

Royal Contract 1081

Chapter 1081 Incredibly sexy

She had woken up several times last night only to stare at the man sleeping beside her. He looked exhausted. What did she expect? He was hopping like an energizer bunny between caring for her and working.

She believed he might have taken her workload if her presumptions were correct. When she called work to inform Brenda of her situation, she told her that Zach had already updated them. Then, she had nothing to worry about in her job.

“Just rest and concentrate on getting better.” Those were her boss’s exact words.

But, of course, she could not help but worry. She needed her job to support her and her child. She did not want to depend on the child support Edison was receiving. She wished to have independent financial freedom from that man as soon as possible.

Suddenly, the thought of him coming after her and her child went through her mind, but she quickly buried them. She did not need to worry about that good-for-nothing man now.

Then, she heard the door of the bathroom open. And the man of her dreams suddenly came to view. When she woke up again a few minutes ago, he was already out of bed and in the shower.

“Hey, you’re up. That is great.” He greeted her when he glanced at her. “Why don’t you take a shower while I cook us breakfast?” He suggested as he wiped his hair dry with a towel.

She would not mind not eating breakfast if she could continue to watch him like this. She was already full just by looking at his incredible physique. It was literally and undeniably mouthwatering.

But all good things must come to an end.

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“You should go home.” She said as she sat on the bed, looking at the man who stood by her bathroom door, looking so fresh after his bath.

She could not control her eyes from feasting on his delectable body in his jeans without a shirt. She believed she might attack him if he kept displaying his broad chest and flat abs like that. Therefore it was better if he just left.

“Are you throwing me out of your house?” Zach jokingly said as he strode toward her, sitting by the edge of her bed.

A little closer and she could effortlessly touch her hands against his skin. She could not stop imagining how it would feel to trace those lines that formed his abdominal muscles.

She could not figure out how men could have time to work on their physical build after a busy schedule at work and their social lifestyle. She doubted that those were natural, but it was all too real.

“Of course not. It is just that I am feeling so much better. There is no need for you to watch me anymore.” Ria felt she had already abused his kindness for taking much of his time since she got sick.

He no longer had to stay to care for her or her son, which she was expecting to come home soon. But she was thankful for his presence. It would have been hard for her if he was not around to help.

“And I am sure you are already exhausted and missing your bed.” She said, but somehow, she felt like she was lying.

A part of her did not want him to leave. Truthfully, she wanted him to stay for as long as possible. In a way, watching him sleep beside her made her hope that he might be her forever.

“Yes, I miss my bed, but I don’t think I will miss it more than I will miss you.” Then, he leaned forward, holding both sides of her arms and pulling her toward him.

Then, his face gradually descended until there was just a fraction of space between her lips and his. His eyes seemed to search hers, looking for what. She had no idea.

“Can I kiss you?” He finally asked as the air they breathed mingled between them.

She could feel her body slowly burning up, not from a fever but from his touch that sapped all her inhibitions, his eyes that seemed to suck her into his world, his lips that were ready to devour her, and the way his voice seemed to tickle her senses.

“Hmmm!” She could not even say yes as her voice lodged inside her throat.

All she could do was slightly nod, avoiding bumping her forehead against his. But she believed her eyes told him all he wanted to hear as he lowered his head, eliminating the tiny space between their lips.

Then, she felt her body falling back to the linens as he moved on top of her. His lips continued to savor her lips, finally demanding entry to every crevice in her mouth, exploring just like his hands as they roamed around her body.

“I don’t think I will be satisfied with a kiss this time.” He huskily said in her ears as his lips and tongue created a hot trailing fire along the stretch of her neck.

She understood what he was trying to say to her. But did she have the willpower to stop him? Did she want him to stop in the first place? She doubted because all her body and mind were screaming was for him to go on.

“Stop me now if you don’t want this.” He gradually pushed his body away, but she could see in his eyes the immense control he was exerting to hold himself back from her.

“What if I don’t want you to stop?” She asked, feeling bolder this time as her hands extended to his cheeks, pulling him back to her. “I want you so much.”

She did not know where her bravery came from as she looked directly into his eyes. She could see the hesitation in his eyes, but she erased his doubt when she pulled him for a passionate kiss, more intense than the last one.

This time, she took the lead, shoving away all her inhibitions and indecisiveness. She was tired of being afraid of what the future would bring. She had to face the now and worry about what would happen later.

She wanted him.

Then she would have him.

“Then, I won’t stop because I always wanted you.” He expressed in a breathy whisper as his hands started working on her sleeping gown.

Honestly, she was slightly embarrassed with what she wore last night, but she never had sexy lingerie in her closet. So, she settled on her cotton sleeping gown that she usually used.

Besides, she did not know she would sleep with him on the same bed. Or end up making out like this. But it seemed that it did not matter as he pulled it out of her body and threw it on the floor.

Now, she only had her cotton panties on. Who knew that she would need sexy underwear? Not her. She never thought she would end up in a relationship or almost naked before him.

“Hey, are you alright?” He suddenly stopped, pulling up on his elbows to look at her. “Is there a problem? Do you want me to stop?” He asked worriedly. “I don’t mind waiting if you change your mind and are not ready.”

She suddenly laughed because that was the last thing on her mind. “I am sorry.” She realized she probably zoned out when worrying about her underwear. “No, no, no.” She repeated. “I want you to continue.”

“Then, what is the problem?” His worry turned into curiosity as his eyes searched her face. “Come on. You can be honest with me.” Looking at her with those playful smiles that could melt a heart made of stone.

“I know, I can. I trust you.” She said. “But don’t laugh, ok.” Her forehead creased, frowning, telling him she was serious. “Promise me.”

“I promise.” He even crossed his heart. “What is it?”

“I was worried I would turn you off...” She paused for a few seconds. “...with my underwear.” She added in an almost inaudible whisper.

Then, he laughed.

She almost pulled away, feeling humiliated by his reaction. But he quickly stopped her, drawing her back to him. “Hey. I am sorry. I am not laughing at you. Only at the situation.” He explained as he enveloped her into his body.

But she tried to wiggle her body away from his embrace, pulling slightly away. “Still, you promise not to laugh.” She playfully hit him in the chest, but instead of getting mad, she realized she liked touching him.

She felt the sensation of his warmth against the coldness of her palms. In a way, she was also nervous. She had never been with a man for a long time. Honestly, she had been with only one man before. And it was not a great experience.

She was not saying that sex with Ryan was terrible, but she guessed she did not know if it was great either since she was inexperienced. Ryan was her first and her last.

But kissing and making out with Zach was incredible. She believed sex with him was something she looked forward to very much. However, she was also afraid that her inexperience might cause problems, just like her damn white cotton panties.

“Only because you are so adorable. Besides...” He suddenly looked down at the bottom part of her body. Then, she felt his fingers touch the side of her remaining undergarment, pulling the garter, then mildly snapping it back. “I like this. You are incredibly sexy in it.”

Chapter 1082 Immediate family

Evan looked at the woman beside him. She was the only woman who had convinced his heart to take a chance in love. And now he was ready to leap with her to the unknown. However, fate seemed to be doing the opposite.

All he wanted was to marry the woman he loved, but planning a wedding amidst the tragedy happening around him appeared to be not a good sign. Somehow, they had to hit pause with their plans.

David, his bestfriend, had to face the possibility of mourning for the only woman he loved. They never thought that they would end up like Alex, but here they were, madly in love with one woman.

Then, Gerald, his colleague, was found dead of a gunshot wound and burned for an unknown reason. Whoever did it was still at large. Whatever the motive was had remained a mystery.

Then, there was Eida. She was silently grieving for the love of her life, who was about to get married to another woman. She might deny how much she was in pain, but he could see it in her eyes.

The only good thing that happened around them recently was the birth of Ares, the son of Alex and Dani. At least, somehow, his birth negated death and tragedy. But was it enough to make him think life was worth living?

Then, a voice infiltrated his thoughts, snapping him back to the present. “Hey, Evan.” She called his attention as she leaned against his body and touched his chest. “What seems to be bothering you?” The woman in his arms asked.

At least this beautiful woman cradled in his body made every challenging part of his life worth living and fighting. Their relationship might not have been ideal at the start. It was not perfect until now.

He enjoyed every second he had spent with her, even the hardships because it taught him many things about how to love. He was no expert, but somewhat, he had managed to do just fine.

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“I want to marry you soon, but...” He said, slightly hesitating. He could not stop thinking of all the possibilities. What if something happened to one of them? What then? Would he still have a chance to marry her? Or if he died, would it be fair that she would become a young widow?

Then again, could he keep waiting for the perfect timing? Until all their friends were ok before taking the next step in their relationship by marrying her. Or should he take matters into his hand and marry her as soon as he could arrange it?

He had thought about it before. Was it the right thing to do? But how would he know, leaving him to wonder more about it? Then, he shifted his gaze to his fiancée as they both lay down on the bed,

“And you know that is what I also want. I could not wait to be your wife. But I do understand if you need to postpone our wedding. We can always do it some other time.” Amelia offered with a reassuring smile. “There is no rush.” She added, as usual, never demanding.

He did not know how he found luck after what he had done in his past. He still could not believe lady luck had found a way for them to meet. But he could not help but fear that his fortune might not last long and eventually run out.

Fate would exact its punishment for all his wrong deeds. Then, Amelia would realize that he was not the one for her. What would he do when she decided to leave him? He just could not let that happen.

“Yeah, we can.” But his voice lacked the conviction.

True, he agreed about what she said. He could marry her some other time. However, he believed he could not wait. He wanted her so much. He wanted her to be his wife now and enjoy their life together while they still could.

He did not want one of them to suffer the same fate as their friends, David and Rosella. Or even Gerald and Haley, who would never get the chance to be together.

“I also don’t want to wait.” She suddenly told him, surprising him. It appeared they might be thinking of the same thing. “I think we should marry now.” She said, this time with determination.

She leaned on her palms as she lifted her head to look at him. He could see that she was not joking about this. He stared into her eyes, studying them, thinking whether he should take her seriously.

“What are you saying? Are you ok with us getting married without our friends?” But thinking about it, they were mostly his friends. Amelia just recently met them through him.

“I think you should be asking yourself that question. After all, those people are your friends, not mine. I only need Angela, Eida, and Luisa present at my wedding. I don’t even mind if my father doesn’t come.” She said to him with all seriousness.

He contemplated what she said as she returned to his chest, using it as a pillow for her head. She probably could hear the wild throbbing of his heart as it beat only for her.

And it gradually increased as excitement coursed through his vein just thinking about marrying her. He believed he had been ready since he had bought her ring and proposed to her. And he could not wait for anyone else to make her his wife.

“I think we should get married now.” Evan abruptly stood up and pulled her up with him. “I think I should have the jet ready. So we can fly to Vegas as soon as possible.”

Amelia only looked at him, slightly flabbergasted, as her eyes widened, unable to believe what he had said. “We could not just get married.” She uttered in surprise.

He quickly walked to the closet, dragging her with him. “We need to pack a few things because we are booking a few days for our wedding and honeymoon.” He added with a wink.

“This is insane. Nobody could arrange a wedding just like that.” She said that they had been planning for weeks and hardly were anywhere. “Besides, I can’t marry you if it is just the two of us.” She protested.

“Of course, we are not getting married without our family.” Then, he tugged her gently out of their room into the kitchen, where he could hear noises.

“Ok. Attention, everyone. That includes you, my little princess.” He clapped his hands to make the others shift their gazes in his direction. “Look and listen.” He continued when all eyes were on him, except for Luisa, who was busy playing with her fingers.

“I need you to wrap all this up. Let us finish breakfast as soon as possible.” He pointed to the food that his grandmother was cooking. “Then, please start packing your things.”

“What is the meaning of this?” His grandmother looked at him oddly. Maybe thinking he was going insane. Strangely enough, it might be the case.

He was insanely in love with his fiance and could not wait for their union to be over. He would not wait for some tragic incident before he acted on his promise to make her an official part of his life.

“We...” He pointed at Amelia and then at himself. “... are getting married today.” It was still early. A few hours’ flights, then they would be at the church, saying their “I do.”

“That is preposterous. What foolish air got inside that head of yours.” Angela walked over to her and patted his cheeks as if trying to wake him up from his nonsense.

“That is what I was saying to him.” Amelia walked over to Luisa, lifting her from her portable cradle and dancing with the little child in her arms. “I think you should put some sense into your Uncle Evan.” She mumbled to her little ears.

“Hey, I heard that. And that is not an insane idea.” He complained as he walked over to the child and asked if he could hold her.

Somehow, he had learned not to be afraid of her. She was just a child, so fragile but so adorable too. He knew he could squash her with his arms. Therefore, he cradled her with gentleness he never knew he possessed.

“Tell them, Luisa, my idea was the sanest idea I had ever had.” He tried to coerce the child to work with him in convincing these ladies to cooperate.

When she smiled, he knew that she agreed with her. “You see. Even Luisa believed we should do it.”

Then, he turned to the three women looking at him. “You said it yourself, Amelia. You only need them to be present at your wedding. And I agree with you. All we need is them.”

They could always remarry some other time. Then, they could finally celebrate their union with their family and friends. But for now, he only wanted the most important people in their lives at this very moment to join them in this union, their immediate family.

Chapter 1083 Unexpected visitor

Ria could only sigh in frustration as she watched Zach and Edison play with breakfast. Not because she did not like what she was observing but because of some different reason.

Then, why was she disappointed? If anybody was interested, because nothing happened. Damn! Just when it was getting somewhere. Bang! They had to stop. She was unable to fulfill her wild and sexy fantasy.

What happened? Edison happened.

Sarah knocked on her door and dropped Edison home. Of course, she was happy to see her son, but she could not help but feel the desperation of feeling his arms wrapped around her body.

“Breakfast is almost ready. Go wash your hands.” Ria announced to the two boys in her living room, watching an early kiddie show on the screen.

Hastily, Zach encouraged Edison to run to the kitchen while he turned off the television and followed closely behind. Then, they both washed their hands before settling on the kitchen table.

Soon, she served their meal on the table and placed the dirty pans on the sink. When she returned, the two were already playing a game. Zach had positioned the two eggs she cooked, side by side, on the plate and took two slices of bacon, cutting them into long strips.

Then, he put some of them on the top of the plate, making it look like hair. Then, he drew the lips using ketchup, the mayonnaise as the nose, and some mustards as eyebrows for the eggs that served as eyes.

“You see, this is fun.” He expressed, chuckling with her son, who seemed to enjoy what he showed him. “You see the face.” Pointing to his masterpiece.

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It did look pleasing as she watched the two interact with each other. She guessed whatever fantasy she had would have to wait until they could find their moment alone again.

But she had seen him looking at her with those blazing eyes. She could tell that he was as frustrated as she was. He had not lost his desire. It was still brewing underneath his smiles.

“Fun,” Her son said, imitating him again. “Do more.” Edison urged him, amused by their little game.

For now, she had to be a caring and devoted mother. Not the sexy siren, if she could even call herself that, remembering her sexy lingerie. Anyway, she missed her son and would make time for him.

“No more. We should not be playing with our foods since they are not toys.” She suddenly sounded like the nun that sometimes fed them when she was young, remembering her short time at the orphanage.

She would have loved to stay there because the nuns were very kind, but the orphanage had to shut down because of the lack of funds if she remembered correctly. But she was so young then that she hardly remembered the details.

To make the story short, she had to bounce from one foster care to another. Sometimes, she just blamed herself for her terrible luck. Anyway, she still worked hard every chance she got.

She was not the most intelligent student, but she worked twice as hard, knowing it was her only ticket out of her impoverished situation. Then, finally, she earned a scholarship to one top league university.

Then, the rest was history.

“I am sorry.” Suddenly, Zach felt guilty for starting the activity. “I was just trying to help.” He added, still looking very apologetic.

She could not help but find it adorable how he pouted his lips and made those puppy eyes that could melt a freezing heart. Suddenly, she realized that her son was also doing the same thing.

“Just eat your breakfast.” How could she even be mad at that scene? It was like they were bonding faster than she imagined.

She did not expect that Zach would manage to stay with her son for more than five minutes. And not just that. He seemed comfortable handling a toddler like him. He looked natural.

Or he was just good at acting.

“Come on, Edi, we need to finish this before the monster comes to take it away.” Zach playfully said to her son, who appeared mesmerized with him as he nodded in agreement.

Zach quickly divided the food into three plates. Just a few for Edison and an equal portion between her and him. Then, he asked her to join them at the table.

“Am I the monster in this story?” She suddenly asked, thinking if he was referring to her as the one who would take their food.

She took one piece of the shredded bacon strip and put it inside her mouth. It was still delicious whether they had torn it into pieces. Then, she grabbed a slice of bread to go with it.

“Of course not. You are the fairy that will feed us. Right, Edison?” Zach urged the child to agree with him. “Now, open your mouth.” He instructed her son.

It gave her no choice but to feed them while simultaneously feeding herself. But it was fun to see her son smile from ear to ear as if he was proud that he was eating his food.

But eventually, she had to stop after doing it twice. “Now, the fairy wants you to eat by yourself and try not to make a mess. Can you do that?” She took the bread knife and acted like she was carrying a wand, twirling it around the food.

Her son gladly agreed, believing the story that Zach had concocted. “Uhhh?” He appeared to be thinking as he looked at his plate. Then, he nodded again.

It had been a fun-filled breakfast that she had never imagined she would spend with Zach in it. She had a great breakfast with her son before, but nothing like this.

Then, it was time to clean the kitchen and bathtime for Edison. Zach offered to handle the kitchen while she busied herself with caring for her son. She believed she could manage that since she was feeling so much better.

“You are a good boy,” Ria told her son as he patted him on the head while she rinsed the shampoo on his head. “Tell me, do you like Zach?”

She had to know because Edison was the most important person in her life. His opinion mattered to her in every decision she made. She doubted she could continue with this relationship, even though she was totally into Zach if his son did not like him.

But so far, all evidence indicated that her son adored the man cleaning up in her kitchen. And Zach seemed to like him very much too. At least, that was her observation.

“Zachy is fun,” Edison answered enthusiastically, giggling as he played with the water.

She guessed that was a good enough answer for now. They only saw each other a few times. Many things could still happen as they continued with this relationship. She only hoped it was all good things.

“Do you like him to come over again?” She could not help but wish that her son would say yes.

She believed she liked Edison more than she cared to admit. But it was too early to tell whether she was falling for him or had fallen in love already. She did not want to dwell too much on it and put a label on their relationship.

She was afraid that she might drive him away if she acted rashly. She knew that getting into a relationship was hard enough, but putting a kid in between made it more impossible.

“Hmmm...” He seemed to be thinking of his answer, which only made her more anxious. “I like a toy.” He answered her.

That did not make sense to her since his answer was far from her question. But anyway, her son was still learning how to communicate. Soon, he will understand more things.

“Ok.” She answered him, thinking he would like her to buy her a new toy. “I will bring you to the toy shop next weekend.” She promised him. It was a reward for his best behavior while she was away.

And, of course, it was a way for her to absolve herself from her guilt. She felt she had been away from her son for too long and neglected his needs. Although, she knew it was not her intention in the first place. Still, she felt the need to make it up to him.

“Ok.” He smiled happily at her as she grabbed the towel to dry him. Then, they returned to his bedroom and put on his clothes for the day.

He looked very handsome. Fortunately, he got only a few traces of his father’s features. Mostly, Edison looked more like her. Or, she would be staring at the man she had hated all her life.

“Aren’t you handsome today?” She smiled at him as she finished buttoning up his shirt.

“Zachy... handsome too,” Edison interjected as she combed his hair into place.

“Yes, he is.” She answered. She was not going to deny that and lie to her son. She also found him very handsome.

“I think you are ready.” She said as he pulled her son back to the living room where Zach was already waiting. But he was not alone as she stared at their visitor sitting on the couch.

What was he doing here? She mentally asked in surprise and shock as she stopped on her track while her eyes looked at the man talking with Zach.

On the other hand, her son continued to walk toward Zach and her unexpected visitor.

Chapter 1084 Blood was not always as thicker as water

He looked at his family, gathered around him, smiling, laughing, and having the time of their lives. Except for their little angel, who seemed not to mind the noise as she slept throughout the trip.

Everybody was busy planning the wedding that was happening in a few hours. Hopefully, everything would go according to plan and without a hitch.

So far, he had called ahead to his friend, one of his favorite clients, who agreed to help him with his plan. He owned one of the most extravagant hotels on the Las Vegas strip. If anyone could make this happen, it was her.

“Are you sure about this?” Amelia asked him, slightly wary that his plan might not go as he wanted since there was such a short time. “You know, I don’t mind if we go to one of the chapels where Elvis presides.” She suggested.

That was what he loved about her. For someone who had grown with luxury all her life, she was the most humble person he knew. She could have demanded the best wedding money could buy. And he would have given it to her, but she would settle for less to be with him.

However, he still wanted to give her a wedding that would create memories for them. It might be the best, but at least he made some effort to provide a worthy wedding to the woman he loved.

“What about we settle for a compromise? If this arrangement fails, we run to the nearest chapel and get married anyway.” He suggested, hoping to relieve the anxiety he saw in her eyes.

The last thing he wanted for his bride was to look worried on her wedding day. She should be smiling and feeling ecstatic like all the brides felt before their wedding ceremony.

“I think I like that.” She finally answered him, feeling more relaxed to hear that he was not pressuring himself with this wedding.

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Although she would be honest, she had fantasized about walking in a beautiful white gown on a long aisle with her father proudly escorting her. It was a dream she had finally let go of after failing to win Lance’s love.

But now, all she wanted would be to wear his ring, say I do in front of her family and finally proclaim the man beside her legally hers. She could forego the white gown, the beautiful church with its thousand roses, or the enormous and lavish reception.

“I think we should go for the pure white cake. It looks classy and simple.” Angela suggested as they checked on the pictures Evan’s friend sent to them.

He was unsure how his friend would make this happen in just a few hours, but she promised she would do her best for him. After all, she always insisted that, if not for him, she would have lost everything.

He did not think much of it since it was his job to help her. Besides, she paid him enough for his services. But she insisted on insisting that it was a debt that she owed him. Now, she would do this for him so she could finally get even.

"I like that. Don't you think it is beautiful?" Amelia tried to show him the picture on her phone.

She showed him the other options, but they returned to the white, simple cake that only had two layers. He guessed they did not need a humongous cake since they would not have enough visitors to eat them.

"I think it is perfect for us." He agreed, not just saying it, but he truly believed it.

He never thought planning a wedding could be this exciting when there were just a few hours to spare. It was not as tedious as the other wedding they initially had in mind.

"What about the flowers?" Eida said. "But there is no question about it. Amelia loves red roses, so we go with that and add a few whites in the mix." She suggested.

"I have no objections to that," Evan said, knowing how much his fiance loved roses. Then, the flowers were good to go.

He could not imagine her wedding without those beautiful flowers surrounding her. It just would not feel right. He wanted their simple ceremony to look perfect.

"Mrs. Bellamia suggested that we go straight ahead to the designer as soon as we land so we can pick our dress. There was no time for custom-made, so we will need to choose from a rack." She scanned her phone again.

"But she promised that they have many beautiful selections of wedding dresses and gowns." Eida continued since she was coordinating with his friend while they were still in the air.

"I already arranged for a car to drive us straight to the hotel," Evan informed them.

"Then, we can make a stopover since your tailor is not far from the shop," Eida informed them, making all the necessary arrangements.

One thing about Eida was her ability to work under pressure and produce results. No wonder she was good at her previous job. He did not doubt that her new employer would also see her value eventually.

It was just a shame that she had to give up everything because of what happened to her. But Evan could see that she never regretted choosing her child over her career and her previous life. Although, he could still see the pain in her eyes when someone reminded her of her lost love.

"I think that is a good idea." Amelia finally joined in the planning. "I can't wait to pick my perfect dress." She told him.

He knew that whatever she chose. It would always look great on her. She was not as glamorous as the models he had dated in the past. But she had carried herself with class and sophistication that none of them would ever possess.

"I can't wait to tear them off your body tonight." He whispered in her ears, not wanting anyone else to hear what he had in his mind as he imagined her in a white gown.

It was technically their wedding honeymoon tonight, so he booked the entire penthouse suites, one for them and the other for his family. He could not think of anything but the best for the people he loved.

Then, he started claiming her lips, unable to hold his desire for her to be his wife. He could not control the excitement cruising through his veins as he imagined kissing her in front of the altar and proclaiming that she was finally his.

"Hey, you two. The honeymoon is still after the wedding." Angela shouted at them, making them gradually stop their passionate kissing. "And you two should not be seeing each other before the wedding." She added.

It was their tradition, but how could they avoid looking at each other when they were on the same plane? Besides, the wedding was still later. Therefore, technically, they could still be together.

"Ok. We will wait until later." Amelia held him off, following what their grandmother instructed. "But I will be looking forward to tonight." She whispered back to him before planting a gentle kiss on his cheeks as she moved next to Luisa's carrier.

"Now, you ruined my fun, Grandmama." He complained to her grandmother as he sat alone on the other side of the plane.

But his grandmother only smiled at him like she always did after giving him an earful. She was not exactly the type that would hold a grudge when he did something she did not like.

He might hear a few words from her, but after that, she would smile and ask him if he understood why she was mad at him. Then, everything between would be just like nothing happened.

"You will get over with that once you see your beautiful bride walking down the aisle," Angela promised him as they waited for the plane to land.

At least he could not wait for the ceremony to be over. He was anxious to claim the most beautiful bride on the face of the earth. And finally, start a family with her.

"Ok. I guess you are right." But instead of staying away from his bride, he moved to the other side of Luisa and played with their little princess, who was finally awake.

"Come on. Will you like to keep me company?" Evan asked the little child, still yawning adorably in her confinement. "They seem to be ganging up on me." He confided to her little princess.

"I think you should go with him, my baby. He badly needs a friend." Eida teasingly said. "Amelia, leave them for now. I need you here."

Somehow, he had convinced Eida that her baby was safe with him. He had watched many clips on how to hold an infant and what to do in emergencies. He even learned how to change a diaper.

He had proven to the three girls that he was as good as them at caring for a child. Honestly, he was confident he could manage just fine if he eventually became a father.

“Go on. I will take care of my princess.” He told his fiance as he urged her to go with Eida.

He could not wait to have a girl just like his princess. So, she would have someone to play and bond with as sisters. He had seen how Amelia and Eida had treated each other.

They were just strangers who had a chance encounter. Yet, they had become friends, or better yet, more like sisters. They shared a love that would do anything for the happiness of the other.

He had proven that sometimes blood was not always as thicker as water.

Chapter 1085 A promise on the old swing

She could not stop her eyes from following her son, who automatically ran in Zach’s direction as if that was where he belonged. It was like in the few times they had met, they had already formed a strong bond that would be hard to break.

What if this did not work out? How would she explain to her son that Zach would not be coming to visit ever again? But here she was again, being pessimistic. She was already thinking of the worse when there was no sign that it might even happen.

She could not help it. She had been put down many times before by her parents, who did not bother to care for her. Then, by the system that failed to protect the rights of a child. Most of all, by the man who was supposed to love her.

“You have a visitor. He said that you know him.” Zach finally spoke, addressing her. But she could sense in his voice that he might have some doubt as he held her son in a protective stance.

“Ria!” A man’s thick, babbly voice filled the room. “It is so nice to see you again.” He greeted her as she approached them. “I know I changed a lot, but it is me, Tabby.” Pointing to himself.

She looked closely, examining his face and his body. She remembered a boy named Tabby. She had grown up with that boy at the orphanage, but he was a little overweight. But this man was well built. She could not even see an ounce of fat in him.

But she admitted it was a long time ago. Maybe her memory was slightly blurry. She must have forgotten most of the details of her past. “I...” She could not yet confirm or deny if this was the boy that was her friend back then.

Even Zach seemed alarmed that she could not recognize him as he looked from her to him. She could tell he was ready to shove the guy out of her apartment if he could not prove she knew him.

“I guess you have forgotten about me. But maybe this will jog your memory. We used to sneak outside the orphanage, using the broken fence at the back of the kitchen.

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Then, we would run to the park and play on the slides. Afterward, you would ask me to swing you as high as I possibly could push you on that rusty old metallic swing.

One time the seat broke, and you landed on your butt, hard on the mud. Then, Mrs. Matilde discovered our mischiefs and had to ground us into our rooms for a day. Remember that.”

“Oh my!” Suddenly, she remembered that. Those were her best and worse experiences when she was young. “Yes. But Mrs. Matilde made me scrub the floors of the entire second floor as punishment.”

Then, his face became clear to her. It was him. Just a lot better because he lost most of the fat in his face. He looked very lean and handsome. Now, she could not help but wonder what had happened to him.

After she and the other orphans separated into different foster homes, she did not have time to look for them. She could only pray that they had a better life than hers.

“Oh, yeah. I forgot that old hag also made me clean the toilets.” Tabby said with a wide smile and a little chuckle. “So, you do remember me now?”

She nodded. She did. “Yes, Tabby, or do you use another name now?” She asked since she would not recognize him by the nickname they had given him.

“Some of my close friends still call me that. I don’t mind.” He said as he finally moved closer to her and hugged her. “I miss you. I searched everywhere for you.”

“I also miss you.” More than she realized as she felt a certain nostalgia after being in his arms. They had been through a lot together when they were young. “How did you find me?” She asked since it might not be that easy.

Although she had not changed her name, she had been moving from one place to another since she was in the orphanage. It might have taken him time to find her.

“I work for an investigation agency. But I first joined the army. That is why I lost a lot of my weight.” He explained, showing off his lean arms to her, flexing them until his muscles bulged.

He was still the same Tabby she now remembered, funny and quite adorable. She recalled how he would make all those silly faces with his chubby cheeks to make her smile.

“Oh, that is great.” She said. “I would not have imagined you going to a combat zone. I remembered you are such a scary cat.” She teased him, reminiscing the first time they sneaked out. She almost could not convince him to go with her.

“I had no choice, but I learned to be brave somehow. I think it is because of you. You inspired me all this time.” He said. Then, he finally shifted his gaze to the two other occupants in the room.

“I am sorry for monopolizing my friend. I miss her so much. Are you her husband? And this is your kid?” He asked, finally offering his hand to Zach, who still held Edison in his arms.

“No...” She first said. Then, “Edison is my son, and this is...” She was about to say boyfriend, but he beat her to it.

“Zach, Ria’s boyfriend.” Zach reached his hand and gave him a firm handshake, showing him he was not intimidated by her guest’s size.

Honestly, Tabby was taller and broader than Zach, but it did not mean Zach was no match for him. She believed that Zach was not threatened by his size but more by the past they shared.

But Tabby was a dear friend in her past, almost a brother to her. They had looked out for each other and would have wanted to grow up together. But fate did not give them that chance.

“And this is Edison.” She moved toward his side and introduced him to her old friend. “Edison, this is your Uncle Tabby.” She believed it was only fitting that her son called him that since they were like siblings back then.

“It was nice to meet you, Edison.” Tabby patted her son on the head and smiled, which her son returned with a happy smile, too.

She still could not believe that she would reunite with her old buddy after all these years. It seemed impossible, but sometimes, things just happened for no reason. Still, she was glad to see him.

“Are you staying somewhere near here?” She asked since it would be sad if he left so soon when they hardly had caught up with their lives.

She would have wanted to talk with him and enjoy a long chat about what was happening with him. It had been so many years, so she believed they would have many years to cover.

“Unfortunately, I was only assigned here for an assignment and had to return as soon as possible. I only wish to check on you before I leave. But I promise to come back here when it is more convenient. Now that I know that you live here.” He promised.

They exchanged numbers, promising that they would keep in touch. He would call first before dropping by. So the next time he visited, she would not be too surprised. He jokingly said.

“It had been nice to meet you, Zach.” He offered his hand again, but when Zach took it, he held his firmer this time. Then, he said something that warmed her heart. “I hope you have no plans to hurt my sister.”

And just like that, tears formed in her eyes, but she blinked them away. It was not the time for dramatics. It was a happy day when she finally saw one of the people she had considered her family.

“And I have no intention of making her cry,” Zach told him with a confident face. It seemed like the entire room was oozing with testosterone as the two stared at each other.

“Great. That is all I wanted to hear.” Tabby said, still acting tough like always, even if she knew he was shaking inside.

She could not help the smile that formed on her lips as she watched the scene unfold in her eyes. If only all reunions were like this, just happy. She still had a few old friends which she would wish to see, but maybe someday.

“And you, little man.” Tabby knelt before his son until he was at eye level with him. “Take care of your Mom. I will return soon so we can get to know each other more.” He ruffled his hair before planting a gentle kiss on his head. At least her son had a new uncle that would care for him.

“Now, don’t you cry.” He warned her. “From now on, we are family again.” He said as he approached her. “I will always have your back. I have not forgotten my promise.” He whispered as he leaned forward and hugged her firmly in his burly arms.

She still could not believe that the chubby kid she used to hang with was this big, tender man before her. He looked so different, but she could see now the many resemblances.

“Me, too.” She could see it clearly in her mind as she hugged him tightly, but she could not help the tear that finally fell from her eyes.

Yes, she remembered they had sworn a promise on the old swing.

Chapter 1086 Wedding photos

She looked around at all the beautiful white dresses displayed on the mannequins and lined up on several racks. She would be a hypocrite if she said there was never a moment when she dreamt of wearing one. There were a few, to be honest.

Mostly, she thought of it when she was young and still believed in fairy tales. Then, the last time was when she found love. But unfortunately, she lost it and had to shut down that nonsense.

“I only want a simple dress,” She heard Amelia explain, slightly exasperated with the designer that kept shoving those glamorous, extra fabulous, and glittery dresses she created.

Quickly, she moved toward her, checking on the commotion. She could see that despite her frustration, her friend maintained a smile on her lips and practiced maximum tolerance toward the other woman who was assisting her with the dress.

“I think you will look great in anything you choose here,” Eida said to her friend, who seemed lost in the white sea of wedding gowns surrounding her. “Wait here.” She told her friend.

She left Amelia in front of the large mirror with her voluptuous gown that made her look like Cinderella, who was about to attend the ball. Even she would not wear that hideous dress. Others might find that dress enchanting, but to her and her friend, it was a nightmare.

But she understood what her friend wanted. And she would help her find it, even if she had to scour this store from top to bottom to find the perfect dress for her friend’s wedding.

“Thanks, Sarah.” Her friend called her by her new name, which was becoming more and more natural. It was hard, but she was starting to get used to it.

Some were lucky to get the dream wedding and the man they would spend the rest of their lives with wrapped in a beautiful package. Then, some had to settle to be alone for the rest of their lives.

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At least she had Luisa and her friends to keep her company, to love and cherish. She believed that was good enough. She did not need a man to make her whole again. She just wanted them.

“It is your wedding. I want it to be perfect.” And she would not settle for anything less. She might not marry anytime soon or ever, but at least she would be part of her friend’s special day.

Moreover, she was very happy for her friend, who found everything she wanted in her life. But she knew Amelia deserved everything she got because her friend was the best person she had ever met, so much better than her.

She was off to look for the dress that would suit her friend's personality. Of course, she also had to find the cutie dress for the little bridesmaid, Luisa, and the groom's grandmother, Angela. She would look for hers later.

After rummaging through rack after rack of white clothes, she thought she had finally found the one. She quickly brought the dress to her friend. She knew when Amelia saw it. She did a good job.

Amelia's eyes lit up when she saw the turtle neck, open back with long lacy sleeves, and silky white gown. She knew she would look fabulous in it. It might be a Vegas wedding, but it would be one memorable one.

"Maybe I should start a career in fashion." She jokingly said to her friend since she was good at it.

But her first love would always be telling the news and getting to the bottom of a story. She could never leave that life behind. But she knew she had to avoid the limelight. However, she believed she could live without that part of her previous life.

But if it failed and she needed a fallback, maybe she could work as a publicist for a celebrity or something. She could manage that. But that would be her last resort.

"You certainly have the talent for it," Amelia said while the designer had no choice but to agree with them. After all, they were the clients. She could not upset a valuable client, not her, but the bride.

"Now, go fit it and let us see." She encouraged her friend as the assistants helped her.

In the meantime, she searched the store for the rest of their clothes. After a few more minutes of roaming around, she found a pretty pink dress for Luisa, a yellowish-gold dress for Angela, and a creamy, simple dress with a one-sided sleeve just for her.

That was not that hard as Amelia finally emerged from the dressing room to show off her beautiful gown. It needed a few tweaks here and there to fit her perfectly, but the designer promised she would have it delivered in just an hour tops.

"I guess we are through here," Sarah announced as she took Luisa back into her arms. "Shall we check in to the hotel and have some beauty rest before the event." She suggested, seeing that Angela looked tired from the long flight and the dress shopping.

Soon, they were inside their respective rooms for a light nap before the stylists arrived to do their nails, hair, and makeup. Well, Evan said that he would handle the rest.

She just had to make sure the bride and everyone else arrived at the church on time. She believed she could do that. As far as she was concerned, no one could stop this wedding.

"Aren't you tired, my little princess?" As if to answer her question, Luisa yawned. "I guess you are." She said as she placed her on the bed beside her pretty dress.

"Did you like your dress?" Eida showed her baby, which she ignored as she closed her eyes.

Luisa did not sleep much on the flight, so she better make sure her baby had a good nap now, or she would be cranky at the ceremony later. She left her to sleep peacefully. Then, she moved toward the nearby table.

She believed she could still work for an hour while waiting. She was not sleepy after all. She started scanning the news, trying to find interesting that could trigger an idea in her head.

She needed fresh, new stories that would wow her bosses. A story that was explosive and would blow their minds away. However, as her fingers slid through her pad, she accidentally stumbled on a story.

It was what she would die to do in the old days, but not now, as a tear dropped down her cheeks. But she could not stop picturing herself as the one wearing that beautiful white dress, posing in front of the cameras with the man she loved as they had their wedding photos.

Chapter 1087 Unfinished business

He had been searching for his client for days.

One day, she suddenly vanished without a trace. He asked her manager about her whereabouts, but Nora said she just needed time to think. She would resurface when she was ready to face her problems.

He could not help but wonder if the defendant had successfully intimidated his client. He remembered that she had a private meeting with him. Then after that, she seemed to act strange. A few days later, she was gone.

Now, she was back, learning she walked back into her apartment that afternoon. Quickly, Adam knocked on her door, wanting to see her. He believed he had the right to know what was happening with her.

When she opened the door, he greeted her, "Hi." as he stood outside her door. She still looked beautiful and well, but something was different with her. He could tell.

"Hey, Adam." She responded as if she had not disappeared on him. She stood there just looking at him without ushering him inside.

He could not see what was happening inside since she hardly opened the door. It was like she was purposely hiding what she had been doing inside from him.

"Aren't you even going to invite me inside?" He asked, slightly confused at how she was behaving. "I think we still have a few things to talk about." He told her as he waited for her to widen the door opening and allow him entry.

However, instead of letting him in, she came out. "About that. I think we don't have much to talk about." She finally said, but she avoided looking at his face as she stared at her hands that were entwined together before her.

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"What do you mean, Serena?" Adam asked. He did not understand what was going on. Of course, they still had many things to discuss regarding the case.

Then, his concern suddenly shifted to something else, remembering if he had done something to offend her. Did he cross a line that he should never have? But he could not remember any.

As far as he knew, he had controlled whatever he felt for her. He did not want to ruin their working relationship. At that moment, Serena needed a counselor more than anything else. And a friend she could trust.

"I don't think I will need your services, Adam." She finally said as she finally tilted her face to look at him. "I appreciate all your help. And I will assure you that Nora compensates you for all your efforts."

"I will even send an extra check to help with your pro bono cases. Consider it a bonus." She said as if she was concluding a transaction and nothing else.

As if the few moments they shared that went beyond the attorney and client relationship were nothing. Was that it? Did she fire him? And then, she just told him to forget that she had ever existed in his life.

"I don't understand. But the case is not yet over." He stated as if that was a riddle he could not solve. "Have you found another representation?" He asked since that was the only logical explanation for it.

He would not mind since he knew there were larger firms with many resources that could better serve her needs. He believed it would be a good move since he was fighting against a giant.

However, he could still give her legal advice if she needed one. After all, her brother trusted him to take care of her case. As of now, David was in a tight situation. His friend needed him to guarantee that Serena was safe.

"No. I did not need one, but yes, I hired a new law firm." She said, finally looking away. "Anyway, I decided to drop the case. I will be making my arrangement from this point onward."

He was slightly confused by her answer as she opened her door and was about to enter it. "It was nice to meet you, Adam. I will leave the key to this apartment at the counter. Then I will be out of here before the night is over." She said.

But before she could enter the room, he grabbed her wrist, pulling her back to him. "Wait. I need more than that. I need an explanation." It did not make sense that she would drop her case.

Granted, they did not have a solid case, but still, he believed they had a firm one. Serena did not have to succumb to the pressure their opponents were throwing at them.

"Besides, I know I can win this case." He said, not wanting her to quit just like that.

"I don't doubt your abilities. I know you are a good lawyer. But I already decided not to pursue this case anymore." She said as she avoided looking into his eyes as he gazed down at her.

"Then, explain to me why you abruptly changed your mind," Adam asked her, his voice suddenly climbing an octave higher.

However, he noticed that another tenant was staring at them. "Come on. We can't talk here in the hallway." He pushed his body inside her apartment, gently dragging her with him, closing the door behind them.

He finally saw that she had packed most of her things in boxes. She was indeed leaving. He could not help but wonder if she had planned to say goodbye if he did not accidentally see her.

“There is nothing to explain. I am just tired of what is happening with my life. I am tired of fighting something I know I never have a chance of winning. And I don’t want to stay a minute longer in this place.” She enumerated her reasons.

However, somehow, he did not believe her. He could sense that it was not the reason. Maybe those were a factor, but it was not the one that had made her back out of this fight.

“I don’t think that is it. There is something you are not telling me.” He said as if letting her go was not that simple.

Honestly, he felt his need to stop her had nothing to do with the case anymore or his promise to her brother. It was more about him and her, how he had felt about her.

He believed it was also something they needed to discuss. It was their unfinished business that needed a resolution.

Chapter 1088 Matchmaking skills

Everything around them seemed electrified as the stylist finally arrived to bring chaos into their midst. They wanted that while she wanted something else.

She had thought of her wedding now as different from when she was clueless about love. Back then, she believed that a grand wedding was the only way to prove how much a couple loved each other.

Now, she could not care less about the value of their wedding. She could get married in a chapel without paying a single dime if possible and would not give a damn. All she wanted was the rings on their fingers and a paper signed by them, indicating that they legally belonged to each other.

“I only need my hair tied in a simple knot on top of my head. And a light makeup.” She insisted, not wanting her to look like a doll about to go on display.

“Hey, Amelia.” Eida went to her side. “I think they might be right. You need a little color on your skin and a little flair in your hair. It is your wedding day and not just any other day.”

After rationalizing it, she finally conceded, thinking her friend might be right. She should not be overthinking this. She finally agreed to let the stylist work on her magic.

Then, the gown arrived at the same time as the flowers. Everything looked perfect. The next thing left was to wear that beautiful dress and grab the flowers. Then all was set.

“Oh my! You look marvelous.” Angela looked at her with teary eyes after she had donned her dress and stood before the large, full-length mirror.

Even she believed she was gorgeous. Thankfully, she had listened to her friend, or she would have been the dullest bride in history. Sometimes, not all simple was great. Maybe sometimes, it was not wrong to want something more.

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“And I also want all of you to look fabulous,” Amelia announced as the other stylist made their final touches on her friends.

She believed they still had more time to spare before the big event, so they took their time. If she looked beautiful, she wanted everyone also to look the same.

They might be her only guest, but they were the only ones she needed. She did not mind if she did not invite her father since Angela had been a better parent to her than him.

“And make way to our special flower girl,” Eida announced as she entered with their little angel, wearing her adorable pink dress and pink flowers crowned in her head.

“Oh damn! You look more beautiful than me, my Princess.” She said to the little girl that she took in her arms. “Now, Evan will only have eyes on you.” Amelia teased her, and the baby awarded her with a sweet smile.

“I doubt that will ever happen.” Eida countered while taking her child from her. “I will take her before she burps on you. I only fed her so she would not be cranky during the ceremony.” She explained.

Of course, they would not want her dress full of her vomit. But she could already see that little child would grow up as a beautiful young Princess someday.

As her godmother, she could only wish that Luisa would find her Prince Charming, the man that would sweep her off her feet and make her the happiest woman alive, just like how she felt right now.

“My grandson has only eyes for you since that fateful day I found a way to introduce the two of you. And I believe that was one of my best performances to date.” Angela said as she played with Luisa with a mischievous smile on her red lips.

“What? Are you saying you set it all up?” She looked at the older lady with wide eyes. “Were you even sick or lost consciousness that day?” Remembering she found her friend lying on the kitchen floor, looking like she was dying.

“Well...” Angela finally looked up and shrugged her shoulders. “I am an old lady, and soon I will die. I only want my grandson to end up with a great woman who would be perfect for him.”

Then, Angela walked towards her while she was speechless at what she was hearing, having no clue about what her friend had done. “I have known you for a while. In our few conversations, I know I like you, and my grandson might like you too.

I intended to introduce you to my grandson several times, but he had always been busy. There was just no opportunity to do so. Then, one day, you landed at my doorstep.

I knew that was my only opportunity. Fate had given me my last chance. So, I acted like I had a heart attack, contacted my friends at the hospital, and pretended to be sick.” She narrated.

“So, you were not even sick back then.” She could remember how worried she was about her condition that she could not leave her side.

“I was sick, but not dying if that was what you mean. And yes, I fake the entire thing. It was the only way Evan would rush to my side and introduce the two of you.” She finally confided to her the only secret she kept from his grandson.

Then, Angela held her hands, entwining her fingers with hers. "It was the best decision I ever made for my grandson because I know you will make him happy. I can die any minute now and be happy." Angela said.

"But don't worry. I will not die today because I will never ruin the best day of your life. I am very happy for you, my grandson, Eida, and our little Princess over here." She turned and looked at Luisa.

"I guess I should be glad that you are a great actress. Or I would never have met the man I am about to marry." Amelia could only admit how much she appreciated Angela's effort.

If not for her matchmaking skills, she would be one lonely soul, still looking for her soulmate.

Chapter 1089 Worthy of a man's true love

She looked everywhere else instead of directly looking at him. She had no words to say to him except she was sorry. But why would she apologize to him?

Adam was just her lawyer, nothing else. She had fired countless people before and never felt anything like this. She had a terrible sensation in her gut that would not go away.

Nevertheless, she thought she could get out of this place while he was at work. She did not expect he would come home early and catch her.

She intended to leave without saying goodbye to him. She did not want this awkwardness she felt now. It would have been easier if she had just sent him a thank you note with the check.

"I don't think that is it. There is something you are not telling me." She heard him say. And he was right.

There were many things she had kept from him. And she intended to keep it that way. There was no more need for him to learn the truth since she had already decided to leave this horrible experience behind and bury it in the deepest part of her brain, never to dig it up again.

"As I said, I am firing you as my legal counsel. There is nothing else for us to talk about." She said again. "The door is open. Please leave so I can finish packing." Dismissing the man still standing before her.

Suddenly, she regretted coming over instead of letting Nora get her remaining things in her apartment. She did not know why she had to do this herself, but now she knew it had been a terrible idea.

Nonetheless, why was she avoiding him in the first place? Honestly, she did not want to answer that.

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Or maybe subconsciously, she truly wanted to see him. She could not just admit it to herself because she was a coward.

Everybody thought that she was this big celebrity hotshot. But deep inside, she was just a loser. And all she wanted to do now was hide. To go to a place where nobody would know her and be nobody.

"There are plenty of things we still need to talk about." He suddenly interrupted her, making her look up out of curiosity. "Us." He uttered one word, which was the only clue she needed.

She suddenly turned away from him. She automatically understood what he was saying. She knew that he was attracted to her. She was also aware of how much she liked him.

But was that enough for them to jump into a relationship? Of course not. She would only put him in a compromising position and ruin his life if she allowed this silly notion to proceed.

Adam did not deserve a woman like her. Behind the spotlight, the glitter, and the makeup, she was just trash, while he was a man with a heart of gold. He was too good for a girl like her.

“What are you talking about?” She was not about to drag this man with her into the dirt. “There is no us.” She told him.

Look at how her impulsive actions had destroyed her career and how her decisions ruined her life. She was a mess. Then, she might not have a job tomorrow.

The entire gossip column might run all her stupid mistakes by the next news cycle. Then, her reputation would flash down the drain. She believed not even her family would want her back in their lives.

“I know you also feel the same way as me.” Then, she felt his hands covering her shoulders as he forced her to face him. “I like you so much. I am losing my mind looking for you. I will do anything I can to protect you if you let me.”

She could feel the sincerity in his voice. There was also a hint of desperation in them. A sadness that she knew she had brought to his life. She could not help but feel guilty, ashamed, and sad that she was the cause of his suffering.

But if she gave in to what he wanted, she would only worsen his situation.

She would only bring misery into his life. He was doing fine with his life until she came along.

“I like you too.” She could not lie to him, not about that. “But there is no future for us.” She told him. “I am sorry, but I don’t want to be with you.” She thought that they could work together without getting any strings attached. But clearly, Adam could not. Although she liked him, she could not string him along in her life.

Just like she said, he was a man who could only see the goodness in people. He could have been a great lawyer with top-notch clients, but he chose to help the masses.

Adam was a man that was just too good for her.

“What did that man say to you? Did he threaten you?” He asked, concluding that she based her decision on her ex-lover.

Partially, it was true.

Her ex-boyfriend had influenced some of her judgment. But it was just a factor, not the entirety of why she came up with her conclusion. But whatever she was about to do with her life now was purely her decision.

“Listen.” She finally looked him in the eye. “I want to go away. As far away from all of this.” She stopped, seeing the hurt in his eyes. “I need to do this for myself.” She knew she sounded selfish, but she believed it was the only way to fix her life.

At that moment, she could see that he saw her as a girl who needed fixing. Maybe that was what attracted all those men to her. They saw her as an easy target. A weakling that they could easily manipulate.

But that had to change.

She was tired of how people saw her. She believed the only person who could fix herself was her. She could not keep letting other people control her life or tell her what to do.

She finally wanted to see who she was. And not the person she wanted people to see.

At this point, she needed to learn to love herself before allowing someone else to love her. Maybe someday she would be worthy of a man’s true love.

Chapter 1090 A package deal

He could not wait to see his bride come down that aisle and smile at him. He never thought that this day would finally come. Truthfully, he had never dreamed of getting married.

But at that moment, he could not wait to get tied down to one woman and never look at anyone else for the rest of his life. He guessed his bachelor days were over, and he was turning a new leaf in his life.

“Sir, the bride is already waiting outside.” The coordinator said to him as if signaling for him to get ready. “We are about to start.” The woman continued, but he only nodded in response, unable to say anything else.

Nonetheless, he had never felt more prepared in his entire life as he waited for those doors to open and reveal his wife-to-be. She had made him realize that this was what he had always longed for, not success in his career or money. But someone to love and love him back.

“Ok. Start the music.” Evan heard the woman had instructed the man behind the piano.

He stood alone at the altar with strangers taking part in this ceremony. But he did not care, knowing that soon, as that door opened, the people he cared about would march toward him and join him in this momentous event.

How much he wished that their friends were here to join them. He also hoped that her father would have loved her enough for her to want him at this wedding.

But for now, he could not have everything. However, he was ready to settle for the woman he loved and the little circle that he called his family. And from this point forward, he would shower her with all the love she deserved.

“We are a go.” He heard the woman say on her headset. Then, everything went silent as the music began, filling the air around him.

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But he did not care about the music as his eyes focused on the light that slowly peeked through the opening doors. To him, the sight was simply magical. He had no words to describe it as the woman he had yearned to be with appeared before his eyes.

However, it was a false alarm as Eida emerged from the radiating light with Luisa in her arms. The maid of honor and their little flower girl prepared the way for the bride as they scattered red and white rose petals on the carpeted pathway.

It was such an adorable sight to see their little angel beaming with happiness as she played with the petals in her fingers. He could not wait to have an angel of his own.

“What is taking her so long?” Evan mumbled as he waited impatiently to see Amelia. He always thought one of his friends would stand by his side to give him moral support on his wedding day.

However, he understood if none of them could come. They would have if he had invited them, but he knew their families and loved ones needed them more than he needed them.

Eventually, his long wait ended as he saw a shadow or an image of a woman standing at the center of the bright light. He knew then that it was her, no doubt about it.

“Wow! She is a beauty.” A man’s voice penetrated his thought, saying what he should have said. She was indeed the most beautiful bride in his eyes.

She was everything he had never dreamed of but, by some stroke of luck, found landing in his arms. Maybe it was a reward for what he had done in his past life or a debt he had to pay in his next. But still, he believed she was worth it.

“You are one lucky man,” Elvis said behind him as he stared at the woman who gradually descended toward him.

Of course, not Elvis himself, but the man impersonating the legendary King of rock and roll. He would be officiating their wedding. He was legit, and it seemed fun to have him as part of this wedding party. It would not be a Vegas wedding without him.

He met him earlier in the hotel lobby when he and his friend struggled to find someone to perform the ceremony. It seemed the one his friend contacted had a sudden emergency and could not make it. He would settle for him instead of postponing their plans.

“I am.” He proudly acknowledged, knowing in his heart that he would not have met her if fate had not intervened. Then, she would not have fallen in love with him if she never gave him several chances to correct his mistakes.

After that, he could care less what the man said, as his only focus was on the woman who slowly marched down the aisle. She was the most beautiful creature that ever existed on this earth. She must be an angel sent to him to put him in the right direction.

His grandmother had been right all along. She was the perfect match for him because she could tame his wild heart with her smile. Her voice could soothe his soul, and her love could melt all the fear in his cold heart.

"I guess this is where I give my blessings to both of you," Angela said as she kissed them, both on their cheeks, before stepping aside, giving way for the groom to take his bride to the altar.

He did not even notice how beautiful his grandmother was until she spoke to him. That was how focused he was on keeping his eye on the prize because he would not let anything take her away from him.

"Thank you, Grandmama, for everything." He could not enumerate all of them because a lifetime seemed not enough.

He watched her teary grandmother smile at them, showing them how happy she was. Finally, he had his future wife in his arms as he ushered her toward the man that would legally make them one.

"Elvis?" Amelia uttered in shock as they stopped before the altar. It appeared that she only had eyes for him as she did not notice the man standing behind him until now.

"I am sorry about him, but..." He was ready to explain. In case she found this weird. After all, she might expect an ordained priest to officiate their wedding, as they had discussed earlier.

"Don't be." She suddenly answered, surprising him. "You just made Grandmama Angela very happy." She added, pointing to his grandmother, who had a lovely smile on her lips.

He had forgotten how much his grandparents idolized the legendary singer. Now, he could see that the three women joining him today only had smiles on their lips. Maybe fate was still smiling down on him.

"Can you sing?" Suddenly, Amelia asked their wedding minister. "Maybe you can also do a few numbers on our reception."

It was a small reception that included the bride, the groom, and their three guests. But it was all they needed to celebrate this private occasion.

He could not help but shake his head as Elvis smiled at them.

"Of course! I will." Elvis playfully answered them. "It is a package deal." He added as he playfully winked at Angela, who gushed at her spot like a fan girl.