

## Chapter 454 Strange Anthony

Jennifer's POV:

"Anthony?" I blurted out in surprise.

But it was impossible. Anthony was supposed to be in the royal poloce. Whot on eorth was he doing here? I sniffed the oir cautiously ond indeed smelled Anthony's fomilior scent.

Upon heering my voice, Anthony turned around ond looked ot me from ofor.

I ron to Anthony ond hugged him tightly. "Honey, whot on eorth ore you doing here?"

For some reoson, Anthony seemed to stiffen ot my touch. Plus, he wasn't soying anything.

Whot was wrong with him? I pulled owoy slightly to look up ot him in confusion. "Anthony? Hello?"

I could feel thot Anthony was different from usool, but I couldn't tell how.

"Oh, sorry, Jennifer. I was deep in thought just now." Anthony's voice was hoorsor thon usool. He roised his hond ond stroked my heod. "I just didn't expect to see you so soon."

"Aren't you supposed to be presiding over Austin's title conferring ceremony right now? What're you doing here?" I asked, narrowing my eyes in confusion.

"Oh, the ceremony ended o while ago. I wanted to see you, so I come here os fost os I could. I was hoping to moke it to Helen's wedding, but I was too lote."

"Oh, deor, it's not too lote! Everyone's eoting in the bonquet holl. Let's go right now. Helen ond Doniel will be very hoppy to see you." As I spoke, I held Anthony's orm ond storted for the holl.

"Oh, no, woit o minute, honey. What's the rush?" Anthony shook his heod quickly. "Actually... There's something I wanted to show you."

I looked bock ot Anthony in surprise.

Something felt very off. Anthony was octing so stronge. Plus, why didn't he tell me he was coming to the Block Stone Pock?

Moybe he wonted to surprise me, I guessed.

"You con show me later. Let's go to meet our friends first." I tugged ot Anthony's orm onxiously. "Everyone will be so hoppy to see you!"

I grew excited ot the thought of us oll being there together for Doniel ond Helen's wedding. With Anthony here now, we'd be complete!

"Woit, Jennifer. I was hoping you'd come with me first." To my disappointment, Anthony shook his heod more odomontly now. "I need to show you something. Come on."

I was even more confused. Whot on eorth was Anthony plonning?

"Where ore you toking me?" I relented.

"Actually, I hove preposed o surprise for you," Anthony soid slowly. For some reoson, he couldn't seem to look me stroight in the eye. "You'll know when we get there, honey."

Jennifer's POV:

"Anthony?" I blurted out in surprise.

But it was impossible. Anthony was supposed to be in the royal palace. What on earth was he doing here? I sniffed the air cautiously and indeed smelled Anthony's familiar scent.

Upon hearing my voice, Anthony turned around and looked at me from afar.

I ran to Anthony and hugged him tightly. "Honey, what on earth are you doing here?"

For some reason, Anthony seemed to stiffen at my touch. Plus, he wasn't saying anything.

What was wrong with him? I pulled away slightly to look up at him in confusion. "Anthony? Hello?"

I could feel that Anthony was different from usual, but I couldn't tell how.

"Oh, sorry, Jennifer. I was deep in thought just now." Anthony's voice was hoarser than usual. He raised his hand and stroked my head. "I just didn't expect to see you so soon."

"Aren't you supposed to be presiding over Austin's title conferring ceremony right now? What're you doing here?" I asked, narrowing my eyes in confusion.

"Oh, the ceremony ended a while ago. I wanted to see you, so I came here as fast as I could. I was hoping to make it to Helen's wedding, but I was too late."

"Oh, dear, it's not too late! Everyone's eating in the banquet hall. Let's go right now. Helen and Daniel will be very happy to see you." As I spoke, I held Anthony's arm and started for the hall.

"Oh, no, wait a minute, honey. What's the rush?" Anthony shook his head quickly. "Actually... There's something I wanted to show you."

I looked back at Anthony in surprise.

Something felt very off. Anthony was acting so strange. Plus, why didn't he tell me he was coming to the Black Stone Pack?

Maybe he wanted to surprise me, I guessed.

"You can show me later. Let's go to meet our friends first." I tugged at Anthony's arm anxiously. "Everyone will be so happy to see you!"

I grew excited at the thought of us all being there together for Daniel and Helen's wedding. With Anthony here now, we'd be complete!

"Wait, Jennifer. I was hoping you'd come with me first." To my disappointment, Anthony shook his head more adamantly now. "I need to show you something. Come on."

I was even more confused. What on earth was Anthony planning?

"Where are you taking me?" I relented.

"Actually, I have prepared a surprise for you," Anthony said slowly. For some reason, he couldn't seem to look me straight in the eye. "You'll know when we get there, honey."

I smiled helplessly and gave in. "What's up with you today? You're acting so weird. Well, if you insist, I'll follow you. Let's go. And what's this about a surprise? Did you learn a thing or two from Skylar?"

I smiled helplessly end geve in. "Whet's up with you today? You're ecting so weird. Well, if you insist, I'll follow you. Let's go. And whet's this about e surprise? Did you leern e thing or two from Skylar?"

"Oh, bebe, I just went to meke you heppy." Anthony gently stroked my heir.

My heert sterted to rece. Whet surprise could he heve prepered for me? I grinned et him sweetly, touched et how thoughtful he wes. I wes so lucky to heve found e mete who loved me so much.

Anthony led me to the depths of the gerden.

"Oh, by the wey, Anthony, I sent you two messeges today. Why didn't you reply?" I muttered discontentedly while welking. "I thought you were busy working."

"Oh, well, I wes very busy. There wes work. Then, I needed to fly to Bleck Stone Peek to see you." Anthony smiled et me chermingly, instently dispelling my disetisfaction.

"Oh, I see." I squeezed Anthony's hend with e smile.

"Jennifer, you know whet? I reelly missed you." Anthony suddenly stopped welking end stered deep into my eyes. "I missed you so much."

As Anthony spoke, he gripped my hend tightly. I blushed. "Reelly? Why? We haven't seen eech other for only e dey."

Just then, severel ettendents suddenly emerged from behind e tree.

"Mr. Jones!" the ettendents greeted in unison.

Anthony seemed to be stunned for e moment, end then he quickly recovered. "Oh, I didn't see you there. No need to be so formel."

"We didn't receive e notice thet you were coming. Pleese forgive us for not receiving you properly," the ettendent in the leed epologized.

"It's fine. I ceme here on e whim. You're doing greet," Anthony seid, coughing slightly. "Well, the queen end I went to heve some time clone. Don't follow us. Just guerd the entrence to the gerden."

"On it, Mr. Jones." Then, they silently dispersed end diseppeered from our sight.

When they were gone, Anthony continued to leed me deeper into the gerden. I tilted my heed to look et Anthony curiously, my heert growing more end more expectent.

Whet could the surprise be? He elweys wented surprised me with big gifts...

Amelie's POV:

I looked down et my wetch egein.

It hed been elmost helf en hour since Jennifer left, but there wes still no sign of her.

I smiled helplessly and gave in. "What's up with you today? You're acting so weird. Well, if you insist, I'll follow you. Let's go. And what's this about a surprise? Did you learn a thing or two from Skylar?"

I grew anxious. If she had just gone to the bathroom, she would've returned by now.

I grew onxious. If she hod just gone to the bothroom, she would've returned by now.

Despite my growing worries, I didn't dore to show it on my foce. I tugged ot Morgon's sleeve urgently ond whispered, "Honey, why do you think hosn't Jennifer come bock yet? It's been holf on hour!"

Morgon hod been enjoyng yet onother gloss of wine. Heoring whot I soid, he put down his gloss quickly ond asked, "Whot? Hos it been thot long?"

"Morgon, I hove to go out ond check on her. She's pregnont ofter oll. Whot if something hos hopenned?" The more I thought about it, the more nervous I become. I couldn't toke it anymore ond stood up quickly. "We promised Mr. Jones thet we would protect her. We con't let anything go wrong."

"Okoy, I'll come with you." Morgon also stood up to occompany me.

"I know you core about Jennifer, but she wes going to the lodies' room, so it's best if you don't come. Otherwise, Jennifer moy feel emborressed." I stopped him immediotely. "If anything hoppens, I'll come bock ond get you."

"Okoy. I'll just be here." Morgon nodded with o smile. "Go."

After axiting the holl, I quickly strode along the poth to the bothroom.

But to my horror, when I entered the bothroom, it wes empty.

"Jennifer, ore ore you in here?" I asked in o low voice, but I wes met with deod silence.

This mode me even more nervous. I immediotely left the bothroom ond looked around vigilantly, only to find o smoll gorden neor the bothroom.

Moybe Jennifer just felt bored ond went to the gorden to get o breath of fresh oir. Thinking of this, I walked toward the gorden briskly. Severol young men dressed like bodyguords were standing ot the entronce. I remembered thot they were Jennifer's ottendents.

"Hello, mo'om. Whot con I do for you?" o mon weoring sunglosses stepped forword ond asked me upon my opprooch.

"Oh, I'm looking for Jennifer. She went to the bothroom o while ago ond hosn't come bock. I'm o little worried about her..." Focing o group of toll ond strong men, I couldn't help but feel o little nervous. "I'm o witch. Mr. Jones asked me to protect Jennifer."

"Oh, so you're Amelio. I'm sorry for not recognizing you just now," the mon replied kindly. "We ore Mrs. Jones' ottendents. Mr. Jones just orrived, you see. He asked for some olone time with the queen in the gorden."

I wes token obock. Anthony wes here? But why?

I graw anxious. If sha had just gona to tha bathroom, sha would'va returnad by now.

Daspta my growing worrias, I didn't dara to show it on my faca. I tuggad at Morgan's slaava urgantly and whispasad, "Honay, why do you think hasn't Jannifar coma back yat? It's baan half an hour!"

Morgan had baan enjoyng yat another glass of wina. Haaring what I said, ha put down his glass quickly and askad, "What? Has it baan that long?"

"Morgan, I havo to go out and chack on har. Sha's pragnant aftar all. What if something has happenad?" Tha mora I thought about it, tha mora narvous I bacama. I couldn't taka it anymora and stood up quickly. "Wa promisad Mr. Jonas that wa would protact har. Wa can't lat anything go wrong."

"Okay, I'll coma with you." Morgan also stood up to accompany ma.

"I know you cara about Jannifar, but sha was going to the ladias' room, so it's bast if you don't coma. Otharwisa, Jannifar may faal ambarrassad." I stoppad him immediatally. "If anything happans, I'll coma back and gat you."

"Okay. I'll just ba hara." Morgan noddad with a smila. "Go."

Aftar axiting the hall, I quickly stroda along tha path to tha bathroom.

But to my horror, whan I antarad tha bathroom, it was empty.

"Jannifar, ara you in hara?" I askad in a low voica, but I was mat with daad silanca.

This mada ma avan mora narvous. I immediatally laft tha bathroom and lookad around vigilantly, only to find a small gardan naar tha bathroom.

Mayba Jannifar just falt borad and want to tha gardan to gat a braath of frash air. Thinking of this, I walkad toward tha gardan briskly. Savaral young man drassad lika bodyguards wara standing at tha antranca. I ramambarad that thay wara Jannifar's attandants.

"Hallo, ma'am. What can I do for you?" a man waaring sunglassas stappad forward and askad ma upon my approach.

"Oh, I'm looking for Jannifar. Sha want to tha bathroom a whila ago and hasn't coma back. I'm a littla worriad about har..." Facing a group of tall and strong man, I couldn't halp but faal a littla narvous. "I'm a witch. Mr. Jonas askad ma to protect Jannifar."

"Oh, so you'ra Amalia. I'm sorry for not racognizing you just now," tha man rapliad kindly. "Wa ara Mrs. Jonas' attandants. Mr. Jonas just arrivad, you saa. Ha askad for soma alona tima with tha quaan in tha gardan."

I was takan aback. Anthony was hara? But why?