

Royal Contract 141

Chapter 141 - The Value Of True Love

"Last day, what do you want to do?" Dani asked Alex as they laid in bed together, finally feeling more comfortable with their situation.

Who knew that after only a week of being together, they would end up in bed? Again. Well, not her. Besides her, the only people who would be shocked about their new situation would be Jacky and his friends, she thought.

She did not regret any of it. Since yesterday, when they got back from the island and in the villa, she believed that she made the right choice of agreeing with Alex.

"Honestly?" He answered her with another question, raising his brow at her as he stared into her face. When she looked at him, he continued with his response. "There is nothing I will rather do than to lay here in bed with you in my arms."

She shifted in her elbow so she could have a better look at him. "Come on. I'm serious. We could not lock ourselves in this house for the rest of the trip. My parents are probably thinking that we are already cooking their first grandchild."

She suddenly remembered that incident at the dinner the other night. She could still not erase the memory of their parents' faces as if it was the magnificent news they ever heard.

All discussion about business became a blur as all their attention went to her, Alex, and their future babies. The only consolation she found from the whole scenario was the face of Edward, who was not satisfied with the news.

"Then, let them think of it. But I hope that you are not seriously thinking of making one this soon." He teased her, knowing that it would make her explode.

But seriously, he too thought that they were not yet ready for such a responsibility. They were not even sure where their relationship would take them.

Alex believed that they still had a lot of things they needed to learn from each other. Adjusting to their new relationships would still be a difficult task they had to master. Plus, planning for the future eventually would be the most difficult one. That was if ever they got past the other obstacles.

"Of course not." She hit him with her palm on his chest, which he caught with his hands and kept in its place. "I know we are not ready for such a commitment. Well, I guess I am not." She said honestly.

She was not sure what was going on in his mind, but she still believed that they still had many things they needed to talk about in this relationship. But she did not want to rush it. They still had a few more years to think about it and plan for it.

For now, she believed that they just had to get past the getting to know each other part was their priority. Then, the rest would follow. It was easy said than done, as the saying went.

"What about you bring me somewhere special. Maybe your favorite spot or a place why you wanted to return to this place." Dani said as she untied herself from his hold and ran into the bathroom. She knew if he caught her again, he would not let her go to do her thing.

She was enjoying herself with this vacation. She loved this house they were staying in because it was something magical. It looked like it came from a fairytale storybook. If she only had one thing she wanted to change with this place, it was the lock on the doors or the lack of it.

"Fine. You win." He walked into the bathroom while she was in the shower. Then, he went straight to join her.

"Stop that." She warned him as he started to tickle her on her side as he stood at her back. As she said, she wanted locks on the door.

"You are no fun. But I will let you get away from me this time." He turned around and lathered himself while she finished washing.

He knew that if he did not stop, the idea of going out would go out the window, and they would be staying in his bed the entire remaining of their stay.

It took a lot of his self-control to stop himself from touching her, but he wanted to indulge her wishes. He would do anything for her to make this relationship work.

"Where are we going again?" She asked as she tried to match his stride on the grassy lawn.

He told her that they would first go to an important reason why he kept coming back to this place. But they had to walk. Luckily, she wore a sneaker today or else, her shoes might get stuck on the muddy ground.

"It is not that far. Do you want me to slow down?" He asked when he saw her struggling to walk on the grass, remembering the last time he saw her in this similar situation.

"Are you sure there is no other way, or are you just taking me to another shortcut?" She asked, remembering their incident with the motorbike.

"It is a shortcut, but I think it is not as dangerous or life-threatening as your experience the last time. A little mud on your shoes would not kill you." He reasoned as he continued on his way.

"Fine. I don't mind." She answered. She did not like to complain. She was just not used to walk in this kind of environment. Living in the city, she rarely saw grass and mud. Well, except in the park, but not like this. She rarely stepped on them when she jogged, always staying on the concrete path.

"Then, hurry up because I still want to show you something else." He could not help the smile that crept on his lips, but he quickly wiped it off because she might misconstrue it with something else. He was just happy that she was trying to do it his way instead of insisting her way.

"Here we are." He announced as he stood in front of two concrete tombs with a cross on top of it. "They are the reason why I always come back here."

She looked at the grave in front of her, surrounded by a beautiful garden. It was not that far from the house, but the path was a bit rough.

"Who are they?" She asked as she tried to read their names.

"They are my grandparents, the king, and her queen. They don't want to be buried anywhere else but beside each other. My Nanna wants her body buried here, so my grandpapa also instructed that he should get buried right next to her." He stated with solemnity in his voice.

"You must love them." She said, remembering her grandparents too, who she also loved deeply.

"Yeah, they helped my parents raised me, especially my Nanna, who said that I was her favorite. But don't tell the others that. It was our secret." He whispered as if he was afraid that someone else might hear them.

"Of course, I will keep it to my grave." She even crossed her heart. "They must love each other that until death they don't want to be separated."

"Yes, they did. My grandparents were a perfect couple." He would never forget their stories when he was growing up. "They were the ones who taught me the value of true love."

Chapter 142 - Try To Escape

Marcus opted to go home earlier than the rest of them after his encounter with Jacky. He believed that it would not be wise to see more of Jacky under their circumstances.

"Are you sure you don't want to stay until tomorrow?" Alex asked when Marcus called him. They were bound to fly home the next day, so he wondered what the rush was.

"I'm sure," Marcus answered over the line. He was still contemplating if he should tell his friend the reason why he had to leave. For now, he only wanted to be alone.

"Is something wrong with the business?" He did not receive any calls that there was a problem that he had to handle personally back home, so he was still figuring out why his decision.

"No. It had nothing to do with work." Marcus knew that once he said that, Alex would figure out what he could not say.

"Is this about Jacky?" He could only assume that it had everything to do with Dani's friend.

Finally, someone had penetrated his friend's heart, but he worried that he had no idea how his friend would handle his situation.

"I think me and Jacky should have some space. I believe I already did some major damage in our relationship." He finally admitted. He even wondered if they could even become friends after this.

"Are you sure I can't do anything to help?" He had to ask, hoping that he could do something to support his friend from what he was going through. Although he knew that Marcus did wrong, he still wanted to be there for him as his bestfriend.

"No, man. I am going to be fine." Marcus did not want to burden Alex with his problems, knowing that he also had his own.

"Well, if you are sure. Then, have a safe trip. I'll see you when I get back." He told his friend, still wondering how his friend was handling it.

He believed that Marcus was more affected by Jacky's refusal to forgive him. But he warned him about what he was doing. Right now, there was no more room for blame, but he hoped that his friend had learned from his mistake.

"What about you? I have not seen much of you." Marcus questioned his friend. He was not sure that him spending so much time with Dani still had to do with their pretending to be a couple or if it had become something more.

"I'm ok, man. If that is what you are asking, but will talk more about this when we get back home." He assured his friend.

They ended the call, knowing that his friend was going through an unfamiliar situation. But he would check on him when he got back tomorrow. He decided that he would also call Evan and David to look after their friend. But he doubted if they would be much help since they were just the same.

"What was that all about?" Dani asked, overhearing a portion of their conversation.

She was sitting right next to him as they traveled to their next destination. But this time, they were at least secured in a vehicle with four wheels and a roof over their heads.

"Marcus just told me that he was going ahead. I think he is heartbroken because Jacky still would not talk to him." Alex relayed their conversation to Dani.

He decided if they were going to be a real couple, they should start acting like one. That would include sharing things as most successful couples did.

"Well, you can't blame my friend. He was indeed a scumbag, and he hurt my friend with what he did." Dani believed that if Alex did that same stunt to her, what Marcus did, she would also do the same thing as Jacky did.

"I also agree with you. I don't believe in using women for personal gains." He grabbed her hand, letting go of the shift gear for a few seconds to give her a slight kiss. "I believe in treating you like a queen that only deserves to be loved and respected."

It might appear to be a line, but that was what he truly believed.

"I hope you can walk the talk." She spoke with conviction because she did not want empty promises.

He smiled at her knowing what she exactly meant. He did remember the report he read about her last relationship, how Nick had hurt her with his lies.

"I swear that I don't promise anything that I can't keep." He valued himself with his ability to honor his deals and his commitment to something that he had entered. That was why he was very adamant at first not to commit to any relationship because once he did, he could never back out.

He was glad that despite her past, she overcame her not-so-good experience with Nick and gave him a chance to prove that their relationship could end up differently.

"What is this place?" She asked as they finally stopped at a building just inside the city.

"This is the capital where everything happens," Alex answered her.

He assisted her out of the car and into the street. Instead of entering the building, he pulled her to the busy street and made her walked along the pedestrian.

"Where are we going?" She asked, wondering what his plans were. She was pretty sure that they were about to enter that beautiful structure, so she was surprised to find that it was not their destination.

"Trust me. You will like what I am about to show you." He told her as they continued to walk on the sidewalk.

She did find a few differences from back home with this place. There were lesser vehicle and people on the street. She observed that it would seem their city was able to catch up with modernization.

"Here." He guided her to another alley. A smaller one from the main street but crowded with stalls and people on the alleyway. "I used to come here when I was young." He started explaining why he brought her there.

"What is so special about this place?" She asked, noticing the beautiful things that the people were selling in their booths.

"Many of these people sell their handmade products here. The food is also great." He pointed to the many street foods that aligned the other street.

It was like something that she had only seen on occasions on some of her travels but did not have the chance to explore.

"You want to try some." He pulled her to one stall, selling some sweet delicacy that she was unsure how to describe. But when she tasted it, she knew she wanted more.

He bought several more different delicacies that she had not tried before, then pulled her to another open area at the end of the alley. It was a large park where many performers were doing their acts. The spectators walked along the grounds as they gazed at their surroundings. Some did sit to watch on the side.

She found the place quite magnificent as they had a place for people who wanted to showcase their talents.

"My Nanna would usually escape the palace and come here when she felt too overwhelmed with all her responsibility. She sometimes brought me along, and we would disguise ourselves as normal citizens so that no one would recognize us back then."

"I would probably do the same as your Nanna if I found myself confined with such obligation. I would also try to escape." She admitted to him as they sat and watched an artist performed.

Chapter 143 - Friendship And Nothing More

"Jacky, I'm going out on a jog." She shouted outside her door, but as usual, she did not get any response from her. She was probably still deep in her sleep or refused to acknowledge her. She still left a note notifying her that she would be back soon.

She placed her headset on and played her usual upbeat music, dropping her phone on the kitchen counter together with the note. She opened their front door and walked on the hallway towards the elevator. Then, her heart suddenly went to her throat when a hand touched her shoulders.

"Hey! I'm sorry. I did not mean to startle you." A man quickly apologized, putting his hands on the air as he looked at her when she swiftly turned around to look at her assailant. But she knew he meant no harm when she recognized who the man was.

"Hi! Troy. I thought you were..." She did not finish her sentence. She removed her earpiece so she could hear him better. She did not realize that she had up the volume on her music player, making her unaware of the sound around her.

"I'm truly sorry. I was calling you, but it appeared that you did not hear me." Troy explained as they continued to stand just outside her apartment door.

"Sorry, I had my music on high I did not hear you." Showing her earpiece to him. "Anyway, are you going out for a jog?" She asked, unsure if he was on his way or already done, but he was still in his jogging attire.

"I'm heading out. That was why I was trying to catch you. Maybe you would like to run together." He asked her as they got on the elevator.

"Sure." She answered him, finding nothing wrong with his suggestion. "I'm sorry I had set the music in high. I did not hear you earlier." She excused herself, letting the earpiece of her music player fall on her shoulders.

She did enjoy his company. She found talking to him about politics, the weather, sports, and anything about the world quite entertaining. He was not just articulate, but he had quite a sense of humor.

"I haven't seen you around lately." He stated his observation as they stepped inside the elevator, resuming their conversation.

"I had been away on a trip." She suddenly found herself thinking if she should start telling people about her new relationship. But then again, it was not as if it was a secret she should hide. "I spent the week with my boyfriend."

It had conflicting sounds in her ears when she heard her say it. She felt happy and uncomfortable at the same time. She was glad that she was again in a relationship with an extraordinary man. But she also found herself still getting her footing in this dating or couple thing.

Eventually, she thought that it was better to tell him the truth. That would also inform him that she was not available, just in case he was interested, as Jacky insisted. She suddenly remembered Jacky's insinuation that Troy was into her.

"Oh! I never thought that you have a boyfriend." He stated, but his face for a second changed before it quickly returned to its neutral expression. It was barely a few seconds that it was unnoticeable if you were not watching.

"It is a recent development." She answered him truthfully.

She wondered why she was very comfortable sharing information with this man when she still hardly knew him. But he seemed very harmless, so she did not give it much thought.

"I guess congratulations are in order." He smiled at her.

They just exited the building and were on their way to the park, a few blocks from their place.

"Thanks. What about you? Are you in a relationship?" She asked, not feeling nosy at all.

It was not like she was interested in him. She just wanted to get to know him if they were to become friends. In all honesty, since she started working, most of her so-called friends have distanced themselves from her. Or was it the other way around, she thought.

She did not mind finding new friends. And Troy seemed to be a good start. Besides, it is good to be friends with their neighbors.

"I used to, but we both decided to end it since it was not working for the both of us." He spoke up with a bit of an edge on his voice. As if talking about it was not something he would enjoy doing.

"I'm sure you'll still find someone else." She told him, suddenly regretting asking him the question.

It would seem that it happened recently, and it still stung to talk about it. She decided to cease her questioning for the moment. Then, they fell into silence as they continued their run to the path they already got used to following.

They finally stopped on a section of the park where she usually took a breath, rest, and rehydrate. There was a small stall there where she could buy a bottle of refreshing drink when she forgot to bring one.

"Let me get this," Troy said as he bought them both a bottle of cold water.

They both sat down on their bench and wiped the sweat on their face and skin, both trying to get over the awkward conversation they had earlier.

"You see those two girls at your three o'clock." She rested her arms on the back of the bench and stretched her legs on the ground, relaxing her muscles as she waited for him to look at the girls.

"What about them?" He turned his face to them, wondering why she wanted him to look at them.

"Well, they are staring at you since we stopped here to rest." She teased him, hoping that would light up their mood. "Why don't you introduce yourself and get yourself a date?"

Now, she believed she sounded like Jacky, trying to match him with every girl they saw. Her intentions were noble. She just wanted to clear the tension between them.

"I don't think that is a good idea. Besides, I am not looking for a relationship right now." He turned his head back to the view in front of him as they continued to sit on the bench, drinking their water.

"Ok. If you ever change your mind, I am sure I can introduce you to many of my friends. Just tell me when." She told him.

She wondered if he would be a good match with Jacky, who seemed depressed since they came back. Well, she went on the trip with Marcus and their unconventional relationship and came back broken-hearted. What else would she expect?

Although Jacky felt she met the perfect man on their trip, she left him a million miles behind with no hope of seeing him again. Now, she was alone, moping in her room.

"I'll take note of that. In case that I would need a date, I will ask for your help. It was just sad that you are not available anymore." He whispered the last part, which she almost did not hear. But she did.

She suddenly felt uncomfortable sitting here with him, confirming that he was indeed interested in her.

"Shall we go back?" She stood from the bench and threw her bottle into the trash, moving towards the path towards their building.

There was only one thing she could offer him. That was friendship and nothing more.

Chapter 144 - Worth It

"I'm glad that you're back." Marcus walked into his office and sat down in front of his table without waiting for an invitation.

"Do we have an urgent matter to discuss?" He asked his friend with a slight annoyance in his voice.

He was not up for casual chitchats since his works had piled over the week that he was away. The downside of being free for the whole week to enjoy was returning to a ton of work.

But he wanted to leave early today because he promised that he would take Dani on a date. He already missed her since they said goodbye yesterday at her doorstep. But from the way his morning was going, it would seem it was impossible to finish on time.

"Not if losing millions means not urgent," Marcus said as he pulled the file on his bag and placed it on the pile of papers on his table. "Then, I could come back later." Marcus was about to stand up and leave.

"Marcus, wait. I didn't mean to snap at you. I was drowning with all of these papers, but if that is very important, let us discuss it now." He offered.

"What is wrong with you?" Marcus asked, sensing a difference in his friend since their trip.

He could not pinpoint the exact change, but it was there. Since he left earlier than them, he had no idea what else happened after that.

"Nothing. I am just in a hurry to finish." Alex looked at his friend and returned the question to him. "It is me who should be asking you that."

He put aside the things he had to do to make time for his friend, who was quite obvious, still having some issues with what happened to him on their trip.

"Nothing is wrong with me," Marcus replied as he continued on his way to the door.

"Sit down, Marcus. We need to talk." Alex used his no-nonsense voice as he sat back on his chair and stared at the back of his friend.

"Honestly, how are you? And don't give me that macho crap that you are fine because I won't believe you." He continued seriously.

"We can talk about it later, Alex," Marcus answered his friend, not wanting to discuss his failed affair with him during office hours.

"But we are talking about it now. I don't want this to mess up with your ability to function." He insisted because a distracted Marcus was no used to him, especially when their business was on the line. He needed his focus on his responsibilities.

He took the approach of being the boss than being a friend to make Marcus listened to him. If he was stubborn, Marcus was worse. He would not easily listen to reason if his mind went philosophical.

"Fine. What do you want to know?" Marcus conceded, knowing that he would do the same thing if they changed position.

Marcus finally slumped down on the chair. He knew that this was not the time and place to talk about this. He preferred to get drunk before he spilled his guts to his friend. But his friend was right. It was affecting his work.

"Are you still interested in Jacky?" He had to be straight to the point.

If he was right, Marcus' problems boiled down to one reason. He liked Jacky a lot more than he was willing to admit. He was in denial that he wanted a relationship with her.

But if he was wrong, Marcus was only suffering from a bruised ego because he was dump first. A few nights with some random girls should cure him in a few days. But if it was the former, that was a bigger problem, which he had no way to resolve.

Marcus placed his elbows on his knees and buried his face on his palms as he tried to clear his mind. "I want to erase her in my mind," Marcus stated with finality as if that would resolve his problem.

Since his last confrontation with Jacky, he had been in a state of confusion, unable to think clearly of what he wanted to do with her.

"So, you're saying that you don't want to get back with her." Alex wanted to be sure that he understood him right.

"I want to forget everything about her," Marcus spoke clearer this time. "She wanted a commitment. She must be crazy if she thought that I would agree to that. She can't demand something that was not in our arrangement." He answered him, remembering Jacky's words.

He knew that he was still attracted to her and what they had was very special. But he also believed that it was not enough for him to get committed to her or anyone girl.

Jacky was not the one that would make him changed his opinion about that. He had his priorities, and she was not originally a part of that.

"So, what do you think would make you forget about her?" Alex asked, not liking his friend's decision but could do nothing about it.

If that was what he wanted, Jacky was better off with her decision to end it with him.

"Maybe you can be my wingman tonight, just like the old times, and helped me find someone new." Marcus could only think of one solution to his problem. That was to get laid.

"Sorry, man. Even if I finish all of this today, I still promised Dani that we would go out tonight." He declined his friend's offer.

Besides, those times of helping him get a woman were over. Dani would skin him alive if she found out that he did that. He could already see the tigress in her.

"What is going on between you and Dani? It seemed that you are spending more time together than necessary." Marcus studied his friend and discerned that the change he was noticing had something to do with Dani.

"She is now my girlfriend," Alex told him proudly. He would show his friend that there was nothing wrong with a committed relationship.

"I know that. I meant are things between your contract ..." But Marcus was not able to finish when he saw his friend's face. "What?" This time, he was stupefied by what he just realized. "You and Dani."

"Yes, we decided to try and see where this relationship will lead us. I like Dani, and she likes me. So, we did not see any problem of dating for real." Alex explained as if it was as simple as breathing air.

"Did you have a mind-boggling wild sex with her, then hit your head, deciding that committing at this point in our life was a good idea?" Marcus said incredulously. "What are you thinking? The reason you chose her was to avoid this."

Marcus knew that his friend had always been different from them. He was always the straight one, but it was his flaw too. He let his heart ruled him over better judgment.

The reason they all decided to stay uncommitted with anyone, through all these years, was because of their plans. They could not be distracted from their goal. Now, Marcus was afraid that Alex was about to blow up all their hard work.

Now, he wondered if Alex could still focus on his goal with a woman clinging at his side. Marcus believed that Dani would only be a distraction that might pull them down and destroy what they managed to establish.

"I haven't forgotten that. But Dani is different. She will never be a distraction to our goals. Instead, she will be my inspiration to do better." He assured his friend that nothing had changed from their plans.

"I hope that you know what you are doing, but Evan and David might also think otherwise. You knew why we formed this alliance. We wanted the same thing." Marcus reminded him.

It was for that similar reason why he was avoiding commitment at all costs. The demand for a committed relationship would not work well with their commitment to their work. It just would not work together.

"Enough about me, what is the meaning of this." He decided to change their topic, diverting Marcus' attention back to the file in his hand.

But his mind went to what his friend said. Did he rush things by committing to Dani without thinking it through? Would his relationship with her cost him his dreams? Was she worth it if that ever happened?

Chapter 145 - The Magic Was Over

She was rushing to finish her work since this morning. The only thing keeping her distracted was the thought that she would be seeing Alex tonight for dinner. He invited her yesterday after he dropped her off at her place.

After a long time of not feeling this way, she was giggling inside like a schoolgirl. It was like she was about to go out for the first time with her crush. She could feel the excitement that course through her body.

This time, she was savoring the feeling, unlike before, where she kept suppressing it. She suddenly felt alive with the knowledge that someone was thinking of her. But she had to admit that he was also constantly in her mind.

"Do you want to go out for lunch or eat here?" Jacky interrupted her thought when she suddenly appeared at the door.

"Let's just eat here." She suggested, not wanting to go out and waste anymore of her time. "Just order whatever you like." She told Jacky, who went back to her desk.

She did not even realize that it was already noon. She was so engrossed in her work or busy being distracted by her thoughts that she barely noticed anything. Then, she remembered walking in her office that morning as she stared at the rose on her table.

Flowers scattered around her office when she arrived earlier. This time, her reaction was completely different from the first time she encountered the same scenario. She could not keep the smile out of her face, smelling one flower after the other.

"I assume that you don't want them around. Should I throw all of the flowers out?" Jacky teasingly said as she stood by the door. She grabbed one that was near her side and stared at it for some time.

She was happy for her friend when she told her last night that she and Alex were now an official couple. She honestly believed that Dani won a jackpot in Alex and vice versa. They were perfect for each other. She could not think of anything wrong that she could say about them.

But she wished that she also had that. She could not help but envy her friend, who seemed to have it all. But it did not mean that she would think ill of her friend. She was happy that her life was finally back in order. There was a man who was willing to love her unconditionally.

"Not this time." She stated as she feasted her eyes at the beauty around her. "But you can get as many as you want and placed it on your table." She offered since she knew how much Jacky liked flowers.

It suddenly brought her back to the secret garden, a magical place where their relationship started. She picked up a set of red roses near her and then looked on the other side. She could see peonies, tulips, and some assortments of flowers. It was all lovely.

"Well, I'll let you go back to your work." Jacky walked out of her room silently, picking two sets of her favorites. But not with the usual sarcasm, teasing, or anything that would indicate that she was back to normal.

"Jacky?" She stopped her before she was out of her sight. "I'm just here if you want to talk."

She felt guilty that she had spent so little time with Jacky ever since their trip. She knew that she was undergoing something, but she was not able to help her. But how could she help someone who did not want to acknowledge that they needed help?

Last night, when they talked. Jacky only let Dani talk all night about her and Alex. But when it was time to talk about her. She suddenly excused herself, saying that she was exhausted.

Dani felt that she should do something for her to get her friend back to her jolly self. She needed to make her open up to her.

"I'm good, but we have tons of backlog works to be done." Jacky gave her a sweet smile, but it did not even reach halfway to her cheek. Then, she was out of her door that morning.

Jacky barely entered her room unless there was something urgent that she had to give her. She missed that way that Jacky just barged into her office without any official reason at all.

Now, she looked at her friend, smiling at the delivery boy. But nothing in her smile would indicate that she was happy. It was a fake smile that would never fool her. She knew she had to do something about it.

"The food is here. Do you want to eat now?" She asked, placing the food on the side table, waiting for her instructions.

"Sure. I'll just put this away." She started clearing up her table. They usually eat at her table if they ordered in. That usually saved her time from going out and getting in line with the other diners. Every second of her time was precious to her.

Then, she got to thinking about her new relationship with Alex. Would she have time to spend with Alex while concentrating on her job? Now that she was given several more cases as part of their bargain, in exchange for her pro bono cases.

Well, she just had to learn to juggle between her work and her relationship. How hard could that be? Her parents were able to handle such a situation, especially her mom.

She believed she could also do the same. It would just need some time to adjust to the changes.

They started eating their lunch in silence, contemplating their thoughts. After a while, Dani decided that it was time to confront Jacky about her situation. She could not keep dodging her questions.

"How are you handling your breakup with Marcus?" She decided that a direct approach was the best way to get her attention. She kept eating her food as she observed her friend.

"I'm happy that I realized what a jerk he was this soon before it was too late," Jacky answered her as if she already memorized that answer in her mind.

"Are you sure that you are not yet that deep?" Dani had to know the extent of the damage that was done to her by this broken affair.

"I honestly thought that he was the one. But I guess I was wrong again." Jacky answered, emphasizing the last word.

She again started munching on her food and swallowed what remained in her mouth. She dropped the spoon back in its box and looked at Dani.

Jacky knew she could not keep avoiding the question, and she had to tell Dani everything. She did not want her to worry about her. But she was still trying to get a grip of her unexpected roller-coaster adventure in their trip.

She went with Marcus thinking that he would take her to paradise. She winded up with Lance, who took her on a magic carpet ride. But both short relationships ended just like that. With a poof, she was alone again.

Now, she was back in her reality, where the truth was simple. The magic was over.

Chapter 146 - A Better Friend

"Hey!" She notified Jacky that she just came in but hurriedly rushed to her room.

She almost slipped on the floor, not noticing the remaining clutter that Jacky left earlier as she was cleaning the house. "What the heck? Jacky, you forgot the rug again on the floor." She yelled at her. "She removed the rug that Jacky must have forgotten from her path and continued on her way.

"Sorry! What time will Alex pick you up?" Jacky yelled from the kitchen as soon as she heard Dani.

Jacky went home earlier because she had a few things she needed to do in their apartment. The laundry, cleaning, and the groceries. With the pile of work that Dani had to go through, she doubted that she would contribute much to the house chores.

"Thirty minutes ago." She said, looking at her watch, suddenly panicking that she was already late.

She got lost track of time as she worked on her cases. Luckily, Evan dropped by to give her some instructions before he left for a date, reminding her that she also had one. She continued to stride to her room, to change and prepare for her date.

"Oh! And then where is he?" Jacky asked.

Then, she stopped in her tracks, peeked in the living room, and when it was empty. She went to the kitchen, where she found Jacky putting away their food supplies. "You mean to say Alex had not yet arrived." She asked disbelievingly.

She was conflicted if she was relieved that he had not yet arrived or was anxious about where he was. He was usually on time or earlier but never late.

"Well, I just arrived myself from the grocery, so I would not know. But I did not see Alex when I came in." Jacky informed her. "Maybe he was just running late just like you," Jacky added, not wanting her friend to worry for nothing.

"Yeah, you are right. I'll be in my room and change. Alex was probably on his way now." She smiled at her friend, turned around, and walked calmly into her room. But in her mind, she wondered what was taking him so long.

She quickly shuffled through her bag for her phone, thinking that he might have texted her, and she did not even notice it. Thankfully, she saw her phone blinking with a new message. There were several missed calls too.

She noted that she had to stop turning her phone in silent or off. She should put it in vibrate mode instead if she was busy and did not want any distractions.

The first message was from Alex, and the text said that he was running late because he was still in a meeting. Then, the others were from someone else.

She scrolled down until Alex's other messages showed. Most of it was informing her that he was still in the meeting. Then, the last one said that he was on his way. He was calling her several times, but she was not answering. The message was ten minutes ago.

She quickly texted him back and told him that she was already waiting at the apartment. She was also sorry for not answering his calls. She waited for a reply, but nothing came. She concluded that he must be driving. She just hurried and went out of her room.

"Where's Alex?" Jacky asked when she saw her already set.

Jacky was busy preparing for her dinner for one since she would be dining alone.

"He is on his way." She answered her back as she sat on the counter to wait for him. Then, she picked up a few slices of the homemade fries Jacky had prepared and put them into her mouth.

"Stop picking on my food. That is my dinner." Jacky swatted her hand away.

"But I'm hungry." She only ate half of her lunch earlier because she was distracted, then did not get the chance to eat anything later on. Now, her stomach was growling from the enticing smell of Jacky's food. "Just a few bites." She begged her, putting her fingers together to beseech her kindness.

"Fine, but leave me some. I doubt if you will be able to eat soon since both of you are already late for your dinner." Jacky pushed the plate in her direction and finished cooking the rest of her meal.

"Thanks. You are a lifesaver." She munched on the potatoes as if her life depended on them.

"How serious are you with Alex? Do you see him as the one?" Jacky asked her friend, curious about how her friend felt about having a relationship after what she had experienced with Nick.

Jacky had been searching for someone that would take her seriously. She longed for a family since she grew up with none. She wanted someone to love and to love her back. Kids to raise as her own.

She knew Dani would always be her sister but soon, she might even get her own family, and then she would be alone again. She was not looking forward to such time.

"Honestly, I am as clueless as you. After Nick, I was not sure if I will be able to love again or trust somebody with my heart. I am not saying that I am in love with Alex, but he makes me feel happy and excited to wake up in the morning." She dropped the fries in her hand and walked towards her friend.

She knew why her friend asked these questions and why her face looked like it just lost a puppy. "I know I am taking another risk with him with my heart. But I guess life is about putting yourself out there, or else we will never find the right one." She hugged her friend.

"But aren't you afraid to get hurt again?" She could not help but compare her experience with Dani. Although she could sense that Alex was different from Marcus, she still could not help but worry for her friend.

"I know you worry about me, just like I do to you. But I want to see if I can fall in love with him despite my past. My heart and mind trust him. Maybe love will eventually follow." She explained to Jacky her situation.

"I guess you are right." After thinking about it, Jacky suddenly remembered Lance. Maybe there were men out there that were exceptional.

"I hope someday you will also open your heart for another chance. I know Marcus was a great disappointment, but maybe someone else is the right man for you." Dani could only wish that Jacky would also find an Alex of her own.

"Wait. Don't forget this." Jacky walked to the end of the counter and grabbed one of the grocery bags. She rummaged inside the bag to search for something until she found it. "Here." She pushed the box to her. "Better be safe than sorry."

"I don't think I would need that." Remembering that Alex must have his supply. But she was not about to announce that to Jacky.

"Take one, better yet, take five to be sure." She grabbed the packs and shoved them inside her bag.

"Seriously." She could only shake her head at her friend, but she stopped resisting before it escalated to something more.

She was glad that Jacky was supporting her relationship with Alex. She was expecting to do a lot of explaining before she could convince Jacky that she was doing the right thing.

But she was surprised when Jacky agreed with her without much of a fight and even gave her blessings. She could not ask for a better friend.

Chapter 147 - Memorable Date

"I'm sorry again, Dani, if I was late. My work piled up since we had been away for a week." He tried to apologize again when they were already seated in his car.

He felt so awful when he knocked on her apartment door, forgetting about the flowers in his haste and then coming late. He did not want to use his work as an excuse for neglecting his obligation to her, especially when they were barely dating for a week.

"Don't worry about it. I was a bit late too. I thought you were already waiting for me when I arrived home. Fortunately, you also ran late. Let's call this even." She did not want to blame him for something that she was also guilty of doing.

"Thanks for understanding. I thought that you were mad at me when you did not answer my calls and messages." He felt relieved hearing that she did not mind his tardiness.

"About that. I had turned my ringer off, so I did not notice your calls and messages. Since I was also running late, I rushed home without looking at it. I only read your messages when I texted you." She explained. She wanted him to feel that it was not solely his fault if they were both late in their dinner reservation.

"You know what I think?" He pulled her hand from her lap and kissed it, quickly looking at her.

"What?" She asked, feeling her heart quickened its heartbeat with his mere touch and gentle kiss. She could not wait for what he had to say.

"I am the luckiest man right now because you agreed to be mine." He gave her hand another kiss, a bit longer this time before he let it go and concentrated back on his driving.

He seemed to know his ways with words that she was always left speechless. Her heart was on her throat, preventing her from saying anything else.

He brought her to one of the most expensive restaurants in the city. Upon seeing who they were, the hostess immediately showed them to one of their best tables.

It was overlooking the city and picturesque skyscrapers with their beautiful bright lights on. As expected, they did not mind that they were late with their reservation.

Today, they were one of the hottest couples in society after the press learned about their engagement and Alex's true identity. Their faces grazed the front pages of social magazines and the internet.

She was not expecting that the news would escalate in this proportion. But she could not do anything about it anymore. She was used to it, and she believed that it would blow over in time.

"Why do you look like you are not happy here?" He asked when they were sitting and were left alone to choose their food.

He could see that her eyes did not sparkle the same way when they were on their trip. The way she enjoyed their walk in the park.

"Oh no. I appreciate the effort you made to get a reservation in a place like this." She told him. She was sure that the line to get a table in this place would have taken months.

"In truth, I did not do such thing. I only asked my secretary to book us somewhere special, and she was the one who chose this." He could not take credit for something he did not do.

"But at least you still showed up." She appreciated his honesty.

"So far, come to think of it, I had done nothing to make this night memorable. Except, I guess to show up late." He smiled at his statement.

"I think we both did make it memorable by being both late." She corrected him, which made them both laugh.

"At least, I had made you laugh. I was afraid that your tight smile might turn into a frown a few minutes more." He took her hand across from the table.

"Almost." She agreed with him, teasing him for criticizing her smile.

"Then remind me again next time not to ask my secretary to plan our date. I think we both agree that this is not what we had in mind." He kissed her hand, settling for it in the meantime.

He agreed that going to a fancy restaurant with an overrated price for a meal was not something that they both would enjoy. As far as he was concerned, he could also cook something as fancy at a lesser price.

He had no qualms about going on a place liked this if it was a business deal that he needed to impress a client. Most of them were pretentious people who would like to dine and wine.

But to get to know a person, he would prefer something more ordinary. Somewhere where they both could show their true self.

"You have a deal." She suddenly felt lighter, knowing that they both felt the same way about their preferences.

"For now, let us just enjoy what they had to offer." He suggested since it was late to look for something else.

Besides, he already heard her stomach growling while they were in the car. But he would not admit that to her. He did not want her to feel embarrassed.

"Why don't we make this more interesting?" She proposed, beckoning him with her finger to come closer to her.

He moved his chair next to hers and leaned a bit closer to her face. "What are you up to?" He could see in her eyes that she was planning something.

"Just follow my lead." She whispered near to his ears when the head waiter appeared at their table. All he could do was raised his brows at her. And then he looked at the man in the black and white uniform.

"Are we ready to order?" The man asked politely.

"Yes, I will have your cheapest meal." She did not even look at the menu as she said it.

She wondered what Alex would do after hearing her order. Would he see the humor in it, or was he as uptight as Nick? She was rooting for the former. The last week they were together, she had enjoyed his company.

The waiter appeared surprised about what she said. "Pardon?" He asked as he focused on her.

"My girlfriend ordered your cheapest meal. I think I'll have the same and kindly pair it with your cheapest wine." He made sure that he said the words clearly, so he did not have to ask again.

The man seemed confused with the order but did not say anything more as he took the menu board and excused himself to get their orders.

"Let us see what we ordered." She announced to him excitedly, glad that he was on board with her idea.

"I think you just created mayhem in the kitchen with that stunt, but I am intrigued." He could not help but be impressed with her idea.

"Well, why should I pay for their most expensive food when I know that their cheapest would be good as well?" She reasoned with him.

"Oh! I think I love the way you think." He could not wait for the rest of the night. He was sure that she had more up her sleeves that he would love to explore.

Admittedly, this night would be the first in his book. A very memorable date indeed.

Chapter 148 - The Magic Was Only Beginning

"I told you. The food and the wine were as good as whatever the special was." She was not particular with food. Living with Jacky in their old apartment, she had learned to eat food in the carton or a wrap.

As a lawyer that was always on the go, a burger, burrito, or whatever food stand in the corner of the busy street was good enough lunch for her. She just wondered if it was the same with Alex.

"I also think so." He agreed with her as they buckled their seat belts and prepared to leave the premises. "I hope you genuinely enjoyed our first official date." Still amazed at the ability of the woman beside him to impress him with her simple actions.

"I did. Thanks for this night." She knew that it was one of the best nights that she had for a long time. The only time that she was able to laugh like that was with Jacky. She appreciated what Alex was doing to make her feel special.

"Shall we go home?" He started the engine and proceeded on their way to her apartment.

They still talked about the dinner and where they left off with their conversation before leaving the restaurant. They occasionally ended up laughing at their stories, which made their travel seemed fast.

In no time, he was parking in front of her building. "Let me walk you to your apartment." He was exhausted, but he still did not like to end the day.

As soon as they entered the elevator, he pulled her to him and kissed her. He had been longing for this the whole day. Not the kiss on the hand or the peck on her lips. A full passionate kiss that could satiate his need to be with her.

"I think we need to get off this floor." He broke the kiss when he heard someone from behind him clear his throat.

She then realized that the lift's door already opened and a man was standing outside, waiting to get in. He was holding the door so that it would not close.

"Hi, Troy." She suddenly felt embarrassed being caught on the elevator making out with her boyfriend.

Although it was the norm nowadays, she was still uncomfortable with it since it had been a while since she had a boyfriend.

"Good evening, Dani." He greeted back as Alex guided Dani into the hallway, and Troy entered the elevator. There was no time for introductions as the door closed on Troy.

"Who was that?" Alex questioned, curiosity getting the best of him.

"Troy." She answered. "He is our neighbor, who lives just a few doors down the hallway from us." She added.

Then, they were finally standing in front of her door. Her neighbor, already forgotten.

She fished for her keys in her bag, and with trembling fingers, she tried to unlock her door. She was unsure why she felt suddenly nervous. Maybe because this time, they were now in a relationship and back in reality.

"Would you like to come in?" She finally asked upon successfully unlocking her doors.

"Yes." He whispered just behind her nape, sending shivers down her spine.

It was a simple word that they both knew meant more than just coming in.

As soon as they set foot inside, he picked up where they left off. He pushed her further into the room, locking the door behind him. His lips locked on hers while his hands glided down her body, cradling her with his.

He was directing her into the living room couch when she remembered that they were not alone. Jacky could walk out on them.

"My room." She uttered between their kisses, pointing to the door at the far end.

Then, they accidentally knocked down the side table, almost toppling down the vase. Luckily, it did not roll straight to the floor.

"Ssshhh! Alex." She chastised him. "Watch where you are going. I don't want to wake up Jacky."

She was sure that Jacky was still awake, probably playing with her phone at this time. But she was not ready to see her in this kind of situation.

She dragged him instead to her room and locked it once they were inside. Then, she attacked him, placing her hands around his neck. Letting go of her inhibition as desire took over her.

She entwined her fingers through his hair, pulling his head down to hers as she let her lips teased him with tender kisses. Then, her hands worked on his coat, allowing it dropped on the floor.

Next, she unbuttoned his shirt, which seemed to be not fast enough. Eventually, he helped her finished it in a rush wanting to feel her hands across his body.

"You are driving me crazy." He wanted to dominate the kiss but was holding himself back. He liked the way she was taking charge, reminding him of the girl who had her way with him that night not so long ago, the tigress that was in his bed.

"You drove me crazy a long time ago." She did not realize what she confessed to him as her yearning for fulfillment took over her ability to make a coherent thought.

She slowly stepped towards the bed, pushing him on the edge until he fell on his back on the mattress. Then, she was on top of him, working on removing his pants.

"What about you? Aren't you taking off your clothes?" As he laid under her almost naked, except for his underwear.

"You have to wait." Slapping his hands when he tried to pull her clothes off.

"Ok." He answered, retreating his hands away from her and placing them behind his head as he watched and waited for her next move.

Slowly, she grabbed the hem of her dress and gently lifted it off her body. In one swift movement, she let the piece of clothing flew across her room. Now, they were both left in their underwear.

She was not drunk, but she was bold. And she was taking what she wanted. She was tired of letting her fear and her past from ruling her life. When she agreed to be his, she planned to inform him that he was also hers. And this was his notice.

She splayed her hands on his bare shoulders, enjoying the feel of his skin on the palm of her hands. Every movement of her fingers sent him quivering in her touch. She suddenly found herself entranced with the new power she had over him. A feeling that she never knew was possible.

"Do whatever you want?" He told her, relinquishing the control over to her.

"Wait." She grabbed the bag that she dropped by the door and brought it back on the bed, resuming her position.

She pulled the packet inside it. She forgot that Jacky placed several pieces of them inside her bag as it suddenly spilled over the bed.

"Whoah, how many are you carrying in there?" He smiled upon seeing the content of her small bag.

She could not help but laugh too. "This was Jacky's doing, but you never know how many we are going to need. Better be prepared" She teased him as she claimed his mouth for a punishing kiss, biting and nibbling on his lips until they reached their limits.

The charade was ending, and to Alex and Dani, the magic was only beginning.

Chapter 149 - Unspoken Question

"Alex?" Dani stretched her hand and found the bed empty. "What are you doing? It's barely dawn."

Alex was already up, getting dressed. She could not help the disappointment displayed on her face upon realizing that he was already leaving.

"I am needed to be early in the office. I still need to go home and get change." He said as he buttoned his white shirt and folded his coat in his hand.

If he had a choice, he would rather stay until later or even skip going to work. But he had responsibilities that he could not ignore just because he wanted to spend more time with Dani in bed. That was just not a good excuse.

"I supposed you are right. But I am already missing you." She sounded so wanton that she did not even recognize herself.

Maybe she was still dreaming, and nothing about this was real. She pinched her skin to check if she would feel the pain. Unfortunately, she was wide awake.

"Promise. I will make it up to you. I will call you." He told her as he knelt on the bed and leaned his body until his face was only inches from hers. "I will miss you too." He whispered as he started kissing her.

"Fine. I will wait for your call." She answered him when he finally stood up from the bed.

"Go back to sleep." He instructed before closing the door behind him.

"Bye." She uttered, but she doubted if he heard it. He was already gone.

She figured that it would take time before they found a comfortable rhythm in their relationship. She and Alex would need to adjust to each other's needs, or their relationship might never survive.

She looked at the closed door. Although she understood Alex's reason, it did not mean that it did not dishearten her when she did not wake up in his arms.

When she heard her front door closed, she knew that she would not be sleeping. "Ahhhh!" She rolled out of her bed and walked towards her bathroom.

Looking at herself in the mirror, she could still remember what happened last night. Every moment she had with Alex seemed to be the best time of her life. But every time that he left her, it suddenly turned into the opposite.

"Get a hold of yourself. It is not your first time in a relationship. Think of your priorities because it would seem that you are screwing it up." She talked to herself in the mirror before splashing some water on her face. "Wake up and stop daydreaming." She spoke to her reflection.

She walked out of her room, knowing that she would not be sleeping anymore. In any few minutes, the sun will be up, so there was no point in trying to go back to sleep.

She decided to make coffee instead but decide not to jog today. She believed that she already exercised all her muscles last night.

After a few hours later, "Man, what's wrong with you today?" Marcus asked as he stood in front of his table.

They just came from an important meeting that his friend blew last night because he canceled it within the last minute. Then, during the meeting, Alex looked like he would rather be somewhere else than in that meeting.

"I'm just tired." Alex made a big yawn. He felt so tired that his body felt like shutting down.

He was not sure if the fatigue of the week-long trip. Then yesterday's hectic schedule and last night with Dani was finally catching up with him. Anyway, he figured he would only require to recharge his batteries tonight, and then he would be good as new.

"Out with Dani last night?" Marcus questioned, but he knew that he would not answer him anyway. "Come on, drink some coffee, take a nap, do something with that before we go to our next meeting later."

As far as he was concerned, his friend felt deprived for too long of a woman companion. Now that he tasted one, he was obsessed with it. He did not know what to do with it. He just hoped that he snapped out of it before he found himself trapped and had no way out.

"I'll be ready later. Besides, you already had the meeting handled. You did not need me to interrupt the flow." He was lucky that Marcus was aware of the plan, or he would have blown the project.

He felt like he was floating in the meeting as his mind went in and out of the meeting. Marcus had to clear his throat several times for him to realize that he was dozing up.

It was very unprofessional and something that should not happen again. Alex had to find a way to balance his obligation to his job and his girlfriend.

"I hope so, Man. By the way, Evan and David are inviting us on Friday night for a drink. I hope you are still available to spend some time with your friends now that you are in a committed relationship." Marcus jabbed at him.

"Of course, I'll be there." He pointed out, but the meaning of his friend's words was clear. Just like yesterday, he was not fond of his relationship with Dani.

He also had to find time for his friend even though he already saw some balancing issues on his schedule. It would seem that being in a relationship was not as easy as it looked.

"Sir Alex, Mr. Ethan Hamilton is on the line for you. He said that it was urgent. Will you be accepting his call?" His secretary called him on the other line.

"Yes." He answered his secretary, wondering why Dani's father was calling him.

During the entire trip, he and Dani were able to avoid spending much time with them. Always finding an excuse to be in their presence. They had their reason.

"Good morning, Alex. I hope I am not disturbing you with my sudden call." Ethan spoke on the other line.

"No. Not at all, Ethan. What can I do for you?" He asked with a bit of curiosity and apprehension.

Marcus, who was supposed to be on his way out, suddenly stopped. He sat back again on the seat, curious with the caller.

"If you have time, I would like to discuss something with you. A business proposal that both of us would surely benefit." Ethan informed him with his no-nonsense voice. It appeared that he had a choice, but he knew that it was just an illusion.

"Ok. I will ask my secretary to set a schedule with yours." That was his response to him.

"Why do we need others to set up when to meet when you could probably drop by tomorrow at my office. Let us say nine in the morning." Dani's father suggested. But for him, it was Ethan, establishing that he was in charge.

He looked at Marcus, and he already knew that he would not like what he was about to do. "Ok. I'll meet you tomorrow." He just made another commitment that was not part of their plans.

"Good." Then the line was dead. Ethan had ended the call without even concluding their call.

He placed the receiver back to its cradle and faced Marcus' unspoken question.

Chapter 150 - One Devoted Philanthropist

"Your ten o'clock meeting is on its way up. Should I send them in?" Jacky asked, placing a few more files on her table.

"Yes, let them in." She instructed without looking up to her friend.

She went to work early today than usual since she was not able to go back to sleep. She decided to catch up with her correspondence before Jacky arrived and start with their actual work.

She cleared up her table in preparation for her next client, another pro bono case assigned to her. She could not wait to hear what her client's case was.

A knock on the door, followed by Jacky taking a peek, notified her that her clients were already outside. Then, they entered her room.

"Ms. Ria Barbara and I assumed this is your son, Edison. Please come in and sit down." She greeted her and offered her the chair in front of her desk.

The beautiful young woman, probably wearing her best dress, sat on the chair with her baby in her arms. She looked like she was barely out of her teens to have a baby.

"Thank you, Ms. Hamilton, for seeing us. We tried several law firms already, but no one wanted to take our case. Mr. Jenkins told us to make an appointment with you." Ria mumbled on, clearly nervous that she might also decline their case.

"Let me hear first the reason you are here. Then I will decide later if we have a case. Mr. Jenkins would not have sent you here if he thought that you would only be wasting my time." She assured the young mother, whose hands were visibly shaking.

"But I will be honest with you, Ms. Hamilton. I have no money to spend on this case. I am a single mom, and the only small amount I earned as a cashier in a diner is only enough for our needs." Her client admitted as she started twisting her fingers on her lap.

She observed the boy in the arms of her mother. He was quietly sleeping, so innocent, unaware of what was going on around him.

"You have nothing to worry about expenses. We'll handle all the finances of this case if need be." She assured her client. "Now, tell me what is the case all about."

She knew that most of these clients found it hard to share their concerns for fear that nobody would give a damn about them.

It was this reason why she would like to help these people. They were too afraid to fight for their right because they had not many resources to use against their opponent.

"My son was recently diagnosed with a hole in his heart. I forgot what the doctor called it, but he would need an operation as soon as I can come up with the money." She began to narrate her situation.

"Ok." She waited for her to continue her story. She was sure there was more. She was only finding it hard to tell her.

"I got involved with a boy in school. I thought that he loved me. When he got me pregnant, he stopped seeing me. The last time that I saw him, he denied that this was his child." Ria stopped for a second as tears started to roll down her eyes.

"So, we could go after the father of the child for support. But we would need to prove that he is the father by a paternity test. What is the name of the father of your son?" She asked so she could put it in her notes.

She believed that it was a simple matter of proving that the child belonged to the father. Then, getting an agreement of a stipend. She wondered why the other law firms declined her case.

"He is..." She hesitated for a second. "Ryan Damon Brett." Ria looked down on her baby as if she was afraid of what her response would be.

"There is a slight problem. When I told Ryan that I would sue him, he threatened to take my baby away from me. I don't want that to happen." Ria looked terrified of the possibility.

"The other lawyers said that it was a possibility because he had money. I don't want that to happen." Ria continued before she could ask questions.

Then, the name suddenly clicked in her mind. It sounded familiar, but she did not connect it earlier. But when Ria looked genuinely terrified of the possibility, she realized that it could only mean that the boy came from the Brett family, one powerful family.

"Is Ryan connected to Senator Donald Brett?" She asked, hoping that her assumption was wrong.

Ria hesitantly nodded her head. "He is his father."

She could see that Ria was trying to keep herself together.

"Ok." She noted, writing down the latest information. She now understood why the rest of her comrades declined the case.

It would be one hard case compared to what she initially thought. They would have to face the power and money of the Brett family. If Ryan refused to acknowledge his involvement with this girl, she would not have any choice but to take it to court.

But that would still be an uphill battle to take because they had to prove that he did have a relationship with her before they could demand a paternity test. Their lawyers would fight her tooth and nail before they agreed to that.

"If you think that we have no case, just like the other lawyers told me, please, tell me now. But I do hope that you'll take the case because you are my last hope." A few tears were now running down her cheeks, looking so defeated.

"I'm not saying that. But I would need time to check your case before I tell you how we could proceed with this case." She told her.

"If not for his heart condition, I did not plan to go after him. He did not deserve to be called the father of my son." Ria said as she wiped the tears from her eyes.

"Here's what we are going to do. Give me a day to work on your case. Let me see what our options are. Then, I will call you of what we will do next." She stated as she wrote her final notes on the paper before putting them aside.

"You mean to say. You are taking my case?" The young woman stated with wide eyes.

"Yes. I think your son had every right to get support from his father. I am glad that you decided to fight for his right and not let that man get away from his responsibility." She stated.

She hated people who thought they could get away that easily from their responsibility because they had power over the others.

"Thank you so much." Ria could not believe that finally, someone was willing to take her case.

She could only feel a slight hope that help was coming. She just hoped that it would not be too late. Her son needed the operation soon, and she heard that her case might take a long time before she could get the result. That was if they would win.

"For the meantime, what else do you need for your baby?" She said, already guessing what the girl was thinking.

If there were a way for her to help, then she would. She still had connections to some foundation that helped this kind of case.? She could already think of one devoted philanthropist.