother’s fear of mentioning Henry’s name in their conversation.

“Mom, I will call my brother later...” Bella said calmly.

Natalie gasped in surprise. She looked her daughter in the eyes for a few more seconds before she asked, “Bella, are you okay with that? I know you hate him so much, and I can understand if you don’t want to meet him, too.”

Since she stayed here, guilt has tortured Natalie inwardly. She is aware of her failure to raise her children. Her daughter and son never got along, and her eldest son constantly bullied his little sister, and she did nothing to help her daughter.

“Of course I’m fine. Henry wasn’t involved in your divorce from Dad. It wasn’t his fault when I fought with my father and uncles to take over the company. Besides, I promised Dad I wouldn’t punish Henry, so I did plan to meet him,” Bella explained.

Natalie’s eyes felt warm again when she heard how understanding Bella was towards her older brother.

“Thank you, Bella. You are such an angel. You are so kind to us,” Natalie said, ashamed to remember the past when she cared more about Henry than Bella.

And now, only Bella has helped her escape from her miserable life.

“There’s no need to mention that, Mom,” Bella responded before they continued discussing what Natalie wanted to do for Henry.

That day, Bella spent the day at her mother’s house, chatting about many things, especially her mother’s plans for Henry.

After lunch, Bella didn’t stay there for long.

She excused herself to her mother with Dax to return to their house. Holding hands with her son, Bella walked towards the house.

However, she seemed lost in her own thoughts; her body was there with Dax, but her mind was not.

“Mommy, do you hear me?” Daxton’s curious and worried voice pulled Bella away from her thoughts.

Bella suddenly stopped walking and turned to Dax, surprised to see his confused gaze. “What is it, Dax?” she asked.

“Mommy, didn’t you say we were going home?”

“Yes, I did. Why do you ask?” Bella was puzzled by his question.

“Why are we at Grandpa’s house now?”

Bella was stunned. She looked around and realized they were indeed standing at the back door of her grandfather’s house.

‘Oh my God! What’s happening to me?’ Bella vented her frustration inwardly, shaking her head lightly, trying to push away all thoughts about Henry and her father from her mind.

After a deep sigh, Bella smiled at Dax before walking to their house.

Dax could tell his mother was lost in thought but didn’t ask anything. Instead, he was curious about his great-grandpa.

“Mommy, when will my great-grandpa return?” Dax asked after noticing that his mother was no longer lost in thought. She seemed to be enjoying the scenery and the pleasant late summer weather.

“If I’m not mistaken, he’ll be back this afternoon,” Bella answered. She remembered her Grandpa saying he would stay in East City for a day to finish a few things before returning to the capital.

“Why? Do you miss him already?” Bella smiled, seeing her son’s eyes beam as he stared at her.

“Yes, Mom. I miss Great-grandpa and Uncle Nick. I didn’t meet them when I visited you in the East.”

“Sorry, baby. Your great-grandpa is slightly busy taking care of the company, so he can’t visit our hotel.”

"It's fine, Mommy," Dax said. His eyes shone as he looked up to see his mother. "I'm happy that my Great-grandpa will return today."

Bella said nothing but flashed a sweet smile and marveled at her son's excitement.

"Oh, by the way, Mom, I heard from Granny that you have an older brother?"

"Y-Yes..." Bella was surprised to know that Dax had already heard about Henry from her mother.

She didn't intend to hide Henry from Dax because she knew her son was brilliant and would find out about it sooner or later, but she didn't want to tell him now.

"Your uncle will visit us sometime soon. But you must remember, I'm not that close with him..." Bella worried about explaining her complicated relationship with Henry to her son.

"Don't worry, Mom. Aunty Noora has already told me about it," Dax casually said, surprising Bella. "She told me your relationship with him is like the Tom and Jerry cartoon. Is that true?"

Bella was speechless. Aunty Noora was too creative to portray her and Henry like that. Gosh!

"Well, not even close. We are like water and oil; we can't stay in the same place for too long. And he bullies me!" Bella wanted to say that, but she halted her words when she noticed a few unfamiliar guards in a few spots in the front yard of their house.

She also saw a few people there when she glanced behind in the direction of her Grandpa's house.

'Why do so many guards appear in this place now?' Bella muttered. She knows professional guards guard their house and Grandpa's, but they only guard the front gate.

'Did something happen to make Tristan double them?' Bella wondered, making a note to ask Tristan later.

"Mom, what's wrong?" Dax asked, following his mother's line of sight and looking towards the garden in front of the house. He saw several guards patrolling, but he did not see anything strange. He looked up again to see his mother. "Mommy!?"

Bella turned to look at Dax. "Nothing. I just saw some guards there."

“Ah, those men are guarding our house and Grandpa’s. My teacher said they keep our house safe from evil people, Mom.”

Bella felt amused hearing his explanation. “Yes, they are...”

Soon, they finally arrived at their house.

After letting Dax rest in his room, Bella returned to her own bedroom. She felt exhausted and fell asleep.

However, before she lay on the soft bed, she needed to call her brother, Henry.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 422: Henry Pleaded

While in East City, at Isaac Donovan’s house, Henry Donovan stares sharply at his Grandpa.

However, even when he shows his annoyance, his Grandpa completely ignores him, causing him even more frustration.

“Grandpa, please help me, please! Ask Aunty Emma not to fire me. How could she do that after taking over the company? Did she forget I’m her nephew!?”

Henry pleads again; this is his fifth time, but still, his Grandpa ignores him.

Instead of helping Henry or offering him kind words, Isaac Donovan scolds him.

“Henry Donovan! Stop talking nonsense. I can’t help you...”

Henry is left speechless.

What on earth is happening here? Everything seems odd!

Last night, his father completely shut himself in his bedroom, alone. His father refused to meet when he tried to reach him to talk about the company.

When he tried to speak to his father again this morning, the maid said he had already left the house. They also didn’t know where he had gone.

Henry tried to call him, but to his surprise, he found out that his father had left his cell phone in his study room.

He was even more shocked when he found a letter from his father, saying goodbye to him through the letter and mentioning that he would go to a remote place and didn’t know when he would return.

Henry initially believed his father had left to search for his missing mother and avoid dealing with the company matters.

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Henry was still shocked by his father's sudden departure, but something else surprised him even more.

When Henry arrived at his office this morning after his extended leave due to injury, he was shocked to learn that the company had fired him.

It was difficult for Henry to believe, but the new employee who had taken his place handed him the termination letter. He was surprised to see that the new CEO of Donovan Group had issued the letter, and when he saw the name, he felt almost choked.

How could he not have known that the new CEO was his aunt, Emma?

Two days ago, Henry heard rumors that there was an impromptu shareholders' meeting with the agenda of removing the company's CEO. However, he did not believe the rumors.

Today, everything unfolded, and it turned out that his uncle was indeed replaced.

And the new CEO is none other than his aunt.

Henry never imagined this would happen; his aunt fired him. He didn't understand why his aunt had fired him.

He couldn't recall having any issues with his aunt that would have led to his dismissal.

Eager to find out why, Henry attempted to contact her by phone, but his aunt didn't answer.

When he tried to visit her at the main office, the security stopped him before he could reach the CEO's office, which stressed him out immensely.

Realizing he couldn't meet his aunt, Henry hurriedly went to his Grandpa's house.

Unfortunately, his attempts to reach his Grandpa seemed to be in vain, as his Grandpa also ignored him.

Henry stood from his seat and kneeled before his Grandpa.

"Grandpa, please," Henry pleaded. He couldn't afford to lose his job because he had a lot of bills to pay, and his father no longer gave him money.

“Heaven!! Henry Donovan, stop pleading with me. I cannot help you, my child... I can't,” Isaac Donovan said sadly. “You know, I’m no longer involved with the company. I’m too old to handle company matters!”

Isaac Donovan could see the fear and worry in Henry’s eyes. Still, he couldn’t help because Emma and Archy handled all the company matters.

“I understand, Grandpa. But, can you ask Aunt Emma why she fired me without warning?” Henry pleaded with a trembling voice.

“Go sit first, then I will call your aunt...” Isaac Donovan said.

Henry nodded and immediately stood up. After sitting down on the sofa, he urged his grandfather to call Emma. He was tense, waiting for the phone to connect, but it was unanswered until the last ring.

‘How could Aunt Emma also ignore grandfather’s call, too!?’ He was shocked beyond words.

Henry’s shoulders slumped.

Countless questions began to fill his mind.

While squeezing his hands tightly, he tried to find the answer to every question now dancing in his mind.

What exactly is going on?

Why did Grandpa, Dad, and his uncles suddenly have no power over the company?

Who actually allowed Aunt Emma to replace his first uncle?

“My child, Henry, you see now, right? I’m also powerless...” Isaac Donovan said. He smiled slightly when he saw Henry’s disappointed expression.

“Grandpa...”

Isaac felt bad witnessing the confusion flash through Henry’s eyes.

“Henry, your aunt is busy with her new job; she won’t answer my call. I will try to call her later...”

Henry’s fists clenched tighter. He didn’t rush to express what was on his mind, but he now stared at his Grandpa in the eyes.

Before coming here, Henry thought his grandfather had decided to replace his first uncle as CEO and hand the position over to his aunt.

However, Henry believed him after hearing and seeing his grandfather deny it.

Something made him even more curious: Who was the person behind Aunt Emma?

After a while, when Henry feels no longer as disappointed as before, he finally asks, "Grandpa, do you know who gave Aunt Emma the power to remove my first Uncle from the Company?"

Isaac Donovan was taken aback by Henry's question. He frowned, "Why did you ask? Your father didn't tell you?"

Henry let out a deep sigh as he shook his head.

"No, my father didn't tell me anything. And he's been acting strangely lately. Last night, he refused to see me. Then, this morning, I discovered from his maid that he had left the house bringing nothing but clothes he wears, and no one knows where he is now."

"What do you mean your father left, and now no one knows his whereabouts? How could that be possible?" Isaac Donovan was confused.

"I don't know what to tell you, Grandpa. He just left me a note saying he won't return anytime soon. And the most bizarre thing is that he left his cell phone behind, which had never happened before. And now I couldn't reach him..."

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 423: Upset Him

"What's happened to Lucas? Why did he—" Isaac's words were interrupted as Henry's cell phone suddenly rang, surprising them both.

Isaac narrowed his eyes at Henry. "Who's calling you? Your father?" He felt tense as he noticed Henry's shocked expression.

Henry shook his head. "Not my father, but my sister," he said, stunned, while looking at Bella's name on the phone screen.

Henry found it hard to believe that his sister was finally calling him after so many unsuccessful attempts to reach her. He failed every time he tried to call her because the phone number no longer existed.

"Bella called you?" Isaac was surprised.

Henry, wearing the same expression as his Grandpa, nodded, “Y-Yes... Yes... my little sister called me. Why did she suddenly call?” he was utterly dumbfounded now.

“What are you waiting for? Hurry up! Pick up. Let’s hear what she wanted to say,” Isaac urged Henry. He also wanted to know why Bella wished to speak to Henry. Is it related to Lucas’s disappearance?

After Henry set the speaker on, he picked up the phone call.

“He-Hello...Bella, is it you?” Henry asked, slightly doubting that Bella had called him.

Henry tensely waited for Bella’s voice on the other end, but it never came. He pulled his cell phone away from his ear just to check if the phone line was still connected.

“Is the signal bad here?” Henry said softly, bringing the cell phone back to his ear. “Hello? Little sister, are you there? Is it really Bella?” He asked again.

“Yes—” Finally, Bella’s voice was heard. “If not me, who else has this number?”

Henry gritted his teeth, holding back his emotions to scold her. He didn’t want to vent his anger on her, not when their grandfather sat across from him.

He knew that his grandfather was more partial to Bella than to him. He feared his Grandpa wouldn’t help him talk to Aunt Emma if he expressed anger.

Enduring his anger toward Bella seemed to be the only option for him. His smile slowly emerged from the corners of his lips.

Now that he was talking to her, he would try to get her to help him and their father.

Henry also suspected that his mother was currently with her. Almost a month after his mother left, he still couldn’t find where she was now; they were not even communicating via phone.

“You finally remember you have a family, Bella. Where are you? And why did you suddenly call me?” he asked, trying to maintain a calm expression, but his high pitch betrayed him.

“I heard you wanted to see me,” Bella said. “Why do you sound offended that I called you now?”

“I’m not offended,” Henry hurriedly corrected her. “Yes. Yes, I want to meet you so bad, little sister. But you seem to block my number.” He awkwardly smiled before continuing, “Ugh, where are you? Let me go there and see you.” He said politely, not wanting his sister to be angry, and block his number again.

Henry maintained his smile, but inwardly, he cursed her a hundred times.

"Is Grandpa with you!?" Bella asked calmly, but her words were enough to snap Henry. He almost fell from his seat. How did she know?

Before Henry could answer, Isaac interrupted.

"I'm here, Bella," Isaac chirped, surprised to hear that Bella was actually looking for him. "How do you know Henry was with me?"

"Grandpa, I tried to call you, but your cell phone is inactive. I just randomly thought to call someone, and my older brother came to mind," Bella casually made a random excuse just to annoy Henry.

The truth was, she asked Stefan to trace Henry before she made the call.

Henry remained silent, but his annoyance flashed through his gaze.

Isaac couldn't help but laugh, "Alright, tell me, why were you looking for me?"

"Hey, little sister... Why did you call Grandpa? Is everything okay?" Henry asked, pretending to be friendly even though he felt annoyed to learn that his sister actually wanted to talk to Grandpa through his phone. What a weirdo!

"Grandpa, when are you coming home?"

"This afternoon," Isaac replied. "Did someone miss me?" he asked, picturing Dax's adorable expression in his mind.

"Yeah, someone misses you a lot. Okay, Grandpa. I wanted to ask if you could take Henry with you. I need to talk to him." Bella asked.

Henry and Isaac were surprised to hear Bella's request.

"You want to talk to me? Where are you? I don't mind going there alone, especially now," Henry asked happily. This was what he had been waiting for—meeting Bella in person.

Bella ignored Henry's question. Instead, she said, "Grandpa, can you?"

Henry began to feel his anger running thin. 'Damn this little girl! How dare she ignore me?'

"Sure, Bella, I can. I'll let you know when we get home," Isaac answered.

“Okay, Grandpa. Thank you. I have to nap now, so I won’t take your time anymore. Bye, see you...” Bella ended the call.

Henry was utterly speechless. His little sister completely ignored him. He looked at the phone screen, now turned dark again, while clenching his teeth.

“Alright, you go home and pack your stuff, Henry. We will meet at the airport in two hours. You don’t have to worry about your ticket, just don’t be late!” Isaac said and stood from his seat.

Meanwhile, Henry is still in a trance in his seat. He can’t believe what has just happened.

Bella giggled as she placed her phone on the bedside table before climbing into bed to sleep.

She felt sleepy, and the clean, tidy, warm white bedsheet seemingly invited her to lie down. She decided to set aside Henry’s problem until her brother and grandfather arrived later.

However, before Bella could sleep, her cell phone rang. She felt like scolding whoever was calling her, but her annoyance disappeared when she saw Tristan’s name on the phone screen.

A wide smile appeared on her face as she picked up the call.

“Hi, beauty, how was your day?” Tristan greeted her.

“Exciting! I had lunch with Mom, Aunt Noora, and Dax,” Bella replied.

“I’m Glad to hear that. Ah, why haven’t you taken a nap yet?” Tristan asked.

“Uhm, I was about to, but then someone called me,” Bella chuckled.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 424: Why Did You Allow Him To Come?

“Uhm, I was about to, but then someone called me,” Bella chuckled.

Tristan couldn’t help but laugh. “I thought you set your phone to silent?” he asked.

Sitting on the edge of the bed, Bella abandoned her nap as she no longer felt sleepy.

"Yes, I did set it like that. But not for specific numbers like my close family and close staff," she replied.

"Sorry, my love, if I woke you."

"It's fine. Oh, right, how about you? Is everything alright at your office?" she asked.

Bella could tell Tristan must be busy because he usually calls her every hour, but today, he hadn't called until now.

"Yes, everything is fine here. I intentionally didn't call you because I know you talk with your mother."

"I see." Bella felt warm inside when she heard that. She dismissed her curiosity. "Alright, Hubby... You can continue working and make sure to arrive before dinner."

Tristan growled. He felt like he wanted to return home now.

"Why?" she asked.

"I want to return home now, cuddle with my wife..." Tristan said faintly, as if he had no energy to continue speaking, causing Bella to stifle a laugh.

Tristan continued, "But I have an important meeting in two hours, so I could only endure my boring meeting. I promise you I will return faster."

"Hmm, sure. Alright, I will patiently wait for you, sir," Bella responded.

"Yes, Ma'am. I will be there before dinner. I want to tell you something..." Suddenly, Tristan's voice no longer sounded as relaxed as before.

"Something to tell me?" Bella was taken aback by his words. This was the first time Tristan had been reluctant to tell her something. "Why didn't you say it now?" She started to become curious.

"Bella, it won't be fun if I don't see you in person," Tristan chuckled as he heard Bella's slightly sulky voice.

"Congratulations, Mr. Tristan Sinclair, you have succeeded in making me even more curious."

"Hahaha, alright, go continue your nap. I will return soon before you know it."

"Hmm," Bella smiled as she ended the phone.

After a few hours.

Bella woke up from her nap when she heard a knock on the door.

“Y-Yes, who?” Bella responded faintly, glancing at the window. She was surprised to see that the sky had turned orange. The night was approaching.

‘Wah! I slept too long...’ she mumbled, getting up from the bed and tidying her hair into a bun. Then, she walked to open the door.

“Aunty Noora?” She was surprised. She thought it was Dax.

“Sorry if I woke you up, young miss.”

“It’s fine. What is it?” Bella asked. “You didn’t come to call me dinner, right? It’s too early; we still have two hours.”

“No, miss. But, I wanted to tell you that your Grandpa had arrived with—” Noora paused.

Noora was reluctant to continue her sentence, lowering her head and avoiding eye contact with Bella. She was so annoyed to know Henry Donovan was visiting Old Donovan’s house.

Seeing the annoyance radiating from Noora’s eyes, Bella knew what she wanted to say next. She didn’t wait for her to finish her words but walked towards the bathroom.

“Don’t be angry, Aunty...” Bella calmly said and started to wash her face.

Noora took a deep breath, trying to hold back her annoyance as she followed Bella to the bathroom.

Standing outside and watching Bella wash her face, Noora continued, “Young miss, why did you allow that man to come here? I mean, he could endanger your life, young master Dax...”

Bella didn’t immediately answer Noora. She dried her face and turned to look at Aunty Noora.

“Aunty, I didn’t plan to call him here, but my mother wanted him to come. So, I had no other choice,” Bella answered bitterly while moving to the walk-in closet to change her clothes.

Bella could understand Noora's feelings now because Noora shared despicable feelings toward Henry as much as she did.

"Where's he now?"

"He's still in the old master house," Noora answered while helping Bella collect her used clothes and giving her a set of new, clean ones. "Do you want to ask him to come here?" she asked.

Bella shook her head. "No. Not now. I will go to my Grandpa's house to talk to him first before bringing him to meet my mother and Dax," she explained.

"I understand," Noora said, feeling relieved. She was worried Dax would be shocked to see his mother and uncle fighting in this house.

Before long, Bella changed into her navy trousers and a white blouse.

She turned to see Noora, who patiently stood near the walk-in closet door, waiting for her next instruction.

"Aunty, can you please ask Geoffrey to prepare dinner for everyone, including Grandpa and Mom?" She will host dinner for her brother in his house to give him shock therapy.

She could picture what happened when Henry saw Tristan—her poor brother might faint.

"I will," Noora nodded slightly and excused herself.

"Aunty, wait," Bella shouted, stopping Noora. "Please take Dax to my mom's house. I'll be there later after talking to Henry."

"Yes, young miss—"

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Bella rushed out of the house and headed to her grandfather's house.

But halfway there, she saw Bryan.

She was stunned because seeing him in this place was rare if she took her day off.

"Bryan, why are you here?" She asked, seeing Bryan following her from behind. "You know I'm not going to the office, right?"

"Yes, I know, ma'am. But I'm bored at the office, so I came here to see the scenery. Well, Sam said the lake here is gorgeous." Bryan answered randomly while avoiding

eye contact with Bella. He didn't want her to know his reason for coming, to protect her, as his boss, Tristan, asked.

Bella smiled, shook her head, and looked at the almost dark scenery as she continued walking.

Looking at Bryan, still following her like a shadow, she asked, "Did my husband ask you to guard me here?"

Bella was confident her guess was right because she had already told Tristan about Henry's arrival.

Bryan calmly and respectfully smiled without saying a word. Still, his gesture and expression were clear enough for Bella to know the answer.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 425: Talking With Henry Donovan

Bryan didn't utter anything, but his expression was clear enough for Bella to know the answer.

"Geez! Why are you so worried that someone will hurt me? This place is tightly guarded by my husband's people, your friends. And Bryan, my older brother, has no chance of hurting me. I will send him to hell before he does that. Trust me!"

Bryan didn't respond; he only followed her silently.

It didn't take long before they arrived in front of Isaac Donovan's house.

Bella halted and turned to see Bryan. He stopped a few steps behind her.

"Young Madam, I'm so sorry, but I am only following orders," Bryan said apologetically, still trying to avoid her sharp gaze.

She smiled at him, "It's fine, Bryan. I understand. However, I'll go inside alone, and you don't need to follow me."

"But, ma'am... your husband instructed me to—" Bryan stopped when he saw her signal to stop.

"Trust me, my older brother has no chance to harm me. You remember how I almost crippled the gangster leader who captured Liam, right?"

Bryan nodded. Of course, he remembered. Since that day, when he saw her handling a pistol, he no longer saw her as just the boss's wife but as his idol.

The first time he met her, he thought she was a typical young woman from a wealthy family who couldn't do anything except spend their family fortune. But she was completely different. She could build her own company without her family's knowledge and had the skill to kick people who tried to mess with her.

"Yes, ma'am..."

A beautiful spring-like smile adorned her face before she continued, "Well, Bryan, just for your information, what you saw that day was only half of my power. That poor man would have already entered hell if I used my full power."

Bryan couldn't refute her words. He had already heard from Sam about how she fought four people alone.

"Alright, you must trust me, or you will taste my kick. Go, enjoy the scenery, and I will call you if I need your help." Her tone was no longer kind but firm.

"Hahaha, not even in my dreams...I doubt you, ma'am," Bryan wanted to say, but he stopped himself. He only nodded in agreement.

When Bella entered the living room, she saw her grandfather sitting across from Henry in the seating area. At the same time, Nick stood in the corner, looking alert.

Taking a deep breath, Bella immediately approached them silently. However, Isaac Donovan noticed Bella and his booming voice suddenly echoed in the room.

"Bella, you finally came," Isaac said, patting the seat beside him. "Sit here, dear..."

Henry instantly turned to see her. He was surprised that she looked even more beautiful than the last time they met in Nova City a few months ago when she instructed her people to beat him.

His hatred toward her slowly emerged as he remembered that day; he lost his teeth, and also his hand bones were fractured.

'Be calm! Be calm, man! Wait until Grandpa is not around...' Henry reminded himself not to confront her.

"Grandpa, thank you," Bella smiled at Isaac, ignoring Henry, who looked at her sharply. "You can leave us, Grandpa. I'll talk to him alone."

Isaac immediately refused, "No, I won't let you speak to him alone. He might beat you again, Bella..."

“Hahaha, Grandpa, why did you think that way?” Henry hurriedly chimed in. “I won’t do that. Besides, I beat her in the past because she was too naughty. She needed discipline,” He smiled at his Grandpa while silently gulping.

‘How could Grandpa know what I thought now? Was it too obvious that I wanted to beat her up so that Grandpa could guess it right?’ He wondered before turning to look at Bella.

“Little Sister, no worries. I won’t beat you again. You’ve grown up; you don’t need discipline from your older brother, right?” Henry said, then grinned slightly.

Bella nearly laughed when she heard their words. She used to be weak, but not anymore. With a single move, she could send her brother, who was almost triple her size, into the emergency room.

“Grandpa, I’m grown up now,” Bella smiled, trying to convince her grandfather before she looked at Henry. With her casual words, she said, “I could break his leg with a single kick. No need to worry...”

Henry was stunned at how Bella was staring at him. He could feel her gaze was utterly different, calm, yet intimidating.

He recalled he saw this gaze the last time they met.

‘Is she really different now?’ Henry wondered. Somehow, he felt his little sister’s confidence worry him.

“Can you protect yourself?” Isaac asked hesitantly, still unsure about leaving Bella alone.

“Yes, Grandpa,” she answered confidently. “Trust me, okay!?”

Isaac shrugged and asked, “Can I stay here? I want to hear what you both want to talk about.” He looked at Bella, clearly not wanting to be rejected.

Bella took a deep breath as she observed her grandfather’s serious refusal to leave the room.

“Okay, you can stay. But Grandpa, please don’t interfere; you can only listen,” she said.

Isaac Donovan’s lips widened as he smiled. “I promise I won’t. Just pretend you didn’t see Nick and me in the room.”

Bella said nothing, just smiled, before turning her gaze back to Henry. Her smile slowly disappeared, and her eyes flashed with menace.

“Why are you looking for me desperately?” Bella asked coldly.

Henry was pissed off when he heard her question. After suppressing his anger, he said, “Sister, did you know about our mother disappearing?” He said with a gloomy expression.

Bella and the others were lost for words upon hearing Henry’s question. Of course, they all knew.

Before Bella could say anything, Henry continued with a frustrated tone.

“Why am I looking for you? Little sister, I need your help to look after our mother. She left the house almost a month ago, and no one could contact her. Dad and I feel sad and desperate to find her, but we can’t—”

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 426: You Deserve My Slap, Bitch!

Henry was attempting to gauge Bella’s reaction. He was still suspicious that his mother might be with Bella.

“Do you know where Mom is?” Henry asked again. He could see how calm she was now. Not only Bella but even their Grandpa appeared very quiet.

“Of course I do. Mom will meet you later. But you need to know something before you meet her,” Bella replied. Her impatience with her brother could be heard in her tone. She didn’t want to waste time with his foolishness.

Henry wasn’t surprised to hear that. He felt excited that he had finally located their mother. Now, he could bring her home and let his father return.

“I knew it! Only you could help Mom. Where is she? Please take me to her. I need to bring her back home because Dad is also missing; it seems he’s searching for Mom.”

“Henry Donovan, do you know why Mother left home? Or are you too ignorant to open your eyes and heart to find out about the problems our parents are facing?”

Bella looked at him with disgust.

“What are you trying to say? Please speak in a language that I can understand!” Henry roared in annoyance, looking at Bella’s displeased gaze.

Bella couldn't help but vent her frustration inwardly upon hearing his response. No wonder the branch led by this obtuse Henry lagged behind the others because he was too slow to acknowledge and respond to what was happening around him. Or perhaps he simply didn't care about his surroundings. Henry is seemingly a narcissist with chronic ignorance and selfishness.

"Do you know, Henry?" Bella ignored Henry's words and talked about something else instead. "No wonder you failed to lead the company branch. You are too DUMB to lead it! And now I realize the decision to fire you was for the company's well-being, and you deserve it."

She deliberately emphasized the word 'dumb,' so her brother could wake up from his delusions.

Suddenly, Henry's calm demeanor slowly changed. His wrath was clearly visible on his red face as if he wanted to throw a hard slap at her.

He couldn't help but shout in anger, "WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU TRYING TO..." However, when he saw his Grandpa glaring at him, his words abruptly stopped. He cleared his throat while cursing Bella in his heart before continuing, "Bella, my sister, how do you know the company fired me? Did Aunt Emma tell you about that?"

Henry's forced smile appeared on his lips, trying not to attract their Grandpa's anger.

"You said father left home because he wanted to look after mother?" Bella asked again, still ignoring Henry's question.

"Yes, I said that!" Henry's voice slightly raised; he was so fumed now. "And stop asking me as if you were deflecting my question. Answer my question, please. I mean... how do you know the company has fired me!?"

Instead of being annoyed by Henry's harsh words, Bella smiled happily because she managed to annoy Henry. She suddenly felt in a good mood to remove Henry's fake mask in front of their grandfather—this was her plan.

But something piqued Bella's curiosity: Henry didn't know what happened in the Donovan Group. There had been a reshuffle in the company, and now she was the biggest shareholder.

Was this man clueless or simply stupid? Bella could no longer tell the difference.

Curious to know, Bella turned to look at her grandfather. "Grandpa, does my foolish brother not know about the company!?"

"ARABELLA DONOVAN! Speak to—" Henry roared, but his words vanished again when he saw Grandpa's furious gaze. He could only grit his teeth in annoyance.

Henry clenched his hand in anger. If only their grandfather hadn't been in this room, he would have already slapped Bella, teaching her a lesson for being rude to him.

"He knows," Isaac Donovan smiled at Bella. "But his brain is too shallow to understand what really happened in the company." He sighed deeply, noticing the difference in Henry and Bella's abilities in handling the situation in the company.

Henry's annoyed expression suddenly turned sour upon hearing his Grandpa's salty words.

'Damn it! Even Grandpa joined in mocking me?' Henry's annoyance peaked.

He said in anger, "Grandpa!! Why are you so biased toward her? Why?" His eyes narrowed as he stared at Isaac.

Isaac returns Henry's annoyance with a pitying gaze.

In frustration, Henry said, "Grandpa, you are too pampering her. Can you praise me once? Not mock me? I know I lack many things, but you can't say I'm shallow in front of her. She is my younger sister; she should respect me as her older brother!"

At that moment, he no longer cared about his Grandpa helping him to talk to Aunt Emma. All he could think about was venting his disappointment to his Grandpa.

Bella and Isaac remained calm, even expressionless, further fueling Henry's anger. Suddenly, an idea came to his mind; he wanted to show his Grandpa that no one could stop him, not even Grandpa.

Swiftly, Henry stood from his seat and pointed his finger at Bella.

"It seems like you need some discipline, Arabella Donovan! You are disrespecting your older brother." Henry's evil smile slowly emerged on his lips.

Nick flinched in the corner, alerted to the danger that Henry would harm Bella. He started to move as he wanted to hold Henry, who was now trying to approach Bella, but his step halted when he saw Bella calmly standing from her seat.

"I don't care if Grandpa is here to protect you, little sister. You deserve to be disciplined, like what I did in the past! YOU DESERVE MY SLAP!!" Henry roared in anger.

He marched to Bella and became even angrier when he saw that she did not seem frightened of him; instead, she appeared to confront him with her fierce gaze.

"YOU ARE SO DEAD, BITCH!!" he shouted while raising his hand to slap her hard.

However, his powerful slap touched nothing. He saw Bella in anger, who avoided his slap so casually and calmly.

“FUCK! YOU AVOIDED MY SLAP!?”

Henry sent his other slap with his other hand, and instead of hitting Bella’s cheek, his hand felt a grip from a hand, and it halted in the air. His bloodshot eyes were wide open in shock, looking at Bella’s small hand gripping and squeezing his wrist firmly.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 427: Unbearable Pain

“WHAT THE HECK! You! You dare to block me!? Bella, you—”

Henry tried to pull his hand, but it wouldn’t budge, as if the strongest person in the universe held it.

‘Huh!? Why is her grip so strong? And how can she still stand firm after I pulled her!?’ His anger increased.

Henry’s face was no longer red but dark like a storm cloud.

Curious about Bella’s power, Henry tried again with full force, pulling his hand to draw Bella near him, but he couldn’t free it.

“STOP, Henry Donovan!” Isaac said in panic when he saw Henry try to slap Bella. “If you dare lay a finger on Bella, I will never forgive—”

Isaac’s sentence stopped when he saw Bella’s hand gripping Henry’s arm firmly, stopping his movement. Even when Henry tried to release Bella’s grip, he couldn’t move an inch.

‘Huh!? What happened?’ Isaac shifted his annoyed gaze from Henry to Bella.

Instantly, his eyebrow wrinkled when he saw how calm Bella was. Although she looked small before Henry, she still could parry his powerful slap.

“B-Bella...” Isaac muttered before he remembered to ask for help. He turned to Nick. “Hurry, Nick, help her...” he ordered his butler, standing not far from his grandchildren.

However, before Nick had time to move, he heard a howl of pain come from Henry’s lips.

Isaac and Nick turned to look at him, and they both gasped in surprise. They saw Bella still holding Henry’s hand, crushing his bones with her firm grip.

Isaac wondered, 'What had happened? Since when did Bella have so much energy? How could she grip Henry's hand so strongly that it caused him pain?' He couldn't believe what he was witnessing.

The tension in the room increased as Isaac and Nick were horrified by what was happening before them.

Henry's howl of pain grew louder. He wanted to curse Bella but couldn't speak; the pain was unbearable.

"You want to slap me?" Bella's icy tone rang in the room. "I told you before, you don't have a chance to do that, Henry! Now, you taste my slap..." she said before slapping Henry with her other hand.

"SMACK!"

Her powerful slap was hard enough to make Henry's body stagger, almost falling on the hard marble when Bella finally released her grip.

Henry screamed in pain even louder while stroking his hot cheek. It was so hot it felt like someone had just put an iron there.

Stroking his hot cheek while trying to stand up straight, his eyes stared at Bella.

"You'll pay for this, Bella! How dare you fight me?!!" Henry no longer held back. He cursed in annoyance while moving forward to hit Bella once more.

Bella was speechless, looking at her brother with his killing intent, marching to her, "Damn it, Henry Donovan! You didn't learn anything after I beat you, huh..." she hissed.

She no longer cared about her brother and sent her powerful roundhouse kick, landing on Henry's lower side chest with a loud crack sound, causing him to stagger a few steps back, starting to lose his balance and look slightly delirious, before his massive body fell on the floor. Face first! And it hits the floor so hard!

"Thud!"

Another howl of pain reverberated as Henry cried out and curled up on the floor. And then he immediately tried to stand up.

"You, how dare you kick me, you bit..." Henry's sentence was cut short as he coughed, spewing a mouthful of fresh blood.

"Cough... cough..." Another fresh spurt of blood came out of his mouth. His voice was lost entirely, unable to make a sound anymore, realizing Bella's kick had hurt him badly. He might have an internal injury.

The pain that had previously disappeared because of his irritation with his sister now slowly reappeared, tormenting him again; the pain became even more excruciating.

He had never felt pain like this before, which left him helpless; he could only groan while pressing his injured spleen.

Isaac and Nick froze in their places, their eyes shifting between Bella and Henry. They were both wondering how the petite Bella could possess such immense power that it had left the towering Henry injured and slumped on the floor.

Just as Isaac was about to speak, Bella's calm voice cut through the tension, "Bryan..."

Bella smiled upon seeing Bryan, who was startled in his hiding place.

"Y-Yes, ma'am..." Bryan stammered, taken aback by Bella's awareness of his presence. He had been sneaking into the house and hiding in the corner, ready to help her immediately. Bryan had wanted to intervene when Henry had threatened her. Still, he held back, realizing his lady boss was in her fighting stance and ready to throw a kick at the man before her.

"You can come out and check on him for me," Bella said. "Is he dying or not?"

Bryan emerged from his hiding place, flashing an awkward smile at her. He moved closer and examined Henry. After a few moments, he straightened up, standing next to Henry as he gazed at Bella.

"Young Madam, he will not die. He only suffered a fracture around his spleen, but nothing gravely dangerous. And it looks like some of his teeth are missing from the falling or your slap, not your kick. If I'm not mistaken, if we bring him to the hospital now, he might only need a recovery period of around two or three months to heal completely," Bryan reported calmly, shocking Isaac and Nick.

Henry almost fainted when he heard Bryan's words. His face turned even paler when he heard about his injury.

'Hospital? Another many months to heal?' Henry couldn't believe that. It felt like the goddess of luck had really left him.

How did he have to go through this for the second time? His teeth clenched, and his eyes stared angrily at Bella.

He badly wanted to get up and pull her hair, venting his anger, but he couldn't move.

Every time he moved, he felt like thousands of sharp nails pierced his bones and chest. Breathing is starting to hurt.

He could only express his anger at that moment through his sharp, dagger-like gaze.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 428: He Needs To Suffer More

Bella was left speechless when she saw the anger in Henry's eyes directed at her.

'Jeez! Instead of being mindful of his actions after suffering my kick, he's still holding back his anger towards me. My brother is a dribbling idiot with murderous intent!'

Bella took a deep breath and turned to Bryan, asking, "Are you sure he only needs two or three months to heal?"

"Yes, ma'am," Bryan answered quickly. "But his healing process can be faster if he gets the best medical care in our country. Well, if my guess is right, maybe a month or less than two," he explained.

Bryan was worried that his exaggerated explanation would upset his young madam. Maybe she wanted her older brother to heal faster.

Bella frowned slightly, looking at Bryan; she said, "My worry is not that. I don't need him to recover faster. He needs to suffer more." Her words were enough to make Bryan shocked to hear her reaction.

Henry's jaw dropped in super shock when he heard how cruel and heartless his sister's words were. He never realized his petite sister could be that cruel. But that thinking just makes his killing intent toward Bella worsen. He started cursing her again, even though the nameless pain was still torturing him.

Isaac and Nick are also surprised at how much Bella intends to punish Henry. They stood side by side, curious about what Bella wanted to do to her older brother.

Bella's cynical-looking smile slowly appeared on her lips as she looked at her miserable brother, who was still lying on the floor.

"Bryan, I need you to break his leg, too. He needs to stay at home all year long. Ensure he doesn't go anywhere because my brother and his evil mind here always attract bad things and trouble whenever he appears in public places. So I'm just being kind to help him avoid trouble and make him realize he has been horrible." She said casually; however, everyone who heard her was shocked.

Henry's eyes widened in horror as he looked at Bella. He didn't expect Bella to think like that.

'Is she only trying to frighten her brother?' Bryan wondered while staring at Bella in the eyes. Seeing her serious expression, he instantly felt pity for Henry Donovan.

"Ma'am, do you really want me to break his leg? Seriously?" Bryan tried to make sure he didn't hear it wrong.

"Hmm, yeah. Go ahead. But make it bloodless." Bella smiled at Bryan; she could guess his doubts and worry. "Don't hold yourself back, Bryan, and no need to worry about my older brother's wrath. I'm being nice here. I only wanted to help him, to return what he asked for." Bella said. She found Bryan's expression funny.

"Y-Yes...I will," Bryan stammered slightly. He was nervous about carrying out her order because Isaac Donovan was in the room.

Bryan turned his gaze to Henry. When he saw the killing intent in Henry's gaze toward his lady boss, he no longer held himself back. This stupid Henry was indeed asking for a beating. How dare he still have anger toward his boss?

Isaac was utterly shocked to hear that. He had often seen Bryan guarding Bella, but this was the first time he saw him in action. His icy demeanor was enough to worry him when he looked at Henry.

Even though Isaac agreed Henry deserved his punishment for being evil toward Bella and maybe to so many other people, he also didn't want Henry to become crippled or even die.

How could he allow his granddaughter to have a criminal record? He wouldn't allow it.

"Bella, please don't do that. Please ask Bryan to stop!" Isaac's loud voice halted Bryan from sending his powerful kick to Henry's leg.

Bryan looked at Bella for confirmation on whether to stop or continue teaching this useless brat, Henry.

When Bryan saw his young madam nod, confirming her Grandpa's request, he immediately dismissed his plan to cripple Henry. He stepped back a few meters, observing in the corner.

"Don't stain your kind heart and mind from killing a despicable man like your brother, my dear. You are far better than him." Isaac continued as he looked at Bella with his loving smile. He could feel how anger almost swallowed Bella.

Isaac understood Bella but would blame himself if he let her become cruel.

"Grandpa, I'm sorry. Thank you for bringing me away from my ultimate rage." Bella barely smiled; she was still struggling to maintain her anger.

"It's fine, dear. I must do so because of how much I love you, Granddaughter." Isaac said as he returned to the sofa before continuing, "He already deserved the pain you gave him."

Bella let out a deep sigh. Her hand was hanging beside her, still clenched into a fist without realizing it.

She looked at Nick and said, "Uncle Nick, can you call my mother to come here? And ask Noora to bring Dax to my house; don't let him come here."

"Yes, young miss..." Nick said before he left the room.

Her eyes followed Nick until he disappeared from her line of sight. Then, she turned to look at Henry, who was still curled up on the floor, groaning in pain.

Bella walked towards him and stopped two steps away, just enough to see his frightened face clearly.

"W-What do you want?" Henry's voice trembled. "Y-You want to beat me again? Y-You are so cruel, sister..."

Bella pinched her brow, feeling an instant headache speaking to her stupid brother.

"Brother, I never meant to beat you like this. However, you provoked me first. How can I let you hit me? And I could see deep in your eyes how much you want me dead!"

Henry didn't utter anything because what she said was indeed true. He provoked her. And he did want her dead.

"If you hit me and I didn't stop you, believe me, you would taste my husband's anger; he might send you straight to your coffin." Bella wasn't making it up.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 429: Knowing The Truth Is Painful

"If you hit me and I didn't stop you, believe me, you would taste my husband's anger; he might send you straight to your coffin."

Bella wasn't exaggerating. She knew Tristan would have done more than she had if he had known what had happened here.

Seeing the fear and confusion in Henry's eyes, she continued speaking.

“You know what brother? Earlier, I had wanted to bring you to our mother’s house and welcome you with a warm dinner at my home, but once again, you ruined that opportunity.”

Henry gritted his teeth in silence.

“Gosh! I suggest you work on managing your anger, or you will end up like our father—or worse.”

Henry’s ability to speak was slowly fading. The unbearable pain tortured him, making him wish just to pass out so that the pain in his chest and hands wouldn’t be felt. However, Bella’s words shocked him.

Countless questions were now racing through Henry’s mind.

‘What the fuck!? Did Bella get married? To whom? Since when? And what happened to our father? Did she also know about our father’s disappearance? How? What the hell happened here?’

He pressed his anger and politely asked, “What do you mean, little sister? Please explain further—”

Bella didn’t answer Henry’s question. Instead, she turned to Bryan.

“Please help him lie on the sofa and call an ambulance to take him to the hospital,” Bella instructed before joining her grandfather in the seating area.

Despite Bella’s intense dislike for Henry, she still felt sorry for him. Well, not necessarily because of him but because of their mother.

Although their mother didn’t express it openly, Bella knew that, as a mother herself, their mother had strong feelings for Henry and would forgive him even if he made a mistake in the past or the future.

Bryan immediately did Bella’s order, helping Henry after asking two servants at the end of the room to help him. He couldn’t carry Henry’s massive body alone.

“AARGHHH...” Henry’s howl of pain echoed throughout the room as Bryan and the others carried his large body to the three-seater sofa.

Bella pretended to casually pick her ear when she heard Henry’s ear-splitting scream. She couldn’t believe a grown man as big as Henry could cry like a baby. Gosh! How shameless!

After she took a deep breath and tried to suppress her urge to stuff the sneakers into his mouth, she said, "Can you stop crying like a hungry baby, Henry Donovan?? You should be ashamed of your big body...Geez!!"

Henry's cries of pain slowly faded as he looked sharply at Bella.

"This hurts, alright! You've never felt pain like this...that's why you don't know!" Henry answered between his tears.

Bella chuckled. She couldn't believe she heard those words from his filthy mouth.

"Well, brother, that's how I felt when you hit me in the past. Or your frequent victims..." Bella looked at him in disgust. "I just want you to feel it too, brother, to remind you that what you did in the past was very evil. Very cruel!"

"This is the second time you've done this to me, bitch! I know how much it hurts..." Henry wanted to answer her like that, but all his words rolled back into his throat when he saw her sharp eyes.

It was sharp enough to send a shiver through his veins. Henry swallowed hard, then gritted his teeth silently while venting his anger inwardly.

Silence!

No one said anything, but the tension was still there. Bella's sharp gaze was still on Henry as if she were torturing and punishing her brother's body and soul with her eyes.

Not long after, Isaac Donovan finally broke the silence.

"Henry," Isaac Donovan's soft, exhausted voice rang in the room. The way Isaac says Henry's name shows the Oldman's disappointment and anger after observing his only grandson, Henry Donovan.

Isaac saw no guilt or regret for all Henry's cruel actions in the past, even though Bella had already reminded him to the point of making him feel the pain of being physically hit.

After getting Henry's attention, Isaac continued his words:

"You have been spoiled by me and your father all this time, which has made you grow up like this. You know, Henry? Just because you are my only grandson who uses my name behind yours, you have become arrogant," he paused for another long, deep breath. "Henry, I no longer have high hopes for you or your father."

Henry felt like his heart was about to shatter when he heard how deeply his Grandpa's words cut. This was the first time he had heard him say that he no longer had hope for him.

'Grandpa gave up on me? Oh no...oh no. Nooo...!' Henry wanted to wake up and kneel before him, but he couldn't move his body at all. He could only stare at him with a miserable gaze, his mouth trembling as he held back his emotions.

"Remember this, Henry. What you hear about the company may be different from the truth. Do you still believe the company is dependable? You are mistaken, my child," Isaac's voice was no longer gentle. It was sharp, sounding like a harsh warning directed at Henry.

"Instead of expecting from Donovan Group, you should follow your sister's footsteps and be independent! But you failed even when I allowed you to lead a small branch."

Isaac took a deep breath. Disappointed? He had been disappointed too often with his grandson, Henry. However, in the past, he had not interfered too much with Lucas, educating Henry. This is one of his regrets now.

"While your little sister, Bella? She did not rely on the company, not even her parents' money, to make her as successful as she is now. She built her business empire without us knowing, with only her ability, her brain..."

Henry, eyebrows wrinkled, tried to look at Bella. He saw her smile faintly without looking up from her cell phone as if she was nothing to him.

He became curious about what really happened.

Why did he not know anything about his sister?

What success was their Grandpa referring to?

She has a husband!?

Does she also have a business empire!?

However, despite so many questions dancing in his mind, he put aside all of them.

Now, he needed to do something: ask for forgiveness from his Grandpa.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 430: Forgive Me

Now, he needed to do something: ask for forgiveness from his Grandpa.

“Grandpa...” Henry finally spoke, although his voice was barely audible, and his throat felt sore. He swallowed a few times to wet his throat before continuing his words.

“I’m sorry, really sorry, Grandpa. I disappointed you, my father, and my mother... I know I was wrong, and I can’t help the company when it suffers like it is now. What I did in the past, troubling you and my parents, was merely because I wanted to help. But, I’m too stupid, terribly stupid—”

Isaac was surprised to hear Henry express his guilt. However, he still doubted his sincerity.

Isaac let out a deep sigh before deciding to explain to his grandson what had really happened in the company. He hoped that if his grandson knew the truth, it would shake him up and bring him back to reality, just like it did with his father, Lucas.

“Henry, I’m sure you’ve heard that your uncle is no longer the CEO of the Donovan Group,” Isaac said.

Henry nodded faintly, “Y-Yes...”

“Not just your first uncle, but they also let go of your father and Uncle Thomas,” Isaac added.

Isaac’s last words were enough to shock Henry, “WH-WHAT? They also fired my father and third uncle?”

Isaac Donovan nodded; he continued, “Yes, my grandson, yes...Not only have they fired them all, but your uncles no longer have shares in the company. Simply put, the Donovan Group owner has now changed. The majority shareholder is no longer Donovan but someone else.”

Henry felt like lightning struck his head. Even his uncles and his father lost their shares? It’s hard for him to believe that. How could it be?

“Grandpa, are you trying to frighten me?”

Isaac shook his head while smiling. “I don’t have time and energy to do that to you, Henry. What I’m telling you now is the reality of Donovan Group. So, stop your plan to depend on the company.”

Slowly, all the strange things that Henry had seen in his father in the past few days reappeared in his mind like video clips:

His father suddenly stopped his people from looking for his missing mother.

His father fired his personal assistant, who lived in their house, just to make his mother jealous.

His father no longer wanted to meet him.

His father cried silently in his bedroom.

His father suddenly left the house without bringing his cell phone, and even his driver and personal assistant did not know where he was.

After hearing his grandfather's words, Henry's mind became clearer.

Henry realized his father had nothing to be proud of, such as position, power, or even his woman. Everything had vanished, and he decided to leave everything behind.

'Father, you are so heartless! How could you leave me because of all of that? Why, father? Why did you do that?' Henry asked himself, trying to find the answer to all the questions now dancing in his mind.

But the more he thinks about it, the more it hurts his head.

'God, why did this happen to my family!? Why did you take everything away in such a short time? My father, my mother, my family's wealth and future...'

Henry took a deep breath as he felt his breathing becoming short and heavy, and his injury became more torturous. When he thought he could no longer hold this nameless pain, suddenly, he remembered something.

'Mother! Earlier, did my sister say she knew where Mother was now?' Henry wondered while looking at Bella. Before he could ask Bella about their mother, Isaac Donovan interrupted him.

"Henry, my grandson, what I'm trying to tell you now is to stop acting like you are in the past. Wake up, face your harsh reality, and become a decent person. You are still young; you still have a chance to become a better person and be successful with your own hands."

Henry said nothing, but his expression became gloomy. The mirage that always appeared in his mind slowly collapsed after hearing his grandfather's words aimed right at his heart. It was all true! He had been living in his delusional world all this time.

Henry could feel his heart aching and was utterly upset with himself. However, he didn't know what to do.

Before long, Henry's eyes became blurry, and tears began to wet the corners of his eyes. He closed his eyes to hide his silent cry, embarrassed to meet his grandfather's and little sister's gaze.

He wished to vanish, like his father did, leaving everything behind.

However, he faintly heard a familiar voice calling his name—the voice he had really missed for the past few weeks: his mother's.

"Mom..." Henry whispered while trying to open his eyes, looking toward the voice he heard.

He was surprised to see his mother standing there, looking pale and thin. Her hair had turned more gray; he no longer saw any trace of dark hair.

But something else hurt him even more. He was seeing his mother staring at him with red eyes. The way she looked at him while she was crying hurt him even more.

"Mom, I finally found you. Why did you leave us? Why—" asked Henry while holding back his sobs. But not long after, the pain he felt in his arms and lower ribs felt excruciating again. Torturing him!

"Henry, I'm sorry..." Natalie said while walking toward her son.

"No! Please don't say that. I should be the one apologizing to you, Mom. I..." His voice slowly faded away, and his vision slowly darkened. He no longer saw anything but darkness.

"HENRY! What happened to you?" Natalie screamed, running towards her son, who was lying motionless on the sofa.

Bella and Isaac appeared shocked. They quickly got up and approached Henry.

'Is he dead?' Bella wondered as she checked for a pulse behind Henry's ear. Her face tensed as she looked at her worried mother.

"What's wrong with your brother? Why isn't he moving?" Natalie asked, waiting for Bella to respond.

Bella didn't answer her but instead looked at Bryan. "Where's the ambulance?"

"They should be here in three minutes. No, I think they're at the gate now," Bryan replied, glancing outside.

Faintly, the ambulance sirens could be heard in the distance.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 431: You Did The Right Things!

Faintly, the ambulance sirens could be heard in the distance.

The room became extremely tense. Bella and the others were now looking toward the exit as they saw Bryan and Nick rushing outside to await the paramedics' arrival.

"Bella," Natalie grabbed Bella's hand in worry. "What happened to Henry? Why does he seem to be in pain? He looks pale, and his lips are purple. Is he alright?"

Natalie's trembling voice failed to hide her fright. While her hand gripped Bella tightly, her eyes still stared at her son in horror.

"Mom, he is—" Before Bella could finish her sentence, several quick footsteps were heard coming towards the living room. She saw Bryan leading two paramedics with their equipment, swiftly entering the room.

Natalie's grip tightened as she saw the paramedics approaching.

"Mom, let the paramedics help him," Bella said, pulling her mother into the corner.

Reluctantly, Natalie nodded and followed Bella, but her eyes never left Henry.

As Bella felt her mother's cold hand gripping her arm tightly, she smiled gently and patted her hand. Leaning closer to her, she said, "Mom, my brother just fainted. He will be okay..."

Slowly, Natalie's face relaxed. Her eyes were not as tense as before, and all that was left was worry.

"Bella, are you sure your brother is okay?"

"Hmm, he is—"

"But what happened to him before? Why did he suddenly faint just like that?" Natalie asked. She still couldn't understand why Henry was lying on the sofa, looking in pain. "Is he sick?" she asked while trying to sound calm, worrying about distracting the paramedics.

"Mom, No. Henry is not sick," Bella shook her head, smiling awkwardly. She tried to find the right words to explain how she beat her older brother. She didn't want to anger her mother.

“So he’s not sick? Then why did he faint like that?” Natalie was even more confused by her short answer.

Bella took a deep breath before she answered, “Mom, I had to slap and kick my brother. And I think I hit him quite hard.”

“YOU WHAT?” Natalie shouted in shock, but seconds later, she hurriedly covered her mouth with her hand when she saw the paramedics and the others now glancing at her. She smiled while trying to gesture to them to continue helping Henry.

After being ignored by everyone, Natalie leaned closer to Bella and whispered, “Bella, you said you beat your older brother? Impossible! How could he be in that miserable state!?”

Natalie found it hard to believe that her daughter, who was three times smaller than Henry, could beat him to the point where he couldn’t get up or even faint.

“Hmm, I’m, mom...” Bella smiled thinly at her mother’s skeptical gaze.

This is why Bella didn’t want her family to know about her martial arts ability. The main reason is that no one would believe that her small frame could handle challenging and perilous situations like what happened earlier. And they always looked at her skeptically.

“No way! Your body is so small. How can you beat a grown man double, no, triple your size? He even fainted?” Natalie shook her head lightly, doubting Bella’s claim. She continued, “You asked Bryan to do that, right!?”

Bella sighed deeply. She knew it was useless to explain now. She tried to distract her mother, saying, “Mom, you should stop asking about how I beat him and instead ask why I beat him.”

Natalie patted her forehead lightly as if blaming herself for forgetting about that. “You’re right; why did you hit him?”

“Because he wanted to slap me in front of Grandpa. I’m sorry, Mom, I can’t let him beat me, or my older brother will never see the sun again if Tristan knows about it—” Bella’s words paused when she saw her mother’s sharp gaze, annoyed at Henry. “You know how Tristan pampered me so much, right...Mom?”

“Hmm, I know! Well, your brother deserved it! You did the right thing, Bella. I’ll scold him if he wakes up!” Natalie said in anger that Henry had dared to slap his little sister.

Not long after, the paramedics finally finished giving Henry first aid. They both looked in Natalie and Bella’s direction and started to explain what had happened to Henry.

“Mr. Donovan passed out. We have checked and found that his condition is stable. We also found out that he has suffered some internal injuries that require immediate treatment and surgery...” explained the paramedic before they excused themselves, leaving for the hospital for Henry to receive urgent care.

Bella felt relieved that her brother would survive.

“Thank you, gentlemen...” Bella said. And let them bring Henry.

Natalie insisted on accompanying Henry to the hospital, and despite Bella’s concerns, she couldn’t stop her. She could only ask Bryan and Noora to join her for support, even though they were planning to visit Tristan’s family hospital.

Taking a deep breath, Bella looked at her grandfather, who had returned to his seat on the sofa. She felt guilty as she observed her Grandpa’s somber expression.

“Grandpa, I’m sorry I caused Henry so much trouble and ruined our dinner plans,” Bella said apologetically.

Isaac smiled at Bella before responding, “Bella, it’s okay. This is not your fault. He brought his own trouble, so let him face the consequences. You should go home now and be with Dax. The little guy must be confused about what happened here.”

Bella was startled, remembering her son. She stood up immediately, but before leaving the room, she looked at her grandfather and said, “Grandpa, come join us for dinner. Geoffrey has already asked the chef to prepare dinner for the whole family, but with what just happened, no one will attend.”

Isaac frowned slightly as if he were thinking about something. After a few more seconds, he smiled at Bella.

“Bella, I hope you don’t mind if I pass dinner. I plan to visit Henry in the hospital, too. I need to talk to your brother again to let him know that everything has changed,” Isaac said, feeling weighed down by everything. He knew he couldn’t rest easy until he sorted it out.

Bella didn’t press her Grandpa. She could only nod before leaving the house.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 432: He Knows?

Bella rushed home with a multitude of concerns weighing on her mind.

It would be wrong to say she wasn't worried about Henry's health condition. She was! She was terribly afraid he might die.

Seeing her older brother faint made her realize he was too weak for someone who had always been violent since childhood.

Now, she could only trust what the paramedic had said earlier, that Henry had fainted because he was too exhausted, his energy drained from enduring the pain.

The internal injury he had might not be life-threatening, but they needed a thorough medical checkup to confirm this.

While walking to her house, Bella took out her cell phone. She needed to contact Bryan, so she decided to send him a text message asking for an update on her brother's condition.

However,

Before Bella could send the text to Bryan, her steps halted when a hand touched her waist and pulled her behind. In just a second, before she could react, someone hugged her from behind.

Bella's smile slowly appeared on her lips as she recognized the familiar scent coming from the person behind her.

"Tristan...you startled me," Bella whispered as she tried to see her husband over her shoulder. "Why did you come from behind?" She turned to face him and returned her cell phone to her pocket.

She had been too immersed in Henry's matter, causing her to lower her guard, and she didn't realize Tristan was already behind her.

"I'm worried about you," Tristan's hoarse voice surprised Bella.

'He knows?' Bella felt her heart sink. She didn't want Tristan to know Henry had almost slapped her.

Before Bella could ask, Tristan suddenly pulled her into his arms. Unable to see his face, Bella took a deep breath and waited for him to speak. She leaned her head on his chest.

However, after a few seconds passed, Tristan remained silent. Bella could sense his anger as he took a few deep breaths.

After some time, Bella finally broke the silence between them. "How do you know something happened here?" she asked.

She clearly remembered not informing even a bit to him about the incident between her and Henry.

'Could it be Bryan who informed him?' Bella wondered. She started to become suspicious of Bryan.

"I know what you're thinking, dear. No, I didn't know about it from Bryan. I heard an ambulance siren when I called Bryan, so I assumed something might have happened. I asked the driver to speed to your Grandpa's house, but before I rushed in, I saw you walking alone, heading to our house. Before that, I worried something had happened to you, Bella."

Bella pulled her body away from him to look him in the eyes.

"Ugh, hubby, you know I can defend myself. Besides, if anything bad happened, Bryan would've called you. Am I right? It's my brother who had a terrible thing happen to him. I beat him hard and broke a few of his ribs. So we needed an ambulance to bring him to the hospital."

Tristan was surprised to hear that, but later, his smile slowly appeared on his lips as he took her hand. He squeezed it gently before saying, "Why did you beat your older brother?" He knew his wife wouldn't use violence unless someone did something horrible to her.

Looking at the tension in Bella's gaze, Tristan knew her answer even though she didn't say anything.

"Hubby, let's go home now. Dax is alone in the house," Bella said without directly answering his question. She walked toward their house before Tristan could respond.

Tristan chuckled; he knew his wife was trying to avoid his question. He immediately followed her with his wide stride and walked beside her, putting his hand on her shoulder.

"I know something happened; what is it?"

Bella quickly glanced at him, "Dax might be confused because he knows I will introduce him to his uncle today, but we have not yet come, even now at dinnertime." She still avoided him.

Tristan nodded as he hurriedly stepped inside their house, worrying about their son. As soon as they arrived home, Dax greeted them excitedly in the family room.

"Mom, Dad, why are there only the two of you? Where's Great-grandpa? Grandma and Uncle Henry?" Dax asked while looking behind his parents, trying to find the others. A thin wrinkle slowly appeared on his forehead when he didn't see anyone else.

Bella was unsure how to explain it to Dax, as she had promised him they would have a family dinner tonight.

She silently took a deep breath and sat down to speak to him.

However, Tristan picked up Dax and carried him in his arms before she could say anything.

“Buddy, something important is happening at your Great-grandpa’s house. Your granny and the others had to leave, so they won’t be able to dine with us tonight,” Tristan said as he walked to the seating area and sat on the sofa.

“Ooo, is someone sick? I heard an ambulance siren,” Dax said.

“Yes, your uncle. But don’t worry, he will get healthy soon,” Bella responded as she sat beside Dax.

“Tonight, we’ll be having dinner, just the three of us,” Tristan said, “Alright, please wait here with mommy. Let me change first before we start our dinner...” He said, and then he left for the second floor.

Meanwhile, Sam and Harper sat in the VIP room at a Japanese restaurant near the Quantum Capital building. A few minutes passed, and they both remained silent, causing the tension in the room to grow stronger.

Their eyes were fixed on the tightly closed door, waiting for someone to appear. However, after another minute, the person they were waiting for had not yet arrived.

Harper took a deep breath while looking at Sam sitting opposite her.

“Sam, are you sure Sean will come?” Harper couldn’t help but ask. She was so tense that even after arriving at the VIP room, she felt like a hurricane was raging in her heart.

Harper was utterly nervous about meeting Sean again.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 433: Sean Spencer Finally Comes

“Yes, he’s already on the way,” Sam answered with a smile.

Sam found it amusing that Harper looked so tense. “Relax, boss. He might be frightened when he sees you so agitated.”

“What do you mean?” Harper asked.

“You look like you want to swallow him whole the moment he arrives and exits from his car.”

Harper rolled her eyes. “O yeah? Stop teasing me! I’m worried that he won’t show up. This is my only chance to meet him before I fly back to New York tomorrow.” She was afraid she would miss the opportunity to express her feelings to Sean.

Sam chuckled.

Before long, a faint knock on the door could be heard.

Sam immediately stood up and opened the door; Sean appeared before him.

“I’m sorry I’m arriving late. I drove as fast as I could, but there was an important matter I had to take care of before coming here,” Sean said, feeling wrong about being late for their scheduled meeting.

“Yeah, sure. It’s fine, man. You’re not late at all. Let’s come inside,” Sam said, smiling at him. “I already ordered. You came at the right time; the server was about to serve.”

“Thanks, man. Well, let’s—” Sean’s sentence stopped as he saw Harper in the room. His cheerful expression slowly turned to confusion. He didn’t remember Sam telling him that Harper would come with him.

His steps halted before he entered the room, and he turned his gaze to Sam.

“Sam, you two...?” he whispered, curious why Harper was there.

“Ah, sorry for not telling you,” Sam said faintly when Sean’s expression turned frosty. “I came here with Harper. She happened to be in town and would only return to New York tomorrow, and she had nothing else to do tonight. So, I, uh, I thought to myself, why not invite her to join us for dinner? So I invited her to have dinner with us.”

Sam felt terrible about this, knowing Sean dislikes socializing with others.

“I hope it’s fine with you, man. And I’m sorry I didn’t tell you ahead.” Sam said again.

Sean shook his head before smiling at Sam. “What? No, no. Nothing like that. I’m just wondering if you two are dating?”

“WHAT? Pfffft!” Sam almost choked. “No... No... of course not.” He immediately explained, “We are not dating. She’s an excellent friend, and I simply wanted to ask her to join us.”

Hearing Sean's comment, Harper almost fainted. 'Oh my goodness, why did he think of Sam and me as a couple?'

Afraid that Sean had misunderstood the situation and jeopardized her chance, Harper rushed to explain.

"Sean, we're not dating. Sam is like a big brother to me. There is no way I can date him. You don't have to worry about that. I'm single." she said with an alluring smile.

Sean could only laugh inwardly and felt amused by his own thoughts. "Oh, sorry!" he said softly, realizing his mistake.

"No, no. It's not your fault. It's Brother Sam's fault for not telling you. Anyway, you two, take a seat. Let's eat," she gestured for them to sit.

Sean sat across from Harper, with his back facing the entrance, while Sam sat beside him.

Not long after, the waiter came to serve their dinner. While the waiter served, Sam tried to lighten the mood because he could feel Sean's awkwardness with Harper around.

"Sean, did you say you were doing something important before coming here? Any new assignment?" Sam asked. This is the only topic that comes to his mind now.

"Yeah! Yeah." Sean answered before drinking his tea.

"I'm sorry, man. I dragged you here to have dinner with me," Sam said, feeling guilty. "I wouldn't have asked you to come if I knew."

"Oh, no worries, Sam. You know my work, right? You've been there. Anyway, may I ask something? It's just a trivial matter about this restaurant. You know this place is owned by my family, right?" Sean asked with curiosity, hinting at his tone.

Sam nodded before answering, "Yes, this is your family's restaurant. That's why I chose this place, the more reason for you to come, besides that this place is also near my office."

"Ah, I see."

The room became silent again as they started to eat.

Sam began out of friendly words and confused. He didn't know what to say to get Sean to engage in a conversation. Sean seemed uncomfortable talking about the military

when Harper was around. He tried to signal Harper to speak, but she was busy chewing her food and didn't seem to care about her image in front of Sean.

He wanted to remind Harper about her goal to meet Sean. Still, he hesitated, worried that Sean would realize their true intention. He continued to eat while trying to find the right moment to leave the room.

However, before long...

Sam's cell phone rang, and Stefan's voice was heard on the other end.

"What are you waiting for? Leave the room now. Pretend you want to speak about important things," Stefan said.

Sam was confused when he heard those words but realized what Stefan meant a few seconds later. He nodded.

"Yes, sir!" Sam said, then he looked at Sean, who was also enjoying his food. "Sean, I'm sorry, but I have to go out to talk about office matters," he said, pointing at his cell phone. "I'll be back soon."

"Sure, man," Sean nodded.

After Sam left the room, the awkwardness grew thicker. Sean didn't know what to say, so he continued finishing his dinner.

Meanwhile, Harper was too busy figuring out what she wanted to say to Sean.

The room fell silent. All that could be heard was the sound of cutlery hitting the plate and the faint music from the hidden speakers on the ceiling.

Harper was upset with herself because she found it hard to start a conversation with Sean. She felt too nervous to say anything, and every sentence she had thought of faded from her mind, leaving her feeling empty.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 434: Do You Know That I Like You?

Harper finally stopped eating and looked at Sean. Once again, she opened her mouth and pushed her mind to speak, but nothing came out.

"Miss Harper, please, there's no need to feel shy or hold yourself back around me," Sean's casual words surprised Harper.

'Oh, my God! Does he know? How could he know!!' Harper blinked several times, looking into his brilliant green eyes, which fluttered her heart.

After forcing her racing heart to calm down by breathing slowly, she said, "Uhm, it seems you know what I'm trying to say to you. How do you know that there's something I want to tell you?"

'What did you just say, Harper? Stupid, stupid Harper! Stop saying those useless and awkward words!' She vents her frustration. She couldn't believe her nervousness made her act like a teenager with zero dating experience!

Sean placed his chopsticks on the empty plate. His calm eyes stared at Harper. Despite feeling nervous about eating alone with a woman, he calmly said, "I just know."

Harper smiled at his answer. She said, "Your observational and deduction skills are excellent, Sean Spencer. No wonder you became a General at such a young age."

Sean didn't comment on her words. He turned his gaze to his ocha* and sipped it slowly and calmly.

He wanted to ask her why she was following Sam, but the words stopped at the tip of his tongue. Clenching his fists tightly, he turned his gaze elsewhere, avoiding her eyes.

It didn't take long for Harper to speak up, "How's your day, Sean?" she asked but scolded herself simultaneously. How could she ask him such a lame question? How embarrassing!

"Uneventful. But that means a good day in my line of work," Sean answered calmly, crossing his arms over his chest and leaning back in his chair, waiting for another question.

Harper was getting frustrated with his brief, focused answers, as if he carefully chose his answer to prevent her from asking more.

Frustrated with the situation, Harper decided to go straight to her goal and express her feelings toward him.

She swallowed silently before revealing what had been tormenting her mind.

"Sean, do you know that I like you?" she asked calmly, trying to suppress her nervousness. But the warmth on her face scared her. She could tell her face must be red by now.

Two seconds.

Three seconds.

Five seconds.

Ten seconds passed, but he did not react. His silence was enough to make her heart feel like it was about to explode into thousands of tiny pieces. Harper was too nervous to say any words to follow up on her question.

‘Please, please, answer me now, Sean! Any answer will do!’ Harper muttered in her heart while daring to look into his eyes. However, Sean’s expression remained the same. There was no surprise or displeasure. He was making her even more confused.

Sean looked straight into Harper’s eyes with his usual calm gaze. But no words came out of his mouth; he just stared at her, confused about how to respond to her sudden confession.

Harper began to worry; this man either didn’t hear her or pretended not to.

Feeling her face hotter, the resourceful Harper pushed her mind to focus on slow breathing, forcing her heart to calm down and, at the same time, be braver. Her hands were under the table, clenched tightly, waiting for him to say something.

She would give him a few more minutes before concluding.

After some time, she suddenly said with every courage she had, “Sean, I assume your silence means YES.”

Instantly, Sean frowned at her conclusion. But still, he didn’t say anything to refute her because he had known since the first time he met her in Bella’s cabin in Sweden that this girl liked him.

The way Harper saw him was completely different from how Bella saw him. Knowing that Harper liked him scared him because he didn’t want Bella to lose her best friend.

Sean knew that Harper was someone Bella considered part of her family, so he always drew boundaries between them whenever he saw her. He didn’t want to give her hope.

All this time, Sean thought he had succeeded in pushing her away, but when they met again in Bella’s office, she still saw him as she used to.

This made him worry because even though his relationship with Bella didn’t work out, he didn’t plan to open his heart to someone else, especially Bella’s best friend.

“Miss Harper—” His voice halted when she asked him to stop.

“Please, just call me Harper. No need to add Miss before my name.” A sweet smile appeared on Harper’s lips. She was pleased to have caught Sean’s attention. “And you don’t have to say anything back to what I just said, Sean... I just want you to hear me.”

Sean could only frown at her words.

“I like you, Sean Spencer. Since I first saw you in Bella’s cabin several years ago. But, at that time, I didn’t dare express my feelings because I knew you only liked Bella.” Harper’s voice was calm, even though she felt like her heart was about to explode.

“However, when I found out that you had no hope for Bella because she finally chose to return to Tristan—” She paused to give Sean time to calm his emotions; she could see a flash of annoyance in his eyes.

She continued, “I dared to express my feelings for you, that I like you and intend to pursue you... to become my future husband.”

Harper swallowed silently, wetting her throat, which suddenly felt dry.

“And, as I said, you don’t have to answer me now, Sean. I’m not in a rush. Just consider me if you’re trying to move on. Or, if your parents force you to marry the girl they choose, please consider me too. I’m the woman who likes you, and you already know that.”

Having said what she wanted to, Harper felt the heavy burden on her shoulders lifted.

Sean was unable to say anything, too speechless to comment on her bold confession. This wasn’t the first time a woman had expressed her feelings for him, but she was the first to do so openly, without any embarrassment.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 435: Her Confession Left Him Speechless

“Harper, has Bella ever talked to you about me?” Sean asked. “And I believe you know how much I loved her, right?”

“Of course, she’s my best friend. She told me everything about you, and I knew my chance to win your heart was ZERO. That’s why I never dared to approach you when Bella was still single. I know you still have a chance with her.”

Harper took a deep sigh. She realized she had spoken too much, and her throat felt hoarse. She drank her ocha before looking Sean straight in the eyes.

“However, when I found out Bella decided to accept Tristan’s relentless effort to chase her back together, I told myself to start chasing you back, Sean Spencer! I know you won’t open your heart immediately, but I’m happy if you know how much I like you and what you mean to me. This is all I want to tell you for now.”

“Harper did—”

Harper interrupted him again, saying, "Please, Sean, don't answer me now. I hope you will be willing to take some time to think about me and what I am to you..." She didn't want an immediate answer because she feared he might reject her.

Sean chuckled and looked away. He knew what she wanted but had something else to ask.

"I'm sorry if I sound assertive, Sean. That's who I am, and I hope you will take your time before deciding your answer," Harper said apologetically.

Sean remained silent.

"Okay, that's all I want to say, and I won't say anything else. Thank you for listening to my feelings," Harper continued, lowering her head and feeling embarrassed for the first time since she had started expressing her feelings to him.

The room became silent again. They said nothing else, but Sean slowly turned to see her again. A faint smile appeared on his lips, looking at Harper hiding her face.

He could see her confidence fading; she was different from the girl he had seen speak to him a few minutes ago.

Sean silently sighed deeply before saying, "Harper, what I'm trying to ask you is, did Bella know about your feelings toward me?"

Harper was stunned to hear his words. She lifted her head to look him in the eyes, "No... No... I never told her, and she probably doesn't know about it." She said,

"Why didn't you tell her? I thought you two were best friends," Sean asked.

He was curious about this and wanted to know Bella's opinion on whether she knew about Harper's feelings, even though he had already guessed what Bella might do.

Harper didn't rush to answer, but she took a deep breath to relieve the tightness in her chest.

"I don't want to trouble Bella, and also, I don't want her to be involved. You know how intelligent and cunning she was, right? If she knew, she might do whatever she could to make you positively reciprocate my feelings toward you. She might succeed, but I don't want that." Harper said bitterly, imagining what Bella could do to help her.

Harper continued, "Sean, you know what? Even though I really like you, and I'm willing to wait until you are ready to open your heart again, I don't want you to accept me because Bella forced you."

Sean agrees with Harper. If Bella insists, he might accept Harper immediately because he doesn't have the heart to refuse her.

"Okay, I agree with you. It's better if Bella doesn't know about this," Sean said, smiling faintly enough to warm Harper's heart. This was the first time she had seen him smile at her, even though his smile was not as obvious and not as gentle as when he smiled at Bella.

Harper stood up from her chair, surprising Sean. He didn't say anything; he just watched her grab her bag and get ready to leave.

'She left?' he thought, confused. 'Why? Why did she leave?'

"Sean, I've said what I wanted to tell you. I'll take my leave now. I won't disturb your nostalgic time, chatting soldier to soldier with Sam," Harper smiled sincerely at him.

She continues, "Thank you for listening to my feelings toward you without mocking or making me down, Sean. You have no idea how much I appreciate it."

Sean could only nod, confused about what to say.

"And, uhm, one more thing. I hope you unblock my phone number. I promise you, I won't spam text you," she said with a pitiful expression.

Sean's brow furrowed hearing that. "Unblock? I'm pretty sure I didn't block your number, Harper."

Harper was shocked. "Really? You didn't?"

"Yes! I'm positively sure." He asked in confusion. "Who said I blocked your number?"

"No one. But you have my number, right?"

"Yeah."

"So, why don't you ever reply to my messages?"

"Oh, that. Yeah. I ignored them. Sorry about that—" Sean said softly.

Harper was left speechless after hearing his honesty. Instantly, she felt like she wanted to disappear.

However,

A moment later, a warm feeling somehow filled her heart again when she realized that Sean had never blocked her phone number. That was good news, right?

Harper smiled at him, saying, "It's fine if you don't answer my text message, but at least read what I sent you. And I promise I won't send you as many texts as before..." She slightly nodded and left.

"Wait, Harper..."

"Yes?" Harper halted her step and looked at him. Her heart raced to hear him call her.

"Why are you in a hurry? At least finish your dinner," Sean said. He felt sorry because this girl must have felt so awkward that she decided to leave early.

Sean just realized he didn't mind if she stayed and talked some more.

"Ah," Suddenly, Harper's face turned warm again when she heard his words. "I already finished my dinner. Bye, Sean—" she rushed out.

Sean opened his mouth to say something, but Harper had vanished from the room.

He sighed deeply while smiling and returned his gaze to her empty plate. Suddenly, he lost his appetite to continue his dinner because his mind was filled with what Harper had said.

Before long,

Sam finally returned and, with an awkward smile, looked at Sean sitting in his seat and playing with his ocha glass.

He cleared his throat to tell Sean about his present. When he saw Sean glance at him, he asked, "Where's Harper? Did she go to the restroom?"

Sean's lips curved into a cold smile. He looked back at his empty glass. After Sam sat beside him, he said, "Sam, you can drop your act now. I know what you did."

Sam's eyebrows furrowed when he heard Sean's sentence. "I did what? What do you mean, man? You, uhm, you confuse me," he answered awkwardly, already guessing Sean's answer.

"It's okay, Sam. I know everything," Sean said, glancing at him. He continued, "And you don't have to feel guilty like that, Sam. I'm totally fine with it. I know you meant well." He patted Sam on the shoulder.

"Oh. Sorry, man, I was trying to help a good friend."

Sean said nothing but filled his glass again with ocha and slowly sipped it.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 436: Bella Feels Tired
At Tristan and Bella's house,

After dinner, Tristan accompanied Dax before going to bed.

Meanwhile, Bella tried to call Bryan to ask about Henry's current condition.

On the first ring, the phone call was immediately connected, and Bryan's soft voice was heard on the other end greeting Bella.

"Hello, good evening, young madam..." Bryan greeted her politely.

"Good evening, Bryan. How are the conditions there? Is everything okay?" Bella asked calmly, but her hands clenched tightly around her cell phone couldn't hide her worry.

"Ma'am, everything is under control. Your brother was awake earlier, and I saw him talking with your Mother and Grandfather. But now he has entered the surgery room because his condition is quite bad. So they will do a surgery, and it will probably be finished in the next few hours," Bryan explained the procedure he had heard from the doctor in more detail.

Bella listened to him carefully. Before long, a relieved smile appeared on her face, knowing that everything was in the doctor's care. Her mother and Grandfather also rested in their VIP room to wait.

"I see. When the operation is over, please let me know," Bella said.

"Yes, mam. Don't worry, I will take care of everything here. Besides, some staff were sent by boss Tristan to help me."

Bella was surprised to hear that. When did Tristan have a chance to contact Bryan?

"Okay. Thank you, Bryan. You also need to rest; don't tire yourself."

"Yes, mam."

After talking to Bryan about a few other things, Bella finally ended the phone call.

Bella leaned back on the sofa and closed her eyes, thinking about Henry. She was trying to create a new plan for Henry's future because her initial plan fell apart after she saw his arrogant behavior.

Deep down in her heart, Bella hesitated to help Henry. However, remembering her promise to her father, she felt she would be wrong if she ignored her brother, let him be cast out, and did not receive a penny from Donovan Group.

Apart from her promise to her father, Bella also knows that Henry is the only grandson of her grandfather, who will carry on the Donovan family name. So, her grandfather might be worried if something happened to Henry.

'Hiss! You are such a stupid and shameless Henry Donovan!' Bella couldn't help but vent her frustration in her heart.

She looked at the time on her cell phone. It was almost ten o'clock in the evening.

"Is mom asleep now!?" Bella muttered while thinking about calling her mother.

After resting her eyes for a few more minutes and thinking about what would be best for her brother, Bella finally decided to call her mother and speak to her.

Unfortunately, her mother didn't pick up the phone until the last ring, so she called Noora.

"Hi, Aunty Noora," Bella said as she heard Noora's cheerful voice on the other end. "I'm glad to hear you sound so happy. How's everything, Aunty?"

"Young Miss, you finally called us. Well, Henry is in the surgery room now. If I'm not mistaken, the surgery will finish in two or three hours, so we were asked to rest in the room."

"I see," Bella said.

"And you know, miss, this room is incredibly spacious, just like the presidential suite in the hotel we once stayed in. Why do I feel like we are on holiday now? Not in the hospital?" Noora chirped.

Bella smiled amusedly when she heard Noora cheerfully explain the hospital's detailed condition. However, she didn't need information about their room right now.

She needed to know about her mother's and Grandpa's condition after learning that Henry was in terrible condition. Somehow, she still blames herself for using so much power to teach her brother, causing him to undergo surgery.

After a few more minutes, Noora finally stops describing everything there.

Bella cleared her throat before she asked, "Aunty, how are Mother and Grandpa?"

“Aah, sorry, I forgot to tell you about them,” Noora laughed before continuing. “Well, right now, your mother is in the bathroom. She looked fine; she was no longer as worried as before.”

Bella felt relieved to hear that.

“Your mother also had a chance to talk to the doctor earlier. It seems like the doctor knows Master Tristan, and I heard he asked the doctor to make sure Henry is well taken care of.”

Once again, Bella was surprised. She didn’t even know that he cared for her family and did not tell her about it.

“How about Grandpa?” Bella is concerned about her Grandpa.

“Same with your mother. Old Master also looks okay. Right now, he is resting in his room next to ours. He’s with Nick...”

“Does he want to stay overnight there too?” Bella was surprised to know that.

“Yes, I saw Liam come in; he brought Old Master’s luggage.”

“Alright, thank you, Aunty. I need you to accompany my mom tonight. And please call me if something happens there.”

“Young miss, you don’t have to worry. Everything will be okay.”

“I hope so. I’ll be there tomorrow morning. Let me know when Henry wakes up.”

“Sure—”

Bella felt better after she ended the phone call. She immediately headed to the bathroom to clean up.

After a long day, she confronted her older brother, but only now did she feel utterly exhausted. She needed a warm bath to calm her mind and soul.

Later, when Bella came out of the bathroom in her white nightgown, she saw Tristan just entering the room.

“Is Dax asleep?”

“Hmm, he asked me to read an autobiography book. And he just went to sleep when we were almost on page one hundred,” Tristan sighed deeply, tired from reading a book.

He walked closer to Bella, who looked like an angel in a long white gown. She applied a tonic to her long, ink-black hair. He couldn't avert his gaze elsewhere, mesmerized by her beauty.

"Let me help you..."

"It's fine, I'm done. Let's sleep..." Bella smiled at him and walked to the bed. "I'm so sleepy now, and I feel like my body is screaming at me to rest."

When Tristan heard that, his face slowly turned stiff; remembering her blood test, he immediately led her to the bed and gently helped her under the blanket.

"Mmm... Let's sleep..."

Chapter 437: After Months, He Needed a Cold Shower

After ensuring Bella was lying comfortably, Tristan didn't immediately join her. Instead, he sat on the side of the bed while lovingly stroking her warm cheek.

Since this morning, Tristan wanted to tell her about the lab results he received. However, he couldn't because there were many urgent things to do at the office.

One urgent matter was the suspicious person who tried to dig into her personal background, both offline and online record, which was troubling him today. They couldn't find that person's identity, which worried him.

...

Under her sleepy eyes, Bella saw Tristan sitting beside her, which confused her.

"Why aren't you sleeping?"

"I will. I'm too busy all day and can't get enough of seeing your beautiful face. Let me look at your face for a few minutes, hmm..."

She smiled and closed her eyes, "Mr. Sinclair, don't forget to turn off the light if you are done feeding your eyes with my beauty."

Tristan chuckled and pinched her cheek.

"Aughh! Please, stop. I'm so sleepy..." She yawned.

Tristan took a deep breath. He wanted to tell her about the test result now, but seeing how tired she was made him postpone it. If he had told her now, she would be shocked and probably unable to sleep.

After turning off the bedroom lights, Tristan immediately joined her under the blanket. Worried about making her uncomfortable, he tried not to move, not even a tiny movement. He lay there, staring at the ceiling and trying to breathe without a sound.

However, after a few seconds, he closed his eyes. Bella's voice broke the silence.

"Ugh... Hubby... I'm so sorry. I can't, um, I can't make love tonight; I'm too tired to do it. But no worries. We could do it tomorrow if you want. I hope you don't mind," Bella whispered. She felt bad because she knew they always do it before they sleep, but only tonight was she indubitably exhausted after her confrontation with Henry.

Tristan suddenly opened his eyes wide. A wry smile slowly appeared on his lips as he turned to look at Bella, who had her back turned to him.

Just looking at her back was enough to awaken something inside him—something he had been putting deep inside his mind to the point of repressing it.

"Babe, how could you awaken these feelings in me after I tried so hard to suppress them?" Tristan said softly as he turned towards her.

Without saying a word, he placed his hand on her waist and pulled her gently toward him, wrapping his arms around her from behind.

"Tr-Tristan..." Bella was surprised by his swift move. She tries to look at him through her shoulder, but Tristan buries his head on her shoulder.

"Oh dear, why are you waking my little brother down there?" he said while kissing her neck and exhaling her scents, causing her to curl up.

Bella feels the tickle on her neck, and a soft moan escapes Bella's lips. Her heartbeat started to race, but she said nothing. Not even try to stop him.

After being satisfied, he inhaled her scent. He whispered in her ear.

"Don't worry, dear. I won't tire you tonight, but you have to compensate me because you awakened my little brother—" his hand pulls her gown and slips under, caressing her smooth skin before returning to kissing her neck.

Bella silently scolded herself. She could only swallow hard when she felt his stiffened little brother rubbing her thigh and his hand tickling her lower abdomen. Instantly, she feels like her blood shivers all over her veins, and her lust quickly envelops her mind and sets aside her tiredness.

"Tristan..." She calls his name softly when she feels her entire body react. "Ughhh..." she moaned when his hand squeezed and caressed her breasts and nipples. Her body arches in pleasure.

She wanted more. And instantly, she no longer cares about her fatigue. She needs him now.

“Tr-Tristan... Ughh...Mmmm...” She moaned even louder than before.

Suddenly, Tristan stopped. And his words instantly shutter Bella’s lust.

“My dear wife, no worries, I will let you sleep now. But, please don’t provoke me again, huh? I won’t be able to hold myself back if you tease me again...” He whispers near her ear.

“NO...NO... PLEASE CONTINUE... TRISTAN SINCLAIR!!” She wanted to shout that but stopped when Tristan pulled his hand.

‘Damn you, Tristan Sinclair!! I HATED YOU!’ She could only vent her frustration inwardly while trying to press her needs. She didn’t want to awaken him again, or he would not let her sleep till dawn as usual.

Tristan made her turn towards him and let her sleep in his arms.

“Alright, sleep and don’t make any reckless move or—”

“I promise!” Bella interrupted him immediately, closing her eyes and burying her head in his chest. She didn’t dare to make any small move at all.

Tristan didn’t say a word. He was too preoccupied, distracting his mind to suppress his lust.

He didn’t know how long he lay there, holding her, until he finally heard her soft snore, which made him relax.

Slowly, he released his embrace and immediately rushed to the bathroom to take a cold shower.

This was the first time he had done this after months when Bella had not wholly accepted him.

After a cold shower, Tristan did not immediately join Bella on the bed. He walked to the veranda in his white bathrobe to make a call.

On the fourth ring, the phone finally connected, and a deep male voice on the other end greeted him unhappily.

“Damn it, Tristan Sinclair! Why did you call me at this ungodly hour? Did your wife get sick again?”

“Carlos, why are you sleeping at this hour? I’ve always thought of you as a night owl type of person,” Tristan asked, ignoring Carlos’s question. “Where are you now?”

“What the hell? It’s already two in the morning, man!” Carlos said as he got up from his soft bed and sat on the edge of the bed.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 438: Overly Praised

“What the hell? It’s already two in the morning, man!” Carlos said as he got up from his soft bed and sat on the edge of the bed.

Frustrated, he pinched his suddenly throbbing forehead. “Don’t compare me to you, Tristan. I’m an active doctor with several surgery appointments tomorrow. And I need enough sleep to perform well, or I could hurt my patients,” Carlos continued.

Tristan didn’t feel rushed to respond to Carlos’s words. He gazed at the moon in the dark sky, took a deep breath, and realized it was now two in the morning. He couldn’t sleep at all, especially when he yearned to make love to his wife but couldn’t.

He felt angry but didn’t know how to express his frustration.

He recalls Carlos warning him not to have sex with his wife until they have thoroughly checked her pregnancy condition. Given her history of vulnerable pregnancies and multiple miscarriages in their first couple of years of marriage, he worries that her current pregnancy could also be at risk.

Tristan felt very stressed when he heard Carlos’ warning. As a result, he’s trying to control himself and avoid intimacy with his wife tonight. His priority now is to schedule a visit to an obstetrician to ensure the health of her pregnancy.

“What’s up? Why did you call me so late?” Carlos asked impatiently, wanting to go back to sleep while still feeling drowsy.

Tristan was still in a trance, gazing at the moon, ignoring Carlos’s annoyance.

“Damn it, Tristan Sinclair! Don’t tell me you called me just to hear my voice?” Carlos said curtly. Still not hearing any response, he continued calmly, “Boss, I’ll hang up if you don’t talk in ten...minutes!” he said and started counting in his heart.

After a few moments, when Carlos was about to end the call and didn’t care that his boss would cut his bonus, Tristan finally spoke.

“Carlos, how’s my brother-in-law?” He asked calmly, but his eyes flashed with anger.

Carlos immediately explained Henry’s health condition in detail. He described the successful surgery their hospital’s number-one orthopedic surgeon performed. Also, he reported on the length of recovery time needed until Henry could return to his usual activity.

Tristan was taken aback hearing all that; he commented, “Oh, it’s that bad?”

“Yes, that’s why the doctors need to operate because there is bleeding inside. They need to bleed out the chest cavity and also install a pen so the bones heal quickly.”

“I see. When will he recover?”

“I told you earlier that he may fully recover in three to six weeks. Your brother-in-law should be able to walk, perform daily activities, and engage in light exercise, as long as he avoids lifting heavy objects or doing anything that could strain his chest.”

“Okay, I understand,” Tristan responded, nodding slowly as if Carlos were standing before him.

“Boss, if I may ask?”

“Yes?”

“What kind of accident caused such severe injuries to your brother-in-law?” Carlos asked curiously. When he met Bryan in the hospital, Bryan didn’t provide any details about the cause of the injuries. Instead, he asked him to direct the question to Tristan.

Tristan took a deep breath before answering, “My wife kicked her brother too hard.”

Carlos’s jaw drops to hear that. Bella, the petite woman, could do such a powerful kick? Were a massive man’s ribs broken?

It took Carlos a few more seconds to react.

“What the heck...” Carlos suddenly pressed his lips tightly, refraining from cursing at Tristan. “I-I’m sorry, boss, I was too shocked to hear that my sister-in-law could take down someone that big...!? Unbelievable! How could a petite woman like her have such strength?”

“Hmm, I also couldn’t believe my wife is that strong...” Tristan chuckled. This is not the first time he has heard about her fighting abilities, and he regrets not seeing it directly.

“Wow... Why do I start to wonder if my sister-in-law was like a real-life superhero?” he said in awe.

Tristan was speechless upon hearing Carlos overly praised. He shook his head lightly before excusing himself.

“Alright, man. I won’t bother you. Go, continue your sleep...” Tristan said.

“Wait... Wait, boss. I am no longer sleepy. Talk to me about my sister—”

“BEEP!”

Tristan hung up the phone before Carlos finished his sentence. He needed to sleep now, or his wife would worry when she saw his panda-eyes tomorrow morning.

However, before Tristan got into bed, his phone vibrated.

[Carlos] Heartless!

Tristan faintly smiled while turning off his cell phone and joining Bella under the blanket.

The Next morning.

When Bella wakes up in the morning, she smiles happily at seeing Tristan sleeping beside her. Looking at his sharp nose is enough to make her pinch it. However, her hand stops in the air when she notices him wearing only a bathrobe.

Bella silently swallows when her eyes are fixed on his bare chest. She lowers her eyes, looking at his perfect six-pack. Her heart starts to race.

She feels amused by herself because she still feels excited looking at her husband even though she sees him like this almost daily.

Trying not to wake him, her hand slowly moves, trying to touch his alluring six-pack, yet before she touches it, something crosses her mind, and her hand freezes again in the air.

‘Huh!? Why is he sleeping in just a bathrobe?’ Bella wonders, confused; she remembers he didn’t wear this last night. But a moment later, she laughs at her own silly thoughts. ‘Did he take a bath while sleeping? Not possible...Tristan isn’t a sleepwalker!’ She stifled a giggle and tried to push aside her curiosity.

Bella turns to glance out the window to check the sun. The sky appears cloudy, hinting at rain soon. She looks at the bedside table and is surprised it’s not even seven in the morning.

Worried about disturbing Tristan, Bella slowly tries to get out of bed. But before she can, Tristan's hand stops her.

"Where do you think you're going, my dear?" Tristan says, pulling her back into his arms. "It's too early for us to get up. Let's sleep a little longer."

Bella holds her breath as she feels something hard against her lower abdomen.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 439: You Are Pregnant

Bella pinched his nose, forcing Tristan to open his eyes. Hurriedly, he closed them again, trying to adjust to the light that dazzled him. His groan amused her as she leaned her head on his bare chest.

"What are you doing, darling...?" His voice sounded hoarse. "Oh dear, you are in trouble. You've awakened my little brother."

Bella froze in his arms, trying to change the subject to distract him.

"Tristan, why did you sleep wearing your bathrobe? I remember you didn't wear this last night." She asked, looking up to meet his gaze.

Tristan's mouth twitched as he remembered what happened last night. He hurriedly adjusted his expression when he saw her narrow her eyes.

"Huh!? Why is your expression like that, Tristan? Did something happen last night that I don't know about? Oh!" Bella gasped as something crossed her mind. "Please, don't tell me you are a sleepwalker...?"

Bella felt amused hearing her own words. So silly. How could someone take a bath in their sleep? Impossible, right?

When Tristan heard her question, he was at a loss for words. He cleared his throat and loosened his hug before answering her curiosity.

"This is because of you."

"Me?"

"Hmm... Because you made me hot all night, I couldn't sleep. So, I took a cold shower."

Slowly, Bella felt her cheeks heat up when she realized what Tristan meant.

"I-I'm sorry, Tristan. Last night, I was exhausted after arguing with Henry." Bella's sentence suddenly stopped when she remembered her plan to visit Henry in the hospital.

"It's fine, dear. I can understand," Tristan answered, amused by her blushing cheeks.

"Oh, right, I plan to visit the hospital this morning. After that, I'll take Harper to the airport; she's returning to New York today," Bella explained her schedule for the day.

Despite the current situation with her family, Bella couldn't cancel her plan with Harper, as she had already promised to take her to the airport and didn't know when they would meet again.

"Let's go to the hospital together," Tristan said, surprising her.

Bella immediately sat. Looking at his thoughtful and sincere gaze, she asked, "You want to meet my brother? Seriously?" She was curious because she didn't remember whether Tristan had ever talked to Henry before.

"Why do you look surprised? You didn't allow me to meet your older brother!?" He smiled while sitting, facing her.

Bella tried to adjust her expression, even though she still wondered why he suddenly wanted to go to the hospital with her.

'Did he want to take revenge on Henry?' Bella imagined many different scenarios.

Worries slowly enveloped her as she thought about what might happen when Tristan meets Henry later. Tristan might beat him harder if he knew why she beat Henry last night.

"Well, I won't forbid you to meet my brother. But I'm only surprised that you want to see him," Bella's awkward smile slowly framed her face.

"Don't worry, dear, I promise you, I won't beat your brother," Tristan said as if he knew what she was thinking. "Even though I don't like him, he had enough beating from you."

"Thank you, Tristan," Bella said softly. "So you want to drop me off at the hospital before you go to your office?"

"Not exactly like that," Tristan shook his head while taking her hand. He kissed her hand lovingly before continuing, "I want to take you to see the doctor there."

Bella frowned in confusion. She felt healthy; she no longer had a fever.

“Tristan, why do you want me to see a doctor?” Bella asked in a worry, placing her hand on her forehead. But she could feel that her temperature was average. “I’m not sick...I feel wonderful. I’m not a doctor, but I think I’m healthy.” She looked at him, confused.

He chuckled while shaking his head. It felt amusing to see how clueless she was.

“Ah, so you want us to visit your best friend, Carlos?” She remembered that the doctor who helped her a few nights ago was also his best friend and an executive at S International Hospital.

“Well, we will meet Carlos later. But he wasn’t the main reason we would meet a doctor there...” Tristan slowly took a deep breath before he continued his sentence. “Bella, do you remember when your last period was?”

Bella furrowed her beautiful brows, perplexed by Tristan’s unusual question, but she continued counting.

‘Five days? No... no... Uhm... seven, oh right, ten days. It should be ten days ago. OMG! Why have I not yet gotten my period?’ Bella thought, confused.

“How many days late are you, dear?” Tristan asked, trying to maintain a calm expression even though he already wanted to congratulate his wife on her pregnancy.

“It’s been ten days. Tristan, this is strange. I’ve never been late this long. Is it because I’m tired, right!?” Bella asked.

“No. It’s because you are pregnant,” Tristan replied.

“WHAT... WHAT!? I’M PREGNANT?” Bella gasped in shock, covering her mouth with her hand. Her widened eyes stared at Tristan, trying to check if he was teasing her like he had a few months ago.

“Yes, Bella, you are pregnant,” Tristan said, pulling her into his arms. He was happy to share this happy news with her finally.

However,

After a few seconds, Tristan was surprised to feel Bella’s body shaking in his arms. Tilting his head slightly to see her face, he asked in concern, “Oh, dear, why are you crying, huh!? You should be happy with this news...please stop crying...”

“Tr-Tristan,” Bella’s voice shook as she pulled her body back to look at him more clearly. “Tristan, you’re kidding me, right? How could I be pregnant? Please tell me that you only wanted to tease me...”

"I'm not kidding, Bella. You're really pregnant," Tristan said while placing his hand on her shoulders and leaning closer as their foreheads touched before he started to explain about the blood test he had done when she had a fever.

Bella didn't say anything, but her sobs grew louder. She felt so happy to hear about her pregnancy; Her happiness was so overwhelming that she couldn't stop her joyful tears from spilling down her cheeks.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 440: Happy Tears

Bella didn't say anything, but her sobs grew louder. She felt so happy to hear about her pregnancy; Her happiness was so overwhelming that she couldn't stop her joyful tears from spilling down her cheeks.

"Why are you crying, dear? Is the news that you're pregnant upsetting you?" Tristan asked carefully, avoiding being a smart-ass and worried about being insensitive to his wife.

She immediately shook her head, "Of course not. I'm not upset. I want Dax to have a sibling..."

"Then why are you crying?"

"These tears are my happy tears, hubby!" Bella answered as she wiped the tears from her cheeks.

After her sobs slowly subsided, she continued, "I really wanted to give Dax a sibling. I'm just so happy and can't believe it happened so fast," she said, looking Tristan in the eyes.

Tristan was confused. Why couldn't she believe it happened so fast? Did she forget that they made love almost every day without using any protection? Of course, she would get pregnant.

"My wife, perhaps you forget that we've been trying hard to give Dax a little sister or brother. We're trying so hard and so keen nearly daily."

Bella, "..."

She took a deep, long sigh.

"Tristan Sinclair, what I'm trying to tell you..." Bella's expression turned serious. "How could I get pregnant so easily now? Do you remember how difficult it was for us to get pregnant until we finally had Dax!? It took so many years. And even you don't know that I was pregnant at that difficult time." Her voice trembled as tears filled her eyes.

Slowly, memories of the past flooded her mind, tightening her chest.

Seeing how upset Bella was, enough to make Tristan's heartache, remembering those dark memories of their struggles, he said nothing but gently wiped the tears from her cheeks.

Once again, he pulled her into his arms to offer emotional support. They hugged briefly as she let her tears flow into his arms.

"I'm sorry I made you recall those awful times again, dear. I could try to find the answer if you want me to. But, if I may ask, why don't we just put our trust in God? Believe that this is His present for us," Tristan whispered.

"And, Bella, I hope you no longer feel sad or upset about what happened in the past, that emotions might affect our child inside you."

Bella's sobs slowly faded away as she agreed with what Tristan said.

"Hmm, I agree. I will... But, Tristan, I still feel like this isn't real," she said.

After a few moments, Tristan said, "That's why we need to visit the doctor today to check your pregnancy condition."

"Hmm... let's go," Bella said as she left the bed. However, before she walked to the bathroom, her steps halted as something crossed her mind. "Tristan, why didn't you tell me you sent my blood to the lab?"

Tristan took her hand and led her to the bathroom before explaining, "Because I didn't want to disappoint you if the result was not what we hoped for..."

Bella smiled at him. He was indeed wise to think that way. She might be disappointed if the test result was negative, so it was probably better if she didn't know about it.

"Tristan, we shouldn't tell people about my pregnancy. I'm worried something will happen. Let's keep it a secret until they see my bump," Bella said. She was afraid of what happened in the past repeating itself and would disappoint many people if it happened again.

"Okay. I will support you in that, dear," Tristan answered. He was excited because, unlike during her first pregnancy, he didn't have the opportunity to take care of her. This time, he would make sure to pamper his wife and give her the best care until she gave birth later.

After breakfast, Tristan drove their car to S International Hospital.

Bella sat in the back row with Dax, who insisted on coming along because he missed his grandmother and Aunt Noora.

Before long, Dax asked, "Mommy, is Uncle Henry also in the hospital?"

She turned to see her adorable son, nodding, "Yes, he is."

"Can I meet him?"

"Sure, but I need to check first before you meet him. I'm worried your uncle's health condition is still not okay for us to visit," she explained.

Bella wasn't entirely honest with her son. She must talk to Henry about her son because he does not know about Dax's existence. She worries that Henry will be shocked to death after learning she has a son and is still married to Tristan Sinclair.

Later,

Finally, they arrived at the hospital. They didn't visit the ob-gyn first, but Bella took Dax to her mother's VIP room.

When they entered the VIP room, Bella saw her mother and Noora had just finished their breakfast.

"Bella, Tristan, why did you come so early?" Natalie asked, surprised to see the three of them enter the room. She immediately stood up to greet her grandson. "Little Dax, come hug Grandma."

"Granny..." Dax greeted her before walking to hug her.

"Mom, Dax wanted to meet you and Noora. And we came earlier because Tristan has some business in this hospital." Bella explained calmly, trying to hide the colossal secret they now have.

Natalie ignored what Bella said; she was busy talking to her grandson. She missed him a lot and felt sorry because today, she couldn't prepare his breakfast as she usually does.

Bella simply smiled, observing how much her mother doted on her son. She said nothing and just let them talk.

She didn't stay in the room for too long. After excusing herself to her mother and Noora, she left with Tristan.

Her heart beat faster as she walked along the corridor, heading to the special elevator that brings them to the VIP floor. She remembered visiting this place almost every month in the past.

However, in the past, she always came to this place alone; Tristan never accompanied her. It didn't matter to her because their relationship was merely a deal.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 441: Bella Surprised To Meet Someone

The elevator door finally opened, and Carlos already stood right before the door. He's welcoming Bella and Tristan. He greeted them kindly, but Bella didn't pay attention to him. She just gave a faint smile before becoming distracted, observing the empty, spacious lounge before her eyes.

She felt odd. No other patients were waiting in the lounge, and only a handful of staff were on standby. The staff seemed reluctant to look at them. Or, perhaps they are all afraid to see Tristan?

'Huh!? Did we come too early?' Bella wondered as she changed her line of sight. And still didn't see any patients around.

Bella set aside her strange feelings and focused on the long corridor ahead. She walked alongside Tristan, who was talking to Carlos. They were discussing her test results and condition, making her nervous.

Suddenly, her mind was filled with a mix of emotions. She felt excited but also frightened, as if several butterflies were flying around in her stomach, and they were having a party. It was hard for her to describe her feelings at that moment.

'Stay calm, Bella... Stay calm,' she repeated to herself a few times to try to lessen her worry.

Tristan stopped talking to Carlos when he felt Bella's hand grow cold. Glancing at her, he was surprised to see her pale face and stiff expression. He abruptly halted and touched her shoulder to get her to look at him.

"My wife, Bella," Tristan called her name tenderly. When he saw her worried gaze staring back at him, he smiled. "Breathe, dear, breathe. Don't be nervous, huh? We will meet the best OB-GYN in the country. Nothing will happen to our child. Everything will be okay."

Bella said nothing but immediately followed Tristan's instructions to take a deep breath.

Tristan's heart ached even more when he saw his wife's expression like this. He imagined this had happened to her in the past when she was pregnant with their first

son, and he wasn't there to comfort her. Like now, he will never stop blaming himself every time he sees her.

After seeing her look better and not as tense as before, they continued walking and finally arrived in front of the examination room door that Bella was familiar with.

Carlos, who announced their arrival and the nurse, finally opened the door.

"Good morning, Dr. Robinson. The VVIP patient I told you about has finally arrived," Carlos said while letting Tristan and Bella enter the room.

The senior female doctor stood from her seat, looking friendly but full of curiosity. However, her curiosity instantly faded, replaced by a shocked expression when she looked closely at Bella and Tristan as they walked in.

"Oh my god, Tristan... Bella...is that you...oh my, heaven..." She said in disbelief upon seeing these two figures enter the room.

She hadn't expected the secret VVIP patients she'd be handling this morning would be none other than Tristan and Bella. She had been Bella's doctor in the past, but five years ago, Bella suddenly stopped visiting her. The news she had heard was that they had separated.

"Hello, Aunty Kelsey. Yes, it's us...And thank you for having us with such short notice," Tristan greeted her politely while holding Bella's hand tightly. He could feel his wife's nervousness.

The senior doctor and Bella looked shocked when they saw each other. Bella hadn't expected her old OB-GYN doctor, Kelsey Robinson, to be the one taking care of her today.

"Come in, sit down, Bella, Tristan..." Kelsey Robinson said, gesturing for them to sit in front of her desk before resuming her own seat.

After conversing briefly with Carlos, who then left the room, Kelsey returned to Tristan and Bella. Seeing them again felt surreal.

"I'm sorry, Tristan and Bella, but I'm quite shocked to see you both here," Kelsey said while turning to Bella with a smile. "Bella, I'm so happy to finally meet you again. It's been so long since I've seen you, and you look more beautiful."

"Me too. I'm so happy to finally meet you again, Dr. Kelsey," Bella answered, returning her warm smile. Somehow, she feels relieved because the doctor who will take care of her is someone she already knows.

"I almost didn't recognize you, Bella. You've changed a lot... I'm not saying you turn old, but you look much younger and pretty." Kelsey remarked.

Kelsey Robinson remembered that Bella had gained a lot of weight in the past, but now she looked slender and hadn't aged at all.

"Thank you, doctor. You also look much younger than when I saw you the last time."

"Hahaha. Don't flatter me, dear," Kelsey cleared her throat before looking at Tristan. She needed to ask about their relationship status. Why were they coming together now?

"Tristan, I'm sorry to ask something so personal, but I just want to make sure. Are you both remarried?"

Bella was speechless when she heard that. She lowered her gaze and smiled at her entwined hands with her husband.

Tristan's lips curled into a half-smile. "We are husband and wife, Aunt Kelsey. Why do you ask?"

Kelsey frowned. She remembered hearing from Jessica Sinclair that they had already divorced, so Bella no longer came to meet her for regular check-ups.

"I'm sorry, Tristan, Bella, but I heard some rumors about both of you—"

"Aunt Kelsey, don't listen to those baseless rumors," Tristan said as he squeezed Bella's hand. "We are here to ask you to check on my wife's pregnancy."

Once again, Kelsey Robinson was shocked beyond words.

'Bella is pregnant?' she thought while gazing at Bella.

It took a few seconds for Kelsey Robinson to process Tristan's words.

"OMG! Bella, are you really pregnant?" Kelsey Robinson asked, wanting to ensure she hadn't misheard.

"Yes, Doc. But I want you to check it first to make sure," she smiled.

Tristan chimed in as he explained the blood test Carlos did on Bella a few days ago. The test result indicated she was pregnant, so they came here today.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 442: Shocking News For Both Of Them

Kelsey Robinson felt even happier to hear that. She smiled widely and immediately stood up from her chair. She asked Bella to follow her to the examination room.

“Well, okay then. Shall we take a look?” Kelsey Robinson said excitedly.

Bella immediately followed her, and Tristan walked beside her.

In the large, familiar room she often visited, Bella saw the nurse who had opened the door for them earlier waiting near the examination bed.

The nurse aptly checked Bella’s body temperature and blood pressure and asked a few common pre-examination questions warmly and in a friendly manner.

After a few minutes, she guided the nervous Bella to lie down on the examination couch while Kelsey Robinson, at the couch side, prepared to use ultrasound tools to examine Bella’s tummy.

Bella glanced at Tristan on the other side of the couch several times, holding his hand tightly. Through his gentle grip, she could feel that her husband was sending her a message to calm down.

Her smile blossomed with gladness and gratitude as she remembered a different feeling and situation when she carried Dax. Then she returned her gaze to the flat-screen TV monitor hanging on the wall before her. She was nervous as she looked at the results of the ultrasonography.

Curious to know the results, she narrowed her eyes and looked at the flat TV. Even though this wasn’t the first time she had seen it, she still did not understand it before the doctor explained it.

“Doc, how are the results?” Bella asked curiously after seeing Kelsey Robinson still seriously scanning her flat belly for a moment.

Kelsey turned to face them with a smile in her eyes. “Tristan, congratulations,” she said, “Bella is indeed pregnant. You can see the monitor. This is the little one, the fetus...” She proceeded to explain more details about Bella’s pregnancy weeks and related information.

Bella and Tristan’s eyes were blurry as they were glued to the monitor. Their hearts raced with happiness upon hearing the news, and they couldn’t hide their joy as they looked at the small dot on the monitor.

Tristan gently squeezed Bella’s hand and looked at his wife with teary eyes. He felt like he was about to cry, too, but he tried hard to hold it back.

After a few moments of happiness, Kelsey Robinson's words shocked them both and pulled them from their overwhelmed joy.

"But, there's more news I must tell you both..."

"More news?" Tristan asked with concern in his high-pitched voice. "Is the baby alright, Aunty?"

"Yes," Kelsey Robinson replied, focusing on Tristan. His worried expression took her aback, but she quickly reassured him, "Don't worry, this is actually good news..."

"What's happening, Doc?" Bella asked nervously, her voice trembling. Like Tristan, she couldn't hide her anxiety.

Kelsey Robinson asked them to look at the monitor again. "Take a look at this... You're expecting twins. Congratulations..."

"Twins?" Tristan stammered in shock. "We're having twins?"

"Oh my God, Doc, are you serious?" Bella exclaimed, her eyes wide as she looked at the monitor, bewildered by the same image she had seen before.

"Yes, there are two fetuses in your belly, Bella. This is a miracle. After waiting for so long, God has finally given you two children at once. Congratulations, dear..." Kelsey joyfully announced.

Bella and Tristan couldn't contain their happiness. They were having twins. When they came here, they didn't expect this news at all; they were only hoping for a child, a sibling for Dax.

This is indeed a blessing from God.

After completing the ultrasound examination, they returned to Dr. Kelsey Robinson's office. They listened carefully as she explained what they should do to manage a twin pregnancy.

"Tristan, Bella, your pregnancy is still early, in the sixth week, but I want to congratulate you," Kelsey said, unable to hide her happiness at the news that Tristan Sinclair would finally have a child. Finally, your patience in waiting for a child has paid off... God not only gives you one but two."

Even though she wasn't part of their family, Kelsey Robinson knew that Tristan's parents wanted to have a grandchild. Jessica Sinclair had repeatedly mentioned that her son wasn't interested in marriage or having children.

“Thank you for your kind words, Auntie,” Tristan smiled at her. “But this isn’t our first child.”

Kelsey Robinson’s eyes widened instantly upon hearing Tristan’s words. “Not your first child? You already have...?”

Confusion filled her as she remembered Jessica’s comments that the Sinclair Family still did not have a grandchild and Tristan might not be interested in having a wife again. She started to feel suspicious that Bella and Tristan might be keeping something from their family.

“Doctor, thank you for being with me during my pregnancy journey a few years ago,” Bella said to Kelsey Robinson. “I was actually pregnant at that time. Now, we have a son who is almost five years old.” She smiled at Dr. Kelsey.

“Congratulations, Tristan, Bella...” Kelsey Robinson was overcome with happy tears. “I felt so bad for not being able to help you get pregnant, but it’s wonderful to hear about your first son.”

“That’s in the past, Doctor. There’s no need to feel sorry. After many failures, we were blessed with a healthy baby boy.” Bella said.

Kelsey Robinson nodded, “You are right, dear. Where is your son? Can I meet him?” Her eyes beamed with excitement as she looked at them.

“Sure, Doc. Our son is downstairs. You can meet him later.”

“Thank you, Bella,” Kelsey said happily.

“But, Auntie, please don’t tell anyone about my son and Bella’s pregnancy now. Not my Grandpa, my parents, or anyone else. We want this to be a secret,” Tristan expressed his concern.

Although surprised by Tristan’s request, Kelsey Robinson nodded in agreement. She continued to explain more about Bella’s pregnancy and other things. And she informed Bella of her subsequent examination.

Later,

Bella and Tristan soon left Kelsey’s office, worried that their son and mother would be looking for her.

When they both left the room, they met Carlos in the lounge, and Dylan was also there. He seemed to be waiting for Tristan for something important.

Bella let them talk while sitting on the sofa; she was lost in her thoughts about the result she had just heard from her doctor.

But not long after, she suddenly heard Carlos asking her something, "...sister-in-law?"

She turned to see him standing before her, confused because she didn't hear what he said.

"I'm sorry, Carlos. I didn't hear your question clearly. Can you please repeat what you said?" She awkwardly smiled at him.

Carlos noticed that Bella appeared unhappy and lost in thought. Since leaving Kelsey Robinson's room, she hadn't been her usual cheerful self.

He grew worried and wondered if her pregnancy test had come back negative or if something had happened to the baby.

"How was the checkup? Is everything okay?" he asked, concerned. He had intended to ask Tristan, but Tristan was occupied with his assistant, Dylan.

Bella smiled, thinking about the twins inside her.

"Thank you, Carlos. You did a great job with the lab test on my blood. Yes, the results indicate that I'm indeed pregnant," she said, lowering her voice.

Before continuing, Bella looked around anxiously, ensuring no one overheard. "Well, we're not expecting one child, but two."

"Wow! That's great news, sister-in-law," Carlos also lowered his voice. "I'm sincerely happy for you and Tristan. Congratulations."

"Thank you, Carl—" Bella didn't have time to finish her sentence because Tristan was already back by her side.

He offered his hand and helped her stand up. "What are you guys talking about?" he asked, looking at Carlos.

"She told me about the test results. Man, congrats. I'm so happy. Finally, you're having a child. And I will become an uncle for twins," he said excitedly.

Bella, hearing Carlos's words, frowned. "Carlos, you didn't know?" she asked.

"Know what?" Carlos asked, looking at both of them in return.

Bella smiled when she realized that Carlos didn't know about their son, Dax. She didn't answer Carlos's question; instead, she looked up to see Tristan.

“Tristan, you didn’t tell him about Dax?”

Suspicious about something, Carlos hurriedly asked, “Who is Dax?”

Tristan shook his head before he answered Carlos, “Our first son, he’s almost five now.”

“What the hell! Seriously, man? Why didn’t you tell me? How could you not tell me?” Carlos asked in shock, and disappointment clearly flashed through his gaze.

“I would’ve told you if you asked me,” Tristan responded calmly without a pang of guilt. Then, he looked at Bella and gestured for her to follow him.

Carlos gave Tristan a ‘Seriously’ kind of look; he was utterly speechless. He approached Dylan, who had followed Bella and Tristan toward the elevator and walked beside him.

“Dylan, is your boss joking around with me, or is he telling the truth?” Carlos asked with a whisper.

“Who? My Boss? Oh, he’s telling the truth. Their son is downstairs with his grandmother,” Dylan said, whispering back while patting Carlos’s shoulder.

Carlos looked hurt as he watched Tristan and Bella enter the elevator.

“What a heartless best friend you are, Tristan Sinclair,” Carlos mumbled before increasing his step to catch up with them immediately. He wanted to see his nephew, Dax!

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 443: Listen Carefully to What I Have to Say!

Bella and Tristan didn’t immediately visit her mother’s VIP ward. They detoured to Henry’s room after Carlos informed them he was already awake and could talk.

As they paused outside Henry’s wardroom, Bella looked up at Tristan and asked, “Would you mind accompanying me inside?”

She finally decides to tell Henry about Tristan and who he is to her. Her older brother needed something to jolt him out of his delusional and ignorant state, and hiding Tristan from him wouldn’t help cure his delusion.

“Of course, dear. I also want to meet my brother-in-law,” a faint smile crossed his face as a vengeful plan to confront Henry filled his mind.

“Guys, if you don’t mind, I won’t enter the room with you,” Carlos said before Tristan opened the door. “And one more thing. I beg you, please don’t break any of his bones

again, if you know what I mean,” he said thoughtfully with a smile, looking at Bella as if deliberately warning her.

Bella was silent, maintained calm, and composed gestures as if she knew nothing about what Carlos implied.

‘Did Carlos know that I was the one who beat Henry and not Tristan? Why is he smiling and looking at me as if he knows I did it? Gosh!’ Bella thought, lowering her gaze while gesturing for Tristan to open the door immediately.

Tristan said nothing but opened the door and let Bella enter the room first. He closed the door after asking Carlos and Dylan to wait for them in the lounge.

Bella stood a few meters from Henry’s hospital bed, enjoying the sight of Henry staring at Tristan with wide eyes and gasping. He appeared shocked and completely ignored her as if his eyes were glued to Tristan.

While smiling, Bella turned her gaze to Tristan and was speechless at what she saw. She could see her husband trying to intimidate her brother through his sharp gaze.

She leaned closer and whispered, “Hubby, please, don’t scare my brother. He might faint again, and I’m losing time to speak properly to him.”

Tristan grinned, “Sure, dear... as you wish! But let me know if you change your mind.”

“Could you wait for me on the sofa? I will talk to him alone,” she said, pointing to the seating area in the corner. She knew that if Tristan stayed beside her, Henry might not say a word, too frightened by his presence.

Tristan smiled and nodded.

After Tristan settled on the sofa, Bella approached Henry. She noticed that although he was paying attention to her, his eyes could not hide his flash of fear, as if he saw her as a threat to his life.

This is what she anticipated. She had attacked his brother not only physically but also mentally. So now, his chronic arrogance has gone as quickly as possible. And Bella didn’t feel guilty about what she had done to him. She didn’t have much time to deal with his nonsense.

“Little sister, you and Tris—” Henry was too afraid to say Tristan’s name, worried the powerful man would immediately beat him. He swallowed hard to moisten his dry throat.

Looking at Bella, standing by his bedside with an unreadable expression, Henry continued, “Why are you and him coming together? Are you still—” Once again, he lost his words, frustrating him immensely.

'Damn it!' He cursed inwardly while taking a deep breath to calm his frightening self.

Sensing Henry's nervousness, Bella said, "Why are you asking? He is my husband. Of course he is accompanying me, even when I didn't ask for it. He was afraid you'd beat me as you used to, brother," she said in her miserable tone, pretending to feel pressured by the meeting.

Henry, "..."

"Who could beat you now? Your power alone is enough to send me to the hospital!" Henry wanted to say this but feared Tristan would hear him.

Henry pressed his lips harder while clenching his hand tightly, holding back his emotions. He didn't want to risk his life now. The surgery last night had already made him suffer enough.

"Alright, I won't waste my husband's time just to speak to you. I'll get straight to the point of why I came here to meet you..." Bella said while slowly moving to the end of the bed, her eyes still fixed on Henry. "Listen carefully because I won't repeat myself!"

Henry frowned.

'Why did she sound so serious? What does she want to say?' He vented his frustration internally and didn't dare to ask.

"First, Father did not disappear. He regrets his past actions, which is why he's isolated himself from us," Bella said while silently scolding her father in her mind for being so selfish and running away from his own problems.

Henry was shocked to hear that, but still, he held himself back from asking.

"Second, Mother divorced Father. They officially divorced after Father signed the papers before he vanished—"

"What? You're kidding, right, Bella?" Henry couldn't hold back from asking.

Bella gently shook her head and chuckled softly at Henry's question. "You overthink yourself, Henry Donovan. I don't have time to entertain you right now. What I told you is true. You already met our Mom, right?" she asked.

Henry nodded, still in shock after learning that their parents had divorced and their mother had filed for divorce. This was entirely unexpected for him.

“You know what, Henry? Our mother’s life was so miserable. She was married to an obscene husband, and she had a rude, ungrateful, arrogant son. Her son only cares about himself, never about his mother’s condition or feelings,” Bella said with a deep sigh before adding, “Let me ask you two questions.”

“What is it?” Henry asked, trembling. Bella’s words hurt him deeply, but strangely, he couldn’t argue because what she said was true.

“Did you ever know that Mom has cancer? Have you ever wondered why she ran away from our father?”

Henry was utterly clueless. “Mom has cancer?” he recalled, not noticing any signs when she visited him this morning.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 444: It’s Up To You!

Henry was utterly clueless. “Mom has cancer?” he recalled, not noticing any signs when she visited him this morning.

“Yes. But I won’t tell you about it now. You just need to know that our family is falling apart; our parents have split up. The Donovan Group company is also facing changes. Everything is changing so fast around you, Henry. I suggest you open your eyes, mind, and heart...”

“Sis—” Henry was at a loss for words, stunned by his sister’s words. He could only gaze into her eyes, pressing his lips tighter to stop himself from speaking, as anything he might say now seemed useless.

Since Henry remained silent, Bella continued, “You still remember Grandpa’s mention of the new owner of the Donovan Group, right?”

“Yes!”

“Alright, I won’t keep it from you. I’m the largest shareholder in the Donovan Group. I own sixty percent of the company’s shares...” Bella paused momentarily to hold back laughter, observing her brother’s amusing expression.

Not wanting to waste her time, she immediately continued, “Being the majority shareholder allows me to control the company. That includes the ability to dismiss you...”

Henry’s hand tightened as he asked, “Why? Why did you fire me? We’re siblings, Bella...you’re so heartless, sis!” he asked softly, yet his trembling voice conveyed his deep upset.

"This is why I fired you, Henry. You are really thoughtless... No, but thick-skinned! How could you not know?" Bella, shaking her head, can't believe witnessing his foolish reaction.

Henry frowned, not understanding Bella's sentence at all.

"Let me remind you, Henry. Have you ever made a profit for the company since you took over that branch?"

Henry realized what she meant as if the fog faded from his mind. He gritted his teeth while shaking his head, angry at himself.

"That's the valid reason why I fired you. You can't work at all. You only humiliated your parents and Grandpa using their name behind yours." She paused to give him time to say something, but her words seemed sharp enough to wound his heart. "Do you want to hear another reason?" she asked.

"No. I understand." Henry immediately refused. He knew he was useless to the company and his family—nothing he had ever done made his father and grandfather proud of him, only ashamed and troubled. And his father never warned him. He would fight anyone who dared warn him about his bad habits and decisions.

"Good!" Bella laughed inwardly at her brother's helpless expression.

"Because you have Donovan behind your name, and you are my older brother, I won't punish you severely as I did to our uncles; I left them penniless. I will give you the opportunity to change and become a better human being. Are you willing to do that?"

"Yes, yes... You...you have taught me so much in a short time. I'm willing to be a better person, Bella," Henry answered haltingly, too shocked to hear about the punishment Bella had given to their uncles.

"You can join the company, but I will send you to a small branch in a remote place where other people won't know who you really are. Your true identity will be kept secret. You will enter the company without using Donovan in your last name," Bella said calmly. Still, Henry heard it like lightning had struck his head.

Henry was taken aback. But once again, he chose not to interrupt Bella's sentence.

"I am giving you one year to turn the branch's financial situation from a loss to a profit. If you can demonstrate that you are capable of doing so, you will be transferred back to the head office. However, upon returning to the head office, you will start at an entry-level position based on your abilities. Do you agree?"

Henry sighed deeply before responding, "Do I have any other options?"

“Of course not. This is your only choice,” Bella said with a smile. “If you accept and give it your best effort, I guarantee your future will be promising. But if you decline, your future will be uncertain. Now, it’s up to you...”

“I agree!” Henry quickly replied.

After waking up from his surgery, he had the opportunity to meet his grandfather, who was also staying at the hospital waiting for him. They talked a lot about his future and all the choices his grandfather offered him, similar to Bella’s. After meeting his grandfather, he also had a chance to meet his mother. However, she didn’t say much.

But, one sentence from his mother left a deep impression on his heart: “Listen to Bella, and you’ll be fine.”

At first, Henry was confused by his mother’s words, but after talking to Bella, he fully realized that his surroundings had changed.

Not only at Donovan Group and Family but the fact that his sister was still married to Tristan Sinclair also hit him hard.

Now, he didn’t have the chance to act arrogantly in front of Bella anymore. He felt like nothing but a fly in her eyes.

Sigh!

He felt so distant from Bella. While he was still grounded on Earth, Bella was already soaring in the sky, flying higher and higher until he could no longer see her.

‘Henry! It’s time for you to wake up! You’ve gone too far!’ He smiled silently, feeling ashamed of himself.

...

Upon hearing her brother’s words, Bella smiled with satisfaction. However, the smile slowly disappeared, and she continued, “And the last thing I want to tell you...”

Henry returned his gaze to Bella, curious about what she wanted to say. “Is there anything else?” he asked curiously.

“My status as Tristan Sinclair’s legal wife is top secret. Never tell anyone about this. And just for your ears, we have a son named Daxton. If you behave well, you can meet him later.”

Henry blinked a few times, too shocked to hear Bella’s last sentence. ‘She has a son?’

“Brother, I hope you can act normally before my son. Keep all your bad attitudes away from him, or you will never see him again,” Bella threatened.

After telling Henry everything she wanted to say, Bella immediately left the room with Tristan. However, before she passed the door, Tristan stopped her.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 445: That Uncle Looks Scary

“Dear, would you mind going to your Mother’s room ahead of me? I need to talk to your brother before coming to the room,” Tristan said calmly, without showing particular emotion.

Bella became alert. She stared into Tristan’s eyes for a moment, trying to discern his current mood.

‘What does he mean when he said he needs to talk to Henry? Does Tristan think Henry has yet to learn his lesson and plans something terrible at me as revenge? Oh, no. I hope Henry is not that stupid! It would be terrible if Tristan beats Henry again.’ Bella wondered.

Still, she quickly dismissed the thought of Tristan hurting her brother.

“Tristan, I have beaten him so bad he has to have surgery. Promise me you won’t send him to the surgery room again,” Bella said worriedly.

Tristan chuckled upon hearing that. Before responding, he slowly raised his hand and pinched her blushing cheeks.

“I won’t, dear. Trust me. I just want to talk to your brother about a few things. From one man to another. Don’t worry; I won’t resort to violence, even if he provokes me,” Tristan said, lovingly smiling at her, trying to ease her worry.

Bella was still reluctant to let them talk alone, but she finally nodded when she saw his sincerity.

“Alright, go ahead then. But please, don’t take too long, okay?” Bella said, leaving the room.

Bella headed to her Mother’s room, with Carlos following her. He made an excuse that he had a meeting at noon; now was the only time he could meet Dax.

She had no choice but to let him follow her to meet Dax without Tristan.

However, before Bella entered her Mother's room, she stopped and turned to him.

"Carlos, about my pregnancy, don't say anything to anyone. Tristan and I want to keep this news secret," she warned him.

"No worries, sister-in-law. Dylan has already warned me," he said, raising his hand and making a peace sign.

Carlos had known Tristan Sinclair for years and understood how secretive he could be. Sometimes, he resented Tristan for this, but as a friend, he also respected every decision he made.

"Thanks," she said and opened the door.

Dax, who saw her first, shouted in excitement, "Mommy, why are you only returning now? Where's Dad?" His adorable voice slowly quieted when he saw an unfamiliar man beside his Mother.

He walked toward his mom with tiny steps and an alert gaze. He then took Bella's hand and pulled her away from Carlos. He asked his Mother to lean closer.

"Mom, who is this doctor?" Dax whispered curiously.

Bella smiled at her adorable son before standing straight to introduce Carlos.

"This is Carlos Montana. He's your father's personal doctor and also your father's best friend. He came here to meet you. Say hello to Uncle Carlos," Bella said with a smile.

Dax awkwardly greeted Carlos, "Hello, Sir..." Dax's child's voice was stiff, just like his stare.

"Hi, Daxton. Nice to see you. I'm Carlos, one of this hospital's doctors and your Dad's friend. You can call me Uncle Carlos."

Dax merely nodded. Not a single word came from his lips after that. And not a smile, either.

Carlos smiled sweetly at Dax, utterly mesmerized by Tristan's son's handsomeness. Even though this was their first meeting, he felt he had known him for a long time; Dax looked similar to Tristan's childhood pictures.

"Little man, you're so handsome and adorable, just like your father. Can Uncle Carlos get a hug from you?" He opened his arms, waiting for the adorable little man.

But after waiting a few seconds, Carlos noticed Dax didn't move. He only looked at him without any meaningful expression, as if telling him not to talk to him.

Carlos silently gulped, worried he had angered the little man and become hated. He turned his gaze to Bella, asking with his eyes whether he had made a mistake or frightened Dax.

“Carlos, I’m sorry, but Dax doesn’t warm up quickly to people he just met,” Bella said with an apologetic smile as she gently squeezed Dax’s hand to relax him. She could feel how defensive he was.

Carlos chuckled internally. He was slightly sorry for intimidating Dax. If Tristan found out, he might be scolded.

“I understand, Bella. There’s no need to apologize.” Carlos smiled at Bella, turned his gaze to Dax, and continued, “Dax, we’ll meet again. Uncle needs to go now...”

Carlos felt a bit embarrassed and immediately excused himself. He had an important meeting back at his office.

After Carlos left, Dax finally said, “Mommy, that uncle looks scary...”

Bella was taken aback. She turned to look at him. “Why did you say that?” she asked curiously.

A forced smile graced Dax’s lips as he said, “I don’t like a doctor... him!”

“Did you like Auntie Angie, your Granny Doctor?” Bella asked. She remembered how close Dax was to Doctor Angie during her Mother’s surgery.

“Hmm... I like female doctors, but not male doctors,” he explained while following his Mother inside the room. “They scare me...”

Bella sighed deeply, recalling the past. It seemed her son was still traumatized. Dax had a bad experience with a male doctor who drew his blood when he was sick. She thought her son had forgotten those times, but it seemed not.

She smiled at him and said, “Baby, Uncle Carlos was nice. He actually cured me when I had a fever a few days ago.”

“Really?” Dax asked, looking up to meet his Mother’s gaze.

“Yes. Give Uncle Carlos a chance, please, Dax? You might like him too, just like Uncle Jack.”

“Okay, I’ll try, Mom.”

“Thank you, baby. Alright, can you play with Auntie Noora? I need to talk to your Granny about something important.” Bella said. She didn’t want her son to overhear the conversation about Henry, as she didn’t want him to hate Henry, too.

“Sure, Mom...” Dax nodded.

Dax immediately looked for Auntie Noora in the other room, leaving Bella and Natalie in the living room.

After Dax left, Bella joined her Mother in the seating area and informed her about her conversation with Henry.

Natalie feels warm inside hearing how mature her daughter is.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 446: Hopefully, He Will Change

“Thank you, Bella. You’ve given your brother a chance. He might not deserve it, but you have become a much better person for giving him that chance,” Natalie said sincerely.

Her eyes slowly turned red as she held back her tears. For her, it was enough that she and Lucas were separated; she didn’t want her two children to become enemies and distance themselves from each other.

“Come on, Mom. Don’t thank me. I’m just doing what I promised Dad and you. Once a family, always a family. I can’t exclude my older brother from our life. What I’m doing now is best for him, whether he likes it or not. It’s to help him become more human again. Hopefully, he can change and become a better person,” Bella said.

Natalie nodded in agreement. “I hope so, Bella. I’m also worried because the more I see Henry, the more he reminds me of your father. He’s starting to become like your father.”

“He’s still young. I hope he will change,” Bella smiled.

“Alright, dear. Uhm, and one more thing, I want to give you and Henry the shares your father gave me. You are free to decide how to split it with him. It’s the least I can do to repay your kindness to your terrible brother,” Natalie explained. She didn’t need those company shares because she didn’t understand how to do business.

Bella was surprised to hear her Mother’s wishes. She never imagined she would inherit her father’s shares.

“Mom, thank you. I appreciate your offer. But I don’t want to accept anything from my father, especially his share in the Donovan Group. You can do whatever you please about it, including giving them all to Henry. But, if I may suggest, don’t let him know about it now. Tell him about it when he is worthy of getting those shares.”

Although Bella conveys her rejection of her Mother's offer softly, in her mind, she vehemently refuses it. She had already made a vow in her heart that she wouldn't accept a single penny from her father, even though her father had already given those shares and property to her Mother.

"Oh, Bella, why refuse the share? Your father has five percent of the shares; you can divide them in half. You both will get 2.5 percent..." Natalie was confused. "Even though I don't understand how much that share is worth, I guess you will receive a lot, right?"

"Mom, did I tell you that I'm actually the largest shareholder in Donovan Group? I own more than 60 percent," Bella said with a smile, looking at her Mother. "It's fine, Mom... You just hand those 5 percent to Henry. He is a MAN; he needs that for his future."

Natalie held Bella's hand tightly. She still couldn't believe that her daughter was now the largest shareholder in the family company. How could she do that? Did Tristan help her?

Before Natalie could ask her, Bella spoke, "Mom, I have a rich husband and my own company as my source of income. You don't have to worry about me and Dax."

"Okay, okay, I understand," Natalie smiled. She knew she wouldn't win the argument if Bella had already made up her mind. "Bella, I will go along with what you've arranged for your brother."

"Thank you, Mom," Bella smiled, feeling happy, "What about the property? Do you want to sell it or keep it?"

"Let it be. I won't touch anything that Lucas left for me. I'm happy with my life as it is. As long as you don't leave me and allow me to stay in my place now to watch my grandson grow up, I don't need anything else." Natalie's eyes were blurry as she stared at her daughter.

Bella felt her heart warm when she heard her Mother's words. "Mom, of course, you'll stay with me forever. Don't think like that again, okay? I won't leave you alone..." She took her Mother's hands and gently tapped them.

"Thank you, dear," Natalie said as she embraced Bella. She felt blessed with her life now, especially after the sadness she had experienced in the past. Finally, God blessed her with this happiness she could share with her only daughter and those around her.

They continued talking for a few more minutes before Tristan finally arrived.

Bella was curious about what Tristan had discussed with Henry, but she didn't have much time now; she needed to rush to her office, so she put aside her curiosity.

She immediately said goodbye to her Mother and left with Tristan. Meanwhile, Dax would stay with his grandmother and Noora. They will return home this afternoon.

At Quantum Capital Building.

Tristan parked his car in the usual parking lot in the basement near the VIP elevator to go straight to Bella's office.

However,

Before Bella opened the door, Tristan stopped her and said, "Mrs. Sinclair, don't skip lunch. Remember, you feed two souls inside, three if we include you..." He reminded her sternly but with a solid tone of caring and loving. He was actually reluctant to let her go, but he understood her reason.

Bella nodded, confirming his worry with a sweet smile. She felt her heart warm again, remembering she was pregnant with twins.

"You know what, Hubby? It's hard for me to believe that we will have twins. Now, I'm curious: did you have any family members with twins?"

As far as Bella could remember, she hadn't heard of anyone in her family having twins. So, she assumed it must be from Tristan's side.

"I think so. If I'm not mistaken, it's from my grandmother's family. But we haven't been close with them since my Grandma died," Tristan explained. His eyes showed a faint glint of sadness, but Bella didn't notice it. Not even the slightest.

"I see. No wonder we have twins now," she said excitedly. "Ugh, Tristan, I have to go now. I'm worried Harper will leave without me. She's very punctual..."

"Hmm. You can go. But make sure Bryan and Sam follow you to the airport," Tristan said with the same stern tone.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 447: Suspicious

"Sure, I will," Bella faintly said. She already knows how protective Tristan is. And now, because she was pregnant, she was sure Tristan would be even more protective.

"I hope you go straight home after you send off Harper. No need to stop by the office."

“That’s my plan. How do you know that?” Bella grinned. When she saw he was about to say something, she continued her words playfully to tease her overprotective husband, “Anything else, Mr. Sinclair...?”

Tristan said nothing but leaned closer and kissed her lips gently before letting her go.

“I love you, Bella!”

“I know that... BYE!” she said and rushed to step out of the car.

Bella headed up to the 20th floor to meet Harper, who had repeatedly texted her since she left the hospital, but she had ignored all of her texts.

She felt at ease since she wasn’t late. They still had thirty minutes to leave for the airport at exactly eleven o’clock.

As the elevator doors opened, Bella saw Harper standing there with an impatient gaze fixed on her.

“Geez, girl... I thought you wouldn’t make it!” Harper said excitedly, a delighted smile quickly gracing her face. She had been worried that Bella wouldn’t make it to send her off to the airport; she had heard that Bella’s brother was in the hospital, and she had to rush there early in the morning.

Bella smiled at Harper, “Why are you in such a rush? Did Jack suddenly ask you to return to New York much earlier than scheduled?” she asked as she walked toward the living room.

“Of course not, but I have to return for something else. Something important. It’s about my mother. Her birthday is in two days. My dad called me and nagged me to prepare for the birthday party, or he would erase my name from his will. Geez...” Harper chuckled, remembering her father’s phone call scolding her.

Bella laughed. She could imagine Harper’s father being angry, and suddenly, she missed Harper’s parents. While living in the USA, Bella considered Harper’s loving and humorous parents her second parents.

“Let’s sit first...” Bella needed to sit down before they left for the airport. Rushing to this place had left her breathless and thirsty. Something that never happened when she felt fit like now.

‘Huh!? Why am I slowly becoming weak? Does knowing that I’m pregnant inadvertently make me this weak? Could it be!?’ Bella wondered, smiling faintly. She felt amused hearing her own thoughts.

After settling on the single sofa, she glanced at Sam, who had just come out of his bedroom. He looked neat in his usual office clothes: a black slim-fit shirt and trousers of the same color. But today, he looked casual, wearing white sneakers instead of typical black boots.

“Sam, can you help me with a glass of water? Or something sweet? I feel so thirsty and hungry after rushing from the hospital to this place,” Bella asked, casting her polite smile at Sam.

“Sure, Boss,” Sam immediately headed to the kitchen and brought out cake, chocolate, and a water bottle for her.

Harper, upon hearing Bella’s words, couldn’t help but gasp. “Girl, you’re not running to get here, are you? You’re sitting in the car while your driver drives, right? How could you be this thirsty and hungry now?”

Sam, who overheard Harper’s words, was also curious. Why was she suddenly looking tired and hungry? She usually refused to eat when lunch arrived, but now, not even eleven, and she was already hungry. He felt suspicious.

“Boss, here’s a chocolate bundt cake. I hope you like it. This is the only decent food we have here,” Sam said as he placed the cake and water bottle on the table before he sat, waiting for her to respond.

‘My goodness! Did I act so obviously?’ Bella panicked. Quickly, she tried to think of something to distract them, worrying they would guess she was pregnant, as they usually teased her about it.

“Thanks, Sam. You know how much I like chocolate bundt cake.” Bella said, overly excited, but opened the water bottle instead of eating the cake. Then she looked around, her eyes fixed on Stefan’s computer room.

“Wait a minute. I don’t see Stefan. Where is he?” she asked, ignoring Harper and Sam’s suspicious gazes.

Leo, who had just finished his call in the corner, joined Bella and the others on the couch and answered her, “Stefan’s locked himself in the computer room since this morning. He didn’t even come out for breakfast. I don’t know what he’s doing there. It seems like something upset him,” he explained.

Bella frowned. She rarely heard Stefan skip breakfast or ignore her when she visited.

‘Did something happen to him?’ Bella wondered worriedly. She took out her phone and sent a message to Stefan, letting him know she had stopped by.

[Bella] Bro, I’m outside. We are about to head to the airport. Do you want to join us?

After sending the text, she looked at Stefan's computer room again and waited a few more seconds, but Stefan did not reply. Her worry grew even more apparent. 'Is he alright?'

Bella put aside her worries and set her eyes on the delicious-looking cake. Several seconds later, she started eating her chocolate bundt cake. But, simultaneously, her eyes fixed in one direction. She's gazing at Stefan's computer room.

Until her snacks and water bottle were empty, Stefan had not yet responded to her short message.

"Let's go, Bella. We might be late if we spend too much time here," Harper said as she stood from her seat, ready to leave. She bid Leo goodbye, as he could not accompany her to the airport.

"Okay, let's go," Bella replied as she stood up. "Sam, I need you to accompany me to the airport. Please ask Bryan to prepare the car."

"Yes, Boss," Sam nodded and left.

Bella followed Harper but stopped right before Stefan's computer room. She turned to Leo, "Can you ask Stefan to call me when he's finished?"

She suspected something had happened to Stefan because he rarely ignored her text messages. He only did this when he wasn't near his cell phone or busy creating new programs, so he didn't check his other gadgets.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 448: Please Give Me Some Time
Meanwhile,

At President Astington's official residence, Sean Spenser sat in the spacious and luxurious living room, tense as he faced his parents, Jayson Spenser and Emily Stearn. He didn't like the reason they summoned him here today.

"My son," Emily Stearn softly called. "You understand why we called you here, right?"

"Yes, Mother. I understand," Sean faintly responded, silently sighing deeply, knowing his parents wanted to discuss his marriage again.

Sean despised it when his parents brought up the topic of his marriage. But he couldn't stop them now because of his promise.

“Sean, I heard from Amanda that you liked a girl. But, a few days ago, when I asked her again, your aunt said you no longer see the girl. What happened? Did she reject you?” Emily asked innocently.

When Sean heard his mother’s question, it felt like a hundred nails stabbed his heart. His wounded heart hurt again, remembering his dashed hopes for Bella.

“Mother,” Sean said, “Please, don’t listen to Auntie...” His calm shattered as his expression slowly turned sour.

Not noticing Sean’s annoyed expression, Emily continued asking, “Was the girl your aunt knows the same girl you promised to bring home to meet us?”

Emily Stearn remembered her son had promised to introduce them to a girl but had never done so. Sean might not appear before them if they didn’t call him now until the year changed.

Sean said nothing but let out a deep sigh. He could feel his anger flashing through his eyes as he remembered the girl he loved who couldn’t be his. He lowered his gaze and looked at his hand on his lap, avoiding eye contact with his parents.

However, not long after, Jayson Spencer’s deep voice echoed, “Sean...” His eyes stared intensely at his son. “Don’t put that expression before your mother,” he said calmly, but Sean felt like his father was slapping him right in the face.

Hurriedly, he adjusted his expression and calmed his raging heart. “I’m sorry, Mom. I just struggle to control my emotions,” Sean said while smiling at her.

Emily Stearn smiled lovingly at her son before turning to see her husband. She said, “Jayson, don’t scold Sean. Our son might be stressed because we pressured him to find his future wife.”

“Oh, Emily, he’s becoming stubborn because you pamper him. He’s no longer young; he’s thirty-one now...” Jayson said before turning his eyes to Sean. His gaze slowly turned cold, putting even more pressure on Sean.

Emily couldn’t refute her husband. She could only sigh while looking sadly at Sean.

“You’re the one who made a promise, Sean.” Jayson Spencer’s voice sounded stiff, no longer as soft and gentle as before. “You asked for time until you were thirty to bring your girl to us, but as of today, you are already thirty-one; we still haven’t heard anything from you. I hope you still remember your promise, my son!”

“I still remember, Father,” Sean answered. “But finding a woman to marry is not easy; it’s like looking for a needle in a haystack.”

"I agree. That's why we didn't pressure you until you were in your thirties. But how long will you stay single? Even your cousin Rose already has three children now. I'm so jealous of my little brother, Nicholas. He already has a grandchild," Jayson expressed his concern.

Sean couldn't help but vent his frustration inwardly to Rose and Evan. They married way too young, and they also have many kids now. From the looks of it, he needs to visit them to ask them to stop showing off their happy family before his parents. Damn it, you two!

Jayson took a deep breath when he saw that Sean had not said anything, even though he looked like he had a lot to say in his mind. He opened his mouth to speak but stopped when Emily held his arm.

He turned to look at Emily, only to see her shake her head as if asking him not to pressure Sean. He smiled at her and pressed his lips, deciding to let her handle their only son.

"Thank you, my love," Emily whispered to Jayson before she turned to look at Sean.

"Son, as you promised, if you don't have a girlfriend by the time you turn thirty-one, you'll allow us to arrange a marriage for you. You do remember that, right?"

"Mom, Dad, how could I find a girlfriend right now? You both know I don't have any free time outside of my military duties. I just returned from my mission, so I don't have time for that," Sean said, looking at them helplessly. He silently prayed that they wouldn't arrange a marriage for him.

He really detested the idea of starting a relationship with someone he didn't like, only to be forcefully married to her. He would rather stay single or choose a partner for himself.

'Choose a partner for me...' Suddenly, something flashed through his mind.

"I'm not in a rush. Just consider me if you're trying to move on. Or, if your parents force you to marry the girl they choose, please consider me too. I'm the woman who likes you, and you already know that—" Harper's voice rang in his mind, awakening his confusion to answer his mother's question.

Slowly, a warm feeling spread in Sean's heart as he realized he still had a way to avoid an arranged marriage.

However, before Sean could say anything, Jayson Spencer spoke again, "Sean, that's why your uncle transferred you to the capital. You no longer need to do secret missions in the field so that you have a chance to find your life partner."

Jayson Spencer no longer sounded pushy. He didn't really want to pressure Sean, but his age made him worry.

"Please give me time. I promise I will bring her to meet you." Sean no longer cared about his wounded heart. He had to move on now, or he would be forced into an arranged marriage and likely marry someone he didn't know.

Emily Stearn's eyes lit up slowly as she heard Sean's words.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 449: Promises He Shouldn't Have Made

"Oh my God, Sean, you have a girl you like?" Emily's eyes beamed happily.

"Yes, Mother..." Sean answered calmly, even though he scolded himself inwardly for lying to her.

"Heaven! So what are you waiting for? Go pursue her and bring her to meet us."

"Mother, please, don't put pressure on me now. I don't want to rush her. I want my relationship with her to flow and grow naturally." Sean silently gulped. "Otherwise, she might run away if she knows you want her as your daughter-in-law when I introduce you to her for the first time..."

Hearing his own lengthy words, Sean started worrying about giving his mother high hopes.

'Wow, that's a big lie, Man. Stop lying! Stop it! Or you'll be in trouble!'

Now, he started worrying, imagining how he'd ask Harper to pretend to be his girlfriend. The biggest question that bothered him this time was, "Will Harper accept his request to help him by pretending to be his girlfriend?"

"Hahaha, I'm sorry, dear. Your mom is so happy to hear you have someone you like, at least a woman. Waah, now I can sleep well. Right, Jayson?" Emily Stearn said while giggling like a teenager talking to her boyfriend. She was so happy.

"Hmm," Jayson smiled while patting her hand lovingly.

Sean, "..."

"Mom, I hope you won't be disappointed when you find out about her."

Sean was a little concerned about Harper's status as a foreigner. His family had never had a daughter-in-law from another country, and his grandfather was one of the founders of their country; he was very nationalistic.

“What do you mean?” Jayson Spencer asked, his brow slightly raised. He expressed concern that his son might encounter a criminal or a disreputable woman—a gold digger.

Sean looked at his father. A half-smile slowly appeared on his lips.

“Dad, I’m not sure if you and Mom will like her once you know her.”

With a deep sigh, Sean realized he was sinking deeper into the drama he’d created. He hadn’t even spoken to Harper yet but had already decided on their future. How stupid!

“Don’t worry, my son. As long as she’s a woman,” Emily stifled a smile while clearing her throat before she continued, “she’s not someone else’s wife, not a criminal, and not our family’s enemy. Mom will accept her with all my heart.”

“Dad also agrees with what your mother said,” Jayson Spenser chimed in.

“Understood!” Sean faintly said. Hearing his parents’ words made him feel even more pressured.

The problem is how he could contact Harper and ask her to meet his parents a few days ahead. He remembered she would fly back to New York any day now.

He feels blank! For the first time after so many months, he never felt this way, as if a black hole had just sucked everything in his mind. He lost the ability to reason and didn’t favor this.

Sean didn’t stay there for long. He refused his mother’s invitation to lunch and excused himself to leave because he had an important meeting in his office. He was distressed that his father could read his anxiety.

However, Sean’s cell phone rang just before he entered his black Hummer. When he checked the new text message, the stiff, worried expression that had framed his face since he left the living room slowly changed to a relaxed, warm smile.

[Harper] Hi, I’m on my way to the airport. Until we meet again, Sean Spencer. Bye!
(Smile emoji) (Waving emoji)

‘So you leave today...’ Sean sighed deeply as he stared at the text message for a few more seconds without doing anything, confused about whether to reply.

After thinking for a few more seconds about what to do, Sean finally typed a reply to her text message.

“Harper, sorry for asking this, but can you stay for a few more days?”

Sean didn't press the send button immediately but read the words several times. For some unknown reason, he feels weird asking her things like that.

'Damn it, Sean! What the hell are you doing? How could you ask her to stay now? She is on her way to the airport—'

He sighs deeply while gazing at the blue sky, trying to think logically.

However, the more he thinks, the more he finds this amusing because he rarely feels confused when facing a woman. He remembers that he only becomes a fool if related to Bella.

Sigh!

Sean blames himself for promising his parents that Harper would meet them.

Another deep, long sigh escaped from his lips.

"What are you doing there?" A familiar woman's voice shocked Sean, making him reflexively hide his phone behind him. Unbeknownst to him, he accidentally pressed 'Send' without knowing he did it.

Sean adjusted his surprised expression to appear calm as he placed his cell phone back in his pocket. He turned to look at the woman.

"What do you mean with what I'm doing here, Kei?" Sean asked, smirking. "Of course, I'm meeting Mom and Dad! What about you? What are you doing here at this hour?"

A beautiful smile graced Keira Spencer's face as she lightly punched her older brother's shoulder. "Geez! What a stupid question. Did you forget I live here?"

Sean chuckled.

"What I'm trying to say is, why are you not in your office?" he narrowed his eyes. "Did Rose fire you for shopping around at working hours instead of work?"

"Hahaha," Keira laughed. "Sister Rose loves me, alright! She would never fire me even if I did that. I have a work meeting near home, so I come home to eat lunch with Mom and Dad. How about you, bro? Not staying for lunch?"

Keira rarely saw her older brother. Even though he had already returned to the capital, he had decided to stay in his own apartment near his office.

Sean shook his head. He immediately got into the car. After rolling down the window, he glanced at Keira. "I have to go now. I have a meeting in the office."

"Drive safe, bro..."

He said nothing but waved before hitting the gas pedal and slowly leaving the yard.

Sean decides to return to his office first and thinks about contacting Harper.

Somehow, he feels relieved because he did not send the text message. It would have been super awkward if she had stayed, and he would have had to explain to her today why he asked her to stay.

"You did the right thing not to send the text message, man!" Sean muttered while smiling bitterly at the drama he had created, digging his own grave!

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 450: The Reason To Comeback

At Astington International Airport, Harper almost tripped over her own feet when she read the text message she had just received.

[Sean] Harper, sorry for asking this, but can you stay for a few more days?

"Wow! Wow! Be careful, Harper Reed..." Bella said as she held Harper's other hand to help her stand properly. "This is why you can't play with your cell phone while walking. You might fall without knowing it!" she scolded.

Bryan and Sam, who followed them while dragging Harper's suitcase, stifled a laugh.

"Ugh! Sorry..." Harper smiled awkwardly, placing her phone back in her black trench coat pocket.

Harper was too shocked to see Sean reply to her text message to pay attention to her surroundings.

She wanted to reread the text to confirm if she hadn't misread it because, lately, she had always imagined receiving a text from him. She was worried this was just her imagination. But Bella was walking right next to her and might see who sent the message.

While following Bella to the airport's enormous, beautiful lounge, Harper tried to restrain herself from looking at her phone. She was waiting for the right time to check her cell phone.

After a few more minutes of walking, they finally decided to have lunch at an Italian restaurant on the corner. It wasn't as crowded as other places; only a few tables were occupied.

"Where do you want to sit?" Bella asked, glancing at Harper, who looked quiet and less enthusiastic than before. This made her suspicious that Harper had just received a text message that had made her mood drop to zero.

"Anywhere. Hurry, we don't have much time, girl..." Harper said while following Bella, who walked to a quiet corner with a view overlooking the airport waiting room. They could see passengers and their escorts coming and going from where they were sitting.

Not long after, the waiter finished taking their orders, as did Sam and Bryan's orders, who were sitting at the table next to them.

"What happened, Harper? You look strange. You look like you just saw something that ruined your mood..." Bella finally asked, seeing her best friend looking anxious and tense. "Did you receive some bad news?" she guessed.

'Damn, Bella! How could you guess it... almost right?' Harper vented sarcasm in her mind while smiling at her, trying to adjust her expression so as not to raise Bella's suspicions.

Harper immediately shook her head while trying to smile naturally at Bella. "I just feel bad because I have to leave you again, and I don't know when I can come back," she sincerely said.

Bella also sighed deeply. She had already become attached to Harper, even though she had only been staying for a few weeks.

"Yeah, me too. I'm so sad. If you have time, please visit us. Dax might be missing you," Bella said, pausing when she remembered something. "Oh, right, Harper, you should come when it's his birthday."

"My goodness! How could I forget that?" Harper's smile grew wider as she had a reason to revisit the country. "You're right, girl. I never miss his birthday."

Harper felt a surge of joy. She now had a valid reason to return to the country: Dax's birthday party and the opportunity to meet Sean. She couldn't wait for the time to come faster, and she had the chance to pursue Sean.

They continued talking while eating their lunch. Bella chose Prawn Pasta, while Harper decided to eat a light lunch: pizza.

Harper lost her appetite because now her mind was filled with short text messages from Sean that she wanted to reread.

As Bella continued to talk, Harper's mind was busy thinking about Sean.

'Why did Sean ask me to stay? Has he decided to give me a chance to pursue him?' Harper heard her own thoughts and smiled foolishly while chewing her tasteless pizza.

Later,

After finishing her lunch, Bella excused herself to go to the restroom.

However,

Bella was surprised to find Bryan and Sam following her. She stopped and turned to see them.

"You both don't need to worry; the restroom is not far," she said, pointing in that direction a few meters ahead of them. Yet, the two tall men ignored her. They continued to follow her, causing confusion among the people around them as they stood in front of the women's restroom door.

Harper smiled, looking at Bella with her two bodyguards. But her smile slowly faded; she couldn't waste this opportunity to check her cell phone.

Her heart raced when she saw Sean's message still in her inbox.

'OMG! He really replied to my text. Why did he suddenly text and ask me to stay?' She read the text message several times, "Harper, sorry for asking this, but can you stay for a few more days?"

After calming her mind and heart, Harper replied, "I'm sorry, Sean. I can't..." She sent the text and wanted to type the following message. However, Bella's voice startled her.

"Harper, are you done with your lunch?" Bella asked, sitting opposite her, sipping her orange juice.

"Yeah," Harper answered, awkwardly smiling at Bella. She returned her cell phone and felt terrible because she had not yet texted Sean to tell him why she couldn't stay longer in this country. It was Her Mother's birthday, and she never misses spending a day with her Mother on her special day.

"Harper, are you ready to check in your luggage and go through immigration, or do you want to stay here for another minute?" Bella asks, glancing at her watch.

Bella noticed that Harper seemed distracted several times and assumed she had received bad news, possibly related to her family. Not wanting to pry, Bella decided not to ask Harper about it further.

Hearing Bella's question made Harper feel even guiltier, as she wanted to leave Bella as quickly as possible for the first time. This time, she was too worried that her refusal might give Sean the wrong impression.

With a heavy heart, Harper nodded at Bella and said, "I think I should check in now, Bella. I've never flown from this airport before, and I'm afraid I might have trouble finding my gate."

"Okay, let Sam and Bryan help you," Bella said, standing up and leading them to the check-in area.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 451: A Relieved Smile After The Chaos He Created
Harper took a deep breath, feeling a mix of emotions.

Saying goodbye was hard, but lying to her best friend was even worse. She felt awful for not being honest with Bella about her feelings for Sean Spencer.

Harper knew she couldn't keep this from Bella for long. Still, she decided to keep it a secret until she knew her relationship with Sean was going in the direction she planned and hoped for.

And, if Sean rejects her, Harper realizes there is no point in letting Bella know her feelings toward Sean.

"Girl, it's time for us to part ways again," Harper said, her voice trembling with sadness. She hugged Bella tightly and continued, "I promise you, I'll be here in November to celebrate your birthday and Dax's. Take care of yourself, and don't work so hard, hmm!?"

"Hmm, I will," Bella said while smiling.

Bella continued, "You too, take care and have fun! Don't work too hard. Let Boss Jack Foster handle the office matters." She chuckled as she released her embrace and noticed tears welling up in Harper's eyes. "Don't cry..."

Harper waved her hands near her face, trying to stop the tears from flowing. "Sure, I will! I will make him work like our slave..." He stifled a laugh; imagine Jack complained.

"I'll be waiting for your return in November, Harper! You have to come and bring Jack, too... I miss him already," Bella said, fighting back tears. She didn't want to cry, fearing Harper might start sobbing too.

"Sure, I will drag him to come with me. Okay, okay... I'll go now, Bella... Bryan, Sam...bye!" Harper smiled at them and walked away. She can't stay there for too long, or she might cry.

"Harper, next time you come, bring my brother-in-law too!" Bella shouted after her.

Harper almost choked. She said nothing and simply waved her hand without turning to see Bella and the others.

Bella smiled as she watched Harper walk away. She stood where she was until her best friend was out of sight. Then she turned to see Bryan and Sam standing near her.

"Alright, let's go, guys..." she said and started walking.

"Where are we going, ma'am?" Bryan asked, glancing at her.

"Home. I'm tired and need to sleep," Bella answered, covering her mouth to hide her yawn. This surprised Sam, who noticed the changes in her that he saw today.

"Yes, ma'am!" Bryan felt relieved. He had already received orders from his boss, Tristan, to ensure Bella returned home after they finished sending off Harper.

Astington Military Base.

Sean had just parked his car in the outdoor parking area of the tallest building. Before he turned off the engine, his cell phone suddenly vibrated in his pocket, indicating that he had received a text message.

He didn't rush to check it. Instead, he stepped out of his car and leisurely walked toward the building.

After some time, he finally checked his cell phone, thinking the short text message was work-related.

However, Sean's steps abruptly halted when he saw the sender's name.

"Harper? Why did she text again?"

A furrow appeared on his forehead as he opened the text message.

Instantly, his knees felt like they were turning to jelly. He was shocked to read her reply:

[Harper] I'm sorry, Sean. I can't...

"What does she mean?" The line on his forehead became even more apparent. Seconds later, a scary thought crossed his mind. "Damn it!" he cursed while checking his chat history with her.

His heart sank when he saw the text he had sent to her.

"What the hell!! How could I send such a text to her?"

Sean clearly remembered not sending the text when encountering his sister Keira earlier.

Sighing deeply, Sean read Harper's reply a few more times. For some unknown reason, reading her refusal disappointed him. The feeling almost matched when Bella rejected him.

"So, she can't...?" He murmured as his lips slightly curled into a frosty smile. He shook his head slightly while continuing to talk to himself. "Man, it looks like you lost your opportunity—"

Gazing around and finding no one there, Sean continued to walk, heading to his office.

A few female and male staff members greeted him politely as Sean entered the building; however, he said nothing and only nodded slightly at them. His mind was still busy thinking about why Harper rejected him just like that.

'Did she start to think about giving up pursuing me?' he wondered while entering the empty elevator. His mind reeled back to the last encounter with Harper. At that time, he didn't say much to her.

'Man! You are really not polite to a woman, huh!' he scolded himself inwardly.

After a few more seconds, the elevator finally arrived at his office floor. A few staff greeted him again, but he said nothing back and walked straight to his office.

When he settled in his seat, his cell phone vibrated again. He casually checked it, and his phone almost slipped from his hand upon reading the name written there: Harper.

[Harper] I can't stay because I must return home. My mother's birthday is the day after tomorrow.

A relieved smile slowly appeared on his lips as he read her text message.

[Harper] But I will return in November for Dax's birthday. Hope to meet you at that time, Sean. (Smile emoji)

Just before Sean wanted to type something, his cell phone vibrated again.

[Harper] I'm boarding now. See you! (Smile emoji)

Without thinking, Sean typed quickly, hoping she would read it before she turned off her cell phone, "Inform me when you've safely landed."

After he sent that, Sean immediately turned his phone on silent mode and placed it on his table. He was too worried he would send her another stupid text message.

At the villa on the city's outskirts,

Marco sat in his office with two men opposite him. His impatient gaze was fixed on one of his men, who was speaking to someone over the phone.

After a while, the man finally finished talking, and with delighted eyes, he looked at Marco.

"How did it go, Billy?" Marco asked impatiently, eager to hear the good news.

Today was the first time they had successfully followed Arabella Donovan. It seemed like a stroke of luck that they managed to do so without being caught by her bodyguards.

His curiosity about Arabella Donovan grew stronger daily because those who guarded her always ruined his plans. They all looked professional and powerful enough to spot his people.

"Master, we finally know where she lives!" Billy said as he put his cell phone in his pocket. "She lives in Little Heaven."

"Little Heaven?" Marco was shocked. The area was restricted and high-security; only residents and their guests could enter. What he had heard about that place was that only certain people in the country could buy property there, so even if he wanted to buy, he couldn't.

"Yes, Master. That's why our people could only follow her until her car and some of her escort cars entered the area," Billy explained. "Arabella Donovan...seriously, Master, who is she? Why are there people guarding her like she's the First Lady?"

Marco said nothing, but his curiosity about that woman grew even more.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!

Chapter 452: Telling Dax
The next day.

Bella woke up feeling unwell. Her head was slightly dizzy, and she was feeling nauseous. It seemed like she was starting to experience morning sickness again, just like when she was pregnant with Dax.

Not wanting to wake Tristan, Bella slowly got out of bed and went to the bathroom to wash her face and drink water.

After freshening up, she looked for Tristan, who was still asleep at seven in the morning. It was unusual to see him sleeping at that time.

‘Did he stay up all night?’ she thought, noticing Tristan’s laptop on the corner of the desk. She felt sorry for waking him up. So she let him sleep a little longer.

Bella decided to check on Dax and was surprised to see him opening his bedroom door.

“Baby, you look so cute,” Bella smiled while approaching him. Dax already looked fresh and neat in his casual home clothes. “Done with your workout?”

“Yes, Mom. You know what? Uncle Geoffrey already taught me a few advanced moves, and I’m excited to learn more.”

Bella was surprised to hear that. She thought Geoffrey would only train Dax’s physique and leg strength as a foundation for the next few months.

“Wow, so fast?”

“Yes. My teacher said I learned diligently and grew faster and stronger than any kids my age he knew. That’s why my progress is much faster than he expected,” Dax explained happily.

Looking at his enthusiasm, she felt her heart swell with pride for her son. She didn’t know why, but she felt like crying, imagining he would become an excellent big brother to his siblings.

‘Should I tell him now?’ Bella wondered if she should tell him about her pregnancy. She took his hand and squeezed it gently.

However, before she could tell him, her promise to Tristan that they would share the good news with Dax flashed in her mind. She sighed deeply while thinking.

“Mommy?” Dax was worried when he looked into his mother’s red eyes. It seemed like she was about to cry. “What happened? Why are you crying?”

Realizing she was on the verge of tears, Bella quickly turned her gaze away, hiding her blurry eyes. After a few more seconds, she looked at him again.

“Baby, Mom is fine...” Bella felt terrible for making her son worry like this. “Alright, let’s wake Daddy up. We have something to tell you.”

Bella decided to share her pregnancy news with her son today because she couldn’t keep this good news a secret.

When they entered the bedroom, Tristan was still fast asleep.

“Huh!? Dad’s still sleeping?” Dax was surprised. He approached the bed and sat at the edge of it.

“Your daddy worked until dawn, so Mom let him sleep more. You can wake him now,” Bella said, opening the window curtains and the veranda door to let in the fresh air.

“Good morning, Daddy...”

Bella turned to see the bed when she heard Tristan finally awake. Her heart felt warm as she saw Tristan cuddle their son.

“Good morning, buddy...” Tristan greeted him while pulling him into his arms, causing little Dax to giggle and ask him to stop.

Tristan chuckled. He finally stopped holding his son in his arms and glanced at Bella, sitting at the edge of the bed.

“Good morning, beautiful. Why didn’t you wake me up?” He asked while smiling at her.

“Good morning. I let you rest more,” Bella said, narrowing her eyes at him. “Can you please stop working until morning? Your health is more important than your company.”

Bella couldn’t resist scolding Tristan because she was too worried about his health. He works too hard leading his business empire but always forgets to rest.

“Yes, Daddy, please take care of your health,” Little Dax suddenly chimed in, looking worried as he addressed his father, “Please don’t make my mommy angry or even cry like this morning.”

Bella was taken aback by her son’s honesty. ‘Geez! Can you not say that, baby? Daddy will worry...’

Tristan was stunned. He immediately sat up, looking at Bella with concern.

“Cry? Why did your mommy cry?” Tristan asked, clearly worried. He looked at Bella, “Darling, are you not feeling well?” he asked. He started to worry if her pregnancy was making her uncomfortable.

“No, I feel better. But I was too emotional thinking about sharing the good news with our son,” Bella replied. She tried to signal Tristan to tell Dax about her pregnancy.

Tristan frowned slightly upon hearing her words. Confused.

“What good news, Mom? Dad?” Dax was curious. He sat up between his parents, looking at them anxiously.

“Mom and Daddy will tell you the good news we wanted to share with you...” Bella smiled, looking at Tristan, who seemed still confused.

Tristan’s eyebrow slightly raised as if he wanted to ask her with his gaze, “Seriously? You want to tell him now?”

Bella smiled at him and nodded.

Tristan looked at their son. He held Dax’s shoulder with one hand, “Buddy, congratulations, you will become a big brother...”

“Big brother?” Dax’s eyes were wide open, surprised by the news, “Really? Mom, Dad, really?” he asked, feeling unreal with the news.

“Yes, baby...” Bella felt warm in her heart, looking at her son’s beaming eyes. She continued, “And you will have not only one sibling but two...”

“What? I will have two brothers, sisters...?” Dax’s mouth gaped, stunned.

“Hmm...” Bella nodded, “But we do not yet know the gender. We will wait a few more weeks,” she explained.

Dax opened his mouth, but no words left his lips; he was too emotional to know he would soon become a big brother.

“Are you happy, buddy?” Tristan asked.

“Yes...yes...I’m so happy,” Dax said, nodding.

Tristan smiled while embracing Bella and Dax. He was so happy to finally tell their son about it.

“Baby... Mom and Dad feel so happy, too. That’s why we can’t wait any longer to share with you,” Bella said. “But, please keep this to yourself. We need a few more weeks before telling everyone.”

“Not even Granny and Gramps?” Dax asked, confused.

“Yes. We’ll wait for a few more weeks. Alright?”

“Hmm, understood.”

The three hugged for a while before Noora finally came to call them for breakfast.

Come back and read more tomorrow, everyone!