

Royal Contract 111

Chapter 111 - Best Interest

"How was your trip to the palace?" He asked his daughter, who just arrived back home. "Are you ok, Tyra?" He appeared concerned when he saw her face.

He requested that she immediately report to him after settling in her apartment. He wanted to know what happened to his daughter and her mission to get her prince back.

"I failed, Dad. He did not want me back." She confided to her father after sitting on his side at the dining table. "He is about to marry Daniella Hamilton. Do you know her and her family? They said that her father was super-rich. He was wealthier than you."

"Yes, I know his father, Ethan, but I had only seen his daughter when she was still young. I hardly remember what she looks like now." His father, John Richards, informed her, although he did see a recent picture of her on the news.

He already knew about the royal engagement. It was all over the news. He was expecting that Tyra would find a way to persuade Alex to choose her, but it would seem that her daughter failed to do that.

He knew it had been his fault from the start. If he did not interfere with their relationship, then maybe they would still be together. Tyra might be Alexander's fiancé by now. Instead, Daniella landed the spot.

"I guess it is over now, Dad. I made the mistake of choosing Edward over him. Now I have to accept it." She resigned to her fate.

Although his father did meddle in her affairs, she could not blame him. It was still her who made her decision. Her father did not put a gun in her head and forced her to choose Edward. Now she had no choice but to accept the consequence for her wrong actions.

If she was a bit understanding of what Alex was going through back then. Instead of demanding his time and his commitment, then maybe she was the one wearing his ring right now.

"Don't be too hard on yourself. It was not entirely your fault." He had to convince his daughter that the fight is still not over.

Alex and that girl were not yet married. There were still many things that could happen between now and the day of the wedding. They could still end up separating and ending their relationship even before the wedding, like things that were beyond their control.

"No, it is. Please, Dad, do not blame yourself. You did nothing wrong." She did not want his father to think that his participation in what happened was the cause why she ended up in this situation.

She was so mad at him when he could not commit to her, choosing his career over her. She ended up breaking up with him. Then, Edward took an interest in her, making her feel what Alex failed to do. She was blinded by her hurt, making her choose Edward.

But in the end, when Edward already got tired of her, he dumped her like she was nothing. Edward moved on to something better. That was his words. She was a fool to believe that he was a better guy than Alex.

She allowed him to persuade her by his nice act and his kind words. She failed to realize that he was only using her to get back at Alexander.

"I did convince you to find another man who would love you after things between you and Alex became shaky." He reminded her.

But he thought that the kingdom would go to Edward. So, when he learned that the prince was interested in Tyra, he set them up together. It worked perfectly according to his plan. He managed to break up Tyra and Alex. The next thing he knew, Tyra was dating Edward.

"But you did not force me to date someone else as soon as Alex and I broke up. I was the one who decided to see Edward." She reasoned, regretting every minute of it.

"Still, I should have advised you to make it work first with Alex instead of allowing you to go out with that man." John could see the hurt in his daughter's eyes. He knew that her daughter was still in love with Alex.

Recent news indicated that some changes in the palace were about to happen. With Alex's acceptance as another heir, he became more inclined to sit on the throne.

Now, he wanted her daughter to marry Alex. But how when he was now engaged to the daughter of the great Hamilton. His wealth was far superior to his. He had no power against him.

"There is no more use to blame anyone. What was done was done. All I could do now is move on with my life without him." She told her father as she stood from her chair to leave. "Thank you, father, for always being there for me."

"If only your mother is alive, she would be the one helping you with this problem. Maybe she could have given you better advice." He looked at his daughter with a sad face. He wanted to sympathize with her pain.

"I know that, Dad. That is why you are more special to me because, despite your busy schedule, you always make time for me." She kissed his father goodbye. "I love you, Dad."

"Ok, go home and rest. I'll see you another day." He assisted her daughter to her car. "I love you too, my princess."

If only her daughter had convinced Alex, she would have become a real princess, maybe even a queen.

Then, he could be king. He would have had a fighting chance against Ethan in the leadership in the business industry. With his wealth and Alex's combined resources, in addition to the kingdom, he could easily overpower Ethan in every way.

However, her daughter failed again to secure her spot at the right hand of the future king. He wondered what he had to do to remedy that without his daughter knowing about it.

He was sure that she would never agree to any of his plans once she knew his motives. His daughter was not like him. She was more like her mother, weak and naive. If only he had a son, he would have someone who would help him build his empire.

"Don't worry, my daughter. I will make sure that you will still end up marrying Alexander." He mumbled to himself as he sipped on his drink.

He took his phone from his pocket and dialed a number. "I need you to come here as soon as possible. We have a lot to discuss." He said over the line.

"What is this all about?" The man on the other line asked him.

"Just come here, and I will tell you everything about it. I have a job for you." He knew that once he learned of his plan. He would not have a second thought of helping him.

"I'm on my way." He answered him.

"Hurry up." He said, quickly ending the call.

Now, he had to plan for his daughter's future. He wanted them back together because he wanted her happiness. That was what he would require her to believe. He had to make it appear that it was in her best interest that he was doing this.

Chapter 112 - No First-class Accommodation

"Are you sure of where we are going?" She asked him as she saw the dark clouds closed down on them.

In a few minutes, she was sure that the rain would drop on them, and they would have nothing to cover them against it.

"We are almost there. I don't want to speed up because I don't want us to end up in a ditch." He yelled over his shoulder so she would hear him.

"Ok, but we do need to hurry because the rain is almost here." She could also hear a thunderstorm not far from their location.

She knew she was right that they should have taken a car, but there was no use in blaming him when there was nothing he could do about it now. He was only thinking of saving them some time when he thought of using his bike. Besides, nobody could predict the weather.

"It's just over there." He finally pointed at a house not too far from them.

He remembered this place when he once volunteered to help in the restoration back in his youth. But it had been years since he had been here. He had no idea of the state of the structure if it was still the same.

"Ok." She answered, almost relieved to see the structure, even if it was still a bit far from them when rain was about to fall.

However, they were not so lucky as the rain poured down on them, even before they reached the house. It was almost at their reach, but still, they ended up soaked by the time they entered the door.

"I'm truly sorry for this." He indicated their drenched appearance with their clothes sticking on their skins. "You can blame me if you get sick." He was ready to accept whatever she had to say to him. It was his miscalculation that led them in this condition anyway.

"Well, you are sorry. I think that is good enough. You could not have predicted the weather would be like this. We left with the sun in full strength, so who would have thought that it would suddenly rain like this." She was not going to make blaming him some, sort of, an exercise. She was not going to get used to that while they were pretending to be a couple. Blaming each other and acting like cat and dog would only harden their situation.

"Thanks, Dani." He was glad that she was taking this lightly. "Now, let me see what we can do to dry up and keep warm." He went around the shed, which was full of tools and some supplies. "At least the roof is intact. That should keep the rain out." He said as a consolation prize.

"Yeah. At least I had the foresight to bring some extra clothes." She stated as she took her small bag and opened it. Unfortunately, the extra clothes were also wet. "Damn. I forgot that my bag is not waterproof."

"Let us look around. Maybe there are work clothes here that we can temporarily use while we dry our clothes." He instructed her to go to the other room while he searched the other one.

"Ok." She agreed, not having any other choice. It was either they found other clothes or go naked. She believed the latter was not a good idea and would never be an option.

She went inside the other room, while Alex went to the next one. Besides the main room, which consisted of a table, three chairs, and shelves of tools, there were only two rooms in this single floor shed.

The room she entered had a single bed with a thin mattress and one pillow. It was probably used by the caretaker, in case of an emergency, like this.

"Did you find anything?" Alex shouted through the thin wall that separated them.

Alex could not find anything that he thought they could use to replace their clothing when he rummaged to the other room. It was more shelves, equipment, and supplies used to repair the castle.

"Not yet." She shouted back. She was about to move to the cabinet when she noticed the door. Alex was already standing just outside the open door.

"There was nothing in the other room. Have you checked the cabinets?" He asked, seeing it behind her.

"Well, I was about to when you interrupted me." She told him as she moved to open the cabinet. "Yes! There are several clothes here." She felt relieved to find something they could use. She was already feeling the chills in her bones. This time, not because of Alex, but due to the wet clothes on her body.

She took out two shirts and two pairs of pants from the cabinet and tried to look for some towels from the lower shelves and anything that they could still use, like blankets. She was not sure how long they would be staying in this shed.

"Do you need any help?" Alex stood behind her as she scooped down lower to check the bottom drawer.

"Can you hold on to this?" She handed him the clothes and other things she found in the cabinet that they might need.

"I think this is more than enough." He checked the things in his hand.

"Wait. I am looking for a bedsheet." She pointed to the mattress of the bed.

"Oh, nice thinking." He only replied. A man usually would not care for such things. Any flat dry surface would be a good enough place to sleep on, so a need for a bedsheet was not necessary.

"Here." She finally found a clean white sheet that she could use to cover the bed if she had to sleep in this place. She just wanted to be prepared, in case they found themselves stranded overnight.

It was going to be dark soon. Dani had no idea of the scope of the thunderstorm if it would stop anytime from now or would last all throughout the night. She thought that it was better to prepare for any eventuality.

Then she placed the sheet on the bed before facing Alex, who still had their change of clothes in his hands. She suddenly felt suffocated with him standing close by in the small room with the bed beside them.

"You go change here. I can use the other room to change." He offered, feeling the awkwardness of the moment and knowing that they should get out of their wet clothes soon before they both caught a cold.

He still felt worried that they ended up in this situation, seeing Dani drenched with rainwater, shaking with the cold. They needed to change fast. Then he should start a fire and prepare something hot that could warm them.

He saw a stove and a kettle in the small kitchen when he scanned the place. He hoped that there was a tea or a coffee that he could use inside the cupboards.

"Thanks." She intended to take this room in the first place while he could have the other room. It was no first-class accommodation, but at least they were safe from the rain and other things that crawl out there, she thought.

Chapter 113 - Stranded For The Night

When Dani went out, Alex had already started the fire. She welcomed the heat that was coming from the small fireplace. Dani began to feel the chill in her bones, so the warmth should help her ease the ache in her body.

She was not expecting that it was going to be that cold after getting wet by the rain. But she believed that after a little while, she would be back to normal.

"Alex, what are you doing?" She asked while she sat near the fire, looking at him, working on something on the stove.

She marveled at the way he moved in the kitchen. As if he was totally at ease whenever he was preparing food. She had observed this during their first dinner at his place.

Now, seeing him again working on the counter made her realize that any woman would be lucky to have him as a husband. She would consider him. Honestly, she thought as she stared at him. If she was looking, but she was not ready for such a commitment.

"I found some instant teabag in the cupboard. I thought to make some." He took two cups and placed them near the stove as he waited for the water to boil.

"Do you need some help?" She could not just sit around like a princess. She stood up and went beside him.

"No, you should not have bothered to stand up." Alex moved to her side, seeing that something was off with her. She was still slightly shaking. "Are you alright?" He became alarmed when he saw her pale face and her nose was turning pink.

He could not help but worry about their situation. If Dani continued to get sick, they would not have had help in this isolated place with no communication.

"I am ok. A bit cold, but I think the warmth of the fire was helping." She told him.

She did feel something odd, but it was nothing that he should be concerned with since she was strong as an ox. She also believed that the hot tea would make a difference.

"I think you should go back to your seat by the fire and let the expert do this." He held her by her shoulders, not caring anymore if she would resist his touch, and ushered her back to the chair by the fire.

She must be feeling not herself when she did not even flinch in his touch, the way she usually did when their skin connected. He was now starting to worry that she was developing a cold. Hopefully, it would not turn into a fever, or that would be a big problem.

He wished there was a more comfortable chair that she could sit on, but it was the only thing available in the room. He helped her to the chair by the small table close to the fireplace.

"Thanks, but I am ok. You don't need to worry about me." She was slightly worried too about what was happening to her. She felt like her energy was suddenly being zapped out of her slowly. Then the pain was starting to take over. It had been a while since she got sick, so the feeling was not familiar anymore.

"I think you're getting the cold. Your immune system must have been weak after all the activities that you went through. These couple of weeks had been chaotic for all of us. I think that your body is trying to find a way to recover from all that stress." He explained.

"No, I don't get sick." She protested. But lately, she felt slight fatigue from the many activities, long nights at work, then the dates, and now the traveling. Her body must be protesting from her lack of sleep and rest. Her immune system was probably failing her, just like Alex said.

"Yes, you didn't. But I think you are now." He touched her forehead. Luckily, the fever did not set in yet. But it did not mean that it would not. "I'll just hurry up with the tea so that you can sip something warm that can heat your body."

Now, he knew that he had made a big mistake of not thinking about her welfare and safety. He should not have insisted on going to the castle today when there were so many other days they could have gone. He was not sure why he was so adamant about seeing her and being alone with her. Now, look at what he had done.

"Ok." She did not feel like protesting anymore. She just wanted to feel the heat that was coming from the burning log.

She relaxed on the chair, trying to find a comfortable position. She decided to put her hands on the table and rest her chin on it while staring at the fire.

"What about you? Aren't you cold?" She asked when she seemed a bit warmer, but there was still something wrong with her. But she wanted to ignore it as something that would go away eventually.

"A bit." That was his only answer as he brought the teas he had prepared, one for her and another for him. He was ok based on his assessment of his body. It was Dani that he believed was worse than him.

He sat on the opposite side of the table, observing her condition. He was hoping that she was feeling a bit better after getting warm up.

However, the possibility of going home was now out of the question unless he could call home to ask for some help. He could not risk putting Dani on the bike in her current condition. "Is your phone working?"

"My phone. I think so." She said, but she had not to check it since they left the castle. She had forgotten about it.

"Where is it?" He asked, hoping that he could use it to call back at the palace to get someone to get them.

"It is in my bag, in the room." She remembered putting it in there since it might fall in her jeans pocket while they were in the motorbike.

"Let me just check it out." But when he did, he learned that it was also damaged by the rain, just like his phone. His phone was in his pocket during the ride. "I guess rescue is out of the question tonight."

He decided to put the phones near the fire, hoping that it would power up once it dried in the morning. Maybe he could call tomorrow for someone to pick them up. For now, they would have to sleep here. At least there was electricity and a fire to warm them up.

"How are you feeling?" He asked when she finally finished the cup of tea.

"I think I am feeling so much better." She declared to him, not wanting him to worry about her.

She suddenly felt guilty for being so hard on him when all he ever did was be nice to her. Yes, he was playful at times, but it was his way of making their situation more bearable.

Now, all he ever did was worry about her condition. Maybe it was time that she eased up with him, be more friendly.

"Well, if you think you are warm enough. Maybe you would want to sleep in the room." He instructed since he could see that sitting in that wooden chair was not exactly comfortable for her. "We do not have a choice but to stay here for the night."

"I already guess that much." She assessed earlier that it was a possibility that they might get stranded for the night in this place.

Chapter 114 - Falling In Love

"I found this in the medicine cabinet. It should help with the cold and the pain." He decided to give her the medicine tablet he found in the first aid kit. It would help prevent her condition from worsening.

"Thanks. Yes, I better drink one to be on the safe side." She took one tablet while he grabbed a bottle of water on the cabinet.

He was thankful that at least some necessities were available in the shed. The caretaker must be restocking the shed for his needs. However, he made a mental note to have the shed repaired and stocked with additional supplies.

"Time for you to go to bed." He told her, noticing that she looked like she was about to fall to sleep on the chair.

That was a bit of an exaggeration. Alex concluded that she might get drowsy with the medication she just consumed.

"What about you? Do you need a bed sheet and blanket for your bed? I'll look for another one." She remembered that she only took care of her room, where she would be sleeping. She forgot to bother helping him with his room.

"There is no need. I already took care of it, and I already have a blanket." He did not want to lie to her, but he did not want to bother her anymore. He only wanted her to rest. He would manage to find a comfortable place to sleep. The wooden floor in front of the fireplace seemed ideal for tonight.

"Ok. I better go to bed then." She could not stay and chat with him. She felt like a lead was placed on her eyelids, making her eyes droopy. But when she walked towards the room, she felt her muscles and joints protesting in every movement it made.

"Do you need help?" He asked, but he did not wait for an answer when he saw her struggling in her every step. He immediately went to her side and placed his arm around her waist to support her.

"I think I can manage to go to the room on my own." She tried to wiggle her body away from him, but it was too much of an effort.

She did not want to bother him. She was sure that he was as tired as she was. And she did not want to worry him. Whatever she felt would be cured by a good night's sleep, she thought.

"Please, I just want to help." He told her, but he already felt a slight fever as her body leaned against him. He knew that he had to watch her tonight in case that it turned into the full-blown flu.

She would not like it for sure, but he was not giving her a choice. As long as she was her fiancé, he had to protect and take care of her.

"I'm sorry. I don't want to be a burden to you." She still tried to stand up straight, but it was starting to be too much effort on her part.

"Please, don't force yourself. You are not a burden to me. It is my fault that you are sick." He was sorry that his wrong decision led them to this situation. He had to learn to be more mindful when it came to her safety.

"No. It was nobody's fault." She did not want him to blame himself. "Ok. You can help me, and then you can leave and rest too." She placed her hands on his arms to support herself.

"Ok." He answered so they would stop arguing.

Finally, she stopped protesting. Alex figured that it was already an effort for her to take another step. He decided to carry her instead to the bed. This time, she did not stop him anymore.

He placed the blanket on her, securing it around her body so that she would be warm enough. The room was warm enough because of the insulations, so it was good for her to sleep in it.

He was glad to see that she immediately closed her eyes when her head touched the pillow. And then fell asleep after a few minutes of steady breathing. She must be exhausted or very sick to fall into a deep slumber that easily.

He decided to take one of the chairs outside and placed it near her bed. He planned to watch her for a few hours until he was confident that her fever had subsided.

After an hour, he noticed that she was restless in her sleep. He moved closer to her and found out that her fever did get worse. He had to do something to lower it down. Then, she was starting to shake. She must be cold again.

He immediately went outside and took his blanket to use on her as additional cover. He also took a small cloth he found in the cabinet. He would wet the piece of clothing so he could use it to cool her fever down.

"I'm sorry, but I need to wipe your body so that the fever would not go higher." He was uncertain of what he was doing, but he remembered watching this in a movie about first aid when no other resources were available to them.

He started wiping her face first, gently dabbing the wet cloth on her skin. Then he touched her forehead, testing if the cold towel was helping. When he felt that the heat toned down a little, he repeated the action. Then, he started wiping her neck, arms, and the things that the cloth could reach without taking her clothes off.

He did not want her to think that he was taking advantage of her in this situation. He might have seen her naked before, but that was with her consent. This time, he was making sure that he gave her the respect that she deserved.

It would seem to relieve some of the discomforts she felt as she calmed down and even her breathing. As soon as Alex finished, he stroked her skin again, and it would seem that the fever was not that hot as before. It appeared that it was not enough.

Dani was still visibly shaking from the cold. The two blankets were not enough to keep her warm. He could not give her another medicine when she only took it more than an hour ago. There was only one more thing he could think of to warm her up.

"I'm sorry. I know you won't like this if ever you find out about it, but I have no options left." He spoke softly near her ears, hoping that she would hear his apology.

He then laid his body beside her in the small cot. It could barely accommodate his big body and hers, but he had to do it. He decided to hug her tightly, even putting half of her body on top of his. That was the only way that both of them would fit and be comfortable.

It would seem that she did not mind since she was unconscious from the fever. She even tightened her hold on Alex as the warmth coming from his body comforted her.

He believed that she was trying to appear strong, but she was aching inside. He admired her more because she was not like most of the women he knew. With slight pain, they felt like they were dying.

Not only was Dani beautiful, kind, intelligent, but she was one of the strongest women he knew. She possessed all the traits in a woman he wanted in a wife. Then, he realized just where his thoughts went.

What was he thinking? Was he ready to commit to her? Was he falling in love with the woman in his arms?

Chapter 115 - Not Settling For Anything Less

Jacky immediately rushed to Dani's room as soon as she heard what happened to her friend. She arrived late last night after Lance invited her to have dinner at his place. By the time she arrived at the palace, it was already late, and it was raining hard.

She did not have time to check on Dani. But she did try to call her, but her phone was unreachable. She figured that she was safe with Alex, so she had nothing to worry about her situation. He would never let anything happened to her friend, unlike the man who invited her to be his date.

"Dani, are you alright? I heard what happened." Jacky reached for her friend, who laid in Alex's bed, in his room in the palace.

"Yeah, I am ok. It was just a slight fever. But I am feeling so much better now. The doctor said that I only need to relax today, but tomorrow I will be good as new." She did not want Jacky to worry about her when she was already recovering from the ordeal last night.

"Well, you can't stop me from worrying. I thought you were already asleep at the other house when I went home last night. Only to find out from Alex that you were out with him last night stranded in an old house with a fever." Jacky stated with worry. She could not help it.

"Thanks for your concern, but I am good. Stop it! I just got rid of my mother for cuddling me too much. Do you want me to do the same with you?" She threatened Jacky so that she would stop fussing around.

"Fine. Don't throw me out." Jacky finally laid down next to her, not caring if she was sick and she might be contagious.

"By the way, how was your date?" She asked, curious to where her friend had been. At the same time, she was changing the topic to avoid being the center of her attention.

"It was great. I had a great time yesterday." Jacky told her with a smile, but it never reached her eyes.

"If it was so great, then why do I sense that there was something wrong?" She had never seen her friend in this state. "And what happened between you and Marcus?"

She was two things. She felt great, meaning the whole experience was mind-blowing. Or it was not good that she did not want to see the man ever again. This time, it felt different. She was undecided.

She believed that it also might have something to do with Marcus. With all the commotions and activities, she felt guilty for not having time for Jacky. She had abandoned her, not intentionally, but still, she was not there when she needed her.

"I met Lance at the party. He invited me to go out with him. He was a perfect gentleman, and he showed me around, making sure that I was having a blast. But I felt guilty for using him because of that stupid jerk." Jacky confided with her friend.

"I assumed you are referring to Marcus." Well, Dani already assumed the worse about where Marcus and Jacky's relationship would end up. It was bound to end in a mess.

"Yes, he invited me here to be his date. I did not expect that he would take care of my every need, but I deserve a little respect from him." Jacky did not know why she was affected so much by Marcus' action. But she was, although she wanted not to.

"Yes, that is what I have been trying to tell you. Stop letting men define who you are. You deserve so much more than to wait for Marcus to be the man for you." She somehow guessed that Jacky had developed some feelings for Marcus.

After all, Marcus was the longest Jacky had been in a relationship, whether it was just a sexual one. Jacky would never admit that, but she had seen her denial as a way of covering up what she truly felt.

She just hoped that it was not yet too late for her friend to get over Marcus. It was what she was afraid of when she warned her about her treatment of relationships.

"Yes, Dani. You are probably right." Jacky understood what her friend was trying to say to her. She was just too afraid to face the truth.

When she first met Marcus, she believed that he was the one for her. The way they clicked together, not only in bed, she was definite that she found the right man who would make her happy.

But she realized later on that he did not feel the same way as her. He told her that this was nothing but a casual fling that they should enjoy while it lasted. She was a fool to agree, thinking that it would eventually change when he realized that she was the girl for him.

"Hey, don't be too hard on yourself. Maybe this Lance is the real deal. He might be the one fated for you." She wanted to cheer her friend up. Nothing could be gained if they kept dwelling on Marcus, who did not deserve her friend.

"Enough about me." Jacky turned to her friend with a sudden change of demeanor. That was one of her traits. She could easily hide what she truly felt. She could show a smile on her face even if her heart and mind did not feel the same way.

Maybe she did not find the perfect man for her after all. At least not with Marcus, anyway. But maybe there was another man out there who was better for her. She just had to open her heart and mind to the possibility.

"As I said, no need to worry about me." She interrupted her before she started worrying about her again.

"Not that. Why are you in Alex's room?" Jacky questioned, wondering why her friend was staying in his fake fiancé's room.

"This is Alex's room." She did not know. She was as surprised as her.

All she could remember was going in and out of consciousness since last night. Then, remembering hearing people hovering around her. Then Alex was there, trying to soothe her. She had no clue on why she was staying in his room.

"Yes, it is," Jacky affirmed her earlier statement. "Are you two now an official couple? I noticed that since we arrived here, the two of you are almost inseparable. As in, are you two having sex?" Jacky had to ask since the two of them were almost living like they were a couple.

She wondered if the two already developed some feelings for each other. Or, they somehow come up with an arrangement like hers and Marcus. It was not such a questionable idea since the attraction between the two was very transparent. Anybody with a pair of eyes could see it.

"Of course not. I'm not like you." She suddenly bit her lips. She did not intend it to sound like that. "I'm sorry I meant..."

She only wanted to deny Jacky's assumption of what was going on between her and Alex. She did not want to sound too insensitive with her feelings.

"No need to explain. Honestly, you are right." She interrupted her friend, who seemed so mortified with her words. She would never be mad at her friend for speaking the truth.

"No, I am not right. You can find the right man for you. I wish that you will avoid the douchebags that you keep associating with because you deserved better." She hoped that her friend would open her eyes and realized that she was a great catch that any man would be lucky to have.

"Are you sure that you are referring to me?" Jacky smiled at her friend for giving her some morale booster. If Dani said it, she should believe it.

She began to contemplate on her relationships. How she always ended up alone. Or probably she was hurt too many times that trusting one person with her happiness was hard for her. Maybe finding the right man for her would be as impossible as flying to the moon.

There were just too many speculations on why she ended up thinking this way, but one thing was for sure, she wanted a change. She wanted to be happy like the way she felt when she was with Lance yesterday. She wanted more of that.? Maybe it was time to consider not settling for anything less.

Chapter 116 - Wrongful Act

Alex could not wait to go back to Dani's side, but he had to let her spend some time with her family and friend first. Maybe get some rest before he went back to his room to check on her.

In the meantime, he lazed around with his friends, hoping to catch up with what was happening with them. But as he sat on one of the lounges, his mind kept going back to the scene this morning. How frightened he was of her condition. Then, how he wanted to take care of her.

His mind went back to what happened before he left the room.

"Are you sure you are feeling fine?" He asked her while she laid in his bed. He, on the other hand, was sitting on the edge, bending down to her. He already double-checked with the doctor, and he assured him that she was already on her way to recovery.

"Yeah, go on and check on your friends. Maybe you'll see Jacky. Tell her that I want to see her." She was a bit uncomfortable with the way Alex was behaving. Although he was usually courteous and attentive to her needs before, he was now overdoing it.

She believed that he was still feeling guilty for what happened to her, but she already told him that no one was to blame. It was a situation that was beyond their hands to control.

"Ok. If you are sure that you don't need me here anymore. But call me asap if you need something." He once again touched the skin on her forehead, making sure that the fever was truly gone. When he was satisfied, he stood from the bed and greeted her parents, who were about to enter the room.

"If you'll excuse me, I need to step away for a few minutes. I'll be back as soon as I can." He told her parents. When they finally acknowledge him, he went to kiss Dani on the forehead since it was part of their act. Then he walked out of the room to search for his friends.

In truth, he did not want to leave Dani's side ever since they arrived. But when her parents started fussing over her, he had to give them some time alone to be with their daughter.

He left the room so they could have some privacy and time to take care of their daughter. He, on the other hand, started looking for his friends.

He first bumped into his parents, who were also on their way to check on Dani. They also expressed their concern for her. Then, he saw next Jacky, who was on his way back from the grounds. She just informed him that she came from the other house, looking for Dani, but was concerned about not finding Dani or him anywhere in the house.

He narrated to her what happened yesterday and last night. Of course, excluding the things that he did to make her comfortable. He believed that part should only remain between him and Dani.

"Where is she now?" Jacky asked when he finished his recount of the situation. She could not blame Alex if he only wanted to give her friend a good time. He trusted Alex to think of what would be best for her friend, unlike his friend, Marcus, who was a stupid jerk.

"She is now resting in my room. Her parents are with her right now." Alex informed Jacky, glad that Dani had a good friend with her.

He then continued to look for his friends to check on them if they were all ok. He had not seen them since yesterday. As his guests, it was still his responsibility to make sure that they were doing well on their stay at his house.

"Hey, what happened to you and Dani? Why did I saw you come down from the helicopter carrying Dani in your arms?" David asked when he saw Alex walked into the clubhouse.

He was a bit concerned, seeing that Dani was quickly placed in a stretcher and carried inside the palace with a doctor following closely behind. He was supposed to follow them too, but he saw Alex's mother, who told him that it was nothing serious.

"We got caught in the rain yesterday on our way back from our sightseeing. We had to stay overnight in the shed near the castle. Then late last night, she developed a fever and chills. We could not call for assistance since our phones were both wet from the rain. Luckily, the caretaker was early today, so he was able to call for help." He explained, still remembering the ordeal he and Dani had to go through.

He was almost panicking early this morning when she started shaking again. Fortunately, the helicopter was quick to rescue. The doctor was able to administer hydration and medication to Dani immediately. The doctor said that he did the right thing when he told him what he did during the night.

He assured Alex that Dani would be ok. A good rest today would speed up her recovery, and by tomorrow morning, she would be good as new. He still wished that he had been more careful so that this did not happen.

"Hope Dani is going to be alright," Evan stated after his story. Then he moved to the pool and dived, living the three of them on the chairs. "Aren't you going to swim with us?" He shouted as he emerged from the water.

"Not today. I am still very exhausted. I barely slept last night. I had to make sure that Dani is going to be ok." He replied to Evan.

He still needed to get back to his room to check on her. Then, maybe look for a place where he could take a nap. He believed that soon, he would not be able to keep his eyes open.

"Ok. Maybe we can do something else later or tomorrow. Just us. Let us not include the oldies." Evan, being the youngest in the group, was the most adventurous one.

"We'll think of something?" David said as he too joined Evan in the pool, diving with a big splash.

"What about you guys? What have you been doing while I was away?" He asked his friends who were in the pool except for Marcus, who was quiet, lounging beside him.

"We played tennis with those cousins of yours," Evan announced as he shifted into a sitting position on the side of the pool. "We don't know about Marcus. He had been sulking the rest of the day when you left."

"I'm not sulking. I am resting. There is a difference. Besides, my body was exhausted from the party and then the hunt." Marcus defended himself from the men around him.

But in only earned another set of laughter from his friends. Evan went back to swimming with David, leaving Alex and Marcus alone to talk.

"Or it might have something to do with the other night." He teased Marcus more, trying to see if he would show any sign of what he was feeling.

"Well, yeah. It is partly true. But I am truly exhausted." Marcus was not about to give his friend the satisfaction of knowing the real reason why he was not feeling so great.

He did not want to admit that he was indeed not in the mood to have fun. He did not feel like going out with his friends, playing with the girls. He did not want to see the girl he slept with the other night. Luckily, they already left early this morning. He would not be seeing her again.

"Shall I assume that the other part had something to do with Jacky?" This time, he used his serious tone. He also made sure that his voice was low enough so that the other two in the pool would not hear their conversation.

"I don't know, man." Marcus scratched the back of his neck, uneasy talking about his complicated relationship with Jacky.

"You want to talk about it." He asked, wanting to help his friend who was having a hard time with what he did or did not do.

"It is very complicated." Marcus had no idea how to explain to Alex what was happening to him. He was too confused and afraid to analyze his situation.

"Well, talking about it might make it less complicated." He reasoned out, hoping that his friend would finally open up about his problem because he could see now that he did have one.

"Fine. I am confused at the way Jacky was acting around me. She was gone the whole day yesterday, then returned late last night with your cousin or friend. Then I was trying to talk to her this morning, but she refused." Marcus felt like Jacky was acting childish and irrational.

"Man, I could not blame Jacky for not wanting to see and talk to you. You were wrong to treat her that way." He told his friend his opinion on the matter, not wanting to sugarcoat his situation.

He might be afraid of relationships, but he still had high value for the opposite sex. He still believed that what Marcus and his friends were doing, having casual sex even if the girl gave her consent to the action, was still unfair to the girl.

"Don't tell me you are siding with her because you are afraid that Dani will be mad at you if you sided with me." Marcus accused his friend. But he knew that what he was saying was unfounded.

"You know me, man. Whether Dani or Jacky gets mad at me, I will always be your friend. However, I will never change my opinion on how we should treat women." Alex held his friend on the shoulder.

"I'm sorry, man. I did not mean to say that." Marcus apologized for his words.

"It is not me who you should be sorry to, but with the girl you wronged. Did it never occurred to you that Jacky might be hurt when you left her in the party to fend for herself?" He reminded Marcus of that incident.

Marcus was his friend, but a mistake would never be right unless you corrected it. He was not condoning what his friend did. Marcus needed to apologize to Jacky for his wrongful act.

Chapter 117 - Same Category

After spending more than an hour with his friends at the pool, he decided that it was time to go back to his room. He wanted to check on Dani's condition, and at the same time, take a rest. He already felt fatigued due to a lack of sleep after taking care of Dani last night.

As he walked into the hallway, he bumped into Jacky. She informed him that she was on her way to the pool to swim. He wondered if he should stop Jacky and warned her that Marcus was there.

Then again, should he allow them to meet so they could finally have a conversation and the closure they both needed? Eventually, he decided to let fate take its course. He kept his mouth shut and made his way to his room.

"You are still awake." It was not a question but more of a statement as he saw Dani sitting up on the bed with a pillow at her back, leaning on the headboard.

"Didn't you just see Jacky came out of the room?" Dani stated as if that should answer his question.

Well, she was right, he thought. Jacky would have fussed around her. That would not have been easy for her to sleep with Jacky in the room.

"Well, since she is gone now, why don't you rest your eyes. You hardly had a good sleep last night." He informed her, remembering her restless sleep. "The doctor said that you need to rest some more so that your body can recover fast."

"What about you? Did you have your rest?" If she remembered right and if it was not just a dream. He was almost awake all night, taking care of her. She vaguely recalled that every time she opened her eyes, she saw him hovering around her.

She did not want to think of it, but her mind kept telling her that he took real good care of her. She even remembered how he was careful to wipe her body with the cloth, avoiding his skin from touching hers.

She wanted to think that she was only dreaming about it, but her mind would not allow her to deny that it did happen. Even during the time, Alex had no choice but to envelop her in his embrace to keep her warm. Her mind would not allow her to forget.

"I'm about to, but I just want to check on you first before I do." He answered her, then Alex started yawning as if his body was reminding him that it was time to sleep.

"Well, you should sleep. I'm feeling much, much better." She repeated the word for emphasis.

She did not want him to worry about her anymore. It was enough that he did his best to make sure that she did not get worse. And then, brought her back safely to the palace.

"About that. Will you mind if I sleep at your side?" He indicated the space on the other side of the bed. "You see, this is my room, so they will be expecting me to sleep here."

"Yeah, I was going to ask you about that. I just forgot. Why am I in your room?" She suddenly asked, remembering that Jacky mentioned it earlier, but she was afraid to ask their parents about it.

"When we were rescued from the shed and brought back here, the people who took care of you assumed that this is where you are also staying since you are my fiancé. While me, I had to stop by the study room to answer our parents' questions.

By the time that I looked for you, you were already here. I could not do anything about it anymore. I could not request that you transfer to another room without raising suspicions." He elaborated his explanation of what happened.

"Then, that would mean that we are stuck in here until tomorrow when the doctor declares that I am well enough to go back to the other house." She surmised their situation, more to herself.

"Exactly what I meant," Alex said as he moved to the other side of the bed. "I am willing to sleep on the sofa over there." Pointing to the couch on the other side of the room. It looked very uncomfortable to sleep on for a man like Alex. "But anyone could walk here to check on you and find me there."

"Of course, that again would raise questions." She finally finished what he was about to say. She did agree with him, but things were going more complicated as they moved along with their fake relationship, she realized.

"Besides, I hope you will take pity on me. I am exhausted and want a comfortable bed to sleep on, even for a few hours." He pleaded with her, wanting her to understand his need.

"Fine. I don't mind if we sleep together." She said, then quickly corrected her words upon realizing how she sounded with her statement. "I meant to sleep on the same bed." She knew that she must be burning in embarrassment as she felt her cheeks reddened.

"Don't worry. I know what you meant." He smiled at her, amused again with the way she reacted to her fumble. "But thanks for understanding."

He went to his changing room and put on a comfortable shirt and sweat pants to sleep on before going back to the room. He was too tired to take a shower, so that would do for now. Besides, he believed that he already took a long shower last night.

"I would say good night, but the sun was just up. But you should also rest." He told her as he laid down on the other side of the spacious bed. It was big enough for the two of them. They could even fit another two persons in the middle if they wanted to.

"Go get your rest. I'll try to sleep too." Dani laid back down on the bed and turned to the other side, opposite him, not wanting to watch him sleep.

She knew that she was not getting any sleep, knowing that he was lying not so far from her. She could still smell his scent from last night. The perfume that he wore still lingered in the air. But she guessed that was just her imagination, playing overtime.

She suddenly longed for his even breathing and the steady rhythm of his heart as she laid her head on his chest, lulling her to sleep. She realized now that she would be craving for him after that night. Every time she would be closing her eyes, she would be dreaming about him.

"Then sleep tight too." He answered back, turning on his side, facing the other way.

But he wondered if he was getting any sleep with her only a few feet away from him. He could still remember the way she felt on his arms last night as he tried to warm her up.

He could still feel the softness of her skin as he rubbed his palm on her arms to warm her up. He would never forget her warm cheek as it pressed on his chest as he breathed.

He realized that he would never stop dreaming of having her again in his arms after being reminded of what it felt like having her body around his.

He closed his eyes tightly, hoping to force his mind to think of something else. Any subject that would make him shift his attention to another topic. Anything that would stop him from thinking about Dani and their time together. Because no matter how exhausted his body was, his mind seemed to be enjoying the memory lane.

He then remembered his conversation with Marcus. The way Marcus defended what he was doing with his relationship with Jacky. He tried to listen to his friend's rationale, but he found it hard to agree with him.

"It was not as if we are exclusively dating. We had an arrangement." Marcus pointed out that their relationship was an open one. "It is not as if I told her that she was going to be my girlfriend or promise to marry her. I never lied to her about what I wanted in our relationship."

"Still, she is a woman who was expecting you to be a gentleman who would show her even at least a little respect if not your loyalty and love." He tried to understand Marcus and his situation.

He was his friend, and just like him, a commitment was not on the table for him too, not just yet. But he still thought that his principle about relationships was a bit out of line.

"Ok. I admit. I was a bit drunk that night, and I lost control of the situation. But I had no intention of hurting her in any way." Marcus declared, but he knew that most of what he said might be a lie. He was not drunk at all. He knew what he was doing.

"You left her at the party to bang another girl." This time, Alex was not careful with his words.

He wanted his words to have an impact on his friend's narrowed thinking. Hopefully, it would make him hear and understand what his message was, loud and clear.

Marcus was one of the most intelligent people he knew when it came to business and the law. But when it came to his emotional quotient, he was failing miserably.

Then, sensing the girl not so far from where he was, he made a sudden realization. Maybe he was also falling in the same category as Marcus as he neglected to consider what Dani must be feeling with all this.

Chapter 118 - Love And Commitment

Seeing that someone was already in the pool, Jacky proceeded with caution. She already saw Evan and David swimming in the pool. That would mean Marcus would be likely in the area too.

She did not want to see him anytime soon. She was still fuming after what he did to her. But then again, why should she stop enjoying her vacation just because of him. She thought as she continued to walk to one of the lounge chairs.

That was when she noticed the figure that was lying on one of them. Marcus had his eyes closed but seemed not to be sleeping. He was in his swimwear, but he appeared to be completely dry from her observation.

"Jacky, nice to see you here," Evan shouted when he finally noticed her presence. "You look great." Evan praised her, knowing that should catch Marcus' attention, who was still pretending to be sleeping.

"Come on, join us." David then shouted, joining in with Evan's plans.

They knew that it would put Marcus on the spot. They wondered what their friend would do in this situation. They might not be privy to the real deal between Marcus and Jacky, but they still sensed that a big issue was brewing between the two.

"Wait, let me fix my things." She moved closer to the lounge chairs, picking one that was next to Marcus. She placed her small bag and towel on the chair and sat beside it.

There were a lot of other areas that she could choose to sit on if she wanted. But she picked that one because she would show him that his disregard of her feelings did not affect her.

She was not going to hide from him. She would show him that she was fine even if he had abandoned her during the party. She was moving on from him.

Finally, he opened his eyes and looked at her. "Jacky, can we talk about this?" Marcus asked as he suddenly shifted himself to a seating position.

He was not expecting to see her. He was even more surprised that she did not pick the farthest chair from him. He still wondered how her mind worked. She was a puzzle to him until now.

"What is there to talk about?" Jacky stated without even looking at him. She continued applying some lotion on her arms as if he was not there in front of her.

"Do you need me to help you with your back?" He offered, suddenly missing touching her.

Not only that, he missed the way they enjoyed each other's company and not whatever was going on between them right now.

"Sure." She offered the lotion to him. She was not going to pretend that she could do that on her own. But she would show him that she was not affected by his touch anymore.

He quickly stood from his seat and moved to her back, taking the lotion in her hands. He slowly placed it in his hands and slowly spread it on her back.

"I'm sorry about what happened the other night." He started to tell her, knowing that it should be what he had done in the first place.

He realized that Alex was right. It was a stupid move on his part to put her in such a situation.

Feeling her skin under his touch made him realized his mistake. He suddenly feared that what they had might be over because he was afraid they were already moving into uncharted territories.

"You should be." She said as she let him finished what he started.

She was not going to let his touch persuade her to forgive him just like that. Although his presence still invoked a certain thrill in her body, it would not be enough to make her overlooked what he had done.

"What do you want from me? You know what we were when we started this relationship?" Marcus felt that he should try to find out what was wrong with her.

He felt that she should not be making a big deal out of this. Yes, he already admitted that he made the mistake of leaving her at the party, but they were both aware that they were not dating exclusively. He knew that she was also going out on dates with other men, just like he also went out with other women.

However, he realized that he was not ready to end what they had, not just yet. He still enjoyed Jacky's company, but pursuing something more was not what he also had in mind.

"Nothing. That is what I am trying to say to you. I want nothing to do with you anymore. I think we had exhausted this relationship, and it is time for us to move on." That was it. She had finally told him what was in her mind since last night.

Although she still felt something for him, she was not about to waste her time waiting for him to grow up and realized that he liked her too. She was ready to move on and find someone else that was worth her time and effort.

So far, Lance had been sweet and a real gentleman. He had shown her that she deserved more than what Marcus had given her. She was beginning to think that she already wasted her time believing Marcus was the one. It was time to go back to the drawing board and search again for the right one.

"But we have something good going with us. Why would you want to end it now?" Marcus questioned her plans. He was not in favor of it and would like to appeal to her.

"Because it doesn't feel right anymore. I think I was beginning to get bored in our relationship. It is time for me to find something that is more exciting." She knew that her words were far from the truth of what she felt.

But she was better off going on her way now while she still could. She was afraid that she might fall in love with him while he did not reciprocate the feeling in the end.

"What are you saying? I don't believe this. What could be more exciting than what we have? We are great together, so why do you want to make it complicated." He was not ready to let her go yet.

Marcus knew that his voice was louder than what he intended, but he could not help it as he felt a bit of exasperation. He saw his friends looked at them, but they pretended not to care as they went back to what they were doing, giving them their privacy.

To him, most girls were easily replaceable. But Jacky was different. She was able to get into his skin, making herself deeply planted in his mind. No matter how he tried to get her out of his system, the more he craved for her. The more he wanted her at his side at all times.

"Yes, things are getting very complicated, so I think it's time to end this." She was about to walk out on him to join the others. But he stopped her.

He grabbed her and forced her to look at him. When she looked up to stare at him, he took that as his opportunity. He held her tightly against him and quickly lowered his face to her, possessing her lips.

He wanted her to understand that what they had was not yet over. He was not willing to let her go yet, despite what she was saying to him.

She was not expecting that he would kiss her. Her instinct took over as she started responding to his advance. She leaned closer to him to deepen the kiss, then allowed her hands to hold on to his shoulders.

When they finally let go of each other, she found herself mortified of what she did. She quickly stepped away from Marcus, pushing his body away from hers, so he would let go of her.

"Don't you see that what we have is not yet over?" Marcus whispered to her as he stepped closer again to her. "You still want me." He said confidently.

Her body might have betrayed her, but her mind knew that it was wrong. But Marcus' last words did not sound right to her as her hands suddenly landed on his right cheek with a big pang.

"What was that for?" He held his cheek in his hands, rubbing it to ease the pain that she slapped.

He was surprised by her response. He knew that she also liked it. Her kiss was no different from what he was used to, so he did not believe that she was over him.

"Because you don't have any right to kiss me anymore." She turned her back on him, moving towards the pool. "Good sex is not enough anymore for me. I want something more. And you are not capable of giving me that."

She still felt the same way for Marcus, but she believed that it was not enough anymore. Jacky was not going to settle for sex anymore.

She wanted the real thing. She demanded love and commitment.

Chapter 119 - Too Late

He woke up smiling, feeling the soft body cradled in his body. He had no idea what happened exactly to them since he was so dead tired earlier when he laid down beside Dani. But he was glad to wake up with her sleeping so peacefully beside him.

He knew it took time before he had fallen asleep, but he also felt that she was restless on her side of the bed. But maybe in time, they eventually succumbed to their bodies much needed rest, not knowing what they did next.

At least she looked refreshed and rested compared to when he last observed her face this morning. Although, he was amused when he saw her eyes and face showing signs of good sleep while softly snoring on his chest. It was adorable, he thought.

He attempted not to move much and tried to even out his breathing, afraid that he might wake her up. He wanted to keep looking at her, keeping this moment for a little bit longer if he could. Even though all he wanted was to touch her face, he still kept his hand to himself.

"What are you trying to do to me?" He said in barely a whisper as he finally moved a tendril of her hair that was covering a small portion of her face.

He then remembered his thought earlier about falling in love. Was it possible that in just a short period, he could feel it again? He knew he had been in love before, but it ended badly.

He questioned if he was ready to undergo that same path. Should he act on his feelings for Dani or keep it to himself? That was if he was indeed in love with her.

In truth, he believed that she was not hard to love. Any man could easily find himself falling for her. Dani was everything a man would want in a woman. She was near perfect.

But in his world, he found it hard to even think of loving someone at the moment when things were this complicated in his life. Especially now that there was a power struggle in his family. He was sure that people who wanted to get back at him would try to use her against him.

He did not realize that this simple celebration that he only did for his parents would turn out this way. He never wanted to be part of this royal charade, but it would seem that The Council and his father were adamant about making him king.

"Uhhh!" She started moving, but instead of pushing her body away from him, she shifted until she snuggled even closer. That made it harder for him to stay away.

She thought that she was still dreaming as she felt the warm body that was comforting her. An arm around her shoulders made her smile as if it was the most natural thing that could happen to her.

She linked her arms more around his body and snuggled her face on his chest, not realizing what she was doing. But when the arms around her finally tightened, she suddenly realized that it did not feel like a dream anymore.

She opened her eyes to see a set of eyes, wide awake, staring back at her. Those eyes looked so familiar, when she blinked hers and opened it once again, it dawned on her where she was and what she was doing.

"Good morning, or shall I say good afternoon. I think we slept almost the whole day." Alex declared, tilting her chin more so she was face to face with him.

"Oh my. I'm sorry." She suddenly pulled back and quickly sat up from her position, getting out of his hold eventually.

"No need to be sorry." He told her as he too plopped himself up on the pillows into a sitting position.

"How long have you been awake?" She questioned if he had been studying her during her sleep.

Dani wondered what she looked like and what embarrassing things she had done while she was in deep slumber. It was hard to remember when you were not sure which one was real and just a dream.

"Not long. I just woke up when you did." He did not want to embarrass her more by telling her that he had been studying her sleeping form for some time. Besides, it sounded creepy.

"Well, what time is it?" She questioned, feeling so much better than before.

She believed that she was almost back to her old self. The fever and chills were gone. And the ache in her body had also subsided down to a very tolerable level.

"It is almost five in the afternoon. Are you hungry? I can ask someone to bring us food, and we can have our early dinner here instead of joining them." He figured that she might still feel down the weather to join the others, so it would be better if they just had their dinner separately in the confine of their room.

"That will be nice. I think that is a good idea for now. I don't want the others to get what I have by joining them now. Maybe tomorrow I am going to feel so much better, then I can join the others." She agreed with him. "But you don't have to suffer and eat with me."

"But I like to join you for dinner. It will be my pleasure to dine with you if you allow it." When he saw some hesitation in her eyes, he continued. "Besides, everybody will be expecting that I will always stay at your side, especially in times like this."

He did not want to use that excuse against her, but he was desperate when he saw that she was about to decline his offer for a dinner date. To her, it was just another dinner, but to him, it was more than that.

She knew he was right. The people around them would expect them to be together at all times. Alex was supposed to be a doting fiancé. He had to play his part as she also pretended to be a loving girlfriend.

"Fine. I am indeed starving, so if it is not much trouble, would you care to request some food. I would appreciate it." She moved towards the bathroom to fix herself, leaving Alex on the bed, still lazing around. "I'll just fix myself."

She had no idea of what she looked like, but at least she was wearing a decent nightgown that did not show too much of her skin. But still, it did not stop her from remembering the scene when she woke up.

She could still feel his body against her when she thought that she was dreaming. His hard muscular chest underneath her hands was still fresh in her mind, despite the shirt covering his body.

She only wished that he would think that she was still sleeping when she did all those things. Because as of the moment, she was uncertain of how to feel about it.

"Stop." She should not be thinking of him that way. She immediately closed the door to the adjoining bathroom of his room. The room was spacious, as suspected. She doubted if anything in this place would have a standard size.

She moved to the mirror above the sink and was shocked at what she saw. Her hair was all messed up. Her face was full of wrinkles from the imprint of Alex's chest as she used it as a pillow for her cheek.

Her eyes had some dried morning dew, and her chin had dried drool around it. She looked a mess. She wondered what he thought of her when he saw her face.

Remembering his eyes when she looked up to it, all she saw was admiration and desire. Something that both frightened her because she might be reading too much to it.

She quickly washed her face, using the soap on the counter, then realized that it smelled of him. She wanted to take a bath, but she was unsure if she had any clothes in this room. She did not want to end up naked again in just a towel in front of him.

She covered herself with the thick bathroom robe that she found hanging on the wall. It must be Alex's robe since it smelled of his aftershave. She was not quite sure, but she liked its aroma. It was soothing her nerves.

She decided that she could take a bath later when she was sure of their sleeping arrangement. She still had to find out what would happen next to their situation.

She combed her hair and just let it fall on her back. Then checked her face if it was better than before. "Please concentrate on what you are here for and nothing else." She reminded herself.

She then went outside to see if he had already taken care of the food because she was indeed starving. She believed that the only food she ate was the few bites early that morning before she went to sleep again.

When she walked out of the bathroom, he was not on the bed anymore. Turning around, she found him on the other side, on the phone, dictating instructions to whoever was on the other line. When he saw her, he immediately ended the call and walked towards her.

"I'm glad you're finished. The food is on its way. Just give it a few minutes." He told her as he assisted her to the table. "I'll wash up. Then we can eat together." He excused himself, leaving her to go to the bathroom.

Alone, she started to contemplate on their situation, realizing

she had gone farther than she intended. She had involved her heart in the equation as she found Alex as the man of her dreams. There was no way to stop it. She was too late.

Chapter 120 - Committed Girlfriend

Waking up with a man beside her for two consecutive mornings was not what she would have thought would happen to her on this trip. If you told her last week that she would be in this situation, she would have laughed at such an incredulous idea, thinking it was unlikely to happen.

But today, she was staring at the sleeping man beside her, careful not to wake him up. She was glad that this time, she woke up on her side of the bed, thankfully, not entwined with him. The previous mornings were embarrassing enough, and doing it for the third time would be too much.

He looked so adorable, sleeping soundlessly, she thought. She found herself staring at his face, his closed eyes, his patriarchal nose, and his kissable lips. It was indeed such soft lips, recalling vividly in her mind their most recent kiss.

"Stop it." She mumbled to herself, chastising her mind for replaying her memories. She also had to stop studying him before he caught her ogling at him. She quickly moved to the bathroom to take a bath.

He had some of her clothes transferred to his room. She found them in one of the cabinets in his walk-in closet. She also noticed her other stuff when she walked into the bathroom the other night.

She appreciated his thoughtfulness as he took care of all her needs when she was sick. She never felt this way before, not even with her ex-fiancé. Nick never treated her like she was delicate porcelain that needed to be cared for with a gentle touch.

"Hey!" He was already standing on the door to the balcony when she came out of the bathroom. At least fully dress this time to go out.

"How long have you been up?" She wondered because she remembered leaving him in the bed still sleeping earlier.

She suddenly regretted getting up early since it was the last time, they would be alone in his room. Tonight, they would be heading back to the other house, in their separate room. She would surely miss having him around and waking up with him at her side.

"I woke up when I heard you entered the bathroom. I decided to use the bathroom in the other room to save us time." He explained why he was already waiting for her. "How are you feeling?" He asked, seeing that she had already prepared for the day outside.

He wondered if there would be another chance for him to be this close to her. He would surely miss taking care of her like these past couple of days.

"I'm great." She declared, feeling that her energy was back to normal. She was also tired of lying around and pacing the room. Another minute inside this room, and she was about to go insane. The only thing that made it bearable was his presence and the way he entertained her, she admitted to herself but not to him.

"That's good to hear, but the doctor still reminded me that you should not overdo things today to be on the safe side. But I also agree that it is time you go out of this room." He offered, knowing that being coop up in the room all day must not have been fun at all for her.

He did enjoy the moment they spent together, remembering how they tried to pass the time doing various activities such as playing chess, watching movies together, and competing with video games. He thought that Dani was impressive because she caught up with him despite her lack of knowledge of the game.

Just eating together was already a treat for him. Every moment he had spent with Dani was time he wanted to extend. So, he was not wasting this opportunity to do more things with her today and the rest of their remaining days together.

"It was nice to get enough rest, but I do miss the outside." She also missed jogging or doing some activities under the sun. Although she would also miss her stay in this room, especially the moments with him.

Last night, after sharing a few childhood memories on the balcony, comparing their good and horrible experiences growing up. She learned a few more things about him that they had in common. She felt more closer to him than she ever felt before.

Then as the night progress, they found themselves kissing on the balcony, underneath the stars. Nobody knew who initiated it, but they were both carried away by the romantic setting brought about by the spell cast by the moon.

"I'm sorry." They both apologized after realizing what they just did, but neither was sorry about it as they stepped away from each other. They both wanted it but were not ready to accept it.

After that, both excused themselves to prepare for bed, unsure how to handle the awkward situation. But both had a hard time falling asleep as both felt the impact of that kiss. Until both succumb to sleep, happily dreaming about each other.

"About last night." He began as if he had read her thoughts. "I hope you don't mind if we talk about it." He felt they needed to discuss it before they could proceed towards their day.

He moved closer to where she was standing and stopped just in front of her. He held both of her hands in his as he stared at her face. It suddenly made her look up to him, curious about what he had to say.

"What about it?" She knew it had something to do with what happened last night and what was happening to them ever since they arrived at this place. She had always felt the attraction between them, but she had fought against it from the very start.

She could also see the indecision in his eyes as he stared at her. Whatever he was about to say might be a bit serious, she concluded. She suddenly felt nervous that he might have changed his mind and wanted to end their charade.

In all honesty, she was not ready to stop seeing him. On the other hand, she wanted to see him more. She wanted more to this relationship than she wanted to admit. But she could not deny what she was feeling anymore, not to herself.

After that kiss last night, she knew she wanted more of it. She wanted more of him.

"I think. No." He suddenly stopped, trying to recompose what he wanted to say. "I believe that you are special, and I want to get to know you more. I know there is something special between us, and I want to explore that." He paused, watching her reaction.

He waited if she was about to object to what he was saying, but when she remained quiet, just listening to him, he continued. "What I'm saying is that I want you to be my girlfriend." He finally stated what he was thinking. "Before you say no, I am not proposing that we go through the marriage." He quickly added, not wanting to frighten her with his declaration.

"What are you saying?" She asked as her heart started beating loudly in her chest, suddenly excited about the possibility of what she just heard.

"I want us to make this work. I think we both felt the same way. Maybe we could take it slow. Give ourselves a chance to get to know each other more and let time dictate if there is more to this." He pointed to the two of them, pondering if fate had something more planned for them.

He was not sure if he was making any sense to her at all. Because all he heard from what he was saying was the loud thumping of his heart as his nerves went haywire. He wanted her to agree with him, but at the same time, he did not want to force her if she was not ready.

"Do you mean that we stop acting and make all of this real? Well, being a couple, I meant." She wanted to clarify what he was implying because she did not want to make the mistake of assuming anything.

"Yes, but you don't have to answer right now. I want you to think about it first." He told her as they continued to stare at each other, still inches away from each other. "But I hope you'll give me an answer soon."

He wanted to kiss her right then and there, but he had to wait until she had made her decision. He had to respect what she had to say to what he just suggested to her. But he hoped that she would have a positive answer to him.

"Ok." She replied to him, still in shock, unable to believe the turn of events. Although she already knew what she wanted to say since her answer was already ready in her mind.

She believed Alex was right. She should think of it thoroughly since what he was asking would complicate their entire situation.

She was surprised that he was feeling the same way as she was. She thought that he was not ready to commit to anything serious, remembering his suggestion that they had an affair to expel their attraction for each other.

But this time, if he was willing to try to see where their relationship would take them, maybe she could also do the same.

"Well, first, I think we should eat breakfast and join the others." He extended his arm to her, offering to guide her out of the room. "Besides, I'm sure that everyone is already waiting for us to come out of this room."

Although being with the others was the last thing he wanted to do, he was sure that she needed to be with her family and friends. She needed a clear mind before she should decide on his offer.

"Yes, you are right." She answered automatically, but her mind was still buzzing with his new proposal.

"Then, maybe we could do something together later on." He suggested as they moved in the direction of the garden where the breakfast was taking place. After spending time with the rest, he thought maybe they could spend more time on their own.

"What do you have in mind?" She asked, suddenly excited to know what he was thinking. She was also looking forward to spending more time with him. She finally admitted to herself that she enjoyed his company and wanted to get to know him more.

She also wanted a relationship with him, she finally concluded, and she could not wait to tell him. She was ready to be a committed girlfriend to him if that was what he wanted.