

Runaway 351

Chapter 351

Isaac stared fixedly at Irene for two seconds before turning to leave without a word.

Stan shot her a look too, thinking that she really did not know what was good for her.

Even Irene was taken aback.

Was she being too harsh?

She gave chase without thinking, since she did not want to fight with Isaac, only to run into Stephen.

“Irene? Have you finished the surgical plan?”

Irene was left in a dilemma, just as Stephen continued, “The patient has consented to the surgery. Call admin to see if they have a free OR.”

Irene watched as Isaac strode off in the distance, and decided to leave an explanation for when she got home.

“Alright, I’ll ask,” she said with a nod.

It just so happened that there was an unoccupied operating room, and Stephen quickly arranged for Harvey’s mother to be sent there.

As Irene arrived, Harvey stopped her. “Please save her.”

“You can count on Dr. Carr,” Irene replied.

She certainly did, especially with him presiding over the surgery.

That was when she noticed something. “Wait, what happened to your face?”

He was just fine when she saw him just now.

Stan grumbled, “A dog bit me.”

Irene was speechless. It was clear that someone hit him, and he was saying that a dog did it?

He did not even pay attention to his lie...

Still, she had no time to care. “I’m going in now.”

She scrubbed up and entered the operating room, where the nurses had already sedated Rosa.

Irene quickly proceeded to pre-surgery preparations and checked various equipment before the surgery again.

However, they had just opened Rosa’s thorax when Stephen’s hand began to shake.

He was not having stage fright, but he had essential tremor—he had constantly kept up with treatment, but this was the first time he had an episode in surgery.

“Are you alright, chief?” Irene was worried when she saw it.

Stephen turned toward her. “Take the scalpel.”

“Me?”

“Yeah,” he said. “Don’t worry. I’m right beside you.”

Irene nodded—it was a rare practical lesson, so she calmly said, “I will do my best.”

She was confident since Stephen was there anyway, and moved up to take the scalpel.

She had experience with surgery anyway, but just had not performed heart surgery yet.

Still, she worked with focus and composure, and Stephen never said a word throughout the entire process because she had done very well.

Eventually, the procedure was completed without a hitch, with Rosa being sewn back up and wheeled to an observation unit.

Stephen then nodded at Irene. “You have talent.”

“You’ve taught me well,” Irene replied.

Stephen smiled but said nothing—however, he had decided that she would be his apprentice now.

If his condition could not be treated, there was a chance that he could not perform surgeries at all.

Even if it was a close shave this time since Irene was here to take over, that might not be the case this time.

“May I leave work early today?” Irene asked, intending to explain herself to Isaac soon.

“Sure,” Stephen said, being more agreeable today. “Don’t make this a habit.”

“Yeah,” Irene said happily, and quickly packed her things before leaving the hospital.

On the way home, she got a call from Ricky. “Irene, remember the woman you asked me to investigate? I’ve got something.”

Chapter 352

Ricky then quickly asked, “Should I come to you? Or are you free right now?”

Irene hesitated for a moment. “Where are you right now? I’ll come to you.”

“I’m in my office, but I’ll head home soon. See you there?”

“Okay,” Irene replied, and told Jimmy the chauffeur, “Head to Spencer Mansion—we’re not going home just yet.”

She then stared at her phone, hesitating for a moment before calling home.

It was Mrs. Watson who answered.

"Is Isaac there? Pass the phone to him if he is... Also, is Tommy being a good boy?"

"Yes, Tommy has been good... But as for Mr. Jefferson, he said he's leaving the country for a while, and told me to pack his things earlier. Didn't he tell you?"

Irene hung her head as she remembered what Isaac said. "He did, but I didn't know that he was leaving today. Did he say when he's coming back?"

"I'm afraid not," Mrs. Watson replied.

"I see..." Irene became a little forlorn, because she remembered that Isaac was clearly upset when he left.

She sighed—was he not going to let her explain herself at all?

"When would you be returning, ma'am?" Mrs. Watsons asked.

"Soon," Irene replied and hung up.

She thought about calling Isaac, but his phone was turned off.

He mentioned leaving the country, and that most definitely meant by plane... if his phone was turned off, it could mean that he had not gotten off his plane.

Putting away her phone and taking a moment to compose herself, she alighted once they arrived at Spencer Mansion.

Ricky arrived before she did, and once he saw her, he said, "Come, take a look at this."

Irene took the sheet of paper and frowned. "What's this?"

"Records of a plastic surgery," Ricky replied.

Irene narrowed her eyes. "Are you saying that Lindsay Slate had altered her face?"

"Yeah, but I didn't find any photos of her before that. Also, although I never saw the face of the person who used me against you and Isaac, I felt her resemblance to this person when I looked at her from the back."

Irene took a seat on the couch.

The woman had plastic surgery, and used Ricky against her and Isaac... Did she hold a grudge against them?

Even as she read through the file, she suddenly remembered Whitney Cox.

She narrowed her eyes.

Could it really be Whitney?

While she was lost at sea, they never found a body, meaning that there was a chance that she survived.

The plastic surgery might have been to disguise her identity, which makes being a puppeteer more convenient.

Did that mean she tried to kill her and Isaac with that bomb too?

As everything clicked, she said, "That must be it."

"What is it?" Ricky was utterly confused as to why she said that out of the blue.

Irene, however, was not in the mood to explain, and she needed evidence anyway.

The plastic surgery alone did not mean that Lindsay was Whitney, but trying to confirm it is not that difficult either.

She had attended the same medical school and worked at the same hospital as Whitney, so she knew Whitney well enough.

"What's on your mind, sis?" Ricky asked, shaking her a little.

Coming to her senses, Irene replied, "It's nothing."

Giving up, Ricky said, "You hadn't had dinner, right? Let's go out together to eat—I'll get my sister to join us.

Irene grabbed his arm right then. "I'm right here, though?"

"I meant Lulu," Ricky said as if it made perfect sense. "She's older than me and a best friend of yours. Don't you think I should call her sis too?"

Irene could not come up with an argument, and nodded. "Go on then."

Ricky excitedly ran upstairs, and started dragging Lulu along, perhaps because she was reluctant. "Oh, come along already! Irene is coming too!"

Lulu complained, "It's fine if you both went alone..."

"You're my sister too." Rick stubbornly pulled her along.

"Urgh, you're so pushy," Lulu muttered, but played along helplessly.

Chapter 353

Ricky smiled, and he actually put his arm around Lulu's.

Irene frowned as she watched—he never did that with her before!

Feeling like he was getting overly enthusiastic, she joked nonetheless, "Ricky, did you know that Lulu has a boyfriend?"

"Come on, Irene—he's just a younger brother to me," Lulu said as she glanced at Ricky sideways.

Irene said nothing—it was just a reminder anyway, so that Ricky would not get any ideas.

Still, Ricky pursed his lips in turn. "They are having a fight, aren't there? Since they might not make up, and it's common for the ladies to hook up with healthy young men like me, I'm open to any offers, Lulu."

“Not interested in puppies.” Lulu pulled her arm out of his and walked over to Irene.

Still, they heeded to a diner together, though Ricky was persistently trying to start conversations with Lulu. Eventually, Irene could not stand it and asked, “Not afraid of Lulu already, Ricky?”

Ricky shrugged. “I’m an adult. What should I be afraid of?”

Lulu pointed at a slice of beef just then. “Do you know what that shape looks like?”

“What?” Ricky asked.

“Your entrails...”

“Stop.” Ricky quickly threw up his hands—not when he was eating!

In fact, he ended up unable to stomach meat, and limited himself to the greens.

Lulu smiled smugly—Ricky was still young, and teasing him was quite amusing.

On the other hand, Irene did not have much of an appetite in the first place, and left after a couple of mouthfuls. “You guys can finish up. I have to go now.”

“Okay. Stay safe,” Ricky told her.

“Yeah,” Irene replied, giving him a look before leaving.

She soon arrived home, and felt a little not used to having Isaac around. He had been working from home for a while now, and he would always be home when she returned from work in the evening.

Mrs. Watson had also tucked Tommy into bed, so the whole house became especially quiet.

After taking a bath, she lay in bed, tossing and turning but not falling asleep—Isaac’s absence left her feeling restless.

She picked her phone, hesitating for a moment to wonder if Isaac had arrived at his destination, but called his number anyway.

It was still turned off, leaving her disappointed and hollow inside.

He left angry... Did that mean he was still upset with her?

Sigh...

She carried Tommy to their bedroom, and slept with her hand on his little belly.

12

The next morning, Harvey brought a gift for Stephen.

Although his mother Rosa was still under observation, he was already informed that the surgery was a success, and that she would be fine if she lived through the ensuing 48 hours with no issue.

He was certainly thankful for the doctor who performed the surgery on her, and his gift was generous since money was never a problem for him.

However, Stephen never accepted gifts from patients or their family, and never held back his distaste toward those who did.

“It’s people like you that social order is always a mess.”

Harvey was left speechless—was being grateful so wrong?

Still, he could not push Stephen since he was refusing—and so bluntly at that.

He was a man of dignity himself.

Still, he could not flip out at Stephen since he was Rosa’s attending physician, not to mention that the risky surgery was a success. “Just pretend I was never here.”

“Wait.” Stephen stopped him.

Harvey turned and quickly asked, “Changed your mind already?”

Stephen scowled again and berated him sternly. “I know that you’re rich, but you should not set a bad precedent just because of that. Or are you trying to tell everyone that the poor don’t deserve treatment?”

Harvey was speechless.

‘Fine, it was my fault! Again!’

Nonetheless, Stephen continued, “Anyway, I just wanted to tell you that I’m not the one who operated on your mother.”

“What?!” Harvey exclaimed in shock. “If it wasn’t you, then who was it?!”

Chapter 354

Stephen said, “It was Dr. Spencer.”

Harvey did a double take. “Oh, it was her?”

“Yes, but according to what I know about her, she definitely would not accept your gift either.” Stephen said.

Harvey smiled but said nothing—he and Irene went way back, and she would not be that tactless toward him.

When Irene arrived at Melville Hospital, she did not head straight to her department, but instead headed to Obstetrics and Gynecology and spoke to Lindsay Slate’s attending physician.

She wanted the doctor to call Lindsay over.

Since they worked in the same hospital the doctor agreed to it.

Soon, Lindsay arrived at the hospital with Chad.

In reality, she would not have come at all if not for Chad. There were no issues anyway after she completed yesterday's checkup—even if her doctor suddenly said that there was a mistake and she had to come back.

"Doctor's orders," Chad told her, but Lindsay remained visibly annoyed.

"Would you like a drink?" he asked.

Irene arrived just then with a mask and a nurse's cap. "Ms. Slate? Please come with me."

"Didn't I get checked yesterday already?" Lindsay asked. "Why am I called back here?"

"The doctor insisted," Irene replied. "There was a mistake in the examination. Please cooperate for the sake of your child and yourself."

"That's right," Chad said then—he was certainly being careful with taking care of Lindsay. "Just endure this for the sake of our child. I'll make it up to you, I promise."

Irene was basically sure right then that Lindsay was Whitney Cox—she was the only woman whom he would be this kind toward!

As she led towards an ECG room, Lindsay frowned. "An ECG?"

"Yeah," Irene replied.

"Go on, I'll wait for you outside." Chad coaxed her, while Lindsay gave him a look before following Irene inside.

As she lay on the table, Irene kept her back toward Lindsay as she said, "Could you please lift your blouse?"

Lindsay did as she was told, and as Irene attached the electrode wires on her, she deliberately checked her underarm and found a mole.

Whitney had the same mole, and Irene had seen it at the dormitories.

The shape and position was identical—it was too much of a coincidence, and the only explanation was that Lindsay was Whitney.

#

Still, Irene composed herself and kept faking the ECG before handing her the test results.

As Lindsay sat up, she said, "You sound familiar."

Irene giggled but otherwise said nothing, while Lindsay headed outside with the test results.

Handing it to Chad, Lindsay told him, "Take this to the doctor."

"What about you?" Chad asked.

"I'm going to the washroom. I'll come to you when I'm done."

Chad nodded, and Lindsay waited until Chad had left before tailing Irene. When they arrived at someplace quiet, she said, "Irene Spencer."

Chapter 355

Irene could hear Lindsay, but she did not turn around or respond.

However, Lindsay knew that her secret was out and that Irene knew who she was, so she simply gave up on pretending. "I know it's you, Irene Spencer—I've been careless. I should have recognized your voice, but I only caught on when I saw you checking my underarm."

Irene finally turned around just then, and asked, "You know me?"

"There's no need to hide now. We both know what's going on. Don't you think we should talk?"

Irene stared at Whitney, suddenly unsure what she was up to. "What do you want?"

"I just wanted to talk, but if you don't want to, fine."

Whitney turned and started to leave, but Irene stopped her, and they headed to the staircase.

"I never expected that it'd be you who found out first, Whitney said as she stared at Irene. "Isaac Jefferson tried to kill me because of you. Don't you think I deserve to hold a grudge?"

"You deserved it. Do you still not understand what you've done? You are the reason I lost a child, and as the father, Isaac definitely wants you dead. He'd be unfitting as a father if he is unmoved."

Whitney narrowed her eyes. "He knows."

"Of course," Irene replied.

Whitney clenched her hand and relaxed, but her heart was ablaze with spite and jealous. "That's why he was being so protective, shielding you from that blast."

Irene laughed. "Of course. He has been so sweet, not to mention that he outshines Chad in every way. You know that, don't you? Not only would he shield me from that bomb, but he was willing to die doing it. You can try something else if you don't believe me."

She was deliberately provoking Whitney, but Whitney sharply noticed that Irene was trying to trick a confession out of her, and she quickly said, "What bomb? I don't know what you're talking about." "You know Isaac was hurt from a blast. What, are you saying that you're not the one who planted the bomb?"

Irene pretended to be puzzled, but Whitney had learned her lesson and did not take that easily.

"Don't try to frame me," she growled as she moved closer to Irene. "You stole my man, Irene Spencer, and it's time we settled this."

Irene simply retreated to keep her distance. “Your man? What, are you saying that you’re not the brazen one who pretended to be me? You wouldn’t even have had the chance to get acquainted with Isaac if not for

me, and you’re still shameless enough to say that he’s yours? How thick-skinned... Or is your skin made of rock?”

She unceremoniously exposed Whitney, humiliating her.

As Whitney remembered her inglorious past, her face contorted and she lunged toward Irene.

However, Irene quickly evaded Whitney, since she was prepared for it.

Missing her chance, Whitney’s embarrassment turned into fury. “Don’t get so smug, Irene Spencer. I heard that Isaac left the country—no one is here to protect you!”

Irene simply ignored her, and Whitney wanted nothing less to tear off her pretty cheeks right then, and the

way she looked so unmoved!

She hated Irene because she was always so composed, rarely losing control or getting hysterical.

“How am I any less than you? Why do you get to have everything? All the boys at med school were hovering around you, and the hospital chief admired you soon after we started out as interns... How frustrating it is that you keep overshadowing me!”

Whitney did not think that she was any lesser than Irene, but simply had bad luck. That was why the men who admired her were the likes of Chad, who was rich, but did not even have looks.

On the other hand, Irene had Zachary Slate, who was said to be a rich kid and had good looks, and he always kept an eye out for her.

And now, she was married to Isaac! It was as if she only ever got all the good men!

Suddenly, Whitney started walking toward the stairs. “You will suffer like I did, Irene Spencer.”

Irene was actually confused for a moment. “What are you talking about?”

“You will suffer—just like I did.” With that, Whitney closed her eyes and fell!

Irene’s eyes widened in shock. “What-?!”

Chapter 356

Whitney was rolling down the stairs!

“Argh!!!”

She did not want to give birth, and she could use this to frame Irene too.

Chad was going to hate Irene for this too, since he was really looking forward to having the child—even loving it already.

“Urgh...”

It was a huge price to pay—it hurt like hell, and she was curling up from the pain.

However, making Irene suffer made it worth it for her!

Irene was left frowning as she finally realized what Whitney meant when she said she would suffer.

She certainly had to give it to Whitney—the latter was ruthless enough to kill her own child!

“You don’t have my sympathy, Whitney Cox, because anyone who can kill their child like you is a reptile.”

With that, she left the stairs without calling for help—Whitney had done it to herself.

Chad, who was looking for her, spotted her just then. “Have you seen my wife?”

“No,” Irene replied, and left Chad to keep searching while she returned to her department.

She barely took a seat when Stephen called for her—there was a patient with a rare heart condition, and he wanted her to learn.

After they were finished with the visit, she noticed Harvey waiting along the hallway, smiling at her fawningly.

“Missed out on your meds, I see,” Irene said.

“Oh, I was just waiting for you. Honestly, you’re such a busy person I had to wait so long for you,” Harvey said as he walked up to her. “Anyway, I just found out that you were the doctor who operated on my mother. How should I thank you?”

“I’m a doctor, and helping people is my duty,” she said. “You don’t have to go out of your way to thank me.”

“No, I must,” Harvey insisted.

Irene was at a loss for words. “Do whatever you want.”

She started to leave, but that was when a nurse came running toward her. “I’m sorry, Dr. Spencer, but the chief is looking for you.”

Harvey stared at the nurse and asked, “What is it? Is it urgent?”

“Someone has suffered a miscarriage and said it is your fault,” the nurse explained. “Her family is causing a commotion here as we speak.”

Harvey almost blurted an expletive, and turned toward Irene, “What is going on, Irene?”

He could already tell that this was going to be trouble, but as he studied her face, he was left wondering how she could be so calm. Still, Irene must know what was going on, which explained her composure.

“We might be looking at a lawsuit too... Hey, are you really not worried?” he asked just then.

“What good is worrying?” Irene asked in return.

Harvey was left speechless as Irene told the nurse, “Got it. I will go right now.”

“I’m coming with you,” Harvey said. “I just might be able to help.”

Irene did not refuse him.

Chapter 357

Taking Irene’s silence as approval, Harvey followed her to the hospital chief’s office.

Even from a distance, they could hear Chad shouting and breaking various objects.

“Call Irene Spencer here now!” he was yelling madly.

Harvey sneaked a glance at Irene to see no expression on her face at all, leaving him speechless and thinking that she was genuinely ice-cold

It was rare for someone to retain such composure in the face of potential danger, and Harvey’s admiration for her only grew.

The door to the chief’s office was half-closed, and Irene quietly opened it.

“Chief...”

“Irene Spencer!”

Chad lunged toward her in a frenzy, but Harvey stood in his way. “Talk if you want, but don’t resort to violence—any man who lays a finger on a woman is no man at all.”

“Who are you?!” Chad snarled at him, his eyes red. “Mind your business! She’s the reason I lost my child! Why shouldn’t I kill her right now?!”

“That has nothing to do with me,” Irene said, leveling Chad a cool look. “You can investigate that for yourself.”

“How? There are no cameras in the stairway!” Chad snorted. “Is that why you’re telling me to investigate? Because you knew I won’t have evidence? I haven’t gotten payback, and you’re already coming

for my family, huh?!”

“Why would I want anything to do with you?” Irene asked.

That actually left Chad thinking, and he realized that he had no fight with Irene at all. In fact, he was the one who tried to use her to threaten Isaac when Whitney fell into the ocean.

“Even if there are no issues between us, you have a grudge against Whitney,” Chad growled, clenching his fists and looking ready to swing it at any instant. “That’s why you pushed her off the stairs so that she would lose her child, or am I wrong? Do you even know how much I wanted that child? I would have been a father if not for you!”

“You should be questioning Whitney,” Irene calmly replied. “She rolled down the stairs herself to set me up.”

“Don’t bother lying. I won’t believe you.” Chad glowered at her. “You’re just trying to avoid responsibility- she’d never do that to her own child!”

“You’ve been with her for so long, but you still don’t understand her at all, do you?” Irene thought then that Chad was so blinded by his love for Whitney that he could not see her true colors.

“Don’t try to frame her. I’m telling you—you’re dead meat!” Chad snapped, and wheeled on the hospital chief. “She’s a doctor here, and my wife has suffered a miscarriage because of her. You had better do something or this is not going to be over.”

However, the hospital chief had a good impression toward Irene, and since both were sticking to their own version of what happened, he said, “We will investigate this matter-”

“Investigate? Do not give me that,” Chad growled as he planted himself on the couch, his words staunch.”

1/2

You are just trying to defend your own employees, and you would just end up saying that my wife jumped off the stairs herself. So don’t bother going through the motions and fire her already.”

That was when Stephen stood up. “I’m Dr. Spencer’s mentor, and it is natural that I should take responsibility for her actions.”

“Dr. Carr-”

Irene was about to speak, but Stephen held up a hand to stop her. He was earnest in grooming her as his apprentice, and did not want her to leave the hospital over something like this.

“You will take responsibility? How?” Chad narrowed his eyes at Stephen.

“You want her fired, right? I will resign instead.” Stephen said, though he already had a way out—having a doctorate, he could just get rehired as a lecturer.

However, Chad was not so easily dissuaded. “No. Irene Spencer did it, and I want her gone.”

Whitney must have goaded him into such obstinance, but even Harvey could not stand him just then, and was just stopping short of fisticuffs.

In fact, with the way they were all sticking to their own standpoint and not giving in at all, a fight looked inevitable.

“How do you call yourself a man, getting so petty over a woman?”

“I lost a child.” Chad rose to his feet, leveling a furious glare at Harvey.

Harvey simply retorted, “Irene wouldn’t hurt anyone. I promise that with my own reputation.”

Chad snorted. “Your reputation? How much is that worth, or is it worth more than my child’s life?”

“Watch your words,” Harvey growled, and started toward Chad.

That was when the door opened, and Irene did a double take when she saw who it was.

Chapter 358

Surprised, Irene asked, “What are you doing here?”

“I was looking for you,” Ricky replied. “But I couldn’t reach you on your phone.”

Irene whipped out her phone, and pressed a button to find that it was out of juice and had turned itself off.

Nonetheless, she said. “That would have to wait I’m busy at the moment.”

However, Ricky was clearly antsy and did not even notice the confrontation right in front of him. “It’s Lulu.

She’s-”

Meanwhile, Harvey and Chad were already at each other’s noses and a fight looked inevitable.

Irene had to ignore Ricky just then and went up to stop Harvey, saying, “He’s not worth it, and we’re in a hospital

Chad, however, became buoyed since he thought that was a sign of Irene cowing.

“I’m telling you, Irene Spencer, I’ll have you kicked out of this hospital today,” he gloated, pointing a finger at her face. “You can call me Dahc if I can’t do it.”

“What are you talking about? Ricky rushed up right then pointed a finger at Chad’s face in retaliation. “Do you even know who you’re talking to?”

Chad was left frowning “And who the hell are you?”

“Irene’s my sister Who do you think I am? If you want a fight, you’ve got it,” Ricky snapped, braced with youthful bravado and almost eager to get started.

Beside him, Harvey snorted. “So? Are we doing this?”

Chad knew right then that he would definitely lose since he was up against two grown men, and gave it immediately

“You have numbers on your side, but that doesn’t mean this is over,” he said, and turned back to the hospital chief “You have one day. Fire Irene Spencer, or I’ll shut down this hospital!”

With that, he squeezed his way between Ricky and Harvey and headed out of the door.

Ricky was dissatisfied and about to go after him, but Irene quickly stopped him, quietly telling him, “This is a hospital Don’t get out of line.”

Indeed, it was a place of salvation and healing, not fisticuffs.

At the same time, the hospital chief was clasping his hands behind his back and sighing.

This is going to be troublesome—it was not the usual patient drama he was so used to.

Moreover, Chad was someone with considerable authority, and the hospital's reputation could be harmed if they mishandled this.

"You may go, Dr Spencer, Stephen said "The chief and I will come up with something."

Irene pursed her lips. "I really didn't push Whitney Cox..."

"We believe you," Stephen told her.

He had not worked with Irene for that long, but he more or less came to understand her character.

Knowing that they were both understanding, Irene quickly left with Harvey and Ricky.

1/2

"What actually happened, Irene? Ricky asked just then.

Irene gave him a short account of what happened, and Ricky was stunned.

"But that's defamation!"

Irene stared at him for a while before saying, "She might also be the one who murdered your mother."

"What?!" Ricky exclaimed, becoming even less composed at that. "I'll find her. Where is she now?"

Irene caught his wrist. "Calm down. It's just a hunch, and it's also why I asked you to look into that woman named Lindsay. She's actually Whitney Cox, and she has a grudge against me and Isaac. She probably had help from Chad in getting your mom out of prison, and used her to threaten you before pitting you against me and Isaac. However, it's just a theory-I have no evidence at all."

Nonetheless, Ricky was convinced. "It has to be her. I knew she looked familiar from the back when told me to look into her."

"But you must have evidence," Irene pointed out.

"Then we'll just have to look for it," Harvey chimed in. "Murder is a crime. I can help you—what do you think?"

Irene considered even as he looked towards her.

you

With Isaac away and the matter at hand clearly difficult for her to take alone, she said, "Well, you have my thanks."

"It's fine. You saved my mom, didn't you?" Harvey smiled as his eyes sparkled.

Ricky was left staring at him for a while, and warned him, "Hey, wake up—my sister is married with a child." Harvey was speechless. Was he being that obvious?

Irene frowned. "You're getting the wrong idea here, Ricky. He's just a friend."

Ricky pursed his lips. "You may think so, but he probably doesn't. He might be eager to marry you too, and he was practically looking at you like a lover."

Chapter 359

Irene coolly said, "Stop it-"

"Actually, he's right. I am in love with you, but Isaac beat me to the promised land," Harvey said with much ambiguity.

Irene shot him a glare, "Har har, very funny. I'm being threatened with a lawsuit here, and might lose my job here. I can't have that, not when I upset Isaac over-"

She stopped right then, realizing that she had spoken too much.

Even so, Ricky quickly asked, "What? How did you upset Isaac?"

Harvey's ears had pricked up as well, since he was eager to find out too.

Irene grumbled, "Stop being a busybody and start thinking what to do about Whitney Cox. Oh, wait—what did you want to talk to me about?"

"Lulu is leaving." Ricky said. "I was thinking that you should talk her out of it."

Irene, however, knew about Lulu's situation and would not do so lightly. "I need to know what's happening first."

"Okay," Ricky replied. "I still hope you'd convince her to stay, though."

Irene was left staring at him for a while at that, wondering what he really meant by that.

Was he into her?

Meanwhile, after Harvey learned that Ricky was Irene's brother, he was quite interested in befriending the youth. Walking up to Ricky, Harvey said, "About investigating Whitney Cox... Shall we do it together?"

Ricky was all too willing. "Of course, but it's not going to be easy to gather evidence against her since the court has closed the case on my mother's murder. Moreover, she might not have left any evidence at all since she planned to do it from the start. And what if that chihuahua back there somehow manages to drive Irene out of Melville Hospital?"

"Chihuahua?" Harvey appeared stumped for a moment, before bursting into laughter. "Right, Chad Ross kept yapping like one of those pests. That's a good one!"

Ricky chuckled. "Yeah."

"But you're right. It's not going to be easy to gather evidence against that woman, though the most pressing matter is to prove that your sister didn't push her, or she'll hound Irene until she is fired from the hospital..." Harvey mused to himself, and then came up with an idea. "Alright, you can leave this to me."

“You have a plan already?” Ricky asked, and Irene turned to look at Harvey too.

He nodded confidently. “Yeah.”

“What is it?” Ricky pressed.

Harvey, however, kept him in suspense. “You’ll know when the time comes.”

Ricky pursed his lips. “Tch.”

“Do whatever you want. I’m going back to work,” Irene said then, since she really did not have the time to play around.

As she strode off, Harvey clapped Ricky on the shoulder.

You should go,” he said, and quickly went chasing after Irene. “I want to visit my mother, alright?”

“Sure,” Irene replied, “as long as you don’t stay for too long, and remember that you have to scrub up.”

“Thank you,” Harvey grinned, and moved closer to whisper, “Actually, are you letting me in as a favor since it’s me? Don’t hospitals usually prohibit this?”

“It’s perfectly fine. Visits are permissible as long as the patient is stable,” Irene said flatly. “Also, why would I do you any favors?”

Harvey was left speechless for a moment. “Come on, Irene—at least be nice until after I outlive usefulness.”

my

“You’re actually useful?” Irene asked in return.

Left speechless again, Harvey thought to himself that she was as hateable as she was loveable...

Irene left work at seven, and saw Isaac’s car just as she arrived home.

Was he home?

She hurried inside at the thought.

Seeing no one else at home, she was heading to the bedroom when she saw Mrs. Watson.

“Is he home?” She asked.

But before Mrs. Watson could actually say anything, she excitedly opened the bedroom door. “Isaac?”

Chapter 360

There was no one in the bedroom.

Irene blinked. Could he be in the study?

Quickly closing the door, she hurried to study and opened the door... Only to find Stan, standing in front of the desk and sorting some documents.

Frowning, she asked, "What are you doing here, Stan? Where's Isaac?"

Mrs. Watson said, "I was going to tell you just then—Mr. Hill came, not Mr. Jefferson."

Irene's face fell just then, while Stan appeared to be done and carried a stack of documents out of the study.

Before he left, he offered Irene some kind advice as she stood by the door, "You should contact Mr. Jefferson if you're not busy, ma'am."

Ever since Irene refused to leave the country with Isaac the other day, Isaac had been scowling, feeling constantly irritable and checking his phone constantly.

He was certainly unable to put aside his pride to call Irene, and was hoping for her to do it first... But she never did.

Irene was actually left speechless, because she had not exactly been idling.

But it was not as if she did not miss him.

Following Stan out of the mansion, Irene called out, "Stan."

Stopping in his tracks, Stan asked, "What is it?"

Walking up to him, Irene asked, "Is Isaac abroad for work?"

Stan shook his head. "No."

"Then what for?" Irene pressed.

Stan hesitated for a moment, but eventually decided against telling her. "It's something very important to Mr. Jefferson. You should have been there with him..."

"But what is it?" she asked urgently.

"It would be more appropriate for Mr. Jefferson to tell you himself. Sorry, but I have to go now," Stan said and got into the car.

Irene walked up to him. "How long before he comes back?"

"Not so soon," Stan replied.

"But it's all over the news now—there will be a verdict against Quincy Moore soon. Isn't Isaac coming back to see that? She murdered his parents, didn't she?" Irene was really hoping that Stan would tell her about why Isaac went abroad, and what was so important that he could skip Quincy's execution.

After all, Isaac had done so much over the years to punish Quincy! But now that she was getting her just deserts, he was suddenly not interested?

Stan sighed. "Look, I'm actually an outsider in this matter—I told you what I can, and I can't tell you what I shouldn't say. Anyway, it's late, and you should go back in. I have to go now."

With that, he drove off, but Irene was still standing there.

She could feel that whatever reason it was that made Isaac go abroad, it was incredibly important.

However, she never bothered asking, and refused right away.

She hung her head. Did she make a mistake?

They were married, but she had no idea what he was doing.

Did that not make her a failure of a wife?

“Mah–mah...” Tommy called out to her.

Mrs. Watson had the baby in her arms, and Irene came to her senses at his call, and turned to take her baby from Mrs. Watson.

“Mah–mah...” Tommy was puckering his tiny pink lips, leaning against Irene’s shoulder and nestling his little face against her neck.

It tickled, but it was also deadly adorable and heartening.

Irene felt like the little guy could melt her heart right then.

Carrying him back to her room, she fed him, played with him, and coaxed him to sleep.

It was quite late when he finally fell asleep.

As the room fell silent, Irene could not sleep at all, and headed to the living room.

The emptiness there was exactly how she felt, and she unwittingly drifted into Isaac’s study.

She sat before her desk, remembering the way he sat behind it.

She missed him so much.

She whipped out her phone to call him, but remembered that it was out of juice. As she started looking for a charger, she suddenly knocked an envelope off the desk.

As she reached down to pick it up, she saw the photo inside...