

## The runaway groom (Irene and Isaac)

Chapter 1041

Isaac frowned slightly as he replied, "We're outside."

"Where?" James pressed—there was no helping it, since Erin was complaining about being bored when they were supposed to spend the day together.

She then suggested visiting Irene and taking Tommy outside to play, only to arrive at their lodgings to find it empty. Isaac asked in return, "You have a lot of free time today, huh?"

James was a little speechless—he should indeed be spending time together with his new bride.

He could not help sighed feebly as he glanced at Erin as she drove beside him, since she really preferred it lively. "Pretty much," he chuckled.

Isaac gave him the address. "Come over. I happen to have something to tell you." "Okay,"

James replied cheerfully.

As soon as he lowered his phone, Erin asked impatiently, "Where did they go? They should stay at home..." James turned toward her. "What, are they supposed to wait there for you?"

Erin smiled—it was just bad phrasing.

Still, James told her where they went, after which she frowned and grumbled "What are they doing there out in the wild? I mean, I've been there myself, but there's just a lake and nothing else. And they even brought the kids there..."

While she was left perplexed, James told her, "Don't get distracted. Eyes on the road."

Erin pouted. "I'm riding shotgun once you're better."

"Fine," James chuckled.

With that, they drove steadily on and alighted as they arrived, when they smelled the scent of food even before they saw anyone.

"Why is there a smoky smell?" Erin asked, a little confused, though James had a hunch.

That was when Erin saw people behind the words and started to hurry when she remembered that James could not walk that well yet.

She stopped and turned to wrap a hand around his arm, and he patted it. "I'm fine. You don't have to hold me up like this—if anyone did not know better, they would think that I'm too old to move."

"You're not old. I'm just worried you'd aggravate your leg and cause a permanent disability," Erin said.

"Are you going to leave me if that happens?" James asked.

"Maybe," Erin joked.

James pretended to be disappointed. "Well, I guess women are all pragmatic."

Erin smacked his wounded leg in turn. "You'd better recover soon, so that I won't have to dump you."

And with that, she let him go and strode off.

She was beside herself with joy when she saw the grill set and the food, complaining, "Tommy, how could you not invite me when you came?"

Tommy liked her too and promptly handed her a huge skewer of freshly grilled meat. "Here, Aunt Erin."

Erin quickly took it, just as Irene and the others returned and handed her some of the freshly plucked raspberries. "Try some."

Erin did not hold back at all, picking up a raspberry and stuffing it in her mouth before she finished her meat.

It was hardly an orthodox way to eat it, but it simply tasted different like that. She

smiled. "The raspberries are quite good."

Irene pretended to make a face and asked, "Can you actually taste it?"

Erin simply smiled. "Why didn't you call me when you're all enjoying yourselves here?"

Irene glanced at James nearby. "You have a lot of free time today, huh?"

That was exactly what Isaac said.

"The more the merrier," Erin replied, picking up Tommy and squeezing her way to the grill. "I'll do it myself."

It was more fun that way.

## The runaway groom (Irene and Isaac)

Chapter 1042

Irene's gaze was tender as she watched Erin being lively again.

Erin had become quiet and withdrawn after what happened, and she was more or less comforted to see Erin's personality reverting to how it was before.

Meanwhile, Isaac was speaking with James, probably discussing going back to Franconia.

Things were fine for them since there was nothing stopping them, mainly because James and Erin were just married and could stay here for a while.

Isaac was giving him a head's up, but James said, "I can go back to Franconia with you."

James got married quickly so that he could go back to work, and his leg was more or less better even though it was not fully healed.

Most importantly, he was bored out of his mind here, while he and Erin had already agreed to go back to Franconia once they were married—even if they might stay another couple days.

"I'll arrange for the return flight," James said, since he was always the one who arranged it.

Isaac simply clapped him on the shoulder. "Don't worry. I'll have someone arrange it." James

should have some time off since he just got married.

James groaned. "But I'm already better..."

"Stan's been complaining for a while. Don't worry," Isaac said with a rare smile. "You have all the work you want waiting when you get back."

James naturally knew how busy things would be at the office, and James would definitely be busy with him away—thankfully, he was much better now.

"I should share some work with Stan, since he must be miserable working every day and not getting time to find someone." James could not help sighing emotionally.

Isaac frowned a little. "Are you saying that I've been pushing him too hard?"

James was going to explain himself when Isaac said, "I'm giving him leave once we head back. You'd be taking over everything."

James was speechless—why did he say that crap, getting herself into trouble?

"Actually, Mr. Jefferson—"

Isaac did not stop to listen, however, and simply scooped Baby up in his arms and left.

Zachary was laughing himself silly while James suffered, and James strode over to him, stopping himself from kicking the man.

"What are you so pleased about? You'd die laughing like that," James huffed grumpily.

Zachary only laughed harder at that. "Go vent at Isaac, not me."

James was not interested in playing along. "Just go away."

Zachary stubbornly followed James, however, and kept pestering him. "You're just married, but you had to be in such a hurry to work again instead of spending quality time with the missus. What were you thinking?"

"Your family company isn't bankrupt, is it?" James asked in return. "Or maybe it is, with the way you've been goofing off every day?"

"Are you trying to jinx me?" Zachary frowned and waved him off. "Buzz off, and remember that we should only treat others the way we want them to treat us."

What bankruptcy? He was just busy after having a baby to take care of.

James rolled his eyes. "Look who's talking."

Zachary could punch the man right then. "You're only this harsh to me, aren't you? Would you ever talk to Isaac like that?" "You two had enough yet?" Irene came just then, frowning in disapproval. "Erin's calling you, James."

James left, while Irene shot Zachary a look. "Can't you play nice?" "I

was just kidding," Zachary smiled. "Fine. I'll hold back a little."

They only returned home after dark with full bellies, having had dinner beforehand.

Irene coaxed both her sons to sleep before taking a bath, and she entered the bedroom to find Isaac making a call as he stood by the window.

She tiptoed toward him and hugged his waist from behind, whispering, "Who are you talking to?"

## The runaway groom (Irene and Isaac)

Chapter 1043

When Isaac did not respond, Irene messed with him by reaching underneath his collar, but he put a hand over hers, stopping her.

Glancing behind at her, he said, "In two days, ideally."

With that, he hung up, and turned around to wrap his arms around her waist, holding her tightly against himself.

They could feel each other's warmth through the fabric.

Irene looked up then, her hair still a little wet and bearing the lingering freshness of shampoo as she asked, "What would be ideal in a couple days?"

"Weren't you planning on going back to Zidonia? I'm asking someone to arrange for it in two days," Isaac replied.

She was indeed in a hurry to visit Lulu. In fact, remembering Lulu left her a little unsettled, especially since the officer who called Irene had been stammering but did not tell her how Lulu was.

It was certainly weighing down on her mind, and she was intending to get comfortable with Isaac, only to lose interest just then.

"Take a bath. I'm going to bed..."

Isaac was not about to let go, however—he held her a little firmer than, leaving her a little suffocating.

At the same time, he leaned in to breathe beside her ear with a deep voice, "Trying to seduce me and run away? Did you think that's going to happen?"

His warm breath was covering her entire neck, causing her to shudder.

Pursing her lips, she tried to shove him. "Let go..."

"No," he said and pressed his lips over hers.

"Oof..." Irene's breath was caught right then, and she almost could not breathe.

Even so, he was only kissing her ever fiercely!

As usual, he took the lead while she remained passive—he could always make her lose herself with relative ease and unable to control herself!

While her breaths turned ragged, Isaac's hand slid down to her waist and undid her bathrobe with a gentle tug.

Irene's eyes widened as her cheeks flushed—she was not wearing anything underneath, leaving her utterly exposed before him.

Her skin was fair, and her figure recovered well even after having two children.

Isaac's gaze was as fiery as it was direct, and it felt like his eyes would bore a hole through her.

She quickly wrapped her hands around his neck in turn, saying shyly, "Don't look."

Isaac simply arched his back and picked her up, kissing her and walking to the bed.

As he put her down, he moved on top of her, and she was lost in it soon enough...

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Irene ended up oversleeping.

She had still been sleeping even though the sun was high above, and Isaac did not wake her up.

She was wide awake when she glanced at the clock to find that it was past nine, and she hurried out of bed.

They were away from home, and Mrs. Watson would definitely be overwhelmed with two children.

She quickly washed up and got dressed, left the room, and found Isaac playing with Baby.

She glanced around and heaved a sigh of relief when she saw no one around before complaining, "Why didn't you wake me? We're away from home, it's not good—"

Isaac turned to look at her, but he stayed silent.

Irene had more to say, though she soon noticed that he was not looking at her and turned in confusion... to find Zachary standing behind her.

Her expression stiffened.

Zachary stared at her and asked, "So what if you're not home? What's bad about it?"

Irene stammered. "N-Nothing..."

## The runaway groom (Irene and Isaac)

Chapter 1044

Zachary's eyes caught the hickey on her neck, and he raised a brow.

He understood everything but feigned ignorance. "Then why are you getting so nervous about nothing? You're stammering too, like you were caught in the act for doing something naughty."

Irene feigned composure and retorted, "What are you talking about?"

"You know exactly what I'm talking about," Zachary replied. "Just look at your face. It's as red as a beet."

"You really have a lot of time on your hands, don't you?" Isaac walked over to them and gave Zachary a stare. "Could you shut it?"

Zachary was speechless for a moment, but he cleared his throat. "I'm just jealous."

It was first Irene and Isaac, and then James and Erin—everyone got to find their better halves and happy endings. Only he never got what he wanted...

It was not quite right since he has a daughter now, but it was still a shame that his daughter was motherless. "Stan's worse off than you are," Isaac suddenly said.

Zachary laughed right then, "True."

Since he had a kid while Stan was still single, childless, and suffering from Isaac's bullying every day—in that respect, Zachary fared well, and Stan was way more tragic!

Irene was left a little puzzled. "What are you on about?"

Zachary instead told her, "You should change into something else." Irene was

speechless—what was wrong with her clothes?

She turned toward Isaac, giving a look to ask as much. Isaac told

her, "It's fine."

They were legitimate spouses, and it made perfect sense to be normal, no? There was nothing unseemly or that needed to be hidden.

"Get ready. We're leaving this afternoon," Isaac said then. "Everything's arranged?" Irene asked.

"Yeah."

"I'll go pack up," Irene replied.

Isaac then called James to tell him that they were leaving, and that he should prepare if he was leaving too.

At the same time, Irene returned to her room to pack their bags when she remembered that Zachary was staring at her neck. She headed inside the washroom and blushed when she saw the hickeys on her neck.

She was certainly vexed that Isaac never held back. How embarrassing was it that someone saw that?!

It was only then that she realized what Isaac and Zachary were talking about, and she rummaged through her clothes.

There were no turtlenecks, however, so she simply wrapped a scarf around her neck.

They left punctually in the afternoon, and it was quite an entertaining trip back—Tommy was clinging so much to Erin that even James had to keep his distance even though they were newlyweds.

Poking Tommy on the shoulder, he said, "She's my wife, y'know."

"But she's my aunt, y'know?" Tommy retorted, blinking his large eyes at him. "We're closer."

While James was left speechless, Tommy turned toward Erin and asked confidently, "Aunt Erin, who do you love more—me or him?"

James was staring at Erin, but she avoided his gaze and smiled in reply. "Of course it's you, Tommy."

"See?" Tommy grinned smugly at James, while leaning against Erin's shoulder. "You can stay in my room when we get home, Aunt Erin."

Erin nodded. "Okay. I'll read you bedtime stories too."

"Hello? Where do you think you're sleeping? You have to follow me home." James could roll his eyes right then—did she really pretend he did not exist?

Tommy held tightly onto Erin's arm in turn. "She's my aunt. Get your own aunt if you want." Everyone was

left silent right then!

## The runaway groom (Irene and Isaac)

Chapter 1045

Then, everyone burst into laughter!

Tommy was confused—why was everyone laughing?

Did he say something wrong? Why did he feel like he was being mocked and why? Blinking his round, large eyes, he asked, "Why is everyone laughing?"

Irene simply picked him up to her seat. "You just stick with me, okay?" "Why?"

Tommy asked.

Irene had no idea how to explain, when Zachary butted in. "Because you're a bother." Tommy frowned. "How did I bother you?"

Zachary was speechless, since Tommy was bothering James and not him.

Still, he said, "James just got married and you're bothering his bride. How is that not a bother?" "Aunt Erin is his wife, but she's my aunt! And she said she loves me more."

Zachary grinned. "Well, James can really love your aunt—" "Shut it."

He was cut short as everyone was glaring at him coolly, his poor choice of words incurring their wrath. He gave in immediately. "Okay, my bad."

Irene in turn coaxed Tommy to sleep, saying that the plane would land once he woke up.

Tommy could not sleep, so Irene brought him some food and some picture books, but he still was not drowsy. By the time he was, their plane was almost landing, so Isaac carried him as they disembarked.

They called ahead, so Sheryl and the servants at the castle had already cleaned up and waited at the front door. As such, everyone could rest once they returned, and there was food waiting as well.

Irene took Isaac to their room, telling him then that she returned in a hurry because of Lulu and that she would return to Zidonia. Isaac naturally would not stop her, but he said, "I'm going with you."

Irene shook her head. "It's fine. I'm sure you have a lot of stuff waiting at work—I just need Eagler with me."

Isaac had more to say, but she wrapped her hands around his waist. "It's alright. Just listen to me for once, okay?" Isaac sighed and patted her head. "Call me if anything happens. Don't do anything dangerous."

Irene nodded repeatedly and left before she even had a drink since there happened to be a direct flight soon.

Zachary was busy taking care of his daughter in his room and finally noticed that Irene was gone when it was time for dinner. "Where's Irene?" he asked.

Isaac looked up at him but stayed silent. Zachary pursed his lips. "What?"

Isaac was not bothered to answer. "Eating can't keep you quiet, it seems." James and Erin were holding back their laughter.

Zachary turned toward them. "That's a married couple for you—you're both equally unlikeable." "No more than you are," James shot back. "Can't even keep your mouth shut during dinner."

Zachary was left speechless.

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Irene took a cab to New Kent after disembarking from her flight and contacted the officer who called her. He gave her a ride to visit Lulu in a police car.

Irene never asked anything along the way, and a foreboding feeling struck when the police car stopped outside a hospital. She hesitated but did not get out of the car. "Lulu is here?"

"Yeah," the officer replied and got out of the car. "You should come too."

Eagle opened the door for Irene, who stared outside for a moment before sighing heavily and getting out of the car. She stood by it as she looked up and entered the hospital with the officer.

They traversed through the hallways and arrived at a ward when the officer said, "You best prepare yourself."

## The runaway groom (Irene and Isaac)

Chapter 1046

Irene's heart skipped a beat even as she stood outside the ward, and she could not hide the quiver in her voice. "It's that serious?" She was afraid to imagine how bad things were for Lulu that the officer would say something like that. Nonetheless, he said, "Go inside. You'll see."

With that, Irene opened the door into the single-person ward.

There was a person laying in the bed placed next to the window, and Irene strode over when she saw that person.

However, Irene's pace was somber and she was afraid that something terrible had really happened to Lulu... until she stopped in her tracks suddenly.

She could not recognize if the person was Lulu, since the person's face was bandaged. Irene turned, and the officer at the door nodded. "It's her."

Irene gasped, her legs suddenly feeling like they were made of lead and weighing a ton. She was so close... yet the distance between her and Lulu felt so far!

In truth, she was just afraid of moving closer.

Nonetheless, she worked hard to control her breathing and slowly walked to the bed.

If the officer did not tell Irene that the person on the bed was Lulu, Irene would never have recognized Lulu. Irene pursed her lips in disbelief, her heart aching so much it hurt to breathe.

How did this happen? What did Lulu go through?

Irene could not calm down for a long time as she felt like a storm was hitting her chest repeatedly! The officer entered then and said, "I called you here to talk to her, to convince her to stay alive." "Why did this happen to her?" Irene asked.

"Lulu wanted to avenge Captain York's death and volunteered to work undercover—"

Irene cut him short before he could finish. "How could you agree to it?! If Martin's dead, shouldn't you be protecting his family?!" Her voice choked with tears—a good man like Martin was lost, just like that.

And now, this happened to Lulu? How could anyone not feel pain and heartbreak?! "We didn't agree to it, but she insisted. We had no choice..."

Silence ensued, until Irene asked, "Then? What happened after that?"

"Something unexpected happened. Everything went smoothly when she started out, risking everything including sleeping around to find evidence against the perps, but we were caught by surprise when we tried to make the arrest. They somehow caught on that Lulu was undercover and were bent on killing her—we did our best to save her, but she still got hurt... She sustained too many injuries, and I think her face is permanently disfigured." It

was not easy to save Lulu either.

"I'll take her away," Irene said.

She would get Lulu the best doctors and bring Lulu to the best environment where she could take care of Lulu.

Having resigned from her work now, Irene also had Sheryl, who would take care of her two children in Franconia. She was also acquainted with many doctors, and there might still be a chance to save Lulu.

"But..."

"Ask your superiors, but I'm taking her away one way or another." Irene was determined.

Lulu would only suffer more here now that Martin was gone, and no one would take care of her. She might even die if she stayed.

"I'll ask them," the officer said, but Irene ignored him.

She would take Lulu away whether anyone agreed to it, and she sat down at the chair beside Lulu's bed.

Her chest felt stuffy, and she had trouble breathing seeing Lulu like that—Lulu had really suffered too much and now ended up like this...

"W-What are you doing here?"

## The runaway groom (Irene and Isaac)

Chapter 1047

Lulu's gaze was evasive but calm in an instant, her voice frail. "I asked them not to call you, but they did anyway." Irene was calm and did not show any misery at all.

Lulu was already in this state—she would not be able to calm down and focus on getting better if Irene showed her misery too.

Irene took Lulu's hand, noticing the many punctures over the skin which were definitely left from needles, leaving bruising everywhere.

She was afraid to hold Lulu too firmly, in fear that it would hurt Lulu.

Lowering her gaze to stop Lulu from seeing the pain in her eyes, she asked, "If they never called me, were you going to keep suffering like this alone?"

Lulu pursed her lips. "I just don't want to upset you!"

Irene could not hold back then. "You're still concerned that I'd worry after this happened to you?"

Before Lulu could say anything, Irene continued, "I've already told them that I'm taking you away. I'll get you a good doctor, and I know many of them. They'll definitely make you better—"

"Forget it," Lulu said flatly. "I know my condition, and there's no healing the heart even if I'm physically better. Why bother?" "Cut that out," Irene snapped quietly. "Don't give up on yourself. You have a daughter!"

"Daughter..." Lulu's eyes lit up, though it dulled soon after.

She would only scare Jean like this, so how could she be a mother?

"You don't have to worry about me," Lulu said, determined. "I

won't go with you." "You really want to die?" Irene could not

help asking.

"Yeah," Lulu replied.

Irene did not care about her mood just then. "You're a mother no matter what happens to you. She'd be motherless if you died, and don't you know how terrible it would be for her? Having a father but not a mother is a lifetime's worth of regrets, and I promise you that I'll make you better. You'll look good, even if it's not as good as before."

"Do you think my heart can recover even if my face does?" Lulu asked with a dark look. "I'm disgusted with my own body now, and I really don't want to live anymore. I've let down everyone who was sincere to me. Don't you understand? I'm a jinx—Martin might not be dead if I've never married him..."

"How could you say that?" Irene snapped, her heart breaking. "How could you say that? You didn't want all this to happen, and no one would care or know if you came to Franconia with me. Stay away from everything in Zidonia and start afresh—you can because you're young, and you still have a long life ahead of you. Don't give up. Trust me, everything will be better."

"How can it be better at this stage?" Lulu asked. "Just leave. Don't tell anyone else about me—just leave me to my own devices here."

Irene was afraid to leave, her heart hurting as she listened to Lulu's words of

self-destructive despair. "I'll always stay with you," Irene said nonetheless.

"You don't have to worry about me," Lulu said. "You can't save me—no one can. This is my

fate, and I'm accepting it." "Nonsense. What do you mean, fate? Everything will be better—just

listen to me this one time!"

## The runaway groom (Irene and Isaac)

Chapter 1048

Lulu closed her eyes in exhaustion, and Irene tucked her in. "Rest well."

However, Irene refused to abandon Lulu here and would make Lulu better no matter how hard it was. She

stayed for a long while in Lulu's ward, many thoughts crossing her mind.

Lulu would never get over Martin if she stayed here, and she might be able to leave her dark past if she started over in a new place and started anew.

She spoke to the officers, who agreed to her request considering Lulu's condition—the only condition was to get Lulu's consent.

Irene insisted that she would, and one of them said, "If you can convince Lulu to accept treatment and live well, you can ask us for anything you need."

In fact, they would have done everything they could for Lulu given what happened to her. Irene did

not need anything, however. "Just arrange for a vehicle for when I take her away." "Leave that to us.

Don't worry."

Since the officers were not arguing, Irene just had to work Lulu patiently. She

knew that words were meaningless, and Lulu needed time.

She just had to stay at Lulu's side and wait until Lulu understood.

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However, Lulu did not speak much over the next few days even though Irene had another bed brought into the ward and basically lived with her.

Irene was worried about Lulu and that she would do something drastic, and staying with her all the time might offer comfort.

Seeing that Irene had not been sleeping well because of that, Eagle asked, "Ma'am, why don't you go home and rest while I stay here?"

Irene shook her head—she would only be at ease if it was her watching Lulu.

She also called Isaac, who understood her and assured her that he would take care of the family, and she did not have to worry. Without any concerns over there, Irene would be at ease staying here.

Eagle lowered his eyes nonetheless. "You have dark circles under your eyes, ma'am." Irene

did not seem to care. "I just lost sleep. I'm fine."

While she had been staying at the hospital constantly, she had been sending her bodyguards on errands all the time. And to

top it all off, Eagle slept on the bench outside while she had a bed.

Still, he saw to his tasks dutifully every day, just like he bought lunch at noon, including extra helpings. "Why

would you buy so much? We won't be able to finish it," Irene told him.

Eagle merely stared at her skinny cheeks, but he kept his eyes lowered in silence.

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Lulu's doctor came to check her in the afternoon, saying, "You should get your facial surgery done soon."

Her injuries were serious in the first place, and she had even less chance to recover her looks if she kept waiting.

The doctor told Irene to convince Lulu before he left too.

However, though Irene was anxious as well, she had no choice if Lulu did not give in. As she

returned to the ward and closed the door, Lulu called out to her, "Irene."

She had never spoken first ever since Irene came, and Irene hurried to her side. "Come with me, alright?" Lulu did

not respond but asked, "Who did you bring here?"

Irene replied, "A bodyguard Isaac arranged for me. He's great—he's been with me for a while." "Oh," Lulu

replied and said nothing else.

As such, Irene asked, "Why'd you ask?"

"I just thought he cares a lot about you," Lulu replied.

Irene thought about it but decided that Eagle had always been good to her, given his employer and him being a mercenary.

She stared at Lulu. "Let's not talk about him—let's talk about you instead. I'm staying here with you forever, unless you agree to come with me."

## The runaway groom (Irene and Isaac)

Chapter 1049

Lulu asked, "Why do you insist on taking me away?"

"Or what, am I supposed to not care while you get yourself killed?" Irene snapped, not abiding with her self-destructive tendencies just then. "Has anyone lived their lives without facing setbacks and rough patches? Is that worth getting killed for? There wouldn't be that many people alive if that were the case."

"Did they suffer like I do?" Lulu countered.

Irene was stumped, but there definitely had not been many who suffered like Lulu did.

Even so, Irene pushed on. "It's always darkest before the dawn."

"I'm tired," Lulu replied, shaking her head and reluctant to speak further.

Irene knew that Lulu was refusing to see reason and pressed, "If you're not going to do it for anyone, do it for Jean. Just think about it—what if Zachary marries someone and Jean has to live with a stepmother? You should know very well that the stepmother would definitely abuse Jean and put her through all the pain in the world. In fact, you weren't allowed to stay in your own house when your father remarried and when you're an adult! How miserable would it be for Jean to live without a mother, even as a child?"

Despite what she said, Irene knew very well that Zachary loved Jean and would never remarry on a whim, let alone allow Jean to suffer in any way.

She just needed a reason to persuade Lulu to keep living—even if it hurt. And

to no surprise, Lulu's expression changed ever so slightly.

Mothers are strong, as the saying goes, and Irene was convinced that Lulu would find the will to live for Jean.

As such, Irene continued to harp on. "If you're alive, you could at least take Jean back if Zachary remarries and Jean's stepmother mistreats her. At the very least, she won't be abused—or have you not seen news of how stepmothers abuse stepchildren?"

"Stop it." Lulu turned away.

"No, I think I'll keep this up—you can't even care for your child, and all you want is to be free. That makes you a selfish mother who gave birth to her child but could not even protect the child. Why did you bring Jean to this world at all?"

Irene kept going despite Lulu's reluctance to hear more—she insisted on hurting Lulu so Lulu would feel the will to live. For

Lulu's part, it was not as if she completely refused to think for Jean's sake.

However, at that very moment, she could not face herself—not because she was disfigured, since she was not afraid of being ugly.

Whenever she closed her eyes, all she could think about was how she was defiled, even though she was willing to do it to win those villains' trust.

But that was just it—she was ready to die from the start, and now that she was told to keep on living, she had no idea how to handle what happened.

"Why did you come, Irene?" Lulu asked—she would not have to feel conflicted otherwise. "I

would've been here earlier if I wasn't delayed," Irene replied.

Lulu closed her eyes, which only made Irene anxious and fearful—it had been days, but Lulu was not budging at all.

"Lulu..."

"I'll go with you, but I don't want anyone to know about me, including Isaac," Lulu said then.

She knew about Zachary's friendship with Isaac, and Isaac knowing meant Zachary would find out too.

Irene nodded repeatedly. "Okay, got it. I won't tell Isaac."

"I'll have people prepared for your departure."

She had already spoken to the medical staff about that, and all they had to wait for was Lulu to agree. And

now that she did, they could move her to the airport right away.

The airlines they were using had also given them special treatment, given Lulu's unique circumstances, since Irene had liaised with them as well—once on the plane, Irene and Eagle would take care of Lulu.

Irene certainly could, since she was a doctor.

Their flight took them straight to Minerva, and Irene had a doctor prepared for Lulu.

After all, Isaac and the others were all at Franconia, and Lulu did not want anyone to know about her situation.

Moreover, arranging for Lulu to be treated in Minerva would also hide her from those who meant to harm her!

## The runaway groom (Irene and Isaac)

Chapter 1050

Lulu felt uncomfortable along the journey to Minerva.

Even if she decided to go with it, she had no idea if she could really be properly treated there.

"You'll definitely get better," Irene assured her. "And don't worry—no one will find out."

Lulu nodded as the plane began in descent.

Medical staff from the hospital were on hand to receive them, with Irene making the arrangements.

Although her social circle was not exactly huge, most of her acquaintances were involved in the medical field.

And with Isaac, Irene did not have to worry about money to get Lucas the best care.

Naturally, all the doctors and the treatment were first-class, and the plastic surgeon she got was incredibly accomplished. Irene certainly had to make an effort to reach out to him, and he was supposed to be on leave.

At the airport, they moved Lulu into an ambulance that took her straight to the hospital, with Irene keeping her company.

Before the surgeries, Lulu had a series of medical examinations, and Irene got a call from Tommy before the results came.

"Mommy, when are you coming home? Daddy and I miss you so much."

"I'll be home soon," Irene replied.

"When is that, Mommy?" Tommy pressed. "You said the same thing before, but it's been so long. Are you lying to me?"

Irene laughed. "How about I buy you a present when I get home?"

"I don't want anything but you. Are you going on a trip without me because I'm a burden?" Tommy complained.

Irene was left speechless.

Honestly, this child...

"No, I'm not," she said, coaxing her softly. "Be a good boy now, Tommy—I'll head home soon. I miss you too, believe me."

"Well, do you miss Daddy?" Tommy asked.

Irene frowned—that did not seem like something Tommy would say!

"Is there someone there with you, Tommy?" she asked.

Tommy blinked and turned toward Zachary, who had been telling him what to say.

Zachary waved him off, so he said, "There's no one with me."

"Really?" Irene asked, clearly skeptical.

"When are you coming home, Mommy? What are you doing out there? Daddy and I miss you so much..."

"Don't you have anything better to do, Zachary?" Erin snapped just then, striding toward Zachary as he told Tommy what to say.

"Is it fun, a grown man like you tricking a child?"

"Oh, I'm just trying to find out what Irene's been up to," Zachary replied.

In truth, she was suspecting that Irene had gone looking for Lulu. After all, she had no reason to be away for so long when she did not have a job while her family was in Franconia.

And she had returned to Zidonia for a while. What could be taking so long over there?

Still, Irene heard everything from the other end and told Tommy to pass the phone to Zachary.

He took it since he was exposed, chuckling, "I'm just playing with your boy..."

"Save it," Irene snapped sternly. "I'm just settling some loose ends at work back at Zidonia. Be a bad influence on my son again and I'll be very upset."

Zachary gave in. "Calm down. I won't teach him anything bad from now on, alright?"

"You'd better not. I'm asking Tommy once I get back, and I'll disown you if I find out that you were trying anything funny. Get your act straight if you still want my respect."

"Okay." Zachary chuckled.

Seeing Lulu's doctor arrive just then, Irene said, "I still have work to do. I'll be going now."

Putting away her phone, she approached the doctor and asked, "How did the medical examination go?"