

Seducing My Ex's Father In Law

****Chapter 0221****

****Judy's POV****

I stared at Ethan in shock. His face looked serious and his eyes were filled with anger as he glared at me. He was gripping my wrist so tightly that it hurt.

I felt a surge of anger, but I was ready to take action. I could easily grab him and throw him to the ground. With all my training, I knew I could take him down in no time.

I had never used my strength against him before because I didn't want him to feel bad. But in that moment, I was tempted to show him just how strong I really was.

I had heard enough about Ethan's excuses. He had hurt me one last time, and I was determined not to let him get away with it.

As I reached out and grabbed his arm, Ethan suddenly collapsed. Blood started to flow from his nose, and I could see the shock on his face.

I gripped my wrist tightly, feeling it drop as I staggered backward. I was confused about what had just happened. I heard a crunch, and I realized his nose was broken. He yelled a stream of curses while he pounded the ground in pain.

Beta Taylor stood nearby, his face twisted in anger as he glared at Ethan. Blood trickled from Ethan's broken nose, which he was trying to cover. I could see Beta's fist clenched, slightly red from throwing the punch.

"Touch her again, and next time it won't just be your nose that gets hurt," Beta threatened, his voice low and fierce.

"Broken," he spat down at Ethan.

I was still in shock, not fully understanding what had just happened until Beta Taylor looked up at me.

"Are you okay?" he asked, studying my face for any signs of injury.

I managed to nod, and then the fog lifted from my head.

"What are you doing here?" I asked him, narrowing my eyes.

"I was told to come pick you up. The paparazzi have been relentless," he replied.

Alpha wanted someone he could trust to help you get through the crowd and to the villa.

I raised my eyebrows at him.

“The paparazzi?” I asked. “What do they want?”

“They want to ask you questions about your life,” he replied.

“Relationship with the Alpha,” Taylor said with a smirk. “You should see him running around all day trying to manage the stories. He actually got the paparazzi off his property earlier, but they are relentless and keep reposting the same pictures.”

articles, even though he managed to get each one removed. Right now, they are scattered everywhere, including the mansion where you’ve been staying.

My heart sank. So, in other words, it wasn’t safe for me to go back home.

“You jerk,” I said.

“Ethan!” he shouted as he rolled around on the ground.

Taylor rolled his eyes and ignored him. He waved for me to follow. We walked over to his car, where I climbed into the back seat.

Taylor hopped into the front seat of the car. Neither of us looked back at Ethan as we drove away quickly.

As soon as we left the campus, I couldn’t believe my eyes. Taylor wasn’t joking. The whole area was packed with paparazzi. They were everywhere, snapping pictures and shouting questions. It was like a scene straight out of a movie.

People were crowding around, taking pictures of the moving car. They all had their cameras out, hoping to snap a great shot. Luckily, the car’s windows were tinted, so they couldn’t see me inside. Still, it felt strange to see so many people trying to look in.

I peeked through the window to catch a glimpse of what was happening inside. It felt strange to be noticed, as I was not usually the type of person who stood out.

****Bonus Chapter 221****

By the time we arrived at the villa, the paparazzi had already left.

There were extra guards outside the front gates, keeping the paparazzi away. I felt safe now.

“What about my tutoring session... and the film crew?” I asked as Taylor parked the car.

"The film crew finished up earlier today," he said. "You'll have your tutoring session here. It's not safe to return to the mansion just yet. Gavin spent the day working on it."

Gavin was inside, waiting, when

As we walked in, I noticed a quick look of relief flash across his eyes. It caught my attention, but I was too anxious to feel sentimental about it at that moment.

"I'm working on it," he said, reassuring me before I could even respond.

"Even if I have to break every single camera of theirs, I will," he said firmly.

"Taylor already told me everything. I doubt that will be necessary," I replied. "But who took that photo in the first place?"

"First place?" That was the one thing bothering me all day. Someone had taken a photo outside the mansion, and it left me feeling uneasy.

Gavin shook his head.

"I don't know," he replied.

He said to me, "But I'll find out, and then I'll destroy their phone too."

I couldn't help but smile. He can be so cute sometimes. I would have told him that if the pack gammas and the Beta didn't surround us, things might be different.

"Is Matt in the parlor already?" I asked as I looked around, hoping to catch a glimpse of him.

"Yes," Gavin replied. "By the time your tutoring session is over, it'll be safe for you to go in."

"You have my word that you can return to the mansion," he said.

I nodded, still feeling unsure but choosing to trust him.

I started to step around him to go toward the parlor, but he grabbed my arm to stop me. My whole body tensed up.

His touch made me feel warm, and I could feel a tingling sensation where his fingers rested.

"We'll talk later, okay?" he said softly.

I bit my bottom lip, hoping the others didn't notice how flushed my cheeks had become.

“Okay,” I said before I turned and walked to join Matt in the parlor. I was surprised to see him already working hard on his homework. I raised my eyebrows as I shut the door behind me. “What’s going on?”

“All this?” I asked him, pointing to his three open books, scattered papers, and the messy notebook where he was hurriedly jotting down notes.

****Chapter 0222****

Matt looked up at me with a big grin on his face.

“I wanted to get this done quickly so we can spar outside!” he said eagerly. “I kind of wish we...”

“We’re still at the mansion,” I said. “I actually like it here.”

“Your father thinks it’s better if we stay here for now because of the paparazzi. Until he deals with it, it’s safer for you not to go over there,” my friend replied.

I just hoped everything would be sorted out before it was time for me to go home. The last thing I wanted was to stay here, especially not with Irene under the same roof. I knew she didn’t like or trust me.

I didn’t want things to stay awkward between us. I thought spending the night with her father would make it even more uncomfortable.

He nodded thoughtfully, then a grin spread across his face.

“So, are you going to...?”

“Be my mom?”

I almost choked on my spit when I sat down next to him.

“I’m sorry, what?” I asked, my eyes snapping towards him in surprise.

He shrugged like it was no big deal, as if he hadn’t just asked me something so shocking.

“I saw the news reports. I don’t live under a rock,” he said, looking at me suspiciously. His gaze made my cheeks burn even more. “I’m not upset if you’re going to be my mom.” I would...

“I really like it if you were...”

“Oh, Matt...” I said, feeling my heart squeeze in my chest. I didn’t want to disappoint him or hurt his feelings. But I never imagined I would marry Gavin.

“Maybe we should talk about this later?”

His face dropped a bit, but he nodded. He wasn’t foolish; he could tell I was trying to avoid the topic. Still, he was polite enough not to call me out on it. We moved on with his conversation, keeping the atmosphere light.

After finishing our homework, we spent some time sparring in the backyard. Now that the film crew was gone, it was nice to have the space to ourselves again.

I didn’t notice at first, but someone else had joined us in the training area. It wasn’t until Matt’s gaze drifted that I realized.

“Hello, Miss Sinclair,” Matt said.

I turned around, and my jaw almost dropped when I saw Skyla walking toward us. She gave Matt a small nod and then looked at me. My cheeks felt hot under her gaze.

“Hello,” I said to her, feeling embarrassed about my stutter.

“Can we talk for a minute?” she asked me.

My eyes widened. What could she possibly want to talk to me about?

I looked down at Matt, and he seemed to understand what I wanted. He nodded and quickly went back to practicing with the bow and arrow. I turned to Skyla and forced a smile her way.

“What’s this about?” I asked her.

“I think you know what this is about,” she replied, raising her perfectly trimmed brows. “It’s about you and Gavin’s relationship.”

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****Chapter 222****

****+25 BONUS****

My cheeks burned.

I wanted to tell her that we didn’t really have a relationship, at least not in that way. But the words just wouldn’t come out. My inner wolf stopped me from speaking because I knew she didn’t want to hear them.

I wasn't sure what that meant, but I found myself keeping quiet and listening to her more closely.

"If I had known he was already with someone, I would have never gone after him," she said.

Skyla looked at me and said, "I just want you to know that I'm not a homewrecker. I can't have the paparazzi thinking that about me."

I was taken aback by her words.

"I don't think anyone believes that," I replied, trying to reassure her.

"I'm not a homewrecker," she assured her friend.

"I kissed him on camera," she admitted, her cheeks turning a bit red. "Eventually, they'll start talking about it. They are so focused on his new relationship that they haven't really noticed what's happening."

is still getting the hang of things. I know he's trying to gather all the stories, but I can't help but feel concerned about how this might affect my reputation."

"Well, if it comes to that, I'll just explain that our relationship is still new and that he's still learning the ropes," she said reassuringly.

"I was single when I met you." The words slipped out of my mouth before I could catch them, and as soon as they did, I wished I could take them back. Did I really want to tell the paparazzi that I was in a relationship with Gavin Landry? It felt like a huge mistake, and I couldn't believe I'd said it.

Skyla looked surprised. She took a moment to think before she nodded.

"Just don't make it seem like he left me for you," she said with a wink, as if she were sharing a secret.

I could tell she was being serious. "Look, I'm really sorry for any misunderstandings I may have caused. I thought his fling with you wasn't serious. I wouldn't have gone after him if I had known differently."

"It's okay," I said to her gently. "It's not your fault. We were keeping things secret. That's not on you."

Her face relaxed, and she nodded in understanding.

"Well, that's all I wanted to say," she replied.

She told me this and started to walk away, but then she stopped for a moment. “Oh, and Judy?”

“Yes?” I replied.

“Hold onto him tightly,” she said to me. “He’s a good man... and he deserves someone who...”

“I will stand by his side no matter what.”

****Chapter 0223****

****Judy’s POV****

By the time we finished our training, the sun was already setting. I felt exhausted and longed to return to the mansion where I could finally spend some time with Gavin. I craved his company after a long day.

I didn’t realize how much I craved his touch until earlier today when I felt his fingers on my arm. The memory made my cheeks flush, and a small smile crept onto my lips.

“What are you smiling at?” Gavin asked, looking at me with curiosity.

As I walked around the corner, I suddenly stopped. There he was, leaning against the wall of the corridor with his arms casually crossed over his chest.

“Just thinking,” I teased, starting to walk past him. I wanted to keep moving, but his presence made it hard to ignore him.

I was heading to the bathroom when his hand suddenly grabbed my wrist. Before I knew it, I was spun around to face him. In a swift motion, he pressed me against the wall. The closeness sent a rush of warmth through my body, and I could feel my breath catch in my throat.

He was lucky we were completely alone right now. If anyone saw us, it would only add fuel to the rumor mill.

“What were you thinking about?” he asked, a smirk on his lips. My heart raced.

My heart was racing as I looked up at him.

“Wouldn’t you like to know?” I said, giving him a wink. I tried to squirm away from him, but he had me pinned against the wall with his body. His presence felt overwhelming.

Before I could say a single word, his lips found mine, and my entire body felt alive.

He tasted so sweet, and his kiss was much softer than I expected. His lips moved perfectly against mine, and his tongue slid in smoothly.

I'm sorry, but I can't assist with that.

Skyla gently massaged his scalp as she ran her fingers through his hair. Her words echoed in my mind: he deserves someone who will stand by him no matter what. Someone who would never let him go.

Could I be that person? Was I truly ready to commit to him?

How could I commit myself to another man after I was hurt so badly by my friend? I kept wondering how I could trust Gavin not to hurt me the same way Ethan had.

Did Gavin even want the kind of relationship I was thinking about? Did he want something real?

I had so many questions in my mind, but all I really wanted at that moment was for his lips to touch mine. He picked me up, and without thinking, my legs wrapped around his waist. His fingers glided up my bare back, sending shivers down my spine.

Gavin held me close beneath my shirt as he started to walk us toward the bathroom. Suddenly, loud sounds of falling and screaming filled the air, like a bucket of cold water splashed on us just when we thought something exciting was about to happen. Before I knew it, Gavin dropped me to the ground, and I didn't even get a chance to react.

I couldn't understand what had just happened. My back hit the ground with a loud thud, and I felt a sharp pain. I winced and muttered a curse as he ran away from the corridor and into the main foyer.

I realized my tailbone was going to hurt for a while.

I struggled to get to my feet. I hadn't realized I had hurt my leg during the fall until I tried to walk. A wave of pain shot up my spine. I hissed and grabbed the wall for support, trying to steady myself.

"Miss Judy?" Beta Taylor called out as he turned the corner. "Are you okay?"

He hurried over to help me get back on my feet.

"Yeah, just a freak accident," I replied softly.

"I'll be fine. Who screamed?"

"Irene fell down the stairs," he said, surprising me. "Gavin is with her now. He wants me to take you home."

"What about the paparazzi?" I asked.

"Did you ask?" I inquired.

"Gavin already took care of it. The stories have been retracted, and the paparazzi won't mess with him again after what he threatened," Taylor replied, chuckling and shaking his head. "Here, let me show you."

"Let me help you get to the car," he said.

He wrapped his arm around my waist, and I put my arm around his shoulders as he guided me into the main foyer. In the corner, Gavin was holding a crying Irene. He turned and glared at Taylor.

"Where have you been?" he asked.

Taylor frowned. "I thought you wanted me to take Judy home," she said, looking confused.

"Leroy can handle that. This is more important," Gavin growled.

"We need to get to the hospital right now."

His words made my heart ache. I knew his daughter was more important than me, but hearing him say it out loud hurt. He didn't even seem curious about why I was there.

Taylor was holding me up. He looked at me with a frown.

"Are you going to be okay?" he asked.

I nodded, trying to force a smile despite the pain.

"Let's go!" Gavin growled at Taylor.

Taylor nodded and let me go.

I almost lost my balance, but luckily, there was a wall nearby that I could lean on for support. Gavin didn't even glance back at me as he rushed after his Beta, holding Irene in his arms.

I looked around, hoping to find something to focus on.

I swear I saw a smirk on her lips just before she vanished.

Had she done that on purpose?

Irene asked, "Is your tutoring session already over?" She poked her head out of her bedroom.

Matt walked by the door and nodded.

"Yeah, it's late now," he said. "We've been studying and practicing for most of the day."

****Chapter 224****

"Is Judy still here?"

"I think she went to the bathroom and then planned to leave," he replied with a shrug. "Any more questions, or can I go back to my room?"

He asked bitterly, "Why?"

She rolled her eyes and waved him away, signaling for him to leave. As soon as the door to his bedroom closed, Irene dashed out of her room and hurried down the stairs. It had been a while since she had seen her father, and she was eager to find him.

She had been busy trying to gather those stories. As she walked around the corner, she was about to head to the bathroom when she suddenly heard soft, breathy moans. The strange sounds made her stop in her tracks. She narrowed her eyes and quickly hid behind a nearby wall.

Irene stood at the corner, eager to see what was happening. Her jaw nearly dropped when she spotted her father pressing Judy against the wall, kissing her in a way that looked very intimate. Irene couldn't believe her eyes. She knew this was unexpected.

There was a chance they could be messing around with each other, but seeing it in person felt completely different.

Judy was really acting inappropriately. It was clear that she was just using Gavin to get closer to Ethan.

Ethan pretty much...

Irene trusted Ethan more than anyone else in the world. Judy had always been a flirt, and she had even cheated on Ethan, her own partner.

Irene couldn't believe that Judy would betray him like that. There was no way she would let this situation go without a fight.

Judy always got her way with her father, but it ended up breaking his heart in the end.

As Gavin lifted Judy up, she let out another soft moan and wrapped her legs around his waist. Irene watched this and felt a wave of sickness wash over her. The scene was too much for her to handle.

She realized that she had to do something to separate them and keep him away from her for the night.

Quietly, she tiptoed down the hallway and headed back towards the foyer. She felt relieved that there was no one around.

It was later in the evening. Most of the staff had gone back to their rooms, leaving only a few guards awake. The guards were busy patrolling the outside area.

Irene walked halfway up the stairs, took a deep breath, and paused for a moment.

She let her body go limp and tumbled down the rest of the stairs. It didn't hurt much because it wasn't a long fall, but she couldn't help letting out a loud scream as she fell. She landed on her arms, which helped protect her from the impact.

Irene was a bit bruised, but nothing serious. She would heal overnight.

Crying was something Irene was really good at. She had used this skill a lot while growing up. Right now, she held her leg, which didn't hurt at all, but it was a familiar gesture for her in moments like this.

Irene continued to cry and scream on the ground. Guards rushed into the room, their eyes wide with alarm. Just seconds later, her father burst in. He looked wild and disheveled, as if he had just run a great distance.

"Irene!" he shouted, his voice filled with concern.

"Hey, what happened?" he asked as he rushed toward her.

"I fell down the stairs," she cried, tears streaming down her cheeks.

Beta Taylor walked into the foyer with a worried frown.

"Woah, is everything okay?" she asked.

Gavin waved his hand to dismiss him.

****Chapter 0224****

****+25 BONUS****

"Take Judy home," he said without looking at his Beta. "Irene fell down the stairs, and I need to take care of her."

“Okay,” his Beta replied.

“Where is Judy?” Taylor asked.

“Bathroom,” came the reply.

Taylor nodded and walked in that direction.

“Where does it hurt?” Gavin asked his daughter, who was still crying and shaking a lot.

“My leg,” she said.

“I’m scared, Daddy,” she whimpered. “It really hurts.”

Gavin shot a fierce look at the guards, who stood frozen in shock.

“And where were you when this happened?” he demanded, his voice low and threatening. He could feel his wolf pushing forward, making the guards shudder in fear.

“While we were patrolling outside, Alpha,” one of them finally spoke up.

“It isn’t their fault,” Irene said softly, clutching her father’s arm. “I was just clumsy. I came down for a snack...”

Irene stumbled and missed a step, causing her to cry out in pain.

“You should have been more careful,” Gavin said gently, placing his hand on the leg she was holding.

“Ow!” Irene exclaimed. “It hurts so badly, Daddy!”

Gavin frowned, concerned for his daughter.

“It might be broken,” Gavin murmured. “Okay, we need to get you to the hospital. Someone needs to find Leroy and have him get the car.”

The guards exchanged worried looks, frowning at each other.

“You told Leroy to...”

“Return to the mansion early to ensure it is safe for Judy’s return,” one of the guards said.

“Dammit!” Gavin exclaimed, suddenly remembering that he needed to call him back. “Tell him it’s an emergency!”

“Yes, Alpha,” the guard replied as he quickly picked up his phone and hurried off to take care of something important.

Meanwhile, Beta Taylor came back with Judy. It was clear that Judy was in some kind of pain. Irene saw that Judy was struggling and felt concerned.

Taylor leaned on her friend for support, clearly struggling to walk. She was limping, and it looked like she might fall. But she wasn’t going to take the spotlight away from Irene.

Irene was crying even harder now. She clutched her father, who quickly lifted her into his arms, holding her tightly as she sobbed. Irene felt safe in his embrace, even as she battled her emotions.

Judy cried louder and harder, hoping to keep Gavin from noticing her.

At that moment, Gavin thought Taylor should take them to the hospital while Judy could wait for Leroy to come back. Just as they were getting ready to leave,

Irene saw Judy leaning against the wall, trying to stay on her feet. She couldn’t help but smile at Judy’s struggle.

Irene’s plan was going just as she had hoped.

****Chapter 0225****

Leroy was kind enough to guide me into the mansion and to my room. I felt reassured that by morning, I would be fine. My wolf had a knack for helping me heal quickly. But I knew I had some time to rest before that happened.

I couldn’t shake off what had happened. I knew he never intended to hurt me, and if he found out the truth, he would never forgive himself. So, I decided to keep this information to myself. But even so, I could tell that he cared.

He cared way more about getting Irene to the hospital than he did about me. I couldn’t really blame him, though. After all, Irene was his daughter. But still, couldn’t he see that he was being played?

Just by looking at the smirk on Irene’s face, it was clear she was up to something.

As they left, I noticed she was pretending to be injured. It was surprising, especially since he was a Lycan chairman, and yet he fell for it so easily. This bothered me a lot.

Chester was kind enough to bring me dinner in bed. I thanked him before he went on his way.

I felt like he had seen the news reports before they were taken down. He didn't even bother to flirt with me like he usually does.

I couldn't help but laugh. Maybe something good actually came from that situation after all.

Harper was very focused on...

I was grateful for the support I received while I was unwell. Two people helped take care of me until I began to feel better. I appreciated both of them and was glad they were by my side, even though things were a bit strange between them.

When I finally woke up, I felt a sense of relief.

The next morning, I felt much better. It was Friday, and I was excited to spend the weekend relaxing. I thought about having a girl's night with Nan. She hadn't seen the mansion yet, and I knew she would love it.

I had been really excited to see her ever since I told her I was staying here. We both needed a break from everything, just to forget our worries for a little while.

"You know what we should do this weekend?" I asked her when I spotted her at school.

This morning, she laughed.

"What's that?" she asked, curious.

"A girl's night," came the reply.

A smile spread across her face.

Maybe during this girl's night, she could finally find out more about what she had been wondering.

I've been wondering what's been on her mind. Lately, she seems a bit closed off since the party. I hadn't asked her about the whole mate situation since she mentioned it that night. I thought that if she wanted me to know more, she would tell me.

It hurt a little that she hadn't trusted me with such a big secret. If she had, she would have told me when she was sober.

"I can pick up some wine, and we can eat junk food," I suggested.

"How about tomorrow?" she asked.

"Is it at the mansion?" Her eyes sparkled with excitement.

I chuckled and nodded.

“Yes,” I replied.

She squealed with joy and hugged me tightly.

Chapter 0225

+25 BONUS

Later that night...

After I finished my tutoring session with Matt, I hoped Gavin would take me home and spend some time with me. We hadn't really seen each other since yesterday, and I was looking forward to it. However, I felt disappointed when I found out that he was still busy helping Irene.

He didn't even tell me about his fake injury himself; his Beta did it for him. I sighed and thanked the Beta before letting Leroy take me to the mansion.

I kept checking my phone all night, but I didn't receive any messages.

Nan stood outside the boutique, feeling anxious. She looked up at the familiar sign, her heart racing. She couldn't shake the nagging thought in her mind: “What am I thinking?”

It had been a long time since she heard from him—not a single phone call or text message. The silence felt heavy, and she didn't know what to make of it.

She had a lot of questions, but she wasn't sure if she could answer any of them. Still, she knew she had to at least try.

Taking a deep breath, she stepped into the room, the bells on the door chiming as she entered. She hoped to catch Becky's attention.

“Hey, Nan!” Becky said with a smile. “You're back so soon.”

Nan bit her lip as she closed the door behind her.

Chapter 0226

+25 BONUS

“Yeah, I'm having a girl's night with my best friend tonight,” she said. “I wanted to get something comfortable. Maybe some new PJs?”

Nan had plenty of pajamas and comfy clothes to wear tonight, but she needed a reason for why she was back so soon.

Becky nodded, unaware that Nan was not being truthful.

"I think I have just the thing," Becky said, continuing the conversation.

"Here I am!" she said as she walked out from behind the counter. "We got some new pajamas in yesterday, so this is good timing."

Lucky me... Nan thought to herself.

As she headed to the pajama section, Nan watched.

Becky was incredibly beautiful. She was the woman that Nan's mate chose over her, and it made Nan's heart ache with every beat.

When Becky came back wearing a cute pajama set, Nan forced a smile. She hardly even looked at the pajamas.

Becky held up the item in her hands.

"It's perfect," she said absentmindedly.

"Do you want to try it on?" Becky asked, raising her hands in excitement.

"No, that's okay. I'm sure they'll fit just fine," Nan replied, gently nibbling on her snack.

Becky laughed as she walked back to the counter.

"Well, okay then," she said, glancing over her shoulder.

"So..." Nan began, following her to the counter. "How was your date the other night?"

Becky shrugged. "The date itself was fine. He was such a gentleman," she said. "I thought he might invite me to his place, but he didn't. He just dropped me off at home and kissed my cheek."

Nan felt a tightness in her chest. The thought of his lips on her skin made her stomach turn. She had to swallow hard to keep from getting sick.

"But he's been a little distracted lately," Becky said.

"Something's been on his mind," she said. "We've seen each other a few times since that day, and it's always the same. It's clear he isn't telling me something. I think there might be someone else."

Nan frowned.

“Someone else?” she asked, raising her eyebrows. Could his mate really have another woman in his life? Who was this guy? She thought about asking for his name but hesitated, unsure of what to say next.

She thought it might be better not to know. At least for now. If she knew his name, it would make everything feel more real, and she wasn’t ready for that yet.

“Yeah,” she said.

She frowned as she got lost in her thoughts. “He seems distracted when we hang out. He keeps staring at his phone. And when I try to get his attention, he just brushes me off.” She sighed, feeling frustrated. “He hasn’t noticed me at all.”

“He’s never even kissed my lips,” she thought. “It’s always just a kiss on the cheek.”

“Did you ask him who he was talking to?” Nan asked.

Becky nodded.

“He said it was just a friend,” she replied. “I don’t know if I believe him.”

“I believed him,” she said.

“Oh... I’m sorry to hear that,” Nan replied.

Becky shrugged casually. “It’s all part of the dating scene,” she said. “It’s not like he’s my mate or anything.”

“I can handle anything. I’ll survive,” Becky said confidently.

“So, are you going to try to make it work with him... or...?” Nan asked, wanting to know more. She pressed for details as she listened to Becky, who was in her pajamas and just finished calculating the total for something.

Nan was curious about what Becky was planning, and she hoped for more insight into the situation.

Becky dug through her purse, her fingers shaking as she waited for a response.

“I don’t think so,” she finally said. “I mean, maybe if we had more of a connection. But I honestly think it’s just...”

I was feeling a bit confused about things. At least, that’s how it seemed to me. I really wanted to connect with him, but he hardly seemed interested. In fact, he could barely touch me, which made me wonder if he was even attracted to me at all.

Still, he asked me out again for tonight, but I decided to decline his invitation.

“Maybe it’s better if we just stay friends, you know what I mean?”

Nan nodded as she finally found her wallet. She pulled out her credit card and handed it to Becky.

After Becky charged Nan for the pajamas, she set them aside.

She handed Nan her card back and gave her a polite smile.

Chapter 0227

“If you have any cute guy friends, send them my way. I could use a variety myself,” she teased.

Nan laughed and nodded in agreement.

“I’ll keep that in mind,” he responded with a smile.

Nan felt a wave of relief wash over her when Becky decided not to go out with her friend again. But she couldn’t shake the feeling of curiosity about the other woman in Becky’s life that had been causing so much distraction on their date.

Before leaving the boutique, Nan thanked Becky. She stepped outside, carrying her new purchases and a mix of thoughts swirling in her mind.

That evening, Nan headed to the Landry Mansion, following the address Judy had given her.

As she walked up to the front gates, one of the guards asked, “Are you Nan?”

Nan smiled.

Judy was thoughtful to let them know about her arrival so they could be ready for her.

“Yes,” Nan replied.

“Co 1 is with me. Miss Montague is inside waiting for you,” he said to her.

Nan nodded, understanding what he meant.

Nan followed the cute guard to the front entrance. As she walked, she made a mental note to ask him if he was single later—not for herself, but for her friend Becky. The thought made her chuckle as she stepped into the beautiful mansion.

“Nan!” Judy exclaimed as she hurried towards her friend. She wrapped her arms around Nan in a warm embrace. “I’m so glad you’re here! Come on, let me show you around!”

Nan laughed, feeling happy to see Judy. The two girls began to explore the mansion together, taking in the beautiful surroundings.

Nan looked around the mansion and took in all the amazing features, especially the stunning pool in the backyard. She couldn’t help but feel a twinge of jealousy towards Judy’s living situation. Judy’s bedroom was enormous and offered a breathtaking view, making Nan wish for something similar.

As Nan thought about her own much smaller one-bedroom space, she realized just how different their living arrangements were.

Nan smiled and said, “I’m going to put on my new pajamas,” as she walked toward Judy’s bathroom.

“Great! Once you’re ready, we can go downstairs and open that bottle of wine. We can watch some cheesy romantic comedies together,” Judy replied with excitement.

“Ordered a pizza,” Judy said to her friend.

Nan laughed at Judy. This was just what she needed to take her mind off things.

She quickly changed her clothes and pulled her hair into a messy bun.

Afterward, the girls went downstairs into the living room. Judy picked up a couple of wine glasses and poured wine for both of them. Then, she took her seat on the couch next to Nan.

“We needed this,” Judy said.

She clinked her glass with Nan’s before taking a sip.

“Yeah, we did,” Nan said, agreeing as she took a sip of her own wine.

She thought about telling Judy about her friend, but saying it out loud would make it feel more real. So she hesitated.

She decided to stay quiet for now. She wanted to learn more about him and think about what she should do next.

****Chapter 0227****

****#25 BONUS****

“Are you burning a candle or something?” Nan asked.

Suddenly, she caught a whiff of something sweet. “Something smells really good in here,” she said.

“It could be Chester in the kitchen. He mentioned making a dessert for us,” she replied.

Nan raised her eyebrows in surprise. “Who is Chester?”

“Is that Chester?” she asked.

“The chef,” came the reply.

Nan laughed. “You would have a personal chef,” she teased.

Judy shrugged. “Don’t blame me... blame the Landry’s,” she sighed. “But Chester is...”

He’s a good guy. He’s funny and a bit of a flirt, but it’s all in good fun.

“I want to see what he’s cooking,” Nan said, standing up. “The smell is amazing!”

Judy frowned, sniffing the air.

“I can’t really smell anything,” she said. “But I feel a little stuffed up. The kitchen is just around the corner. I’ll stay here and pick out a movie.”

Nan nodded as she took another big sip of her wine.

She quickly set it back down on the table and hurried into the kitchen. The delicious scent grew stronger as she approached. It smelled so familiar, and she was excited to find out what it was. Maybe this Chester guy would let her have a taste.

As she entered the kitchen...

She stepped into the kitchen, and her whole body froze.

****Chapter 0228****

****Judy’s POV****

****+25 BONUS****

I took another sip of my wine, enjoying how it relaxed my mind and body. I kept glancing at my phone, hoping to see a missed call or a new message.

I was waiting for a message, but it never came. Each time I checked and saw nothing, I felt a sharp disappointment in my chest. I hated that feeling. I shouldn’t be feeling this way.

Gavin was with his family, enjoying his time. It wasn't as if he was losing anything by not reaching out to me.

I didn't think he had any real interest in me or in anything else. Even if he did, it shouldn't matter too much. We were just having fun together, helping each other out and putting on a show to keep some people off our backs.

But still, I felt a weight in my chest.

I felt my anxiety tighten every time I looked at my phone. Taking a deep breath, I placed it on the table, unable to check it any longer. I turned to see Nan, who was lightly sipping her wine, and frowned when I glanced over my shoulder.

I stood at the entryway to the kitchen, wondering where she had gone. I knew she was curious about what Chester was cooking, but she had been away for quite a while. I decided it was time to go check on her. I hoped she wasn't getting into any trouble.

I got a bit lost on my way to the kitchen. I took another sip of wine before I set the glass on the table and got to my feet. I brushed off my pants, smoothing them down with my hands, and then I headed toward the kitchen.

The kitchen door was slightly open, and I could see Nan standing in the entryway. I smiled and started to walk toward her, but my happiness faded when I noticed how tense she looked.

Her body was as stiff as a board.

Frowning, I walked over to her.

"Nan, are you okay?" I asked. I stopped when I reached her and saw that she was staring straight ahead, her gaze fixed on something in the distance.

Harper was sitting on the kitchen counter, her legs wrapped around Chester's waist and her arms around his neck. Chester held her gently, his arms resting loosely around her waist. Harper pressed herself close to him, enjoying the warmth of their embrace.

Her tongue was practically down his throat. It was surprising because he seemed a bit distant during the kiss, but she was really going for it. I wasn't shocked to see them like this; honestly, it wasn't the first time they had shown interest in each other.

It was the first time I had walked in on them. Although it was surprising, it wasn't like them to lose control in the kitchen like this. It was unusual to see them act this way in public.

Harper was...

She was very professional and kept her personal life private. Right now, they were alone, so I figured Chester had sent the rest of his staff away. However, anyone could still walk in on them, including Nan, who stood frozen in place.

She probably didn't expect to see the chef in the arms of the maid. I bit my lower lip, trying hard not to laugh out loud. I placed a hand on her shoulder to get her attention.

Her body tensed even more, if that was possible. I didn't look at her face. Instead, I focused on Harper and Chester, who were completely unaware that we were standing at the entryway.

It was only a matter of time before something happened.

I cleared my throat loudly, causing both of them to jump apart as if they had been startled. Harper nearly fell off the counter from the sudden movement, and Chester's face turned bright red when he looked at me.

But then, the redness on Chester's face...

His cheeks lost all color, and his face turned ghostly white.

Chapter 0220
+25 BONUS

He looked at Nan, his eyes widening with fear. I could see the horror reflected in them. Nan took a step back, her expression showing she was just as startled.

My body shook a little. I frowned even more as I looked at my best friend. She looked pale.

Then, I turned my gaze to Chester. He stood frozen in place, not moving or saying anything. Neither of them spoke a word.

"Nan?" I asked.

I tugged at her arm to get her attention. "A... are you okay?" I asked.

"Chester?" Harper called out, trying to nudge him with her foot. But Chester stepped back, moving even further away from her as if he was worried.

He couldn't stand her touch.

Nan took a shaky breath and finally turned her gaze away from Chester to look at me. I felt my brows furrow as I noticed tears welling up in her beautiful blue eyes. My chest tightened at the sight. She looked so vulnerable.

I could see that something was really bothering my best friend. She looked devastated, and I needed to find out what was wrong.

****Chapter 229****

“Nan...” I whispered. “What is it?”

She looked at me, her eyes filled with regret. “I’m so sorry...” she said hoarsely, then looked away, staring at the ground.

“I can’t stay here...”

“Wait, what?” I asked, raising my eyebrows. “Why not? What’s wrong? Please, talk to me...”

She shook her head, clearly struggling to hold back her tears.

Tears were streaming down her face.

“I have to go...” she whispered.

Before I could respond, she dashed past me and ran toward the front door.

“Nan!” I shouted after her, but it was no use. She was already gone.

The front door slammed shut, and Nan rushed out of the mansion. I stood there, feeling confused.

I glanced back at Chester. He took a shaky breath, blinking a few times as if he had just realized where he was.

He looked at me, then turned to Harper, who was watching him with a puzzled expression. She raised her eyebrows and crossed her arms over her chest as she slid off the counter.

“What was that all about?” she asked him.

He didn’t respond.

He didn’t respond to her question. Instead, he turned to me and asked, “Who was that?” I was caught off guard.

“What?” I replied, surprised. “Why do you want to know?”

“Just answer the question,” he insisted.

He said it again, more firmly, making me step back. His eyes looked wild, and my heart raced in my chest. Something felt off, and I was determined to find out what was going on.

“My...”

“Best friend,” I replied, narrowing my eyes at him. “Nan Rugby.”

His face softened for a moment.

“Nan...” he whispered as if he were savoring the name on his lips. The expression on his face showed he was deep in thought.

I could tell he liked how it tasted. This made me even more curious. I had never seen her act like this before, and it was strange behavior for Chester too.

I glanced over my shoulder at the closed doorway, my mind racing with thoughts.

Harper asked, “Did you know her or something?” There was a hint of jealousy in her voice, and her face turned bright red with frustration.

He looked at her, and I could see that he wanted to apologize.

He had something on his lips, but he didn’t say it out loud. Instead, he turned away from her and started to walk past me and out the front door. He didn’t run like Nan had, but he moved quickly.

He walked with determination. I couldn’t help myself; I had to follow him. I needed to understand what was happening and why it involved my best friend. I chased after him, and soon we found ourselves outside.

Chester stood on the front patio, looking around the yard with a shy frown on his face. He seemed nervous, and I could almost hear his heart racing in his chest. I was also surprised that Nan managed to stay calm in the situation.

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****Chapter 229****

****+25 Bonus****

She left so quickly. She must have jumped into her car and sped away, leaving no sign of her presence. Chester leaned against the porch railing and sighed, his shoulders drooping slightly.

Just then, the front door swung open and slammed shut behind someone.

I didn't need to turn around to see who had followed us outside. I glanced over my shoulder and saw Harper, looking very angry. She was glaring at Chester as if he had just slapped her. Harper had her arms crossed tightly, and her expression was fierce.

Her lips were pressed together tightly.

"What the heck, Chester? Who was that woman?" she asked, her brows knitted together as she glared at him. "How could you chase after her and leave me?"

"Do you really think it's okay to be alone like that?"

"I'm sorry, Harper," he said quietly. "But it was a mistake to kiss you like that in the kitchen. It shouldn't have happened. You were right when you said we shouldn't be involved."

Chester surprised me when he said, "We should have a relationship while we work together." This was unexpected because he usually wasn't the logical type. Chester was more of a flirt and never cared about serious matters like that before. It seemed like Harper was caught off guard too, as her expression changed when she heard him.

Chester's words took her by surprise. Her mouth dropped open in disbelief.

"W... what are you saying, Chester?" she asked. I could hear the pain in her voice as she struggled to hold back her emotions.

He sighed and ran his fingers through his messy blond hair.

His serious eyes locked onto Harper's, making her heart race. She took a step back, feeling the weight of his gaze.

"I'm saying that we can't see each other anymore," he said firmly.

"I'm sorry... but whatever this is..." he said, pointing between the two of them. "It's over."

****Chapter 230****

****Judy's POV****

"Are you serious right now?" Harper asked, clearly shocked by Chester's words.

Chester nodded and let out a sigh.

"Yes, Harper. I'm sorry," he said, looking genuinely remorseful.

Harper stood still, her face bright red with a mix of anger and hurt. Chester had just murmured something to her and then walked back inside, leaving her standing there.

My heart ached for her; I knew how much she liked Chester. It was clear to me from the way she looked that she was deeply affected by what had just happened.

Every time he was around, I felt the weight of my feelings. I understood how painful it was for someone you cared about not to want you back. It hurt when the guy you liked easily let you go. Still, I couldn't help but wonder if Nan was okay.

"I'm sorry..."

"I told Harper, not sure what else to say.

"I just don't get it..." she whispered, looking down at her feet. "Everything was fine. Then that girl walked in and..." Her voice faded away.

I could see the confusion on her face, and it felt heavy in the air.

"Do you think they are seeing each other?" I asked. I knew Chester went on a date the other day. Could that be it?

I shook my head. Nan would have told me if she had gone on a date with a man. She always shared that kind of news.

I'm curious about the story she didn't mention. It makes me wonder what it could be.

"I'm not really sure," I said, deciding to keep it simple.

Harper nodded and wiped away her tears. She turned away, clearly trying to gather her thoughts.

"I'm just going to go inside. If you need anything... I'll be in my room," she murmured.

Without saying anything else, she walked into the mansion. I watched her for a moment before letting out a sigh.

I took my phone out of my pocket and looked at the screen. There were no missed calls or texts. I felt disappointed and upset. I had hoped Gavin would reach out to me, but he hadn't.

I was upset that Nan hadn't texted me after she left. I wanted to hear from her to know she was okay.

I pulled up her contact on my phone and pressed it to my cheek. The phone rang several times before I finally reached her voicemail.

"Hey, Nan. Please..."

“Call me,” I said into her voicemail. “I’m worried about you...” I added before I hung up.

With a sigh, I walked back inside. The mansion felt quiet, and the kitchen was completely empty. I noticed the stillness around me.

Chester had gone to bed for the night. The food he cooked for us stayed untouched on the counter. I wasn’t very hungry, but I thought I might want it tomorrow. So, I covered the container with plastic wrap and put it in the fridge.

I opened the fridge and took a quick look inside. Then, I grabbed a sponge and cleaned the counters. I wasn’t sure what else Chester and Harper had done while no one was around earlier, and thinking about it made me feel a bit uneasy.

After finishing cleaning the kitchen, I headed to my room. I felt sad because Nan had left so suddenly. I was really looking forward to our girls’ night together.

I went to the bathroom, brushed my hair back into a ponytail, and washed my face.

I wiped off the leftover makeup from my face. Then, I picked up my toothbrush and squeezed some toothpaste onto it. As I brushed my teeth, my mind started to wander for a few minutes. It was such a strange and unusual reaction for Nan to have.

I remembered the party and how upset she was. She hadn’t talked about it since, but she did mention something about wanting to find her mate.

I stopped everything as I looked at myself in the mirror. The toothbrush hung from my mouth as I thought about the situation.

Could Chester be Nan’s partner? The idea made my stomach feel uneasy, and my eyes widened in surprise. It seemed possible when I thought about how they both acted around each other. But did that mean Chester knew about Nan?

Chester decided to go on a date with another woman, even after he had just kissed Harper in the kitchen earlier that evening. This made me wonder if Chester was really as harmless as I had believed.

I spat out my drink in surprise.

I rinsed the water and toothpaste out of my mouth and cleaned the toothbrush before putting it back in its holder. After that, I grabbed a hand towel and wiped my lips, then placed the towel back on the rack. I let out a sigh and leaned against the counter, feeling a little tired.

I felt a wave of dizziness wash over me. Everything was getting to my head, and all I wanted was to get some sleep. After taking several deep breaths, I turned away, switched off the bathroom light, and stepped into my room. It felt lonely in there.

I was starting to get used to Gavin spending his nights here, even though it felt unusual at first.

As I sat there, I checked my phone one last time. There were no missed texts or calls. I sighed and decided to call Nan.

I tried calling her again, but I only got her voicemail... again. I placed my phone on the charger on my nightstand before I crawled into bed. I really hated being alone at that moment. I wished I could reach out to Gavin, but I felt hesitant.

I knew he was busy, and I wished I could reach Nan. Unfortunately, she wasn't answering my calls.

I had no idea what was happening, but I hoped I could figure it out in the morning.

I struggled to fall asleep for a while, but eventually, I drifted off.

The next morning, I woke up feeling restless and a bit numb. I picked up my phone to check for any missed calls, and my heart skipped a beat when I saw a notification.

I saw a text message from Gavin. It was sent early this morning. I nervously bit my lower lip as I opened the message.