

Royal Contract 1001

Chapter 1001: Adult relationships

She woke up in the middle of the night covered in sweats, breathing heavily, and with her heart that was beating wildly inside her chest. She turned around in her bed, appearing to be looking for something.

But she was alone as she expected. It was just a dream, nothing more, as she breathed a sigh of relief, wiping her forehead from the beads of sweat that broke through her skin.

“Just a dream.” She repeated to herself, assuring herself that there was no one else in the room and had nothing to be anxious about as she slid out of bed and grabbed her robe.

She needed water as she felt her dry throat and parched lips. She strode outside her room and went straight to her tiny kitchen. She felt her heart had considerably calmed down but returning to sleep would probably be a struggle.

After drinking water, she refilled her glass and took it with her as she sat on her couch, ready to watch a movie. But before she could feel comfortable in her position, she heard a mild knock on the door.

Suddenly, her heart beat faster again, and her body trembled, recalling her dream. It was not easy to get over a traumatic experience, especially when it happened to her more than once or several times.

“Serena?” A low voice, just louder than a whisper, followed by another gentle knock on her wooden door.

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But hearing a familiar voice had her expelling the breath she held in her lungs. She was not in danger as she moved to the door to check what her late visitor needed.

When she opened the door, the man was already moving away, returning to the door he came from, the apartment opposite her. He probably assumed that she was asleep and did not want to be a bother.

“Adam!” She called him before he could unlock his door. Then, he immediately turned to her with what seemed to be worry lines on his face. “Did you need something?” She asked, slightly curious why he knocked on her door at the ungodly hour.

She could not tell what it was, but it might be somewhere between midnight and dawn. She never bothered to look at the time since she did not need to be anywhere.

It was like she was on vacation since no one was demanding her time. In a way, it was better than being on leave from work since no one bothered to call her except for Adam and Nora. Of course, minus the room service and the first-class amenities.

“Actually...” He appeared to hesitate about his purpose but decided to continue anyway. “I was wondering if you are ok.” He stepped forward until he was just a few feet away from her. His eyes seemed to be studying her, reading her thoughts.

“What do you mean? Why would I not be ok?” She felt mildly alarmed by his sudden concern. Did something happen that she did not know about while she was sleeping? “Did Nora call you about the pictures?” She anxiously asked.

Different scenarios immediately rushed into her mind as her dreams mixed with the present. Trauma had messed her up, making her more or less paranoid about the things happening around her.

“No. I was just wondering, but Nora had not called yet.” Adam quickly clarified, not wanting her to worry more, judging from the frown on her face. “But I heard a scream a little while ago and wondered if it came from your room. So, I decided to investigate.”

He swore he believed it was her who made the noise that woke him up. But he was not entirely sure. But he could not return to sleep without checking on her.

When she did not answer his call earlier, he immediately assumed it was just his imagination playing tricks on him. Or he must have woken due to a dream. And it had nothing to do with him. Still, he had to make sure.

“Did I scream?” Serena was both asking him and herself the question. She had no idea since she had never heard herself make a sound. All she remembered when she woke up was her fear.

But maybe she did. She was just not aware of it. With their paper-thin walls, she had no doubt even her other neighbors might have heard it but did not bother to be nosy about it.

“Did you have a bad dream?” He could not help but wonder since it seemed she had no idea. “Do you mind if we discuss this inside?” He did not want their neighbors to see them lurking in the hallway at this time.

But he wanted to know if she would be alright before leaving her again. He knew he swore not to explore his attraction with her because she was a client, but it did not mean he could not be a good friend to her. At this point in her life, he believed she needed a person she could trust.

“Are you sure I am not bothering you? I know you still have a job tomorrow.” She did not mind the company since she did not need to wake up early. Besides, sleep seemed to evade her at the moment.

However, she knew he always left early for his work to attend to his cases. She was not his only client. Although she believed she might be his topmost account at that moment, he still treated them equally.

She observed he classified his case depending on its merit and not its cash value. He chose whichever needed his time would be his utmost priority, something she had not seen in the large firm that handled her other cases.

“It is ok. Let us settle one thing straight. I am not just here as a lawyer, but I can also be your friend.” He wanted that out of the way, hoping to settle the uncomfortable feeling he sensed between them. “Let me help.” Sensing that she was still reluctant to accept his help.

After all, he believed they were two adults, mature enough to handle adult relationships like friendship without putting malice in it.

Chapter 1002: All in the name of success

He knew he had been avoiding her since that night. He had no idea that she had a son. It came as a shock to him. Therefore, he reacted shamefully that night when placed in that very awkward situation.

He had never dated a woman with a child before. At least, none that he was aware of, but he never actually tried to get to know most of the women he went out with in the past.

He would not characterize himself as a Casanova. He was not like his friend, Ryan, who changed his woman like he changed his clothes. But honestly, he never found the girl that made him interested enough to take the next step.

“Good morning, Zach.” The security at the front of the building immediately greeted him as he strode into the front step. Somehow, he had managed to bond with the ordinary employees of this company, even the low-ranking ones using this temporary persona.

He would never have even looked them in the eye or bothered to learn their names if he had continued to work in this establishment as the son of the almighty Senator.

“Good morning, Jeremy. How is your girl?” He greeted the man with a bit of concern. He learned that his daughter was sick and wondered if she was feeling better today.

He stopped to talk to him for a few more minutes since it was still early. He still had a little more time to spare for a small chat. He found it refreshing to live his life differently from what he had done since he existed in this world.

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“She is a lot better. Hopefully, it is just the flu.” The man answered him with a relieved smile.

A year ago, or maybe even a month ago, he might not even care about his daughter or this man. Yes! He had dealt with people beneath them, but only because it was required.

That was the difference from then to today since he had a genuine interest in learning more about the man and his child. Maybe he was changing, but it did not mean he was ready for a child.

“I am glad to hear that.” He finally said goodbye, told the man to tell him if he needed any help, and then he was on his way to his post.

Suddenly, his thoughts returned to that night, remembering seeing her child. Truthfully, he had never felt this attraction to a woman like the way he felt for her. But he would never want to mess with a single mother.

He had always sensed that she might feel the same way as him. But compared to him, she had more restraint, except that night, she had too much to drink.

Then, all her inhibitions went out the window, exposing her true feelings for him. However, should he act on his discovery and take advantage of her?

“Damnit!” Zach swore inside the elevator but quickly excused himself, realizing that he had spoken loudly in a crowd of people.

Yes! He silently answered a question in his mind. He liked her but was he ready to take a chance with her, knowing that he was not only playing with her life but also her child?

He tried to analyze his situation last night when he could not sleep. He knew he had to face her today and had to go on a trip with her. The last thing he needed was for them to work together with this barrier between them.

He knew he had to fix it, meaning he had to decide what to do with her. Should he continue with this path? He doubted, thinking of the consequences of trying to date a mother with a child.

He knew he was not ready for such a commitment. The last thing he needed was baggage that would pull him down and weigh on his shoulders when his relationship with this woman was over.

"Hey, Sir Alex is looking for you." Alona snapped him out of his reverie as he stepped into his tiny temporary office. "Better fix that face because he had no time for your nonsense."

Alona warned him, probably seeing the conflict on his face at such an early hour. He guessed he had to stop thinking about her and concentrate on his work.

Besides, he believed he had already made a decision. He would not let his silly attraction make the best of him. He supposed that if he ignored his feelings, they would eventually go away, just like how he had easily forgotten the girls in his past.

"Ok. I am on my way." He told her as he walked past her and into the lion's den. To him, his boss was the King of this jungle.

He had learned to genuinely respect him through the time that he had worked for him. He believed that compared to his father, he was a better man because of his achievement and what he continued to do with his life.

If he wanted to be a better man than he was now, he wished to be like him. But he believed he was still a long way from doing that. He still had a lot to change about himself and tons to learn.

"Sir Alex, Alona told me you were looking for me." Zach walked through his door and waited till he gestured for him to proceed.

It was a big difference from the first time he had barged in into this office. Now, he knew that respect should be earned, not handed down. Here sat before him was a prince, almost a king, but he had never asked anyone to bow down to him.

He treated everyone like they were his equals, giving everybody a chance to prove their worth, even him. Now, he was giving him another chance to prove himself. He knew he could not let him down.

"Sit down. I want to discuss with you the plan for the closing negotiation. But let us wait for Ria since she will work closely with you on this project." Alex informed him.

He had expected that since Alona had already informed him about it. Of course, he could not deny Ria her opportunity to prove herself in this situation. After all, she also worked hard, maybe more than him.

He could set aside whatever happened between them and act like it never happened. He was sure that Ria would agree that they could act civilly and professionally, all in the name of success.

Chapter 1003: Family first over everything else

His body slumped on the chair as he waited for any news. He was exhausted, but rest was out of the question. He could not relax or take a breather until he heard any updates on his fiancée's condition.

He could see other families waiting with him in the room, with worried looks covering their faces. Just like him, they still had no news of the fate of their loved ones at the hands of the doctors operating and treating their care.

"How are you holding up?" A voice suddenly becoming familiar to him spoke, making him aware of her presence. "I think you should go home, David, and get some good sleep." A woman in a white coat appeared in front of him.

Admit it or not, his body was shutting down even without his permission. His brain seemed to fail as he lost most of his body's function. His lack of sleep must have dulled his senses.

He had been running on adrenaline since yesterday as he prepared for their dinner date. Now, he believed he had exhausted all the remaining energy in his body, worrying about his fiancée's condition.

"I am ok, Roseann. I don't need to leave. I can't be away from her." David firmly answered as he forced his body to straighten up in his chair and face her. "Have you heard anything yet?" He asked his future sister-in-law.

One thing he noticed was her uniform. He still felt awkward after he assumed that Rosella's sister was a nurse. It was clear he did not know anything about her family.

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But now, he was enlightened when she introduced herself when they met at the lobby earlier. Nevertheless, he hoped her knowledge could help her sister in her situation. Because he knew that Rosella would need all the help she could get.

"I know you worry about my sister, but you will not be any help with your condition. You need to eat at least." She pushed a paper bag and placed it on an empty chair beside him.

"I am not hungry..." But he stopped when he saw a disapproving look on her face.

"A sandwich is in there, and here is a coffee." She insisted, taking one from the holder and setting it beside the bag while she took the other coffee and sipped on the hot cup.

He had forgotten about eating, suddenly remembering that he did not have dinner since his fiancée never showed up. Then, his stomach growled, reminding him that he needed sustenance.

"Thanks." He appreciated what she was doing, but that was not exactly what he needed. He was still waiting for her answer to his previous question. "But how..." He could not even finish his sentence, much more thinking of eating at a time like this.

"She is still in surgery." Roseann finally answered his unfinished question. "She has internal injuries that the surgeons need to fix. So they can stabilize her." She tried to talk to him using uncomplicated words, not wanting to confuse him with the intricate terms.

He did not want to hear those words coming from her. Of course, he understood it clearly. Roseann avoided saying that her sister was still in critical condition and there was still an enormous chance that she would die.

He believed doctors were not much different from lawyers. They were experts in their fields, but when faced with a difficult situation, they would not say outright to their clients, in this case, their patients, that they had lost the case unless they had explored all other possibilities.

But he was not giving up yet on her. Therefore, Rosella could not give up too. She had to keep fighting for him and their love. He needed her in his life. He believed life without her was no life.

"Is she going to be ok?" It was the last question he wanted to ask her, but he needed the answer. "Will she live?" His heart felt like it stopped beating as he anticipated the worse.

He wanted to be more optimistic, like this woman standing before him, but it was hard when he had not seen the woman he loved since she arrived in this hospital. It was not looking promising.

"My sister is still fighting to live. We should be thankful for that for now." Roseann took the next available seat and looked at him. "I think she would want us to fight with her."

She grabbed the sandwich, sitting on the chair between them, and unwrapped it. "I have not eaten anything yet. Do you mind if we split the sandwich?" She cut it in half and offered the other half to him.

He could see the persistence in her eyes. She was not taking no. Therefore, he finally took the other piece. Besides, he acknowledged that she was correct. Rosella would want him to fight with her. He could not do that with an empty stomach and a weak body.

He watched Roseann munch on her sandwich without caring about how big her bite was or if someone else was looking. She ate as if her life depended on it.

Rosella was a bit refined compared to her. Then, most women in his life would barely open their mouths when they ate. Either they were watching what they ate, or they barely ate at all.

It was a welcome sight to see women who eat like men. Ok, yeah! It is fun to see a woman who ate like a pig. Not that she was sloppy. It was just that she ate with so much gusto. It was contagious as he took a large chunk of his sandwich into his mouth.

"Thanks again for this." He mumbled after swallowing another bite. He would not have eaten anything if not for her encouragement. He knew he needed it but did not have the appetite earlier.

"That is ok. I think we both needed it." She told him with a lame smile on her lips, but her eyes registered defeat before she bounced back on her feet.

Finally, he saw that she was only trying to be strong, but she was as human as him. She might have dealt with a few patients in critical condition and some who probably died, making her immune to this. But not when it was her sister, whom she loved very much.

"You have to excuse me for my lack of manners." She said, wiping the excess cream on the sides of her lips with her fingers and probably referring to how she ate.

But he got what she meant. Thinking of what other people thought of her must be the last thing on her mind. She must be on her feet most of the time, ready to care for the next person needing medical attention.

As he said, doctors and lawyers were not so much different. Because what they both did could mean life and death for the other person. "I don't mind. I think I am a slob too. I don't know how your sister had put up with me."

Suddenly, he could remember several instances of the two of them together. Those were fun times and moments he never wanted to forget. But he believed it was not enough. They should still have a lifetime to build more memories.

"I think you are a good man. That is what she sees in you." Roseann tapped him on the shoulder as she stood before him. "Let us keep our hopes high and pray for her successful operation and recovery."

Was she saying that only a miracle could save her? He was never a believer in anything that he could not see. He had never learned to pray since he did not grow up with a religious faith.

"But I have to leave for a while. I need to make my rounds." She excused herself, leaving him in the meantime. She promised to return as soon as she could with more information.

He learned that she was still a resident in this hospital. She did not believe she had the luxury to slack on her responsibilities even though her bosses told her to take it slow because of her sister.

Besides, she did not want her sister's sacrifices of sending her to a reputable school to go to waste. She had to prove to her sister that she did her best. Rosella had every reason to be proud of her.

"She had always been proud of you." He mumbled but doubted she heard him since she sprinted away from him, seeing that she might be late for her next duty.

Rosella was happy with her family. She always talked about them. But since he did not have the same experience growing up, he could not relate to her. He would listen to her jabber incessantly about them with only half an ear.

Now, he realized his mistake. "I understand now." He spoke to her as if she could hear him wherever she was. She had loved her family, devoting her life to them. All she asked from him was to learn to value his.

She was afraid that from all the things they had overcome in their relationship, he would fail to become a family man. He was a fair man, a great provider, and a splendid lover, but would he become a good husband and a father?

He discovered he could be the best in everything as a single man. But he had to learn to prioritize family first over everything else if he ever had any plan to build one.

But was he too late as his mind thought of her once again?

Chapter 1004: Staying for good or leaving permanently

She was early that morning, having woken up early by his grumpy little angel. It seemed he was also in a foul mood, imitating what she might be feeling.

But she managed to leave early since Edison, after a few minutes of cuddling, settled down and cooperated without making a further fuss. A while later, she stood in the lobby of the company she worked for, debating her possible life choices.

“What are you doing there?” Someone at her back startled her from her momentary trance.

She turned around and found her boss standing behind her, probably looking at what she had been staring at since she arrived, the company name plastered on the wall.

“Nothing. I think I forgot something. I am trying to recall it but can’t.” She knew it was a lame excuse, but that was what she came up with at short notice. She could not tell her boss she was having doubts about continuing to work for the company. Not until she was sure of her decision. She believed that once she had decided, there was no turning back.

Therefore, she had to be confident about it because it was not just her life she was thinking about but his son too. Whatever she decided now would curve the path of their future.

“I am also just like that.” Brenda agreed, appearing to accept her explanation. “Come on. I don’t want to be late.” Her boss held her arms and dragged her to the closing elevator.

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It was almost out of space, but her boss squeezed them inside. All they needed was the sauce to look like a can of sardines. Luckily, no one had those suffocating perfumes on them. Or else, this would be a long ride up to the top floor.

“Oh! Good, you are now both here.” Her other boss greeted them with a relieved smile.

It appeared like Josey had been waiting for them. She had arrived a few minutes early, but she seemed to spend most of it staring at that wall. Luckily, Brenda found her, or she might still be there, lost in her private world.

“Do you need us?” Brenda quickly moved toward their superior’s office while she waited behind outside for her turn.

“Yes, I need you to follow up on our situation with one of the clients.” Their boss pointed to Brenda, who moved along to deal with her assignment. She could hear them by the door since they never bothered to close it.

Josey did not seem mad since they were not exactly late, but they were usually earlier than their appointed time. But she wondered why she was waiting for her. If it was about the project, she still had no definite answer about her plan.

“Ria, Can we talk? Just briefly before I sent you to Alex.” Josey used her calm tone as if she was talking to her child, ushering her into her empty office.

“Sure.” She told her, slightly anxious about the topic. “What is it?” But she could already guess that it could only have something to do with her assignment.

"Brenda told me about your dilemma. Balancing work and your child." Josey's eyes were kind. As if she truly understood what she was going through. "I will admit that it will not be an easy task." She offered her a seat in the privacy of her office.

"I love working here, but I also love my son. Sometimes, I feel guilty that I am always away from him." She had no idea if confessing about her situation to her boss would be detrimental to her career, but she never liked to lie.

"I will not decide for you, but here is what I think. You are, by far, one of the best interns I have had for a long time. It will be a waste of your talent and energy if you will quit while you are ahead." Josey stood up from her chair and leaned on the edge of her desk before her.

"I will be frank with you. We are seriously considering hiring you permanently for the job. But I will require dedication and hard work." Her boss more or less told her that she had the job.

Now, she was more confused than ever if she should quit now or stay. "Are you saying that I have the job?" She still could not believe it. It felt surreal. "That I am working here regularly with full benefits." She could not think of anything else to say.

"Yes, all benefits. I know it will be less time with your son, but Alex always has a soft spot for mothers, so he has established the daycare center for employees on the second floor." Josey informed her.

"What do you mean?" She asked, not understanding what that had to do with her.

"It means you will also have access to the daycare facility for your son. You can bring your son to work if you have no nanny to care for him at home. But he had to stay at the center, but you can visit him during breaks." Josey moved back to her table and pulled out an envelope.

She still felt speechless after hearing about the other benefits she would receive if she accepted the job they offered her. But that would mean Zach would be out of the job since they were competing in the same position.

"Here are the papers if you want the position. Just fill it up and give it back to me once you decide." Josey handed her the envelope. "I will need your decision by the end of your trip. I hope you will make the right decision for you and your son."

"But I still hope you will not let this opportunity slide because it might not come again." Josey stood up from her chair and extended her hand. "Congratulations on a job well done."

She knew she only did great at this job because she had a great boss that guided her. Then, there was Zach. Admittedly, he had been a big help too. But most of all, her son, who had been her inspiration.

Therefore, she felt she had a few things to consider before making her final decision. First, what would be best for Edison and her? Second, what about Zach? He also worked hard to get this job. Was it fair to take it from him? Third, no. She stopped herself.

Why was she even thinking about him? So what if he would not be working here anymore if she accepted the job? It was not as if her world revolved around him. That she could not function if she would not see him anymore. That was just insane, shoving the idea out of her mind.

“Thank you. I promise I will think about this thoroughly and consider all your advice.” Ria returned her attention to her boss. She still could not believe it as she shook her boss’s hands.

“Now, enjoy your trip and treat it as a paid vacation,” Josey said, wishing her luck.

It was like going on a vacation, as Alona and Brenda had explained to her. She would only be meeting with the clients for a couple of hours in a day or two then the rest would be for them to waste on their whim.

It was like a dream, but the consequence was being away from her son. But everybody kept saying that she deserved it. Even Lourdes and her family insisted that she go on the trip while they took care of Edison.

But why did she still feel guilty about it? Because that was not the only problem.

She would not be alone. She was going with her partner on this project. Would she be able to stand to be alone with him? Maybe she did not have to be. She could avoid him and only see him when they met with the clients.

“Now, off you go. Alex and Zach must already be waiting for you at his office. The big boss has a few pointers he wishes to discuss with you before you leave tomorrow.” Josey said in her authoritative voice, indicating that their soul-searching talk was over.

She appreciated all the people working in this company. Although she would not say they were all kind, still, most were. Her bosses, who might appear to have a hard exterior, definitely had a soft heart.

“Thanks again.” She immediately stood up and exited her office. Then, she prepared herself quickly to meet with the CEO and her partner in this project.

At least she still had three days to decide. It meant she had finally concluded that she was going on this trip. After all, she did not want to appear rude to the people who gave her this opportunity if she would just suddenly dropped everything.

She owed them to finish this negotiation before she decided if she was staying for good or leaving permanently.

Chapter 1005: No God

He had stared at the four corners of this room for far too long. He only left it to go to take a bathroom break. But other than that, he knew he could not leave until he heard some news.

After breakfast, Roseann had not returned to update him about her sister. No doctors also came to see him. He tried to ask a nurse, but she said. “The doctors are still working on your fiance, Mr. Anderson.” That was as far as she knew.

It meant it was worse than he thought. Who would endure such a lengthy operation? And how could she survive, remembering the condition of her wrecked car?

David wanted to see and talk to her. He believed if she heard his voice, it would encourage her to fight. She would know that she was not alone. But he could not even pass inside the sterile area as they blocked his path.

Now, he had no choice but to wait. He had seen people, probably family and friends of patients, come and go. But unlike them, he was alone. Although Roseann was here, he had no idea where she was. Maybe she was dealing with this in her way.

Roseann offered to call his family, but he did not want to bother them. Besides, the only person in his family who liked Rosella was Serena. But his sister was also dealing with her issues at that moment.

“Hey, kid!” He called the attention of one girl who had a lollipop in her mouth as she passed his side. “What is in that other room?” He asked when she stopped and looked at him, pointing to a door outside.

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He noticed the young girl just came from that place, right adjacent to the waiting room. He had been staring at that place since seeing many people go in. Then a while later, they came out looking somewhat different, more at peace.

“It is a chapel. I prayed that my Dad gets well soon.” The little girl with lovely braided hair and a cute smile told him. She looked so innocent and hopeful. “Mom said if I pray hard enough, God will heal my Dad, and he can go home soon.”

Then, the girl licked her lollipop and joined her family on the other side. Suddenly, he felt his feet move. He had seen Rosella pray a lot. Her family was religious. She even attempted to teach him a prayer, but he did not pay it much attention.

A minute later, he stood outside the door, looking at the closed door. “What am I doing?” He muttered in a whisper.

Unlike the other rooms with glass walls, this one had wooden panels, hiding the inside from passersby. He could not see anything from the outside.

He had attended weddings and other ceremonies in different churches and religious houses but had never entered a chapel. The only chapel he had seen in his life was the one in Las Vegas, where Elvis presided.

Another minute, he sat at the front pew, looking at the man nailed to the cross. He had no idea what religion meant, except people believed in something they could not see. They had faith in a God they had never heard speak to them.

He heard his fiancée pray several times for help when she faced a dilemma in her life or her family. Then she also thanked the man above for the blessings she had received.

“I...” But he stopped, suddenly hesitant. He looked at the thorn crowning on the head of this bleeding man. He could only wonder. Would this God listen if a man like him prayed?

Although he doubted, he still wished to try. Who was he to ask when he had not believed in a superior being? But he was not asking for himself. He was not doing it for his benefit.

“I have no idea how this works or what I am supposed to say, but I am here for Rosella. She believed in you even if I did not. Maybe she could not talk or even pray to you, but she needs you.” He spoke louder than a whisper, hoping someone would hear him.

"Please, please, please." He kept repeating in his mind. He did not even know what he was asking as he closed his eyes, and memories of her filled his mind.

He had no idea what he would do if he lost her. Would he ever survive life without her? He did not know, but he did not look forward to such a thought. He still wanted her to live, marry her, have kids with her, and be happy for a long time together.

"I hope you are listening, but Rosella is the most remarkable person I know. She does not deserve to die, not yet. Her family still needs her. Please, let her live." David had no idea if his prayer would work, but it was worth the try.

He would do anything for Rosella, even go down on his knees to her God. "I love her." He said in a voice full of anguish. "Please, don't take her away from me." This time, he was praying for a selfish reason.

He could not help himself. He knew he would not survive without the woman who had shown him how to live and love. Not after all they had gone through to get to this point in their almost-perfect lives.

She was the other half of his existence.

She was the air he breathed.

She made his heart beat again and again.

She always believed they were born to be together, soulmates.

Without her, he would surely die.

But as he had expected, there was no response from the man before him. He looked the same as he first saw him, and nothing changed. Should he dare hope that this man, this God, heard him?

Maybe that was what faith was all about, hoping and believing.

But was he ready to believe in God and put all his faith in him? Could he pray for a miracle despite the odds against them?

"There you are." Her voice floated in the air, making his heart flutter, somehow bringing him hope. If that was how miracle worked, it was fast.

He abruptly opened his eyes, expecting Rosella to stand by his side. He knew it was foolish, but he wanted to believe. Sadly, all expectations did not meet reality. It was not her.

"Roseann?" It was her sister, who stood patting him lightly on the back to catch his attention.

He did not realize until now that they had an almost similar voice, not until he heard it without looking at her. But the point was, it was not his fiancée who came to see him. The miracle had not yet happened.

"I am sorry. I did not mean to startle you and bother you while you pray." Roseann slightly backed away, moving a few steps backward. "But I have some news if you want to hear them."

When his eyes cleared from the cloud of closing them too tightly and his memories, he finally saw no one else was in the room. It was just him and his future sister-in-law.

“What is it?” He was suddenly quite aware of what was happening as fear gripped him. But she did not look like she had been crying or sad. Was that supposed to be a good sign? He could only hope.

She took the space beside him and sat down. She looked up at the man on the cross and made a sign on her body, symbolizing her faith in her God. She looked like she mumbled something silently. Then, she turned to him when she finished.

Truthfully, the suspense was killing him as he remained silent beside her, but if it meant it was good news, he did not mind. He could wait for as long as it took to thank her God. Maybe he also should thank him.

“She is out of surgery.” That was good. “But she is not yet out of the woods.” She continued with her seemingly enthusiastic smile.

“What does it means?” He was a lawyer, but in his understanding, she could still die.

“They manage to repair the major damage in her internal organs and stop all the bleeding, but any of those could still have some complications.”

Roseann explained to him the details of what the doctors did to her sister.

But no matter how complicated the words, or the procedures, he tried to listen and understand them. He wanted to know if there was something he could do to help.

He had money, success, intelligence, and power, but those seemed useless since he could not save her from this. What was the point? He was just a human being, just like the rest of them.

“She could still die.” It was the inevitable truth. She was alive now, but there was no certainty until when.

He suddenly looked up and realized he was not like the man before him. He was no God to save her from her fate, despite all his achievements in this world.

Chapter 1006: Point the finger at the real culprit

She was glad she met Adam when she needed a friend the most. Although she had made many friends in the industry, she doubted that any of them would come to her aid when the going got tough.

She could already see that her so-called friends would run in the other direction, disassociating themselves from her and her scandalous case. She still hoped that her situation would not reach that point.

“We still want this to stay out of the public’s eyes.” She heard Nora say as she tapped her on the shoulder. “Serena, are you listening?” She realized she was talking to her as she tried to catch her attention.

A few minutes earlier, her manager was busy talking on her phone, dealing with her other work. She did not mind since she knew that Nora also had other obligations to attend to, and besides, she was not just her talent.

Nora had numerous artists under her care. She could not expect her manager to ignore their needs so she could be her priority. That would not be fair to the other stars who also worked hard to get good jobs.

“Yes,” Serena quickly responded, but she did not understand the question. “I am sorry, but what again are we talking about?” She had been staring at the street outside with her mind floating in the wind that she did not hear a word Nora said.

They were on their way to meet with Adam and her ex-boyfriend to discuss the settlement. And she could not help but dread the moment of seeing him again.

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Since the last two encounters with Elliot, she had developed a fear she had never experienced before with him. In addition to that, she had been having nightmares lately. Thankfully, Adam came to comfort her, accompanying her until she fell asleep.

During their relationship, Elliot had never slapped or punched her, but he loved to shout and demean her privately. Then, he would humiliate her in front of the crowd with his insensitive sense of humor. Physically, he would grab her hard, but he never left a mark.

He only turned violent when she threatened to leave him. That was the point that she decided to go through with her plan. She knew then that there was no future in their toxic relationship.

“I said, do you still intend to keep this case away from the press.” Nora clarified since they were about to go on negotiation with her ex and his group of lawyers.

Although, she doubted that he would attend the meeting. She believed he would skip this meeting and let his experts handle this. He would not waste his time dealing with her, just like the last time.

She would prefer it that way, anyway. The less contact she had with him, the better she would feel. The sooner she could forget about this nightmare, the more favorable. Then, she could go on with her life.

“Of course, that is still what I want.” She quickly responded, concentrating on what her manager was discussing with her.

She believed that once this came out to the media, the masses would have hysteria and crucify her. Sadly, the network would side with their golden boy and protect him while she would become the sacrificial lamb, who would carry the blame.

Then, she could say goodbye to her career. She could expect her name in the list of the stars that had shone for a moment but quickly lost their glitter. Her name would have a permanent mark, and no one would want to hire her.

“But it is not a guarantee that this shit would not leak to the public,” Nora warned her since many things could happen. One source could be the end of their secret. With modern technology, one rumor could spread like wildfire, and nothing could extinguish it.

“I know the risk, but I still want to try. You know that I will not win with media on his side.” Serena was not delusional. She might be famous and had a great fan base, but that was because of her teaming up with him.

She would lose all her fans. The fans instantly would side with her leading man, thinking he was the victim, once this case reached the social media platforms.

Soon, they were sitting in the large conference room, waiting for the other team to join them. "Are you ok?" Adam asked as he sat beside her while on the other side, her manager.

He tapped her on the arm, assuring her that he would be there every step of the way. He had her back in this case. It was reassuring and somehow eased her worries.

Then, not a minute later, the opposing lawyers arrived, but there were only two this time. The other time they met with them, it was four compared to Adam, who was alone.

"We are sorry for making you wait, but we have a last-minute meeting with our client." The leading litigator said as he placed his folders on the table.

"Are we still negotiating the terms of the settlement?" Adam asked, not wanting to waste their time if they had changed their mind.

"Yes, we still intend to proceed with the talk, but first, there is one condition that our client wishes to express." The other lawyer spoke up, but he remained standing.

"What is the condition?" Adam asked while the two women waited anxiously for the answer.

"Our client wishes to talk to Ms. Anderson alone for a few minutes." The man announced in the room. "He is waiting in my office if you will agree." He addressed the last part to her.

She could feel cold sweats travel all over her body. Her heart seemed to tremble just thinking of being confined in the room with that man, with no one else around. Could she do it?

Suddenly, she wondered if her family was right about her making a mistake entering the entertainment business. His father said that she would regret it. Her brother said that he was afraid that she would only get hurt.

Was she wrong to hate them because they never wanted to support her chosen career? Or was it their fault that her life went downhill because they were never there for her?

But honestly, if she should blame someone for her misfortune, she could only point the finger at the real culprit, herself and no one else.

Chapter 1007: Save a life

"What if she did not agree with this request?" Adam asked, probably sensing her fear and hesitation.

She had been wondering about the same question too. But, of course, she already had an idea that it would not be beneficial for her to decline the request, but knowing her ex, it was more like a command.

"Then, we have instruction from our client to decline all your settlement offers and to take this to court." The man pushed a folder in their direction, which Adam took and scanned the content.

"Could you give me time to confer this with my client?" Adam informed the other party as he closed the file in his hands.

She could not read what was going through his mind as he stared at his opponent, but the smug face on the other side told her it was not good. Knowing the man she used to live with, he had something brewing up his sleeves.

"Of course, take a few minutes. But my client had other meetings to attend today, so he would like to know the answer soon." The lawyer from the other side took his other folders with him and stood up.

She could not tell if that was just an act to intimidate them, but one thing she was sure about her ex-lover, he did not know how to play fair. She had to be careful with dealing with him.

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She did remember a few instances in which she witnessed how he destroyed the career of a young actor who dared to flirt with her. Although, when she confronted him about it, he denied it.

He said that the actor was not good enough to play the part, and the next thing she heard, he also lost his other offers. Until now, she wondered if it was because of her.

"I don't like the idea of you talking to him alone in that room." Adam adamantly said. "But if you don't abide by his wishes, he will pursue a public trial."

It was what she feared. A public trial would destroy her. "What about agreeing with this request? Would it be better?" She asked her lawyer and her manager.

"You know a trial would mean a media circus. I don't know what he wanted to tell you, but I think it is worth a shot instead of taking your chance with the court." Nora stated, looking at her with so much concern.

"I want to advise against it, but this is still your decision," Adam said, looking powerless in his position. She had never seen him in this light before. Most of the time, he was in control of the situation.

She took a deep breath as she calmed herself down. It was a decision that only she could make. She could decline her ex-boyfriend's offer, but that would mean she had to fight him in the open field.

If she would accept to see him for a brief moment in an office on this floor, with Adam and Nora close by, then maybe she could have a chance to strike a deal with him. Close this problem peacefully once and for all.

But could she trust him? That was the risk she would have to take. "Ok. I will see him." Believing it was the best option at the moment.

"Are you sure about this?" Adam would like to stop her, but he knew, under the circumstances, it would be what he would recommend to a client. But he was afraid for her.

He wanted to protect her from that man, but he was powerless against him. He wished he could do more, but under the law, there was nothing else he could do unless she battled him on an open court.

"Yes." She finally resolved the situation by agreeing to see him. Then, the other lawyer escorted her to his private office on the other side of the floor. But she did not mind the long walk since it gave her time to gather her courage to face him again.

"Don't worry." She chanted in her head. He could not do anything with you in this place.

Then, she entered the room where a man was already waiting on the couch, sitting comfortably with a glass of scotch swirling in his hand. She wanted to lash out at him, but she stopped herself.

She could not see the point since she knew now that a man like him would never change. He was a monster. She would pity the girl who would be unfortunate enough to land in his trap.

"Do you want a drink?" He offered just like a gracious host as he stood from the couch and proceeded to the side table, where a selection of expensive drinks lined the surface.

"No, Elliot. I am not here for a social call. State why you wanted to see me so we can finish this once and for all." Serena stated without any hint of fear in her voice.

She expected that her voice would rattle, but thankfully, it sounded calm in her ears. The last thing she wanted was to give this man satisfaction and for him to think he still had control over her.

"There is no need to rush. I am sure one last drink for dear old-time sake is not against the rule. After all, I want us to end on good terms." Elliot continued to pour a glass of scotch before walking back to the couch.

"Come on, join me. Sit down. We still have a few things to discuss before we part ways." Elliot patted the vacant seat beside him as he beckoned her to join him.

She knew it would be a waste if she came here and just walked away without hearing his plan. She could always run or scream if he did something unacceptable.

Therefore, she forced her feet to stride towards him and sat on the other side of the couch, the other one opposite to him. At least that would give them enough space apart.

"Here, have a drink." He pushed the glass toward her, only shrugging his shoulder at her move. She knew it irked him that she defied his request.

She looked at the glass he offered but never bothered to pick it up. She had no plan to drink it despite his insistence. She had no intention of clouding her mind with alcohol, especially at this time.

"Thanks, but if you can state your business so we can get on with our lives, I am waiting." She repeated her haste to finish this private meeting. "But if you are here just to play around and waste my time, I am leaving."

When she saw that smug look on his face and his lips curved into an arrogant smile, she knew she should not have trusted him. She stood up from the chair and stepped away, ready to leave. But his following words stopped her from tempting to walk out on him.

"Don't you want to see what I have in this envelope?" He picked it up from his side and waved it in the air. "I assure you." His tone carried a warning. "You will save a life and his career if you sit down and listen to me."

Chapter 1008: To have the last laugh

She wanted to walk out of there and never look back. She knew this man was full of shit and could not be trusted. But hearing his words made her have second thoughts.

Serena had a vague idea of what he might be referring to when he pulled out that envelope. And somehow, it bothered her that he might have something that he could use against her. And she had to listen even if it was the last thing she wanted to do.

“Cut the crap, Elliot.” She snapped at him, putting as much venom in her words. At least, she hoped she sounded convincing because she could not let him think that he had already won.

If she had known what he was back then, she would never have formed relations with him. But, of course, as they said, regret came after she had made the decision, and mistakes happened.

Now, she could only suffer and face the consequence of her actions with the hope that she could eventually move on with her life. But that was not happening until she had dealt with this man.

“Don’t be like that. I miss you, my baby.” He stood before her, staring down at her face. “Don’t you miss me at all?” He asked as his fingers reached up and touched the strands of her hair.

She quickly swatted his hands away, disgusted that he would dare to touch her. Then, she quickly stepped back, putting a space between them but not before she snatched the envelope dangling in his other hand.

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“No, and don’t you dare touch me again.” She angrily spat her words at him. “Tell me what you want, and let us get this over with.” She knew she could not leave until she learned what he had planned against her. But she had no intention of staying much longer either.

She opened the envelope, and just as she suspected, it was the same pictures she had received the other night. She was afraid that he might also receive a copy of it. Now, her fear just came true.

They were pictures of Adam punching and kicking Elliot. Some photos of Elliot down on the floor, in excruciating pain. And then some more of Adam protecting her in his arms.

“Isn’t it obvious what I want?” He asked as his hands attempted to touch her face, but she quickly flinched out of his reach. His eyes were furious at her reaction, but he still smiled at her.

When she did not reply, not wanting to acknowledge him but only stared at the man who continued to make her life miserable, he answered his question for her.

“I want you back.” He stated as he returned to his seat and grabbed his drink, gulping its entire content. Then, he stood up again and refilled his glass before turning to her. “That is all I ever want.”

“Don’t you get it?” She asked frustratedly. “We are over. I don’t want us to get back together. We are through.” She added, hoping that he would finally get that in his head.

“I can’t live without you. I love you.” Elliot uttered in a lower voice, this time as if he was saying it from the heart.

But she knew him too well. The fans would have loved to see and hear him say those words, but he was a good actor, and those were just lines he memorized. He would not fool her again.

“Love? What do you know about love?” She questioned him, hearing the word come out of his mouth for the first time. At least in their entire relationship.

But she would never believe anything that came out of his mouth again, not his sweet words, enchanting promises, and lies. She had learned her lesson and would not fall into the same trap again.

“Losing you made me realize how much I messed up our relationship. I am sorry if I hurt you. I am willing to go to counseling if necessary.” He rumbled on and on about his promises to win her back.

“I am happy that you realized your mistake. I hope you will never do that again in your relationships. But it will not be with me.” She said with finality. “Where did you get these?” She finally focused on the papers in her hands, waving them in front of her.

She wondered if the same guy was trying to extort money from him. But no one had yet contacted Nora about those pictures. They were still waiting to hear from the man who took it what he had planned to do with them.

“Where else?” Elliot stated as if she should already know. “From the man I hired to take them.” He finally admitted when she appeared to remain clueless.

“What?” Her face registered surprise, but she felt stupid for not figuring it out. However, she was not shocked that he could resort to such low tactics.

She did learn too late that he staged many of his public acts so the press and the masses would love him. But she knew now that all of those were lies. Again, she was deep in the relationship when she discovered his true colors.

“I need something to help me out with my case.” He stated as he lifted his fit on the couch, making himself more comfortable as he talked to her.

“What do you intend to do with these pictures?” She could already feel the chill on her bones as she waited for his answer.

She knew he had something planned for them. It was the only reason he lured her into this meeting. She could already imagine his intentions, even without hearing them from his mouth.

“You already knew what different stories a picture could tell by merely looking at them.” He gave her a sly smile that told her a lot. He was saying that he was winning. “Those pictures spoke louder than words, don’t you think?”

“You will never win. These pictures mean nothing.” She said, despising the man before her. Then, she threw the pictures at him, letting them fly in the suffocating air. “I will fight you in any arena you want, but you will never win.” She stated, not wanting him to have the last laugh.

Chapter 1009: Never felt so alive

She suddenly became aware of waking up. But she still could not see or hear anything. It was like she was awake, but she was not. She could not explain it, but she, at least, felt cold. She wondered if she was frozen since she seemed unable to move.

After what seemed forever, she could finally hear noises in the background. It did not sound anything like the usual things she heard around her. She wondered where she was and why she still could not open her eyes or move her fingers or toes.

Then, she heard it. It was faint, but she was sure it was not her imagination. But it could be a dream since she remained in this fuzzy state where nothing made sense.

“Please, baby. Open your eyes when you’re ready. I am just here, waiting.” Then, silence again.

Of course, she recognized his voice. How could she forget that charming voice that had won her heart with his sweet words? But where did he go? When silence enveloped the room.

After a while, she felt her body swaying as if she was in a boat. Then, her eyes blinked at the bright blinding light as her hand automatically blocked its source. Slowly, she adjusted to her surrounding as her eyes scanned what seemed to be a small room.

“David.” Then, she saw him enter the small cabin, reminding her they were in his yacht. She suddenly remembered the romantic dinner he had meticulously prepared for her as they cruised the bayside.

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It was such a perfect night as the stars littered the sky like glitters sparkling brightly in the sky. Then the moon served as their witness to this extra special evening.

He even hired a violinist to serenade them throughout their sumptuous meal, making it out of the ordinary. The music filled the air together with their chatter and laughter. If she had a wish, she did not want that evening to end.

“Did you have a good night’s sleep?” He asked as he sat beside her on the bed, pulling her fingers into his lips, reminding her again of what else happened that night as another sparkling object caught her eyes.

After dinner, they left the front side of the deck so the staff could clear up their table. Then, the musician retired for the night. It was just them again, roaming around the deck, enjoying the steady breeze of the slightly chilly wind.

When he noticed her shiver in her backless dress, he automatically took off his jacket and wrapped it around her shoulders, effectively warming her instantly. His body heat certainly helped.

“I did,” Rosella answered him, curling in the bed as she tried to untangle the tightness of her muscles.

Then, her mind reverted to that night as they stared into the night sky. She recalled her fear that it would rain or the boat would rock through the waves was unfounded.

The yacht that she learned he named after her, Lady Rose, sailed through the beautiful ocean with ease. She barely felt the waves but felt the mild wind as they touched her skin. He said that the boat reminded him of her beauty, like a rose.

“Did you like my surprise?” He asked with a slight hesitation in his voice, as if he was afraid that she might have changed her mind.

Yes! She loved his surprise.

After a while, he took her to the upper deck. She saw two fishing poles set up on the side railing. She was not expecting they would go fishing late that night, especially in their formal clothes.

In truth, she was not expecting that he was taking her on a cruise. She thought when he invited her to dinner. He would only ask her to go to a fine restaurant as they usually did. Well, not this.

“Are you seriously thinking of fishing?” Rosella finally asked him when her curiosity reached its peak when he touched one of the poles.

She knew how much David loved to go fishing. It was one of his hobbies that she was starting to enjoy. It was safe, compared to his other activities, and it was quiet. It was a way of getting away from their stressful worlds.

“Why not?” He answered as he arranged his bait, cast his line in the air, and the hook flew toward the water. “There is no law against fishing at night.” He said as he continued to move his pole from side to side.

Then, he gestured for her to take the other pole and cast her line. Why not? She thought. It could be fun. Besides, she could add this to her most unforgettable memories if she caught a big one.

She had been fishing with him several times now. But the biggest she had caught was the size of her palm. It would be nice if she could beat him even once in his game.

“Ok. Fine.” Glad to take the challenge. She moved closer to him and took hold of the pole’s handle.

“Don’t forget your bait.” David reminded her as he concentrated back on his fishing line. Usually, he would help her with it. This time, he let her fix her hook and bait by herself.

She could do it. She had done it before. Slowly, she reeled in the line until she could reach the other end, the hook. But before she could even touch it, she noticed something sparkling around it.

At first, she thought it might be the metallic portion at the end glistening in the light. But eventually, she saw that it was something else tied to the hook as she looked at it closely.

“Oh... my...” But she could not finish the expression as she became speechless upon touching the shiny object. Finally, she realized that there was no hook at the end.

When she finally turned to him, he was already facing her with a nervous smile on his lips. Then, he untied the ribbon on the line, taking the shining object in his hand as he bent down on his knees before her.

“I love you, Rosella,” David uttered in his slightly trembling voice. “You will make me the happiest man in the world if you join me on this cruise as we sail together through this lifetime.” He lifted the ring to her, waiting for her to accept his offer.

"I know we will sail through rough seas, but together as we work hand in hand, we can overcome it. But during the calm weather, I promise to fill our lives with great memories that we will cherish for eternity." He continued as her eyes filled with tears of happiness.

"I do." She finally answered as she stared at the stunning diamond ring sitting on her ring finger. She had never felt so alive.

Chapter 1010: The dam finally broke loose

As he walked on those long white hallways, the only thing that passed through his mind at that moment was his urgent need to see her. He could not wait to hold her in his arms.

He barely noticed anything else as he passed through the different people in their uniforms, heard the assorted chatters and noises around him, and smelled that distinct arid odor of a disinfectant.

His focus was getting to her as fast as his companion would take him. He followed Roseann to the elevator and the hallways until they finally stopped at a room.

"We are not yet clear to enter her room," Roseann told him, stopping him from going further.

He could easily see through the small space inside the room since glass made up the door and the walls. Despite his wish, he could only look at the woman he loved as she lay on the bed, still unconscious.

The doctors who operated on her could not assure him about her condition. Until she woke up and no complications arose, there was no way to guarantee her recovery. She was still in a critical state where she could die.

"David, I am sorry to hear about Rosella." When he turned around, he found a familiar friend tapping him on the shoulder as support.

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"Thanks, Jacob." He acknowledged the man he had helped with his company with his wife, Cassie.

Dani introduced them when he was looking for someone to handle his representation in the company he inherited from his father when his brother, Nick, died.

"By the way, this is Dr. Roseann Sheldon, Rosella's sister. This..." David was introducing the two but realized they already knew each other.

"I already know her. She is my intern. She is the one that told me about her sister's case." Jacob supplied the missing sentence. "It just took me a while to relate her relationship to your fiancée." He explained.

"What do you think?" David asked since the other doctors had already told him their initial diagnosis, but maybe his friend had another opinion. He would accept anything that would give him hope.

He stared at his beautiful rose, now with her whole face covered with bandages, except for her eyes, nose, and lips. They said that the strong impact shard the glass of her car, and much of it went to her face and body, causing lacerations on her exposed skin.

He blamed himself for the incident. He should have insisted on the car he gifted her with its protective and safety features. If she had driven that new car, she might have prevented this accident from happening.

“It is too early to tell with the extent of her injuries. But I promise you. I am on top of this.” His friend promised him before excusing himself to attend to his other patients.

“Don’t worry, Dr. Jacob is an excellent doctor.” Roseann tried to assure him. But he already knew that, but what he needed now was a miracle as he turned his attention back to the woman fighting for her life.

He just hoped she would not give up because he had no idea if he could make it without her. He wanted to go to her bedside, hold her hands, and tell her how much he loved her. But the doctors had advised against it.

When he returned to the waiting area, he found Rosella’s other family members waiting to see her. They all gathered in the room until they could finally see her up close and not behind the glass walls.

Like the other times that Rosella brought him to her family’s small events, he found it awkward to mingle with them. He was not a snob. He did not look down on her family because they were not as wealthy as his family was.

Honestly, he did not know how to relate to them. He felt awkward when he was around Rosella’s family. He was the odd man out as he could not socialize with them without looking intimidating, arrogant, or snobbish.

Family time with his family meant business meetings and problem crisis management. It was not about bonding time or creating a loving and fun environment.

It was one of the reasons that drove his sister to run away. Therefore, dealing with a happy family seemed unfamiliar to him. It was a foreign experience.

“How are you holding up?” A soft, motherly voice spoke to him, breaking his silence. They were all chatting on the other side of the room while he sat alone, not far away. Roseann had to leave to attend to her responsibilities but promised to update them as soon as she got back.

He looked up to see the matriarch of the Sheldon family standing before him with concern written in her eyes. “Do you mind if I join you?” She asked, gesturing at the empty seat beside him.

“No. Go ahead.” David straightened on his seat and waited till she settled. “I don’t know. Afraid, I guess.” He tried to answer her honestly. He was never good at sharing his feelings, especially with strangers.

At this moment, he still could not say that he was part of the family nor claim that he knew them because that would be a big fat lie.

His face must be a picture of distraught, but he had never cried in his adult life. He never had a reason to do so besides his father forbade him to shed tears when he was a child, saying it was for sissies. And he was not one.

Controlling his emotions and acting tough had brought him to where he was now. But his upbringing also affected him emotionally, making it hard for him to connect to a woman in a committed relationship.

Until he met Rosella, she changed him. The only woman who had shown him love was possible, even with a guy like him. She opened his heart to the endless possibility. It was not too late for him to be a better man.

“We are all afraid, but we are here for each other.” His future mother-in-law extended her hand and covered his. “I know you are not married yet to my daughter, but she loved you very much. I want you to know that no matter what. You will always be part of our family.”

It meant so much to him to hear that. The only family he had now were his friends. Thankfully, Serena had returned, allowing him to reunite with her. But that would not have been possible if not for Rosella.

“Thank you.” He responded with a trembling voice as emotions seemed to overwhelm him. Then, he felt the gentlest touch as her hands pulled him to her shoulders.

She cradled him in her arms, just like what a mother would do to comfort her child. It had been such a long time since someone held him like this. The only person who consoled him when he faced a problem was Rosella.

Right now, she was not available to help him. He was like a lost child, unable to find his way back home. But this stranger took him without judgment and welcomed him into their lives.

It was more than he could ask for in a moment like this. No matter how he tried to fight it, the dam finally broke loose as all his pent-up emotions rushed out of his body, demanding release.